

Check this Out

A bright and breezy update
for our
awesome library community

Friends of the Library Ponte Vedra Beach ~ FALL 2026 Newsletter

Your
membership
starts the
ripple.

Together,
Friends
create a
wave of
support!



Membership Renewal Begins October 1

Watch your mailbox and
email for your 2027
Friends of the Library
membership information.
You may also join or
renew online at
www.folpvbfl.org
or pick up a
membership form
at Seymour's Bookstore.
See page 15 for
information about the
reasons—and incentive—
for renewing online.

The Children's Cove is a lasting example of what Friends support can accomplish when thousands of individual ripples come together.

Years of individual Friends membership dues -- along with Seymour's purchases and donations, community campaign support, and countless volunteer hours -- transformed an outdated children's area into a welcoming space for imagination, learning, and discovery. (See story page 7.)

But The Children's Cove is only one example of how Friends support is felt throughout the library and across our community.

HOW FAR DOES THE WAVE REACH?

Many people assume county funding covers everything the library offers. In fact, the Friends fund approximately 95 percent of programming at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library while also helping provide collections, furnishings, equipment, technology, and special projects beyond the county budget.

That support makes possible children's storytimes, Summer Reading programs, concerts, lifelong-learning opportunities, the Library of Things, special events, and many other experiences that keep our library vibrant.

EVERY MEMBERSHIP ADDS TO THE WAVE

One membership may seem like a small contribution, but together, it becomes part of something much larger -- Friends helping the library touch thousands of lives each year.

Your Friends membership supports literacy, lifelong learning, children and families, students and seniors, music and cultural programs, and a welcoming place where people of all ages can learn, connect, and grow.

THE WAVE KEEPS MOVING FORWARD

Future possibilities include expanding the Library of Things, enhancing collections, supporting new technology, and investing in improvements that keep our library welcoming and responsive.

Your membership supports today's needs while strengthening our library for the future.

Our 2027 Membership Campaign begins October 1. Please renew your membership -- or become a Friend for the first time -- and help keep this Friends wave of support growing.

Our goal is to receive all membership renewals by December 31, 2026.

