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May 2024

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



BOOKMARK

The *Friends* were delighted to have hosted author Kate Quinn at our annual Literary Luncheon at the Isles Yacht Club. We are already being asked who the 2025 Literary Luncheon author will be and when it will be announced. We are in the planning stages and when we have formalized the event, we will post it on the *Friends* website and publish it in the November BOOKMARK.



In continuing our Literary Outreach to the community and with support from the Shively Foundation, the *Friends* hosted young adult manga artist and author Misako Rocks! (Misako Takashima) at the Punta Gorda Middle School, Charlotte High School in Punta Gorda, and the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library.

The Charlotte County Library system is preparing for a fun-filled summer reading program with the theme, Adventure Begins at the Library. The summer reading program kickoff will include family activities and reading challenges. During the summer reading kickoff, the *Friends* will once again provide those who sign up for the summer reading program a hot dog lunch from the "It's a Hot Dog Day" vendor.

The Youth Services department has also arranged for children's author, Alex Willan, to visit the library on Saturday, July 13th. Alex is the author and illustrator of *Dragons are the Worst*, *Yetis are the Worst*, *Unicorns are the Worst* and his most recent title, *Leprechauns are the Worst* in addition to other picture books. *Unicorns are the Worst* won third place in the Sunshine State Young Readers Junior Awards for 2021-2022. Alex will be available to sign books, lead a drawing activity as well as read one of his books to

the audience. The *Friends* are proud to sponsor Alex's visit.

The *Friends* value your continued support which allows us to bring these types of programs to Punta Gorda. If you have not renewed your membership yet, we ask that you do so. If you have never joined, please consider joining, and if you have friends or neighbors who love libraries, ask them to join.

There is an individual/family membership for \$15 a year or a lifetime membership for \$150. Local businesses can join as Business Patrons for \$100 a year. Each membership is a way to support the *Friends* so we can help the library provide programs as well as books and other media and make other improvements as needed.

Have a wonderful summer!

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!

BOOKMARK

2013 Award Winning
Newsletter publication of

Friends

Punta Gorda Library, Inc.



BOOKMARK Editors:

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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

The Punta Gorda Charlotte Library opened its doors on August 26, 2019. The new library replaced the old structure on West Henry Street that was built and opened in 1974. Although that building had been repaired after Hurricane Charley in 2004, there were still ongoing issues as well as being too small to meet the needs of the growing Punta Gorda community.

Since the doors opened at the current library in 2019, we have been through tropical storms that flooded downtown Punta Gorda, the pandemic that closed the library for a while, and Hurricane Ian which left our area devastated. Fortunately, the new well-built library survived the storm.

Yes, there was some water under the doors, and trees and lamp posts were knocked down, but electric power and internet service were quickly restored and the building was quickly opened to the public 7 days a week with extended hours. For people who had not been library users, they saw the benefit of having this kind of community space.

Hurricane Ian severely damaged Mid-County Library and it remains closed. Those of us who volunteer in the Friends Bookstore are often asked when Mid-County Library will open. All we can do is direct people to the Charlotte County Library website pages for the latest updates. Meanwhile, we welcome all the patrons who used to visit the Mid-County Library.

The bookstore has been busy all season and we appreciate both patrons making purchases as well making donations. I am so proud to work with all the bookstore volunteers who share their time in our happy place.

I want to give a shout-out to The Andreae Group/Re/Max Harbor Realty. When we were moving to the new location in 2019, former Friends Board member Luke Andreae donated shopping bags to the bookstore. They are very popular with our patrons and we see them around town. We have just placed our third order for additional bags which continue to be donated by The Andreae Group. We want to thank Luke and Kerry Andreae for their support.



Katie Mazzi and Kate Quinn

Friends of the PUNTA GORDA Charlotte LIBRARY



This bag courtesy of:



www.friendspg.org

Youth

Misako Rocks! by Tony Farina, *Friends* Director



Misako Rocks! and Tony Farina

Thanks to a generous donation from the Shively Foundation, the Friends of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library was able to expand our annual literacy outreach program to include not just Punta Gorda Middle School, but Charlotte High School as well.

Manga artist, Misako Rocks! shared with the 6th and 9th grades stories from her life in Japan and how she followed her dreams to write and draw graphic novels. The descendent of Samurai, it was expected that she,

like the rest of her family, would become a police officer. Instead, she let her love of creativity and art, bring her to America for a study abroad while in college. She fell in love with the country and, after she finished up her studies back in Japan, she came here permanently. While living in New York, during a visit to the public library she realized Americans loved manga as much as they do in Japan. Her tenacity and dogged determination landed her a book deal that has supported her for many years.

She broke up her talk about perseverance and the power of art and creativity with demonstrations of her actual artwork. The students erupted in applause each time. After each event, she did a one-hour workshop with 30 students in the schools' media centers where she taught the students how to design and create characters. She gave away the sample drawings as well as signed a book, generously donated by the *Friends* to each of the workshop students.

Misako also did an event at the library and at Copperfish Books. Students, teachers, and members of the community

were left inspired to tell their own stories and live their dreams. Once again, the friends lived their mission by supporting literacy and reminding students that the library is the place to go to be inspired and to become the person they want to be.



