



Palm Reader News

Volume 10, Number 1

Winter 2012

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 ~

Welcome back snowbirds! I hope you, along with our year-round residents, are planning to visit the Fort Myers-Lee County Public Library and also attend Friends' meetings. Remember our Friends' Book Store is always open during library hours.

The Friends' Annual Meeting was held on January 17. The program featured a visual presentation by librarian Kathleen Beebe-Presnell showing a sampling of the programs held at the library during 2011, most of which were funded by the Friends of the Fort Myers Library. In addition, this was our first opportunity as a Board to see a display of the architectural plans and sketches of the new library. A comprehensive overview of the new library's features was provided by the Lee County Library System Deputy Director, Terri Crawford. Terri also made the announcement that we've all been waiting for — the date for ground breaking. This exciting event is scheduled for Tuesday, March 27 at 2:00 p.m. on the site of the new library. We would be delighted to have everyone join us. Construction is set to start in April with an expected opening in the summer of 2013.

The Friends' focus has been, and continues to be, to support the Fort Myers-Lee County Public Library by providing funds for programs, services and equipment not in the system's budget. The programs attract all ages whether it's Kite Day, the Bored Room, summer reading, genealogy or the Small Business Series. In addition, the Friends donated \$2000.00 to The Southwest Florida Reading Festival, thanks to your help and support of the Friends' book sales.

One of the highlights of the year for me was the Florida Library Association annual meeting in Orlando. The *Palm Reader News* was designated the best Friends newsletter in the state. It was wonderful to have our editor, Carol Rooksby Weidlich, recognized for the work she does in producing a great newsletter. New in 2011 was a resolution designating Friends of the Library Week. Lee County Commissioners and the City of Fort Myers endorsed October as Family History Month which reflected the joint activities of the Library, the Friends and the Lee County Genealogical Society. Continued on page 2



*The Lee County Board of County Commissioners
and the City of Fort Myers
cordially invite you to attend the Ground Breaking Ceremony
for the Fort Myers – Lee County Library
on Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 2:00 p.m.
near the corner of First Street and Royal Palm Avenue
in Fort Myers, Florida*

From the President *continued*

At the Presidents' Forum held by the Library Foundation of Lee County, we initiated a group discussion focusing on the future financial crisis that looms in the relatively near future. For the past several years, the reserve fund has been utilized for operating expense and the library levy significantly cut. The reserve fund was set up with an additional levy during the years 2000 to 2005 in order to fully develop a needed regional library system. A number of new libraries have been built using these funds. The new Fort Myers-Lee County Public Library will also use a portion of the reserve fund. Although other libraries, such as North Fort Myers and Bonita Springs need additional space, the reserve fund will be virtually depleted in the next year. The current levy will be totally inadequate to operate the library system without drastic measures. The county Friends' groups, even though we contributed over \$125,000 last year for programs and equipment, cannot possibly make up for the loss of funds. We need recognition in the community that the library levy must bring in enough funds to operate a very needed resource. It is incumbent on all of us to educate the public and our representatives on the need and value of our libraries and be a part of finding the solution.

See you in the library!

Byron Wallace

Welcome New and Renewing Members

New Members

Barbara Carr
Thomas Cox
Renee Rivard

Renewed Members

Ed Barton	Edith Kingsley
Paul Beaulieu	Robert Repenning
Jennet Buri	Linda Ritz
David J. Cook	Charles Runnells
Ruth Emmel	Diane Trebilcock
Mary Enstrom	Byron Wallace
Bonnie Eskra	Kaye Wallace
Carolyn Ford	Beverly Ward
Bob Gibson	Shellie Weber
Gina Hamister	Carol Rooksby Weidlich

Lee County Genealogical Society, Inc.

We appreciate all of your support during the past year and urge other members from 2011 to continue to be active advocates in 2012, as we get closer to the groundbreaking for our new Library. Persuade your reading friends to become members, too! Give them a gift membership! Remember, we have gift certificates available for upcoming book sales. Check our website for more information.

www.fortmyersfriends.org

Robert Gibson
Treasurer

13th Annual Southwest Florida Reading Festival



Book lovers in Southwest Florida always look forward to the Lee County Library System's annual Southwest Florida Reading Festival. This year's celebration of the importance of reading is planned for Saturday, March 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Activities for all members of the family will take place in Harborside

Event Center and Centennial Park. It's an exciting day that you won't want to miss, with authors, performers, exhibitors, crafts and food. Visit <http://readfest.leegov.com> to learn more about this very special event as well as all the services that local libraries currently provide.

The Southwest Florida Reading Festival depends solely on funding from the community. The Friends of the Fort Myers Library annually have provided support in the amount of \$2,000. Your support will also make a difference. Please plan to attend an important fundraising event on Friday, March 16 --"An Evening with the Authors" from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at The Landings. Registration information is available on the library's website <http://readfest.leegov.com>.

Beer Worms ~ Square Grouper and Indians -- Oh my!

What in the world are “beer worms”? you ask. Well, you’ll just have to read Maureen Sullivan-Hartung’s book to find out. Did we learn the answer during the recent Meet the Author event? Indeed we did!



On Saturday, January 21 a group of history buffs sat mesmerized by the tales of brave men and courageous women who lived in and near Everglades City during a time when life was hard, mosquitoes were plentiful and your neighbors made a living by smuggling because they needed to survive. Naples author Maureen Sullivan-Hartung brought their colorful stories to life during a program sponsored by the Friends of the Fort Myers Library. Her book *Hidden History of Everglades City and Points Nearby* is in several branches of the Lee County Library System and is constantly checked out. Following the program,

Maureen was kind enough to sign special copies of the book for attendees.

