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November 2024

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



BOOKMARK



It is with mixed emotions that I announce my resignation from the *Friends* board at the end of 2024. My husband and I have started a new chap-

ter in our lives and have decided to move closer to our family.

Although I will miss working with such a committed board and communicating with our generous donors and supportive members, I feel confident that this board has talented members who will continue to further the mission of the *Friends*.

In the past few months, we have initiated a new email communication program and have revamped our website to make it more informative and easier to navigate. We are revising our business patron information and making sure that our family memberships are up-to-date so that everyone will receive important information quickly.

I feel honored to have been able to continue guiding our strong legacy with this organization that helped build the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library as well as ensure the Teen Room was dedicated to the memory of Mary Knowlton. I have made many friends during my term as president and my experience here will carry over as I participate in my new home library system.

I plan to attend the Literary Luncheon, so you will see me next year. I would not miss it!

Thank you for supporting the *Friends*.

Sincerely,
Minerva

Letter from the editors:

We have been lucky to have Minerva King as the *Friends* President for the past four years. The editors wanted to take a moment to thank Minerva for trusting us with the *Bookmark*, which was her sole responsibility since before we joined the board. It is no small thing to turn over years of work to someone else. We hope we lived up to her lofty standards. We also want to applaud Minerva's advocacy for the Youth Literacy Outreach. Under her leadership, we have been able to double the size and scope of the events. Minerva is leaving the Board as a life member and will always be a part of our group. Thank you, Minerva. You will be missed. Come back and visit anytime you wish.

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:

LeAnn Beckwith

Tony Farina



Email: info@friendspg.org
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:

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

From The Bookstore

by Katie Mazzi, Bookstore Manager

Every time I start sorting a stack of donated books, I wonder if I will find any treasures. I'm not talking about jewels or precious metals; although we do find money inside book pages from time to time which we count as donations. The treasures I'm talking about are the books that I have read, remembered, and cherished.

One recent donation was a 75th-anniversary copy of *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith. First published in 1943, the book was an immense success and has never been out of print. In fact, Goodreads lists it as one of the 25 American Classics everyone should read at least once in their lifetime.

A bit of trivia about the book, after the initial publication of *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, it was released in an Armed Services Edition to fit in a soldier's uniform pocket. In the HBO miniseries, *A Band of Brothers*, one of the characters is seen reading this book.

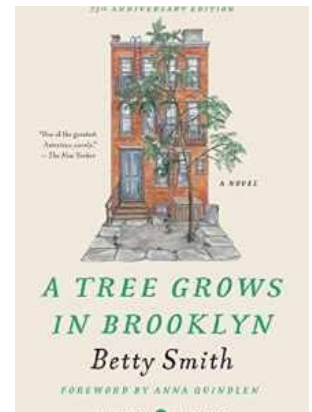
The book is a coming-of-age story addressing issues such as poverty, education, loss of innocence, family, relationships, alcoholism, and striving for the American dream. And yes, there is a tree that is central to the hope found in the story.

The first time I read this book I was an older teen. I'm not sure I completely understood the multilayers of the story, but I did get angry at how the librarian treated Francie. In fact, I have read the book several times and I still have the same reaction to that part of the book.

Eleven-year-old Francie, the protagonist, goes to the library. She loves the building even though it is old and shabby. Francie has decided to read a book a day in alphabetical order. She starts with the A's and intends to read until she is finished with the Z's. One Saturday Francie goes to the library desk and asks the librarian to choose a book for her. The librarian never looked at Francie, instead, she reached under the desk and pulled out a worn book and handed it to her. This played out every Saturday. The librarian kept two books under the counter and offered one of the same two books to Francie repeatedly. The librarian never took the time nor showed any interest in this child who loved reading, learning, and exploring the world. Francie deserved better.

Anybody who knows me knows I spend a lot time in the library. Being a people watcher, I have seen how the librarians and staff treat everyone who walks up to the desk. They take the time to look, listen, and help. This is how it should be in a library.

I wonder what next treasure I will find in a stack of donated books.



