

Volume 20 Issue 1  
February 2024

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



# BOOKMARK

Happy New Year Friends! I hope 2024 will be a healthy and happy year for all.

The New Year brings changes to the *Friends* Board of Directors. I want to thank Susan Cravens, Cecelia Eames, Deborah Guilford, and Penny Shattuck for their years of service as Board members. We are welcoming to the *Friends* Board Jenny Anderson, Ellen Burnett, Susan Graff, and Ellen Wade. These new Board members will bring new ideas and energy to help us continue the mission of serving the library community.

The *Friends*' literacy outreach for youth continues in our hosting of manga artist, Misako Rocks! this year. Meet Misako at the library on February 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 5:30 where she will explain how she creates her art, answer questions from the audience, sign her books, and provide giveaways.

I would like to address a concern from some of our Friends members who travel and are not always at their Punta Gorda address when the BOOKMARK is mailed.

This publication, the BOOKMARK, is published three times a year: November, February, and May. The Friends mail the newsletter using the USPS non-profit bulk rate. This is a very economical way to mail, however, this rate does not provide for the BOOKMARK to be forwarded to another address. The drawback is if a member is away when the BOOKMARK is mailed, then they won't receive the November newsletter and might miss out on learning about the annual Literary Luncheon and the date the



tickets go on sale. The BOOKMARK is uploaded to the *Friends* website ([friendspg.org](http://friendspg.org)) as soon as it goes in the mail. I encourage you to mark your calendar and check online when you are away so you know when events such as the Literary Luncheon are scheduled.

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](http://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](mailto:friendsofthepglibrary@gmail.com) for more information.

We appreciate your support!

## **\*\*REMINDER\*\***

**Literary Luncheon Raffle Baskets Are**

**Cash Only**

**Checks & Credit Cards will not be accepted**

# BOOKMARK

2013 Award Winning  
Newsletter publication of

*Friends*

Punta Gorda Library, Inc.



## BOOKMARK Editors:

LeAnn Beckwith & Tony Farina



Email: [info@friendspg.org](mailto:info@friendspg.org)



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Katie Mazzi

## Librarian Supervisor

Jonathan Westbrook

## Punta Gorda Charlotte Public Library

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

## Library Hours:

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

# From The Bookstore

by Katie Mazzi, Bookstore Manager

There is a very famous line from the 1989 hit movie *Field of Dreams*\* "If you build it, he will come." The quote has changed over time and most of us know it as "If you build it, they will come." It is often used when trying to convince others with positivity and determination that something good will come out of an idea or plan.

And that is what happened when the new Punta Gorda Charlotte Library opened to the public on August 26, 2019. People were waiting in line when the doors opened and the number of daily visitors just continues to grow. In 2023, people entered the library more than a hundred thousand times. That is a lot of people taking advantage of the many offerings in the library and the Friends Bookstore.

Years ago, when the Friends Board renewed our efforts to engage county and city leaders as well as the community in supporting the idea of building a new Punta Gorda Library, there were some who said we didn't need a larger building. And then there were those who said eBooks would put libraries out of business. I am happy to report that the larger building is being used and printed books are still being checked out as well as purchased in the Friends bookstore.

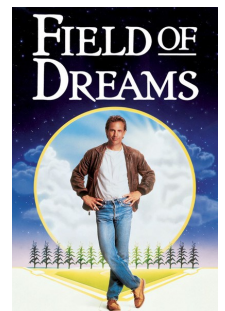
The bookstore is located just off the lobby and those of us volunteering watch people come and go. We can usually tell if someone is coming into the building for the first time. They will stand in the lobby and look around deciding which direction to go. The meeting rooms are on one side of the building and the traditional library space is on the other side. There are so many groups now taking advantage of the large meeting rooms that we are seeing many new visitors to the library. Throughout the day we see the library staff rushing to reconfigure the chairs and tables in the meeting rooms for the next groups arriving for their designated meeting time. Check with the library supervisor if you are interested in learning about booking the meeting rooms.

We also know that eBooks have not eliminated the need for libraries. The Association of American Publishers documents that hardcover and paperback books are still purchased more than eBooks. Although the Charlotte County Library system does offer patrons the ability to use their library card and check out eBooks; patrons are still looking for, reserving, and checking out printed books in record numbers.

