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PUNTA GORDA LIBRARY, INC.
PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA



BOOKMARK

Celebrate the Library Volunteers

Dear Friends,

"Library Built By Volunteers" - This was a headline in the *Charlotte Herald* on October 10, 1963, announcing the opening of the first library in Punta Gorda. The article quoted a volunteer who said, "A library is a composite of all mankind, living and dead; the past and the present; but more important, is a power over the future, because minds are molded by reading."

The origins of the Punta Gorda Library date back to the early 1900's when The Episcopal Church of The Good Shepherd established a place for books and magazines that could be borrowed and returned. This "library" was supervised by the vicar's wife, Theodosia Trout, who I consider to be our first volunteer.

Eventually, the library was moved into a room at the Masonic Lodge 115 because "the library was so popular, it interfered with church activities." In 1914, Mrs. Stella Gould was the librarian as well as the telegraph operator. The Masonic Lodge on Sullivan Street was in the center of town and already a regular meeting place for Masons, the Fortnightly Club, the Women's Civic Improvement Association, and other established groups and clubs in Punta Gorda. The library remained at that location until 1928 when a hurricane blew off part of the roof. Rain damaged many of the books; however, the volumes that could be salvaged were carried over to the new Woman's Club building where members adopted the library as a main project.

The late Mrs. Nan McCullough was president of the Woman's Club when members began to dream of building a library for the citizens of Charlotte County. The members went before the Punta Gorda City Council and made their case for a new building that would house a permanent library. The City Leaders decided to donate land at 260 Retta Esplanade for a library and in turn, they made a request to the Charlotte County Commissioners for funding. Mrs. McCullough and the Woman's Club members can be thanked for their vision and commitment to helping guide the establishment of the Charlotte County Library System. The *Charlotte Herald* gave credit to the members of the Woman's Club for their vision and actions: "Libraries do not build themselves. How did this one come about? The question is easily answered. Woman power did the job and who will doubt the power of women?"

Upon the library's completion, it was volunteers who spent hours preparing the books and creating the card catalogue before the books could be placed on the shelves. The new library would never have been able to open without the dedication and the commitment of so many volunteers.

After a number of years, the Charlotte County Library Board determined the existing library was "grossly inadequate", as US 41 was re-routed on a portion of Retta Esplanade where the library was located, plans began for a new library. For a second time, the City of Punta Gorda donated land. The current library at 424 West Henry Street was dedicated on December 6, 1974.

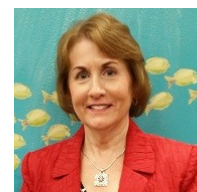
The present library has been remodeled by Charlotte County a number of times to meet the needs of the patrons and community. Again, our community has outgrown the building and it is a great joy to know we are just a few short years away from having a new library on Shreve Street on land once again donated by the City of Punta Gorda.

Volunteers remain a vital part of the Punta Gorda Library. Every day, volunteers are in the library shelving books and other media, answering questions, setting up displays, running the *Friends* Used Bookstore and helping wherever needed. The *Friends* Board and I want to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers who donated almost 5,000 hours to the Punta Gorda Library in 2016. I can't imagine what our library would be like without the volunteers.

I am honored to be just one more volunteer in a long line of dedicated men and women who have been and who continue to be a part of the Punta Gorda Library family of volunteers.

See you around the library,

Katie



BOOKMARK

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



BOOKMARK Editor:
Minerva King



Email: info@friendspg.org
Visit our newly designed
website : www.friendspg.org



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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

Community News

Meet Our Newest Staff Member

Jean Soult is the newest member of the Punta Gorda Library staff. However, she is not new to the Charlotte County Library System. Jean has been working with Charlotte County since 2013 first as a Recreation Specialist at the Tringali Park Recreation Center and the following year, as a Library Technician at the Mid-County branch. She specializes in the planning and presentation of youth programs such as Story Time, S.T.E.M. and Family Game night, as well as Toddler/Pre-School Yoga programs. Jean has had plenty of experience, after running an elementary library in New Jersey for 14 years! She looks forward to sharing her experience with the staff and volunteers at the Punta Gorda Library and we welcome her “across the bridge”.



