

Brevard Library Foundation

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Located on the second floor, the Melrose Center is a 26,000-square-foot digital technology showcase. It features audio, video, and photography studios along with simulators, a fabrication laboratory with 3-D printers, and a large interactive media wall.

Locally, individuals and businesses interested in supporting the Foundation's Creative Lab can do so in a number of ways, one of which is by making direct donations to the Foundation to help finance the equipment. Another is through sponsorships and ticket purchases for the 2014 "Mad About Bling" social, which was originally called the "Holiday Bling Thing."

"We wanted to keep 'Bling' in the name because that is what we started with," he said. "This year's program will include live entertainment, a dinner, dancing, and an auction. We had a great turnout last year for this event. It's a delightful evening out."

The silent auction items will include gift baskets with a minimum value of \$400. "Elegant" pieces of jewelry, donated by Wesche Jewelers, will be featured in the live auction. Sponsorships begin at \$500 and include a wide range of publicity opportunities in the media, as well as tickets to the event.

Tickets are \$100 per person or \$175 per couple. To purchase tickets for "Mad About Bling," visit www.BrevardLibraryFoundation.org. To inquire about being a sponsor, call the Foundation at 633-1887.

The entertainer for the evening will be Alfie Silva, an accomplished singer, local actor, and impersonator with

many awards to his credit. He has a unique sound encompassing the songs of everyone from Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra to Tom Jones and Elvis Presley. Music will be performed by the group "F undecided."

The Foundation works to fund a number of programs it runs to benefit the public libraries. A program it launched this past summer helped libraries in the county fund a project of their choice. "Each library had the opportunity to submit a request for a gift from the Foundation to cover the cost of a summer project," ranging from \$200 to \$500. "We funded nine different requests this past summer. This is going to be an annual program," said the Rev. Kellar.

"Books for Children" is another one of its focuses in the community. The Foundation works to purchase books for children ages 10 and younger.

"In the Central Brevard Library, there are 33,000 children's books. Every year a hefty percentage of those books are retired because of their condition, lost, or are out of date. The average cost of these books is \$20. We don't even pretend to replace all of these children's books, but we do replace as many as we can, with the support of donors."

Each gift of \$20 to the Foundation funds one children's book. Those making a donation can designate that their gift be in memory of or in honor of someone close to them.

"We will place the name of the donor and the name of the individual being recognized in the front cover of the book and it will remain there for as long as the book stays 'live' in the system. We remind people that children are a little rough on books. So the turnover in children's books is much higher than the other books in the library."

This year, the Foundation started the Patrick D. Smith Literary Medal, an annual program honoring the Florida author. The monetary award is given to the best original work submitted by an author who is a resident of Brevard. For example, it can be an article, a short story, or a chapter of a book. The late Smith is the author of seven novels. Entry rules are posted on the Foundation's website. The finalists will be selected Nov. 7. The winner of the first Patrick D. Smith award will be announced early next year and there will be a presentation. "Patrick was a prolific writer and a Southern gentleman in every sense of the word," said the Rev. Kellar.

National Realty of Brevard recognizes its top performers for September

Broker Gale Bray of National Realty of Brevard has announced her company's top-performing Realtors for September. Indialantic office: Gail Fischer, top lister and top seller; and Hope Turner, top producer. Melbourne: P.J. McLoughlin, top lister; Lisa Ellison, top seller; and Maria Kaps, top producer. Palm Bay: Amy Jupin, top lister; Steve Scheller, top seller; Lesly Breson, top producer; and Diane deYorgi, top producer. And Viera: Larry Leaman, top lister and top seller; and Cyndi Jones, top producer.

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