

Check this Out

~A bright and breezy update for our awesome library community~



Friends of the Library Ponte Vedra Beach ~~ FALL 2025 Newsletter

A Beautiful Success!



Our Silent Art Auction raised over \$3,000 for the Children's Library Renovation—thank you to the generous artists who donated their work:



Gerry Bialka,
Jan Bialka,
Laura Chenore,
Elizabeth Falcone,
Valerie Pontiac Forester,
Arlette Heisenberg Gerlich,
Tina Hank,
Riette Gouws,
Jessica Hall,
Leslie Kleiman,
Larry Lieberman,
Deborah Lightfield,
Norman Mashin,
Eric Rajiv,
Nikki Ratkov,
J. Lacey Taylor,
and Fred Van Hees.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY RENO: AT A GLANCE

Exciting things are happening behind the scenes!

Here's a quick look at where we are:

- ✿ Almost \$55,000 raised – thanks to your generous support, we're halfway to our \$100,000 community goal.
- ✿ Contract signed – planning is now in full swing!
- ✿ The space will have a BEACH THEME.
- ✿ Cozy spaces coming – based on patron feedback, we're adding comfortable seating for reading and relaxing.
- ✿ Smarter floor plan – more efficient use of space to include a safer play zone and a designated middle grade zone. Other features include an enhanced entryway and centrally located service desk.
- ✿ STEM gets the spotlight – our STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, and Math) area will be easier to find and more interactive than ever.
- ✿ Construction will likely begin in Winter. While programming will be impacted, access to the collection will not. We will move our Youth Services operations to the FOL Community Room during construction.



Stay tuned for more updates as we bring the new Children's Library to life! Thank you for being part of this exciting transformation!



Find out how you can help shape the future of our LIBRARY!

Turn to the back page for the kickoff of our 2026 Membership Campaign.



FRIENDS OF
THE LIBRARY

Ponte Vedra
Beach



Leslie Kleiman ~ President

John Mencke ~ Treasurer

Estes Carns ~ Secretary

Jan Bialka

Laura Chenore ~

Print Design & Landscape

Jan Crewson ~

Library Support

Mary Gebhart ~

Membership

Felicia Mashin ~ Publicity

Paula Nardon ~

Seymour's Bookstore

Manager

Linda Profaizer ~

Editor &

Seymour's Bookstore

Basil Smith ~

Finance &
Speaker Series

Marianne Stein ~

Speaker Series

Sharon van Hees ~

Art Wall

The President's Message . . .

Did you Know? -- What Your Support Makes Possible



Dear Friends,

Did you know that nearly **95%** of the programs and activities at our library are funded by the Friends of the Library -- not the county? While St. Johns County provides essential support, it simply isn't enough to meet the growing needs of our vibrant community. That's where you -- our Friends -- make all the difference.

This past summer alone, **97 programs** took place at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library for children, teens, and adults. From story times to STEM workshops, author talks to community events, these were made possible by your support and the incredible efforts of our library staff.

Each year, our children's, tween, teen, and adult departments submit their wish lists to the FOL -- programs, supplies, equipment -- and the Friends always say "yes".

Now, we're saying "yes" to something even bigger: **The total renovation of our 32-year-old Children's Library** -- a transformation that begins this December or January 2026. During the renovation, the Children's Library will temporarily move into the FOL Room to ensure programming continues uninterrupted.

The FOL has allocated \$500,000 and our generous community has already responded with almost \$55,000 toward a \$100,000+ goal! Donations are still being accepted and progress tracked via the fundraising thermometer outside Seymour's Bookstore.

Together, we'll create a space where children and families can learn, dream, and grow for decades to come.

This Fall is the time to renew your membership or consider membership in the Friends of the Library. Please read about the membership campaign in this issue. It is so important to the continuation of our library programs.

Finally, don't miss the return of our Music & Speaker Series this fall -- we hope to see you there!

Leslie Kleiman 



Love the Library? Help Lead the Way!

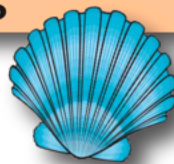
Do you care deeply about our library and want to make a difference?

The Friends of the Library (FOL) is looking for enthusiastic, community-minded individuals to join our Board of Directors. It's a great way to support the library you love, meet new people, and help shape future programs and projects. **Interested?** We'd love to hear from you!

Please reach out to FOL President Leslie Kleiman at lekleiman@gmail.com by **October 13th**.



