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



BOOKMARK

Dear Friends,

I don't spend all my time at the library, but I am there a lot. And with good reason, I love the library. I do work in the *Friends* Bookstore and I often have *Friends* business to conduct. But sometimes I just stop by to pick up or drop off a book. No matter the reason, I am happy when I go to the library.

There are many volunteers and patrons who share my love of the library. It is much more than just a place to check out books. Sarah Davis and I have talked about how wonderful it is to be surrounded by people who love books and reading.

I grew up in Palatka, a small river town in North Florida, which was once known as the "Gem of the St. Johns." It was a good place to grow up. There was some of the best fishing in the world (or so my Dad said) as well as an easy drive to the beach. The local lakes and natural springs offered a place to cool off in the hot summers prior to air conditioning and high school Friday night football was a major community event. But my best memories of my hometown come from the library.

James R. Mellon, the wealthy American family from Pittsburgh, wintered in Palatka. As an act of philanthropic largess, he commissioned Henry J. Klutho, an American architect known for his work in the "Prairie School" style, to design and build a library. It was completed in 1929 and was donated to Palatka in 1930. Thousands attended the opening of what was then one of the most modern libraries in the south. It was able to house over 50,000 volumes and the building functioned in that capacity for 62 years. The beautiful old building was added to the National Registry of Historic Places in 2008 and is now the Larimer Arts Center.

I have loved going to the library since before I started school. I could pick out books and take them home and get lost in new worlds that opened up for me in the pages. I remember as a little girl walking up the steps and waiting for my mom to open the heavy doors and entering the beautiful building. Even on the hottest days, the high ceilings, the terrazzo floors, the open windows and the big fans made the building a respite from the heat. The library was my magical place, long before Disney came to Florida.

I was so happy when my husband, who was born, raised and lived all his life in Maryland, said he wanted to retire to Florida. He found a small town on a river (another gem) with boating,



golfing and a library. I couldn't live in a town that didn't have a library.

But like the library in my hometown, there comes a time when a new building is needed. There are a number of people, past and present *Friends* Board members, who have worked for years for a new, larger library with more parking. After years of being excited about the prospect of this happening only to be disappointed by obstacles, we're getting close to breaking ground on the new building. Once that happens, we should be 18 months away from the ribbon cutting. It can't come fast enough.

We are fortunate to live in a community where the citizens support the library. We encourage you to drop by, to sign up for a library card, to volunteer, to attend the programs and to join the *Friends*. You might just realize you don't have to drive across the state to find a magical place.

See you around the library!

Katie



**The 2018 Friends of the
Punta Gorda Library Board**

BOOKMARK

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



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Library Hours:
Tuesday-Wednesday 10am-6pm
Thursday-10am-7pm
Friday-Saturday 10am-5pm
Closed:
Sundays, Mondays & Holidays

Community News



Youth and Libraries

by Greg Summers, *Friends* Director

The last column focused on rural areas in the early republic, emphasizing Thomas Jefferson's views of independent reading by self-directed learners as the foundation of a well-functioning citizenry. That worked well for an agrarian society in simpler times. In this issue, we turn to a later time in American history, a time when industry was booming and great industrialists were amassing tremendous wealth. Cities were growing rapidly and were plagued with the kinds of problems always encountered in urban areas. Just as education was important in rural agrarian America, it was also vital in urban industrial America.

Civic-minded Americans had taken the initiative to establish libraries across the country, but many of these were small, struggling operations. Andrew Carnegie became a name synonymous with well-funded libraries. Once Carnegie sold his steel empire to J.P. Morgan, netting over \$200 million in 1901, he shifted his life's focus to philanthropic pursuits.

Although lacking much in the way of formal education, Carnegie had always been an avid reader. Books had been an important part of the development of the man who immigrated at the age of 13 and became a self-made giant of industry. In his second career, he endeavored to make books available to the masses.

In a 1901 letter to the Director of the New York Public Library, Carnegie wrote, "Sixty-five branches strike one at first as a large order, but...the number is not excessive." Libraries had been estimated to cost \$80 thousand each. The total projected cost for the 65 libraries would be \$5.2 million. Carnegie continued, "If New York will furnish sites for those Branches for the special benefit of the masses of the people, as it has done for the Central Library, and also agree ... to provide for their maintenance as built, I should esteem it a rare privilege to be permitted to furnish the money..."

