

WINTER 2023/2024

Check This Out!

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY - PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

The FOL has experienced a very busy Fall season with outstanding concerts, interesting author talks, successful book sales, and increasing memberships. As we near the end of our tenure as presidents of the FOL Board, Laurie and I would like to thank all our members who contribute to the vibrancy of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. We have experienced changes on the Board, including our new treasurer John Mencke, an Author Speaker Series hosted by Vic Di Genti, popular pop-up books sales, Seymour's Bookstore turning 20 (!), this newsletter went digital, and we welcomed a new Branch Manager Kim Odom, who has some wonderful collaborative ideas for the Branch and the FOL.



Kathleen Cohen and Laurie Kelly

As usual, we conclude this message by encouraging your continued membership in the Friends of the Library, and to bring a new Friend. In addition, please consider remembering the FOL in your wills so that it can continue its support of our community public Library.

We hope to see you all at the annual meeting and dinner on January 25, 2024 at the Sawgrass Country Club. Invitations will be sent out later this year.

Kathleen Cohen and Laurie Kelly
Co-Presidents, Friends of the Library

Join us for our annual meeting on January 24, 2024 at Sawgrass Golf Club. Our guest speaker will be Retired Rear Admiral William McQuilkin



William McQuilkin is a retired U.S. naval officer and a former Director of the U.S. Navy's Strategy and Policy Division (OPNAV N51) from 2013-2016 where he led the drafting and publishing of "A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower", the fundamental roadmap for the U.S. Navy's future. He was the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea from 2011-2013, where he was tasked with deterring aggression from North Korea and improving combined maritime warfighting readiness in the Korean theater. He has commanded three U.S. Navy warships with multiple overseas deployments including command of the Aegis cruiser USS GETTYSBURG where he served as Air Defense Commander in the Persian Gulf in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. He has served as Deputy Director of Operations in the National Military Command Center inside the Pentagon where he was an advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and first responder to worldwide events. While on active duty, Rear Admiral (Ret) McQuilkin considered it a top priority to improve military-to-military relations with Indo-Asia-Pacific countries. He worked extensively on security and policy issues pertaining to the Indo-Asia-Pacific and continues to write and speak on these matters. He has participated in talks and lectures with India, Indonesia, Thailand, United Kingdom, South Korea, Sri Lanka, France and Australia.

Friends of the Library Ponte Vedra Beach Board of Directors 2023

Kathleen Cohen, Co-President
Laurie Kelly, Co-President,
Editor "Check This Out"

John Mencke, Treasurer

Natalie Costello, Assistant Treasurer

Estes Carns, Secretary

Jan Bialka

Jan Crewson, Library Support

Sally Fernley, Landscaping

Jennifer Hoag, Manager, Seymour's

Leslie Kleiman, Music Series

Felicia Mashin, Publicity

Lydia Michalsen

Paula Nardon, Asst. Manager, Seymour's

Marianne Stein

Sharon van Hees, Art Wall

Maureen Wildey

Visit our Website at:

Friends of the Library web page
www.folpybfl.org

PVB Library web events page:
www.sjcpls.org/branches/ponte-vedra-beach-branch/

SJCPLS's Facebook channel's home link
("like" this page for updates!):

www.facebook.com/sjcpls

SJCPLS's Facebook Virtual Programming
videos direct link:

www.facebook.com/sjcpls/videos/

SJCPLS's YouTube channel's home link
("like" this page for updates!):

www.youtube.com/user/sjclibraryvid

SJCPLS's YouTube channel's Virtual
Programming videos direct link:

www.youtube.com/user/sjclibraryvid/videos

Check
this
Out!

MUSIC & SPEAKER SERIES

Dr. Gerson Yessin Music Series Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Chamber Duo- Rhonda Casasano - flute and Rose Shlyam Grace- piano

Rhonda has been a member of the Jacksonville Symphony since 1979, and formerly the adjunct professor of flute at the University of North Florida. She is an active recitalist, chamber musician and as a soloist with the Jacksonville Symphony.