PVB MANAGER'S REFLECTIONS



As we wind down

from our busy summer season, we look ahead with excitement to the celebrations and opportunities that fall brings. In September, we welcome National Library Card Signup Month, encouraging everyone to take advantage of the resources the library offers.

In October, we celebrate the service and vital impact of our Friends of the Library during Friends of Libraries Week. And in November, we honor the magic of storytelling through National Picture Book Month, recognizing the power of picture books in shaping young minds. We are also eagerly anticipating the start of our children's room renovation, which will begin to take shape later this year. We ask for your patience as you will start to see the signs that we are decluttering, deep cleaning and preparing for the transformation ~ transitioning, for a while, into a construction zone. Our community library connects us in so many meaningful ways. Rooted in service, we strive to be a place where all of our visitors can gather, learn, grow and engage in creative experiences. We are honored to be a welcoming space where lifelong learning is encouraged, and stories of all kinds may be explored. Nestled beside the natural beauty of Bird Island Park, our friendly staff looks forward to your next visit.

•• by Kim Odom, Branch Manager, Ponte Vedra Beach Library

Visit our Websites at:

Friends of the Library: www.folpvbfl.org

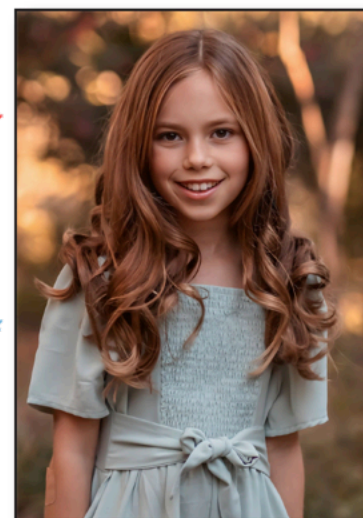
PVB Library web events page:
www.sjcpls.org/branches/ponte-vedra-beach-branch

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 ("subscribe" for updates!):
www.youtube.com/user/sjclibraryvid

SJCPLS's YouTube channel's Virtual Programming videos direct link:
www.youtube.com/user/sjclibraryvid/videos



★ AMERICA 250 WRITING CONTEST NATIONAL WINNER!

What does America mean to you?
Students across the United States were asked to answer this question in 100 words or less. Third-grader Abigail from Palm Valley Academy submitted a first-place winning poem and earned a trip to Yellowstone National Park for herself and a parent.

★ Congratulations Abigail !! ★

.....
I started reading biographies
when I was eight,
Stories about people who made
America great.
Paul Revere's bravery and his
midnight flight
Taught me to help others and stand up
for what's right.
Trudy Ederle, who survived the
English Channel sea,
Showed me how strong of a girl I can be.
The lesson I learned from Rosa Parks:
Small, simple acts can make a big mark.
Teddy Roosevelt showed me
that I share the duty
Of preserving our nation's parks
and beauty.
The inspiring heroes in our history
Make being an American so special to me.

.....
Abigail 2025 | Ponte Vedra, FL

Note: Abigail is the granddaughter
of a FOL Member and the entire family
are frequent users of the Library.

Adult Programming

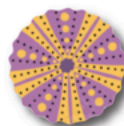
Tai Chi Gung WED | SEP 3 – DEC 10 | 11:00 am – 12:00 pm *No class SEP 17
Free Tech Help w/David THU | SEP 4 & 18 | OCT 2 & 16 & 30 | NOV 13 | 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Book Lovers Book Club FRI | SEP 5, OCT 3, NOV 7 | 11:00 am
Color, Craft, & Connect TUE | SEP 9 & 23 | OCT 14 & 28 | NOV 25 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Dr. Gerson Yessin Music Series TUE | SEP 9, OCT 14, NOV 18 | 6:30 pm
Crafters Corner THU | SEP 25, OCT 23, NOV 20 | 3:00 pm-4:30 pm | RSVP
Ponte Vedra Writers Group SAT | SEP 27, OCT 25 | 11:00 am-12:30 pm
Women's Singing Circle TUE | SEP 30, OCT 21, NOV 18 | 3:30 pm
Art w/ Kasha Workshops SAT | SEP 20 & NOV 15 | 10:00 am or 2:00 pm | RSVP
Hands Only CPR with Red Cross THU | OCT 2 | 3:00 – 4:00 pm | RSVP
Mocktails and Masterpieces Art Workshop WED | OCT 15 | 5:30 – 7:00 pm | RSVP
Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants SAT | OCT 18 | 1:00 – 3:00 pm | RSVP
K9s for Warriors Talk THU | NOV 6 | 4:00 – 5:00 pm | RSVP
Chef Warren Live Cooking Show MON | DEC 1 | 5:30 pm | RSVP