Note the public-private partnership – not so different from the City of Punta Gorda providing the site for our new library, part of the Charlotte County library system, with an infusion of private support from the Friends.

Carnegie went on to finance over 2800 libraries. In Florida – sparsely populated in Carnegie's day – ten public libraries and four academic libraries were provided. The closest was a public library in Bradenton. It opened in 1918 and was the main public library for 60 years. Today, the classical revival building houses the Historical Records Library of the Manatee County Clerk of the Circuit Court. It contains local records such as deed books, marriage licenses, voter registration files, military discharge records, school yearbooks, etc., dating back to 1855. Although it no longer houses a public library with a circulating collection, the building still serves the purpose of all libraries in preserving information for whatever needs might arise.

Programs

Teddy Bear Clinic

Teddy Bear Clinic was presented by MedExpress Urgent Care. This was a free community outreach program, that teaches children about healthcare treatments and healthy habits. It was presented by MedExpress employees, Nicole and Molly.



Mary Alice Monroe Returns to Punta Gorda

The 2016 Literary Luncheon guest author, Mary Alice Monroe, is returning to Punta Gorda for a free presentation at Copperfish Books on Sunday, March 4th at 2 p.m. To reserve a seat, call Copperfish Books at (941) 205-2560 or email copperfishbooks@comcast.net.

You are invited to attend a presentation to hear *New York Times* bestselling author Mary Alice Monroe talk about her latest novel *Beach House for Rent*, with a special focus on how Mary Alice brings animals into her novels.

The animals in her novels are usually wildlife, but in *Beach House for Rent*, canaries are featured. For this reason, special guest Steve Baptiste of Punta Gorda, also known as *The Canary Man* and the No. 1 canary breeder in the country, will join Mary Alice to discuss this topic. After the talk, Mary Alice will be happy to sign copies of her books. Steve will also be available to chat about canaries. Refreshments will be provided. Mary Alice Monroe found her true calling in environmental fiction when she moved to coastal South Carolina. Already a successful author, she was captivated by the beauty and fragility of her new home. Her experiences living in the midst of a habitat that was quickly changing gave her a strong and important focus for her novels. Mary Alice Monroe writes richly textured books that delve into the complexities of interpersonal relationships and the parallels between the land and life. Monroe's novels are published worldwide. With the same heart of conservation, Monroe has written two children's picture books as well.

Monroe's novel *The Beach House* will be adapted into a *Hallmark Channel Hall of Fame* movie, starring three-time Golden Globe nominee Andie MacDowell and premiering exclusively on the network in 2018.

Monroe lives with her family on a barrier island outside Charleston, South Carolina. She is an active conservationist and serves on the Board of the South Carolina Aquarium, The Leatherback Trust, and Charleston Literacy Volunteers. She is a frequent speaker at book festivals, conferences, and private events. Monroe is also a frequent contributor to magazines and blogs.



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.



Adult Programs

Writers Read by Virginia Crane, Writers Read Member

Virginia Crane moved to Port Charlotte from Alexandria, Virginia. She started writing in 1999 and published her first novel in 2009 and has published a book a year since then. She has been active in Writers Read for several years.



Writers Read is a group of local writers that meets at the Punta Gorda Library on the first Tuesday of each month from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Writing is akin to the “loneliness of the long distance runner.” Writers spend a lot of time alone, working on plots and story construction. We write our stories by the seat of our pants, a.k.a. *pansters* or we spend time organizing a plot scene by scene, a.k.a. *plotters*. The method doesn’t matter as long as it works for the writer. However, there is a downside to this process. Since we are deeply involved in the story, sometimes we forget to add important details and take for granted the reader will know what we mean.

Enter Writers Read. Authors attending the meeting may provide several copies of their work in progress to be reviewed by others for feedback. We gather to help each other improve our work. Depending on the number of attendees, each writer has a ten-minute slot to recite their story/poem followed by a five-minute discussion period. This group affords a writer the opportunity to read their work aloud. Should a copy be provided, attendees are encouraged to jot notes or a smiley face. As for the writer reading his/her work aloud, it is amazing when you realize what you find missing as you read your story out loud. Personally, I want to stop, scratch my head, and say I thought I explained why my character reacted this way. The feedback received is invaluable.

