

Brockway Memorial Library
Annual Report 2024-2025



THIS REPORT INCORPORATES STATISTICAL INFORMATION FROM
JUNE 1, 2024 TO MAY 31, 2025



This year's annual theme from the Florida Library Association, "Overdue for Fun," encourages us to revisit professional foundations, reflect on our successes, tell our stories, become involved, and mentor and build relationships throughout our library community.

This past year, the Library, now a locally registered historic landmark, entered its 76th year of service to the Miami Shores community. In keeping with tradition, Library staff maintained its focus on meaningful collection development, stellar programming, and strong community outreach.

Partnerships with the Chamber of Commerce, the Village's downtown businesses, schools, and local organizations brought the best in offerings to our patrons of all ages. Connections made with neighboring cities did the same, as seen in the numerous programs offered in connection to history and historic preservation.

Following this momentum, Village Archivist, John Bachay, began the Miami Shores Village Oral History Project, recording interviews with several locals, many of whom have connections to the Village's founders. An ongoing project being prioritized as the Village nears its centennial year, three histories have been collected thus far, one with the son of Edwin Reeder, the Library's original architect, a second with Milton Dillon, grandson of Roy Hawkins, then Vice President of Bessemer Properties who was instrumental in persuading the Florida Legislature to incorporate

Miami Shores Village in 1932, and a third with Anne Paulk and Gerald W. Moore, relatives of T.V. Moore, the "Pineapple King," who once farmed 150 acres of local land, including what is today the Shores downtown business district.

With the incredible demand and growth the Library has experienced in Youth Services over the last decade, it was deemed imperative to add staffing to this area. Our new Youth Services Assistant will be present during the busiest hours of youth library attendance, particularly to assist with programs, as well as in the evenings and on weekends.



2024 Brockway Author Event: Granddaughter of Mary Brickell, Bea Brickell, pictured here with author Cesar Becerra ahead of his appearance at the Miami Book Fair featuring his latest book, The Kaimiloa Project.

Perhaps one of the most impactful initiatives that kicked off this year was that of the Village StoryWalk® at Optimist Park. With a grand opening last September featuring the book, *A Tree is Nice*, by Janice May Udry, the Library has offered three books to date. Additional titles featured have been, *Sing a Season Song* by Jane Yolen and *What a Wonderful World*, based on Louis Armstrong's classic, illustrated by Tim Hopgood. Fun note: We received word that



In September 2024, the Library, in partnership with Parks and Recreation, unveiled the Village StoryWalk®, a series of 19 posts placed around the perimeter of Optimist Park to showcase the pages of a storybook, which will be changed out several times a year.

Ms. Yolen was delighted that her book, originally a poem published by Cricket Magazine in the 1990s, had been selected! It's connections like these that keep us motivated to continue fulfilling our mission in new and exciting ways, that is "to engage our community in opportunities for literacy and lifelong learning and to enrich the lives of our patrons by providing access to a wide variety of information, materials, and offerings, with a focus on education, the arts and culture."

✧ Brockway by the Numbers ✧

Library Collection

Fiction:	20,528
Juvenile:	19,112
Non-fiction:	22,498
Reference:	1,884
Archival Materials, Physical & Digitized:	1,952
Large Print:	1,643
DVDs:	4,020
Audiobooks on CD:	1,774
Music CDs:	46
Print Magazines/Newspapers:	80
Digital Magazines (OverDrive):	5,935
eBooks & eAudios (OverDrive):	14,872
Total Collection:	94,344

Collection Enhancements

New Books and Media Added:	1,337
Book/Media Donations:	175
Items Withdrawn:	2,216
Items Repaired:	1,004

Dollars & Cents

Book and Movie Fines:	\$6,646.86
Print-outs:	\$2,270.75
Non-Resident Membership Fees:	\$8,550.00
Receipts for Lost Books:	\$1,213.09
Miscellaneous (Lost cards, etc.):	\$396.16
Donations:	\$9,209.01
Book Sale:	\$4,230.22
Program Fees:	\$2,070.79
Grants:	\$3,450.00
Copier:	\$461.75

Library Users

Adult Residents:	5,433
Children Residents:	1,553
Adult Non-Residents:	269
Children Non-Residents:	366
Barry Students & Faculty:	1
Non-Resident Business Owners:	7
New Patrons that Joined this Year:	353
Total Registered Patrons:	7,629

Library Use

Book Circulation/In-Library Usage:	34,088
DVD Circulation:	1,185
Audiobook/Music Circulation:	284
Print Magazines:	220
Total Circulation:	35,777

