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May 2025

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



# BOOKMARK



Charlotte County  
Library System,  
Summer Reading Logo

Dear Friends,

We are excited to announce the Summer Reading Kickoff planned at our library on May 31, 2025. This event is for infants to teens. We hope you will share this information with everyone you know who is looking for free activities with the “kids” who live here or who may be visiting.

This year the theme is “Color Our World.” Registration for the Summer Reading program will be from 11 am to 1 pm on Saturday, May 31st at the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library. There will be three age brackets for summer reading. They are infants to 4 years old, 5 to 11 years old, and 12 to 18 years old.

During the Summer Reading Kickoff each child will get a ticket (while supplies last) for a free hot dog, chips, and drink at the It’s a Hotdog Day cart which will be located on the library lawn. The Friends are providing this treat for the children.

There will be weekly activities in June and July including crafts and a special performance that will be a fun way to learn as well as being encouraged to read. The Friends will also be providing funding for some of these events.

While there is not a designated summer reading program for adults, you are encouraged to continue or even start the 2025 Between the Lines Reading Challenge. You may also enjoy participating in the monthly Third Thursday Book discussion from 4 – 5 pm. Stop by the library for more information about these adult programs as well as activities that are presented throughout the year.

This is the last BOOKMARK until November. That issue will include the announcement for the 2026 Literary Luncheon. If you are out of town In October and/or November please keep in mind that the BOOKMARK is not

forwarded. We are emailing a monthly bulletin on the first of each month so even if you are away you will be informed about the Literary Luncheon and other information about what we are doing. This is why we ask for an updated email address from you and encourage you to open the Friends email and read it. Each time the new BOOKMARK is published we include a link in the Friends email so you can read it online.

I want to close by thanking all of you who joined as a Friends member this year, or renewed your membership, or are a Life Member. You ensure the Friends can continue our mission of serving the library and the community. We will launch our 2026 Friends membership drive in October 2025. Any membership forms that come in during October through the end of December will count as a 2026 membership. You can also join anytime as a Life Member and never have to worry about renewing your membership. Your membership counts.

See you around the library,

**Katie Mazzi**

## 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!

# BOOKMARK

2013 Award Winning  
Newsletter publication of

*Friends*

Punta Gorda Library, Inc.



## BOOKMARK Editors:

LeAnn Beckwith  
Tony Farina



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Website: [www.friendspg.org](http://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, *Friends* President & Bookstore Manager

While reading may be a solitary activity, it can become a social event when you participate in a book club. They have many formats including different times of day, locations, and how books are chosen and moderated. But the one common factor is that you a book read and discuss it with others.

From time to time someone will come into the Bookstore looking for a book club selection. All too often we don't have the book but recently our library has made it easier for book club members to check out the books that are on their reading lists.

Katelin Deushane, Adult Librarian, is taking the process that has always been in place to request books from other branches and systems and has developed a procedure specifically for local book clubs.

Here is what you need to know:

- Each book club should designate a name for their club and create their reading list and schedules.
- Each book club will choose someone to contact Katelin with their reading list and schedule as well as the number of copies needed. Keep in mind that some members will want to purchase books or read them in a digital format so they are not included in the number of library copies needed.
- Once the books arrive Katelin will contact the designated person who can notify their book club members the books are ready to be checked out.
- Each book club member will come to the library, give the name of their book club and using their library card will check out their copy of the book to read.
- Only one copy of the book will be checked out to each person.
- The books will be due the week after the club meets.

Katelin suggests that book clubs avoid choosing the latest bestseller as soon as it is released. She needs time to gather books from other libraries, so you need to give her plenty of time before you have scheduled the book for your club discussion.

It is recommended you call Katelin at the library, 941 833-5460, to set up a time to meet with her or find out how to email your reading list.

Katelin has created this easy service to access books for you and can provide you with a wider range of options for book clubs. She is looking forward to hearing from you and beginning the process of ordering your books.

While we are always glad to sell you a book in the bookstore, we are pleased the library offers this process to assist book club participants. Thank you, Katelin.

