



Palm Reader News

Volume 8, Number 2

Spring 2010

Newsletter for Friends of Fort Myers Library

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Public Library

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Board Meetings are on the
third Tuesday of each month.

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

From the President ~

The Southwest Florida Reading Festival was a huge success again this year with an estimated 18,000 to 20,000 visitors. The spaces seemed to be filled to overflowing with people who wanted to hear their favorite authors. This year, Kaye and I had a friend who came from Illinois just for the Festival. We went to the "Meet the Authors" program on Friday night and she was seated at the same table and able to meet and talk with her favorite author, Tim Dorsey. Needless to say, she was elated, bought his latest book and he autographed it for her. Your support of the Library System, Friends and volunteering for the Festival helped make this such a terrific event.

Have you been following the progress of the NEW Fort Myers Library? For three days in March and again for two days in April, Project for Public Spaces and BSSW Architects held focus group sessions attended by various community groups, the Friends, the Lee County Genealogical Society, local advocates and City and County officials and library staff. The summary of the suggested concepts and preliminary ideas for the new library development was seventeen pages long. A public community meeting was then held at the Methodist Church just east of the proposed new building site. The round table discussions were quite spirited over the pros and cons of the various suggestions. We recognize that not everything on our wish list can be accomplished but we do look forward to the response of the architects and planners.

Don't forget to thank staff for the outstanding service they are providing under very trying conditions – and – take the next step and be a library volunteer.

See you in the library!

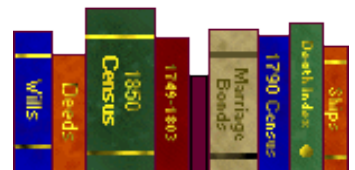
Byron Wallace

Friends Indoor Sidewalk Book Sale

Saturday, May 22, 2010
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friends Back-to-School Book Sale

Saturday September 25
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Successful Sidewalk Sale

The Friends' April 17th Sidewalk Book Sale was a smashing success! It was a beautiful Spring day and a steady flow of visitors spent \$930. 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 22. Friends members will receive advance notice by e-mail (if we have your email address). Be sure to check the Friends' website <www.fortmyersfriends.org> for information. Of course, you can visit the Friends' Book Store any time the library is open. Selection is good and prices are the same as at the Book Sale — nothing over \$2.00. The May 22 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!

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.

Carolyn Ford
Secretary



Welcome New Members

Danielle K. Binford
Jennet Buri
Richard Repenning
Doreen R. Sasso

President's Volunteer Service Award

At the Volunteers and Friends reception held Tuesday, April 20, eight individuals were presented with the *President's Volunteer Service Award for 2009-2010*.

Judith Diamond
Carolyn Ford
Gina Hamister
Susan Hoffield



Tom Kramer
John LaCoste
Carol Weidlich
Stephen Zinn

The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation was established by President George W. Bush in 2002 to acknowledge important contributions Americans of all ages are making within their communities through volunteerism. Then President Bush called upon all Americans to give two years or 4,000 hours of their lives to service and civic participation.

The President's Volunteer Service Award recognizes individuals, families, and groups that have achieved a certain standard — measured by the number of hours of service over a 12-month period or cumulative hours earned over the course of a lifetime.

Recipients received a congratulatory letter from President Barack Obama along with a certificate and a service pin recognizing their hours served.



The President's Volunteer Service Award is an initiative of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation in conjunction with the Corporation for National and Community Service and the USA Freedom Corps and is administered by the Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network. For more information visit <www.nationalservice.gov>.

Library Staff Presentations at the Friends Annual Meeting, January 19, 2010



11th Annual Southwest Florida Reading Festival on March 20, 2010



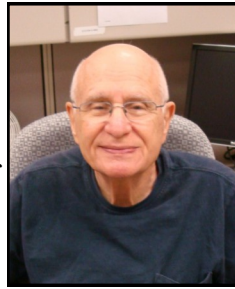
Kite Day March 24, 2010





Notes from the Fort Myers Library Staff

Remembering Joel Katz Fort Myers-Lee County Public Library Volunteer



This past January, we lost one of the finest volunteers who ever served at the Fort Myers-Lee County Library. Joel Katz passed away on January 25, 2010. He was 81 years young. Joel had been with us since May of 2008. Joel volunteered in our circulation department. Although we have been blessed with many wonderful volunteers, Joel may very well have been the most beloved of all because of his compassion and sense of humor. Even when faced with challenging circumstances on hectic days, Joel always had a smile on his face.

