



BOOKMARK

Dear *Friends*,

"Volunteers are not paid — not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless." -unknown

National Volunteer Week was established in 1974 by Presidential Executive Order and every President since then has issued a proclamation urging Americans to volunteer their time within their communities. Mayors and Governors have also joined in and encouraged their communities and states to participate.



Lois Modrow,
Membership Chair

This year's National Volunteer Week is April 6th through April 12. Volunteers across America will celebrate this 40th anniversary by finding ways to serve in their communities.

You will see and read a lot about the volunteer activities going on around Punta Gorda. I applaud everyone who reaches out and helps wherever they can. However, I would be remiss if I didn't encourage you to volunteer year round!

This is my chance to say thank you to all the volunteers of the Punta Gorda Library. There are so many places where you could volunteer your time, but for those of you who choose the library, I celebrate you and every hour you spend at the library!

The one group of volunteers I have the pleasure of personally working with is the Board of Directors of the *Friends* of the Punta Gorda Library. There are 20 of us who serve. Our goal is to foster usage of the library and provide financial support for augmenting and maintaining the library collection and making library improvements. I don't have the space in this column to name each Board member and explain how they have and continue to contribute to our goal. There are some superlatives such as amazing, awesome, dedicated and extraordinary that are often overused. But in the case of my fellow Board Members, these superlatives barely scratch the surface of their activities and commitment to our library.

A big thanks goes to everyone of the Book Store Volunteers. From the Book Store manager, Sue Galvin to the people behind the counter, the *Friends* Book Store is completely run by volunteers. This store generates the money that allows the *Friends* to meet our goal of augmenting and maintaining the library collection and making library improvements.



Sara Benson, Sue Galvin,
Ginny Caldwell, Penny Shattuck

My thanks would not be complete without thanking every volunteer who works in the heart of the library. The paid staff works

hard but there is always another cart of books, etc. to shelve or patrons to call to let them know their requested item is in the library and ready for pick up. I can't imagine how the library would look at the end of a day without the volunteers helping out.



Library staff-Brenda, Jill and Carl

The next time someone mentions to you that they have some time on their hands and don't know what to do; you can take them to the library and have them ask for a volunteer application! Encourage them to become a part of our library family.



"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Mahatma Gandhi

Katie Mazzi, President

Late news! "We've taken another step forward. The Citizens' Sales Tax Focus Group has recommended funding our new library if the countywide one cent sales tax is renewed. We are grateful to the citizens' group, to county and city officials, to Bill Albers, Katie Mazzi and others who are helping acquire this important asset for our community." Art Bruning

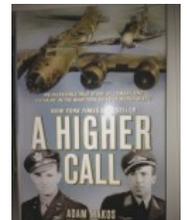


Future Library site
on Shreve Street?

Board members with famous actor-impersonator, Ted Zalewski (Teddy Roosevelt) right, and Gregg Hurwitz *New York Times* Best Selling author left, who wowed attendees at 2014 *Friends* Literary Luncheon series. Lisa See, world renown author has agreed to be the guest in our Spring series.



A HIGHER CALL is reviewed on page 3... a most timely review since the Florida International Air Show was recently in Punta Gorda where a B-17 Bomber, similar to the one in the book was displayed. *Friend* Chuck Kersch is Sec/Treas. of the Air Show.



BOOKMARK

2013 Award Winning
Newsletter publication of
Friends
Punta Gorda Library, Inc.



BOOKMARK Editors:

Martha Kelley, Mary Knowlton
We welcome comments from our members. Email:
info@friendspg.org
(new website is being developed)

2014 Board of Directors

Katie Mazzi President
Celia Eames Vice president
Sara Benson Secretary
Joy Dibble Treasurer
Julie Bennett Art Bruning
Martha Kelley Jerri Marsee
Lois Modrow Gretchen Neidlinger
Leanne Norlin Nancy Padgett

Honorary Board

Hank Bauman Ginny Caldwell
Jane Fitzpatrick Mary Knowlton
Jan Roemler Penny Shattuck

Bookstore Manager

Sue Galvin



Seated: Leanne Norlin, Martha Kelley, Nancy Padgett, Art Bruning, Mary Knowlton. Standing: Celia Eames, Jerri Marsee, Katie Mazzi, Gretchen Neidlinger, Lois Modrow, Sara Benson, Joy Dibble, Jan Roemler, Hank Bauman, Penny Shattuck. Missing: Julie Bennett, Ginny Caldwell, Jane Fitzpatrick.

