



Palm Reader News

Volume 9, Number 2

Spring 2011

Newsletter for Friends of Fort Myers Library

FRIENDS OF THE FORT MYERS LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS

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Carol Rooksby Weidlich

Board Meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month. Members are welcome to attend.

As a Friend of the Fort Myers Library, your membership helps to strengthen the resources and services of the Library.

From the President ~

April is **Volunteer Recognition Month** but volunteers are appreciated all year round. Under the current economic conditions and consequent budget restraints, the library system would not be able to provide many of the current services without our volunteers. As the Library Staff said on their invitation to the volunteer luncheon, *"Volunteers don't get paid – because they're priceless."*

The Annual Reading Festival was a huge success again this year as an estimated 20,000 people listened to and met a number of well known authors. This was the first Festival with Marge Byers of the administration staff at the helm and she did a great job. From a personal standpoint, we again had company from Chicago that came just for the Festival to meet the authors. She enjoyed every minute of it and was not disappointed. Library staff worked long and hard but, without volunteers, this remarkable event would not have happened.



Groups such as the Friends are totally dependent on volunteers. Nothing gets done unless somebody (a volunteer) does it. We are one of many volunteer groups throughout the community. It's your talent, time and/or money that helps us help the library. With Spring here, we have lost some of our volunteers who are snowbirds but the need for assistance still remains. A "Friends" volunteer is not a full time commitment. You can volunteer for just a single project – such as a book sale – and find out how much fun it can be while you help make a difference.

See you in the library!
Byron Wallace

Friends Book Sale Meeting Room

Saturday,
May 14, 2011
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Welcome New and Renewing Members

New Members

Diane Dunn
Margaret Eash
Jamella Pompilus
Maria Elena Van Boekel

Renewed Members

Bob Gibson
Paul Beaulieu
Edith C. Breker
Laura A. B. Cifelli
Paul E. Collins
Christine Dagostino
Jim and Karen Duff
Martin Fraser
Nathalie Hahn
Gina Hamister
Connie Holzinger
William D. and Maureen Shannon Jefferson
Ray and Sue Kocol
Lee County Genealogical Society
Emma Lotter
Raymond C. Naval
Carl and Bev Ray
Beverly A. Thompson
Diane Trebilcock
Beverly Ward
Gary Waselkov
Jack and Mary Liz Woods

Successful Sidewalk Book Sale

The Friends' March 5th Sidewalk Book Sale was a big success! A beautiful Spring day brought a steady flow of visitors. Proceeds of the sale will be used to benefit library programs and services to patrons. Our sincere thanks to a group of dedicated workers who arrived early, set up tables, unpacked books and loaded carts, then worked all day at the sale assisting customers.

If you missed the event, be sure to mark your calendar now for the next Book Sale on Saturday, May 14. Friends members will receive advance notice by e-mail (if we have your email address). The May 14th sale will be indoors in the library's meeting room from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Come early for best selection!

Of course, you can visit the Friends' Book Store any time the library is open. Selection is good and prices are very reasonable--nothing is over \$2.00. The Friends welcome donations of clean, gently read books and CDs or DVDs that are in good condition. If you have items to donate, please inquire at the Fort Myers Library's Circulation Desk.

Be sure to check the Friends' web site www.fortmyersfriends.org for information. Please consider joining the Friends of the Library today to help promote reading in the community.



Carolyn Ford
Secretary

A Busy March at the Library

In March 2011 the Fort Myers-Lee County Public Library chalked up a total of *26,014 visitors* who checked out 34,269 items. Many patrons also use the computers. The average number of computer logins is about 8,000 per month.

VISIT OUR BOOK STORE!

Each time you visit the Fort Myers Library, check to see what's been added to the Friends Book Store.
It's just around the corner from the Circulation Desk.
Donations are on the honor system, and nothing is over \$2.00.