*Your membership starts the ripple.
Together, Friends create a wave of support!*





Board of Directors

. Mary Gebhart .
President, Membership

. John Mencke .
Treasurer

. Estes Carns .
Secretary

. Remington Chenore .
Governance

. Paula Nardon .
Manager,
Seymour's Bookstore

. Linda Profaizer .
Communications,
Newsletter Editor



.....
Newsletter created by
Laura Chenore

The President's Message



Dear Friends,

*A great library doesn't just serve a community ~~~
~~~~ it helps shape its future.*

For more than 40 years, the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library and the Friends of the Library have worked together to do just that, completing many important chapters along the way.

Our newest chapter is **The Children's Cove**. As one chapter closes, and another begins, we offer our sincere thanks to four departing Board members whose leadership and service have strengthened the Friends in lasting ways.

**Leslie Kleiman**, a Board member since 2013 and our immediate past president, served two nonconsecutive terms as president. We are especially grateful for her determined leadership, strong advocacy, and important role in bringing The Children's Cove to fruition. Leslie will continue supporting the Library's Art Wall as a volunteer.

**Felicia Mashin**, a Board member since 2019, has guided FOL publicity and will continue helping as an "as-needed" volunteer. Linda Profaizer has now assumed publicity responsibilities as part of her Communications role.

**Marianne Stein**, a longtime Board member whose service began before the early 2000s, has moved out of state. Marianne made many significant contributions to the Friends over the years, particularly through her leadership of the FOL Music and Speakers Series. These popular programs are now supported by the library's adult programmer, Tessa Highstrom.

**Sharon Van Hees**, a Board member since 2021, has been responsible for the Library's Art Wall and its many beautiful installations. She will continue supporting this activity as a volunteer.

We are deeply grateful to Leslie, Felicia, Marianne, and Sharon for their time, creativity, and leadership.

The Friends is an all-volunteer organization, and our achievements depend on people willing to share their time and talents. Please consider volunteering or exploring the opportunity to serve on the FOL Board. See the Volunteer Opportunities ad on page 11.

Our 2027 Membership Campaign begins in October, and we invite you to help keep that wave of support moving forward. Our goal is to have members renew by December 31 so we can begin the new year ready to respond to the library's evolving needs.

Whether you renew, join for the first time, volunteer, donate books, or shop at Seymour's, your participation matters. Each individual act of support joins with many others to make a lasting difference.

Thank you for being part of the  
Friends of the Library story--  
and for helping us shape the future  
of the library we all love.



*Mary Gebhart*

President, Friends of the Library --  
Ponte Vedra Beach







Kim Odom,  
Branch Manager,  
Ponte Vedra Beach Library



More than 30 years ago, our community came together to help build the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. Since then, its services, collections, and programs have continued to grow and change lives.

We have watched families nurture their youngest readers, and later welcomed many of those children back as parents with little readers of their own. We have guided expectant parents searching for trusted resources, introduced story time participants to beloved book characters and nursery rhymes, and seen students develop into enthusiastic readers who look forward to regular library visits as part of their family routine.

Through art, science, and hands-on activities, we encourage young learners to explore their interests, stretch their imaginations, and discover new ways to create. We also listen to the voices and experiences of area teenagers, investing in the equipment, resources, and tools that reinforce the library's value as a place for young adults to learn, connect, and grow.

Of course, children and teens should not have all the fun! Our active adult community has asked for relevant, high-quality programming, and we have responded with a robust schedule of concerts, films, speakers, crafts, and literary experiences. These programs offer opportunities not only for education and entertainment, but also for meaningful social connection.

We remain advocates and advisors for readers of every age. Our collections continue to expand, with digital options that include magazines, newspapers, books, movies, and audiobooks. We are also here to serve lifelong learners ~~ from investors and entrepreneurs to travelers learning a new language and curious readers searching for something new to explore. Our extensive collection of research databases offers a wonderful place to begin.

