

Volume 13 Issue 2
December 2017

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



BOOKMARK

Dear Friends,

As the year comes to a close, I reflect on what has transpired in 2017 and I look ahead with great expectations for the coming year.



The Board of Directors of the *Friends* of the Punta Gorda Library welcomes Georgia Buda and Teresa Coady to the 2018 Board. Please join me in thanking these two ladies for offering their time and talents to help us with our mission to serve the library and community.

Joy Dibble has completed her term of office and will step down from the Board of Directors. But, never fear, Joy is going to continue to work as a Bookstore volunteer and will be available to help the *Friends* with our activities. Joy is a gifted artist and plans to spend more time in her studio when not traveling with her husband.

I mentioned in the last BOOKMARK that in April, we welcomed our new Librarian, LeAnn Beckwith. Since the last issue, there have been some new library technicians added to the staff and they will be ready to greet our returning patrons and winter visitors. The next time you stop by the library, take a minute to read the electronic bulletin board, where much useful information is posted. When I walked by the other day, it showed so far this year over 90,000 people have come through our doors in 2017. And, there are still two months left in the year as I write this letter! Can you imagine how many more patrons will come in the library when we have more parking spaces at the new library?

Now that plans are back on track with the new library (see page 2), the question has come up again about the name for the building. At the first public input meeting in January of 2016, the question was raised by a number of citizens about the name of the new library. There was a general feeling in the room, the new building should continue to be called the Punta Gorda Library. The Board of Directors of the *Friends* of Punta Gorda Library believe the identity of the new library will continue to be a part of the community and as such, should be officially named the Punta Gorda Library.

In March 2016, the *Friends* Board of Directors passed a motion to ask the Punta Gorda City Council to support our efforts in requesting the Charlotte County Commissioners designate the new library building being constructed on Shreve Street to be officially named the Punta Gorda Library. A letter was sent to

Mayor Keesling and on April 6, 2016, I addressed the Council during their City Council Meeting. I was so pleased when the City Council voted unanimously to send a letter to the Charlotte County Commissioners asking that the new building be named the Punta Gorda Library.

There are many reasons I could give as to why we need to keep our name and I am sure you have some of your own. The next time you see an elected County Official, let them know how you feel.

As I close, I want to thank the Charlotte County Commissioners, the Punta Gorda City Council, the Library staff, the *Friends* members, the *Friends* Business Patrons, the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce and the library volunteers for being a friend to the *Friends*. Our commitment to the library, patrons and community remains the same as when we were first incorporated over 40 years ago.

Katie

“The year end brings no greater pleasure than the opportunity to express to you season’s greetings and good wishes. May your holidays and new year be filled with joy.”

—Charles Dickens



**Wishing you a
very Merry
Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and
Happy New Year!**

“I like to compare the holiday season with the way a child listens to a favorite story. The pleasure is in the familiar way the story begins, the anticipation of familiar turns it takes, the familiar moments of suspense, and the familiar climax and ending.”

— Fred Rogers

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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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

The first public input meeting about the new library was held in January of 2016. Local residents and library patrons were given an opportunity to make suggestions and talk about what they wanted to see in our new library. There were a total of 3 “informational workshops” in 2016.

The *Friends* were very appreciative to the public for wanting to make sure the *Friends* would be allocated space for a new and larger bookstore in the new building. At the conclusion of the August 2, 2016 meeting, there was a major concern by the citizens about the appearance of the exterior design and how it would fit into the historic district. The project was put on hold due to funding issues for an “enhanced” exterior. The issue was resolved during the summer when the *Friends* of the Punta Gorda Library, the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners and the City of Punta Gorda Council came together and committed additional funding for a new library exterior which would be attractive and functional. The Design Team began meeting again and progress is being made.

The Charlotte County Government Construction Project Manager is currently anticipating the ground breaking and construction to begin in the spring of 2018! We are looking forward to this and will continue to keep you informed.

Youth and Libraries

by Greg Summers, *Friends* Director



In the last issue, I wrote about the Founders of the United States, of their love of books, and of some of the early libraries in the country. As a republic with large numbers of citizens voting, it was crucial that those voting and selecting our leaders have access to printed material and be well informed.

