



BOOKMARK

"A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert."

Andrew Carnegie

Dear *Friends*,

Your continued membership and support of the *Friends* of the Punta Gorda Library is a gift to yourself, your family, your neighbors and your community. If you have not yet renewed your membership, we ask you to fill out the form on page 7 and send it in. Please ask your neighbors and friends to join too. We appreciate our Business Patrons (listed on back page) and urge you to patronize and thank them and for being important supporters of *Friends*.

Successful Literary Luncheon

Friends hosted another sold out performance of Barbara Rinella who portrayed Queen Elizabeth II. She is shown right with sponsor Judi Roth, Jan Roemler and Katie Mazzi;



left tri-chairs of the event Jane Fitzpatrick, Jerri Marsee and Jan Roemler; right, benefactor Alvin Gould with Mary Knowlton.



Our Board has been working for many years to secure a new and larger library for our community. Through your support as well as that of city and county leaders, we are close to our dream becoming a reality. As I mentioned in our last newsletter, the citizens voted to extend the one cent sales tax for another 6 years. This revenue will be used to fund capital projects. The Charlotte County Commissioners included a new library in South County as one of the capital projects that would be built with these revenues. The City of Punta Gorda has offered land next to the History Park for our library. Through the budget process, the Charlotte County Commissioners will determine and vote when projects will begin. Our hope is the new library will be built sooner than later.

Volunteering

As a *Friend* and library supporter, I encourage you to consider getting more involved with the library by volunteering. There are many ways in which you can volunteer. The *Friends* Bookstore is run by volunteers and the library uses volunteers to do many of the much needed tasks. The Board of Directors is comprised of volunteers and we welcome applications from *Friends* members to serve on the Board. You won't find a better group of people to work with to help make our current library and our future library the best it can be. The Board is also looking to establish committees to help with the many projects we do throughout the year. Please consider volunteering with us.

I want to thank all of you who give your time, your talent and

your money to make our library "the little library that can." We want it to be a destination location. There is something for everyone and we hope you will stop at the library, pick up program brochures, or ask staff about coming events. You will also find this information on our website: friendspg.org.

Speaking of donations to *Friends* . . . *Friends* of the Punta Gorda Library is now a registered member of Amazon Smile. Make your Amazon Purchases through Smile.Amazon.com and register *Friends* Library of Punta Gorda as your charity. *Friends* will receive 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible purchases at no extra cost to you!

Nancy Padgett and Joy Dibble recently resigned from the *Friends* Board of Directors. Life is opening up new adventures for them and we wish them well. Nancy and Joy have our thanks for all that they have done for the *Friends* and the library. We will miss them and look forward to seeing them at our events and around town.



See you in the library, Katie Mazzi, President

**Remember Lisa See Literary Luncheon (Sold Out)
Tuesday March 17, 2015, Isles Yacht Club, Punta Gorda
Doors open 11 AM, Check in for table assignment
Friends remarks 11:45, Luncheon 12 Noon
Lisa See's presentation and Q & A, 1 PM
Books available for purchase**

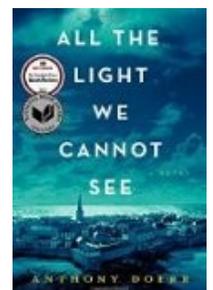
Congratulations to Librarian, Alison Layne, proudly shown with TEAM Punta Gorda's Service Award at the **TEAM Turns 10** dinner dance on Jan. 29, 2015. The event celebrated Team Punta Gorda's dedication to the community after Hurricane Charley's devastation in 2004. Among the **many** committees Alison worked on was the wildly successful Silent Auction, which had donations from 62 community businesses and partners. Almost 300 people enjoyed the event which was sponsored by 11 dedicated, local organizations, including *Friends* of the Punta Gorda Library .



Below "Future Reader's Advisory Group" sisters Jaya, Jordyn and Jacey reading in the Children's Library!



All The Light We Cannot See, reviewed by Martha Kelley, page 3.



