

Volume 16 Issue2
December 2019

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



BOOKMARK

Dear Friends,

I wonder how long it's going to take before we stop referring to the recently completed building as the "new library?" Will we ever just call it the library? Every day we have long time patrons who have just returned from being away stop in and visit. Plus, more and more community members who never went to the "old" library are coming in to see the lovely new building for themselves. I spend a lot of time in the *Friends* Bookstore and if other volunteers are working, I will take the time to walk these "first timers" through the library. I love hearing all the positive comments about the "new library."

As with anything new, there are some building features which have generated complaints. One issue has been shared by many and that is the lack of automatic door openers on the substantial and heavy doors into the library. Entering and leaving the building has posed a hardship for many including those with canes, walkers, carrying a load of books, pushing a baby stroller or simply not having the strength to push open the doors. I wrote to Charlotte County on behalf of the *Friends* and library patrons and expressed concerns for what I saw as a safety issue as well as a disregard for those with disability issues. In addition, many patrons spoke to the library staff and filled our County Comment cards. The *Friends* Board has been informed by County Library Administration that corrective action is being taken and the automatic door openers will be installed. I now choose to focus on the solution rather than continue to ask how a new building that serves the public could be built without the automatic door openers.

By the way, I still don't know what is going to happen to the old library building. The final decision will be made by the Charlotte County Commissioners. I just know I am very happy to be in our lovely new facility.

I encourage you to stop by the information desk to pick up a County Comment card and fill it out if you want to raise an issue of concern or offer a compliment or make a request. Take time to review the monthly calendar and take advantage of the many programs being planned in the library. As the county officials look at budgets for staffing and keeping the library open, we need to show that the library is being used! Make sure you let our returning patrons and visitors know that for the first time in many years, the library is open on Mondays.

I want to welcome Bill Albers, Berna Goldberg and Geri Saunders to the 2020 *Friends* Board. I also want to thank Teresa Jenkins and Art Bruning for their years of dedicated service to the *Friends* as they leave the Board. We continue to have Board members who give their time and commitment to fulfil the mission of the *Friends*. My thanks to all.

I am now coming to a very personal moment in what will be my final column as the *Friends* President. Before sitting down to write this



column; I went back and reviewed the December 2013/January 2014 issue of the BOOKMARK. The front page had a column from outgoing President Mary Knowlton and a column from me as the incoming President.

Mary stated, "It is time for me to turn over the duties of the President of the *Friends* to outstanding president-elect, Katie Mazzi. Katie and I have worked closely together this past year. She brings a skill set of organization and a passion for libraries, second to none. Welcome to your new leadership role, Katie."

I had forgotten what Mary had written and today her words have an extra special meaning for me. I had been ready to step down as President after two years in office, but I stayed on in this role to fulfil Mary's dream of a new library in Punta Gorda. I have been able to accomplish this with a dedicated group of Board Members and the community support. Thank you.

And now as 2020 begins, it is time for me to pass on the duties of the *Friends* President to out-standing President-elect Minerva King. Minerva is eminently qualified to assume the role as President. She is an educator with a love of libraries and learning. She is the editor of the BOOKMARK and has been secretary of the *Friends* Board. Minerva will continue the *Friends*' mission of being a community advocate for the library as well as ensure there is financial support for library programming, collections and other areas where county funding is inadequate.

Although I will no longer serve on the *Friends* Board, I am being given the opportunity to continue as the *Friends* Bookstore Manager. I will always be available to help as needed and you will still find me in the library.

As the year comes to a close, I want to thank everyone for allowing me to be of service to the *Friends* Board and our library community. I have made wonderful friends and been a part of a group of people that I may not have known without the common bond of loving libraries.

Mary ended her last President's column with a quote I will also use to conclude this, my final column. May we all find the peace she wanted for us during the holiday season and beyond.

"I hope we will all take time to apply the words of Sonia Riccott, "*accept what is, let go of what was and have faith in what will be.*"

See 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 Charlotte Public Library

401 Shreve Street
Punta Gorda FL 33950
941-833-5460

Library Hours:

Monday-Tuesday 10am-6pm
Wednesday 10am-7pm
Thursday-Saturday 10am-6pm
Closed:
Sunday

News

Pages From Our Library's Past

by Katie Mazzi, *Friends* President



The Punta Gorda Historic Mural Society has entered into an agreement with the Charlotte County Government to paint a mural on the new Punta Gorda Charlotte Library. The mural will be painted on the left side of the front of the library in the arched space designed for a mural. The mural has been named "Pages from our Library's Past" and will celebrate the 111-year history of the library in Punta Gorda. The artist, Skip Dyrda, has designed the mural to show the history and the importance of the library to people of all ages. The center of the mural will be an "opened scrapbook" that will include images and newspaper clippings of this history dating back to 1908.

The Mural Society is a 501c (3) organization and the mural is being funded by donations which are tax deductible. The *Friends* of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library is a sponsor of the mural.