Youth and Libraries

by Greg Summers, *Friends* Director

In my elementary school library, first grade books had a strip of yellow tape across the spine. Red tape denoted second grade books. Older students had free run of the library. That rule was fine with me initially.

In second grade, I noticed that my teacher allowed several “advanced” students to choose books from the general collection, but I was not given that permission. Reading my older brother’s books - which lacked yellow or red tape - was a partial solution, but we had different interests. I wanted to make my own selections and check out big kid books.

Eventually I mustered up the courage to ask my teacher if I could check out books from other parts of the library. She looked down at me, shaking her head in disapprobation. Her look was stern, her unspoken message was searing – and it haunts me fifty years later. My urge for unbounded growth as a reader was chilled by a teacher who was constrained by her assumptions.

At a conference later, my mother secured permission for me to forage the entire library for intellectual nourishment. My reading became immensely fulfilling.

Now in my first year as Head of School at Good Shepherd Episcopal, our second grade teacher was out recently and no substitutes were available. The best solution was for me to cover the class. Trey Prattos asked for permission to go to the library; he returned with Richard Bach’s *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*. During free reading time, each student comes up individually and reads a page from his or her book to me out loud. Trey struggled with his reading. I thought about the sentence length and word difficulty in Bach’s book. I feared that Trey would miss much of the significance of the fable. In a gentle way, I said it would be okay if he wanted to pick an easier book. He insisted that he wanted to read *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*, so I told him to make progress on it that night. I was reminded in that moment of my own teacher, and vowed never to deny a child’s desire to read challenging material – even if it’s a stretch.

The next morning, Trey arrived at school bright-eyed and smiling. He pulled the book from his backpack and assured me that it was helping him to become a better reader. I hope so. If not, Trey will self-correct and find other books.

I’m happy that Trey has access to the entire library. Children need the freedom to read, and the opportunity, if I may borrow a metaphor from Bach’s book, to soar to new heights in enjoying the printed word.

Volunteers

Welcome to the *Friends'* Bookstore

Volunteers Make the *Friends'* Bookstore a Success

The *Friends* Bookstore opened on September 13, 1999. It was originally just a few books in the corner of the library foyer before becoming the bright, cheerful shop just inside the front door.

The Bookstore operates under the direction of the *Friends* Board of Directors. It is the Board's goal to be the best little used bookstore in town. The *Friends* Bookstore is staffed by volunteers and everything sold in the store has been donated.

Bookstore revenues are used by the *Friends* to meet their stated mission of providing the library with much-needed funding to increase the media collections, fund children, teen, and adult programs, procure furniture and equipment for the library, and assist with building maintenance and improvements as needed. Funding has also been set aside for the new library. Books and other items are priced to move in and out of the store as quickly as possible. Many consider the Bookstore a hidden jewel in the community.

The Friends have always appreciated the Charlotte County Library System for allocating space in the building for the bookstore. During the new library public input meetings in 2016, the community voiced their support to continue to have a *Friends* Bookstore in the new library. The floor plan for the new library allows for a larger space than we currently have for the *Friends* Bookstore.

The first Bookstore Manager was Nancy Vuic. She and 19 volunteers worked diligently to make the bookstore an attractive sales area. Once again we can look at volunteers who had a vision for our library. Since Nancy, there have been six other [Bookstore Managers](#): Sara Benson, Sarah Davis, Diane Strandberg, Sue Galvin, Janet Brennan and currently, Katie Mazzi.

The store succeeds because of the dedicated people who volunteer in the bookstore. The [current volunteers](#) are: Harry Applegate, Wanda Bain, Sharon Beck, Julie Belbot, Janet Brennan, Kay Boxer, Joyce Caime, Ginny Caldwell, Linda Corrette, Sarah Davis, Joy Dibble, Leslie Dillion, Linda Dobrian, Celia Eames, Carol Forde, Sue Galvin, Cindy Gates, Berna Goldberg, Doreen Harrigan, Carolyn Hiselman, Eleanore Hayek, Joanne Johnston, Pat Kolosai, Inge Kruse, Cathy Lindenauer, Linda Mann, Dorothy Metz, Lisa Phillips, Shelly Pollack, Jean Pollak, Karin Stewart, Pat Taylor, Mary Tracy, Mary Treworgy, Brenda Wilmes, Deborah Young.