BOOKMARK

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



BOOKMARK Editors:
 Martha Kelley, Mary Knowlton
 Email: info@friendspg.org
 Website: www.friendspg.org



Board of Directors

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Katie Mazzi | President |
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| Linda Busler | Treasurer |
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| Mary Knowlton | Nancy Lewis |
| Jerri Marsee | Lois Modrow |

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- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Hank Bauman | Ginny Caldwell |
| Jane Fitzpatrick | Gretchen Neidlinger |
| Jan Roemler | Penny Shattuck |

Bookstore Manager

Sue Galvin



Alison Layne, Librarian
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

Punta Gorda is going to have a new library! It will be a much larger, more functional facility and will be located adjacent to the History Park on Shreve Street.

The new library has been made possible through a cooperative effort by the City of Punta Gorda and Charlotte County. We are especially grateful to Mayors Bill Albers, Rachel Keesling and Carolyn Freeland, as well as members of the Punta Gorda City Council for their leadership and support. Similarly, we deeply appreciate the support of the Charlotte County Commissioners.

Our library is seriously overcrowded and we are eager to see the new facility expedited as soon as possible. Next steps will include establishing a process and timeline for planning and construction. While no definitive information is yet available, the timeline would typically include parameters for establishing service requirements, designing the facility, and completing construction. We are a community library and we have been assured that our citizens will have ample opportunity for input.

Now, even as we celebrate an enriched future, it is important that patrons and friends assume added responsibility for the continued success of our library. A new facility, in itself, will not advance our mission. It will allow us to expand services but our future will also be defined by the ways in which we respond to the challenge of volunteer service. We have a renewed opportunity to lend a helping hand. Please come join us whenever and however you can.



Art Bruning, Friends Board

Friends SCENE IN PUNTA GORDA

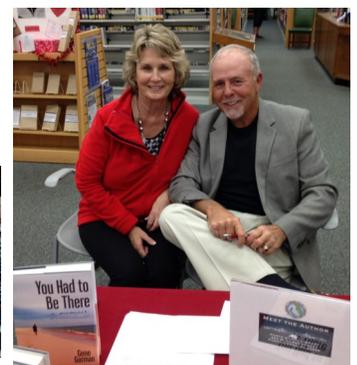
ONE NEVER KNOWS WHO MIGHT BE SEEN AROUND THE CITY!



Friends enjoying Rinella Literary Luncheon at Isles Yacht Club: left Ina Bice; (raffle table) Celia Eames, Jan Roemler, Penny Shattuck, Katie Mazzi & Martha Kelley; below left Marge & Joe Rue; Kate Albers & Jane Fitzpatrick; Barbara Rinella; next right Phyllis Weber, Mary Collins, Barbara Wastrodowski; below right Eleanor Skinner; Rinella & Ginny Caldwell; below left Judy Durr & Joan Montovano; former Mayor, Rachel Keesling.



Below left to right: Jerry Presseller and daughter Julie at Downtown Farmer's Market; Jim and Ginny Bowden with Celia Eames at Charlotte Chorale Benefit Concert; Diane and Gene Gorman at Gorman's book signing at Library.



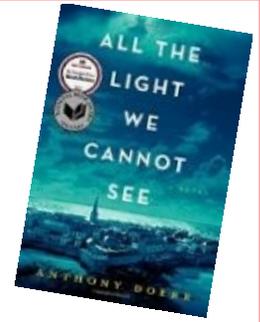


BOOK REVIEW



All The Light We Cannot See

By Anthony Doerr



In 1934, the collision course of the lives of two very young children began and would culminate ten years later when they finally meet in the middle of the bloodiest war Europe had ever seen, a war that was not of their doing and in circumstances no one would have believed possible. It was the year that Marie-Laure LeBlanc, the bright, six year old daughter of widowed Daniel LeBlanc, chief locksmith for the Museum of Natural History in Paris went blind from a congenital eye disease. While across the continent, in a small mining town in Germany, eight year old orphan, Werner Phennig and his six year old sister, Jutta, found a discarded and broken radio and transmitter that the mechanically gifted little Werner taught himself how to repair and put into working order. Werner and Jutta, along with the other children in the Children's Home where they lived, listened nightly to the small radio and were enthralled by the music and news programs they heard. Werner's and Jutta's favorite program was always the children's science program, broadcast live from the coast of France...the "velvet" voice of the broadcaster, so "ardent and hypnotizing".