Speaking enthusiastically about how she got the idea for the book and how she proceeded to compile the information, Maureen revealed that as a reporter for the weekly *Everglades Echo*



newspaper she would collect bits and pieces of Florida history, with no thought at the time about writing a book. The reporting assignments often took her into the areas she wrote about, and even included delivering the papers. But after meeting the late Totch Brown, a natural-born storyteller and author of *Totch: A Life in the Everglades* and seeing through his eyes the best parts of southwest Florida, Maureen was hooked. She knew the story had to be told. Now Maureen is busily planning a second book, and we look forward to more captivating tales of Florida’s Last Frontier.



Carolyn Ford
Secretary



Author Maureen Sullivan-Hartung
and Friends of the Library
Board Members Beverly Ward,
Carol Weidlich and Carolyn Ford.



Notes from the Fort Myers Library Staff

Upcoming Programs at the Library

Librarian and “Craft Queen” Linda Kroeker has several of her popular programs scheduled for February and March. Learn some new crafting techniques and make some beautiful Valentines on Friday, February 3 from 10:00 am-12 noon. “Bead a Netted Bracelet” will be held on Friday, March 23 from 9:30 am – 12 noon. Make a beautiful ruffled version of a bracelet that will look great on you, or would make a special gift. All materials are supplied, and registration is required.



Previously held program on creating stitched samplers.

Join the Fort Myers book discussion group on Wednesday, February 15 when the topic will be Daniel Silva’s *The Kill Artist*, the first book in the author’s popular Gabriel Allon series. On March 21 the group will be discussing another first book in a series, *The Unexpected Mrs. Pollifax*, by Dorothy Gilman. The group meets from 12:00-1:00 pm, and refreshments will be served. No registration is necessary.

There will be a series of beginning genealogy classes held every Saturday in February from 9:30 am-12:30 pm. The topic on February 4 will be “Using Home Sources and Organizing Your Research.” On February 11, “Finding Your Family in the United States Census” will be covered. “Using Court House Resources and Vital Records” will be discussed on February 18, and the last session on February 25 will be on “Using Alternative or Hidden Resources For Locating Ancestors.” Also, a one session workshop on

Beginning genealogy will be held on Saturday, March 31 from 9:30 am-12:30 pm. These sessions are very popular and usually fill quickly, so plan to register soon.

On March 8 from 10:00 am-12 noon there will be a program called “What’s in Your Fast Food?” Celia Hill of the Lee County IFAS will give the whole truth about fast food. Please register for this informative program.

If you’re looking for a job or know someone who is, you might be interested in the following programs. “Making a Good First Impression Plus...Super Interview Skills” will be presented on March 13 from 6:30-7:45 pm. On March 19 from 2:00-3:30 pm, “Improve Your Resumé Skills” will be held, followed by “Online Job Application Skills” on March 22 from 2:00-3:30 pm. Registration is required.

Last but not least, one of the library’s popular business programs will be held on Monday, March 26 from 2:00-4:30 pm. The topic is “Reading, Understanding and Repairing Your Personal Credit” and is designed for small business owners or those needing start-up information. Please register for this important program.

For more information on any of the programs listed above or to register, please call 479-4636 or stop by the Fort Myers-Lee County Public Library at 2050 Central Avenue, Fort Myers.

Julie Pierce

Head of Reference

VISIT OUR BOOK STORE!

Each time you visit the Fort Myers-Lee County Public 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.

Computer and Kindle Instruction Classes

The Fort Myers-Lee County Library offers free beginning computer classes for those with little or no computer experience. These classes are designed to assist the novice in learning how to use a mouse and keyboard, send an email message with an attachment, use the Internet for searches, and use Microsoft Word to write a letter or resumé. Computer instruction classes which began on Monday, January 9, 2012 consist of four sessions per month. Classes are scheduled each month through the end of April from 1:00-3:00 pm. Registration is required; please call 479-4636 or stop by the Fort Myers-Lee County Public Library to sign up. Classes fill quickly, but we are happy to add your name to a waiting list.



We will also be offering classes introducing users to the world of Kindle e-book readers. Kindles utilize wireless connectivity to enable users to shop for, download, browse, and read e-books, newspapers, magazines, blogs, and other digital media. The next session is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14 at 1:00 pm. Call 479-4636 to register.



The classes are taught by Nancy Kimble, who is a former Louisiana public school teacher, retired Texas Certified Public Accountant (CPA), and retired Texas employee with the state's Medicaid program. Mrs. Kimble has over 30 years teaching experience.

Bryan Mulcahy
Reference Librarian



Anyone who says they have only one life to live must not know how to read a book.

~Author Unknown

You Make Us Shine!



Sheldon Kaye, Lee County Library Director, Jennet Buri, Principal Librarian, Regional Manager, Fort Myers-Lee County Public Library and Amy Jane McWilliam, the November **You Make Us Shine Award** winner.

Congratulations to **Amy Jane McWilliam**, Library Associate in the Telephone Reference unit at the Fort Myers-Lee County Public Library, the November recipient of the **You Make Us Shine Award!**

Amy was recognized for providing excellent customer service in her Telephone Reference position where she interacts daily answering patrons' questions about using portable devices and solving downloading problems with Download Depot. This experience led Amy to volunteer her service at the *OverDrive Digital Bookmobile* when it visited the new Fort Myers-Lee County Public Library location on Tuesday, November 15, 2011.

On Tuesday, January 3, 2012 Sheldon Kaye presented Amy Jane with the **You Make Us Shine Award**. She received a framed certificate detailing her nomination and a \$10.00 gift certificate to Rib City. The Fort Myers-Lee County Public Library staff will proudly display the black marble roving plaque announcing the award recipient.

Jennet Buri
Principal Librarian and Regional Manager

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



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