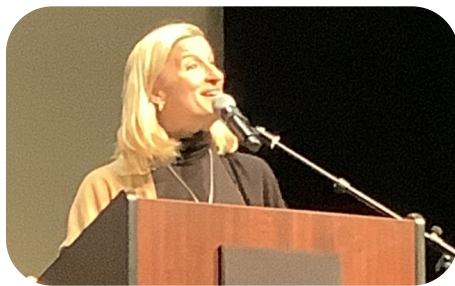
# Youth

## Literacy Outreach with Ruta Sepetys by Tony Farina, *Friends* Director



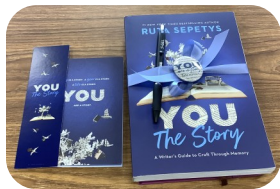
Bestselling novelist Ruta Sepetys was the featured writer for this year's Youth Literacy Outreach event. Sepetys, who writes historical fiction for young people, spoke to over 700 students at Charlotte High in January. She spoke on the importance of standing up to tyranny and how the voices of young people matter more than they could possibly imagine.

After her inspiring talk, hundreds of students lined up to have their books signed. Many brought their own books from home, and 100 lucky students received books through a random drawing, with books provided by the Friends. Sepetys not only signed books, she spoke with each and every student, making sure they felt seen and heard.



In the afternoon, Sepetys held a creative writing workshop with 20 students using her own non-fiction work, *You: The Story* as the guide. Students were initially a bit shy to be in the presence of their hero, but by

the end of the workshop, they were all speaking up and sharing their ideas. After the workshop was over, she, once again, spent another hour speaking with students who were unable to meet her earlier in the day.



One memorable conversation was with a young man whose family lived through the terror-filled reign of Nicolae Ceaușescu. The student spoke with Sepetys at length about how important her book *I Must Betray You*, which takes place during that time, was to him as he felt seen in a way he hadn't before. It was a touching and poignant moment. Sepetys reminded everyone that words have power and that we should use them carefully and purposefully.



# All Around The Library

## The Worldwide Library by Tony Farina, *Friends* Director

There is a misconception about libraries. People who don't use the library still think they are small, dank, dark places where one grumpy octogenarian shushes people all day. These folks wrongly believe that libraries are open from noon to four, a few days a week, and have little to no value to the community.

Of course, we the *Friends* know this is wrong. We are the Super Patrons. We know all about the programs and the laptop checkouts and the makerspace and the poetry nights. We happily support summer reading and love that the Mary Knowlton Teen Room is packed with kids playing video games.

Still, there is one aspect to the library that even the Power Users may forget about, and that is the way we can use the library when we are not even there. Your ability to be a Super Patron doesn't end when you cross the state lines. Even being in another country can't stop you from using the Punta Gorda Charlotte County library because the electronic services defy geography.


My personal favorite is Hoopla Digital. I get audiobooks, e-books, and comic books from there all the time. When I travel, I download a few movies for the trip. When a new album drops on Friday, I can check it out for a week, in a try before I buy situation. However, one thing people may not know is that Hoopla Digital has "Binge Passes" which allow patrons to check out an entire season of TV or scores of current magazines all at once for seven days with only one borrow.

Cloud Library also has an excellent collection of e-books and audiobooks, but it has a separate newsstand app for patrons to read current magazines. Kanopy's digital film archive is reminiscent of days of yore when we walked the aisles of the video store trying to find some hidden gem. Both of these are easily accessible on almost any mobile device and computer. Plus, you can download the Kanopy app on a smart TV.

News junkies can access *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* from anywhere. The access codes renew every day for the NYT and every three days for the WSJ, but that just takes a few seconds and before you know it, you have access to some of the best news and opinions in the world. If you are in town, you can go into the library to get unlimited digital access to the current *Charlotte Sun* but you can get the archive free, from anywhere. There is also a stand-alone *Newspaper Archive* which is a researcher's dream as it has papers going back over 100 years from over 130 publishers.

There are also a variety of magazine, e-book, and newspaper archives available in the Florida Electronic Library. Students of all ages can access information they need to complete school work with the assurance that the material was written and edited by humans. When teachers want valid academic sources, this is the place to go.

Believe it or not, there are even more services. There are some databases for business leads, job hunting, and genealogy. So, just because you may not want to leave the house during the summer months because it is too darn hot, or if you are a snow bird, having migrated north for the season, your library is there for you, 24/7 365. The World-Wide Library never closes. No one is there to shush you. The most powerful piece of plastic you have in your wallet is your library card.