<https://sjcpls.librarycalendar.com>

Multigenerational Programming

Family Game Night MON | SEP 29 | 5:30 – 7:00 pm | Ages 7+ | RSVP
St. Johns Audubon: Introduction to Birding TUE | OCT 7 | 3:30 – 4:30 pm | Ages 10+ | RSVP
Tale Tellers of St. Augustine present Scary Storytelling TUE | OCT 28 | 4:00 – 5:00 pm | RSVP
Kids Fall Fun and Costume Parade THURS | OCT 30 | 10:15 am
National Blanket Day: Crafting with a Purpose WED | NOV 12 | 1:00 – 4:00 pm | Ages 7+
Gingerbread Decorating MON | NOV 24 | 4-6pm | Ages 7+ | RSVP
Reel Reads: Books to Film Series, Titles TBD
 FRI | OCT 10, NOV 21, DEC 19 | 2:00 pm
 TUE | SEP 23, OCT 21, NOV 4, DEC 2 | 2:00 pm



Children's Storytimes

Babytime 0-12 mo. | TUE & WED | 10:15 am | Introduce your baby to literacy with songs, rhymes, and stories.
Toddler Storytime 1-3 yr. olds | MON & THURS | 10:15 am
PreSchool Storytime 3-5 yr. olds | THURS | 10:15 am | Enjoy singing, dancing, and fun for the whole family.

Youth Programming

Music Makers WED | SEP 3 & OCT 1 | 3:00 pm
Family STEAM Storytime SAT | SEP 6, OCT 4 & NOV 1 | 10:15 am
LEGO STEM Adventures WED | SEP 10 & NOV 12 | 3:30 pm & SAT | SEP 13 & NOV 15 | 3:00 pm
Kids STEM: Magnetism WEDS | SEPT 17 | 3:30 pm & SAT | SEPT 20 | 3:00 pm
Kids STEM: Atoms and Molecules WED | OCT 8 | 3:30 pm & SAT | OCT 11 | 3:00 pm
Kids STEM: States of Matter WED | NOV 5 | 3:30 pm & SAT | NOV 8 | 3:00 pm
Creative Kids: Glass Magnets WED | SEP 24 | 3:30 pm & SAT | SEPT 27 | 3:00 pm
Creative Kids: 3-D Atoms WED | OCT 22 | 3:30 pm & SAT | OCT 25 | 3:00 pm
Introduction to Ukulele THURS | OCT 9 | OCT 16 | OCT 23 | OCT 30 | 4:00 pm RSVP



Teen Programming

Teen Preparing Simple Snacks MON | SEP 8 | 5:30 p
Teen Making Personal Budgets MON | OCT 13 | 5:30 pm
Teen Baking Mini Pies MON | NOV 10 | 5:30 pm
Teen Textile Arts Crochet MON | SEP 22 | 5:30 pm & Embroidery MON | OCT 27 | 5:30 pm
Teen Trivia Night MON | SEP 15 | 5:30 pm
Teen Nintendo Switch Game Tourney MON | OCT 20 | 5:30 pm
Teen Maker Stations MON | NOV 3 | 5:30 pm

Congratulations >>>

Kim Odom, Branch Manager, for recently graduating from the Sunshine State Library Leadership Institute (SSLLI), a collaborative program between the Division of Library and Information Services for the State of Florida and NEFLIN (Northeast Florida Library Information Network). Participants are chosen through a competitive application process. SSLLI is an intensive, 9-month leadership development program designed to strengthen leadership skills of library professionals through a combination of lectures, group activities, networking opportunities, mentorship, and real-world project experience.

Kim stated, "Our cohort brought together an inspiring mix of public and academic library professionals from across Florida, each with unique roles and perspectives. I was fortunate to be paired with a wonderful mentor—the Manager of Staff Training at the Jacksonville Public Library—who remains an invaluable resource."



It's not every day that a librarian and a library are featured in an international publication . . .

The June issue of *Publishers Weekly* shines a spotlight on the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, showcasing the creativity of **Stephanie Fazenbaker**, Assistant Branch Manager and Adult Services Librarian.

Check out the article to see how a simple Valentine's Day display was turned into a heartfelt "Love Your Library" handwriting project.

