Fruitville Public Library Celebrates Ten Years in the Reading Garden

The garden never looked more beautiful as we recognized ten years of community support. On October 26, 2013, Fruitville Public Library Manager, Ann Ivey, welcomed back those members of the community and county government whose partnership made possible this beautiful addition to the Fruitville Library.

The event was especially meaningful because many of those responsible for the beginnings of the garden came to celebrate its on-going success. These honored guests included County Commissioner Nora Patterson; Lee Wetherington, the Garden Project Manager; Sarabeth Kalajian, Library Director; and Ruth Dickie, the first President of the Friends of the Fruitville Library.

County Commissioner Carolyn Mason began the celebratory remarks, lauding the garden as “the most successful collaborative effort Sarasota County ever mounted.”

The Master Gardeners who maintain the garden year round were presented with gifts to thank them for their creativity and hard work. The Friends of the Fruitville Library dedicated a memorial brick to honor those gardeners and a granite plaque to commemorate the 10-year anniversary.

Friends Fall Festival

More than 75 children and their parents enjoyed games, face-painting, crafts, and showing off their holiday costumes at a special fall festival held as a part of the Garden Celebration.

Pixie Princess Chloe Anna Faso and her grandmother, Caryl Ann Faso, visited the reading garden during the Fall Festival.

Friends of the Fruitville Library Board Members enjoyed dress-up opportunities as well. In case you wondered, that was Suellen Williams swooping through the crowd in a black cape and Kathy Blanchard was the Queen of Hearts, awarding gifts and prizes to all.

A big thank you to all of our valued Friends who renewed their memberships during the membership drive in October. Your donations allow us to fund programming and provide the needed extras that make Fruitville the outstanding library that it is. For those of you who have not yet renewed your memberships, please reconsider and join us in making 2014 the best year possible.
Season’s Greetings! And wishing you a wonderful, happy and healthy 2014!

A big WELCOME BACK to our winter residents. It is that time of year when we begin welcoming back those who live elsewhere for part of the year and get caught up on what has gone on in the past months and what’s coming up here in Sarasota. There are plenty of great opportunities to attend an iPad or EReader class or join/start your own book club. Please check the calendar of events at all the libraries at www.scgov.net/library and find something that interests you.

In 2013 the Friends organization continued their commitment to the library by purchasing new books, DVDs, EBooks, and CDs. They also supported adult and children’s programs, and celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the Reading Garden. These programs could not have been possible without the financial support of our members and the hard work of our wonderful volunteers. A heartfelt “thank you” goes to each person who has given time and money to support the library. If you have not renewed your membership in the Friends of Fruitville Public Library yet, I encourage you to send or drop off your check in the bookstore today.

There are still a few seats available on the Board of Directors. There are also opportunities for you to participate in limited-commitment projects. If you or someone you know may be interested, please call me at 371-3219.

Happy Holidays, Kathy Blanchard

A large part of what we are able to do for the library is funded by the proceeds from our book store. You keep us going when you donate gently-used books and then stop by to browse and replenish your bookshelves. Thanks!
Greetings from the Library Manager, Ann Ivey

As many of you may already know, Fruitville Library celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Reading Garden in October. It was a very festive event with original Friends members and community partners attending. Following that a lovely fall festival allowed kids to parade in their costumes, play games and win prizes. In addition, the Library celebrated its 12th Birthday in December. All of the events celebrated this year could not have been achieved without the continued support of the Friends of the Fruitville Library.

As we head into the new year, we have lots of new programming planned, and some of our favorites are returning. Peter Fletcher, Classical Guitarist, will be here in February and Sonny and Perley, singing duo, in March. Fruitville will be focusing on expanding our Young Adult programs with the creation of a Teen Advisory Board.

In February, the Friends will be hosting the annual Volunteer luncheon where Fruitville volunteers are recognized for all of their hard work and dedication throughout the year. We are so thankful for the many years of consistent support and look forward to another successful year at Fruitville Library.

Ann Ivey

Above: The beautiful granite memorial plaque presented by the FFL in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the garden.

Programs for Adults At Fruitville Library

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.

The Fruitville Library Readers
Join us the first Thursday of each month from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. to discuss a book. Please register at Fruitville Library reference desk or call 861-2518. Seating is limited.
January 2: The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
February 5: Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver
March 6: Shibumi by Trevanian

Master Gardener’s Corner
4th Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to Noon
Stop by the table to ask questions or to pick up informational brochures about Florida-friendly gardening

Conversation Café
Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Conference Room
Practice speaking English!
Sponsored by the Literacy Council of Sarasota. Please call 941-955-0421 to register as an ESOL learner with the Literacy Council of Sarasota.

Socrates Café
2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. in the Conference Room
The Society for Philosophical Inquiry is comprised of philosophical inquirers of all ages and walks of life. Its members strive to form communities of philosophical inquiry.

Suncoast Mobile Career Center
Monday, January 6, 2014, 9 am to 3 pm
An eleven-station computer lab on wheels with state-of-the-art equipment complete with Internet access has most of the resources available in the Resource Rooms of Suncoast Workforce, our local one-stop career centers. Job seekers may use the Mobile Career Center to conduct an online job search, receive referrals to employers with available positions, write resumes and cover letters, and evaluate work skills, study software applications with Microsoft Tutorials, and much more. All services are available at NO COST to job seekers.
The gift of an engraved brick is a perfect way to honor a loved one, business associate or family this holiday season … or anytime! Show your commitment to literacy and support Library programs with a tax-deductible purchase. Just stop by the Friends Bookstore and fill out an order form. The Friends of the Fruitville Public Library is a 501(c)3 organization. For more information go to our website at www.friendsofthefruitvillelibrary.org.

