



BOOKMARK

Dear Friends,

If you have been traveling during the summer, I want to welcome you back to Punta Gorda to share some wonderful news with you. And, for those of you who stayed in town, I have news for you, too.

In April we greeted our new librarian, LeAnn Beckwith, a professional dedicated to making our library shine. She is working with the new library design team and is excited about leading us in our new library. For those of us who have had the pleasure of working with LeAnn during the summer, we already feel like she is a *Friend*.

Plans for the new library had been put on hold due to funding issues. Charlotte County had committed \$6.9 million dollars for the 20,000 square foot library to be built on land donated by the City of Punta Gorda. However, there was not enough money in the budget to design a building with an exterior that complimented the historic area. No one wanted a box store look next to the History Park. Over the summer, the City of Punta Gorda, the Charlotte Board of County Commissioners and the *Friends* of the Punta Gorda Library committed the additional funds needed to provide for an enhanced, functional exterior. The process of designing and building the new library is back on track.

In addition to helping with the cost of the enhanced exterior, the *Friends* will be paying to furnish the new and larger Bookstore. The *Friends* will also help with the cost of furnishings for the kids and teen areas. Further, the *Friends* received many generous donations in memory of Mary Knowlton, which have been set aside to commemorate and honor her life and work with children.

The Fall and Winter library programs for both children and adults are being scheduled. And, yes, Bill MacDonald will once again be hosting the Friday Evening Adult Entertainment Series at the PGI Civic Association. The *Friends* are proud to provide financial sponsorship for all these programs.

The 2018 Friends Annual Literary Luncheon will be held Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at the Isles Yacht Club. Our guest speaker is the New York Times Best Selling Author B.A. (Barbara) Shapiro. As a benefit of *Friends* membership, you will have two months to reserve your seat before the event is open to the public. This is our major fund raiser and we are sure it will be another sell out!

The *Friends* Board continues to work hard to support the library patrons, the staff and the community. We appreciate your support through membership, donations, grants, attendance at our Literary Luncheon and shopping at the Bookstore. Without YOU, the *Friends* would not be celebrating our 40th anniversary this year!

See you around the library,

Katie



It Was Busy at Our Library This Summer!

Summer months are typically a slower time in our community, but that didn't seem to apply to our library programs and services. Taking a glimpse into library statistics for this past summer listed below; they show that children, youth and adult programs were well-attended. The patrons visited the library on a regular basis to read, to check out books and media as well as to use the computers and free Wi-Fi. The Summer Reading Kickoff was attended by 230 attendees. The Kickoff set the tone for a great summer of encouraging children to read. (Pictures on Page 3). During the summer months, the children participated in Storytime programs weekly and the adults participated in craft programs, book discussions and viewed the summer movies.

One of the most popular events this summer was an Interactive Rock Painting class with over 70 adults and children participating. The purpose was to paint the rocks with happy images or phrases, hide them around town and post pictures to the Facebook group, *Rocking Punta Gorda*.

If you have been looking for an adult bookclub/discussion group, you might want to consider the Punta Gorda Library Book Discussion Group. It is held the fourth Thursday of the month from 4 pm to 5 pm. There are 10 copies of the book selection available to be checked out at the information desk. Here is a list of the selections from October through May 2018:

- October 26** *Anne Perry and the Crime of the Century* – Peter Graham
- November 23** THANKSGIVING DAY – NO MEETING
- December 28** *The Altogether Unexpected Disappearance of Atticus Craftsman* – Mamen Sanchez
- January 25** *Life and Death in Shanghai* — Nien Cheng
- February 22** *The Book of Speculation* – Erika Swyler
- March 22** *A Square Meal: A Culinary History of the Great Depression* Jane Ziegelman
- April 26** *No One is Coming to Save Us* – Stephanie Powell Watts (Paperback not available until February 2018)
- May 24** *Travels with Charley: In Search of America* – John Steinbeck

Month	Door Count	Circulation of Materials	Computer Use	Youth Program Attendees	Adult Program Attendees
May	9,466	17,204	1,004	110	78
June	9,706	17,969	1,069	448	73
July	8,257	16,921	870	122	160
Aug	9,477	18,267	987	148	71

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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LeAnn Beckwith

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 Library



Last spring, many of us were concerned that funding issues were driving the design process so that the new library would look like a box store. Punta Gorda is known for its historic areas so we wanted a design that was not only functional but attractive. This summer, the *Friends* of the Punta Gorda Library, The City of Punta Gorda and Charlotte County came together and each made a financial commitment to the additional funding needed to fund an enhanced and functional exterior for the new library. While these architectural renderings are not the final exterior design, they do provide a look at how appealing the new library will be.

Youth and Libraries

by Greg Summers, *Friends* Director



Last season's articles focused on the youth experience in school and public libraries from my own childhood perspective. For this season, I would like to focus not on my own youth, but on the youth of our country and the importance of libraries from the very beginning to the preservation of our unique freedoms and form of government.