The Friends Bookstore started at the old location in 1999 and we have continued non-stop by offering shoppers donated books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, puzzles, and cards at great prices. The store is run by volunteers and all proceeds are used by the Friends to provide financial support to the library. We know firsthand that printed books are purchased and read.

So, as we start 2024, I am happy to report that the Friends Board was right; "If you build it, they will come."

\*Editors note: The field still exists in [Dyersville, Iowa](https://www.dyersvilleia.com/) if you would like to visit.



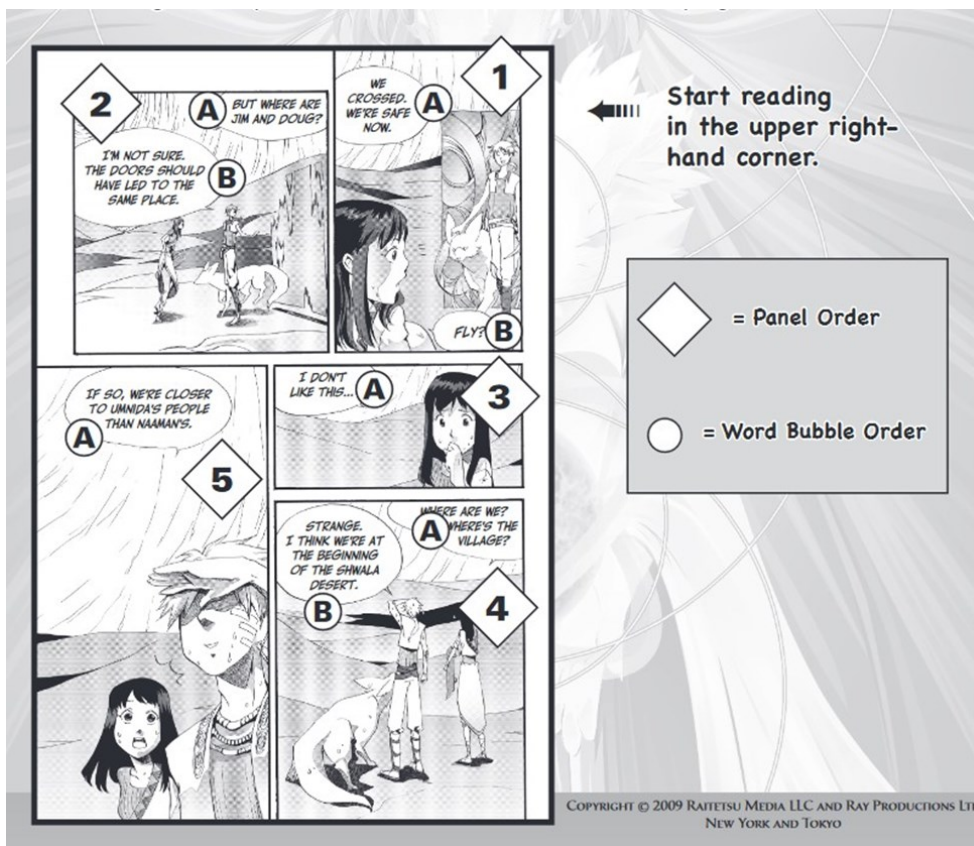
# Youth

## What is Manga? by Tony Farina, *Friends* Director

On February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, the Friends are hosting manga writer and Artist Misako Rocks! as part of our literacy outreach program. Anytime this comes up, someone asks the obvious question, “What is Manga?”

Well, that is an excellent question. It is a Japanese art form that dates back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century in scrolls. Some would argue that Hokusai’s 1814 “whimsical drawings” of people doing all kinds of activities from everyday life, were the first printed form of manga. It was printed in the “modern” comic book form in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, as a book with words and sequential art that tells a story.

Unlike American graphic novels that read left to right, front to back, most manga books read right to left, back to front. Here is a really great example from Walker Books in the UK.



While this art form has been ubiquitous in Japan for centuries, it wasn’t until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century when the “God of Manga” Tezuka Osamu famous for his *Shintakarajima* or *New Treasure Island* comic that the art form became the cultural phenomenon it is now. His *Astro Boy* has delighted fans around the world since his inception in 1952.