The generosity and encouragement of the Friends of the Library allows us to provide creative programming, reach more families, and make a lasting difference throughout Ponte Vedra Beach.

Every donated book, program attended, volunteer hour contributed, and financial gift helps us continue our story of service to this community. The remarkable investment in The Children's Cove begins an exciting next chapter ~~ one that honors our history while preparing us to serve future generations.



*We are grateful, and we look forward  
with enthusiasm to all that the future holds.*

## LIBRARY CLOSINGS

### LABOR DAY

September 7, 2026

### VETERANS DAY

November 11, 2026

### THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

November 26-27, 2026



# At A Glance... Library Information & Updates

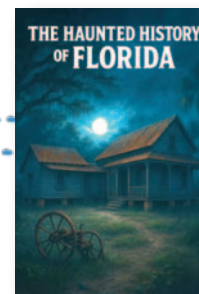
## WOMEN'S Self-Defense Class . . . . .

Back by popular demand, an all-female team of instructors from the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, St. Augustine Police Department, and St. Augustine Beach Police Department will provide hands-on self-defense training.

First established in 1997, W.A.V.E. teaches women and teen girls how to recognize potential threats and respond using basic self-defense techniques. The program focuses on situational awareness, verbal commands, and assertive and physical techniques.

Women and Teen girls are invited to register now to reserve a space in Tuesday's class on September 29, at 5:30 p.m.

## Adult Services Event Highlights



## Guest Speakers Return!

With the gradual reopening of the Friends of the Library Community Room, patrons can once again enjoy a variety of educational and entertaining guest speakers and programs.

Historian Christopher Daley will present "The Haunted History of Florida."

Terran McGuinnes of Wild Lessons will share her knowledge of North Atlantic right whales

### Kookaburra Coffee

will offer a coffee-tasting experience where patrons can learn about coffee roasting and sample a variety of coffees.



## Tap Into Your Library

Need help navigating the library's digital resources, downloading eBooks, or finding your next great read? Reserve your spot for Tap Into Your Library, a hands-on support session with Ponte Vedra Beach Reference Librarian **Ginee Luteran**, who can assist you with:

→ **Aspen LiDA** (managing your library account, browsing our catalog, and more)

→ **Libby** (how to find ebooks/audiobooks/digital magazines, linking your account, and more)

→ **Kanopy** (how to stream movies, shows, and documentaries for free)

→ **The New York Times** or **The Wall Street Journal** digital access

→ **Library databases** (such as Reference Solutions, LinkedIn Learning, Pressbooks and more)

→ Personalized book recommendations

Whether you're just getting started or looking to explore new features, we're here to help you get the most out of your library's digital offerings.

## Seeking Local Talent

--VOLUNTEERS--

make  
our world  
go around!

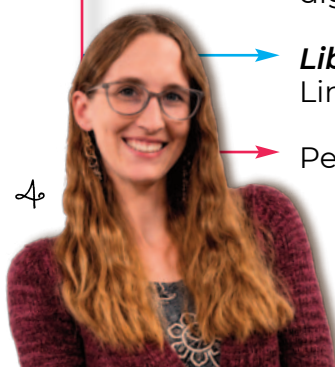
From volunteer instructors to local experts who assist with classes and programs, their dedication and enthusiasm create a ripple effect of positive change throughout our library community.



Do you have a unique talent, area of expertise, or skill you would like to share through a community program?

Contact

Program Coordinator  
Tessa Highstrom at  
thighstrom@sjcfl.us  
to get connected.





# Youth Services Event Highlights

## Storytime Resumes



With the opening of The Children's Cove, we are excited to welcome families back to the library for story times beginning in September.



Babytime features songs, rhymes, and activities designed to introduce babies from birth through 12 months to early literacy. Babytime will be held on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. in The Children's Cove. To ensure the best experience for our youngest patrons, space is limited and **registration is required**.

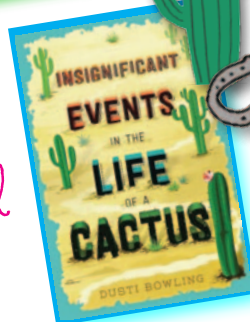
Toddlers and Tales, for children ages 1-3, will meet on Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. in the Friends of the Library Community Room.

Preschool Time, for children ages 3-5, will meet on Thursdays at 11:15 a.m. in the Friends of the Library Community Room.



## Juvenile Fiction

Me, Frida, and the Secret of the Peacock Ring by **Angela Cervantes** offers a wonderful combination of mystery, art history, and Mexican culture. Cervantes introduces young readers to artist Frida Kahlo while exploring themes of belonging, finding friendship in unexpected places, and growing in self-confidence.



