

Volume 12 Issue2
December 2016

A PUBLICATION OF *FRIENDS*
PUNTA GORDA LIBRARY, INC.
PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA



BOOKMARK

Dear Friends,

2016 is coming to a close and soon we will welcome in 2017. The Romans named the month of January after their god Janus, the god of the doorway. He was depicted as having two faces, one looking back and one looking forward. This is what I am going to do now.

2016 brought some changes to the *Friends* Board. Two long-time *Friends* Directors, Jan Roemler and Hank Bauman, chose to step down from the Board. They both dedicated many hours of service to the *Friends* and were committed to our mission and to the library community. We thank them for their many years of service and contribution to our success. We are proud to welcome two new Directors, Minerva King and Greg Summers, to the 2017 *Friends* Board. Minerva is our BOOKMARK editor, as well as a media specialist and Greg is Head of School for Good Shepherd Episcopal School. Both of these new Board members will bring fresh ideas and expand our community involvement, especially with children and teens.

Progress is being made on our new library building and it was exciting to see so many of our *Friends* members and library patrons making it very clear at the community input meetings, that it was important to have space for a *Friends* bookstore in the new library. While the design process is still going on, we are moving forward and looking toward the day when we move into a brand-new library building.

We hosted three literary events in 2016. Dick Wall spoke about his late wife's book, *Mister Owita's Guide to Gardening*. Award winning journalist and historian Peter Golden discussed his latest book, *Wherever There is Light*, and the highlight of our literary season was the *Friends* Annual Fund Raising Luncheon featuring best-selling author, Mary Alice Monroe.

The *Friends* sponsored the Friday Night Music and Drama performances held at the PGI Civic Association, as well as donating the kids' Summer Reading prizes, including the grand prize, a Kindle Fire. We also sponsored the young adult author, J.E. Thompson, at the Punta Gorda Middle School. It was a joy to see over 350 students listen as Mr. Thompson interacted with and encouraged the students.

Our library family and community are still grieving the loss of Mary Knowlton. However, we are choosing to celebrate her life and remember her focus on service to the *Friends*, the library and the community.

Looking toward 2017, the annual Literary Luncheon will feature best-selling author, Karen White, on Tuesday, January 17th. This event sells out quickly, so please submit your reservation and payment as soon as possible so you don't miss out.

I give thanks each day for the wonderful people I have met at the library and I am fortunate to serve on a Board with talented and dedicated people who work toward making the library and the community a better place to be and live. I wish everyone a Happy Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

See you around the library,

Katie



Sculpture Honoring Mary Knowlton



The RAVERS, the group of retired elementary school librarian/media specialists who worked with Mary Knowlton in Minnesota, have generously and lovingly donated a bronze sculpture in her honor. The sculpture, pictured above, is that of a girl in pigtails absorbed in reading a book. The plaque on the front reads "In memory of Mary Knowlton: RAVERS, MN school librarians". This statue represents Mary and her passion for kids, reading, and books. It is currently being displayed in the large display case at the entrance to the Punta Gorda Library, but it will have a prominent place in the children's room of the new library once it is completed.



Memorial donations received in memory of Mary will be designated for the new library and dedicated to her memory. Donations may be made out to the *Friends* of the Punta Gorda Library and mailed to 424 West Henry Street, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950

The *Friends* of the Punta Gorda Library is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

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

New Punta Gorda Library Supervisor

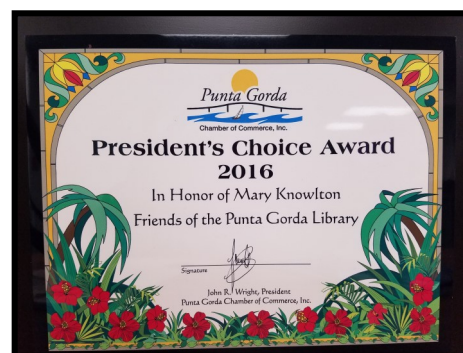
Brian Smith is the new Library Supervisor at the Punta Gorda Library. He most recently came to us from the Palm Beach County Library System, but he has also worked at the Delray Beach Public Library, the Naples Regional Library and Wayne State University's David Adamany Undergraduate Library. This diverse background of experience will be valuable here in Charlotte County as he plans programs and activities.

Brian wants everyone to feel welcome at the library and he intends to provide programs that are unique and meet the needs of our population. Community engagement is important to him, because this is how a library grows and improves. Brian prefers to read non-fiction, with a special interest in sociology and technology and he keeps up-to-date on the technology available for public libraries by writing articles to the Public Library Association under the heading: New Product News. Brian is an ideal addition to our library and we look forward to seeing positive changes.



President's Choice Award

Each year the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce holds an annual dinner during which local businesses and non-profits are recognized for their contributions to the Chamber and the community. On Saturday, September 24, 2016, John Wright of the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce chose to award the President's Choice Award to the memory of Mary Knowlton, Friends of the Punta Gorda Library. Katie Mazzi and Sara Benson accepted the award in memory of Mary.