In this edition, we will examine the rural society that developed in the young country. Thomas Jefferson adamantly favored a rural, agrarian way of life. Borrowing from classical writers of ancient times, but also chiming in with thinkers of his own times, Jefferson believed that rural life was imbued with a certain virtue. Jefferson believed that the “yeoman farmer” would be the country’s future. Such citizens would own and work their own land. The work would be difficult, but it would be free labor, with the owner-worker keeping the fruits of the labor. The farmers would be self-sufficient, far away from industry, commerce, and banks, associating primarily with fellow members of the agrarian yeoman farmer community.

Through reading, the farm families could become educated and further themselves as citizens and as potential leaders. Obviously, public libraries and robust networks of schools did not yet exist in rural areas, but there was the possibility of a self-educated elite. Personal libraries, such as the one that Jefferson had acquired, would be the basis of education in rural areas.

The retired President Jefferson wrote in 1810, in a letter to Thaddeus Kosciusko, the Polish general who had assisted in the American Revolution, of his interest in education: “A part of my occupation... is the direction of the studies of such young men as ask it. They place themselves in the neighboring village, and have the use of my library and counsel.... In advising the course of their reading, I endeavor to keep their attention fixed on the main objects of all science, the freedom and happiness of man. So that coming to bear a share the councils and government of their country, they will keep ever in view the sole objects of all legitimate government...” Granted, Jefferson’s own students were likely to be from the plantation elite, a class above the typical yeoman farmer. Nevertheless, the agrarian setting was common to both classes.

One of Jefferson’s proteges was his nephew, Peter Carr. While on his diplomatic assignment in Paris in 1785, Jefferson wrote to 15-year-old Peter, prescribing that his studies begin with the ancients: Plato, Herodotus, Thucydides, Virgil, Horace, Sophocles, etc. Next, Carr was to read Milton, Shakespeare, and others. He was also encouraged to learn French, mathematics, physics, astronomy, and more. Since Jefferson was using the time in Paris to acquire volumes for his own library, he also selected items for Peter. Those books were shipped to James Madison, who, as a surrogate mentor, provided them to Peter.

Books and self-study allowed an aristocracy of merit to grow in the country’s rural areas. Over time, however, the young nation grew in a different direction. Transportation improved, changing the markets for farmers’ products. Rural and urban areas were no longer insulated from one another. Friction broke out, culminating in the populist versus industrialist tensions of the latter part of the Nineteenth Century. As the differences between rural and urban America came to a head and then resolved, new forms of schools and libraries would be soon to emerge.

Youth Programs

Bricks 4 Kidz

The Bricks 4 Kidz program uses Lego® blocks for educational play, teaching aspects of engineering, robotics and architecture.



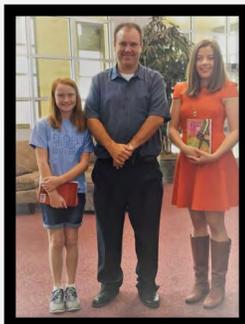
Picasso-Inspired Painting

As part of the Visual Arts Center's Fine Arts Festival on Picasso, a storytelling & art program was held at the Punta Gorda Library. The participants' pieces are on display at the library and the Visual Arts Center.



Geanna Culbertson

Students from Punta Gorda Middle School and Good Shepherd Episcopal School attended a program featuring young adult author, Geanna Culbertson. The author's *Crisanta Knight* series emphasizes self-acceptance, never giving up to obstacles, and making proactive choices. The Punta Gorda Rotary Charitable and Educational Foundation and the *Friends* of the Punta Gorda Library donated the third book in the series to the schools for the students to read prior to the program and funding for the event came from the Shively Family Foundation in memory of Beth Shively. Seen below are Dagny Andreae and *Friends* Director Luke Andreae with Geanna Culbertson.



Adult 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. All performances begin at 6:00 p.m.

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 2 Joanna Olsen: *Acting Up*

Joanna Olsen performs her one-woman play, *Acting Up*.

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.

Stressless Holiday Entertaining with Chef Warren



Chef Warren Caterson, an award-winning cookbook author and chef, demonstrated how to prepare for stress-free holiday entertaining and shared some time-saving and money-saving shortcuts for the grocery store and home. At the end of the program, participants were welcomed to sample his cuisine.

Library News

New Punta Gorda Library Supervisor LeAnn Beckwith

As a librarian, people often ask me what I recommend they should read. I have a difficult time answering that because what I like to read may not be the same as what they like to read. I often ask them to tell me about the last book they enjoyed reading to give me some idea of their likes as well as a category and a genre in which to direct them.