Special Announcement

On Thursday, May 5, 2011 at the Double Tree Hotel in Orlando, Florida, Friends President Byron Wallace and Newsletter Editor Carol Rooksby Weidlich received the **Florida Library Association Friends, Foundations & Boards Newsletter of the Year Award for 2011** for the Friends of the

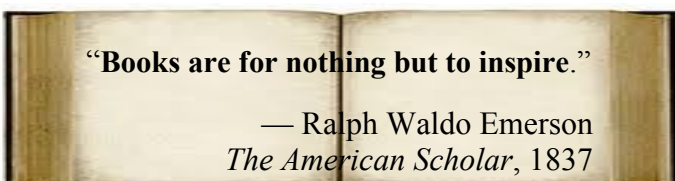


Fort Myers Library Newsletter, the *Palm Reader News*. The award is given for a newsletter produced by Friends, demonstrating a high quality of writing, as well as promoting libraries, library programs and the Friends.

The Florida Library Association (FLA) develops programs and undertakes activities to warrant a leadership position for all areas of librarianship. FLA works with other professional organizations and professions to provide opportunities for librarians and support staff to advance their skills and increase their effectiveness in today's electronic world. FLA is a strong legislative advocate for excellence in all types of library service both in and outside the State of Florida.

The Friends of the Fort Myers Library are proud that our newsletter highlights the Fort Myers library's vitality by showcasing our dedicated staff and the variety of programs conducted for the library's patrons.

The Palm Reader News is emailed or mailed to members. Complimentary copies are also distributed to City and Lee County officials. It is also available at our website, and is distributed at the library book store, museums, hospitals, and at various meetings attended by board members.



Notes from the Fort Myers Library Staff

Haitian Computer Classes at the Fort Myers-Lee County Library

The Haitian-American Coalition for Community Empowerment in partnership with the Fort Myers-Lee County Library has begun offering a series of Beginners Computer classes. Presented in English and Haitian-Creole, these classes are designed around basic teaching and learning techniques, and provide hands-on experience in a wide variety of subjects and skills. Special emphasis is put on Internet usage for employment search skills, preparing resumes and cover letters, child safety computing and computer dangers, effective typing and keyboard usage, navigating on a desktop, and acquaintance with programs such as MS Word.



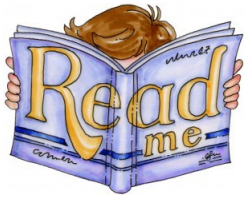
The idea behind offering the classes grew out of outreach programs developed by Marie Elsie Innocent, Founder and President of the Haitian-American Coalition for Community Empowerment. Ms. Innocent is a local Haitian-American community activist who partners with a number of local and state social service providers. The classes are conducted by Christopher Lewinski, the Director of the Haitian-American Coalition for Community Empowerment.

Mr. Lewinski graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in Forestry and Environmental Science. In January 2011, he became the Director of the Haitian American Coalition for Community Empowerment, Inc., where he is helping to develop and expand the next generation of the Coalition in Southwest Florida in Education, Big Brother/Big Sister mentoring, resource drives, good samaritanship and assisting with the development of two K-12 schools in Haiti.

Bryan Mulcahy

Reference Librarian

Summer Reads



The summer season is just around the corner, and it is time for some sizzling summer reads. Whether you like relaxing beach reads, romance, or spine chilling suspense, these bestsellers are sure to please.

Smokin' Seventeen by Janet Evanovich – Stephanie Plum is back for another rollicking adventure.

Carte Blanche by Jeffery Deaver – An exciting addition, this is the latest James Bond 007 thriller.

Buried Prey by John Sandford – Lucas Davenport is back in this latest Prey novel, and he is determined to solve the case and find the truth.

Dead Reckoning by Charlaine Harris – This is the next installment in the extremely popular Susie Stackhouse vampire series.

Summer Rental by Mary Kay Andrews – Best friends learn about life and love in North Carolina's Outer Banks.

One Summer by David Baldacci – Heartbreak and loss, this family drama will surely touch your heart.

Fallen by Karin Slaughter – Faith Mitchell must use every cop instinct she has to find her mother in this latest Georgia Bureau of Investigation series book.