THE PUNTA GORDA LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
THROUGH MONDAY, DECEMBER 26TH, FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY.

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.

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You shop. Amazon gives.

www.friendspg.org

Book Reviews



From the Readers' Advisory Group at the Punta Gorda Library

Avenue of Mysteries by John Irving

Juan Diego and his sister Lupe, are the children of a prostitute/church cleaning lady, being raised by Juan's father in a dump in Mexico. Lupe can read the minds of people and animals but her view is unintelligible to all but Juan, who is her interpreter. For a while, they live at the rectory where their mother works but then she is killed while cleaning a large statue of the Virgin Mary, breaking off Mary's nose. The children then go to live at a circus, and share quarters with the trained dogs. Lupe is killed by a lion and Juan goes to Iowa with an ex-priest and his transvestite lover.

The story of Juan's childhood is juxtaposed with that of Juan as a 53 year old man, now a famous author, as he travels to the Philippines to fulfill a promise he made to a draft-dodging hippy he met in Mexico as a child. On this trip, he meets Dorothy and her mother Miriam (Are they real, or ghosts?) and becomes the lover of both. To maintain his sex life, he juggles the dosage of prescriptions for heart medicine and Viagra.

Ron Charles, a review from the Washington Post says "It's hard to think of another novel that would be so fundamentally altered by this acquisition of a \$4.00 pill organizer from Walgreens." I enjoyed the memories of his childhood more than the part about his later life but the novel is typical Irving. Most of his novels have a circus, a transvestite and a bear (this one has a lion instead). He is not to everyone's taste, but he makes me laugh out loud.

Unbreakable: My Story, My Way by Jenni Rivera

This was the story of the life of a young woman born into a Mexican family in 1969. Her parents came to the United States (Long Beach, California) chasing the American dream, and Jenni was their first born. She became the most acclaimed Spanish-language singer in the United States. She had 5 children and, as a struggling single mother for the majority of their lives, made herself a life selling real estate and eventually getting a music career.

Although Jenni's life was a series of personal battles, she made it her mission to speak openly about them, thereby becoming a figure of strength to women. Her life ended tragically in a plane crash in Mexico where she had been performing her music. She was only 43.

The book showed that even coming from the ghetto of Long Beach, hard work towards your goals can eventually give you a good life. It shows the love she had for her children and her belief in God. Her "will" to achieve and be loved was what drove her to keep going through her tumultuous relationships.

Fatally Flaky by Diane Mott Davidson

Goldie is catering a wedding for a Bridezilla who keeps changing her wedding plans. In the midst of this, a family friend dies in a questionable car accident. Goldie goes undercover and works to solve the murder. She is able to identify the murderer and cater the wedding.

The Pleasure Seeker by Tishani Doshi

The author is a poet and dancer based in Madras, India. Her first collection of poetry, "Countries of the Body" was awarded the Forward Poetry Prize for best first collection in 2006. *The Pleasure Seeker* is her first novel. I found this novel very interesting and her characters really come alive in your mind as they did in the "Tower People", customs, etc. It takes place between 1968 - 2001.

Babo Patch had graduated with honors in chemistry from Jain College and was going on to further his education by studying abroad. He was 21 and was also going to be the first person in their immediate family to fly on a plane to London. His father, Prem Kumar, had secured a training job for him at the offices of Joseph Friedman and Sons, in London, from whom he imported colored cement and raw materials. Babo would attend evening classes at the City and Guild Borough Polytechnic, in order to fulfil his father's dream of his sons carrying on with the Patel and Sons Paint Factory. When Babo left Madras, he was engaged to a gal who was selected by his parents.

Babo meets Sian Jones in a small village in Wales. He met her at the canteen at work, she was one of the secretaries. It was love at first sight. Babo's parents disapproved of his cream skinned, auburn-haired love. His parents only agreed to his marriage to Sian, if they moved back to Madras and so they did eventually, with their two daughters Mauyri and Bean. It was only supposed to be for two years, but Sian loved it there. She loved the family, the relatives, the culture etc. Some summers they went to Wales. Bean, the youngest daughter, loved it there. She could not understand why Madras had beggars, lepers, raggedy children, monkey men, snake charmers and gypsies. Bean wanted to be like her mother, strong, and she too, wanted to go to London one day.

One gets entwined with the family's and relatives' lives. The girls grow up and you are caught up in their lives, too. The ending leaves you hanging and I feel there may be a sequel to this.



2016 Events



Volunteer Luncheon



Gallery Walk



***Author Presentation
with Peter Golden***



Membership Drive



Dog Tales



***Literary Luncheon author
Mary Alice Monroe***



***Book Presentation
by Dick Wall***

Programs



Punta Gorda Middle School Guest Author

The *Friends* of the Punta Gorda Library hosted an outreach literary program featuring young adult author, J. E. Thompson, to the 6th graders of the Punta Gorda Middle School. Over 350 students attended the event held at Charlotte Performing Arts Center (CPAC). Director Luke Andreae, coordinated the event along with the PGMS principal, Mrs. Tina Dionisio, and Media Specialist, Mrs. Jeanette Burke.

