

Volume 12 Issue 3
February 2017

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



BOOKMARK

Dear Friends,

The *Friends* of the Punta Gorda Library is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Our mission and purpose continues to be the same as when a group of citizens first came together to form a *Friends* group 50 years ago.

Punta Gorda is a historic city which has prospered and grown due to the men and the women who donated their time and talents to every aspect of our community. We are grateful for the help of those citizens who recognized the need to include the local library in their endeavors.

In 1967, the late Vernon Peeples chaired a meeting to discuss a proposed *Friends* of the Library Group. The meeting was held at the old Punta Gorda Library located at the corner of Retta Esplanade and Cross Street.

Kenton Haymans, local attorney with Farr, Farr, Haymans, Moseley and Odom, was chosen by acclamation as the temporary chair to form a *Friends* of the Library group. Included in the meeting were the Punta Gorda Librarian, two Charlotte County Commissioners and the Mayor and Vice Mayor of Punta Gorda. A Herald-News story dated February 9, 1967, stated this group was being formed to promote the library and to bring it before the community in the most favorable light and to aid the library in funding for books and other items and perform other unofficial acts on behalf of the library.

The *Friends* group was established and began their service to the library and to the community. It was a proud moment for those Board members to be a part of the dedication of the new Punta Gorda Library on West Henry Street, December 6, 1974. The dedication program included the names of the leadership of the *Friends* and gave recognition to the *Friends* for their donation of a flag pole to the new library.

In 1977, the *Friends*, under the leadership of Chairman U. S. Cleveland, Vice-Chairman Robert Wilford, Secretary Deanna Patterson and Treasurer Robert Elliott, an application for incorporation was made to the State of Florida. On August 9, 1977, the Certificate of Incorporation as a non-profit under Florida Statutes was issued to the "Friends Library of Punta Gorda, Inc."

I have been walking down memory lane while going through old newspaper clippings and reading about the volunteers and the Board members who donated so much time to make the Punta Gorda Library a vital institution within our community. It is clear that over the last four decades, the Board of Directors has stayed true to the *Friends* mission of serving the library, the patrons and the community with both our time and financial resources.

We have been successful, in large part, to the support of so many in our community who have, and continue to be members of the *Friends*. There is an individual/family membership for \$15 a year or a lifetime membership for \$150. Local businesses can join as Business Patrons for \$100 a year. Each membership is a way to support the *Friends* so we can help the library provide programs as well as books and other media and make other improvements as needed. We have been setting money aside for a number of years which we will donate in furnishing and equipping the new library. Our 2017 membership drive is underway right now. If you have not renewed your membership yet, we ask that you do. If you have never joined, please consider. And if you have friends or neighbors who love libraries, ask them to join.

A strong membership helps us continue our mission to serve the library community. My thanks to all who join.

See you around the library,

Katie



From left to right: Judi Roth (Platinum Sponsor), Kathie Bennett (Magic Time Literary Agency), Nancy Padgett, Katie Mazzi and Karen White



**Friends
Membership
Committee:
Nancy Lewis and
Lois Modrow**

Memorial donations received in memory of Mary Knowlton 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 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



Board of Directors

Katie Mazzi	President
Lois Modrow	Vice President
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Luke Andreae	Sara Benson
Susan Cravens	Teresa Jenkins
Minerva King	Nancy Lewis
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Cecelia Eames	Jane Fitzpatrick
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Bookstore Manager
Katie Mazzi

Library Supervisor
Lynda Citro
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

Update on the New Punta Gorda Library



The City of Punta Gorda donated the land where the new county library will be built on West Henry Street. City work crews are currently excavating the site so the land will be ready for construction once the final library design is complete and the building permits have been obtained.