[Read the full story:](#)

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/childrens/childrens-industry-news/article/98052-educators-model-handwriting-s-effects-on-literacy-learning-and-life.html>

At a Glance . . . LIBRARY NEWS, EVENTS & INFO

... LIBRARY CLOSINGS ...
Labor Day • September 1, 2025
Veteran's Day • November 11, 2025
Thanksgiving • November 27-28, 2025

Programming with a Purpose This fall, the library is excited to offer a variety of community-focused programs that combine learning with service. In October, join us for **Hands-Only CPR** training in partnership with the Red Cross. Then, in November, come learn how the **K9s for Warriors** program is making a difference for local veterans. On November 12, we invite the community to take part in **National Blanket Day: Crafting with a Purpose** in the FOL Community Room, where we'll come together to create fleece blankets for those in need. All programs and materials are generously supported by the Friends of the Library.

Reel Reads: Books to Film Join us for **Reel Reads: Books to Film**, movies celebrating stories that made the leap from page to screen. Each session features a movie adapted from a book. Whether you're revisiting a favorite or discovering a new classic, it's the perfect way to enjoy great literature—through film. All movies begin at 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 23: **Jurassic Park** | PG-13 | 1993 | 127 min

Friday, October 10: **The Princess Bride** | PG | 1987 | 98 min

Tuesday, October 21: **Jaws** | PG | 1975 | 124 min

Tuesday, November 4: **Hidden Figures** | PG | 2016 | 127 min

Friday, November 21: **The Notebook** | PG-13 | 2004 | 123 min

Tuesday, December 2: **Catch Me if You Can** | PG-13 | 2015 | 140 min



The 2025 Dr. Gerson Yessin Music Series Resumes This Fall

The Friends of the Library are excited to announce the return of the **Dr. Gerson Yessin Music Series** this September, featuring the final three **free concerts** of 2025. Each performance begins at **6:30 p.m.** in the FOL Community Room, with doors opening at **6:00 p.m.** Seating is limited and available on a **first-come, first-served basis**—arrive early to ensure your spot!



September 9 | Lawson Ensemble

Enjoy a journey through classical string trios with selections by Beethoven, Bach, and more, performed by this acclaimed chamber group.



October 14 | Bad Dog Mama

Bad Dog Mama is a female-driven ensemble that highlights the power of vocal harmonies, percussive rhythm, and a dynamic choice of songs. You don't want to miss this performance!

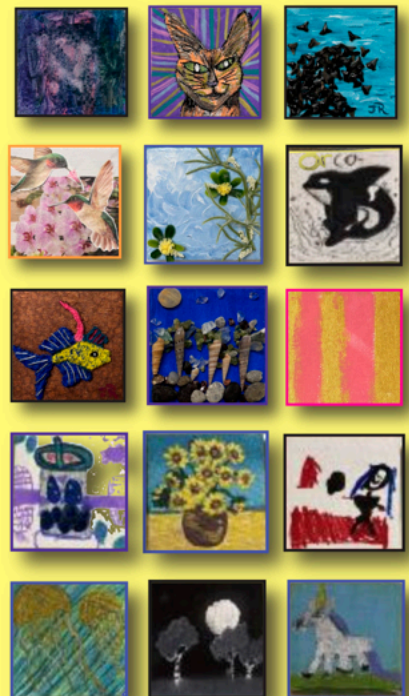
November 18 | Swamptooth

With deep roots in bluegrass and a fearless approach to innovation, Swamptooth brings decades of musical experience and Southern string magic to the stage. Comprised of longtime picking partners Cory Chambers (mandolin, vocals) and Jay Rudd (guitar, vocals), along with fiddle virtuoso Vito Gutilla (fiddle, vocals) and Katie Rudd (bass).



Tiny Art, Big Talent!

As part of the summer celebration, the library hosted a Tiny Art Exhibition, showcasing creativity in miniature form. Nearly 300 tiny canvases were distributed to patrons of all ages who submitted tiny art in a variety of mediums. A special thanks to PV Arts & Crafts (PVAC) who donated extra canvases when the first batch ran out! The result? A colorful, inspiring collection of tiny masterpieces displayed all summer long in the library lobby.



The Library's Summer Reading Program was a BRILLIANT Success!