One of our Founders, John Adams, wrote, "Liberty cannot be preserved without a general knowledge among the people..." If citizens were to have the vote, and, thereby, the power to select their officials, they would need to be informed. The young country needed readers, consumers of a wide array of printed material, and reading needed to begin at a young age and continue as a lifelong habit. The Founders typically were avid readers and writers themselves, and several were noted for their personal libraries. Benjamin Franklin, for example, acquired a library that had grown to 4,276 volumes by the time of his death in 1790.

Thomas Jefferson developed an even larger library at Monticello, but later sold most of it to the government. During the War of 1812, the Library of Congress, which was housed in the U.S. Capitol at the time, lost its collection when the British burned the building in 1814. Congress replaced the 3,000 lost books with 6,487 volumes purchased from Jefferson for \$23,950. Those books were chosen from the 9,000-10,000 books Jefferson had collected over 50 years, many the result of very careful shopping of every bookshop in Paris during the time of his diplomatic assignment to France. (Nearly two thirds of the Jeffersonian books were lost in another fire in 1851.) Jefferson's volumes helped the Library of Congress to broaden its scope from a narrow emphasis on law, history, and government, to many other fields, including arts, architecture, geography, etc. In addition, books in languages other than English were added to the Library for the first time.

Several other libraries have made over-sized contributions to American society from early on. Franklin and others founded The Library Company of Philadelphia in 1731. Originally a subscription membership library, it thrives today as a non-profit organization. Libraries such as the Redwood Library of Newport, Rhode Island, and the Franklin Public Library of Franklin, Massachusetts, make competing claims to be the oldest lending library in the country.

Vying for distinction as the oldest free, tax-supported library in America are the Peterborough Town Library in New Hampshire, the Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury, Connecticut, and the Boston Public Library. The Boston library was the first to have a children's section, and it doubles as a presidential library, housing the papers of John Adams.

Although our own Punta Gorda Library only dates to 1908, it follows in a distinguished tradition of American libraries. Let's all continue to support a program that serves all ages - young, old, and in-between - in helping each person to grow as a citizen.

Summer Events

2017 Summer Reading Kick-Off



On June 3rd, the Punta Gorda Library held their Summer Reading Kick-Off. There were demonstrations by a PG Police K-9 officer and the PG Fire Department as well as visits from Luna the owl from Peace River Wildlife Center and a Lucy, a “reading” dog. The highlight of the afternoon was the storyteller, who kept adults and children alike listening and laughing. The *Friends* provided refreshments in the form of 100 free tickets for a hot dog, chips and soda from It’s a Hot Dog Day. It was a great success!



Library News

New Punta Gorda Library Supervisor LeAnn Beckwith

I come from a family of entrepreneurs who understand the value of hard work and responsibility. As a teenager, I took over bookkeeping for the family business, which naturally led me to the accounting field. After acquiring a job as manager of an income tax and accounting office, I decided to obtain my associates degree in accounting. My love of learning led me to continue my education, earning a bachelor's degree in business.



Around this time, I met with the former librarian from my hometown and she inspired me to continue on to library school. In 2011, I earned my Master of Library and Information Science degree with a Graduate Certificate in Information Management from Wayne State University. While obtaining my master's degree, I volunteered at two public libraries and job shadowed at an academic library. Volunteering gave me invaluable experience that I utilized to gain employment as library clerk at the Hillsdale Community Library. As clerk, I was responsible for circulation, reference, interlibrary loan, and patron computer/technology services. I created and lead instructional demonstrations, held basic computer classes, and helped patrons one-on-one with their technology needs.

After just two years of employment, I was promoted to library director, taking on funding challenges and exploring new concepts to improve library accuracy and efficiency. I was responsible for collection development and cataloging, creating and presenting the budget to the library board and the city council, staffing, purchasing and invoicing, as well as helping patrons on a daily basis.

Now in Punta Gorda, I believe the role of a librarian must continually expand to meet the informational, educational, technological, and recreational needs of the community served. I look forward to meeting those needs here in my new community.



MEET & GREET...SIP & EAT

Tuesday, November 7, 2017 --- 10:00 am to 4:00 pm --- In the Library

RENEW your membership or become a *NEW FRIEND*

Family Annual

Family Lifetime

Business Patron

Come to meet Friends Board Members and have Coffee, Tea and Cookies

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

Punta Gorda Library's Friday Night Music and Performance Series

The following music and drama programs will be presented at the PGI Civic Association, 2001 Shreve Street, sponsored by the *Friends of the Punta Gorda Library* and hosted by the Punta Gorda Library

February 16 Tom and Sandy Doyle's Tribute to Les Paul and Mary Ford

Musicians Tom and Sandy Doyle perform a musical tribute to guitar wizard Les Paul and his wife, singer Mary Ford. Tom, a sound engineer and guitarist, worked with Paul for 46 years.