There is, however, a category that I feel is completely overlooked by adults that I would highly recommend and that is Young Adult Literature. The term Young Adult Literature was coined by the Young Adult Library Services Association in the 1960s to represent the 15 -18 age range. Today, authors and readers often define it as books written for those in the 15 to early 20s age range. Some of the best, most creative writers write Young Adult Literature in an array of genres. Writers such as Scott Westerfeld, John Green, E. Lockhart, J.K. Rowling, Elizabeth Wein, and Markus Zusak just to name a few. Many of their works have been turned into movies but as we all know the book is often better.

Most everyone has read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, or *True Grit* books that we can all recognize as literary classics. If those books were written today, they would no longer be sitting on the same shelves as *Pride and Prejudice* or *The Circle*. Instead, they would be found sitting by books with odd names like *Uglies*, *An Abundance of Katherines*, or *How to Ditch your Fairy*.

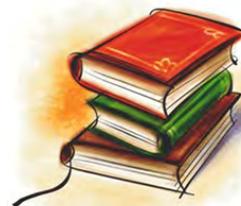
For many people, the placement of a book on the Young Adult shelf means it will never be discovered. There are those who consider Young Adult literature to be worth less than the latest New York Times Bestseller or those who feel they will somehow be judged poorly for the spine label of their book. If you are one of those people, keep in mind you most likely love one of those three classics mentioned above and you should not be ashamed of that at all.

The thing about Young Adult Literature is that everyone was young once. We all may be different races, social classes, genders and sexual orientations, but at one point, we were all awkward. We all came from different parts of the country or the world, but we all wanted to learn something new. We all wanted to have adventures, we all fell in love for the first time, we all lost someone we loved for the first time, we all wanted to be the hero. We all wanted to believe the impossible was possible.

Young Adult literature is the place where everyone comes together. Hope springs eternal in Young Adult Literature even in the face of tragedy. Even when the hero or heroine dies. Even when the war is lost or the hearts are broken. Come on in to the library and check out the YA shelves. Ask for help. Talk to your kids and grandkids about books to which they can relate. Remember what it was like to be enchanted by a book and remember that hope springs eternal.

Recommended reading list for those who do not know where to start:

Code Name Verity – Elizabeth Wein
We Were Liars – E. Lockhart
The Book Thief – Markus Zusak
Stargirl – Jerry Spinelli
Feed – M.T. Anderson
The Golden Compass – Philip Pullman
Leviathan – Scott Westerfeld
The Secret Hour (Midnighter's) – Scott Westerfeld
The Fault in Our Stars – John Green



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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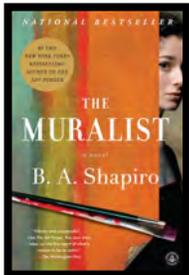
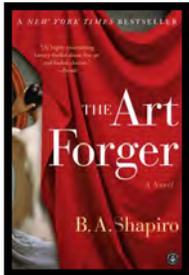
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Friends Present 2018 Literary Luncheon Featuring *New York Times* Bestselling Author

B.A. Shapiro

Tuesday, January 30, 2018



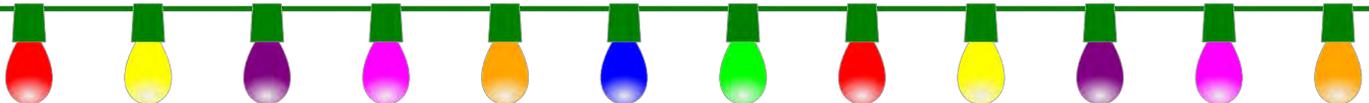
SOLD OUT



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.



Friends of the Library Membership



This newsletter, The BOOKMARK, is mailed out 4 times a year to the Friends membership. This is the most important way we have of keeping you informed and in the know! The BOOKMARK is mailed using a USPS Non-Profit Mail Permit which is beneficial with the reduced postage rate. The drawback is that the BOOKMARK is not forwarded to a new address.

Although you can stop by the library and pick up a copy, you may not be getting information on a timely basis and may miss out on important events or news. Please let us know if you have moved or will be moving. You can email us at info@friendspg.org or fill out this form and drop it off at the Friends Bookstore in the library or mail it to us at:

Name: _____

New Address: _____

Friends of the Punta Gorda Library
424 West Henry Street
Punta Gorda FL 33950



***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.

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:

Friends of the Punta Gorda Library

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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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___ DONATION	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

BOOKMARK

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