

SUMMER 2024

Check This Out!

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

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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/

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ADVENTURE BEGINS AT YOUR COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Adventure begins at your community library. We've got books galore and more. We are extremely excited to host over 50 special events and self-guided experiences this summer. We are delighted to share that there will be programming for every age group. From our very youngest of learners, who we've added an additional baby story time to serve, to our school age explorers, teen trailblazers and adult adventure seekers. Our creative staff has planned an unforgettable season of literacy-based activities and fun social gatherings.

We encourage you to stop by, especially if you haven't visited in a while. We are responding to the community's requests to add more programming for adults and to engage our youth on a weekly basis. Thanks to our Friends, we are able to meet this challenge in grand style. Special guest performances as well as our book prizes for youth have been generously provided. The unique opportunities that we are able to present are due in major part, to the support of our amazing FOL. What better way to take a break from the summer heat? Bring a pal along with you! Our friendly, knowledgeable staff and energetic volunteers are looking forward to guiding you on awesome adventures this summer. We are now open 7 days a week. Plan your visit today.



Kim Odom

COFFEE WITH A COP



Library patrons had the opportunity to connect with their local St. Johns County Sheriff deputies during the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Coffee with a Cop event. This partnership program brought police officers and the community members together to discuss issues and learn more about each other in a casual welcoming setting. Attendees enjoyed coffee and pastries courtesy of the Friends of the Library. Keep an eye out for additional opportunities to connect with local agencies at the library in the coming months!



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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

FOL President's Message



Leslie Kleiman
President, FOL

Dear Friends,

School is out and “Summertime” is here. Just as in the song, it is time to spread your wings and take to the sky. Explore and fine new things to do and learn. Our Library is the perfect place to explore with our bountiful array of activities. For the months of June and July, there are 79 different activities for all ages Your membership has supported presentations by several popular artists and agencies for youth and families, including Mark Allen, magician, Jennifer Swanson, author and the Jacksonville Zoo. This makes Tuesdays at 3pm prime time for family fun. Remember Adventure begins at your Library.

There will be a Seymour’s Summer Sale in the lobby, June 28th to July 13th. Don’t miss this one it will keep you entertained all summer long.

Summertime for the FOL Board together with the library staff is planning time, a new season of the Dr. Gerson Yessin Music Series and the Speaker Series. In the works, we are continuing our work on the Children’s Library Remodel. for the Fall, we are planning a Friends Member Appreciation Evening, look for your invitations heading your way in September. Keep cool this summer!

Bookmark Design Winner



Lana Davis

Teen Volunteer Recognized

Victoria Joseph was recognized at the St. John's County American Youth Character Counts Award Ceremony on April 26, 2024. She attends Ponte Vedra High School and was one of eight juniors selected for this honor. Victoria has completed almost 100 hours of volunteer services at the Ponte Vedra Beach Library. Her willingness and positive attitude toward all challenges has made her an incredible asset to our team. In her speech, she recognized her parents and named Joan Meyers, youth services programmer as her mentor..



Jacksonville Beach Mayor to speak at Ponte Vedra Beach Library



Chris Hoffman

Few people are as knowledgeable of our Beach community—past and present—as Chris Hoffman. The very busy Ms. Hoffman wears two hats as the mayor of Jacksonville Beach and as Executive Director of the Beaches Museum. She will speak at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library on Tuesday, June 4 as part of the Friends of the Library Speaker Series. Her talk centers on “Our Beaches: Past, Present and Future.”

Chris Hoffman is the first woman to serve as mayor of Jacksonville Beach. She graduated from Fletcher High School, received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Florida and her MBA from the University of North Florida. She had previously served as a two-term city councilwoman.

The Beaches Museum’s mission is to preserve and share the distinct history and culture of the Beaches area. As Executive Director, Chris oversees the day-to-day operations and the programs and events that have grown to include Springing the Blooms, Pablo Beach Train Day, the Chapel Concert Series, monthly Boardwalk Talks, and exhibits spotlighting the Beach life.

The June 4 program begins at 6:30 p.m. in the library’s FOL Community Room. Doors will open at 6 p.m.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

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BOOK CLUB CORNER



Laura Burke

Book reviews I do not do. Everyone sees, and reads, with a different, and personal perspective. That is a good thing - that is what makes book clubs interesting and diverse.

