



BOOKMARK

Dear *Friends*,

The Florida Library Association is a statewide organization that promotes excellence in Florida libraries by advocating strongly for libraries and providing high quality professional and leadership development for a diverse community of library staff, volunteers, and supporters. *Friends* is a member of this organization and we are so very proud to announce that the *Friends* of the Punta Gorda Library has won the Florida Library Association 2015 Award for best website.

Although *Friends* had a website for a number of years, it no longer met our needs and it was not compatible with tablets or smartphones. We took the old website down and had a new website designed. It has been online for a number of months and we have had many compliments on it.

This publication, *BOOKMARK*, won the FLA Best Newsletter award in 2013. Each edition of the *BOOKMARK* is now uploaded to the website and is always available for your reading pleasure. If you aren't home to get your mail, you can check online and read the latest edition.

There are a number of fun filled and educational events planned for the fall and winter at the library. *Friends* will host Literary Lectures with Dick Wall on Feb. 9, Peter Golden on Feb. 16, and a Literary Luncheon with Mary Alice Monroe on March 15, 2016. Your *Friends* membership allows you to purchase your reservations for the Monroe Literary Luncheon prior to non-members (page 5). You can use the *Friends* membership application to renew or join (page 7).

"Make new friends, but keep the old, one is silver and the other is gold." This song from my childhood scouting days is running through my head as I share with you that Alison Layne is no longer with Charlotte County government. Alison graduated with a Masters of Library and Information Science (MLIS) from the University of Kentucky in 2000. She worked as a librarian in Kentucky before coming to Charlotte County in 2004. She worked at Mid-County, then Port Charlotte and came to the Punta Gorda Library in February 2012 as our Library Supervisor. Alison has been a true friend to *Friends*, the patrons and the community. She had a philosophy of always looking for ways to say "yes" to the patrons and the community and always found time to support *Friends*' programs and events. She made our library a better place.

Alison will always be our friend, but like the song states, we will make a new friend when the next librarian comes to Punta Gorda. We will work with the new Library Supervisor to fulfill the *Friends* Mission "to promote awareness of, appreciation for and the use of the Punta Gorda Library." See you around the library,

Katie Mazzi, President

(Librarian's page was not submitted; visit library or www.charlottecountyfl.com/library for library programming.)



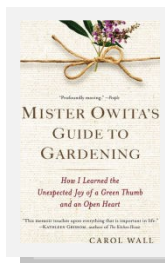
2016 *Friends* Literary Programs (pages 4-5)

***Mister Owita's Guide to Gardening* By Carol Wall**

Feb. 9, Charlotte Community Foundation

Lecture by Dick Wall, late author's husband.

Mister Owita's Guide to Gardening is a profoundly moving memoir about finding grace amid heartbreak and accepting that beauty, while fleeting, exists in one's life as well as one's garden. Carol Wall's memoir was published to critical acclaim just 9 months before her death in 2014. As per her wishes, her husband and children have been travelling across the country speaking to readers and library groups.



Peter Golden, Feb. 16, P.G.I. Civic Association

Peter Golden is an award-winning journalist, historian, and novelist who has interviewed such dignitaries as Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan, and Bush, Secretaries of State Kissinger, Haig, Shultz, and Eagleburger; Israeli Prime Ministers Rabin, Peres, and Shamir; and Soviet President Gorbachev.

His new novel, *Wherever the Light*, engages readers in a dramatic portrayal of an unlikely couple falling in love and struggling to maintain connection amid injustice and oppression. His previous books include *Quiet Diplomat*, *O Powerful Western Star* and *Come Back Love*.

Some of Golden's numerous honors and awards include: Member of the Institute For Advanced Study (Princeton), 2005-2006, Provost's Award for Distinguished Scholarship, Rutgers-Newark, 2005, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 2001.

Mary Alice Monroe, March 15, Isles Yacht Club

Mary Alice Monroe is the *New York Times* bestselling author of twenty novels and children's books. She explores the parallels between nature and human nature. Her latest novel is the final book in a trilogy set in the Lowcountry of SC: *The Summer Girls*, *The Summer Wind* and *The Summer's End*. Her best selling novel *The Beech House*, has been adapted into a Hallmark Channel Movie to premier in 2016.

Mary Alice has received numerous awards including the 2008 SC Center for the Book Award for Writing, the 2014 SC Book Festival Award for Excellence in Writing, the 2015 SW Florida Book Festival Distinguished Author Award, The RT Lifetime Achievement Award, and the International Book Award for Green Fiction.