As manga has evolved, there have been genres that appeal to different age groups, different genders, and different interests. Because the series run for so long, people may start reading them as children, but stick with them right into adulthood and into other forms of media. *Sailor Moon*, the story of a teenage girl, Usagi Tsukino, who transforms into superhero Sailor Moon, ran for 6 years as a manga, but it

spawned an animated TV series, several feature films, and has been translated into multiple languages selling over 46 billion copies worldwide (and counting).

Modern-day manga tells stories of action and adventure, like *Dragon Ball Z*, or love and friendship, like Misako’s *Bounce Back* series. There are even some amazing classic novels like Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* and Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* that have been adapted into manga. I’ve read both of those and they are exceptional. There really is something for everyone in the pages of these, fun, fantastic, “whimsical” books.

Before Misako arrives in town in February, head into the Mary Knowlton Teen Room and check out the amazing collection we have.





# 2023 Year In Review

by Jonathan Westbrook, Librarian Supervisor

One whole year of our ‘newest norm’ with no great catastrophes or pandemics! What did we do with ourselves this year? 105,000 people visited the library this year with those numbers the circulation of materials is still very high; the attendance to programs is just as strong.

There were 629 programs at the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library. These were private programs and programs hosted by the State, County, or the Library. Some of the weekly programs such as Café Philo and Master Gardeners have been going strong for over 5 years. Some, such as the Charlotte County Genealogical Society weekly classes, are inherited from Mid-County. Many of our yearly programs, such as the Poet-Tea and the Winter of Our Discontent, are highly anticipated.

Building and growing the sense of community in our area has become a leading principle for the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library staff. We were honored to host the Holocaust Memorial this year and presented it for over a month. We hosted Black History Month programs with the Blanchard House Museum of African American History and Culture of Charlotte County. We had the return of Behind the Notes by the Punta Gorda Symphony. We hosted many local authors to talk on their experiences of writing as a companion to our own “Jump Write In” writer’s group. We’ve added a non-fiction book discussion and a learn to play mahjong group. We did all of this in addition to our weekly Storytimes, Mother Goose on the Loose, and craft programs aimed at Toddlers, Youth, and Teens. Our Pre-School Prep classes are where very young friendships are built.

Our local population has shown their appreciation of our goals as well. The Friends of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library purchased numerous technological devices and filled needs of the staff with their generosity. We will be offering an introduction to the Cricut machine in April and the PlayStation 5 will be available to all soon. The Friends also purchased a number of outdoor games, such as croquet, badminton, and Frisbees, that patrons can borrow and enjoy. This will allow for more outdoor programming and enjoyment of our grounds. The rocking chairs on the back porch remain a strong draw to sit with a book and relax.

Private citizens have also shown their love of the library. Through a generous donation from the Dr. Barbara L Rees Foundation, we were able to build a covered pavilion in the backyard with tables. This allows enjoyment of the backyard without having to sit in the sun. The Punta Gorda Charlotte Library has had a great year of growth and moving forward and look forward to many more to come.



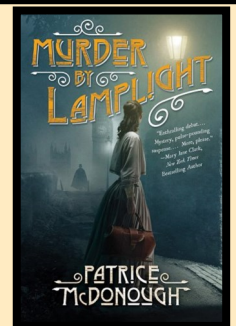
## Featured Friend

Make sure you mark your calendars for March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm as Lifetime Member of the Friends of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library, Patrice McDonough, will be at [Copperfish Books](#) to promote the first book in her Dr. Julia Lewis Mystery series *Murder by Lamplight*. The book is a historical mystery set in Victorian London.

*Kirkus Reviews* says, “The spree of period murders, capped by a welcome surprise, provides the perfect backdrop for debates about gender politics.”

*Library Journal* called *Murder by Lamplight* in its starred review an “atmospheric, strong debut.”

The book comes out on February 20<sup>th</sup>, so make sure you preorder it AND be sure you sign up for the event in March. Check out Patrice online at <https://www.patricemcdonough1789.com/>



# All Around The Library

## Art Amongst The Shelves by Abby Ureste, Library Staff

Art is always around us in incomprehensible ways. It is often dependent on the viewer's perspective. One can be moved by a sculpture built many years ago, and another will tear up at the sight of a leaf floating down a stream. Evoking feelings in the observer is the true power of art, and each person will have a myriad of varying responses.

One of my favorite types of art is manga and graphic novels. While many think of them as works for children, there are plenty of stories geared for adults. These books grant me happiness at the chance to see and experience a story alongside the characters. It's the artwork in the pages that gives me comfort and a solid understanding of the story. Because I read manga and graphic novels, I interact with artwork and creativity more often.



