



A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. —George R.R. Martin

### A NEW FACE AT THE LIBRARY

Since our last publication, Sheree Sims, our wonderful branch manager has retired. Sheree will be missed at the library but will still be around our community. Sheree, thank you for all you have done for the library and continue to do for Melrose. Best wishes to you as you start this new adventure in your life. Welcome to our new branch manager, Athena Scodellaro! Athena would like everyone to know that although in-house activities are still canceled due to Covid19, the library is dedicated to including everyone in activities. Right now, there are free craft bag activities available for all ages. The craft bags include instructions and supplies. A Summer Children's program is being assembled. It will be recorded on various videos to include activities, book read-aloud, crafts and more! Athena is pleased to have been selected as Melrose's Branch Manager and looks forward to working with our Melrose community.



### LIBRARY EXPANSION AND RENOVATION UPDATE

The library expansion and renovation planning process continues to move forward in a positive manner and we are poised for ground breaking at any moment. The Initial



Construction Meeting was held on February 4th and shortly thereafter permit paperwork was submitted to the Putnam County. While the permits have yet to be issued, Blackwater Construction, our Architect, the County and Library representatives met on March 24<sup>th</sup> and selected exterior brick colors, exterior and interior paint colors, flooring and countertop laminate colors. We will

continue to meet monthly to review progress and anxiously await the award of permits and the start of construction. We deeply appreciate the support of Putnam County and our community as this important project moves forward!

### NEWEST BOOK HOUSE AT FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT MIDWAY

January saw the fourth MLA sponsored book house installed at Faith Presbyterian Church at Midway. Thank you to David Ashley for his help in securing the location. Also, thank you to Andi Blount for getting us in touch with David. Be sure to visit it when you go to the Farmer's Market there on Saturday mornings. Now, you will be able to take a book, leave a book at four locations around Melrose! St. John's Missionary Baptist Church on CR 219, the Melrose Beach Park on Devonia St. in Earleton by the post office and at Midway. Enjoy!



David Ashley and Andi Blount



From left to right: Carol Meyer, Dara Witty, Jean Giesel, Virginia Walkup, Andi Blount, Kathi Warren, Keyna Ward, Maggie Blizzard and Pat Ward.

Melrose Library Association  
P.O. Box 54  
Melrose, FL 32666

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**No events or meetings are scheduled at the Melrose Public Library until further notice.**

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### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

The MLA Camellia Sale and Breakfast is coming back better than ever in 2022!! Make plans to attend our fund raising event on February 19, 2022. We will have plenty of gorgeous Camellias for sale from Mark Crawford of Loch Laurel Nursery. Our last sale was from the same nursery and the plants were amazing. A scrumptious homemade breakfast will be available for purchase to help you keep up your strength for plant shopping. The MLA gift table will be open for business, as well. There will be more information available in the months ahead.



### **AN AWARD FOR THE MELROSE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION!**

Every year the Florida Library Association (FLA) gives out awards to Friends Groups, Foundations and Boards. The Melrose Library Association is considered a Friends Group. One of the awards is the Friends Newsletter Award. This award is given for a newsletter produced by Friends, demonstrating a high quality of writing, as well as promoting libraries, library programs and the Friends group. The newsletter must truly be a Friends' newsletter, as

opposed to a publication written and produced by library staff. Documentation required for the award includes samples of four most recent newsletters and a narrative describing the purpose and intended audience, planning, creation and personnel involved as well as method of distribution and recipients. Criteria included purpose and intended audience, method of creation and personnel involved, effective promotion of Friends and library, appearance (layout, graphic design, formatting), appeal of content & quality of writing content. This year, the Melrose Library Association's newsletter (this publication) was awarded the Friends' Newsletter Award!



### **Commemorative Bricks at the Library**

When walking along the sidewalk at the library, or entering the Butterfly Garden you may notice bricks lining those areas. Many of the bricks have words on them and are part of the MLA commemorative brick project. These bricks may be purchased to commemorate a special day of achievements, as memorials for a loved one, or to recognize someone special. Three lines of 11 letters, spaces and punctuation will fit on one brick. The minimum donation is \$75 per brick. Forms for the bricks are located in the library. Isn't there someone special you would like to commemorate?