Happy 15th Birthday to the Fruitville Public Library

The Friends of Fruitville Library congratulate the staff and administration of the Fruitville Public Library as they mark fifteen years of outstanding service to Sarasota County residents!

With the theme of Quinceañera, the December 8 celebration was complete with music by Latin Rendezvous and a cake. At left, Resource Librarian Ana Feliciano Chico shows off a Quinceañera gown with butterfly wings adding an exuberant flourish to the festivities.

Board Welcomes Star Student

Sarah Moloney, a sophomore at Pine View High School, serves on the Friends Board of Directors this year as a part of the Star Student Program. Sarah’s excellent school record and her volunteer experience with other organizations make her a wonderful addition to our Board.
A Message from Beth Cassell,
President of FFL

The Friends of Fruitville Library celebrate the contributions of the volunteers who shelve books, sort donated books, send books-on-hold to their correct destinations, read to children, pull books for holds, lead book discussions, and perform many other essential tasks.

In the fifteen years since Fruitville Library opened, volunteers have donated 173,364 hours to library service. That’s about five volunteers per hour, every hour the library was open!

Ann Ivey always says she would have to close the doors of our beloved library if it weren’t for the dedication of our volunteers. She and her fabulous staff never fail to thank the Friends and the Library Volunteers for their invaluable help.

We also thank the more than 30 Friends’ volunteers who staff the bookstore, operate our eBay bookstore to sell valuable and collectible books, sort and mark donated books for sale, take donated items for consignment, arrange for engraved bricks for the reading garden, do the banking, keep the books, plan the annual thank-you luncheon, keep you informed through our newsletter, website, emails, and other publications . . . and so many other things. And, of course, the Board is careful to make the most of our hard-earned funds. Our membership in the Alliance of Friends of Sarasota Libraries allows us to share our good ideas and learn from others.

It’s a big job to help make this great library even better, but we all agree it’s the best job ever!

Below, from left: Lee, Suellen, Ardith, Pat, Mary, Beth, and Oscar
Greetings from Ann Ivey
Library Manager

Fruitville’s Quinceañera celebration in December was a huge success and a lot of fun! Thanks to the Friends of Fruitville Library we have been able to double the programming we are offering. We have added musical programs such as the Suncoast Blues Society and the Latin Rendevous. The spring offers a Georgia O’Keefe program and a return visit of Sonny and Perley and Easy Street. The youth program has been able to add more craft programs, yoga and guest programmers.

Fruitville is such a special place to work. I celebrate my 10-year anniversary as manager this year and I am so fortunate to work with such hard working, dedicated, and friendly staff and volunteers. The Friends of Fruitville Library work hard to raise the money that helps us continue to maintain a high level of customer service and exciting programming. Last year was the mobile lab. This year we hope to expand the Young Adult section.

This expansion is in addition to the support the Friends give to our many programs. We are so grateful to our Friends!

Thank you!

Ann Ivey
**MEMORIAL BRICK PATHWAY**

Honor a loved one, commemorate a birthday, celebrate an anniversary or congratulate a graduate.

Have a memorial brick engraved and installed in our reading garden near the fountain, under the arbors, or by the Storybook Cottage. Order forms can be found in the Friends Bookstore.

For more information, go to our website at:

www.friendsofthefruitvillelibrary.org.

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DROP OFF AT FRUITVILLE LIBRARY BOOKSTORE
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We Consign at The Woman's Exchange!

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE FRIENDS OF THE FRUITVILLE LIBRARY

ENRICH A CHILD'S LIBRARY EXPERIENCE
By Donating your Gently-Used Items
See You at the Library~~

There are so many Reasons to Visit Fruitville Public Library!

Computer Classes

Classes are held in the Meeting Room of the Fruitville Public Library. Classes are lecture style and last approximately one hour. For a schedule, more information about specific classes, and to register for any of these classes stop by the Reference Desk or call (941)861-2518.

Programs for Children and Teens

The Friends of the Fruitville Library support programs year around for children of all ages and for teens. Because of their popularity, many programs require registration. See a librarian for postings and to reserve a place.

Adult Knitting and Crochet Club

All skill levels are welcome. Use our materials or bring your own. (Instructor-supplied yarns and needles or hooks remain with the instructor.) Knitting is every Monday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Crocheting is every Wednesday from 10:15 to 12 noon.

Conversation Cafe

Practice speaking English. Just register as an ESOL learner with the Literacy Council of Sarasota at 941-955-9421. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.

Recent Programs Sponsored by the Friends of Fruitville Library

Easy Street Duo played vintage Swing, Jazz, Poppin Blue Grass, Down-home Cajun, Rockabilly and Country music and explained what American Roots Music is all about.

Sarasota Actress Jenny Aldrich toured the world of Georgia O’Keeffe from her sensational flowers to the vast American West.