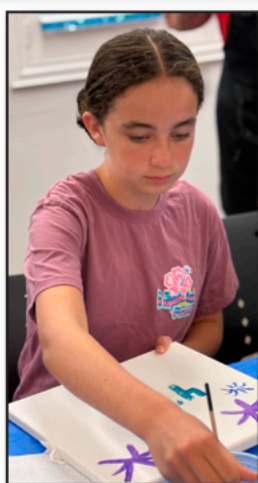
This year's Summer Reading Program was a joyful celebration of art, music, and learning – with over 4,000 participants joining in the fun! The Summer Kick-Off on June 7 welcomed more than 200 guests, thanks to the incredible teamwork of FOL Board members, volunteers, and library staff. Throughout the summer, children reached reading milestones and received over 2,200 books as rewards—what an amazing achievement! Adults were also engaged through themed events, with a chance to win a bag of art supplies. The support of the Friends of the Library was instrumental in making this program such a hit, highlighting their generosity and assistance. For anyone inspired by this success and wanting to contribute, volunteering opportunities are available at the Library.



Message from Youth Services

Summer was bursting with color and creativity in the Youth Services Department. We're so grateful for the incredible support of our Summer Reading Programs and thrilled by how many children and families took part. From exploring art to discovering new favorite books, we hope we helped keep young minds engaged and learning all summer long.

As we head into fall, we're excited to welcome everyone back with our much-loved Toddlers and Tales and Preschool Time story-times, as well as PVB Kids Club, STEM adventures and music programs.



teen crafts

dots craft



watercolor creativity



animal tales

But did you know we can help your student's with their school assignments and improving their reading skills as well?

The St. Johns County Public Library System website (www.sjcpls.org) offers kid-friendly research tools and databases to help with homework and school projects.

Libby's Read-Alongs are perfect for emerging readers, with stories that are digitally read aloud while the words are highlighted for easy tracking.

Thanks to Friends of the Library, we have multiple copies of every SSYRA (Sunshine State Young Readers Award) book, from Kindergarten through High School.

You can also search our Aspen Discovery catalog by Lexile level or Accelerated Reader (AR) level and points to find just the right book for a child's reading goals.

Our team is happy to help you learn more about any of these services. Stop by the Children's Area this fall and let us support your child's learning journey. Here's to a fun and successful school year!



BEHIND THE SHELVES . . .



When you visit Seymour's Bookstore, you'll often see volunteers straightening shelves, restocking books, or chatting with patrons about their favorite reads. But have you ever wondered who these book-loving helpers are? With more than 40 dedicated volunteers, Seymour's is truly a community-powered bookstore. In this issue, we're shining a light on our Monday volunteers. The Monday shift (as all days) is split into four two-hour blocks from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and this crew brings both fun and dedication to every shift. Say hello to Lisa, Suzanne, Marsha and Brenda--and be sure to greet them the next time you stop in.

How did you first get involved with Seymour's Bookstore and the Friends of the Library?

**LISA
CROUCH**



In addition to her regular shift, Lisa helps with Book Sales and assists Paula in the sorting room – always ready to jump in wherever she is needed.

**SUZANNE
SCHWARTZ**



Suzanne often makes calls for our Book Search service and is another "go-to" volunteer to lend a hand wherever needed.

LISA: When we relocated to PVB, one of our first stops was the Library to get our library cards. We were introduced to Seymour's through the amazing book sales and we've been customers ever since.

SUZANNE: My interest in Seymour's started in 2014 when I moved to Florida and came to the library with my husband and daughters to get our library cards and I discovered Seymour's. After being laid off in 2019, I applied to volunteer, but due to the pandemic, I officially started in January 2022.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering at the bookstore?

LISA: Before my shift, I love browsing the new donations in the store, partly so I can make recommendations, and partly because I love books and have a shopping problem! But the best part is meeting so many interesting, accomplished people from our community – people I would not otherwise have the chance to meet.

SUZANNE: I enjoy meeting both locals and visitors, chatting about books, and seeing the joy on kids' faces as they head to story time. Their interest in books is really nice to see. It reminds me why I love libraries.

Do you have a favorite section or genre you love to shelve or recommend?

LISA: I personally enjoy historical fiction, especially if it sends me down a rabbit hole to learn more about a certain subject.

SUZANNE: I enjoy shelving the fiction section and the children's area. The fiction section gives me the opportunity to see trends in what people are reading, get ideas of books to read and offer suggestions to our patrons. Seeing books like *Nancy Drew* and *Little House on the Prairie* brings back fond memories of reading these childhood favorites instilled in me at a young age by my mother.

What do you like to read in your free time?

LISA: While I prefer historical fiction and fictional thrillers, I am currently reading a nonfiction book I picked up at the last book sale and have a true crime book on deck.