There is a unique opportunity for 25 people to have a favorite book featured in the mural. For a \$500 donation you can choose to have your favorite book's title painted on the spine of a shelved book in the mural. This opportunity is limited to only 25 books on a first come first serve basis. The accepted genres must be family friendly and limited to three categories: Children or Youth Literature, Classic Novels set in Florida or Local History Books and Classic Literature. Book title submissions will be reviewed and approved by the Mural Society.

On a very personal note, my two sisters and I are very proud to be sponsoring a Mural Book. It is an all-time classic book that has special meaning to our family. You can do this, too. Stop by the library to look at the poster of the mural and pick up the form to sponsor a book.

For more information contact Kelly Gaylord, PGHMS President at 941 979-2786 or kgaylord320@gmail.com.

Adult Programs

Cooking the Books A Bi-Monthly Cookbook Club

A new program this season presented by Community Services is “Cooking the Books”, a program for those who love cooking and cookbooks. Each month a different theme is highlighted and participants bring in a treat that they made either from one of the library’s many cookbooks, or one of their own. Everyone should bring their recipe as well as the food they made to share with others. Participants will be able to peruse cookbooks, swap recipes and share cooking techniques at each meeting. The program is free, but registration is required.



Monday, December 16, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. Holiday Hors d’oeuvres: Make a finger-food treat that you would serve at a party

Monday, February 17, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. Romantic Recipes: Make a recipe you would share with a significant other or many others.

Register by calling 941-833-5460 or go to the Charlotte County Library webpage event calendar. Let them know at this time what recipe you will be making.

Holiday Cookie Exchange

Come to the library for a cookie exchange! Choose your favorite cookie and make two dozen of them. Everyone can then sample each other’s cookies and take some home, too. Don’t forget to bring copies of your recipe to share along with the cookies.

RSVP to 941-833-5460 or on the library website calendar and tell what kind of cookies you plan to bake.



Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2019
Time: 2:00-4:00
Location: Punta Gorda Charlotte Library
Phone: 941-833-5460
Cost: FREE

Youth

Graphic Novels by Tony Farina, *Friends* Director

You have likely heard the term “Graphic Novel” and thought, “Wait, I thought those used to be called comic books.” Well, you are right and wrong. It is a bit confusing I know. Hopefully, this will help clear it up.

Monthly comics still exist and they are still called comic books. Daily comic strips still exist and they are still called comic strips. However, when a story arc is collected and bound together it is called a graphic novel. Additionally, and this is where the confusion comes in, there are actually stand-alone stories that usually range from 100-300 pages that are only released in that one form. All of these things are called graphic novels which are different from novels with a few pictures, but, of course, some people call those graphic novels as well. Think of it like this: a Smart Car and a Jaguar are both technically cars.

You would not hand the keys of a Jag to a rookie driver so too, you should not hand any book with pictures to any child. It is important to know that graphic novels, like movies and video games have a ratings system. It is so important for you to check that out before you go pick some out for your kids and grandkids (or hopefully yourself).

If you go into the children’s room, you will find Graphic Novels that are rated E for everyone or ED as education focused. There may be some silly cartoon violence like smashing through a wall or some Batman ‘66 kind of “SOCK” and “POW” action. Currently, the DC Comics Zoom line DC Superhero Girls is a standout collection and anything by Raina Telgemeier is a winner.

In the teen room you will find T which is rated for kids age 12 and up and T+ which means 15 and up. T books will have a bit more graphic violence and T+ will have some language one will hear in the hallway of a high school. These are generally superhero comics or science fiction comics. The subject matter is more realistic or it focuses on superhero violence and situations like the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Marvel’s *Runaways* or BOOM! Studios reboot of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* are great books that teenagers should love. Anything by Mariko Tamaki will have some realistic flavor that teenagers need to read.

Finally, in the 941 section of non-fiction, you will find some adult graphic novels. These are generally rated M for mature. These are designated as books for 17 and up. These books put the Graphic in graphic novel. They swear without regard and feature realistic war type violence. If a movie is Rated R, the comic is Rated M. Image Comics *Pretty Violent with lots of swears* is really funny, but certainly for adults only. Top Cow’s *Postal* takes a deep look at violence and the ramifications of violent behavior. It is a warning against violence, but in order to make that warning, it must show it.

Graphic novels are a great way to get reluctant readers to pick up a book, but it is important that you know what you are getting. Don’t assume that just because it has drawings, that it is a cartoon. Check the ratings in case the book was put on the wrong shelf in the wrong section. If you are unsure, ask the helpful library staff to look into the selection for you. Happy reading!

Library Laboratory

December 12, January 9, February 13, March 12

Join us each month as we celebrate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math at the library! Children in Kindergarten through 6th grades are welcome to join us at the library from 4:30 to 5:30 to participate in experiments that encourage tinkering, curiosity, and creative thinking.

Register on the library website calendar or call 941.833.5460.