Digital Offerings

OverDrive eBook/eAudio Circulation:	1910
OverDrive eMagazine Circulation:	1570
Mango Languages Total Sessions:	320
Heritage Quest Total Genealogy Searches:	65
BrainPop, Jr. Total Sessions:	820
Brainfuse Veteran, Job, & Homework Help:	250

Programs

Adult Programs:	106
Adult Program Attendance:	2,452
Youth Programs:	93
Youth Program Attendance:	3,889
Total Program Attendance:	6,341

Total Library Visits:	34,478
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Total Days Open:	299
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Average Daily Visits:	115
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Collaboration of the Year



Each year, we like to highlight a special partnership that has been particularly beneficial to our community. This year, the honor goes to Mary Benton of Bound by Beauty and NaMa Natives Landscapes who brought to life the dream of having a Florida Native Garden at Brockway. NaMa Natives is “committed to educating and empowering property owners by demonstrating the benefits of thoughtful plant selection, ecological design, water-efficient practices, and long-term sustainability,” all of which are evidenced in this compelling community green space.

Featured in both [The Miami Herald](#) and [Miami Shores Living Magazine](#), the project “transformed a thirsty sod monoculture into a biodiverse sanctuary with over 23 different species of drought-tolerant plants, all of which provide food for important wildlife, from butterflies to bees to birds.” A special thank you is extended to Corinne Mariposa of the Miami Seed Share for tending to the garden these many months.

☞ Most Borrowed Titles 2024-2025 ☛

General Fiction

The Women: Kristin Hannah
The Paris Novel: Ruth Reichl
James: Percival Everett

Mystery

Now or Never: Thirty-One on the Run: J. Evanovich
The Grey Wolf: Louise Penny
Battle Mountain: C.J. Box

Non-fiction

The Demon of Unrest by Erik Larson
The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt
The Joy You Make by Steven Petrow

Biography

Be Ready When the Luck Happens: Ina Garten
The Friday Afternoon Club: Griffin Dunne
Once Upon a Time: The Captivating Life of Carolyn Bessette-Kennedy: Elizabeth Beller

Audiobooks

The Secret: Lee Child
A Calamity of Souls: David Baldacci
Think Twice: Harlan Coben

Movies

Wicked
Despicable Me 4
Beetlejuice Beetlejuice

eBooks & eAudio – Adults and Youth

The Women: Kristin Hannah
The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store: James McBride
Remarkably Bright Creatures: Shelby Van Pelt
A Calamity of Souls: David Baldacci
Dirty Thirty: Janet Evanovich

Juvenile Fiction

Cat Kid Comic Club: Dav Pilkey
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Third Wheel: Jeff Kinney
Boy-Crazy Stacey (Baby-Sitter's Club): Gale Galligan

Teen Fiction

We'll Always Have Summer: Jenny Han
The Lightning Thief: Rick Riordan
A Good Girl's Guide to Murder: Holly Jackson

Juvenile Non-fiction

Pokémon Super Deluxe Essential Handbook:
Scholastic Inc.
Animal Safari Hedgehogs: Kari Schuetz
Stingrays: Martha Rustad

Easy Readers

I Really Like Slop! Mo Willems
How to Catch a Mermaid: Adam Wallace
Fly Guy & Fly Girl Night Fright: Tedd Arnold

☞ Village Council, Administration & Charter Officers ☛

Jerome Charles, Mayor
Neil Cantor, Vice-Mayor
George Burch
Patrick Devaney
Jesse Valinsky

Esmond K. Scott, Village Manager
Kathleen Gunn, Deputy Village Manager
Ysabely Rodriguez, Village Clerk
Chanae Wood, Village Attorney

☞ Library Board of Trustees ☛

Christine Gay, President
Nancy Frehling, Vice-President
Puja Motiani, Secretary
Barbara Lawless & Marie Mennes

☞ Mission Statement ☛

Our mission is to engage our community in opportunities for literacy and lifelong learning and to enrich the lives of our patrons by providing access to a wide variety of information, materials, and offerings, with a focus on education, the arts and culture.

☞ Library Staff ☛

Michelle Brown, Library Director
Frances Walsh, Adult Services Librarian
Brenda Holsing, Youth Services Librarian
John Bachay, Archivist

☞ Library Assistants ☛

Mariliz Anima, Brandon DelCarmen, Ursa Gil,
Belinda Muzii, Nayling Sandoval
Gabriela Colom, Youth Services Assistant

☞ Library Page ☛

Beverly Muzii