## Middle-Grade Fiction



Readers who enjoyed *Wonder* may also appreciate meeting another memorable protagonist with a disability.

In Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by **Dusti Bowling**, Aven Green is a spirited 13-year-old who was born without arms and moves with her family to a struggling Western theme park.

Poignant and funny, the novel explores friendship, confidence, disability, and the experience of seeing life from another person's perspective. It is also an excellent starting point for conversations about the different experiences and challenges people encounter.

## Alyce & Ms. Robyn's Book Corner

In each newsletter, we will share authors and titles from our collection that we believe will resonate with the young and the young at heart.



## Great Read-Aloud Picture Books



Children of all ages enjoy being read to, and sharing a book is a wonderful way to connect with the children in your life. This quarter, we are highlighting **Bob Shea**, an award-winning author and illustrator of more than 20 picture books.

One of Robyn's favorites is Chez Bob, winner of the 2022~2023 Sunshine State Young Readers Award Jr. in the picture-book category. What can a hungry ~ and somewhat lazy ~ alligator named Bob do to encourage birds to come close enough for him to eat?



Open a restaurant on his snout, of course! Bob soon learns, however, that having the birds over for dinner might be better than having them for dinner.



# Teen Advisory Board

In January 2026, Youth Services Program Coordinator Joan Meyers established the library's Teen Advisory Board, known as **TAB**. The board includes 14 teens who advise the Youth Services team on collections, programs, and other library activities. Through their participation, members develop leadership skills while providing valuable service to the library.

## Welcome to The Children's Cove

Comfortable places to sit and read in the new Children's Cove



The Youth Services team is delighted to welcome children and families to the newly renovated children's space at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. We are deeply grateful to the Friends of the Library for providing the funding that made this wonderful new space possible. We invite everyone to visit and explore The Children's Cove. (See article The Children's Cove: Well Worth The Wait on page 7).



Families enjoy the new space in The Children's Cove

## Staff Notes

**Jennan Norenberg ~ ~ ~**

has left her position at the library to pursue an internship at the Western North Carolina Sculpture Center.

*We wish her well in this exciting opportunity.*



**~ ~ ~ Julie Rosenblum**  
recently celebrated seven years of service with the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

*Congratulations, Julie!*







# Well Worth the Wait!



After years of planning, fundraising, and anticipation, The Children's Cove is now open ~~ and children and families are making the newly renovated space their own.

The name, The Children's Cove, reflects both the beach-inspired design and the Youth Services team's vision for the space. Youth Services Librarian Robyn Carr drew inspiration from her childhood visits to La Jolla Cove in San Diego.

Designed to meet the changing needs of today's families, The Children's Cove is much more than a place for books. It offers digital resources, comfortable spaces for reading together, and opportunities for hands-on learning and exploration in the maker space.



"A cove is a small, sheltered bay," Robyn explained. "La Jolla Cove provided a safe place to explore the wonders of the ocean and the coast. That is how we envision The Children's Cove—a safe and welcoming place where children can explore, learn, and discover the world around them."

"Like a cove along the shore," Robyn added, "it is part of the larger library and community while giving children and families a comfortable place of their own."

Visitors describe the new area as bright, inviting, thoughtfully organized, and easy to navigate. Families appreciate the books, crafts, activities, and welcoming staff members who help young readers find just what they need.

"Our two daughters love it," one family shared. "Thank you for the clean space, fun activities and great books!"

Children can be seen browsing the shelves, settling in with books, creating crafts, and sharing stories with parents and grandparents. Although newly renovated, the space already feels comfortable and well used ~~ not simply like a newly renovated room, but like a place that belongs to the families who use it.

One longtime patron, who has brought her children and now her grandchildren to the library for 35 years, called The Children's Cove "beautiful." Another visitor offered perhaps the strongest endorsement of all: "This is the BEST library for children I've been to."