**Digital Library**  
Find eBooks, eAudiobooks, digital newspapers and magazines, family history, and more.

CloudLibrary      The New York Times      kanopy  
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL      hoopla      ancestry  
in-library use only

Available through Charlotte County Library Services Website

# In Other News

## Looking for a Book Club to Join? by LeAnn Beckwith, Editor

The Punta Gorda Charlotte Library offers several options for you to join. Adults can participate in the Third Thursday Book Discussion Group, which meets on the third Thursday of each month. Come ready to discuss the book of the month, and you can pick up a copy at the circulation desk.

Another option for adults is the Spanish Book Club. Explore literature from Spain and Latin America, engage in lively discussions, and enjoy a welcoming, language-rich environment. It's a great fit for both book lovers and Spanish language enthusiasts! Participants can read the book in Spanish or in English translation before joining the bilingual discussion. Be sure to check with the library for meeting dates and times.

For children and families, the Bookworm Explorers club offers fun, adventure, and creativity every Tuesday. Enjoy magical stories, exciting characters, and perhaps even solve a few mysteries. After each story, there will be discussions, games, and hands-on activities.

Additionally, Copperfish Books, our local bookstore, has five different book clubs to choose from: Mostly Fiction, Thrills & Chills, Romance, Cookbook, and Fantasy Guild. They meet once a month (except for Cookbook and Fantasy Guild), and new members are always welcome. For more details, visit [copperfishbooks.com/book-clubs](http://copperfishbooks.com/book-clubs).



## 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)

Name

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

Email and/or Phone Number

# Friends Events

## Literary Luncheon Platinum Sponsor: Judi Roth



Once again, the Friends of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library Literary Luncheon was the event of the season. This year, the raffle included a mixture of baskets, events, services, and gift cards to local businesses. Literacy Outreach speaker and lifetime member, Ruta Sepetys, attended the luncheon and donated a complete signed collection of her books. The centerpiece of the raffle was a quilt, which was again expertly crafted by Linda Bauman.



The 2025 luncheon speaker was the award-winning author Fiona Davis, whose most recent book, *The Stolen Queen*, is already a bestseller in its third printing. Davis was gracious with her time before and after the event, signing books sold by our friends at Copperfish Books and taking pictures with and chatting with attendees.



During her talk, she shared how the history of New York City's iconic buildings draws her into research, making them the backdrop for her storylines. All of her books are rooted in research and she always finds a central building to serve as a character in the text. By doing this, she allows readers familiar with those locations to feel as though her fictional events are springing to life.



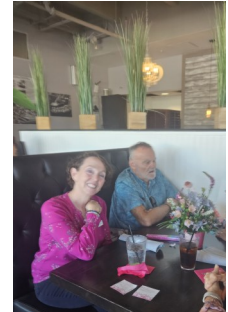
She explained her process in detail by taking the luncheon guests through her first book, *The Dollhouse*. In it, she focuses on a mystery that centers around The Barbizon Hotel for Women. The hotel, originally opened in 1928 as a hotel for artistic women, eventually evolved and opened to all women. Later, it was turned into very upscale condominiums, which included a floor of rent-controlled apartments housing some of the residents from its bygone era. It is in that attention to detail that Davis crafts her stories.

Thank you to Berna Goldberg for co-chairing the event with Katie Mazzi and Susan Graff. Berna handled all the booking, scheduling and travel arrangements for Fiona Davis while Susan Graff created a spectacular raffle as well as decorated the dining tables with beautiful centerpieces. We couldn't have done it without them.

## Volunteer Luncheon by Tony Farina, *Friends* Director

This year, the annual Volunteer Luncheon was held in January instead of April. This move allowed the Friends of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library to make sure all of our amazing library volunteers could be honored. The luncheon is a great time for the Friends to honor the amazing volunteers who keep our bookstore running. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated group who care about our mission, and we are grateful to each and every one of them. Thank you all!

Outgoing President and lifetime Friend, Minerva King, was able to attend, and she was honored for her years of dedication.





***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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

# ***BOOKMARK***

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