

Volume 14 Issue 1
October 2018

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



BOOKMARK

Dear Friends,

After years of working toward and dreaming of a new library for our community, there was an official ground breaking for the new Punta Gorda Charlotte Library on May 15, 2018. I want to thank the Charlotte County Commissioners, the Community Services/Library Administration and other county staff, the Punta Gorda City Council and city staff, the *Friends* members and the community supporters who attended this ceremony. The other *Friends* Board members and I loved putting on hard hats and raising our shovels of dirt to symbolize the start of our new library.

This new library will retain the feel of a community library but will eliminate some of the problems that exist at the current location which opened in 1974. One big complaint has been the lack of parking. Too many times, especially during our busy winter season, people have said they didn't stop because there was no place to park. The new library is being built on 6.25 acres of land donated by the City of Punta Gorda. In addition to a significant larger paved parking lot, there will be overflow parking available on the property.

Another problem has been trying to schedule programming in the library since the meeting room is small and only holds 20 people comfortably. Even when we present programs in the main part of the library, we are still limited in space since normal operations for patrons continue. Our new library will have a large meeting room which will accommodate 140 people plus the speaker/performers. The room will be able to be divided into two rooms as needed. With more parking and larger meeting spaces, the *Friends* and the library staff are planning on providing more programs which will include author presentations, drama and musical performances, and educational programs.

The new library will also provide space to have a designated teen area. While our current library has movies, music and graphic novels that teens check out, there is no real place for them to come and spend time in the library. Lots of adults come in and use the free Wi-Fi and computers; but teens don't tend to come and stay because they don't really feel like there is a place for them. We need to make sure they do!

I have been asked what will happen to the current building when we move to the new location. I don't know. It will be up to the County Commissioners to decide on what to do with the



county owned building. I have heard of several groups who have offered recommendations or made requests for the building. I am as interested as everyone else in what will happen to the building which served as our library since 1974.

Since our last issue of the BOOKMARK, Linda Busler, who served as the *Friends* Treasurer for over 3 years, resigned from the Board. Linda is very involved in other community activities and needed more time to focus on them. We all thank Linda for her time, commitment and talents in serving as the *Friends* Treasurer.

I am so proud to announce that Hank Bauman agreed to come back on the *Friends* Board and serve as our Treasurer once again. Hank had served in this position for many years and has been a long-time *Friends* member and library supporter. Although Hank is busy with other community activities; he agreed to come back and help during this exciting time.

This is a thrilling time for our library family and I look forward to seeing you around the library.

Katie



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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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-6pm
Closed:
Sundays, Mondays & Holidays

Community News

Punta Gorda Charlotte Library Groundbreaking

May 15, 2018

Photos by and courtesy of Stephen Lineberry



Great Libraries in World History

by Greg Summers, *Friends* Director



Last season, this column focused on libraries in American history. This season, I would like to take a look at great libraries in world history. First is the library of ancient Ninevah (on the Tigris River, near modern-day Mosul, Iraq). The Assyrian Empire dominated Mesopotamia from the 9th to 7th Centuries B.C. For the Assyrians, Ninevah was a great center of power and culture. For those threatened or conquered by the Assyrians, Ninevah was feared and detested. (Think of the biblical book of Jonah.)

During the reign of Ashurbanipal, the library was built. The medium for the holdings was cuneiform script etched with a stylus onto clay tablets which, when hardened, were durable. Imagine, however, how cumbersome reading from a clay tablet would be when contrasted with the modern paper and electronic formats that we moderns enjoy. The library, however, did have modern features such as housing the collection by subject in various rooms, and a cataloging system.

Much of the library's function was serving as an archive for official records, but it also housed important religious, historical, and literary documents. One work I would like to remind you of is *The Epic of Gilgamesh*.