2024 Literary Luncheon

by Joann Filkins *Friends* Board Secretary

Kate Quinn is a renowned author for a good reason. She knows how to speak to her audience, deliver, and keep them enthralled. This is exactly what she did to a sold-out house at the 2024 Literary Luncheon sponsored by the Friends of the Library on February 21st.

Kate gave us a brief history of her background (who knew she had a master's degree in classical voice). She then discussed her latest book which was the first time she co-authored with Janie Chang. Two authors collaborated to write one book, *The Phoenix Crown*. They were equal partners. They each had their own main character but the trick was to blend them into a believable and entertaining story. Sometimes the two authors would disagree about the other's character, explain to each other their reasoning, and then compromise and continue. Both authors became good friends and work colleagues.



The primary setting of their novel was San Francisco immediately after the devastating earthquake of 1906. We learned the “Chinatown” of today is the result of community planning with the primary motive of attracting tourists, not at all similar to its historical roots. Her character, Gemma, one of the two main women, is portrayed as an opera singer. Opera was near and dear to her heart, something she had been trained in and could speak knowledgeably about. It would seem harder than writing a book by yourself, but on the other hand, Kate found this book more productive with collaboration. She kept the entire audience's interest throughout.

How fortunate Punta Gorda is to have the organization “Friends of the Library” who bring such famous authors to our little town. Another reason our library is so fortunate is volunteers like Linda Bauman who again this year created, machine pieced, and donated a literary-themed quilt for the Luncheon's silent auction.

It was entitled “Best Sellers.” Of course, Kate Quinn's *The Rose Code* was featured, along with other authors who graced our past Luncheons. Since 2009 Friends has brought 14 different authors to town; most recently



William Kent Krueger, Kristin Harmel, Marie Benedict, Paula McLain, Marie Benedict, and B.A. Shapiro. We in the Punta Gorda community are truly fortunate to be able to avail ourselves of this wonderful opportunity to enrich our literary experience. Thank you, Friends! Keep up your good work.



Kate Quinn and Linda Bauman

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Teresa Coady Chair of the Gift Basket Committee

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

Address: 401 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Name

Email and/or Phone Number

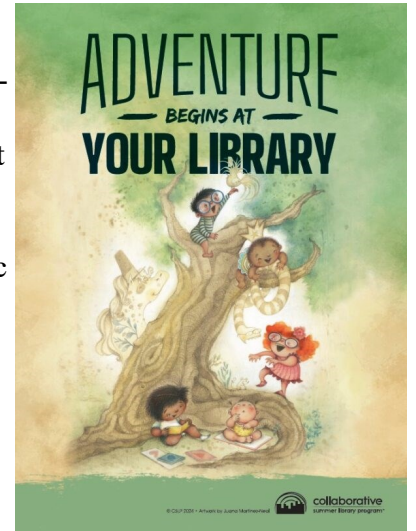
All Around The Library

Summer Reading by Liz Lee, Library Staff

This year our Summer Reading Program's theme is "Adventure Begins at the Library"! Everything kicks off Saturday, June 1st and runs until Saturday, July 27th. We have our annual Kick-Off Party on Saturday, June 1st from 11-1. Families can register for Summer Reading, Reading with the Rays, and while tickets last, each child registered for Summer Reading will get a ticket to It's a Hot Dog Day hotdog cart. They will get a hotdog, drink, and chips courtesy of the Friends of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library. Outside, we will have our outdoor games set up for everyone to enjoy. Giant JENGA, checkers and or tic-tac-toe, croquet, and frisbees were all paid for by the Friends of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library. There will be a yard sprinkler set up for kids to run through, bubbles, music, and glitter tattoos!

Throughout the summer we will have weekly kids' crafts, and special programs such as Parrots in Punta Gorda with guests from the Parrot Outreach Society, *The Emperor's New Groove* family movie, an author visit from Alex Willan courtesy of the Friends of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library, Port Charlotte Library, and Englewood Charlotte Library, and a teen escape room. Reading logs are due back by Saturday, July 20th, and the kids who complete Summer Reading will be entered for their age group's prize drawing and get a ticket to our finale party on Saturday, July 27th, from 12-2. We are still planning and preparing our prizes, but we have a certificate for 4 teens to go to an escape room at Escape Rooms Unlocked here in Punta Gorda!

If you are looking for a full calendar of events, everything will be public on the libraries' online calendar by May and a printed calendar will be available around the same time at each library branch. Let the adventures begin!



goodreads

Do you ever wander into the library or search through Cloud Library or Hoopla only to see a book that you are not sure if you've read before? Have you ever wondered if the book that is getting all the hype is that good or if it is a smash with the critics but trash with the readers? Honestly, what reader hasn't wondered about those things? The great news is that there is one place for readers to go where they can solve both problems. Goodreads is a free website, with a corresponding app, where readers can keep a log of books they've read, check out reviews from like-minded readers, and even create a "to be read" list. The app version even allows readers to scan bar codes on books for a quick search. Quit trying to remember which of the hundreds of Agatha Christie's books you've read, and use that mental space to engage with your next favorite book.

Thank you for being a friend!



2024 Friends Board of Directors



***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 1st 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) _____

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*Please make checks payable to: _____ Family Annual \$ 15.00

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