BOOKMARK

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

2014 Chamber of Commerce
Non-Profit Business of the Year



2015 Award
Winning Website:
www.friendspg.org

BOOKMARK Editors:

Martha Kelley Mary Knowlton
Email: info@friendspg.org



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Katie Mazzi



Interim Library Supervisor
Bill MacDonald
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

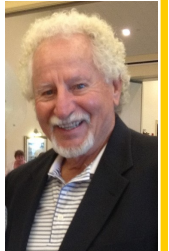
We are excited by the prospect of a new library. Although the timeline for completion is much longer than we would like, necessary steps appear to be falling into place. The City of Punta Gorda has followed through with its commitment to provide the Shreve Street site. Charlotte County is reportedly negotiating with Harvard Jolly, an architectural firm with expertise in library design, and we presume they will ultimately be engaged to design and supervise construction of the new library. This process needs to be expedited.

It is notable that other libraries around the country are similarly undergoing dramatic revivals. Even as they engage the digital revolution, communities are increasingly aware that intellectual vitality requires more than mere access to the plethora of technology and social media. Organized advocacies for a rich diversity of informational resources and vigorous, intellectual inquiry are also essential to an informed citizenry.

Libraries have been centers of intellectual development throughout history. When the Library of Alexandria opened its doors in the 3rd century B.C., it quickly became the world's foremost center for scholarship, celebrating the pursuit of knowledge and the breadth of human ingenuity. The ancient library, like our libraries of today, embodied human progress and intellectual creativity, serving as a meeting place for the inquisitive and a symbol of common achievement.

Our Punta Gorda library is committed to programming that addresses these lofty objectives. The current challenge is to design and construct a facility that appropriately supports such a worthy mission.

Art Bruning, Board member and former Superintendent of Schools in Hopkins MN



Friends SCENE IN PUNTA GORDA

ONE NEVER KNOWS WHO MIGHT BE SEEN AROUND THE CITY!



Library Summer Reading Kick-Off :
Punta Gorda Police and Fire & Rescue; below, face painting, balloon man and Read to my Dog.



Charlotte Community Foundation Recognition Reception: right, Julia Steele, CEO; below Charlotte Players receive award from board members Ron Olsen and Jane Washburn



Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce Awards Gala: right, Jazz great Nick Corlione; below, Julie and Brian Chapman, Diane Harper; Bradley & Marilyn Teets; Jerry and Patty Presseller





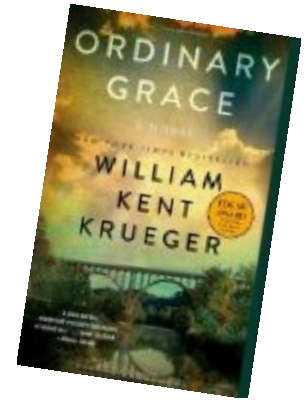
BOOK REVIEW



ORDINARY GRACE

by William Kent Krueger

"That was all of it. A grace so ordinary there was no reason at all to remember it. Yet I have never across the forty years since it was spoken forgotten a single word."



The small town of New Bremen, Minnesota, which hugged the banks of the winding Minnesota River, was feeling the smothering heat and humidity of an unexpectedly early summer that June of 1961. The country was rejoicing in their handsome, young President and his family whose youth, humor and antics had captivated a nation. It was a time of root beer floats and ice cream sodas at the neighborhood drug store, Velveeta sandwiches and tomato soup lunches... a time of national innocence, perhaps the last for many generations to come and most especially in New Bremen, Minnesota. It was a summer when one unforgivable indiscretion led to anger, violent losses and guilt... it was the summer that people started dying.

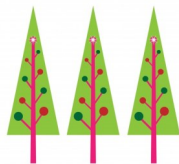
Frank Dunn, now in his mid forties, narrates this story about the momentous events which took place during that shocking summer in 1961 when he was a thirteen year old and found he had to leave his childhood behind to confront head-on the darkness which was the real world. This is a story about Frank, a wise-cracking, fearless and adventurous teenage son of a respected God-loving Methodist Minister; a story of deep and abiding family love, loyalties and deceptions as seen through the eyes of a rambunctious young teenager during his coming of age summer.

It all started near the railroad trestle outside of town ... a popular spot where everyone fished and picked berries and it was here that a huge diesel locomotive violently ended the short life of little Bobby Cole. Bobby was Frank's age though several years behind in school and the mysterious death of this sweet child set off a string of unbelievable circumstances and more deaths that were to affect many lives within this tiny town.

