

Volume 19 Issue 3
November 2023

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



BOOKMARK

Dear Friends,

I hope this Book-mark issue finds you well. I am looking forward to another activity-filled library season! I started the season off by attending the It's Always Tea Time! program at the library. In this Alice in Wonderland themed program, we sampled various teas, played Wonderland Jeopardy, and showed our creativity, or lack of it, making a craft. Board member Katie Mazzi and I enjoyed ourselves judging the costumes. There were some very creative entries! Check out the library website or grab a calendar or flyer of upcoming events in front of the check-out desk. You're bound to find something that interests you.



author of historical fiction novels including *The Alice Network* and *The Rose Code*. Tickets will go on sale on November 17, 2023, to **Friends members only**. You can fill out the form printed in this issue or download it from our website. Forms and checks may either be brought to the bookstore or mailed to the library. This year, we ask that payment for Literary Luncheon tickets and for memberships be separated in order to avoid confusion. Thank you for your continued support.

Friends always,

Minerva

Membership Renewal

Only Friends members can purchase tickets for the Literary Luncheon. If you wish to become a member, please use the Friends Membership Application in this newsletter. You may also pick one up in the Friends book store or download one from friendspg.org

Annual memberships last the entire calendar year. Forms received after October 1 will validate memberships for the rest of that year and the following year.

Business patrons will be contacted directly with renewal information. If you wish to become a business patron, please email the membership committee at friendsofthepglibrary@gmail.com for more information. We appreciate your support!



I am pleased to announce that the *Friends'* annual Literary Luncheon is scheduled to take place on February 21, 2024, at the Isles Yacht Club. This year, we are featuring Kate Quinn, New York Times best-selling

BOOKMARK

2013 Award Winning
Newsletter publication of

Friends

Punta Gorda Library, Inc.



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Punta Gorda Charlotte Public Library

401 Shreve Street
Punta Gorda FL 33950

Library Hours:

10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday & Tuesday
10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Wednesday - Saturday
Sunday Closed

From The Bookstore

by Katie Mazzi, Bookstore Manager

From time to time a bookstore patron will drop off a book that has a small notice printed on the cover that identifies it as an "Advanced Readers Copy" and a statement that the book is not for sale. The Friends bookstore follows the directive on the cover and does not sell ARCs. We send them on to other places.

The main purpose of an ARC is to generate interest in a book before the official publication date. Larger publishing companies have the resources to print and mail free copies of ARCs prior to the final edits. The ARCs are sent to book reviewers, bookstores, librarians, journalists, bloggers, etc. Authors will also send them out through contests and giveaways on their social media sites. Readers are encouraged to post reviews ahead of publication. These advanced publicity campaigns can generate enough buzz that presale book orders will have a new book on the best-seller list the week it debuts.

Not all authors have this kind of big publicity machine behind them. Many authors depend on good old-fashioned word of mouth as well as social media platforms to generate enough buzz to garner interest and drive book sales. With that in mind, I want to introduce you to a newly published author, A. R. Farina, and recommend his first book of *The Austen Chronicles* from 4 Horsemen Publications, *Welcome to Mansfield*. It is the first book in a series of six that Tony describes as a modern-day, Young Adult (YA), re-imaging of Jane Austen's novels.

Tony is a college professor with both an M.A.Ed. and an M.F.A. in creative writing. He and his wife, LeAnn, are friends of mine. In addition to being a full-time educator, Tony serves as a Director on the Friends Board. He has expanded the Friends literary outreach event in the middle school and is working toward developing literary outreach to high school students.

I read Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* in my high school English Lit class. But I never read any of her other books even though she is still considered to be a brilliant English author who wrote witty portrayals about ordinary people in everyday life. Also, I wasn't sure if a book in the YA genre would appeal to me. But in wanting to be supportive of my friend and as I respect his creative abilities, I bought the book and read it.

Welcome to Mansfield has a beautiful cover and the story is printed on quality paper with an elegant font and layout features. It is a delight to hold and read. A successful book needs to be more than just the cover and paper and print. Tony is a masterful storyteller. I'm not going to do a book review, but I will say that from the first to the last page, I cared about the characters and I cared about the story. The book is now one of my favorites and I hope more people decide to read it. I will be giving *Welcome to Mansfield* to the readers in my life. I am looking forward to reading the remaining books in his series as they are published.

Welcome to Mansfield is in our library. You can also purchase a copy from Cop-perfish Books or other retail outlets. Read the book and if you feel about the book as I did, tell your family and friends. We can all be the publicity machine for Tony. For more information you can go to his website: www.arfarina.com.

www.friendspg.org

Youth

Summer Reading by Liz Lee, *Library Staff*

We had a phenomenal time with our Summer Reading Program

“All Together Now We Make a Beautiful World.”