Alison Layne,

Librarian Supervisor

Punta Gorda Public Library

424 West Henry Street
Punta Gorda FL 33950
941-833-5460

Library Hours:

Tuesday-Wednesday 10am-6pm
Thursday-10am-7pm
Friday-Saturday 10am-5pm
CLOSED
Sundays, Mondays & Holidays

Library Advocacy - Art Bruning

Our dream of a new library may be coming to fruition, thanks to cooperative planning by Charlotte County and the City of Punta Gorda. Recognizing our space needs, County Commissioners have endorsed the concept of constructing a new south county community library; Punta Gorda City Council members have expressed interest in donating a site owned by the city on Shreve Street adjacent to the History Park. Their continuing efforts to advance the project are very much appreciated.

We are proud of our library. *Friends* spend a lot of time here, over 4500 volunteer hours a year, so we have come to know it well. We are grateful for our staff, for the many services we are provided and for our many loyal patrons. But we are critically short of space and parking. Programs are limited by deficiencies such as inadequate reading areas and meeting rooms. Overcrowding is endemic. Our visitor count is approaching 15,000 a month, and the building is often far beyond its capacity. There are only 35 spaces in the parking lot; congestion is palpable.

We become attached to our library for many reasons. To some extent it is because we find what we need here, whether it is a good read, a source of information, a provocative discussion or help with our technology. But we also value our library because we believe it is important to the community. It's an investment in lifelong learning and intellectual vitality, a place where everyone has affordable access to information and technology. We believe it is important that people keep reading, inquiring and learning; that they are informed and actively engaged in issues that affect them. The library improves our quality of life, but it also helps maintain our culture and sustain the values that define our community.

These are the things that constitute the mission of our library. They are why it is important. And they are the reasons we are grateful to our county and city officials for their role in making our new library a realistic possibility.



Art Bruning is a Board Member and former Superintendent of Schools in Hopkins, Minnesota.

"Believe you can and you are half way there." Theodore Roosevelt

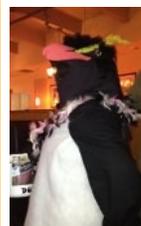
Friends SCENE IN PUNTA GORDA

ONE NEVER KNOWS WHO MIGHT BE SEEN AROUND THE CITY!



At **Gallery Walk** one never knows whom they might run into-even Nancy Padgett hiding behind a "bird costume" or Jane Fitzpatrick gazing at her dream car.

Friends were well represented at the **Chamber of Commerce** luncheon. Celia Eames, Katie Mazzi, Mary Knowlton, Leanne Norlin and Jerri Marsee meet to plan Hurwitz event at **Isles Yacht Club**. Author Gregg Hurwitz seen with Julie & Lou Bennett, Bill & Jan Roemler and **Copperfish Books** owners. *Friend* & sponsor Judy Roth enjoys "Roosevelt" event with co-chairs Jan Roemler and Jane Fitzpatrick. Al Gould, *Friend* & sponsor, below. Several *Friends* discussing good books at **Twin Isles Country Club**.



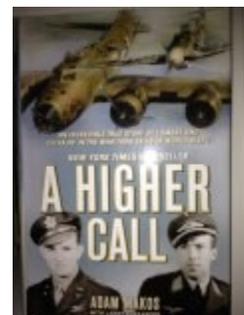


BOOK REVIEW



A HIGHER CALL

by Adam Makos with Larry Alexander



It was almost noon on a cold grey day... five days before Christmas in 1943. Twenty year old 2nd Lt. Charlie Brown, a farm boy from West Virginia was desperately trying to hold his badly damaged B-17 bomber, Ye Olde Pub (affectionately called “the Pub”) in the air as he headed back to England after a raid over Bremen, Germany.