The Youth Services team is deeply grateful to the Friends of the Library for providing the funding that made this wonderful new space possible.

After years of careful planning and community support, it is gratifying to see The Children's Cove filled with children and families ~~ connecting, learning, exploring, and enjoying time together. Their response confirms what so many hoped:

**The Children's Cove was well worth the wait.**



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## Adult Programming

### Book Lovers Book Club Fridays @ 11:00 am

September 4 | The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles

October 2 | Atmosphere by Taylor Jenkins Reid

November 6 | Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan



**Tai Chi Gung** WED | September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & October 7 | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Color, Craft, and Connect** TUE | September 8 & 22 | October 13 & 27 | November 10 & 24 | 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Tech Help with David** THU | September 3 & 17 | October 1, 15, & 29 | November 12 | 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

**Tap Into Your Library** THU | September 10 | October 8 & 22 | November 5 & 19 | 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

**Crafters Corner** TUE | September 15, October 13, November 17 | 4:00 - 5:30 pm | RSVP

**Memory Café** MON | September 28, October 26, November 23 | 1:30-3:30 pm | RSVP

**Ponte Vedra Writers Group** SAT | September 26, October 17, November 28 | 11:00 am-12:00 pm

**Art with Kasha** SAT | September 19 | 10:15 am or 2:15 pm | RSVP

**Women's Self Defense with SJC Sheriff's Office** TUE | September 29 | 5:30-7:30 pm | Ages 13+ | RSVP

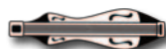
**Guest Speaker: "The Haunted History of Florida" by Christopher Daley** TUE | October 6 | 3:00 pm | RSVP

The Kookaburra Coffee presents:

**Coffee Roasting and Brewing Methods** THU | September 24 | 2:00 pm | RSVP

**Coffee 101 and a Coffee Cupping Experience** SAT | October 17 | 10:30 am | RSVP

### IMPORTANT NOTE:



With full access to the FOL Community Room, the  
**FOL Concert Series** will return in the Spring of 2027.



## Multigenerational Programming

**Movies for All Ages:** All ages are invited to watch movies on our BRAND-NEW big screen.

Check the library website for movie titles and showtimes. Snacks will be generously provided by the Friends of the Library.

SEP 1 | SEP 30 | OCT 7 | NOV 19

**Animal Tales: Creepy Critters** SAT | October 3 and October 17 | 2:00 pm

**Guest Speaker: North Atlantic Right Whales with Wild Lessons** MON | November 3 | 4:00pm | RSVP | Ages 10+

**Puzzle Swap** Drop puzzles off at the reference desk Nov 9-13th. SAT | NOV 14 | 10:30 am - 12:00 pm



## Storytime ~ Starting in September

**Babytime** WEDS | 10:15 am | RSVP

**Toddler Storytime** THURS | 10:15 am

**PreSchool Storytime** THURS | 11:15 am



## Youth Programming

**Kids STEM Time: LEGO Marble Maze** WEDS | September 9 | 3:30 pm & SAT | September 12 | 3:00 pm

**Kids Maker Madness: How to Collage** WEDS | September 23 | 3:30 pm & SAT | September 26 | 3:00pm

**Nature Detectives: BATS** SAT | October 10 | 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm

**Kids STEM Time: Build a Monster** WEDS | October 14 | 3:30 pm

**Kids Maker Madness: Design a Pencil Cup** WEDS | October 28 | 3:30 pm | RSVP

**Fall Costume Parade** THURS | October 29 | 10:00 am



## Teen Programming (Grades 6th-12th only)

**Teen LEGO PRIME Projects** MON September 21 | 5:30 pm

**Teen Writer's Workshop: Spooky Stories** MON | September 28 | 5:30 pm

**Teen Pumpkin Decorating** MON | October 26 | 5:30 pm RSVP

**Teen Graphic Design with Canva** MON | November 16 | 5:30 pm

**Teen Baking Holiday Pies** MON | November 23 | 5:30 pm





# The Library offered many fun activities throughout the summer.



Summer Reading Program — Everyone enjoyed Miniature Golf



Summer Reading Program Americana Art in the Park using pastels



TEEN Summer Fun



Intro to crochet for adults with crochet expert Jacqueline sharing her skills



River City Dulcimer Group at the PVB Library sponsored by Friends of the Library



ART in the PARK



ART in the PARK

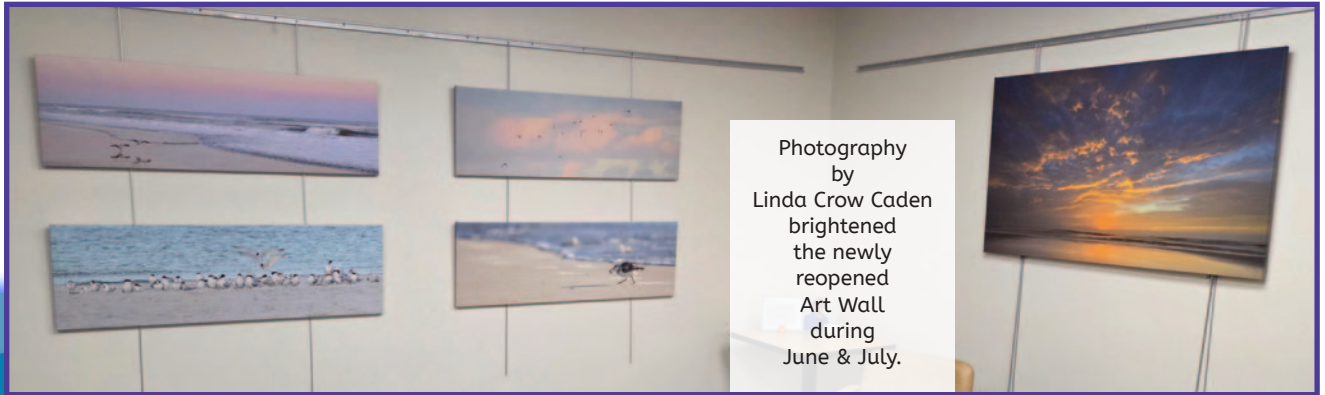


Summer Reading Program kick-off Girls Having Fun at the FOAM Party





# ..... The ART WALL Returns .....



*Linda Crow Caden*

With the reopening of The Children's Cove, the Art Wall outside Seymour's is once again featuring talented local artists.

Photographer Linda Crow Caden's work brightened the wall during June and July. A Fine Arts graduate of Ohio University and an award-winning photographer, Linda is especially known for her bird images, which inspired her children's book, Chicklet's Dream.