One hundred and seventy-three people attended our kickoff party! They signed up for our Summer Reading Program and Reading with the Rays, and the kids enjoyed their free hotdog, chip, and drink from the It's a Hotdog Day cart courtesy of the Friends of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library.

We had 261 kids between the ages of 0 and 18 register, and we had 42 adults participate in our Adult Summer Reading Challenge. We traveled around the world in our weekly Passport Pals program where we learned all about the countries, their cultures, and so much more.

We visited Australia, India, Egypt, Mexico, France, Japan, Ukraine, and the Polynesian Islands. Iguana Land came out to showcase some of their reptiles. A Henna artist spoke about the history of henna with our teens and they each received a henna tattoo. One day we made boba tea! On another, we learned about STEAM inventions from around the world, played international board games, folded origami, and had fun exploring the wonderful world we live in.

Our kids read over 75,000 minutes this summer and filled our gallon jar over 2/3s of the way up. Each pony bead equaled 15 minutes spent reading, and we had a full rainbow by the end of July. We are super proud of our young library patrons, and we are excitedly planning for next summer!

THANK YOU FOR BEING A FRIEND

Meet & Greet

*The Friends of the Punta
Gorda Charlotte Library*

Thursday, December 7, 2023,

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

In the Library

RENEW your membership or become a
NEW FRIEND

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

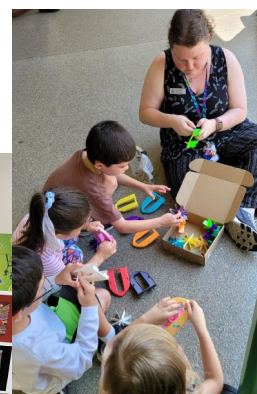
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Did you know?

If your Kindergarten to 5th grade student needs help with their homework, the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library provides tutoring services on Mondays and Thursdays from 3:00-6:00 P.M. on a first come, first served basis.

If you have any questions, please call the Youth Services Librarian, Liz Lee, at 941-833-5462.

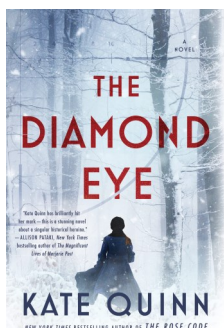
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Adult

Kate Quinn Bio Courtesy of the Authors Unbound Agency

This year's Literary Luncheon Author is Kate Quinn



Kate Quinn is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of historical fiction. She has written four novels in the Empress of Rome Saga, and two books in the Italian Renaissance, before turning to the 20th century with *New York Times* bestsellers *The Alice Network* and *The Huntress*. With authors Stephanie Dray, Laura Kamoie, E. Knight, Sophie Perinto and Heather Webb, Quinn contributed to an epic collaborative novel on the French Revolution, *Ribbons of Scarlet*.

In the summer of 2017, Reese Witherspoon selected *The Alice Network* for her book club, and it was also selected as an Amazon Best Book of the Month, a GoodReads Best Books of the Month, and an NPR Best Book of the Year. *The Huntress* has earned similar accolades, and was recognized as a February Library Reads pick, a March Indie Next Pick, and one of Marie Claire's Best Women's Fiction Books of the Year. *The Rose Code*, was published in March 2021. Her latest novel, *The Diamond Eye*, was released in March 2022.

Kate has always been a history lover, and seeks to show the life, laughter and humanity that runs through our common past. She's a native of Southern California, and attended Boston University, where she earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in classical voice. Today she lives in San Diego with her husband and three rescue dogs, and enjoys opera, action movies, and the Boston Red Sox.

Charlotte County Community Services presents...

Jump Write In A Guided Writers Group



Second Tuesday of every month, starting March 14
6 to 8 p.m.

Have you ever wanted to be a writer? Are you just starting to write, been writing for years, hit writer's block, or don't have any idea where to start at all? This is the writers' group for you!

Join us for monthly sessions that will explore creative writing with guided readings, exercises, and more! Whether you are interested in poetry or prose, we will cover it all. Find tips, new ideas, helpful hints, and most importantly have fun! Light refreshments will be provided. For ages 18 and older.

All Around The Library

“KidLit” for Any Age by Tony Farina, *Friends* Director



“KidLit” is literature written for children but literature for “kids” is worth reading at any age.

We sat down and watched the 2023 film adaptation of *Are You There God, It's Me Margaret* recently and wow, was it something special. The performances from the co-leads, Abby Ryder Fortson, Rachel McAdams, and Kathy Bates were exceptional. Sure, they are all award-winning actors and that is to be expected, but honestly, what made the performances so good was that the characters they played were so fully realized. The writer/director Kelly Fremon Craig did a great job bringing them to the screen, but it was Judy Blume, the origina-

tor of the 1970 masterpiece, who gave them life.