Rose, a Russian born pianist, has concertized throughout the United States as a soloist, chamber musician and a collaborative artist. She serves as an Associate Professor of Piano at Bethany-Cookman University.

Concert starts at 6:30 and doors open at 6:00



Dr. Gerson Yessin Music Series Tuesday, February 13, 2024



The concert will be at Crosswater Hall, Nocatee Reservations are required
Email to lekleiman@gmail.com one month prior please state name and number of tickets

Meet “Swing 456”, the only authentic Gypsy Swing Band in the greater Jacksonville area. The group, consisting of violin, lead guitar, rhythm guitar and upright bass, is made up of four respected Jacksonville musicians with worldwide experience who love the sound of Gypsy Swing and strive to bring back the unique ambiance of Paris in the 1930’s. The sound is infectious and brings a smile to everyone who hears it. So come and clap your hands and tap your feet and celebrate with us.

Doors open at 6:00 Concert starts at 6:30

Speaker Series

Tuesday, January 23 — Gene Frenette, Florida Times-Union Sports Columnist, talks about the Jaguars season and his many years covering everything from college football to the Summer Olympics, along with several Super Bowls and World Series games.



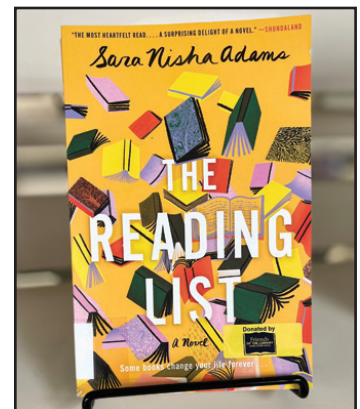
Tuesday, February 20 — NYT Bestselling Author Lisa Black — Lisa works as a latent print examiner for the Cape Coral, FL police department. She’s also an award-winning author and will discuss her newest release, *What Harms You*.

St. Johns Reads 2024

In its 20th year, St. Johns Reads is SJCPLS’ annual “One Book, One Community” event focused on creating a shared conversation on a selected novel. Taking place in January, St. Johns Reads 2024 features a month-long celebration with a variety of programs inspired by “The Reading List,” including special events with the author, Sara Nisha Adams, at each branch library from January 30 to February 2. St. Johns Reads is generously supported by the SJCPLS’ Friends of the Library groups. To learn more about the events with Sara Nisha Adams or other St. Johns Reads programming, please visit www.sjcpls.org/st-johns-reads.

About the Author:

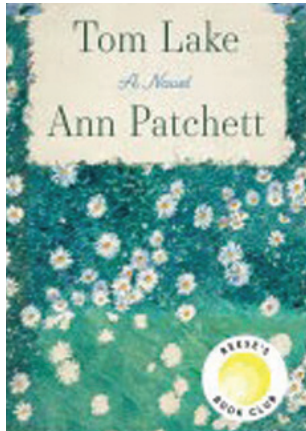
Sara Nisha Adams is a writer and editor. She lives in London and was born in Hertfordshire to Indian-Kenyan and English parents. Her debut novel **The Reading List** was a finalist in the Goodreads Choice Awards for Fiction 2021. Her second novel, *The Twilight Garden*, will be published in North America in Spring 2024.



BOOK REVIEW & ART WALL

Check
this
Out!

RAPID REVIEW TOM LAKE



Have you been longing for a good juicy read without violence, drug addiction or deaths? I was. Pick up TOM LAKE, the most recent novel by Ann Patchett. She is renowned for her characterizations of families you want to know more about, including COMMONWEALTH, her most autobiographical book.

Some critics called TOM LAKE her pandemic novel, because it takes place during the pandemic, and is the cause of three grown daughters returning to their parents' cherry orchard on the peninsula in Michigan. But that is just where the story begins. Emily, Maisie and Nell are fascinated by the fact that their mother, Lara, had an affair with Peter Duke, who went onto become a famous movie star.