Frank's father, Reverend Nathan Dunn, once a promising young lawyer had an exciting career ahead of him before he entered World War II. While serving overseas he had a life changing event that propelled his entry into a seminary after his military discharge. Nathan's wife Ruth, beautiful and musically talented, was looking forward to the life as wife of a high paid lawyer and never adjusted to that of a pastor's wife. Outspoken, passionate, cigarette and cocktail - loving, Ruth struggled with the role that had been defined for her. Frank's eleven year old brother Jake, whose memorable one-liners showed a pragmatism and wisdom far beyond his years, was nearly crippled by an infirmity until he encountered a miracle. Ariel, the boys' beloved older sister, truly a prodigy on the organ and piano with a scholarship to the Juilliard School of Music, had a star-crossed affair with unimaginable consequences when she became involved with a member of the town's oldest, wealthiest and most respected families. Nathan's best friend Gus, his platoon mate in the army, was a perpetual drunk whom Nathan constantly bailed out of trouble and jail but whose loyalty and love for Nathan and his family was unquestioned.

As the gathering fears and threat of violence gripped New Bremen, Frank was to learn the meaning of one of his father's favorite quotes from Aeschylus, the Greek play write who wrote, "in our own despair, against our will comes wisdom through the awful Grace of God." It seemed that no one, from the wealthiest to the poorest were immune from the tragedies that were to rock New Bremen that sweltering summer.

Ordinary Grace manages to be quiet and gentle, even in the midst of chaos. It is a story of redemption, forgiveness and love... a magical story which captivates its reader immediately and holds them until the very last page. The book, winning both the 2014 Edgar Award and the Dilly's 2014 Award is powerfully and eloquently written.



Reviewed by Martha Kelley

"When something bad happens, you have three choices: you can let it define you, let it destroy you or you can let it strengthen you."
Anonymous

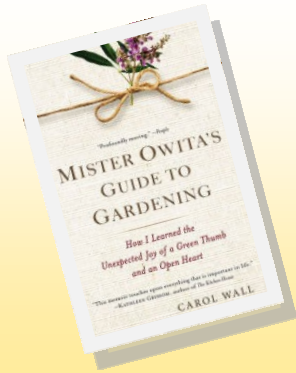


Friends
Of the Punta Gorda Library
Presents

Judi Roth
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GOULD
FAMILY TRUST

Dick Wall, husband of late author Carol Wall, will talk about her critically acclaimed memoir, *Mister Owita's Guide to Gardening* as well as his wife's incredible life.



Free Literary Event Tuesday Feb. 9, 2016 at 10:30 AM

Charlotte Community Foundation
227 Sullivan St. Punta Gorda

Light refreshments served following presentation
Author's Book available for sale at event

Peter Golden, is an award-winning journalist, historian, and novelist. He will speak about his newest novel *Wherever There Is Light*, as well as his fascinating life as a cold war journalist who interviewed four U.S. Presidents, various Prime Ministers and Soviet President Gorbachov.

Tuesday Feb. 16, 2016

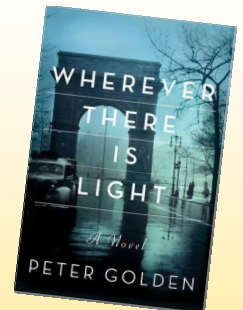
P.G.I. Civic Association
2001 Shreve St. Punta Gorda

Doors open 2 PM

Friends remarks 2:45 PM

Lecture 3 PM Followed by Reception at 4 PM

Book Signing - Author's Books available for sale at event



Mary Alice Monroe is the *New York Times* bestselling author of twenty novels and children's books. She explores the parallels between nature and human nature. Her upcoming novel is the final book in a trilogy set in the Low Country of South Carolina: *The Summer Girls*, *The Summer Wind* and *The Summer's End*.

Tuesday March 15, 2016

Isles Yacht Club, Punta Gorda

Doors Open 11 AM, *Friends* Remarks 11:45 AM

Luncheon Noon

Presentation and Questions 1 PM

Book Signing - Author's Books available for sale at event





Meet & Greet . . . Sip & Eat

Please join *Friends* on Thursday, November 19, from 5:30-7:30 PM at Gallery Walk in Downtown Punta Gorda, in front of Chamber of Commerce, corner of Marion Ave. & Sullivan. St.

First chance for *Friends* to purchase Literary Event reservations for Peter Golden and Mary Alice Monroe.