In August & September, the Art Wall will feature Jan Bialka's paintings inspired by North Florida landscapes, dramatic skies, and her imagination. She works in oils, pastels, and watercolor.

Be sure to enjoy the changing exhibits during your next library visit. Linda's work will also remain on display in the Art Corner across from the Circulation Service Desk during August & September.



*Jan Bialka*

Jan Bialka's paintings will be featured during August & September

*August  
&  
September*







Shea considers herself an "Extra Hands" volunteer

## Volunteer Spotlight . . .



*Shea Lox* is an "Extra Hands" volunteer who prefers short-term opportunities that fit around her other commitments--and she has already shown how much of a difference those extra hands can make.

Shea began volunteering with the Friends in fall 2025, when a backup was needed to water the potted plants maintained by FOL outside the library. In January, she stepped in again to help assemble invitations and prepare decorations for the February Annual Member Event, then volunteered at the event itself.

Most recently, Shea supervised fourteen volunteers as they set up, managed, and cleaned up food service for a Children's Cove renovation event.

Each time help has been needed, Shea has willingly stepped forward. Her contributions demonstrate that volunteering does not have to involve a major time commitment to have a truly meaningful impact.

Shea's reason for volunteering reflects the spirit behind her service: "I believe public libraries and access to free books are essential to healthy communities; it is an honor to be a small part of such a sacred space."

*We are grateful Shea has  
chosen to share her time  
and talents with the  
Friends of the Library.*

## Volunteer Opportunities

Every volunteer makes a **DIFFERENCE!**

By contributing your time and talents, you help the Friends of the Library and the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library accomplish great things for our community.

**EXTRA HANDS:** Volunteers assist when additional hands are needed~~ usually 2-4 hours at a time.

**Current Needs:** Mailing preparation and assembly; large or small event set-up and break-down; guest check-in; and other assistance at large and small events

**SKILL-BASED VOLUNTEERS:** Share personal skills or expertise through various projects with varying time commitments.

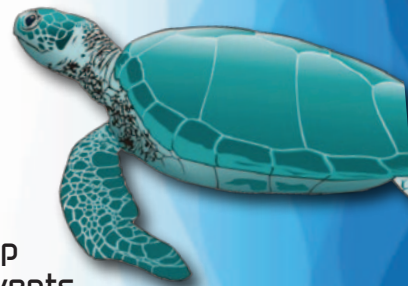
**Current Needs:** Website design/updates; Zeffy campaign and email support; social media updates, planning/execution of small hospitality events

**LEADERSHIP VOLUNTEERS:** Share your expertise, lead an initiative, or work toward a future leadership role. Generally requires a concentrated or ongoing time commitment.

**Current Needs:** Volunteer Coordination; Membership Leadership; Membership Events Planning/Execution; Technology Oversight

*Ready to Help?*

Email [President@folpvbfl.org](mailto:President@folpvbfl.org) with your name, preferred phone number, and areas of interest.  
**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR LIBRARY!**



# Behind the Shelves ~ Meet Our Friday Volunteers



Volunteers support the Friends of the Library in many different ways-and with many different time commitments. Some lend a hand for a few hours at a special event or work a regular two-hour shift at Seymour's. Others take on larger projects, provide specialized skills, or serve in ongoing leadership roles. Each contribution, no matter its size, helps the Friends support the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

In this issue, we are featuring Seymour's Friday volunteers, a team that brings together decades of dedication and the fresh enthusiasm of newer volunteers. Some have watched the Friends grow from large community book sales into the thriving bookstore and organization we know today. Others have only recently joined but have already discovered the pleasure of connecting people with books and supporting the library.

What they share is a love of reading, a commitment to service, and an appreciation for the important role the library plays in our community.

## Arleen: More Than 15 Years of Service

Arleen has volunteered at Seymour's for more than 15 years and deeply appreciates both the bookstore and the work of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. She encourages anyone interested in volunteering to become involved and experience the rewards of supporting the library and the community.

*Arleen with Kamal Aboshamaa, who worked the Friday 4pm - 6pm shift, recently "retired" and moved to Columbus, Ohio.*



## Gail Hilliker: A Lifetime Love of Libraries

Reading was important in my family, and I was read to consistently as a child. My elementary school library seemed like a magical place, and biographies were my favorite. I think I read every biography the library had!