At 7:30 a.m. that morning, twenty-one B-17's from the 329th Bomb Group had taken off from Kimbolton in central England to attack the FW-190 (Messerschmitt) plant in Bremen. Now, four hours later, their bombs having been unloaded on the target, Charlie and crew turned The Pub to run for England but with two engines out, the victims of flak, the B-17 was limping along trying unsuccessfully to stay with the squadron. Their friendly fighter cover had departed early because of high winds and before long the whole squadron had passed them by... pity in their eyes as they left The Pub behind. The “stragglers” were all alone in the freezing skies and within minutes, German fighters descended upon them, so viciously damaging the plane that as it went into a spiral dive, the fighters left it... one even claiming victory for “a kill”. At the last minute, Charlie was able to bring The Pub out of its dive and leveled off at an unbelievable 2,000 feet, just above the small German airfield at Jever, Germany, where decorated German Ace, Franz Stigler saw them as he was refueling his fighter. With their radios out and half of his crew dead or injured, Charlie ordered his men to bail out but they refused. They were within eyesight of the coastline as Charlie struggled to keep his bomber in the air.

Out of nowhere zoomed an F-109 (Messerschmitt), which came right up on the tail of The Pub ready to shoot it out of the sky...until the pilot saw the carnage aboard; the dead tail gunner still bent over his gun, crewmen tending the wounded, the rudder in shreds, the skeleton of the plane showing through stripped away outer skin. Amazed that this plane was still airborne, he pulled his fighter up until he sat three feet off The Pub's wing where he could see the frantic young American pilots trying to hold the plane aloft. So close was he, that the German made full eye contact with a shocked and terrified Lt. Charlie Brown. This Luftwaffe pilot, 2nd Lt. Franz Stigler, not only hated Hermann Goering, Hitler's commander of the German Air Force... but like many German pilots, did not consider himself a Nazi. Stigler was from Bavaria and from a very close Catholic family. His mother's dream was that he should become a Priest, while all Franz ever wanted to do was to fly. At 17 and starting at the Seminary, his Priest asked Franz, “Are you certain you want to become a Priest?” Franz said it was his mother's wish...he just wanted to fly. The Priest advised him, “then fly, your Mother will get over it!” Franz was hired by Lufthansa Airlines flying their passenger routes until he was conscripted into the Luftwaffe. While learning to fly the F-109 fighter, a most unusual instructor told him “you follow rules of war for you, not for your enemy...you fight by rules to keep your humanity”. Franz never forgot these words and as he now looked into the unbelieving eyes of Charlie Brown, he nodded to him as he reached into his uniform pocket, closing his hand around his ever-present rosary beads and knew it was the time to answer “a higher call”... he could not shoot down this struggling bomber and its crew.

Franz focused directly on Charlie, looking him in the eye as he mouthed “Sweden” over and over again, pointing down at the fast approaching coastline. He realized that if the Americans could turn the plane, reach the Swedish coast and land, they would be safely interred for the remainder of the war. But unable to comprehend what Franz was saying, Charlie kept flying hoping to get past the French coast and the embattlements along the Atlantic Wall. Franz knew the German flak gunners stationed there could easily shoot down this straggler and he moved his fighter as close as he could, knowing the gunners would recognize the Messerschmitt and never fire on one of their own. And so, the tiny fighter flew next to the huge bomber, wing tip to wing tip, until it made it safely past the flak gunners and The Pub headed out, all alone, over the lonely Atlantic Ocean. Stigler knew they would probably never reach England and as he turned his fighter back towards Germany, he astonished the Americans pilots and crew by “doing the only thing that came to mind... he saluted them.” Against harrowing odds, The Pub did make it back to base and Charlie made his report of their amazing encounter and put in for medals for his crew. What happened then will astound the reader.