Joel touched all of our hearts with his loving kindness and sense of humor. He came to work at the library every day, 6 days a week and did a huge amount of work for us. He maintained our DVD collection, cleaning them and checking them for damage, and knew the cleaning machine better than anyone. When it didn't work, he would take it apart and put it back together! He also helped us tag a lot of our collection for our new checkout system (called RFID). He was amazing!

Jane Childrey
Library Associate

Bryan L. Mulcahy
Reference Librarian

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.

Meet the Fort Myers Library Page Staff

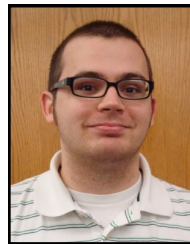
Fort Myers Library is fortunate to have an excellent Page team. They are a group of unique individuals who work together well and truly deserve the title "*Page Team.*"



Jerry Swallow has been with us the longest, about 5 ½ years. Ask Jerry to tell you about her grandson... no, that's not just a catch phrase. Her grandson just graduated from Navy SEAL training, and she has the T-shirt to prove it. She's justifiably proud of that, and we're proud for her.



Jim Duff has been with us 3 years now, and is one of our 3 students. Jim is studying library science and is about a third of the way to his degree. He's going to make a terrific librarian. He's calm, level headed, and an impressive planner - useful traits for a librarian in our troubling times.



Another of our students is *Matthew Hardy* who has been a Fort Myers page for about 2 ½ years. Matthew started out with a major in English, but he's now changed to Cardiovascular Technology. He enjoys playing alternative punk guitar and reading Kurt Vonnegut.



Bianca Engle, our newest page, is a native of Rhode Island. She will be graduating from FIU at the end of the winter term with a degree in Communication with a journalism and philosophy minor, and is considering library school. You'll recognize her by her sporty car or ninja motorcycle.

Fort Myers Library is proud to have each of them as part of our library family.

Linda Kroeker
Reference Librarian

February Beginners Genealogy Series

Each February, the Fort Myers Lee-County Library System offers a four week beginners level course in genealogical research. The series is taught by Gina Hamister, our volunteer from Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, Ohio. Gina is a retired librarian and has 30+ years experience in the field of genealogical research in addition to her experience as a Reference Librarian. Gina is a member of the Lee County Genealogical Society as well as Vice President of the Friends of the Fort Myers Library. Gina also serves on the Board of Directors for both the Western Reserve Historical Society and the New England Historical Genealogical Society. Gina has served as a volunteer with the Lee County Library System since 1999.

Gina covers a wide variety of subjects that are critical for success, especially in the beginning stages of research. Course lectures discussed the following topics:

1. Home sources and organization techniques
2. Using federal and state census data
3. Locating and obtaining vital records and courthouse records
4. Alternative or hidden sources

The session dealing with alternative/hidden sources is especially important for researchers who use conventional records and strategies and run into roadblocks. Roadblocks are a fact of life in genealogical research regardless of your proficiency and dedication. However, that never stops most people. Gina has a proven track record for solutions in addition to her vast knowledge of how to utilize alternative sources and strategies.

As one patron said in the last class on courthouse records, *"Gina is a wealth of information. I would never have even thought to look in some of the areas she described. Nobody can stump her!!"* The 2010 edition of classes have attracted an average of 35 attendees per class which was an all-time high.

Bryan L. Mulcahy
Reference Librarian

Upcoming Events at the Fort Myers-Lee County Public Library

Baby-Parent Rhyme Time

May 20, 27, June 17, 24, July 1, August 19, 26

Book Discussion

May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18

Family Story Time

May 1, 5, 12

Genealogy Workshop

May 29, June 12, July 24

Introduction to Computers and the Internet

May 3, 10, 11, 17

Kids Read Down Fines

May 12, June 2

Small Business Series

May 24, June 28, July 26, August 23

Summer Reading Team

June 22, 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27

Teen — Read It, Watch It, Win It

June 23, 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28, 31

Tweens and Teens

May 5, 26, June 9, 30, August 11

Library Closed

May 31	Memorial Day
July 4	Independence Day
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

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!