



Palm Reader News

Volume 8, Number 3

Summer 2010

Newsletter for Friends of Fort Myers Library

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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 ~

I have been a patron, Friend and observer of the Fort Myers Library for many years. I now see far more patrons coming through our doors. The library is, these days, more of a service facility, and not just a book provider. The most obvious example is the long line waiting to use the computers. Unfortunately many of our patrons also need additional direct help from staff in order to use the computer for such tasks as finding job listings or making social service applications. Often this is the only way these patrons have to approach a potential employer or file an application. Computers and computer skills are lacking in the homes of many unemployed. Our library budget has seen substantial cuts in the last couple of years even with the use of emergency reserve funds. Manpower, material and supplies have been drastically reduced. Many programs have been eliminated from the budget. Our Friends group, along with volunteers, have tried to fill as much of this void as possible. Remaining staff members have been going the extra mile to make sure that patrons are served but there are, unfortunately, limits.

The major problem is beyond our control – the economy. People are unemployed and property values in the county dropped by over fourteen percent last year. There is a separate tax levy for libraries and the current tax rate is artificially low because of the past use of emergency reserve funds, which are running out. Setting a reasonable tax rate in this stressed economy is extremely difficult. The County Board will have to balance essential services with a tax rate to provide such. I consider library services essential and our support is needed and required. However, each Board Member will have to bring his/her own view and understanding to the issue.

Libraries deserve and demand our support!

See you in the library!

Byron Wallace



Family Back-to-School Book Sale

Saturday September 25

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

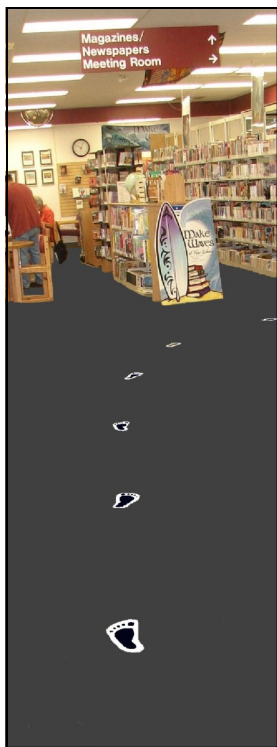
Another Successful Friends Book Sale

The *Friends of the Fort Myers Library* held another successful Book Sale on July 10. We spent Friday, July 9 setting up the meeting room



with a wide variety of books, CDs, DVDs and videos. A steady flow of visitors making their selections kept us busy all day on Saturday.

Our next sale will be a “family” event featuring mostly books for youngsters, from beginning readers to teens. We will also have books for the rest of the family, based on the donations that we receive over the summer. 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.

The Friends of the Fort Myers Library work to support library programs and services to patrons of all ages. Please consider joining the Friends of the Library today to help promote reading in the community.

Carolyn Ford
Secretary

Follow the footsteps to our next book sale on Saturday, September 25, 2010.

Gift Books: A Lasting Dedication

The Friends of the Fort Myers Library invite you to:

Celebrate a Life

Celebrate a birthday, holiday or special occasion by donating a book to the library in the name of a special person, group or business.

Recognize a Life

Recognize an accomplishment in someone’s life. Remember a birthday, anniversary or milestone in someone’s life with the special gift of a book for the library’s collection.

Honor a Memory

What better way to remember someone than to make a gift of a book. A contribution to the library is a meaningful way in which the memory of a deceased relative, friend or colleague can be preserved.

Gift Books directly connect individuals and groups to the Fort Myers-Lee County Library. Designation of your Memorial Book Gift extends the value and impact of the life you seek to recognize.

When a memorial gift is made, the family of the honoree will be notified, advising them of your thoughtfulness. In addition, you will receive acknowledgment of your gift to the library. A bookplate will be placed in the fly-leaf of the memorial volume. It will state the honored person's name as well as the donor(s).

Book Gift Request forms are available at the Library’s Circulation Desk and Reference Desk.





Notes from the Fort Myers Library Staff

Summer Days at the Fort Myers Library



Summer is in full swing at the Fort Myers Library. Attendance is well over 1000 a day with job seekers, laptop users, readers, and kids on summer break all sharing the available space. The staff is doing their best to provide entertainment and enrichment for children and teens. World of Reptiles, Geddy the Gecko, and Sea Creatures of Southwest Florida are a few of the programs being offered for children aged 6 and older. For teens, we have Palm Art, Fencing, and Zumba, a high-energy fitness program featuring Latin rhythms. To date, 225 children are signed up for the Summer Reading Team and there are 80 in our Teens Read and Win program. Temporary tattoos, plastic flutes, and harmonicas purchased with funds provided by the Friends will keep children happy and occupied in our Bored Room programs.

For adults, the Small Business Development Center seminar series continues along with upcoming programs on Researching Scandinavian Ancestors, Making a Recycled Box Book, and a book discussion on Sonny Brewer's *A Song like Thunder*.