Now You See Her by James Patterson – A woman's seemingly perfect life explodes when she uncovers a terrible secret.

Watch Me Die by Erica Spindler – Trying to recover from a painful past, a woman is being hunted by a cunning psychopath.

When Passion Rules by Johanna Lindsey – Mistaken identity and secret assassins, Lindsey's next novel pits a princess against a palace guard.

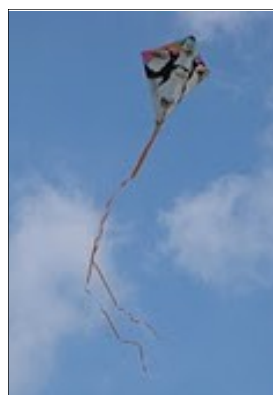
Erica Hassler

Reference Librarian

Kite Day 2011

“March winds and April showers brings forth May Flowers.” Our beautiful Florida weather provides flowers much of the year, but for the 9th year in a row, March has brought forth Kite Day at the Fort Myers Library. The longest, continuously offered LCLS program, Kite Day draws children and parents from other branches as well as our own. All year both staff and children look forward to this special day, although only the staff seems to remember it is always in March.

Starting in summer I begin the process of searching the Internet for the next kites. This year I returned to one of our favorites, X-Kites, and negotiated directly with the manufacturer. I chose a 23” Mylar diamond kite featuring the popular cartoon Penguins of Madagascar. The company offered us all 36 kites needed for the program for \$1.25 each and they paid for shipping. What a deal!



On March 30, Kite Day, we anxiously watched the weather radar. The hope is always wind but not rain. The library's front lawn is frequently breezy, but sustained winds occur only above the roof. Getting the kites high enough to maintain altitude is a challenge on the bowl-like lawn. The children started out watching a video consisting of photos from previous Kite Days interspersed with safety information. When we finally hit the front lawn, kites in hand, the usual chaos/merriment ensued. Children ran, kites flew,

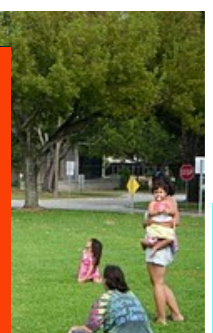
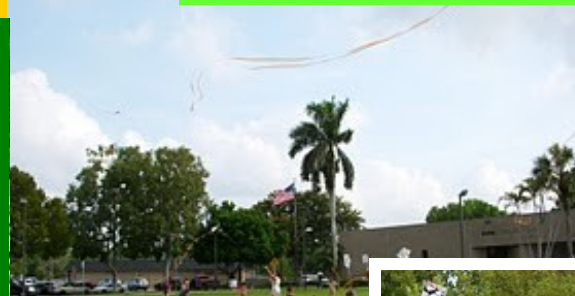
Friends of the Fort Myers Library

kites crashed, strings tangled, staff untangled, and children laughed. Even our FMPD duty officer helped launch kites.

The threatening weather held off just long enough again this year. We had a sky full of kites and a lawn full of enthusiasts – children, parents, and staff, alike.

As I write this, one week has passed and I expect any day to hear, “*When is Kite Day?*” The 10th Annual Kite Day will be March, 2012. Thank you, Friends, for making our favorite day possible.

Laura Cifelli
Reference Librarian



Friends of the Fort Myers Library

Membership Application (please print)

Date: _____ New Renewal
Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Check One: K-12 \$5 Individual \$10 Family \$15 Contributor \$30 Benefactor \$50

Volunteer Application: I am interested in helping with:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book Sales | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing Newsletter Articles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Preparing Newsletter for Mailing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Developing Fund Raising Projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |

Please make your check payable to: Friends of the Fort Myers Library, Inc.

Please mail it to: **Friends of the Fort Myers Library, Inc.**
2050 Central Avenue
Fort Myers, FL 33901

BECOME A FRIEND TODAY!



Friends of the Fort Myers Library, Inc.
2050 Central Avenue
Fort Myers, FL 33901

MEMORIAL DAY
Monday, May 30, 2011
ALL BRANCHES CLOSED