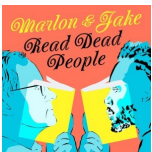
Reading these stories allows me to experience other cultures as well while offering historical perspective. *Heaven Official's Blessing* is a Chinese novel series written by Mo Xiang Tong Xiu with beautiful artwork and a charming story. *Solo Leveling*, one of my favorites, is a South Korean web novel written by Chugong that has been adapted into manga. *Maus: A Survivor's Tale* is a graphic novel by American cartoonist Art Spiegelman. The art helps make the tough topics easier to digest while also giving life to the words spoken by characters. Each piece uses art and language, merging words and pictures to enhance the meaning and impact of the work.

Some of my favorite graphic novels include works by Junji Ito, such as *The Liminal Zone* and *Junji Ito's Cat Diary: Yon & Mu*. If you're looking for something brighter, I would suggest Umi Sakura's *A Man and His Cat*.

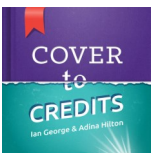
Thankfully, the library has all this art on display as each of these titles and many others are available for checkout daily.

## Book Pods

Want to think about books more than you already do? Give these podcasts about books a listen.



*Marlon and Jake Read Dead People* is a joy. Author Marlon James and his editor Jake Morrissey, talk about their favorite books by dead authors. This show comes out in short seasons, but they are worth it.



*Inside the Minds of Authors* features best-selling writer D.C. Gomez as she talks to other writers about their craft and their books. The episodes are fast and fun. She releases one per week.

*Cover to Credits* features librarian and book lover, Adina Hilton and her husband, movie lover and graphic artist, Ian George as they do a bi-weekly podcast about books and their movie adaptations. They are such a delight.



You can find them on the Apple or Google podcast app right on your smartphone. Make sure you check the ratings for each show if you playing it aloud in your car or at home, because like books and movies, sometimes podcasts are not for children.

Happy Listening!

# Membership Drive

by Tony Farina, *Friends* Director



After taking a few years off to deal with Mother Nature's wrath, the Friends of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library decided it was time to launch a membership drive. On December 7<sup>th</sup>, spearheaded by Board Member Georgia Buda, the friends set up camp in the lobby of the library to raise awareness and get new members. Georgia brought cookies and drinks were provided by new business patron, Punta Gorda Coffee & Tea located in downtown Punta Gorda.

We picked up seven new memberships with one of them being a lifetime member. Many more people took the sign-up form and are planning to drop them off at the bookstore soon. One person, who was there to get her reciprocal card renewed, from Lee County, was so impressed by what we do, and our bookstore, that she joined.

It was a huge success.



## Legacy Gifts for the Friends

As a member of Friends of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library ("*Friends*") we know you value reading. *Friends* members also share the mission of promoting the use of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library (the "*Library*"), being a community advocate for the Library, and providing financial support to augment and maintain the Library collection and provide for Library improvements.

You can ensure your values live on by making a gift to *Friends*, as many other members have done and continue to do.

If you would like someone to contact you regarding possibly making a gift, either directly or through your estate plan, please provide the information below via email or the postal service.

**Your privacy is important to us. It is our strict policy not to give, sell, or donate your contact information to anyone outside our organization without your permission.**

**Email:** [info@friendspg.org](mailto:info@friendspg.org)

**Address:** 401 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Name

Email and/or Phone Number



***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 are January 1st through December 31st of each year. Forms dated after October 1<sup>st</sup> of that year will include the next calendar year as well.

***Thank You for your continued loyalty and support!***

----- ✂  
**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 it 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Print Clearly**

***www.friendspg.org***



# BOOKMARK

*Friends* Punta Gorda Library, Inc.  
401 Shreve Street  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-5906

Nonprofit Organization

U.S. Postage

**Paid**

Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Permit No. 24

Current Resident or:

## *Friends* of the Library Business Patrons

Share this information with your business friends and encourage them to become a *Friends* Business Patron.

Avant Construction, Inc.  
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Punta Gorda Symphony  
Rivera Professional Plaza  
Sanchez, George DMD  
Twin Isles Country Club  
Webb, Lorah & McMillan, PLLC

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Roth Family Foundation  
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