Youth

Worlds of Wonder by Tony Farina, *Friends* Director



Think back to your favorite book from your childhood. Do you remember reading it for the first time? Did you stay up all night with a flashlight, to just get to that final page? Did you walk and read (and likely bump into a wall or smack your shin into a coffee table)? Did you start reading it again as soon as you finished? Did you fall in love with those characters? Did you root for them? Were you worried about them? Did you wish you could join them on some big, fun albeit dangerous adventure? When was the last time you read that book?

What is holding you back? Is it that those books from your childhood are “too juvenile?” I would argue that Holly Black’s *Spiderwick Chronicles* explores as many complicated family dynamics as anything Tolstoy wrote, and she does it in

140,000 fewer words.

Is it that you think that you are too old to understand what is going on in those books? What a better way to learn. Books are empathy machines.

Maybe, by picking up *The Boyfriend List* by E. Lockhart, you might get a sense of what it is your teenage granddaughter is going through. You will

likely discover that Ruby Olivier, the protagonist and narrator of that book (and the whole series) reminds you a lot of any number of the main characters in any book by Nora Roberts.



I understand why we have genres. I want there to be books for children, middle-readers, and teenagers, but it doesn’t mean that those books are off-limits for adults. We’ve all seen (or been) the teenager who read Stephen King or Anne Rice. That is encouraged in some quarters and no one thinks twice about it when we see a young person wandering through the library in the “grown-up” section. Rarely, do we see adults in the Mary Knowlton Teen Room or the children’s room unless they are there with their kids for an event.

I get it, those rooms are for kids, and they should be a safe space for those

kids, but maybe, some afternoon, when the kids are in school, you should take a trip into those rooms and do some browsing. Just because the book is for kids, doesn’t mean you aren’t allowed to read it too. I would like to encourage you to visit those rooms and see what worlds are waiting for you in there. Maybe, if you do, you might have something new to talk about with your kids or grandkids at best, and at worst, you might recapture some of that magic you felt when you were a kid, falling in love with a book for the first time and you might just stay up all night, desperate to find out what happens next.



All Around The Library

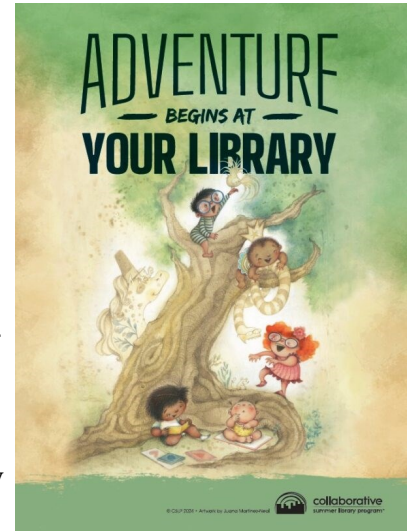
Summer Reading by Liz Lee, Library Staff

Dear Friends of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library,

Thank you all so much for helping me make our 2024 Summer Reading Program: Adventure Begins at the Library a resounding success. This year we had record numbers across the board at the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library.

We had 375 kids register for Summer Reading; we had 79 kids finish Summer Reading by July 20 and our finale Glow in the Dark Pizza Party was well received. At our Kick-Off Party, we handed out all 200 hot dog tickets, registered 144 kids, and had a blast outside on the back lawn. There were glitter tattoos and all the outdoor games that you graciously bought for the library for the families to enjoy.

Also, we had our Alex Willan author visit in July and between the three library branches, we had 69 people in attendance! By far our best author visit yet to date at least in the almost 5 years I've been here. He read two of his books to the kids, did a couple of drawings with them, answered some marvelous questions, announced his new book coming out in March 2025, and autographed any books that the kids brought with them. I have wanted him to come back down to Florida for the longest time to do an author visit in Charlotte County, and with your assistance, you made my wish come true and made our kids' day. Below is a comment that was emailed to us following our author visits:



Thank you for hosting the Alex Willan event this past weekend. My daughter and I loved meeting the author of one of her favorite books. I was pleasantly surprised with the snacks offered. It was a nice touch! Alex was amazing at teaching us how to draw his characters along with the book readings. He was very gracious answering questions. The event was the perfect amount of time. We couldn't have been more happy.