In this enthralling story, the author moves deftly back and forth through a ten year span, 1934 to 1944. He interweaves the lives of these two children, starting with the rise of Hitler and culminating with his devastating march through eastern Europe and the horrors wreaked by the Nazi war machine.

In 1940, Daniel LeBlanc and his now twelve year old daughter, Marie-Laure, escaped occupied and war-torn Paris. They sought and found relative safety with Daniel's reclusive Uncle Etienne in his narrow, six-story home by the sea, in the small walled city of Saint-Malo on the Breton coast of France. Before leaving Paris, the distraught Curator of the Museum where Daniel worked, entrusted him with the priceless 133 carat diamond, the SEA OF FLAMES, the museum's greatest, and some said "cursed", treasure. The Germans, busy confiscating all national treasures, were frantically searching for the diamond and it was hoped that the last place they might think to look would be with the museum's locksmith, LeBlanc. Once in Saint-Malo, Daniel intricately carved Marie-Laure a perfect miniature of the whole town (as he had done of their neighborhood in Paris)...every house, road, café and store so she could memorize it all by touch and be able to walk the little city using her cane, always knowing where she was and how to return home. Unlike the other miniature carved dwellings, and unknown to Marie-Laure, the replica of Uncle Etienne's home was actually a puzzle-box, its chimney and roof twisted when turned, revealing a maze of little rooms, the smallest of which at the very bottom of the maze, was a hollow in which lay the SEA OF FLAMES. Soon after finishing the replica of the city, Daniel was captured by the Nazis and sent to prison, leaving Marie-Laure all alone with her great Uncle Etienne and his loyal housekeeper. She adored her great uncle, who warmed to Marie-Laure immediately and reveled in showing her his secret radio, which he assembled himself and which he still used nightly, an act which if caught would mean his death. He told her stories of his youth and of his now dead brother Henri, who had such a wonderful voice "the Nuns at St. Vincent's wanted to build choirs around it"... and of how he, Etienne as a young man and a scientist, wrote science stories for children. Together the brothers broadcast programs to different parts of Europe...programs which Etienne wrote and Henri narrated, in the years just before the war.

It was *August 1944*, eight weeks after D-Day. Most of France had been liberated but not so, Saint-Malo, the last German stronghold on the Breton coast. The Nazi High Command had ordered a special Wehrmacht unit to Saint-Malo to find and destroy all civilian radios and their operators. The radio specialist in this unit was eighteen year old Werner Phennig, whose special gift in radio circuitry caused him to be chosen for this mission. His awe of and loyalty to the Nazi war movement, however, had lately been replaced with disillusionment and disgust as he watched the terrible consequences meted out to those discovered with illegal radios.

A few days after Werner's unit arrived at Saint-Malo and the Allied shelling of nearby islands and coastlines could be heard, sixteen year old Marie-Laure was huddled alone and terrified in the sixth floor attic of her uncle's home. Etienne had been arrested several weeks earlier and imprisoned. She knew it would not be long before one of the devastating bombing runs designed to wipe out the once magnificent, but now German-occupied walled French city, would begin. She knew she would be trapped but how was she to leave...?

It was with Werner's arrival in Saint-Malo that his and Marie-Laure's lives converged. When at last they met and the fate of the SEA OF FLAMES diamond was revealed, this puzzle-box of a story is finally unraveled and the reader is left breathless with the climax of a magnificent novel not soon to be forgotten.

Reviewed by Martha Kelley

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention." Oscar Wilde

Library and Bookstore Volunteers

From January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014, we had a total of

82 individual volunteers who gave 4755.20 hours

of their time to the library. Volunteers performed duties such as working the *Friends* bookstore, sorting and shelving materials, calling and prepping arrived holds for our patrons, weeding of yucky books, cutting scrap paper, assisting the librarian with library history projects, creating and setting up displays, assisting our patrons, and various other special projects. We are lucky to have such a wonderful group of people who love the library so much that they want to give back.

Kathy Harriott Staff Volunteer Coordinator

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



Linda Mann



Lori Kelke



Mary Shelton



Zach Keppler



Rita Carmony, Vivian Newman



Jean Pollak

Thank you VOLUNTEERS
from a grateful Library Staff, *Friends*
and the Punta Gorda community.
You ARE making a difference.