**Please join *Friends* at the Punta Gorda Library on
Tuesday January 5, 2016, from 10 AM-4 PM.**



Friends Membership Committee will be at all Literary Events, Dick Wall on Feb. 9, Peter Golden on February 16, and Mary Alice Monroe on March 15, 2016, to greet you and explain the benefits of *Friends* Membership.

Friends of the Punta Gorda Library

Presents

Literary Lecture with Peter Golden, award winning journalist, historian and novelist

Tuesday Feb. 16, 2016

Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve Street Punta Gorda

Doors open at 2 PM. Opening Remarks 2:45 PM

Lecture 3 PM followed by Reception at 4 PM Open Seating

Registration Begins: Nov. 19, 2015 Cost: Pre-registration: \$10 At Door: \$15

Make checks to: *Friends of the Punta Gorda Library*

Mail checks to: *Friends of the Punta Gorda Library*, 424 West Henry Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950. You can also drop the payment off at the *Friends* Bookstore located in the library at the same address.

Email questions to info@friendspg.org or call 941 505-0940

Date: _____ **Name** _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Number of attendees at \$10: _____

List of people attending with this pre-registration: _____

2016 Annual *Friends of the Punta Gorda Library* Literary Luncheon

Mary Alice Monroe, *New York Times* Best Selling Author

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

***Friends* members' reservations on sale Nov. 19, 2015, at Gallery Walk in front of Chamber of Commerce, Punta Gorda**

Reservations go on sale to Non-Members Dec. 19, 2015

To Reserve your seats, you **must submit this form along with a CHECK** made out to the ***Friends of the Punta Gorda Library***. You may drop off your form & check at the ***Friends* Bookstore** located inside the Library, or you can mail your form & check to:

Friends of the Punta Gorda Library

424 W. Henry Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

***Friends* Member \$40 per ticket * Non-Member \$45 per ticket**

[Seating at tables of 8 is assigned on a first come-first serve basis when your form and check are received. There are no tickets. You will be given your table assignments at "Check-in" on the day of the event.]

Date: _____ **Name:** _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Number of tickets _____ **@ \$40 each. Number of tickets** _____ **@ \$45 each.**

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ made payable to:

Friends of the Punta Gorda Library

When purchasing multiple tickets, please list the names of persons attending on the back of this form.

Bookmark Feature - Lanette Hart, Division Manager of Libraries and History

We welcome Lynette Hart who began her career as the Head Reference Librarian for the Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council in the United Kingdom. She managed a central county reference library for five years that included the responsibility for selection and development of print and electronic resources, public IT suite and local history collections.

After returning to the U.S. in 2001, she became the Assistant Director and head of Information Services for the Sharon Public Library in Sharon, Ma. Within a few years, she decided to move to the Tarpon Springs area of Florida where her family has lived for the past 40 years. In searching for a position that would encompass all of her past experiences, she discovered Charlotte County and became a Regional Librarian. She has recently accepted the position of Division Manager of Libraries and History.

Lynette's goals for the coming years include developing connections and partnerships to diversify and enrich programming efforts; develop sustainable So. Florida friendly landscaping at all of the libraries within the system using native plants identified by informational markers, turning our green space into "living classrooms" and to promote an active lifestyle while incorporating physical activities into our children's programs.

When asked what plans she envisioned for our NEW library, she topped her list with her plan to hold informal meetings with members of the community to ask what they want in their library. Also on her list is "freshening" the collection, enhancing children's programs, providing new equipment for our computer users, adding business friendly features to our meeting rooms and ideas for a bigger and better bookstore.

Interview by Sara Benson

(Your Bookmark Editors will keep in touch with Lynette and will be sure to keep our readers up to date on her progress.)



Reader's Advisory Group at the Punta Gorda Library



Reader's Advisory Group meets every month on the second Thursday from 1:30-3:00 p.m. at the library. Please join us to "show and tell" a recently read book. These are excerpts from the shared reviews.

Handle with Care, by Jodi Picoult - As with her other novels, Picoult is dealing with moral and social issues. This very moving novel is about a family with two daughters...one of which, five year-old Willow was born with the disorder "osteogenesis imperfecta" commonly known as brittle bone disease. The mother decides to proceed with a "wrongful birth" lawsuit against her obstetrician, who is also her friend.

The Boys in the Boat, by Daniel J. Brown - Composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington eight-oar crew was never expected to defeat the elite teams from the East Coast and Great Britain. They defeated these teams and earned a spot in the 1936 Olympics. What happened then is just amazing. This is the story of their remarkable achievements and includes the incredible personal stories of the members of this University of Washington team.