The girls want to hear all about the time Lara spent as the star of OUR TOWN at the Tom Lake Playhouse in summer stock with Peter Duke. It's a story within a story, including a movie Lara also starred in and her time in Hollywood.

As an added bonus, if you like Audible, is listening to Meryl Streep read the book in her luscious voice. Enjoy.

by Carolee Bertisch

Leslie Kleiman, a native of Chicago, had lived in Ponte Vedra for the last 13 years. Her whole life she has been drawn to color, design and texture, but she did not start painting until she retired. Leslie's paintings and painting approach are true reflections of her personality. Her confident brushstrokes evoke light, texture, color and movement with ease. Throughout her different works, Leslie hopes "to convey a sense of well-being, vibrancy and energy to the viewer. Leslie allows the painting to take the lead, by doing that she creates

expressive pieces that communicate what she perceives and feels. Creating and experimenting have always been a part of her life trying something new and growing through it, embracing change is who she is and is reflected in her work.



ARE YOU BORED?

During the upcoming vacation why not introduce your children to some alternatives to electronic entertainment and some new hobbies? I have picked out five new paths to explore: Crafts, Shell Collecting, Scuba diving, Horseback Riding, and Karate.



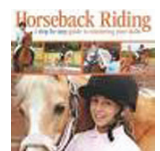
My First Craft Book by Susan Akass is a creative book for all holiday crafts, with written and illustrated instructions on topics like baking, sewing and papers crafts.

Since we live so close to the ocean, an interesting hobby is shell collecting. **Shell**, by Alex Arthur and Dorling Kindersley, an Eyewitness Book, gives insights into how to discover and collect shells.



Scuba Diving by Sue Vanderhook describes another great hobby for those of us living near the ocean. Her book gives the history of the sport, along with needed equipment and technique, as well as risk and safety factors.

Another popular sport in Florida is horseback riding. The book **Horseback Riding: A Step-by-Step Guide to Mastering Your Skills** by Caroline Stamps, shows you how to get ready with the appropriate clothing and equipment, then instructions on posture and the horses' gaits. It is full of color photos and a large glossary.



Some people might think karate is a dangerous sport, but Bill Gutman, the author of **Karate** thinks otherwise. He says karate is a sport as well as a science, since it is a means of self-defense and exercise. This book gives you the history, ways to get started, and posture and movements.

Happy Holidays!
Marianne Stein
Board Member

Check
this
Out!

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

BRANCH MANAGER'S MESSAGE



Kim Odom

As I reflect on this past year, I'm amazed at fast it went by. Coming to the close of our fiscal year has given me the opportunity to see how far we've come since I began service here last November. Since that time, we have welcomed over 155,000 guests. Our staffing levels have shifted like the tides, and we are so excited to increase our team by 2 additional people in the new year and to add additional service hours before Spring. In addition to presenting programming for all ages (322 events in FY23), phenomenal print and media collections and access to electronic books, news and audiobooks, we offer notary service, wireless connectivity, meeting room use and free document scanning.

In the past year, we've answered nearly 45,000 questions and provided computer access to 15,779 individuals (youth, teen and adult). Countless others have used our free wi-fi, for work or personal tasks. Our meeting rooms were used by community guests for non-library purposes 486 times. We are proud to serve this community in so many ways.

Speaking of service, volunteers for the Library and the Friends of the Library contributed 10,586

hours of service over the past year. We appreciate the support of this remarkable community. Throughout the year, the generous contributions of our Friends made so much of what we do possible. What a year it has been. I can hardly wait to see what's next! We wish you a safe and joyful holiday season.

Kim Odom

Branch Manager

NEW ASSISTANT BRANCH MANAGER/ADULT SERVICES LIBRARIAN

Stephanie Race is the new Assistant Branch Manager/Adult Services Librarian at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch for the St. Johns County Library System. She is passionate about libraries and helping people find the information they need. She comes to us after a short hiatus away from libraries working at BEAM Thrift. Stephanie is a double alum of the University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa with a BA in Mathematics Education and Masters in Library Science. She has over 40 years of library experience, in all types of libraries, including the Palm Beach County Public Library System, the USF Library and the USF School of Information, the Northeast Florida Library Information Network (NEFLIN), the State Library of Florida, the Hernando County Public Library System, and the University of North Florida Library. A native Floridian, Stephanie has called Ponte Vedra Beach home since 2015. She has visited the 48 contiguous United States, leaving Hawaii and Alaska as bucket list vacations.