Books are needed in new and good condition: hardcover and paperback in fiction and non-fiction. Also popular are large print books, cookbooks, children's books and computer books within 2 years. Current magazines in good condition are also needed as are DVDs and CDs. Please note the Bookstore cannot accept: records, free publications, encyclopedias, textbooks, workbooks, service and professional journals, and older computer manuals. They also do not sell any homemade DVDs or CDs. Please don't bring in boxes that have been stored in attics or garages without opening and checking to make sure that the books are clean and in good shape. Books that are in poor condition cannot be sold.

The library staff requests donations be made during Bookstore hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am until 5 pm. There will be a volunteer ready to greet you and to help you!

Volunteers



Our Thanks to the Library Volunteers!

We are so thankful for the many volunteers who have worked in the library over the years. Library volunteers keep the library running by shelving books, calling patrons when their holds have arrived, helping organize library materials, and in general, making patrons feel welcome. Here is a “shout out” and thank you to the [current library volunteers](#) and their coordinator, Kathy Harriott.

[Audrey Bruning, Rita Carmony, Ingrid Carroll, Sarah Davis, Sally Dunbar, Janet Elias, Sue Fuller, Johanna Kashi, Celia Lautman, Cathy Loreda, Wava Matteson, Sandy Miskell, Lois Modrow, Vivian Newman, Barbara Rees, Patrick Schlosser, Mary Shelton, Sally Singer, Marjorie Tisdale, Rande Triulzi, Eunice Williams.](#)

Some thoughts from Kathy Harriott:

As the Punta Gorda Library Volunteer Coordinator, I believe our volunteers, both in the bookstore and in the library, are nothing short of remarkable.



While someone may think “Big deal, you sorted and shelved a cart of books”, I say “Thank goodness for our volunteers who come in and shelve those books so that our patrons can find them”. To give you an idea, there were approximately 15,700 individual materials returned just during the month of January 2017. These 15,000+ books, DVDs, and audiobooks all had to be put back out for our patrons. Without the library volunteers, the staff would never be able to keep up with the amount of shelving that is needed here at the Punta Gorda Library. This doesn’t count the special jobs that our library volunteers do, such as calling patrons to notify them they have an arrived hold and assistance while we retagged the entire collection with our new RFID tags.

While someone may say “All you do is sit on a stool and collect change for paperbacks”, I say “Thank you for matching that donated material to a new home and for helping collect money to benefit the Library and the Community”. I’m amazed, not only at the amount of donated material that the bookstore volunteers deal with, but with their monetary contribution to the library. There are patrons that make a visit to the Friends of the Punta Gorda Library bookstore part of their weekly routine. They are regulars and have expressed how wonderful and knowledgeable the bookstore volunteers are.

Always remember, what our wonderful volunteers do, really does matter and the Punta Gorda Library staff thank you for all that you do to help us serve our patrons.

Each time you make a purchase through Amazon, first go to <http://smile.amazon.com/>. Sign in to your account or create an Amazon account. *Friends of the Punta Gorda Library* will receive a donation of 0.5% of your purchase with no increase in cost to you! We appreciate your support.



Programs

All library
programs
are free!

Ongoing Monthly Programs for Adults and Youth

<u>Program Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Writers' Read	1st Tuesday	11:00 a.m.--1:00 p.m.
Master Gardeners	2nd Wednesday	11:00 a.m.--1:00 p.m.
Reader's Advisory Group	2nd Thursday	1:30 p.m.--3:00 p.m.
Book Discussion	4th Thursday	4:00 p.m.
Fourth Friday Foreign Films	4th Friday (4/28/17)	2:00 p.m.
Café Philo	Every Friday	11:30 a.m.
Kid's Stuff (Writing for Children)	3rd Saturday	10:00 a.m.