The Wright Brothers, by David McCullough - Orville and Wilbur Wright grew up in Dayton, Ohio in a close knit family in which character and the pursuit of knowledge were emphasized. Under the guidance of their father, a preacher, and their mother, an educated yet reclusive presence, the boys and their sister Katherine, were encouraged to pursue their studies both formally and informally. The boys in particular, were allowed to follow their interests outside their formal schooling which enabled them to feed their natural curiosity and develop their work ethic and gritty determination. In large part, their eventual accomplishment of flight was the result of their ability to self-teach and grind things out without fear of failure. The book vividly follows all of the trials, failures, disappointments and ultimate triumph of the brothers in their pursuit of human flight. The Wright Brothers is not only a story of historical significance, but also a testament to the human spirit and the power of knowledge. The Wright Brothers is the latest work of two-time Pulitzer Prize winning author, David McCullough.

Missing Mom, by Joyce Carol Oats - Nikki Eaton, single, thirty-one, sexually liberated and economically self-supporting has never thought of herself as a daughter. Yet, following the unexpected loss of her mother, she undergoes a transformation during a difficult year that brings horror, sorrow, illumination, wisdom, and even a nurturing love.

"The secret of getting ahead is getting started." Mark Twain



Friends of The Punta Gorda Library

424 W. Henry Street
Punta Gorda Florida 33950



Premier Photographic Events

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. *Friends* has worked for many years with the citizens and the Charlotte County Commissioners to promote a new and larger library in our community. The Charlotte County Commission has approved the building of a new library on land donated by the City of Punta Gorda to be built on Shreve Street, northeast of the dog park. The new facility will nearly double the collection space. The cost of the new library will be paid for by funds from the 2015 Sales Tax Extension.

Currently, in addition to books, music and movies, the library offers eBooks and online resources; Consumer Reports, My Heritage, Rosetta Stone and eMagazines (Zinio). To view the resources go to the Charlotte County Library website:
www.charlottecountyfl.com/Library

- *Friends* **contributes** essential funds for resources which would not be available otherwise.
- *Friends* **encourages** the appreciation of literacy and education in the community, **supports** children, teen and adult programs, and **sponsors** community interest events and programs.
- *Friends* through memberships and fund raising activities, **donates** monthly to the Library for expanding collections and programming.
- *Friends* **supports and operates** the Bookstore with many volunteers who maintain the donations given by you, the patrons of the library. The monies from the sales augment and help maintain library collections.

In 2016, *Friends* will offer the following literary events:

- Peter Golden, cold war historian and noted author, will present an afternoon lecture in February.
- Mary Alice Monroe, *New York Times* best-selling author of 20 novels and children's books, will be the guest speaker at the Literary Luncheon in March.

***Friends* membership also has the advantage of advanced ticket sales to our events at reduced costs.**

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

Katie Mazzi

Katie Mazzi
President



Lois Modrow Nancy R Lewis

Lois Modrow & Nancy Lewis
Membership



Please use this form for your new or renewing membership. Bring or mail this to the library:

424 West Henry St. Punta Gorda FL 33950. Contributions are tax deductible. *Friends* is a 501(C)(3) Corporation.

Date of Application: _____

____ RENEWAL ____ NEW ____ LIFETIME # ____ Adults # ____ Children # ____ Employees (Business Patron only)

Please make checks payable to:

Friends of the Punta Gorda Library

NAME (S) _____

ADDRESS _____

____ ZIP _____

email: _____ @ _____

____ FAMILY ANNUAL \$15.00

____ FAMILY LIFETIME \$150.00

____ BUSINESS PATRON (annual) \$100.00

____ DONATION \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Yes, I would like to Volunteer (circle area of interest) - *Friends* BOOKMARK, Bookstore, Library Board Position, Hospitality, Membership, Advocacy, Fundraising, Marketing, Publicity, other _____

BOOKMARK

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



Current Resident or:

Nonprofit Organization

U.S. Postage

Paid

Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Permit No. 24

Friends of the Library Business Patrons

We encourage *Friends* to support our Business Patrons.

Over **130,000** 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

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Friendly Floors

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Copperfish Books

Don Gasgarth's Charlotte County Ford

Towles Corp. of SW Florida

Centennial Bank Punta Gorda

Punta Gorda Yacht Brokers

Isles Yacht Club

Wyvern Hotel

St. Andrews South Golf Club

Charlotte Symphony Orchestra

Bohall's Total Comfort, Inc.

(Listed in the order of their membership)