Stephanie Race



Titanium Yoga has once again included our FOL in their fundraising drive for November. Many thanks to the yogis across the street!

Under the Stars



Kudos to Youth Services Programming Coordinator Joan Meyers for transforming the FOL room into a black light planetarium on October 7th to help celebrate the solar eclipse with a "Day of Stars". The children

experienced the solar system with black lights shining on the glow in the dark paint. A fun time was had by all. Many thanks to Joan for all her hard work.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS



December 2023 - February 2024

Adult Programs

Tech Help with David @ 10:30	December 7 January 11 and 25 February 8 and 12
Book Lovers Book Club @ 11:00 Reader's Choice The Reading List The Nickel Boys	December 8 January 12 February 2
Adult Movies @ 11:00 am Pride and Prejudice Life of Pi To Kill a Mockingbird Casablanca	December 15 January 5 January 26 February 16
Adult Coloring Club @ 11:00	December 12 January 9 February 13
Bingo for Books @ 11:00	February 23
St. Johns Reads Programming Council on Aging: Caregiver Resources @ 11:00 Art with Kasha @ 1:00 Sara Nisha Adams @ 11:00	January 19 January 20 January 30
Dustin Pari "Ghosts of Christmas Past" on Zoom @ 6:30	December 19

ADULT SERVICES SUMMARY

The Book Club, Movie Matinees, and Coloring Club will continue with strong tie-ins to "The Reading List," the St. Johns Reads 2024 title. The very popular Tech Help will alternate between reservations and drop-in assistance. With the addition of the new Adult Services Librarian and plans to onboard an Adult Services Programmer in the next few months, we are eagerly anticipating additional adult programming in the Spring of 2024.

Family Programs

SPVB WinterFest from 2:00-4:00 A day of winter themed crafts for kids of all ages. Special crafts will be set aside for the adults and teens.	December 9
End of 2023 Celebration @ 2:30 Movie Matinee - "Elemental"	December 29

Teen Programs

Holiday Party and Game Night @ 5:30	December 5
Trivia Night @ 5:30	January 10
Mosaic Coasters @ 5:30	January 17
LEGO STEM for teens @ 5:30	January 24
Video Game Tournament @ 5:30	February 14
Glass Magnets @ 5:30	February 21
Help with College Essays @ 5:30	February 28

Children's Programs

The children's department will resume programming in January.

Babytime @ 10:15	Every Wednesday
Toddlers and Tales @ 10:15	Every Thursday
Pre-School Prep @ 11:15	Every Thursday
PVB Kids Club @ 2:30	Every Wednesday <i>(enjoy a simple craft or game)</i>
Family Storytime (NEW) @ 10:15	January 13 February 10
Introduction of Chrome Music @ 3:00	January 3 and February 7
Kids STEM "Earth Science Rocks"	
Layers of the Earth @ 4:00	January 4
Layers of the Earth @ 3:00	January 6
Plate Tectonics and Earthquakes @ 4:00	February 1
Plate Tectonics and Earthquakes @ 3:00	February 3
LEGO STEM Adventures for Kids	
Cave Car @ 4:00 and 5:00	January 11
Cave Car @ 3:00	January 13
Animal Alarm @ 4:00 and 5:00	February 8
Animal Alarm @ 3:00	February 10
You TouCan Uke (beginning ukulele) @ 4:00	January 10, 17, 24 & 31
Creative Kids	
Painted Rocks @ 4:00	January 18
Painted Rocks @ 3:00	January 20
Build a Bridge @ 4:00	February 15
Build a Bridge @ 3:00	February 17
PVB LEGO Club (free play with LEGOs) @ 3:00	January 27 February 24

YOUTH SERVICES SUMMARY

2024 enters a year of Earth Science in the children's department. For elementary-aged students will revolve around earth science topics. Begins with the layers of the earth and plate tectonics.