Gail Glover



Lisa Phillips



Cindy Gates



Sara Davis



Patrick Schlosser



Lisa Jorgenson



Mary Tracy, Sue Galvin, Bookstore Manager



The *Friends* of The Punta Gorda Library Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

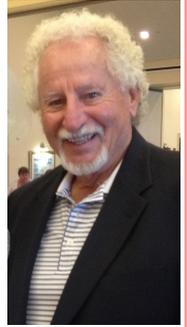
Monday, April 6th at Twin Isles Country Club, 11 am

Invitations will be sent via email and reservations are required. Pictured right are Co-Chair Cheryl Blazer and Chair Gretchen Neidlinger.



Bookmark Feature - Art Bruning, Friends Board

Art Bruning is a retired public school teacher and administrator. He earned a Doctorate at the University of Illinois and served for more than twenty-five years as Superintendent of Schools in Illinois and Minnesota. Art has had leadership roles in numerous community and professional organizations. He is a devoted advocate for libraries, especially our Punta Gorda library as can be seen in his LIBRARY ADVOCACY column in each issue of BOOKMARK. His thoughtful and knowledgeable commentary, as well as the many, many hours he devotes to promoting our library within the City of Punta Gorda and Charlotte County is appreciated by all. Thank you, Art, from your fellow *Friends*, the Friends Board and the patrons of the Punta Gorda Library.



"The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision." Helen Keller



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.

China Dolls, by Lisa See - Grace, Helen, and Ruby, three oriental girls from different backgrounds meet at the Forbidden City, a nightclub in San Francisco's Chinatown where they are dancers. Grace is a talented Chinese girl, raised in the Midwest. Helen lives with her extended family in Chinatown where her parents insist that she behave as a traditional obedient daughter. Her brother covers for her in her career. Ruby is defiant and ambitious, but World War II government restrictions reveal that she is Japanese, not Chinese, as she has pretended. Her nationality leads to changes in her life which in turn,

cause acts of betrayal that cause a rift in the women's friendship. Many secrets are revealed and as their careers change, their relationships do too.

The People in the Photo, by Helene Gestern - This remarkable, debut novel begins with a photograph of archivist Helene's, mother, Natasha, taken in 1971, the year before she died. Helene was only four when her mother died and no relative would tell her anything about Natasha. This photograph included two men Helene had never seen before. She advertised in the newspaper for anyone knowing the identity of either of the men in the photo. She connected with Stephane, whose father is one of the men. The story is told mostly through notes and emails between Helene and Stephane as they uncover the answer to the identity of the people in the photo. This is a page-turning novel with a skillfully woven plot, a wonderful book about the archaeology of memory.

The Girl You Left Behind, by JoJo Moyer - This story transports you back and forth between France in World War I and present-day London. It revolves around a painting done by an Edouard Le Fevre at the beginning of that war, for his wife, Sophie, and the lengths she was willing to go to when a German officer coveted the painting. Nearly a century later, the portrait hangs in the bedroom of Liz Halston and is a treasured reminder of her architect husband, David, who gave her the painting. David died unexpectedly at a young age, at the top of his career and Liz has been struggling to come to terms with his loss. She meets Paul, an art theft investigator, and as their relationship grows, he discovers the painting. This is one he had been searching for on behalf of the descendants of the Le Fevre family. There are many subplots from both the past and present artfully woven together in this historical mystery thriller.

In a Sunburned Country, by Bill Bryson - This is a funny, fact-filled book by an author who is an adventurer and travel writer. His report on Australia combines humor, wonder, and curiosity, resulting in a delightful, readable, and entertaining travel book. The result is a book that makes you want to experience Australia yourself.

"You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough." May West

Being the Librarian of the Punta Gorda Public Library has been a special honor for me for the past three years. I feel that I have been given many opportunities to be a part of our vibrant waterfront community inside and outside of our library walls; from helping patrons at the service desks, attending local festivals and events, speaking to special interest groups, helping patrons find items, working with community partners and businesses, and giving you “advice for your device” on Thursday afternoons.