See, that's the thing about people who write “kids” books. They know plot matters but it isn't all that matters. OF course, plot matters. There is a plot in every one of Blume's books. However, when a book is so plot-heavy, it feels like homework or is dense science fiction. If I need a glossary to read the book, I know it is going to be all about the plot. YA and middle reader books know that the trick is to create amazing, memorable characters with whom the reader

can relate. Books are empathy machines BECAUSE of the characters, not the plot. Some of my all-time favorite characters in all of literature appear in books for “kids.” If you think about it, you likely feel the same way.



Lyra Silvertongue in *The Golden Compass* is a perfect example. It only takes one conversation between Lyra and her feisty best friend and daemon Pantalaimon, for me to believe in a world where people's souls take animal form and live outside of their bodies. The way they talk to each other. The way they bicker. The way they love each other is so honest and, well, human, that I can't help but love them too. Because I believe in them, the plot becomes pretty easy to believe as well.

I defy anyone to meet Starr Carter in Angie Thomas' *The Hate U Give* and not root for her. If someone reads Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief* and doesn't want to be friends with Leisel Meminger, I would be shocked. Every kid who has spent time in Hogwarts has a favorite Weasley. Mine is Ginny, but if you like the twins best, I totally get it. No one's favorite is Percy, and rightfully so.

I read over 200 books per year, and the ones that stick with me the longest, the ones that I want to hand off to someone else as soon as I am done, are the ones picked up from the Mary Knowlton Teen Room. Not only did I learn something new or go to a new place, but I feel like I made a new friend. So, please, Friends, next time you are in the library, make a hard right-hand turn after you walk past the self-check station and meet your new favorite fictional person.



“That is part of the beauty of all literature. You discover that your longings are universal longings, that you're not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong.”

— F. Scott Fitzgerald



A Members Only Event!
The Friends of the Punta Gorda
Charlotte Library Present:

Judi Roth
Platinum Sponsor



Photo by Laura Jucha

2024 Literary Luncheon
Featuring
The New York Times and
USA Today bestselling author of historical fiction.
Kate Quinn

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Isles Yacht Club, 1780 West Marion Ave, Punta Gorda

Doors open at 11 a.m., Luncheon at 11:45 a.m.,

Raffle Baskets (ticket purchases are cash only) at 12:30 p.m., Presentation at 1:00 p.m.

****This is a Friends Member Event Only - Tickets go on sale November 17, 2023***

Copperfish Books will be at the venue selling Kate's books and she will be available to sign copies.

To reserve your seats, submit this completed form, along with a check made payable to *Friends of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library*, in person at the **Punta Gorda Charlotte Library Bookstore**, or by mail to: ***Friends of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library, 401 Shreve St., Punta Gorda, FL 33950.***

Seating, at tables of eight (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. Raffle tickets for the gift baskets and the handmade quilt will be sold at the event for **CASH** only.

If you have questions, please call **941-661-6679** or e-mail **info@friendspg.org**.

Date _____ Name _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Number of tickets _____ @ \$50 each (*Friends of the Library Members only*)

Total Due _____

*** If purchasing multiple seats, please include a list of the names of the persons attending and include payment for everyone.**

***Payment is for luncheon tickets only, if you need to renew your membership, please submit a separate check.**

www.friendspg.org



***Friends* of The Punta Gorda Charlotte Library**
401 Shreve Street
Punta Gorda Florida 33950

***Friends* Membership Application**

The mission of the ***Friends* of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library** is to promote the usage of, appreciation for, and provide support for the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library.

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 bookstore. Donations are also given by individuals, businesses, non-profits and corporations.

Please become a *Friend*! Annual memberships last the entire calendar year. Forms received after October 1 will validate memberships for the rest of that year and the following year.

Thank You for your continued loyalty and support!

Minerva King

President

Georgia Buda, Geri Saunders & Shelly Pollack

Membership Committee



Please use this form for a new membership or to renew your current membership.

You may drop the membership form off at the *Friends***' bookstore in the library or mail to:**

***Friends* of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library, 401 Shreve St., Punta Gorda, FL 33950.**

Name (s) _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone (s) _____

Email _____ @ _____

____ Renewal ____ New ____ Lifetime

____ Adults # ____ Children

*Please make checks payable to:

____ Family Annual \$ 15.00

***Friends* of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library**

____ Family Lifetime \$150.00

*Contributions are tax deductible - ***Friends*** is a 501(C)3 corporation.

____ Donation _____

Total _____

Yes, I would love to volunteer (circle area of interest) bookstore, board position, *Bookmark* (newsletter), hospitality, membership, advocacy, fundraising, marketing, publicity, other

Please Print Clearly

www.friendspg.org

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