Thank you so much for bringing a very known kids book author to our town!!

Again, thank you so much for all the support you give the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library, especially during our Summer Reading Program. I am already planning for next year and can't wait to see what happens next

Sincerely, Elizabeth Lee

Hurricane Milton

Hurricane Milton resulted in a record-breaking storm surge in Punta Gorda with flood waters reaching 9.12 feet according to the city of Punta Gorda. Thankfully, the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library had no flooding and the entire collection remained intact. The water reached the top step on the Shreve Street side of the building but didn't make it inside. The library re-opened on Monday the 14th.

The flooding from both Helene and Milton resulted in devastating loss for many. If you need disaster assistance contact [FEMA](https://www.fema.gov). For local information go to the [city](https://www.cityofpungo.com) or [county](https://www.flcourts.gov) website.

Friends News

Communications by Jenny Anderson, *Friends* Director

Hello everyone. I would like to introduce myself. I am Jenny Anderson. I joined the Board last year and I currently serve as the communications director. I have been tasked to figure out ways to deliver information to you in a non-paper format.

So, let me start with a question, you likely never expected to read in the Bookmark: how do you like our new emails? The Friend's board has decided it's time to enter the digital age. We sent out our inaugural email on September 4th. Since then, we sent out a dues reminder email at the end of September and an email detailing the upcoming literary luncheon at the start of November. We plan to send out emails about once a month during season when the Board meets and we have a lot of information to pass along. If you haven't seen our emails, please check your spam folder or send an email to info@friendspg.org so we can update your info.



Another way we are going to communicate is through our new Facebook page. If you are on Facebook, search for 'Friends of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library' and see pictures and updates on the Friends' activities. We used the FB page in September to let you know when the library and bookstore would be closed due to Hurri-

cane Helene. This is a great way to communicate with not only our members but everyone in the community. Be sure to follow the page and like/comment on the posts. This will get other people to see it and could drum up interest in membership as well.

Finally, we also are working hard on getting our website updated. We've added pictures of all our events and are going to add info on all the ways the Friends support the library. Please visit it at friendspg.org.

As this is all in early days, please have patience as we figure out and troubleshoot all this new technology! If you have any questions or have suggestions for improvement, please reach out to me at the Friends email info@friendspg.org

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



A Members Only Event!

Judi Roth
Platinum Sponsor

*The Friends of the Punta Gorda
Charlotte Library Present:*



Photographer
Deborah Feingold

The 2025 Literary Luncheon
Featuring
The New York Times Bestselling Author
Fiona Davis

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Isles Yacht Club, 1780 West Marion Ave, Punta Gorda

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

Raffle Baskets at 12:30 p.m., Presentation at 1:00 p.m.

Tickets will go on sale to *Friends* members on Friday, November 22, 2024

Copperfish Books will be at the venue selling Fiona Davis' 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 Punta Gorda Charlotte Library*, 401 Shreve St., Punta Gorda, FL 33950.**

Secured seating is assigned to tables of eight (8). Payment and a valid email are required to make a reservation and your confirmation will be emailed to you. Your seat assignment will be given at the "check-in table" the day of the event. All paid reservations are final. Raffle tickets for the gift baskets 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 _____ **@ \$70 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.



***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.

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 PRINT CAREFULLY



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.

Date _____

Name (s) _____

Address _____

Phone (s) _____

*Email _____ @ _____

New _____ Renewal _____ Lifetime _____

Please make checks payable to: _____ Family Annual \$ 25.00

Friends of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library _____ Lifetime \$250.00

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

Total _____

*Please be assured that the Friends will never sell your e-mail address or use it for any other purpose than to communicate ***Friends*** information to you.

By providing your e-mail address you are giving the Friends permission to send you e-mails.

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401 Shreve Street
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