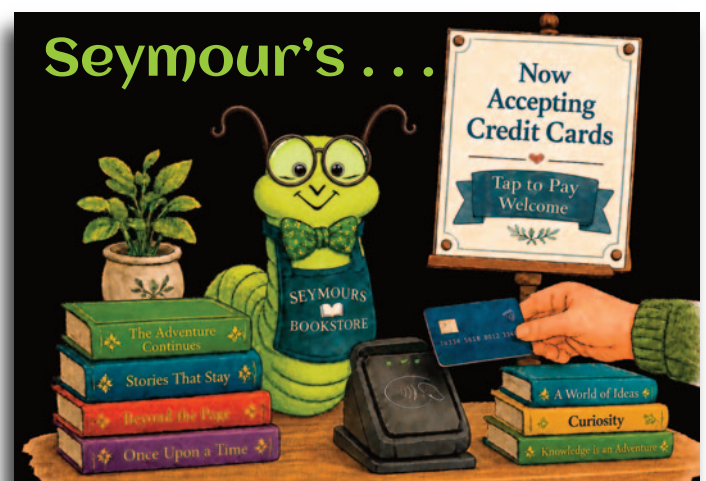
As I moved from New Hampshire to Connecticut and then upstate New York, finding the local library was always a priority. When I moved to Ponte Vedra Beach, it was at the top of my list.

I discovered Seymour's when Guy DeCarlo was running the bookstore with a small group of volunteers. I spent a great deal of time there, filling grocery bags with reasonably priced books, and before long, I became a volunteer myself.

My neighbor Suzanne Egdon and I, both former preschool teachers, also helped develop a children's storytime program. I must say, we were quite good at it!

It has been gratifying to watch Seymour's grow and expand. The library staff has always been tremendously supportive, and I am especially appreciative of Paula Nardon's leadership.

While the world outside continues to spin, shift, and change, one constant remains ~~ the world of books.







## **Liz Strach: Nearly 30 Years of Service**

I first became aware of the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library in 1996, when boys from the GQ Club at Landrum Middle School helped carry thousands of donated books into Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church for the Friends' twice-yearly book sales.

Those sales were eagerly anticipated. For book lovers, the incredible variety and sheer number of books made each sale an event not to be missed.

Over the years, I watched the Friends use the proceeds to accomplish remarkable things. They created Seymour's Bookstore, helped fund the addition of the Community Room, purchased the library's grand piano, and continued the tradition of popular community book sales. The Community Room now hosts meetings, concerts, and programs and even served as the temporary children's library during The Children's Cove renovation.

After donating my own collection of books, CDs, VHS tapes, and DVDs, I decided it was time to give something even more valuable ~~ my time. I began helping at the large book sales and eventually settled into my regular Friday shift at Seymour's.

When I started, some volunteers affectionately called me "the young one." Today, I find myself the same age or older ~~ than many of the wonderful people who helped build Seymour's.

As the years have passed, many of those friends have moved on, leaving me as Seymour's longest-serving volunteer, with nearly 30 years of service.

Literacy has always been important to me, and I believe Seymour's has encouraged a love of reading in the very best way for generations of library patrons. I hope it continues to do so for many years to come.



## **Carla Carlotti: Cookbooks, Connections, and a New Role**

I joined the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library shortly after moving here from Bethesda, Maryland. As a retiree, Seymour's struck me as a wonderful place to spend time and volunteer.

At this year's Friends annual dinner, I mentioned that I would like to volunteer. A few months later, Seymour's invited me to join the cashier team, and I am so grateful for the opportunity.

I have always gravitated toward cookbooks. I find them enticing and almost magical. They offer comfort, connection, and inspiration while teaching us about different cultures, times, places, and people. A cookbook is an invitation to create something unique.

Although so much information is available online, nothing compares with holding a cookbook in your hands. There is a quiet anticipation in turning the pages, studying the photographs, and imagining the results.

English food writer Nigel Slater is one of my favorites. I am reading *A Cook's Book*, a collection of recipes, anecdotes, and personal reflections about his culinary journey. His writing about the joys of preparing a meal at home is exquisite.

I am also reading *Butter* by Asako Yuzuki, a gripping Japanese novel inspired by a real-life murder case. Along with its rich descriptions of food, it offers a glimpse into modern Japanese society and explores questions of gender and identity.

To anyone considering volunteering, I hope you will join this welcoming and dedicated team. The experience offers opportunities to meet people, make connections, and learn about books, authors, and many other subjects. It is enormously gratifying to see the tangible results of the time you give.

*Together, Gail, Liz, Arleen, and Carla help make Fridays at Seymour's welcoming, enjoyable, and productive. Their service and the service of every Seymour's volunteer ~~ helps turn donated books into meaningful support for the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.*





# Ask Seymour... Do You Have Books in Other Languages?

Dear Seymour,

I'm looking for books written in languages other than English. Does Seymour's carry any?