Sonny and Perley’s “Great American Songbook, Jazz, and More”
Thank You ~~
Library and Friends Volunteers ~~
You make our great library even better!
Annual Appreciation Luncheon
February 8, 2017
Book Notes: What Book Matters Most?
by Valerie Oakley

When Ann Hood appeared at the Hermitage on Manasota Key, I persuaded a friend to drive down with me to hear Hood talk about book clubs and her newest book, The Book That Matters Most. The Gulf provided a soothing background as Hood talked about the magical power of reading and the profound effect books have on readers at different ages and stages of life. According to the brochure, she “has been challenged to meet with 60 book clubs during her book tour.” Ms. Hood, a very likable person, described her book as dealing with sex, drugs and rock and roll, and a book group where the question is posed: “What is the book that matters most to you?” The plot is wrapped around that question and involves Ava, her daughter Maggie, a book, death of close family members, lots of guys, Paris, Providence and cops. It is not a book for everyone; the title may be the best thing about it. But it has made me question: Is there one book above all others that matters to me?


McBride’s The Good Lord Bird, described as “a comic novel recounting the life of notorious abolitionist, John Brown,” won the National Book Award in 2013. The “Good Lord Bird” refers to the ivory billed woodpecker, 20 inches long with a 30 inch wing-span, and so pretty that, when spotted in the woods, it elicits that exclamation. The novel opens in pre-Civil War Kansas Territory and is told from the point of view of a young boy, Henry Shackleford, who assumes the disguise of a young girl and travels with the legendary John Brown, ending up in Harper’s Ferry, on the night of the famous raid on the armory that is considered “one of the great catalysts” of the Civil War.” The tale is well told; but notwithstanding the publisher’s admiration for the author’s “meticulous” care for detail and character, contains a minor error that calls into question, for me, the veracity of the rest of the work. I know this is a work of fiction but the mention of the distance between Harper’s Ferry, WV, and Chambersburg, PA, is an easily verifiable fact and is not the 15 to 20 miles cited in the text. Having lived in that part of West Virginia, I know the distance to be at least 50 miles, even as the crow flies. I realize this has no impact on the plot/story, but it is a fact a copy editor could easily have checked. It’s like a pimple on an otherwise unblemished face. Nonetheless, it does live up to the praise of reviewers who compare it to Huckleberry Finn.

“There are secrets you share and secrets you hide” summarizes Laura Dave’s Eight Hundred Grapes, about a family of vintners in the Sonoma Valley in California. Many secrets come into the open, like the family recipe’s secret ingredient of chocolate; others become obvious in life-changing ways. One of the best revelations is that it takes 800 grapes to make a bottle of wine. This light read portrays the complications of life for a family dedicated to their vineyard and each other: good and bad years for the vineyard, parents revealing themselves as individuals in ways their (grown) children didn’t see or know or expect, grown children leading their own lives, and the unexpected resolutions of the final revelations of many of the secrets.

The Alchemist, by Paolo Coelho, was originally published in 1988; and as of December. 2016, it has been translated into 69 languages, has sold more than 150 million copies world-wide, making it one of the best-selling books in history and setting the Guinness World Record for the most translated book by a living author. It is an allegorical novel in which a young Andalusian shepherd, Santiago, travels to Egypt where his recurring dream has been to find treasure. He comes to realize “playing it safe is often more threatening than taking a risk.” The main theme of the book is finding one’s destiny, with the New York Times noting the book is “more self-help than literature.” However, I found it quite readable as a story of a young boy’s search for himself, which, I suppose, could be interpreted as Everyman’s search for self. The theme, however does not interfere with a good, moving tale of travel and discovery.

An aside: In a Barnes and Noble interview Coelho was asked what book most influenced his life. His answer was the Bible, “which contains all the stories and all the guidance humankind needs.”
IN THE READING GARDEN

Fruitville Reading Garden

Have you been to the garden lately? Many of our plants are very confused due to our warmer-than-usual winter. Even after the fall pruning, plenty of new growth can be observed. Conditions have been great for the cotton plant that grows near the cottage. Some garden patrons have collected the cotton balls from the plant and placed them in the butterfly information mailbox. Feel free to take a sample. Chances are you are wearing this plentiful natural fiber now. As shown here, the cotton plant has been around for millions of years and is still an important crop today.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jule Doran, Sarasota County Master Gardener

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____________________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________

City, State, Zip : ______________________________________________

E-Mail: ______________________________________________________

Telephone Number __________________________________________

___ Individual $ 15.00

___ Family $ 25.00

___ Sustaining $ 50.00

___ Diamond $100.00

___ Benefactor $250.00

I have included a contribution in the amount of $ ______________________

Please make checks payable to: Friends of the Fruitville Public Library www.friendsofthefruitvillelibrary.org

100 Coburn Road
Sarasota, FL 34240

Our Membership Year Runs from October 2016–October 2017, but it’s never too late to join and support the Friends.

* * * A Non-Profit 501(c) (3) Organization * * * FL Dept. of Ag. And Cons. Serv. Reg. #CH14346 * * * Membership Fees Are Tax Deductible

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!