

March - April 2021

# Check This Out!

Newsletter of the Friends of the Library - Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

## Friends of the Library Ponte Vedra Beach Board of Directors 2021

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**Alice Wilson**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We had our Annual Meeting - very differently this year. If you have not seen it, please go to our website [www.folpvbfl.org](http://www.folpvbfl.org) and meet our hard-working board. We have had one change this year with Susan Holiday leaving and Alice Wilson rejoining. We want to thank Susan and welcome back Alice, who many of you know as chair of our book sales. She also donated her family's dollhouse that sits in our library and fascinates everyone.

We are also pleased to welcome our new Youth Librarian, Lisa Calvert. A little-known fact about Lisa is that she trained Anne Crawford, and now they are working together again.

John Cellucci has volunteered to be our representative on the Library Advisory Board. He will speak for our library and let us know what is happening throughout the St. Johns County Library System. Thank

you, John, for doing this for us.

Recently, my granddaughter had to bring to a poem to school to read to her first grade class. It is one that I had not heard in a long time but it made me feel stronger and I hope it does the same for you.

### The Voice by Shel Silverstein

There is a voice inside of you  
that whispers all day long,  
"I feel this is right for me,  
I know that this is wrong."  
No teacher, preacher, parent, friend  
or wiseman can decide  
what's right for you - just listen to  
the voice that speaks inside.

**Leslie Kleiman**  
*President, Friends of the Library*

## BRANCH MANAGER'S REPORT

It's almost Spring and what a relief! That felt like a long winter to me. Soon we will be buying our beach passes and slathering on the sunscreen as we pick out swimsuits that coordinate with face masks. If you are like me you are still experiencing some moments of, "How did we get here? Who would have thought...," but hopefully these moments will continue to dwindle. In the meantime, your library staff appreciate how our patrons have dealt with the discomfort of masks and social distancing and the disappointment of so few in-person library programs. Our goal is to get back safely and your daily efforts to keep others healthy when visiting the library counts- we thank you!

If you haven't already met our newest staff member, Lisa, you are in for a delightful encounter! Lisa is our Youth

Librarian and joined us just a few weeks ago. She has an accomplished resume with experience working as a Youth Librarian, Web Services Librarian, and School Media Specialist. She has extensive experience creating fun and educational programming for youth and has a passion for connecting children to literacy opportunities. She is excited to get to know the families who visit the library (she told me so herself!), so please look for Lisa the next time you stop in and introduce yourself.

As always, we hope to see you in the library soon. We appreciate your patronage of this valuable community resource we call a Library and a Home Away from Home!

**Amy Ring**  
*Branch Manager*



# CHECK THIS OUT

## IT'S ELEMENTARY

### Recapturing Childhood

During these long days of staying home, it's more important than ever to help our children feel happy and safe. What better way than reading aloud!

Kate Banks is a writer whose books express an authenticity of observations, thoughts and emotions in young children. In her more than 40 picture books, the author encourages the readers to use and expand their imaginations. Everyday objects such as letter blocks, newspaper clippings, and erasers come alive with new adventures. She lives in France with her husband and two grown sons.

In How to Find an Elephant illustrated by Boris Kulikov, @2017, ages 4 - 6 years, a young boy sets out with binoculars, food, a blanket and a flute to look for an elephant. Not finding one he goes deep into the jungle and SURPRISE...the elephant comes to him. Colorful illustrations on each page hide some part of an elephant making it a game for the child.

What struck me while reading Kate Banks' books is the versatility of her subjects. The book The Eraserheads, @2010, illustrated by Boris Kulikov, ages 4 - 7 years, brings to life three erasers on top of pencils - a crocodile that is good with numbers, an owl that is good with words, and a pig that likes to eat (read erase) everything. These three helped the boy with homework, and one day when the boy made a drawing, the crocodile started erasing the road while a huge wave carried the eraser heads to an island full of wild animals.

Reading a bedtime story is the focus of the book The Bear in the Book, @2012, illustrated by Georg Hallensleben, ages 4 - 6 years. When mother reads to her son a story about a black bear getting ready to hibernate, the boy asks questions and identifies the animals. This is a story within a story, where the story of the bear in the book relates to the mother reading to her son getting ready for sleep.

**Marianne Stein**

*FOL Board Member*

## RAPID REVIEW

HAMNET, by Maggie O'Farrell, was chosen as one of the ten best books of the year by the New York Times. It should be on your list to read soon because it will transport you to another time and place in the world. I can't remember the last time I was so transfixed by the lushness and beauty of the writing, in the second half especially.