There is though, a perspective and view, that runs strong, deep, and committed. It overrides all the divisions that separate our human opinions. Many are complacent,

don't care, or just don't feel it. And then there are the animal lovers and advocates. Being I am one of the latter, it is easy and compulsory to write on this.

No doubt, we do communicate and interact with animals. Not all species, or each individual creature. But through love, caring, loyalty, companionship, trust, empathy, camaraderie, and simple service to each other, we DO interact and both benefit. Most pets teach us to be more patient and live outside of ourselves. They teach us to care!

Whether you have a canine or feline, whether you are a docent at a zoo, volunteer at a shelter, foster an animal, stop for a loose dog, or send donations, true animal lovers will find a place to express their passion. Animals deserve and own a safe place on this planet as much as we do.

This, at last, brings me back to books. In the past few years, many great fiction and non-fictions have emerged with animals at the core of the story. As a child, I read anything with an animal in it. All of James Herriot vet books, Misty and Stormy of Chincoteague Island, Old Yeller, The Incredible Journey, and many more. For all the "animal readers" out there, I would love to suggest somewhat more recent publications. Good reading, and I hope you love them as much as I did.

Lessons from a Sheep Dog
West with Giraffes
The Ride of her Life
The Eighty Dollar Champion
The Memory of an Elephant
Remarkably Bright Creatures
Thunder Dog
The Art of Racing in the Rain
Horse

by Phillip Keller
by Lynda Rutledge
by Elizabeth Letts
by Elizabeth Letts
by Alex Lasker
by Shelby Van Pelt
by Michael Hinson
by Garth Stein
by Geraldine Brooks

Adventure Begins at Your Library

The library kicks off their Summer Reading Program - Adventure Begins at Your Library - on Saturday, June 1. Throughout the summer there will be programs for all ages as well as reading incentives for Pre-K - 12th graders. Seymour, the beloved mascot of the Friends of the Library, is enthusiastically participating in the festivities. Swing by the library and grab Seymour to accompany you on your summer escapades. Don't forget to capture your adventures and share your photos for display in the library!

JUNE - AUGUST 2024 PROGRAMMING SUMMARY

Adult Programming

- Tech Help with David @ 10:30 June 13 RSVP
June 27 Walk-in
July 11 RSVP
July 25 Walk-in
- Book Lovers Book Club @ 11:00
The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See June 7
The Book of Lost Names by Kristin Harmel July 5
The Boys in the Boat by Daniel R. Brown August 2
- Friday Flicks (all ages) @ 11:00 am
Ghostbusters June 21
The Goonies July 19
Wizard of Oz August 23
- Adult Coloring Club
June 11 @ 11:00 am
June 25 @ 1:00 pm
July 9 @ 11:00 am
July 23 @ 1:00 pm
August 13 @ 11:00 am
August 27 @ 1:00 pm
- Crafters Corner - featuring a new craft every month
June 13 | July 25 | August 22 **RSVP**
- Adventures in Technology
June 14 | July 12 | August 22
- Small Business How To: Beneficial Ownership Information Form
June 3 | 2-3:00 pm **RSVP**
- FOL Speaker Series: Jax Beach Mayor Chris Hoffman
June 4 | 6-7:30pm
- Voter Registration Event
June 12 | 2-4:00 pm
- Hurricane Prep with SJC Emergency Management
June 18 | 6-7:00 pm **RSVP**
- Mindful Mondays: Summer Skin Health
June 24 | 11am-12:00 pm
- Marineland: The World's First Oceanarium
July 11 | 4-5:00 pm **RSVP**
- Sit & Get Fit
July 16 | 11am-12:00 pm **RSVP**
- Thrill of the Grill with Chef Warren
July 16 | 6-7:00 pm **RSVP**
- Navy Band
July 27 | 3:00 pm
- Lunch & Learn: Continuum of Care
July 30 | 10:30am - 12:00 pm **RSVP**
- Sit & Stitch
August 7 | 11:am - 12:00 pm
- Art with Kasha
August 24 | 1-3:00 pm **RSVP**

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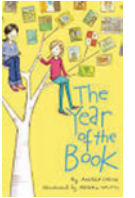
BOOK REVIEWS

Chinese – American Relationships

A display in the Children's Room recently made me curious. It was a series of books looking almost identical, at least on the outside. The author is Andrea Cheng who was a prolific author during her too short life. She left a variety of picture books, young adult novels, middle-grade fiction and non-fiction.