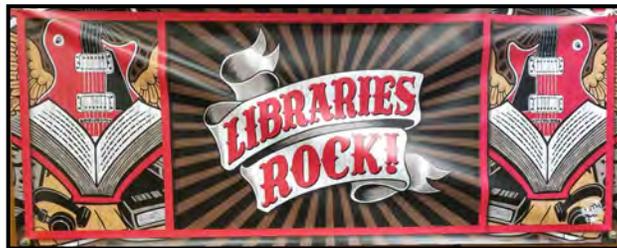
This work of epic poetry gives a primeval account of Gilgamesh, king of Uruk, in ancient Sumer some 4,700 years ago. Both the Assyrians and Babylonians preserved strands of the tale of Gilgamesh. My favorite character in the Epic of Gilgamesh is Enkidu, first created by the gods to counter the powers of the abusive Gilgamesh. Enkidu began life living among wild animals and grazing with them, but later met shepherds who introduced him to cooked food and beer. Finally, he went to the city. I read the development of this character as a metaphor for the advent of civilization itself. And so I made it mandatory reading for my students when I taught 9th grade ancient and medieval history.

For a readable and delightful re-write of this Assyrian tale (appropriate for high school students and older), I recommend David Ferry's *Gilgamesh: A New Rendering in English Verse*, (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux), 1992.

Youth

Summer Reading Kick-Off

The Punta Gorda Library was “Rockin” on Saturday, June 2nd. The Punta Gorda *Friends* greeted patrons at the door with their summer reading bags and adult and child reading logs. They also provided complimentary lunch coupons for a free hot dog lunch with the “It’s a Hot Dog Day” hot dog vendor. We learned some cool hip hop moves with Ramon from Pure Movement Dance company. Each child got their own time to shine in the dance circle doing some “freestyle” hip hop moves. The kids were treated to balloon creations and stencil tattoos by Mary Densler and her daughter, who were gracious enough to donate their time to the library. The group Budding Hollies rocked the building with some 50’s music by the late, great Buddy Holly. The staff and volunteers got summer reading off to a “Hot Rockin’ Summer”!



Summer Youth Programs



Child Find



Windell Campbell, Storyteller



Toddler Yoga Storytime



Rock Painting



Windell Campbell



Jean Sout

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



In August, Chef Warren Caterson gave a cooking demonstration of cooking inexpensive, yet healthy meals. Sponsored by the *Friends of the Punta Gorda Library*.

Creativity Workshops

Let's get our creative juices flowing, from poetry to photography and everything in between.

Poetry Appreciation - Saturday, October 13 – 4pm to 5pm
Learn to read and appreciate poetry

How to Hygge in Florida – Saturday, November 10 – 3:30pm – 4:30pm
Get that cozy winter feeling in Florida

Making Holiday Cards – Saturday, December 8 – 4:00pm – 5:00pm
Learn to make holiday cards

The Art of Zentangle – Saturday, January 12 – 3:30pm – 5:30pm
Create beautiful art

Photography as a Fine Art – Saturday, February 9 – 3:30pm – 4:30pm
A talk on photographic art

Meditative Coloring – Saturday, March 9 – 3:30pm – 4:30pm
Relax and color

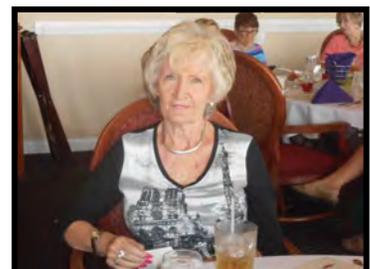
Reservations required. Seating is limited.

For more information, contact the library at 941.833.5460.

2018 Volunteer Luncheon

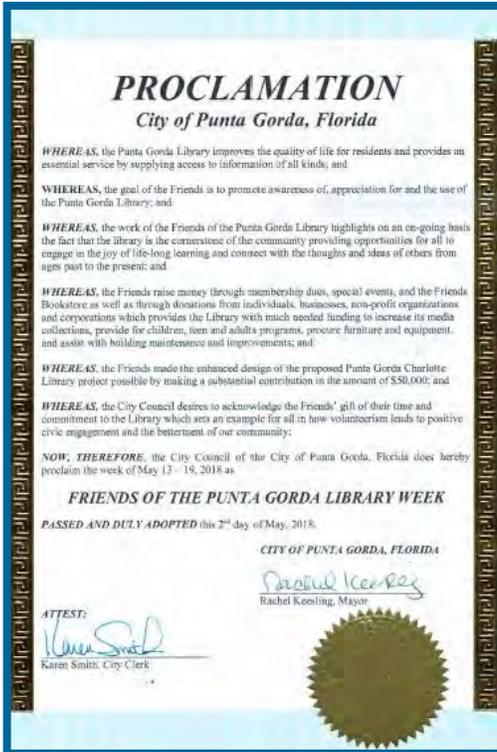


Library volunteers were honored at a luncheon on March 19th at the Twin Isles Country Club. There is a long legacy of volunteering at the library and it continues today. Statistics since 2012 through the present shows that volunteers have donated over 28,000 hours of service at the Punta Gorda Library. The Friends thank the past, present and future volunteers for the gift of their time.