Librarian - Alison Layne



I was given another unique prospect for inclusion this year to participate in the winter session of the City of Punta Gorda’s Citizen’s Academy. It is an eight week curriculum that provides a collaborative environment to learn first-hand how our local city government is structured, operated, and managed. Only three weeks in I feel like I already know exponentially more than I did before I started. There are about 30 students participating in this adventure with me and we have already enjoyed learning about the Administration, Finance, and Fire departments. The Fire Department session was very hands-on with the staff showing us how to use the multitude of equipment that they use every day to keep our community safe and aid us in times of need. We were also given the opportunity to put out fires with fire extinguishers; providing us with useful knowledge in case of an emergency in our own homes. The next session we will visit the Utilities Department to learn about water distribution, waste water collection, and take tours of the water and wastewater plants. If you get the chance, apply for the next session to learn more about your city government.

I look forward to seeing you in the stacks, the park or wherever our paths may cross. Thank you for the distinction of being the Punta Gorda Librarian.

LIBRARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
MARCH 3 Meet the Author 10am Writers’ Read 11am	4 Tiny Tots 10:15am Sunshine Adventures 11:15am Glad Scientists 10:30am	5 Cherry Blossom Bags 11am Advice for your Device 2pm-4pm Movie: Dolphin Tale 2 5pm	6 Café Philo 11:30am Family Craft: Mom’s the Word 4pm	7 Dog Tales 11am-1pm
10 Meet the Author 10am Movie: A Walk Among the Tombstones 1pm Spring Breakout 3pm	11 Master Gardeners 11am Spring Breakout 3pm	12 Reader’s Advisory Group 1:30pm Advice for your Device 2pm-4pm Spring Breakout 3pm	13 Café Philo 11:30am Spring Breakout 3pm	14 ABC’s of Whole Foods Workshop 10am
17 Meet the Author 10am Lisa See @ IYC 12pm Alzheimer’s Workshop 2pm	18 Tiny Tots 10:15am Sunshine Adventures 11:15am Mad Science Club 4pm	19 Friends Board Meeting 9am Advice for your Device 2pm-4pm	20 Café Philo 11:30am	21 Kids’ Stuff 10am Dog Tales 11am-1pm
24 Meet the Author 10am	25 Tiny Tots 10:15am Sunshine Adventures 11:15am	26 Book Club: Gardens of Water 4pm Advice for your Device 2pm-4pm	27 Café Philo 11:30am	28
31 Meet the Author 10am	April 1 Tiny Tots 10:15am Sunshine Adventures 11:15am	2 Scam and Fraud Prevention Workshop 11am Early Bird Movie 4pm	3 Café Philo 11:30am	4 Saturday Family Film: Alexander 2pm
7 Meet the Author 10am	8 Tiny Tots 10:15am Master Gardeners 11am Sunshine Adventures 11:15am	9 Reader’s Advisory Group 1:30pm	10 Café Philo 11:30am	11
14 Meet the Author 10am Alzheimer’s Workshop 2pm	15 Master Gardeners 11am	16 Friends Board Meeting 9am Technology Tutors 2pm	17 Café Philo 11:30am	18 Kids’ Stuff 10am
21 Meet the Author 10am	22	23 Book Club 4pm	24 Café Philo 11:30am	25

***Friends Of The Punta Gorda Library
Hosts Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce
Business After Hours, February 17, 2015***



***Friends of The Punta Gorda Library
424 W. Henry Street
Punta Gorda Florida 33950***

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* 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



Nonprofit Organization
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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 **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

Nolan Family Insurance

Kay's Kloset

Pineapple Storage

Reverse Mortgage Associates L.L.C.

C&R Graphics (*Friends* Printer)

Phil's 41 Restaurant

Marianne Lilly, RE/MAX Harbor Realty

Innovative Healthcare Solutions

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GFWC Punta Gorda Woman's Club, Inc.

Hometown Title & Closing Services

Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association

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Andreae Group at ReMax Harbor Realty

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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

Centennial Bank Punta Gorda

Punta Gorda Yacht Brokers

Isles Yacht Club

Wyvern Hotel

St. Andrews South Golf Club

Gene Gorman & Associates