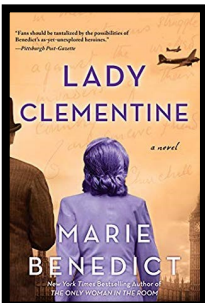
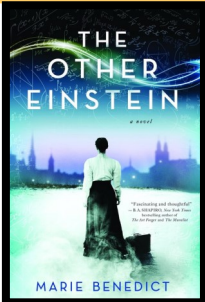
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Coming
January, 2020

Friends Present 2020 Literary Luncheon Featuring

New York Times Bestselling Author

Marie Benedict

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

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.**



Photo by Anthony
Musmanno

Sold Out

Friends of the Library Membership

This newsletter, The BOOKMARK, is usually 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

**401 Shreve Street
Punta Gorda FL 33950**

The Punta Gorda *Friends* of the Library can receive a small percentage of your purchases from Amazon through Amazon Smile. Participation in this program does not add anything to your bill; Amazon will just donate 0.5% of your purchases to the *Friends*. To participate, simply go to <http://smile.amazon.com/> and make your purchases as usual. You will even be able to see how much of your purchases have been donated. We appreciate your support!



Adult

Book Review by Hank Bauman, *Friends* Director

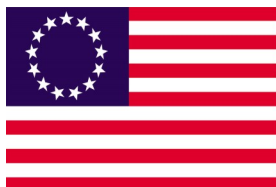
“THE BRITISH ARE COMING – the war for America, Lexington to Princeton 1775-1777” Volume one of The Revolution Trilogy by Pulitzer Prize Journalist and noted historian Rick Atkinson (Henry Holt and Co, 2019, 776 pgs.)

The history opens with the June 1773 celebration at the Portsmouth Royal Dockyard of the 10th Anniversary of the British victory over France and Spain that ended the Seven Year War (aka The French and Indian War) and created the British Empire. Few of the celebrants were aware that the creation of the empire also sowed the seeds for two growing economic problems that within two more years would result in the revolt of the American colonies against the British crown. In the decade following the war, there had been significant emigration from Scotland, Ireland, and England, to the American colonies that had transferred many manufacturing skills to the New World, and was eliminating the need for the colonists to import finish goods from England. The reduced dependency diminished the revenue flow from the colonies upon which the British Isles was dependent. The second problem was the tremendous and continuing debt that was a result of the war, and which the empire needed to repay. Since an American colonist paid only a third of the taxes bourn by an Englishmen and the King had increased colonial taxes in an effort to level the burden. Every high school student knows the result of this was the Boston Tea Party.

There have been numerous histories written about the American Revolution, some detailing the campaigns and others describing the lives and accomplishments of the war’s heroes. What makes this history distinct from these other works is the inclusion of comments of the actual participants, comments taken from their letters, diaries, reports and journals. To show the extensive research committed to this history, over two hundred pages contains the listings of the author’s sources and page notes. Volume one of the Trilogy starts with the British march to Lexington and ends with the second American victory at Princeton, NJ. Each battle in this two year period is meticulously explained, accompanied by numerous illustrations, and seasoned with the comments and descriptions of the events by participating officers and soldiers, both British and American, along with the observations of the local inhabitants. The author provides the reader with an on-scene “You are there” depiction of the event.

For me, the most poignant and memorable portions of the history are reading the comments from the American soldier about the lack of clothing, especially shoes, the scarcity of food, the deficiency in shelter, and also their concerns about leaving their wives and children home to fend for themselves. While suffering these privations and suffering frequent defeats in battle, these men continued to march and to fight. They may have been the most committed and bravest generation.

At the conclusion of Volume One the author noted that the British commanders and their political masters continued to misjudge the American temperament, both in the broad, visionary commitment to a republican future and in the seething resentment that fueled the insurrection. Also, there is the observation of Thomas Paine, in a public letter addressed to Lord Admirable William Howe, that previously the English had only armies to contend with, but in America there is both an army and a country to combat.





Friends of The Punta Gorda Charlotte Library

401 Shreve Street
Punta Gorda Florida 33950

The mission of the *Friends* of the Punta Gorda Charlotte 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.https://charlottefl.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/libraries.

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 in the new library and in community locations. *Friends* monies also support and expand children's programs in STEM, Reading and the Arts.

On January 22, 2020 at the Isles Yacht Club, *Friends* will host the annual Literary Luncheon. The guest author will be Marie Benedict, a lawyer as well as a *New York Times* best-selling author. *Friends* members began reserving their seats on October 17, 2019 and the event is currently sold out.

Please become a *Friend*! Annual memberships are January 1st through December 31st, (memberships dated after October 1, 2019 will be for the entire 2020 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—

401 Shreve 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 Charlotte Library**

NAME (S) _____

ADDRESS _____

____ ZIP _____

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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____ FAMILY LIFETIME \$150.00

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TOTAL \$ _____

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BOOKMARK

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