Forty-two years later, Charlie began his search for the German pilot he never forgot, unaware that his Luftwaffe pilot was doing the same thing. How Charlie and Franz came to be in WW11, their amazing ten minute encounter and the wonderful story of their search to find each other, makes this a truly unforgettable and well written book, a story of the wonders of *man's humanity to man.*

Reviewed by Martha Kelley

VOLUNTEERS

At our Library and *Friends* Bookstore

TO ALL OF OUR LIBRARY AND BOOKSTORE VOLUNTEERS,
 "I just finished with the volunteer hours calculations for 2013 and want to thank you all for the **4490.52** hours that you all have given to the Punta Gorda Library and the community! That is 230+ MORE volunteer hours than in 2012. I know that both the staff and patrons really appreciate everything you do." Kathy Harriett



Kathy Harriett



Marjory Smith

Friends
Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
April 7, 2014
Opus Restaurant
Invitations have been sent by
Gretchen Neidlinger, Chair
And Kathy Harriott, Library Staff



Gretchen Neidlinger



Patron & Mary Johnson



Mary Ellen Hanley



Cindy Gates & Lisa Phillips



Joy Dibble



Lisa Jorgenson



Jean Pollack & patron



Joanne Johnston



Sue Fuller



Wanda Bain



Sisters Dianne Adams and Sarah Davis assist Bookstore and Library patrons.



Thank You
Volunteers
 from a grateful
 Library staff
Friends
 & Punta Gorda
 Community.
You are making
a difference.

Editor's note: this group of volunteers is a small sampling of the many outstanding volunteers at the Punta Gorda Library and *Friends* Bookstore.

Bookmark Feature

Joy Dibble, Board Treasurer

Joy began volunteering at the Punta Gorda Library about 10 years ago after she had finished teaching at Edison Community College. She became reacquainted with her friend, Nancy Viuc, a librarian in the Charlotte County Schools when Joy taught there. Nancy was then volunteering at the Punta Gorda Library Bookstore (which she had helped start several years before). She persuaded Joy that she might like volunteering, and had Sarah Davis, who was then running the *Friends* Bookstore, call Joy to explain the Bookstore procedures. Joy has been a loyal volunteer ever since and thankfully has even joined our *Friends* of the Library Board, where she is now our Treasurer. Joy says, "Volunteering at the Punta Gorda Library affords me the opportunity to connect with the community. To me, the library is a hub of the community and stands for sharing, culture, freedom of thought and equal access to information. I give of my time to the library, but the library gives back a lot in return to me."



Joy also wears another hat, besides her Library one, that of a very gifted artist. She has just had one of her paintings in the Art Show at the Visual Arts Center (see picture) and was one of the founding artists of the Sea Grapes Artists' Gallery on West Marion Street. Of her art, Joy says "I will strive to develop paintings that inspire awareness of the Great Outdoors. Creating art enriches my life and I would like to share this through my work."

The *Friends* of the Punta Gorda Library would like to applaud you, Joy, for all of your contributions not only to our library but to our community as well.

"It is wonderful what great strides can be made when there is a resolute purpose behind them." Sir Winston Churchill

Reader's Advisory Group at the Punta Gorda Library



Please join us on the second Thursday of each month from 1:30-3:00 p.m. No registration is necessary. Bring your reading journal and a recently read book or title to "show and tell." The following books were shared in fall and winter. Brief reviews of each book are located in a display near the front entry. The following are excerpts from those reviews:

HE HUSBAND'S SECRET, by Liane Moriarty - What would YOU do if you found out your husband's deepest secret? This book, set in a small town in Australia, tells the story of Celia, a successful business woman and pillar of the community and what happens when she finds and reads a letter her husband wrote to her to be read after he dies. The letter holds a secret with the potential to destroy not only her happy life, but the lives of others as well. The secret will affect Rachel, a grieving mother, who is about to lose her son and grandson, when the daughter-in-law she does not like moves them to the United States. Then there is Tess, new to town and dealing with the blow of her husband leaving her for her best friend and cousin. These three women barely know each other, but are about to feel the repercussions of Celia's husband's secret.

PRIVATE GAMES, by James Patterson - This story is about a detective who works for an agency called PRIVATE. The agency has been hired to provide security for the Olympic Games in London. The story begins with the murder of an Olympic Organizer and a note regarding the 2012 Games. The murderer uses the name "Cronus" and he declares he will attack the games as they do not represent the true Olympic spirit. Cronus attacks athletes and Olympic committee members. The story ends with an odd twist and the revelation of Cronus' true identity.