The students gathered at CPAC for an hour long program where Mr. Thompson talked about the writing process, the number of times a book is turned down by a publisher and the satisfaction when you finally have your first book published. The students had many questions for the author and enjoyed the opportunity to interact with Mr. Thompson.



Mr. Thompson and
Luke Andreae

The *Friends* purchased copies of the author's book, *The Girl From Felony Bay*, and donated them to the Punta Gorda Middle School library. The book is also available at the Punta Gorda Library.

Mr. Thompson's first middle grade book, *The Girl from Felony Bay*, was released in 2013. The Junior Library Guild named it a Monthly Selection, and the Southern Independent Booksellers voted it Best Children's Book of the Year in 2014. It was also a finalist for the Black-Eyed Susan Award, the Maine Student Book Award, the William Allen White Award, the Georgia Young Reader Award, The Golden Sower Award, The Young Hoosier Award, and the South Carolina Book Award.

Disappearance at Hangman's Bluff, the sequel to *The Girl from Felony Bay*, was released in September, 2014. It is also a Junior Library Guild Selection, and it, too, has had wonderful reviews. School Library Journal said: "Not your average children's mystery, this one has depth, the kind one can sink one's teeth into." Both books are thrilling mysteries that also involve themes of racial reconciliation, environmentalism and what the author calls, "living history."

Upcoming Free Adult Programs and Classes

The following music and drama programs will be presented at the PGI Civic Association,
2001 Shreve St.,

sponsored by the *Friends* of the Punta Gorda Library, and hosted by the
Punta Gorda Library:

January 12th	Music from Scotland and Ireland by <i>Cracked Walnuts</i>	5:00 p.m.
January 27th	Classical guitarist <i>Zachary Johnson</i>	6:00 p.m.
February 10th	Russian folk dance performed by <i>The Russian Duo</i>	6:00 p.m.
February 24th	<i>Janina Birtolo</i> performs as Cleopatra	6:00 p.m.
March 3rd	<i>Jenny Aldrich</i> performs as artist Georgia O'Keeffe	6:00 p.m.

Free Technology Classes at the Punta Gorda Library

Offered January through March on the first Thursday of the month at 11 a.m.

January 5th: Pinterest Interest—Come learn about this online bulletin board

February 2nd: Where'd that Photo Go?—An overview of the most popular photo apps and websites

March 2nd: What's the Hype about Skype?—Learn how to video chat with friends and family



Friends of the Punta Gorda Library

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New York Times and *USA Today* best selling author

Karen White

January 17, 2017

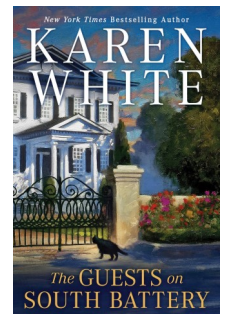
Karen writes what she refers to as ‘grit lit’—Southern women’s fiction—and has also expanded her horizons into writing a mystery series set in Charleston, South Carolina. Her twentieth novel, *Flight Patterns*, was published May 24, 2016, and her next novel, *The Guests on South Battery*, will be published January 10, 2017.

TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE



Isles Yacht Club
1780 West Marion Ave.
Punta Gorda, FL

Doors Open 11 a.m.
Opening Remarks 11:45
Luncheon 12:00
Presentation and Questions 1:00



Karen White will be available to sign her books after the event.

Copperfish Books will be selling Karen’s books at the Isles Yacht Club during the luncheon.

To reserve your seats, submit this completed form, along with a check made payable to *Friends of Punta Gorda Library*, in person at the **Punta Gorda Library Bookstore**, or by mail to: **Friends of Punta Gorda Library**

424 W. Henry St.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950.

Seating, at tables of 8, is assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment is required to make a reservation. There are no paper tickets. You will be given your seat assignment at the “check-in table” the day of the event.

If you have questions, please call **941-505-0940** or e-mail **ticketspgf@gmail.com**.

Date _____ Name _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Number of tickets _____ @ \$40 each (Friends of the Library Members)

_____ @ \$45 each (Non-Members)

Total Due _____

If purchasing multiple seats, please attach a list of the names of the persons attending.



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* will host the annual literary luncheon featuring *New York Times* and *USA Today* best selling author, Karen White. This event will be 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.

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

____ Adults # ____ Children

Please make checks payable to:

____ FAMILY ANNUAL \$15.00

Friends of the Punta Gorda Library

____ FAMILY LIFETIME \$150.00

NAME (S) _____

____ DONATION \$ _____

ADDRESS _____

TOTAL \$ _____

____ 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

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