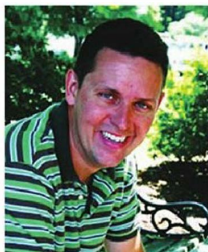


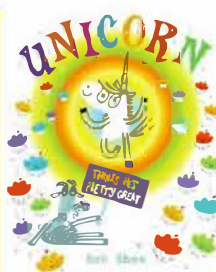
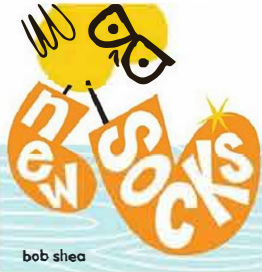
Boca Happenings

Boca Public Library Downtown to Host Children's Award-Winning Author-Illustrator, Bob Shea, May 19th

Bestselling children's author and illustrator Bob Shea will be at the Downtown Library for an author talk and book signing on Saturday, May 19th, from 11:00 a.m. to Noon. This special children's event is funded by the Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library, and supports the library's early literacy initiative, "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten."



to classrooms and libraries across the country, inspiring others with his journey as an author and illustrator. While in Boca Raton, he will be visiting with students at JC Mitchell Elementary School and Florence Fuller Child Development Center.



Bob Shea began his writing career at Comedy Central, and his characters and animations have appeared on Nick Jr., Noggin, Disney Junior, and PBS Kids, where he helped to develop a national literacy campaign. He has written and illustrated more than 20 picture books, and his *Dinosaur vs. Bedtime* book was one of Amazon's Top 10 Picture Books of the year and a *Horn Book Magazine* Best of 2008. Parents of early readers will recognize his Ballet Cat series and the cult favorite *Big Plans*, illustrated by Lane Smith. Known for his engaging presentations, Shea is a frequent visitor

"Bob Shea's books are funny and well-written, which is a winning combination for early readers and their parents," notes Oyuki De Santiago Poletz, Program Services Librarian. "We are thrilled that the Friends of BRPL chose to fund this program and provide the opportunity for parents, children, and caregivers to meet an author and learn about the creative process."

Families can expect an interactive presentation, followed by a book signing with an opportunity to meet the author.

Books will be available for purchase. Space is limited, and registration is required for this free event. Register online through the calendar at bocalibrary.org.

The Boca Raton Public Library provides outstanding library services, resources, and programs that meet the educational, recreational, cultural, and informational needs of library users in its two locations. For more information about the Boca Raton Public Library, visit www.bocalibrary.org.

Habitat for Humanity of South Palm Beach County, City of Delray Beach Team Up With 10 Companies to "Rock the Block," Revitalize Homes

While the neighborhood revitalization concept has long been a City of Delray Beach tradition since 1989, this year the City partnered with Habitat for Humanity of South Palm Beach County (HFHSPBC) for a new and enhanced "Rock the Block 2018." The partnership brought together a new opportunity for 10 businesses and service organizations to become "Rock the Block Home" Presenting Sponsors and to each revitalize a house of its own for a deserving homeowner.

Within a three-block radius, homes were identified and qualified based on the homeowners' financial need to be "Rock the Block" homes available for sponsorship. Homeowners ranged from seniors, veterans, people with disabilities or health issues, to families with young children who live in Delray Beach and own their homes.

Through HFHSPBC, each presenting sponsor donated or raised \$2,500 to underwrite the construction materials,

tools, paint and painting equipment and landscaping costs, and brought out volunteers to "roll up their sleeves" and do the work. Each Presenting "Rock the Block" Home Sponsor brought out employees or members--totaling 250 volunteers--to transform their "Rock the Block" homes together as a team, while working alongside the homeowner.

Onsite work was led by HFHSPBC's team of construction professionals and crew, including, Habitat Neighborhood Revitalization Coordinator Crystal Spears and Crew Leader Partners from Home Depot's "Team Depot." To prepare the selected homes for the big day of impact, volunteer groups spent the entire month of March doing the advance priming and preparations.

The 2018 "Rock the Block" Presenting Home Sponsors were: Apple Inc.; Assurance Power Systems; Connected Warriors, Inc.; Cosmetic Solutions; Delray Beach Community

Improvement; MotionPoint Corporation; Shamrock Restoration; Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers, Inc.; Wells Fargo, and Ziree Thai and Sushi.

Supported by long-time Program Sponsors Delray Beach CRA, Home Depot, Sunflower Landscaping, and new partner House of Ladders, the day was powered by food donated from Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza, and refreshments served by the City of Delray Beach Police Department. Over the past 29 years, thousands of individuals have worked together to paint more than 200 houses for low-income residents in Delray Beach.

This year's "Rock The Block" partnership was created following HFHSPBC's successful 2017 Veterans Build Neighborhood Revitalization achieved in participation with City Officials, including former Mayor Cary Glickstein, Chief of Police Jeffrey Goldman and Community Improvement Project Administrator Jennifer Costello. It was a logical alignment of expertise, and a great new partnership to benefit the community now with new City of Delray Beach Mayor Shelly Petrolia.

"Partnering with Habitat is an excellent way to achieve corporate social responsibility and service organization missions while making a lasting impact," shared HFHSPBC Chief Development Officer Kari Oeltjen. "'Rock The Block' is just one opportunity of many that HFHSPBC offers in which Presenting Home Sponsors can bond while participating together in helping to revitalize or build safe, affordable homes while strengthening whole communities."

HFHSPBC embraces the global mission of Habitat for Humanity. Oeltjen added that Habitat's decades of work illustrate that individuals and families thrive when they have a safe and stable home in a safe and stable community. Its neighborhood revitalization efforts were launched in 2010 as a response to the worst economic and housing crisis in decades.

"Integrating housing with other community development measures helps us continually work toward a world where everyone has a decent place to live," continued Oeltjen.

For more info on HFHSPBC, contact HFHSPBC Chief Development Officer Kari Oeltjen at kcoeltjen@hfhboca.org or (561) 819-6070.

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