What O'Farrell has done is recreate the lives of Shakespeare's wife (Ann/Agnes) and his son (Hamnet/Hamlet,) about whom very few facts are known, except that Hamnet was one of three children born to William and his wife, along with his twin Judith, and that at he died at age 11 in 1596. Four years after his death, his father wrote a play titled "Hamlet."

From this, she has imagined and brought to life the Elizabethan Era, and a family in Henley Street, Stratford. In Part One, the chapters flow back and forth between the romance between "the Latin tutor" and the wild young woman he loves, and the plague that invades the house they will occupy. "It ends at the intersection between Hamnet's birth and death." There is a love scene in an apple hut that you will not forget. The fragrance of the herbs and flowers in the country that Agnes grows and strips to make her medicines is almost palpable. People come to her half door in the house to buy her remedies.

Ponder this: "Every life has its kernel, its hub, its epicenter from which everything flows out, to which everything returns. This moment is the absent mother's, the boy, the empty house, the deserted yard, the unheard cry." Hamnet has returned to his home to find his twin sister ill, and runs to find help. That is the opening of the story.

Part Two of the book is about what comes after Hamnet's death, the grief. One member of my discussion group said she couldn't believe she cried about a death 400 years ago. It is very sad but tender and beautiful, like entering a mystical world, spellbinding for me. Exquisite writing.

The thesis O'Farrell poses is that this tragedy led Shakespeare to write one of his most renowned plays and name it after his son. The drama is of a son avenging his father's death, a complete reversal of Hamnet's and his father's life. Make your own decision.

**Carolee Bertisch**

# LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Check  
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## VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE

In-person programming has not yet been finalized for adults. However, we thought it important to provide and remind our library patrons of links to visit to get the most up-to-date information about the programs being offered for adults or the special programming they may wish to view.

- Upcoming Virtual Programming Schedule for All Ages:  
<https://sjcpls.org/upcoming-events/>
- Viewing Past and Current Virtual Programming for All Ages via Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/sjcpls>
- Viewing Past and Current Virtual Programming for All Ages via YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/sjclibraryvid>
- Upcoming In-Person Programming for All Ages Schedule for PVB Branch Library (when it returns):  
<https://sjcpls.org/branches/ponte-vedra-beach-branch/>
- St. Johns Reads 2021 Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants virtual event sponsored by PV-FOL:  
Via Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/sjcpls/videos/1024738181349286>  
Via YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vz2mCrN1jdY>

## ART WALLS - FEATURED ARTISTS

The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library features displays from well-respected local artists, many who have won awards both nationally and locally. These exhibits enable the library to share the enjoyment of art with the community, provide exposure to local artists and enhance the beauty of our library interior. Please notice and enjoy the art when you are next at the library or make a special trip!

**Upcoming exhibits** will feature Marcella Beeching on the Circulation Art Wall and Jessica Shockley-Hall on the Front Hallway Walls. A bit of information on the artists is noted below along with a sneak preview of their art.



**Marcella Beeching** grew up in the Chicago area and spent many happy hours at the Art Institute in Chicago. She received her first set of Crayola Crayons 64 pack at the age of six and color has filled her life ever since. Mostly self-taught, she works primarily in acrylic with occasional forays into watercolor and oil. Her acrylic abstract

florals are influenced by Chinese brush painting and her passion is pet portraits. She is licensed to practice law in the State of Florida and is also a certified hypnotherapist. She makes her home with her bearded collie puppy, Michael, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

**Jessica Shockley-Hall** is a contemporary oil painter and has practiced sporadically throughout her adult life, learning and working with other artists, recently making painting her primary focus. She is drawn to flowers, particularly for their vibrant beauty and endless opportunities to play with color and form. As with all of her paintings, she hopes, "the joy I felt painting them is felt by the viewer and brings life to someone's home." You can follow her work on both [Facebook@jessicashallart](#) and [Instagram @jessica\\_s\\_hall\\_art](#).



**WE LOVE OUR "FRIENDS" OF THE LIBRARY!**  
*Thank you for your continued support!*



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Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004  
<http://www.folpvbfl.org>

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**Library Closing:**  
Friday, April 2

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MISSION STATEMENT**

Our mission is to make the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch of the St. Johns County Public Library System an outstanding educational, cultural, civic and recreational center for the community. This will be achieved by providing supplemental books, materials, volunteers and programs; fundraising and advocating on behalf of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. By enlisting support of all those dedicated to disseminating knowledge, we believe the community will be enhanced and enriched.