I am meeting weekly with library administrative staff and the architects working on the plans for our new library building downtown. Although the project is still in the initial design phase, staff will soon start to get involved in the planning of interior work spaces. There will be opportunities for more public input in the future as well.

Lori Hansen mounted a display of books which she calls "*Hidden Treasures*" (see page 5). It features some fascinating books which for one reason or another have gotten overlooked and haven't circulated much. So, if you're looking for a good read this summer, come down to the library and take your pick from titles such as: *Latin Jazz*,

A Man's World: Every Guy's Guide to Cooking with a Blender, Liquid Mexico, or, perhaps most appropriate for the season, *Summer: A User's Guide*.

Jennet Buri

Principal Librarian / Regional Manager

Update

In our last newsletter we featured our Library "Page Team". In the article it was mentioned that team member Jerry Swallow is a proud grandmother of a U.S. NAVY Seal who had presented her with her own tee-shirt. We're proud to show you Jerry in her tee-shirt.



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.

Welcome New Members

Sara Ann Bull
Gene and Nan Gibson
Melissa Laskos
Jane Moore
Mary Smelter

Welcome Back Renewing Members

Carl and Bev Ray
Jim and Rita Thompson

Spotlight on Teens and Tweens Program



We enjoy having an active group of *Teens and Tweens* who in turn enjoy the library and the many services we are providing them. Here are a couple of the activities we have done so far this summer.

Kathleen Beebe
Young Adult Librarian

Make Waves at Your Library

On Wednesday June 23 our *Teens and Tweens* program gathered and created many different types of specialty license plates. This year's theme is *"Make Waves at Your Library"*. Group attendees created and decorated personalized ocean or sea theme license plates to take home. The instructor for this program was provided by the Alliance for the Arts, the program sponsor.



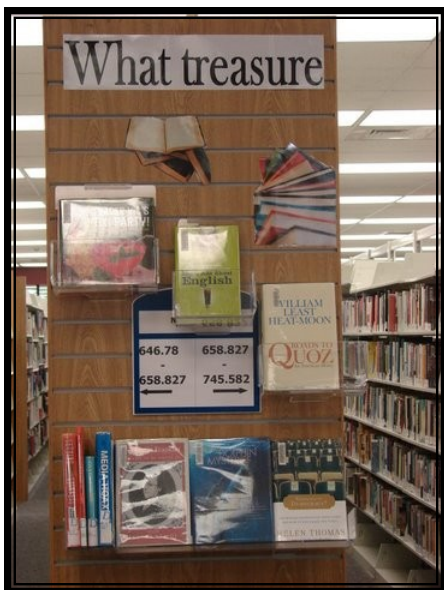
Royal Palm Art

On Wednesday June 30, twenty-six *Teens and Tweens* along with two parents enjoyed learning the art craft of weaving Royal Palm plants. Instructor Shawn Holiday (see right) presented an informative program and introduced the attendees to many creative projects. He discussed with his audience the importance of planet Earth as we incorporated natural organic plant materials in our projects. Shawn has a sense of humor and kept the teens and adults focused and on task. They made bracelets, baskets and writing paper!



Teaching the teens that we can create and have fun with little effort other than using our imagination, basic art skills and materials recycled from the earth brings satisfaction to both instructors and teens!





What will you find to read at the Fort Myers-Lee County Public Library this summer?

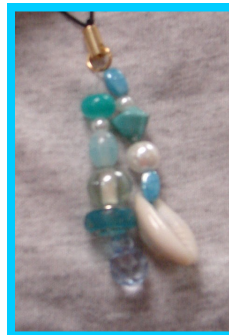
Fencing

Our *Teens and Tweens* Fencing program was held on Wednesday, July 14 and what fun! We had 30 for attendance. The boys had a great time and even the girls enjoyed the history about Fencing. The costumes were great and watching an actual fencing contest was amazing.



Phone Bling

Teens and Tweens met on Wednesday July 21, and decorated their cell phones, computer jump drives and key rings by adorning them with their favorite multi-colored shells, pearls or beads! Everyone enjoyed mixing and matching the beads and shells creating their own personalized *bling*.

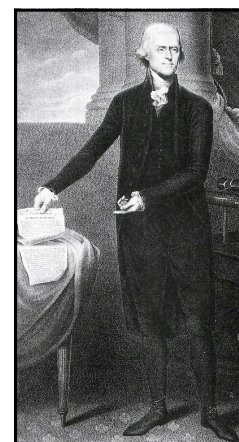


Library Closed

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|------------------------|---------------------|
| September 6 | Labor Day |
| September 9 | All branches closed |
| November 11 | Veteran's Day |
| November 25 and 26 | Thanksgiving |
| December 23, 24 and 25 | Christmas |
| December 30 and 31 | New Year's Day |

I cannot live without books.

~Thomas Jefferson



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:

Book Sales

Writing Newsletter Articles

Planning Programs

Preparing Newsletter for Mailing

Developing Fund Raising Projects

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

Happiness is having your own Library Card. Get one today!

Family Back-to-School Book Sale

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