SUZANNE: I tend to read fiction and sometimes historical fiction. Some of my current, favorite authors are Ann Napolitano, Nikki Erlick, Lianne Moriarity, Kristin Hannah and Lisa Jewell.

How has volunteering impacted you or your connection to the library/community?

LISA: Volunteering itself has always been a great way to meet like-minded individuals, and the FOL and Seymour's volunteers are no different. Once the kids graduated, I missed being involved in community events and volunteering at Seymour's has helped me to stay involved, and hopefully, benefit, a place I love.

SUZANNE: I have always loved the library. Growing up in Nesconset, NY, my mother worked at our local library, and I spent countless hours there. Volunteering at Seymour's is a way to give back and stay connected to something that's always meant a lot to me. Having the opportunity to see the library continue to thrive, participate in their programs and to be a part of the Seymour's volunteer team, has been very special.

What would you say to someone thinking about volunteering at Seymour's?

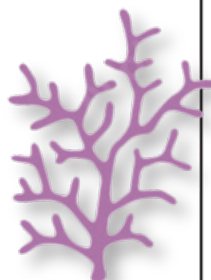
LISA: I would encourage anyone to get involved in the library and volunteer! It costs you nothing but time, but the rewards of meeting new people are well worth it!

SUZANNE: I would tell anyone who wants to volunteer at Seymour's to sign up. If you love books, and enjoy helping people, there's no better place to volunteer. It's rewarding and fun!



MARSHA BYERS

is an integral part of the Monday crew, and helps out wherever needed at Seymour's. She loves to travel. When this article was written, she and her husband were enjoying their time in Paris.



BRENDA BELL

volunteers for the last shift on Mondays. She loves to read and is a bit of a "neatnik" which is a wonderful asset to have in Seymour's.



INTERESTED IN JOINING THE TEAM?
WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR FRIENDLY FACES WHO LOVE PEOPLE AND BOOKS!
JUST STOP IN AT SEYMOUR'S BOOKSTORE AND FILL OUT A VOLUNTEER APPLICATION~~
WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU!



And don't miss future volunteer spotlights on our Seymour's Bookstore website - coming soon!

Follow the Friends ~~~ We're Online!

The Friends of the Library (FOL) is expanding its social media reach! Thanks to our volunteer Heather Casto, you can now find new FOL pages on Facebook, Instagram, and nextdoor. Please follow us to . . .

- ~~ Stay up-to-date on weekly library programs
- ~~ See photos from recent events
- ~~ Get the latest on the Children's Library renovation
- ~~ Not miss out on Seymour's Bookstore sales and events

Follow us today and help grow our library-loving community! Have ideas for what you'd like to see? Let us know - we're listening! Join our social media family on Facebook, Instagram, nextdoor and the Web !



<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61577695168397>



<https://www.instagram.com/folpvbfl/>



<https://www.nextdoor.com/pages/friends-of-the-library-ponte-vedra-beach-ponte-vedra-beach-fl/>

<https://folpvbfl.org/>





READ OUT LOUD!!



A Timeless Gift for Every Child . . .

Having a long career as a librarian and teacher, I have always championed the importance of reading aloud to children – from birth through the tween years (and beyond!). Reading out loud offers tremendous benefits to a young child's life, but here are five especially important reasons to make it part of your daily routine:

1. A richer vocabulary ~ children who are read to regularly enter school better prepared to understand and use language.
2. A stronger attention span ~ listening to stories helps children learn to focus and follow narratives from beginning to end.
3. Learning right from wrong ~ great children's literature often explores moral choices in ways kids understand. They love asking, "Is he the good guy or the bad guy?"
4. Discovery of new worlds ~ stories introduce children to people, places and ideas beyond their everyday experience.
5. Emotional bonding ~ Reading together creates moments of closeness and comfort, important for a child's emotional development.



What to Read?

For the youngest "listeners" (ages 2-6), the Beatrix Potter books are favorites. With 23 original titles ~ including Peter Rabbit, Tom Kitten, and The Fierce Bad Rabbit ~ they teach important lessons through delightful animal characters.

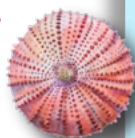
Another series, the Winnie the Pooh books by A.A. Milne (ages 3 ~ 7) invite readers into a world of imagination and gentle humor. The original illustrations are charming and natural.

For older children (ages 6+) there are two series, now classics that every child should read or be read to: the Little House series by Laura Ingalls Wilder and The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis. Wilder's books offer a window into pioneer life, while Lewis's Narnia stories explore themes of courage, kindness, and the battle between good and evil ~ all through unforgettable characters like talking animals, witches and a gentle and dangerous king.