~~~A Curious Reader

Dear Curious Reader,

¡Sí! Oui! Ja! Si! Sim!

Seymour's has a small but interesting foreign-language section that many shoppers may not know about. Tucked among our shelves are books written in Spanish, French, German, Japanese, Armenian, Russian, Italian and Portuguese — including several of J.K. Rowling's books in Spanish.

Our collection is not limited to novels and other text — heavy books. We also have art books in other languages, offering plenty to enjoy through their illustrations, photography and reproductions — even when you do not read every word.

The section may appeal to fluent speakers, travelers brushing up before a trip, language students, art lovers, or anyone curious about exploring books from another perspective.

And don't assume that what you see on the shelves is all we have. Additional foreign-language books are kept in our storage area so please ask a Seymour's volunteer if you are looking for a particular language, author or title. We will be happy to check our inventory for you.

Because our books come from donations, the selection is always changing. Stop by and take a look—you never know what international reading adventure may be waiting for you.

And remember: Every purchase at Seymour's helps support the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

Happy browsing—and happy reading—in any language!

~~~~ Seymour



Foreign Language Book Corner in Seymour's



Some books available in Chinese

¡Sí! Oui! Ja! Si! Sim!





# MORE \$1 BOOK SALES ARE COMING!

*Stock up* on great reads, movies, music, and more at Seymour's upcoming lobby book sales.

Our next \$1 book sale is coming in September, and we are already planning for our final sale of the year ~~ our Holiday Sale. In addition to books, the Holiday Sale will feature a variety of gift-worthy items, individually priced as marked.

## *Friends of the Library Members Shop First!*

Each sale begins with a special Members-Only Preview, giving FOL members early access to the best selection.

Be sure to visit more than once ~~ new books and other treasures are added throughout each sale!

Thank you for your continued support of Seymour's. Every purchase helps the Friends of the Library provide programs, materials, equipment, and improvements for the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.



Not a member yet? Join the Friends and enjoy early access to future sales. Visit [www.folpvbfl.org](http://www.folpvbfl.org) to learn more.

## > > > Renew Online and Help Your Membership Go Further < < <

The 2027 Friends of the Library Membership Campaign begins October 1. Joining or renewing is easy ~~ and completing your membership online helps the Friends save both time and money.

Online memberships are processed through Zeffy, a secure payment platform that allows the Friends to receive membership payments without the processing costs charged by many other services.

Online payment also reduces printing, mailing, check-handling, and administrative expenses, allowing more of every membership dollar to support the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.



Already renewing online? Thank you!

You'll receive your 2027 renewal information via email from Zeffy this year.

If you currently pay by cash or check, watch for your U.S. mail around October 1 for your 2027 membership information, which includes online renewal information.

If you choose to switch to an online payment, you'll receive a \$5 gift certificate to Seymour's Bookstore as our thank-you.

Online membership information can be found at [www.folpvbfl.org](http://www.folpvbfl.org) at any time. Memberships start at \$35.



# A Legacy ..... that Lives On



Laurie and  
Michael (Mike)  
Morgan by  
the fountain  
in the front  
of the  
library with  
granddaughter  
Izzy and  
daughter Ali

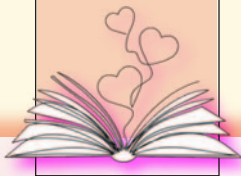
While visiting family in the Ponte Vedra area, three generations of the family of Friends of the Library founder Jack Morgan made a special stop at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library ~ a place that stands as a lasting tribute to Jack's vision and dedication.

A respected community leader, Jack spearheaded the effort to establish the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library during the 1980s and early 1990s. His leadership helped bring the library to life, culminating in the dedication of the current building in May 1993.

The Morgan family's legacy extends well beyond the library building itself. Jack and his wife, Rosemary (Posy), who shared 53 years of marriage, were both devoted supporters of the library. Through memorial and family donations, the beautiful fountain that welcomes visitors at the library entrance honors Jack's community service and has become one of the library's most recognizable and enduring landmarks. Jack's commitment to the community also lives on through the Jack Morgan VolunTeen Service Award, which recognizes outstanding young volunteers each year.

During their visit, Jack and Posy's son Michael, his wife Laurie, their daughter Alexandra (Ali) Harned, and granddaughter Isabel ("Izzy") Harned paused for a family photo at the fountain before touring the library and seeing the newly completed Children's Cove. Jack and Posy's other son, Peter, his wife Anne, and their family, live nearby in Sawgrass. Both were closely involved in the design of the fountain and have made generous donations to the library over the years.

*As new generations discover The Children's Cove and all the library has to offer, the Morgan family's vision and generosity continue to enrich the lives of our community.*



## DONATE A BOOK, SUPPORT THE LIBRARY!

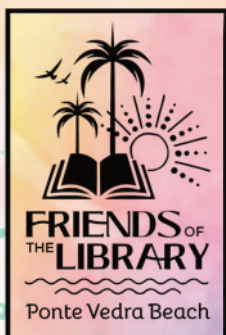
Clearing out a few shelves? Seymour's is happy to accept gently used book donations.

Every donated book has the chance to find a second life and a new reader.

When your donated books are sold at Seymour's, the proceeds help the Friends of the Library support programs, materials, equipment, and other needs of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. Your books do more than fill our shelves—they help strengthen our library and benefit the entire community.

For larger donations, please call Seymour's at 904-295-3202 to arrange a convenient drop-off time. Boxes may also be available to help with packing before your visit.

Thank you for helping keep Seymour's shelves full and supporting the library we all value.



## 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.

904-295-3202 | [www.FOLPVBFL.org](http://www.FOLPVBFL.org)

Post Office Box 744 | Ponte Vedra Beach | Florida | 32004

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.