A LIGHT IN THE RUINS, by Chris Bohjalian - During World War II, the Rosati family's villa to the south of Florence, Italy is first visited by and then taken over by the Nazis. During this time, the young daughter of the family, Cristina, falls in love with a German soldier. Ten years after the war ends, someone begins murdering members of the Rosati family, cutting out their hearts. Serafina, a police investigator on this case, had been a partisan during the war. Now as she investigates the murders, (and eventually solves the crime) memories come back about being hidden on the Rosati estate during the war.

THECROCKDILE BIRD By Ruth Rendell

This is a chilling story about a mother and daughter living in isolation near Shrove House, a remote English manor. The daughter, Liza, having grown up sheltered from the outside world, runs off with a young drifter after the police take her mother away for suspected murder. Liza tells Sean about her life and the men who came to Shrove House and never left alive. Having been educated only by her mother, she is ready to start a far different existence.

"Hope lies in dreams, in imagination and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality." Jonas Salk

When the editors of the *BOOKMARK* told me that they were dedicating this issue to the volunteers, my mind went in several directions on what I could write for my article. First, I want to say thank you! Thank you to all of our Library and Book Store volunteers. Thank you for giving your time to help the library and the Friends achieve so much. You are always here, especially in the lean times when we are short on staff and heavy on visitors.

Second, when someone asks you to do something, they are asking for a “volunteer” and I don’t think people always understand what that means. It means that you are going to stand up and give something of yourself for the benefit of others.

Teacher says, “I need a volunteer to come work out this math problem on the board”. Do you do it? Or do you wait in your seat, nervously looking around to see who is going to be brave enough to show everyone in the class what to do. What if you mess up? What if they make fun of you? What if you do great? What if the teacher points you out next time too? Are YOU willing to be brave enough to take a chance on it?

Third, because I am some what of a history buff, I like to throw out tidbits of history when I can. Did you know that the three original libraries in Charlotte County (Punta Gorda, Port Charlotte, and Englewood) were started by volunteers. Those bold and brave volunteers of the early 1900’s started the Punta Gorda Library in a church rectory and made it open to the entire community. They maintained the collection of books, newspapers, and magazines, assisted visitors with questions and research, and at times lobbied other community members and entities to become involved with their endeavors. Volunteering can be contagious. You see what good you do for someone and you feel a little more sure of yourself as time goes on and before you know it, you are our heroes. Anyone that volunteers for any committee, hospital, library, clean-up crew, or math problem will receive my utmost respect and admiration. You rock! Keep going! Stay brave! Infect others with your positive attitude! And again, Thank You!

Librarian - Alison Layne



Community Services presents...

Summer Reading Kick-off



Mid-County Regional Library

Saturday, May 31, 2014
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Kindergarten through Fifth Grade

Join us as we celebrate summer with books, music, activities, and science demonstrations. All programs open for children in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Wednesdays 3:00p.m.—4:00p.m.

6/4, 6/18, 7/9, 7/23

Special Performers

Have fun at the library with our special guests that are here to entertain the entire family.

Wednesdays 3:00p.m.—4:00p.m.

6/11, 6/25, 7/16, 7/30

Summer Reading Programs

Astronomy for All Ages

Saturday, June 14 at 1:00 p.m.

Dave Hanson from Edison State College will provide an exciting Astronomy presentation for all ages. Bring your family for an afternoon with the stars.

Big Bang Theory Party for All Ages

Thursday, June 19 at 5:30 p.m.

A celebration of the popular television series the Big Bang Theory. Dress as your favorite character. Refreshments will be served. Contests, trivia, games, prizes, a viewing of a revered episode and more!

Nature Walk for All Ages

Saturday, July 12 at 1:00 p.m.

Charlotte County Master Gardeners will conduct a guided walk on Punta Gorda Pathways. During the walk, the Gardeners will discuss the importance of Florida’s native habitats and the wild-life associated with them. Dress comfortably for the elements.

Water will be provided.

Cooking with Technology — Adults

Saturday, July 26 at 1:00 p.m.



Editors Note: this is the other half of Alison’s picture: GREGG HURWITZ!