Make It A Habit!

Whether you're a parent, grandparent, or caregiver, set aside time each day to read aloud away from television and electronic devices. The stories you share today build language skills, spark imagination and create lifelong memories.

Marianne Stein | FOL Board Member



FOL MEMBER BOOK REVIEW:

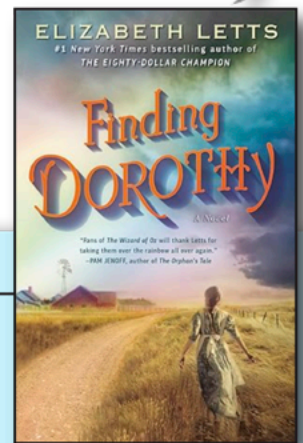
In addition to the insightful reviews by Marianne Stein, we're pleased to occasionally feature book reviews written by fellow members of the Friends of the Library. This issue's review is by Maureen Cipriano | FOL Member

Finding Dorothy by Elizabeth Letts is a richly imagined historical novel that reveals the story behind The Wonderful Wizard of Oz as told through the eyes of author Frank Baum's wife, Maud.

The novel alternates between two time periods: Maud's younger years as the spirited daughter of a well-known suffragette and 1939, when she's a widow in her late 70s and discovers that MGM is adapting her late husband's beloved book for the big screen.

We follow Maud as she defies the expectations of her parents by leaving college to marry Frank, a traveling entertainer. Their early years together are full of hardship and perseverance as they navigate life together in the mid to late 1800s.

In the 1939 storyline, Maud is determined to ensure the film honors Frank's original vision. She knows she is the only person who can help the producers stay true to the spirit of the book. She manages to get herself onto the MGM lot where she meets a young Judy Garland. Deeply concerned by the pressures placed on Judy — who is pushed to lose weight, bind her breasts and display raw emotions on cue — Maud feels compelled to protect her. Maud's instinct is partly driven by a young girl she cared for and tried to protect, a dreamer who didn't have a happy ending — the real Dorothy who we learn about throughout the book.



Note: If any FOL member would like to submit a review, please contact Linda Profaizer, Editor CTO, at newsletter@folpbvbl.org

MARK YOUR
CALENDARS
FOR
**Seymour's
upcoming
lobby book
sales**

After a successful Mid-Summer Book sale in July, Seymour's Fall Lobby Book Sale will be held starting on **Friday, September 19 through Saturday October 4th**. That will be followed by Seymour's Holiday Lobby Book Sale held from **Friday, November 21 through Saturday December 13th**. Remember that all money from purchases at Seymour's go directly to fund all Library programs including the upcoming Children's Library Renovation.

Have Books to Donate?

We're happy to accept your book donations! If you have a large number of books to donate, please call Seymour's at 904-295-3202. If needed, we can provide boxes (if available) to help you pack up your books and drop them off at the Library.

Thanks for helping us
keep the
good reads coming!

Ask Seymour, he knows . . .

We're launching a fun new Q & A series featuring little-known facts, helpful tips, and behind-the-scenes gems about Seymour's Bookstore and the Library. Got a burning question or a cool tip to share? Let us know! Contact us at:

newsletter@folpvbfl.org



We'll kick things off with this one:

Q: I'm searching for a specific hard cover book in a series but haven't had any luck finding it. Can Seymour's help?

A: Absolutely! Seymour's offers a helpful (but little-known) service called the Book Search. Just drop by the bookstore and let one of our friendly Volunteers know what you're looking for. We'll jot down the title, your name, and your phone number ~ and if that book happens to come in, we'll give you a call or send you a text.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we're always getting new donations. From Classic novels to rare finds (yes, even that coffee table book with the gold spine!), you never know what might come through the door.

Looking for something beyond books ~ like a specific brand of puzzle or a wooden jigsaw? Let us know that, too! Our Volunteers love matching people with just the right item ~ it's one of their favorite parts of the job.

PEOPLE "FALL TO PIECES" OVER PUZZLES!