There have been several stories in the local newspapers about the status of the new library. The rumors that a new library will not be built are not true. Funding for the new library is coming from the one cent sales tax revenue approved by the voters several years ago. The County Commissioners approved many different projects with the projected revenue, \$6.9 million dollars of which was allocated for the new library. This funding currently provides for a baseline design with an exterior that some have called a "box store look". Since the new library is being built in the historic area of Punta Gorda, the *Friends* and many residents would like an enhanced architectural design. The County has applied for a \$500,000 state grant, and until they know if the state grant will be awarded, the design process is on hold.

The *Friends* hope that additional funding is provided quickly so our new library can be built sooner, rather than later.

Youth and Libraries

by Greg Summers, *Friends* Director

The 41-year-old mother struggled, backing the 1964 Ford Galaxy without power steering into parallel parking in downtown Tallahassee. We walked the half-block to the public library. I was the middle child, a 3rd grader. The old building with peeling white paint, previously an Elks lodge, was never intended to be a library. We entered and took an immediate left, downstairs to the children's section in the basement. The stairs were narrow and squeaked. Our nostrils were filled with the aroma, a unique blend of book and damp basement.

The public library offered much more than did my school library. The children's section was large, and we could check out more books there than at school. We were proud of our library cards, printed on heavy paper card stock. I had thought that the tiny drawers of the card catalog were files, off limits to the public. I was startled when my mother confidently opened one of those drawers, and I asked her what she was doing! She explained its purpose - for patrons to use it to find books. Soon, I mastered author, title, and subject cards, learning to enjoy the hunt - the quest for books and information.

During my middle school years, I began exploring the adult, teen, and reference areas. The library became a place to lose myself for long periods, wandering the stacks, finding new knowledge and different perspectives on the world. It was a refuge. It was a place where we could be dropped off while our mother shopped downtown. The building was unsafe. Exits were few, ventilation was poor, moisture was ever-present, and the building was overflowing with combustible paper media. Plaster sometimes fell, but funding for a new building was not there. After I was grown, the new library and branches were built. The *Friends* group in Leon County labored every step of the way to make it possible.

The 41-year-old woman is now 90. My mother drives her Honda Accord to a branch library to pick up the books that are being held for her. She doesn't have to deal with stairs and parallel parking there.

Whether it's an 8-year-old boy or a 90-year-old woman, libraries pass on the culture and nourish the intellect in countless ways. Funds remain tight for American libraries. As always, they depend on citizens to patronize, volunteer, give, and advocate for their local libraries.

Book Reviews



From the Readers' Advisory Group at the Punta Gorda Library

Don't Sleep There Are Snakes by Dan Everett

A riveting account of the astonishing experiences and discoveries made by linguistic Daniel Everett while he lived with the Piraha, a small tribe of Amazonian Indians in central Brazil.

Everett, then a Christian missionary, arrived among the Piraha in 1977 with his wife and three young children intending to convert them. What he found was a language that defies all existing linguistic theories and reflects a way of life that evades contemporary understanding: The Piraha have no counting system and no fixed terms for color. They have no concept of war or of personal property. They live entirely in the present. Everett became so obsessed with their language and its cultural and linguistic implications, and with the remarkable contentment with which they live, that he eventually lost his faith in the God to which he'd hoped to introduce them.

Over three decades, Everett spent a total of seven years among the Piraha, and his account of this lasting sojourn is an engrossing exploration of language that questions modern linguistic theory. It is also an anthropological investigation, an adventure story, and a riveting memoir of a life profoundly affected by exposure to a different culture. Written with extraordinary acuity, sensitivity and openness, it is fascinating from first to last, rich with unparalleled insight into the nature of language, thought, and life itself.

The Inn at Eagle Point by Sherryl Woods

This is one of the books in the Chesapeake Shores series. The setting is in Maryland. Abby O'Brien Winters, divorced with small young daughters and a demanding career on Wall Street, received a panicked phone call from her younger sister, Jess. The inn that Jess is renovating is going into foreclosure.