We will begin new opportunities on Saturdays for family storytime. LEGO STEM Adventures continue with the children building a "cave car" and an "animal alarm."

Creative Kids encourages children to stretch their minds in all directions. They will be able to paint rocks and then build a bridge. Ms. Jane brings back ukulele lessons for children in the series "You TouCan Uke."

Teens will have lots of opportunities to socialize with a video game tournament, trivia night and several art programs. In addition, help with college essays will be offered and we will introduce our newest LEGO STEM program designed for students in grades 6-10th. This will be an introduction to simple robotics.

Check
this
Out!

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

SEYMOUR'S 2023 HOLIDAY BOOK SALE & BAZAAR



Our Sale is full of Holiday books, puzzles, audio books, DVDs, and CDs for all ages at great discount prices!

DECEMBER 1ST-30TH

Our special **GIFT TABLE** offers a variety of new and gently used items . . .

A perfect place to find a unique gift for everyone on your list!



Open all library hours:
Mon—Wed 10-8
Thurs—Fri 10-6
Sat 10-5
Closed on
Sunday



CASH &
CHECKS
ONLY

Thank you for
supporting our library
and our organization.

**FRIENDS
OF THE
LIBRARY**
Ponte Vedra Beach



101 Library Blvd | Ponte Vedra Beach, FL



See you at the Sale!

FOL SEYMOUR'S BOOKSTORE

Check
this
Out!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SEYMOUR!

It was a beautiful Saturday when we celebrated our beloved Seymour's birthday on October 14th. He has been representing our bookstore for 20 years!

As you can see, the party was tons of fun. We had a delicious cake from Publix, an ice-cream truck from Nitrogen Creamery, face painting and balloon animals by Lisa Jackson and her daughter, tattoos, a scavenger hunt, and a jazz trio from UNF. Oh, and we had eclipse too! We got lots of compliments on the celebration from both children and adults.

Many thanks to the FOL and the wonderful volunteers that made this happen.



Seymour's Book Donations



Janet and Joe Nicosia

Former Seymour's volunteer, Janet and Joe Nicosia donated books when downsizing in preparation for their move to Vicar's Landing at Oakbridge. Janet even placed them in Dewar's boxes for us!

Downsizing?

Are you overwhelmed at the number of books you have accumulated throughout the years? It's time to donate!

When and where can items be dropped off?

Books, Audio books, CDs, Vinyl, and DVDs in good condition may be brought to Seymour's Bookstore. Smaller donations (20 or less items) can be dropped off at our donation bin located on the right side of the library lobby. For larger donations, please call 904.273.3990, during regular business hours, and schedule an appointment to drop them off. A volunteer will be ready to assist you, with a cart and boxes if needed.

The materials you donate primarily help the Friends of the Library raise money for our Library through book sales. The Friends of the Library (FOL), Ponte Vedra Beach, provide financial and resource support for children and adult programs, materials, equipment, and community space for all residents to enjoy.

LIBRARY CLOSINGS

*Christmas Holiday, Saturday December 23
and Monday December 25, 2023*

New Year's Day, Monday January 1, 2024

Staff Training Day, Monday January 9, 2024

Martin Luther King Day, Monday January 15, 2024

Closed for technical updates, Saturday February 3, 2024

Presidents' Day, Monday February 19, 2024

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll free (800-435-7352) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.



Home - Friends of the Library
folpvbfl.org

Seymour's News

The Bookstore's volunteers have been busy all year collecting a variety of unique, new, and gently used items to be sold at our Holiday Book Sale starting December 1st. A perfect place to find the perfect gift for everyone on your list and at the same time support the Friends of the Library. In advance, we thank you for your continued support. Open during library hours. Sale ends December 31st.



Seymour's had another successful Pop-up sale in October

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.