It's no mystery – puzzles are one of the most-loved, non-book treasures at Seymour's Bookstore. From scenic landscapes and vintage collages to whimsical art and fine art scenes, there's a puzzle for every casual puzzler or serious solver. People do have their favorites! The 500-piece puzzles are especially popular – just challenging enough to be satisfying, but not so tough they take over your dining table for a month. But choosing a puzzle? That's a puzzle in itself! Subject, size, piece shape, and brand – it all adds up to a totally different experience depending on what you pick. Here's a guide to some of the top puzzle brands you'll find (and love!) at Seymour's:

BRAND	KNOWN FOR	PIECE STYLE	BEST FOR
Springbok	Bold colors; thicker puzzle board; sturdy feel; satisfying snap connecting pieces.	Uniquely shaped	Adults & older adults
Ravensburger	Beautiful photography and fine art with a matte finish reducing glare	Precision cut and fit pieces	All ages. Serious puzzlers.
White Mountain	Nostalgic & collage style images (retro candy, vintage ads or classic movies.)	Larger pieces	Families or puzzlers who like a bigger picture.
Cobble Hill	Whimsical designs and random-cut pieces.	Random-cut	Families and seniors. Unique challenge seekers.
Heritage	Fine art and feature scenes from American life and history.	Traditional	Adults and art lovers
Eurographics	Educational and travel themes	Traditional	Teens & adults
Melissa & Doug	Puzzles for toddlers	Wooden	Toddlers & Pre-schoolers
Wentworth	Laser-cut collector puzzles	Wooden	Adults and collectors

Hot Tip: Wooden puzzles are rare finds at Seymour's, but when they appear, they fly off the shelves. Keep a look out!

Fun fact: Our most popular brands? White Mountain, Springbok, and Ravensburger – puzzlers can't get enough of them! And don't forget: The Library has its very own Puzzle Corner with puzzles provided by Seymour's. Stop by and add a piece, or three, to the community puzzle anytime. The Library Staff held their first **Puzzle Palooza** in August using Springbok puzzles from Seymour's – with a max of 10 teams participating, puzzle races could become a more frequent event. So next time you're browsing the bookstore, take a detour to the puzzle section. The inventory changes daily. You just might find your next rainy-day obsession – or the perfect gift for someone who loves a good challenge. **Happy Puzzling!**



WE COULD USE A FRIEND LIKE YOU!

2026 Membership Campaign Gets Underway October 1st!

Love your Library? So do We.

When you become a Friends of the Library (FOL) member you're not just supporting books, you're helping build a vibrant hub for learning, imagination and community connection.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MAKES BIG THINGS HAPPEN

Your membership dollars, proceeds from Seymour's Bookstore, and generous community support fuel the magic behind so much of what makes our Ponte Vedra library special, such as:

- Funding 95% of all library programs**, from story times to author talks to STEM workshops to iPads to programmable Legos ~~~ all free to the public. FOL's Library support budget totals \$47,000 for 2025.
- Earmarking \$500,000 for a 2026 major renovation of the Children's Library**, along with leading a community-based campaign to raise another \$100,000+
- Expanding collections, improving technology**
- Operating Seymour's Bookstore**, the cozy, community gem staffed by over 40 volunteers offering the community a great local bookstore with **below market value pricing** on donated books, puzzles, music, videos and more. All sales proceeds go to the FOL.

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PERKS

In addition to knowing you're making a difference, FOL members also enjoy:

- An invitation to our February annual member-only celebration** (last year's event was held at The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach)
- Subscription to, and advance copies of**, our quarterly newsletter *Check This Out*
- Early access to Seymour's Book Sales** ~~~ shop for the best picks at special preview sales and closing sales

HOW TO JOIN OR RENEW

Our **2026 Membership Campaign** launches **October 1**, and we're aiming for **100% renewals by December 31!** All memberships received after October 1, 2025 are current through December 31, 2026.

Current members will receive a renewal letter in early October with a self-addressed return envelope; drop it off in the mailbox at Seymour's entrance or just drop it in the mail. **Want to renew or join online?** Great news, we're now using Zeffy, which allows us to receive 100% of your donation with no fees.

Visit: <https://folpvbfl.org/annual-membership>

Membership levels are available online, and start at a minimum of \$35 up to \$1000+. We gratefully welcome support at any level.

Want to do something extra meaningful? **Give a membership as a gift** ~~~ it's a great way to honor someone who loves the library as much as you do.

Thank you in advance in helping us reach our goal of 100% renewals by the end of the year. **Your support makes a lasting difference!**



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Our Mission

is to make the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch of the St. Johns County 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.

To renew your 2026 membership, please visit our website at folpvbfl.org and click on the membership tab. You can also simply drop a payment off at Seymour's. We thank you for your continued support.



A copy of the registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling 1-800-435-7352 toll-free within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.