February 23 Violinist David Pedraza's Classical Recital

Accomplished violinist Pedraza performs classical pieces accompanied by a keyboardist. Currently, Pedraza is a member of the Vitali Quartet, the Palm Beach Pops, the Symphony of the Americas, and the Miami Symphony

March 9 Lillian Hellman: An Unfinished Woman

Actress and writer Jenny Aldrich portrays the celebrated author of plays and books as a fiercely independent and outspoken woman.

Youth Outreach Program

Thanks to a grant from the Shively Family Foundation, in memory of Beth Shively, the *Friends* welcomes young adult author, Geanna Culbertson to speak to the sixth graders in the local Punta Gorda schools on October 24th.

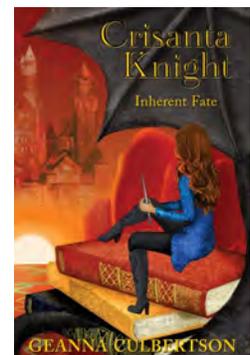


Geanna describes her book series:

"My book series might be told from the perspective of a girl, and that girl may happen to be a princess. But the character is deeply funny, personable, strong, and relatable. The story she embarks on is filled with nail-biting action, fight scenes that have been personally tested by me (a certified black belt and martial arts instructor), and great adventure that will take you to crazy, amazing new worlds. There are also many additional main characters to supplement the story, including two male main characters that attend a school specifically designed to train heroes, and two major antagonists who are male as well. "

The *Crisanta Knight Series* will appeal to readers who love adventure, comedy, and fantasy, regardless of their gender.

The *Friends* donated classroom copies of Geanna's newest book, *Crisanta Knight, Inherent Fate* to the sixth grade students.





Friends of the Punta Gorda Library

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Friends Present 2018 Literary Luncheon Featuring New York Times Bestselling Author

B.A. Shapiro

Tuesday, January 30, 2018



B.A. Shapiro is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Muralist*, *The Art Forger*, *The Safe Room*, *Blind Spot*, *See No Evil*, *Blameless*, and *Shattered Echoes*. She has also written four screenplays and the non-fiction book, *The Big Squeeze*. *The Art Forger* has been on many bestseller lists—including the *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *LA Times*, *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, Amazon, and Kindle—and has won many awards including The 2013 New England Book Award for Fiction. She lives in Boston and is working on her eighth novel.

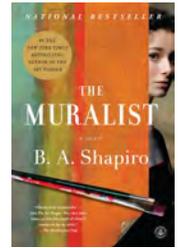
Tickets will go on sale to *Friends* members on October 5, 2017

Tickets will go on sale to non-members on December 5, 2017



Isles Yacht Club, 1780 West Marion Ave, Punta Gorda
Doors open at 11 a.m., opening remarks at 11:45, luncheon at 12:00,
Presentation at 1:00 p.m.

Copperfish Books will be selling the author'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 include a list of the names of the persons attending.



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

The mission of the *Friends of the Punta Gorda Library* is to promote awareness of, appreciation for, and use of the Punta Gorda Library. The greatest little secret, *hiding in plain sight*, in our area is THE LIBRARY !

USES OF ... In addition to books, movies and music the Library offers online resources : EBooks, Zinio(Magazines), My Heritage, Pronunciator, DMC Tests, FEL, ABC Mouse, Career Online High School. To view all resources go to www.charlottecountyfl.com/Library.

Friends provides the library with much needed vital funding, which is not otherwise available, for increasing media collections, funding children, teen and adult programs, and procuring furniture and equipment.

Friends raises money through membership dues, special events and the *Friends* Bookstore. Money is also received from donations given by individuals, businesses, non-profits and corporations.

The Bookstore sells recycled donations given by friends and patrons. *Friends* hosts the Annual Literary Luncheon. *Friends* funds free music and drama programs on selected Friday nights at PGICA. *Friends* funds support and expand children's programs in STEM, Reading and the Arts.

In July 2017, *Friends* along with the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners and the Punta Gorda City Council provided additional funds to enhance the exterior of the new Library. *Friends* will also provide funds for the new Library interior.

January 30, 2018 at the Isles Yacht Club, *Friends* will host the Annual Literary Luncheon. The author will be, B. A. (Barbara) Shapiro, New York Times best- selling author. *Friends* members may reserve seating beginning October 5, 2017 and non-members may reserve beginning December 5, 2017.

You may become a *Friend*! Annual memberships are January 1st through December 31st, (memberships dated after October 2017 will be for the entire 2018 calendar year).

Thank You for your continued loyalty and support. The *Friends* website is: www.friendspg.org

Katie Mazzi

Lois Modrow & Nancy Lewis

President

Membership



*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

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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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