Library News

City Proclamation



The City of Punta Gorda issued a proclamation to the *Friends* of the Punta Gorda Library declaring the week of May 13-19, 2018 as the Friends of the Punta Gorda Library Week. This proclamation coincided with the groundbreaking of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library on May 15, 2018. The City Council honored the *Friends* for all their support they have provided including quality of life for the residents, betterment of the community and their promotion of and appreciation for the use of the library. The *Friends* were also cited for their donation of \$50,000 for the new library construction.



Augmented Reality Books Have Arrived

The Punta Gorda Library is excited to present our first augmented reality books! *Bugs*, published by Carlton Kids, is one of the iExplore series of books that allow kids (and adults) to interact with books using a smartphone or tablet and free augmented reality apps. With the book *Bugs*, not only can you learn about the insects from the facts that are listed on the page, but you can make the bugs come to life! Make a wasp fly off the pages and around the room, make a butterfly land on a friend's shoulder or rotate it for a 360 degree view. In these pictures, you can see library staff had a lot of fun testing it out!





Friends of the Punta Gorda Library

Judi Roth
Platinum Sponsor

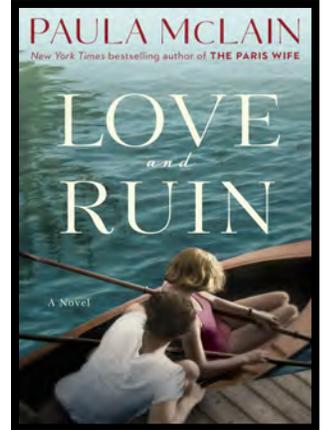
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**Friends Present 2019 Literary
Luncheon Featuring
New York Times and International
Bestselling Author
Paula McLain**

Wednesday, January 30, 2019

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.

**Tickets will go on sale to *Friends* members on October 11, 2018
Tickets will go on sale to non-members on December 20, 2018**

Paula McLain is the NY Times (among other bestselling lists) and International Best Selling author of the critically acclaimed historical novels: *The Paris Wife*, *Circling the Sun*, and *Love and Ruin*. Copperfish Books will be selling these books at the luncheon. Her presentation will focus on creating fiction from real life characters.



To reserve your seats, submit this completed form, along with a check made payable to *Friends of the 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. All paid reservations are final.

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 and include payment for everyone.



***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 Charlotte Library. The greatest little secret in our area, hiding in plain sight, is THE LIBRARY. To view all its resources go to www.charlottecountyfl.com/Library.

The new, larger library is currently under construction on Shreve Street with a projected completion date of July 2019.

Friends provide the library with vital funding, which may not otherwise be available, for increasing media collections, funding children, teen and adult programs, and procuring furniture and equipment.

Friends raise money through membership dues, special events and the *Friends* Bookstore. The Bookstore sells the recycled donations given by friends and patrons. Money is also received from donations given by individuals, businesses, non-profits and corporations.

Friends fund free music and drama programs during evening hours at community locations. *Friends* monies also support and expand children's programs in STEM, Reading and the Arts.

On January 30, 2019 at the Isles Yacht Club, *Friends* will host the annual Literary Luncheon. The author will be Paula McLain, *New York Times* and international best-selling author. *Friends* members may reserve seating beginning October 11, 2018 and non-members may reserve beginning December 20, 2018.

Please become a *Friend*! Annual memberships are January 1st through December 31st, (memberships dated after October 2018 will be for the entire 2019 calendar year).

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

Katie Mazzi

President

Lois Modrow, Nancy Lewis, Georgia Buda

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

___ FAMILY ANNUAL \$15.00

___ 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

Please Print Clearly

www.friendspg.org

BOOKMARK

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