Ms. Cheng was born in Texas and raised by Hungarian immigrant parents. She married Jim Cheng and had three children, but died of cancer at age 58. Her active years as a writer was between 1991 and 2015.

The series of five books tells the story of Anna Wong and her trials and disappointments growing up with Chinese parents in America, but not knowing anything about their country or the language. In *The Year of the Book* Anna is in fourth grade, and everything in her life is about relationships to her parents and friends, especially her best friend. In *The Year of the Baby*, Anna is excited to have a new sister Kaylee, who was adopted from China. The baby's refusal to eat is solved when Anna discovers that she likes to hear singing while eating.



The next book is *The Year of the Fortune Cookie* where Anna is now in sixth grade. Anna is on her way to China with the Sylvester family and gifts of home-made fortune cookies and knitted hats for an orphanage. She will visit the orphanage her sister came from to find out more about the baby's background and do lots of sightseeing in Beijing. A young girl who works in the hotel, Fan, wants to visit America and Anna promises she will one day. They spend time together and Anna learns about China.

In the book *The Year of the Garden*, Anna's family moves to a new house and Anna meets a new friend Laura.

Together they make a garden, find a bunny to take care of while developing a great friendship.

The fifth book in this series is *The Year of Three Sisters*. Anna is now twelve years old and wants to invite her friend Fan from Beijing to come as an exchange student. The ticket is paid for by friends of Anna's parents. Fan comes but is not placed in Anna's class, she is homesick and studies constantly not participating in her friends' activities. After a call to her mother in China, Fan decides to stay a while longer and becomes more sociable.



The books are fast reading and portray a warm and typical girl all children can identify with despite her ethnic stereotyping issues.

Andrea Cheng's stories were mostly influenced by her personal experiences and family life. Her first book, *Grandfather Counts*, @2000, is about a Chinese-American girl who must give up her room when her grandfather comes from China to live with the family, but gains a lot in knowing him.

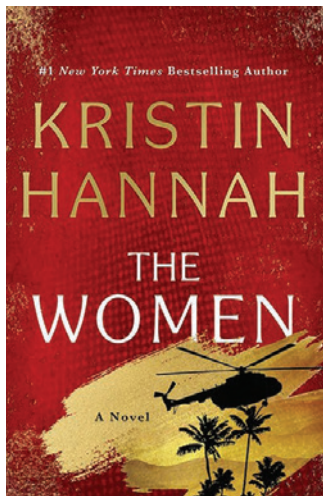
An editor at Houghton Mifflin Publishers said: "Thank you, Andrea Cheng, for giving Asian-American children a series they can see themselves in." Altogether the author published twenty-six books, but most of them are only available through inter-library loans for Ponte Vedra Beach readers.

Marianne Stein
FOL Board Member

Rapid Review

Two recently published books are about women in Vietnam during the war. *THE WOMEN* by Kristin Hannah is a lengthy page turner about Frances (Frankie) McGrath a debutante from San Diego, who volunteers as a nurse after her Air Force pilot brother dies in his plane over Vietnam.

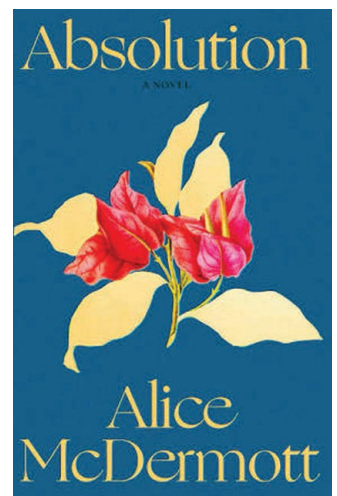
Frankie works in hospitals where the injured are brought in to the whirring sound of helicopters, and finds solace with the other two nurses she bunks with. Their friendship lasts after their time during the war, as she lives though more romantic and other catastrophes when she returns.



The second book is *ABSOLUTION*, by Alic McDermott, a more literary story about two women who meet in Saigon when their husbands work for the US government. Patricia Kelly is a young (23) newlywed who meets Charlene at a garden party and is taken under her wing for a series of charity adventures. One leads to a leper colony outside Saigon, where their car breaks down as they attempt to leave. Patricia is finding her way in this society and allows Charlene to lead her. McDermott creates the heat, humidity, variety of languages and tension that pervades this swirl of diplomatic parties.