<u>Program Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Saturday Family Films (Children & Families)	1st Saturday	2:00 p.m.
Story Time (ages 3-5)	Every Wednesday	10:15 a.m.

All library
programs are
free!

Summer Reading Programs for Adults and Youth

All activities are based on this year's theme:
"Build a Better World"

Adult summer reading programs will be held the
following Wednesdays from 3:00-4:00:


June 14, June 28, July 5, July 12, July 26

Adult programming may include crafting, a movie and
discussion, scavenger hunt, book discussion and
more!

Check out our free summer reading activities for **youth (grades K-5)** the following
Tuesdays from 2:00-3:00:

June 6, June 13, June 20, June 27, July 11

Children's programming may include story times, crafting, a visiting special guest, and
other literacy-based activities!



Kids' Summer
Reading Kick-off!
Saturday June 3,
1-3 @PG Library!



Friends of the Punta Gorda Library

2017 Volunteer Luncheon



The annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, sponsored by the *Friends of the Punta Gorda Library*, was held at the Twin Isles Country Club on April 3rd. With over 70 guests in attendance, the Volunteers and Library Staff were joined by some younger participants this year. To everyone's delight, the Good Shepherd Episcopal School Orchestra shared in the celebration and treated the audience to a performance ending the event on a charming note. Kathy Harriott, Volunteer Coordinator, presented a personal thank you note to each volunteer which was then followed by a door prize raffle. Sincere thanks go to Susan Cravens, Marcie Cummins and Kathy Harriott for their skillful Luncheon planning which left no room for doubt how important a role volunteers play in our Library's success.





Friends of The Punta Gorda Library

424 W. Henry Street

Punta Gorda Florida 33950

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. The *Friends* have worked for many years with the citizens and the Charlotte County Commissioners to promote a new and larger library in our area. The Charlotte County Commission approved building a new library on land donated by the City of Punta Gorda on Shreve Street next to the Punta Gorda History Park. The new facility will nearly double the collection space, include more parking and have a larger meeting room for programs and events. This is an exciting time for us.

The library offers many types of media. Currently, in addition to books, music and movies, the library offers eBooks and online resources: Consumer Reports, MyHeritage, Rosetta Stone and eMagazines (Zinio). It also provides Career Online High School. To view the resources go to the Charlotte County Library website: www.charlottecountyfl.com/Library

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 contributes essential funds for resources which would not be available otherwise.

Friends through memberships and fund raising activities, **donates** to the Library for expanding collections, programming and new equipment.

Friends operates the Bookstore to sell recycled donations given by the patrons of the library. *Friends* continues to work with the County to determine how we can help financially with the new library.

In 2017, *Friends* hosted the annual literary luncheon featuring *New York Times* and *USA Today* best selling author, Karen White. This event was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2017. The literary luncheon is always popular and sells out quickly. (*Friends membership offers advanced ticket sales to events at a reduced price.*)

Please be more than a library cardholder. Be a *Friend* of the Punta Gorda Library by completing the form below. *Friends membership is calendar year - January 1st through December 31st. Memberships dated after October 1, 2016 will be for the 2017 calendar year.* 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.

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Please use this form for a new membership or for a renewal. Bring or mail this to the library - 424 W. Henry St. Punta Gorda. FL 33950. Contributions are tax deductible - *Friends* is a 501(C)3 corporation.

DATE OF APPLICATION: _____

____ RENEWAL ____ NEW ____ LIFETIME

Please make checks payable to:

Friends of the Punta Gorda Library

NAME (S) _____

ADDRESS _____

____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL _____ @ _____ Yes, I would love to volunteer (circle area of interest) Bookstore, Library, Board Position, *Bookmark*, Hospitality, Membership, Advocacy, Fundraising, Marketing, Publicity, other

# _____ Adults	# _____ Children
____ FAMILY ANNUAL	\$ 15.00
____ FAMILY LIFETIME	\$150.00
____ DONATION	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

BOOKMARK

Friends Punta Gorda Library, Inc.

424 West Henry Street

Punta Gorda, FL 33950-5906



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