Friends of The Punta Gorda Library

**424 W. Henry Street
Punta Gorda Florida 33950**

*“Libraries offer for free, the wisdom of the ages - and sages - and, simply put, there's something for everyone inside”
Laura Bush*

Dear *Friends* and Library Patrons,

We, the *Friends* of the Punta Gorda Library, understand how vital the existence of our library is to our community. Your membership provides support directly to our Punta Gorda Library. Annual Family, Lifetime and Business Patron memberships and donations fund library improvements that would not be possible if not for your continued generosity.

In 2013, thanks to more than 800 Annual Family, Lifetime and Business Patron members, we accomplished the following:

- * Funded Annual *Friends* Volunteer Luncheon to honor library and bookstore volunteers and library staff.
- * Sponsored Viva Florida and Ponce de Leon activities.
- * Presented Annual Fundraising Luncheon with author, Steve Berry as guest speaker.
- * Hosted Meet & Greet . . . Sip & Eat membership events.
- * Purchased books for adult book discussion groups.
- * Funded children’s programs including the Summer Reading Program
- * Sponsored the Cooking Club



In 2014, we have exciting plans in store, which include:

- * Funding additional Children and Young Adult events/programs.
- * Presenting nationally acclaimed authors and literary entertainers to our patrons, including Rick Smith.
- * Presenting two Fundraisers to benefit our Punta Gorda Library, Ted Zalewski as Teddy Roosevelt and author Gregg Hurwitz.
- * Presenting John Carter Cash, author and musician by invitation to elementary school children in Punta Gorda— **artist cancelled.**

We encourage you to be more than a library cardholder - continue to be a *Friend* of the Punta Gorda Library by completing the membership form below. Thank you for your membership, your contributions and your donations of recycled books and magazines to the *Friends* Bookstore. Your continued loyalty is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Katie Mazzi
President

Lois Modrow
Membership

Alison Layne
Library Supervisor

Please use this form for your 2014 new membership, for your renewal and for your contribution. Bring or mail this to Punta Gorda Library 424 W. Henry St. Punta Gorda FL 33950. Memberships and contributions are tax deductible. *Friends* is a 501(C)(3) corporation.



RENEWAL NEW LIFETIME Date of Application _____

Please make checks payable to: _____ FAMILY ANNUAL \$ 10.00
Friends of the Punta Gorda Library _____ FAMILY LIFETIME \$100.00
 _____ BUSINESS PATRON (annual) \$100.00
 _____ CONTRIBUTION \$ _____

NAME (S) _____

Number of people in household _____ TOTAL \$ _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

Email address _____ @ _____

Yes, I would like to Volunteer (circle area of interest): Bookstore, Library, Board Position, Hospitality, Membership, Library Advocacy, Fundraising, Marketing and Publicity. **BOOKSTORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

BOOKMARK

Friends Punta Gorda Library, Inc.
424 West Henry Street
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-5906



Nonprofit Organization

U.S. Postage

Paid

Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Permit No. 24

Current Resident or:

Friends of the Library Business Patrons

We encourage *Friends* to support our Business Patrons.

Over **140,000** visitors enter the doors of the Punta Gorda Library yearly.

Punta Gorda Downtown Merchants Assoc.

Gould Family Trust

Village Fish Market & Restaurant

Burnt Store Grille

Nolan Family Insurance

Kay's Kloset

Pineapple Storage

Reverse Mortgage Associates L.L.C.

C&R Graphics (*BOOKMARK* Printers)

Phil's 41 Restaurant

Marianne Lilly, RE/MAX Harbor Realty

Innovative Healthcare Solutions

Avant Construction, Inc.

GFWC - Punta Gorda Woman's Club, Inc.

Sun Coast One Title, Inc.

Hometown Title & Closing Services

Summers, Horner, Daughtrey & Westby, CPA

Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association

Opus Restaurant

Palm Auto Mall

Presley Beane Financial Services

Andreae Group at ReMax Harbor Realty

Charlotte State Bank & Trust

Calusa National Bank

Friendly Floors

Twin Isles Country Club

Copperfish Books

Don Gasgarth's Charlotte County Ford

The Orange House Wine Bar

Towles Corp. of SW Florida

(Businesses are listed in order of becoming Business Patrons)