Many genres are represented, including science fiction, contemporary, historical, biography, memoir, and poetry to name a few. Ages attending range from early twenties to one hundred. And yes, we had a wonderful poet, Art Davis, who was with us at age 100. For those who never met him, you missed a wonderful experience. Two years ago he moved north to be closer to his family. Several of us are self-published and can give tips on going that route. Some are published by a small press. We are happy to share our experiences.

All writers are invited to participate no matter what level. It doesn’t matter if you’re simply thinking about writing and want to attend to get a feel for what transpires at a meeting. Those of us who have been attending for years are happy to share our experiences and encourage others not to give up.

I have been attending for several years and value the suggestions given, as well as the opportunity to share my stories.

Thanks to the Charlotte Arts and the county library, there is no charge for attending the meeting and you don’t have to be a member of any organization. You just have to want to write. If you have been, or are now thinking of writing, don’t be bashful, come join us the first Tuesday of each month. We want to hear your story.

What Are You Reading? By Kim Laurenti

Formerly known as “The Reader’s Advisory Board”, “What Are You Reading” is a monthly gathering for patrons to discuss a book they have recently read. Unlike a traditional book club, where everyone reads the same book, “What Are You Reading?” allows you to talk about a book *you’ve* chosen to read, and to listen in as others share their latest books. You may even discover a new book to read!

Here’s what to expect at a What Are You Reading? Book Club:

1. Introduce your book with its title and author, one book per person.
2. Tell what the book is about and why you loved it (or why you didn’t) in 3 minutes or less.
3. Let us know whether or not you would recommend this book to other patrons.
4. Learn about new books that you may enjoy.
5. Share with friends in a casual setting.



Come to our next gathering on March 8th; no sign up is necessary. We would love to have you join our interesting and enjoyable discourse!

“What Are You Reading?” meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1:30 PM at the Punta Gorda Library.

Library News

Goodreads By Kathy Harriott

As an avid reader, I am often asked how I keep track of all the books I read. I do have a reader's notebook that I often keep notes on books that are important to me. If I wrote every book I ever read inside this notebook, I'd have to have a little red wagon to drag it around. Thankfully there is the *Goodreads* website (www.goodreads.com).

Goodreads is a website and an app that lets you keep a list of books you want to read, have read, and recommend. If you are so inclined, you can write reviews to help other *Goodreads* participants determine if they would also like to read the book you recommended.

Some other good features of *Goodreads* are:

- Book Clubs – you can join in book discussion groups. Our Fourth Thursday Book Discussion group is on there as Punta Gorda Page Turners. I recently posted a YouTube video interview of the subject of our current book for the book club.
- Author interaction – when publishers and authors see that you have read and reviewed their books, you may get a *Goodreads* email asking if you would like to pose a question to an author to be answered in an online Q&A session. You can opt out of these if you want, but I love participating.
- Giveaways – You can participate in advanced reader copy and new release giveaways. I've managed to receive quite a few free books this way.
- Direct links to online booksellers and libraries on certain titles.

If you put the *Goodreads* app on your smart phone, you will always have the list of books you have read with you. No more starting to read a book and realizing you have already read it. You will have your list at your fingertips.

Friday Night Programs

The following music and drama programs will be sponsored by the *Friends* of the Punta Gorda Library and hosted by the Punta Gorda Library. All performances begin at 6:00 p.m. and are held at the PGI Civic Association, 2001 Shreve Street.

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.

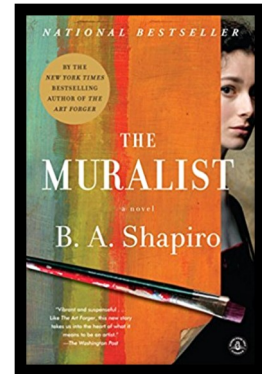
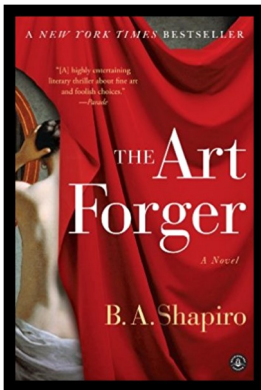


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Friends of The Punta Gorda Library

**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.

On January 30, 2018 at the Isles Yacht Club, *Friends* hosted the Annual Literary Luncheon. The author was 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.

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___ RENEWAL ___ NEW ___ LIFETIME

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