Not only is she dealing with family (her dad in particular) but with Trace Riley, who is working at the bank and handling the foreclosure. Abby left Trace 10 years ago but he still loves her. It's not only a love story, but a story of sisters standing up for each other.

It's a book similar to the author Debbie Macomber

The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead

The story takes place beginning in 1820 and recreates the unique terrors for black people in the Pre-Civil War era. The author's saga is of America and the brutal importation of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day. This is one woman's ferocious will to escape the horrors of bondage—Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia, where she was born. Her mother managed to escape when Cora was a young child. When Cora was about 17, a man Caesar (age 24) arrives to the plantation from Virginia and he knows of the underground railroad and they decide to take the risk to escape. They make it to South Carolina, however, it is not a welcoming state for blacks. Caesar is separated from Cora during their flee to get to this railroad. Cora proceeds to hide with a couple at a farmhouse, however, they discover there is a slave catcher hired from the plantation master and they must get her out of their home for their own safety. They tell her how to find conductors who operate the secret network of tracks and tunnels beneath the southern soil. Cora embarks on a harrowing flight, state by state, seeking true freedom. A fictional story that portrays the reality of slave life. *Oprah's Book Club*

Library Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed in the library. They assist patrons in the stacks, sort and shelve library materials, support staff with problems, and take on special projects.

To become a volunteer, stop by the library and pick up a Charlotte County Volunteer application. Fill it out and return it to the library. The library staff will submit the application to the County Office and once approved, you will be notified to come in and be trained. The library depends on the volunteers to keep our library functioning!

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

—unknown

Business Patrons

We welcome businesses to join the *Friends of the Punta Gorda Library* as Business Patrons for \$100 per year.

Why: The Punta Gorda *Friends* generously contribute much-needed funds for library resources that would otherwise not be available. Your membership in *Friends* furthers the appreciation of books, literacy and education in the community, supports adult and children's programs, sponsors programs of community interest, publishes the BOOKMARK, and operates the *Friends* bookstore, from which proceeds are used to meet our financial goals.

Benefits for your annual membership:

- *Highly visible support in your community as a library patron
- *Recognition as a Friends Business Patron in this publication
- *Your company's name listed on our website: friendspg.org
- *Your company's name displayed on "Honor Roll" plaque within the Punta Gorda Library
- *Local exposure for your business

Friends of the Punta Gorda Library is a non-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer-driven organization run by volunteers and supported by local individuals, families, and businesses. The *Friends* encourage the community to support the Business Patrons.

Thank You Palm Auto Mall

The *Friends* wish to thank Palm Auto Mall for their many years of support as a Business Patron. Palm Auto Mall, a landmark Punta Gorda business for 61 years on Tamiami Trail, has been sold to the Gettel Automotive Group of Bradenton. Palm Auto Mall was founded by Bob and JoAnn Helphenstine in 1955 with a single dealership and grew into 12 dealerships and a used car superstore in a 52-acre complex along Tamiami Trail. The Helphenstines were committed to supporting charities and non-profits in the area and Mrs. Helphenstine continued this tradition after her husband passed away. We are so fortunate to have such community-minded businesses in our area.

We sincerely apologize to our Business Patrons, Bayfront Health Punta Gorda/Port Charlotte and Sand Star Remodeling for omitting their names in the list of Business Patrons in our last issue of the BOOKMARK.

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

Youth

The following youth programs, offered at the Punta Gorda Library, are free and sponsored by the *Friends* of the Punta Gorda Library. Register in advance to guarantee a space by calling 941-833-5460 or visiting www.youseemore.com/CharlotteCounty and click on the “calendar” tab.

STEM Fun!

One Thursday each month come explore a different theme of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Children in K-5th grade are welcome to experiment from 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

February 9,
March 9, April 13

Story Time

This program, for children 2 to 5 years old, is designed to improve listening and group interaction skills through stories, movement activities, music and dramatic play.
Wednesdays 10:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

Spring Break Out!