Now there is a bronze memorial in Washington, DC, to recognize the thousands of women who served there.

by **Carolee Bertisch**



LIBRARY PROGRAMS

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Book Club Kit

The PVB Branch Library now offers Book Club Kits with multiple copies of books that you can check out to read with your own book club. Kits have 10-12 copies of a single title and include a set of discussion questions. Titles currently available include *The Kite Runner*, *The Hate U Give*, *The Reading List*, and *Solito*. Book Club Kits can be reserved in advance and are checked out for 7 weeks. The PVB Branch is serving as the pilot location for this program. More kits will be added to the collection and kits will soon be findable in Aspen, the library's online catalog. Stop by the Reference Desk for more information.



Eclipse Day and Fun Activities

Leading up to April 8th and the day of the eclipse, the library was in cosmic form. There were solar system projects, rock painting, and our new inflatable planetarium (Courtesy of the FOL). LOTS of eclipse glasses were distributed for safe viewing and the staff even got to get in on the action.



Spring Concert Series

The final concert in our music series before the summer hiatus was a rousing success. The **UNF Violin** students were amazing. Many thanks to our series director, Leslie Kleiman and our Speaker series coordinator Marianne Stein.



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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

SSYRA 2024-2025

We are so grateful for the support our Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library have consistently given us. Each year you provide funds for us to purchase extra copies of the SSYRA titles. These books are selected by a committee of the Florida Association for Media in Education (FAME). The committee selects 15 titles for each list from among hundreds that they read and vet. Through the schools, each child is encouraged to read three titles and then they are eligible to vote for their favorite. In addition, St Johns County School District holds a Battle of the Books where schools select teams to compete in a trivia contest based upon the books. With so many of our local students wanting to read these titles, the public library provides extra copies so more students have the opportunity.

This year, the FOL has again provided funds so our branch could have even more of these titles. The new titles were announced on April 8, 2024 and we were able to submit an order that day. We purchased an additional two of each title for the three SSYRA lists (Junior, 3-5, and 6-8) as well as one additional title for the TEEN Reads titles. We also were able to purchase any sequels to the titles.

To view a list of the titles you can access them at [SSYRA \(floridamediaed.org\)](https://floridamediaed.org).

More information about FAME and the selection process is also available on the site. Again, we cannot express how grateful we are that our FOL supports our library and our student/ young patrons in encouraging them to read.



Artwall for June



Laura Chenore

received an Associates degree in commercial art and design from the American Academy of Art in downtown Chicago and worked in the Marketing Services industry as a technical art director for 15 years. A strong advocate for stellar design, she currently works on freelance projects in an array of fields. Laura is versed in marketing and print production and was responsible for designing and producing the Happy Meal boxes and point of purchase marketing for the McDonald's corporation. Fun fact: she has every single toy they produced during her tenure at the company. She is versed in all varieties of print design, logo development, and art direction.



'Effervescent Ebbs'

The Art of ABSTRACTION

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

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Artwall For July & August

Enjoy the nature photos of Dr. Larry Lieberman



CALLING ALL YOUNG PARENTS

The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Library wants to fill a new Board position dedicated to exploring opportunities to better serve the Ponte Vedra Beach community's expanding younger population. This person would be involved with families and their activities, such as school, sports, music, etc., and the challenges they face, as well as current trends and issues. Working with library staff, the goal is to develop FOL programs and activities that would attract them to the library and to membership in the FOL. If interested contact Board president Leslie Kleiman at lekleiman@gmail.com.

Seymour's and the Little Free Libraries

Have you used one of these fabulous Little Free Libraries in the St. John's Community? What an impactful way to inspire and expand book access for our readers.



Seymour's has partnered with the St. John's County Public Library System Community Outreach Manager, Alex Barr, and is providing books for distribution around the county.



The 16 Little Free Libraries are in locations for those who may have a hard time getting to the county's public libraries. Books are taken, borrowed, or exchanged. Look out for more to come, thanks to a partnership with Pedro Menendez High School's Academy of Architecture and Building Sciences.

Our thanks to FOL members like you who donate your book treasures for our cause.

Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in volunteering at Seymour's, pick up an application at our bookstore. Please note, St. John's County requires all applicants to submit and pass a background screening.

FOL MEMBERSHIP

SCAN ME



If you haven't already renewed your 2024 membership, please visit our website at folpvbfl.org and click on the membership tab. You can also scan the QR Code below or simply drop a payment off at Seymour's. We thank you for your continued support.



LIBRARY CLOSINGS

Thursday, July 4, 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

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.