Celebrate Spring Break at the library with crafts and activities. For all school-age children.
Wednesday,
March 15 from
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday Family Films

We will feature a “new release” monthly for children and families. Includes action & adventure, animation, comedy, super heroes and fantasy. Snacks are provided. Call the library for the film being shown. First Saturday of the month at 2:00 p.m.

Dog Tales

Read to a pet therapy animal to build oral literacy. Open to children ages 4 and up.
Saturdays 11:00 a.m. to
1:00 p.m.

Friday Evening Fun for Adults

The following free 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:

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 Class at the Punta Gorda Library

March 2nd at 11:00 a.m.

What’s the Hype about Skype?—Learn how to video chat with friends and family



Judi Roth
Platinum Sponsor

Friends of the Punta Gorda Library

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FAMILY TRUST

2017 Literary Luncheon with Karen White

Author Karen White spoke to a sold-out crowd at the 2017 annual fund-raising literary luncheon last month. The audience was treated to a delicious lunch, prepared by the Isles Yacht Club, followed by an interesting and entertaining presentation by Karen.

Board member Joy Dibble created the lovely centerpieces out of gift boxes. Each guest was invited to take home a gift box at the end of the event. Ginny Caldwell and Jane Fitzpatrick coordinated the donations for the raffle baskets from local businesses and arranged the baskets beautifully. The sale of these baskets made over \$1600 for the Friends of the Punta Gorda Library.

Additionally, it was announced last month that Karen White's book, *The Guests on South Battery*, debuted at #10 on the *New York Times* Best Seller List!



Jane Fitzpatrick and Ginny Caldwell



Joy Dibble



Raffle Basket Donors

- Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club
- Charlotte State Bank
- Carmelo's Italian Restaurant
- Copperfish Books
- Dean's South of the Border
- Fyzical Fitness, Ken Dobbs
- Hardy Widden, Spa One Day Spa
- Isabel and Annabel's Mexican Restaurant
- Isles Yacht Club
- Jacks on Marion
- John Ski's House of Breakfast and Lunch
- Kingsway Country Club
- The Potters Studio, Laurie Hayes
- Riverwood County Club
- Two Thrifty Ladies



Linda Busler and Minerva King





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 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.

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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

____ 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

BOOKMARK

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



Nonprofit Organization

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Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Permit No. 24

Current Resident or:

***Friends* of the Library Business Patrons**

Share this information with your business friends and encourage them to become a *Friends* Business Patron.

Amberg Insurance Center
Andreae Group at ReMax Harbor Realty
Animal Medical Clinic of Punta Gorda
Avant Construction, Inc.
Bayfront Health Punta Gorda/Pt. Charlotte
Bohall's Total Comfort, Inc.
Burnt Store Grille
C&R Graphics
Centennial Bank of Punta Gorda
Charlotte State Bank & Trust
Charlotte Symphony Orchestra
Copperfish Books
Don Gasgarth's Charlotte County Ford
Dr. Juan Rivera
Farr, Farr, Emerich, Hackett, Carr & Holmes, P.A.
Five Star Realty of Charlotte County
Four Points by Sheraton
Friendly Floors
GFWC - Punta Gorda Woman's Club, Inc.
Gould Family Trust
Hometown Title & Closing Services

Isles Yacht Club
Marianne Lilly, RE/MAX Harbor Realty
Mike Martin Agency-State Farm Ins. Punta Gorda
Nolan Family Insurance
Phil's 41 Restaurant
Pineapple Storage
Presley Beane Financial Services
Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce
Punta Gorda Downtown Merchants Assoc.
Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association
Punta Gorda Yacht Brokers
Sand Star Remodeling
Serendipity Salon and Spa
St. Andrews South Golf Club
State Insurance Agency-Brian Chapman
Teets & Weatherbie Financial Planning Group
Towles Corp. of SW Florida
Twin Isles Country Club
Village Fish Market & Restaurant
Webb, Lorah & McMillan PLLC