Many Ways to Support Friends of the Library

- Donate gently used books and recent magazines to the FFL Bookstore
- Donate items to be sold at the Women’s Exchange. They will accept purses, scarves, shoes, jewelry, linens, kitchen items and dishes, wall art, and decorative treasures—all in good condition and clean. Please drop off items at the Fruitville Library Bookstore or, if you prefer, take them directly to the Woman’s Exchange (539 S. Orange Ave.), and mention they are to be consigned in the name of the Friends of the Fruitville Library - #5124.
- Patronize your Friends Bookstore. Audio books for long car trips, a cache of novels for the beach, current magazines, and many books of enduring value are yours for a bargain price.
- Pool our buying power by using the FFL website to purchase items from Amazon.com. You can still use PayPal for your purchases and FFL will receive a small percentage of each purchase.
- Tell your friends about the FFL organization. Many don’t know how important it is to support our library in this way. Local and state governments support a fraction of the many programs and book purchases we enjoy at the library.
- Become a library advocate by contacting your representatives in government. You can thank them for their support and indicate how important libraries are in educating children and serving their constituents. For more information on becoming an effective advocate, see the information from the Florida Library Association at http://www.flalib.org/advocacy.php
Adult Knitting and Crochet Groups Donate Money to FFL

Cora Bishop, Leader of the Adult Knitting and Crochet Groups, presented Kathy Blanchard, President, a check in the amount of $700 from the proceeds of their annual sale held at the Library in November. The sale was the most successful ever mounted by the group. The members of the groups made everything from afghans, mittens, baby booties, scarves, gift card holders and craft items — all hand crafted with love. If you are interested in learning how to knit or crochet or just want to enjoy the company of others, we encourage you to check out these groups and have some fun. Watch for their next sale in the Fall.

Knitting and Crochet Club at the Fruitville Public Library
Knitting: every Monday (except holidays) 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Crochet: every Wednesday (except holidays) 10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

"The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library." — Albert Einstein
Support Your Library – Consign With the Friends!

Items accepted at Woman’s Exchange:  Purses Jewelry
  Linens Kitchen Items
  Wall Art Decorative Treasures
  CD’s Dishes & Glasses (sets of 4 or more)

All items must be clean and in good condition. Drop off items at the Fruitville Library Bookstore and we’ll take them to the Woman’s Exchange. **WE NEED YOUR HELP TO CONTINUE SPONSORING LIBRARY PROGRAMS!**  **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

The Board of the Friends of the Fruitville Library

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Fruitville Library Reading Garden

*By Lorraine Wolfinger, Master Gardener*

A beautiful but often overlooked plant in the garden is Zamia floridana, commonly known as Coontie. Although it resembles a palm, the plant is actually a member of the cycad family. This ancient family of plants was around when dinosaurs roamed the earth.

Coontie is a slow-growing medium height plant that grows to about three feet tall in sun or shade. It is a Florida native that survives with little or no water or attention, once established. We use it extensively in the Reading Garden as a ground cover, but it is also useful as a specimen plant.

The leaves of the Coontie are the larval food for the rare atala butterfly. Birds and small animals also eat the seeds. Natives and early settlers to Florida used the large starchy root as an important food source.

Stop by the garden soon and see this versatile and amazing plant!

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1. Visit our website at www.friendsofthefruitvillelibrary.org and scroll down to click on the Amazon.com link.
2. SHOP, SHOP, SHOP! Fill your cart.
3. Pay for your purchases. It is that easy!! There are no special codes to input or remember.

** Up to 15% of your purchase on Amazon.com benefits Friends of the Fruitville Library. **
Noteworthy Titles You Might Have Missed

Book Reviews by Valerie Oakley

The Art Forger by B.A. Shapiro is a somewhat convoluted tale of intrigue, romance, mystery and the procedure for producing a forged picture. The protagonist, Claire, is a copyist, meaning that she is employed by a firm that reproduces famous paintings for sale online, “perfect replicas” whose “provenance only an art historian could discern” and with no intent at deception. Claire is approached by a gallery owner to reproduce a Degas, which he claims to be an original that had been stolen from Boston’s Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. His plan was to sell the reproduction but return the original to the museum. Claire would have a one woman show in his prestigious gallery. She is faced with technical as well as moral decisions and the reader follows her to the provocative, if somewhat too neat, conclusion. Along the way, we learn, in meticulous detail, what it takes to create a work to appear nearly a century old, from the preparation of the canvas to the drying of the paint. In addition, we are caught up with the complications that arise with the master plan, the gallery owner, the potential buyer and Claire’s own sense of right and wrong.

Charlie Lovett’s The Bookman’s Tale has a subtitle, A Novel of Obsession, which it is. It is also a book about books. Peter Byerly is an antiquarian book collector and has gone to live in England following the death of his wife, Amanda. In an 18th century study of Shakespeare’s forgers, he comes across a photograph of a woman with a remarkable resemblance to his wife. Intrigued with the photograph, and being of an obsessive state of mind, Peter determines to find who the subject of the photo was. In chapters alternating in time from 1592 in Southwerk, London, and 1983 in North Carolina to present day 1995 England, Peter follows clues which lead to “a priceless literary artifact that could prove the truth of Shakespeare’s identity.” Along the way he encounters a murderer, a love story and even a secret tunnel. Lovett, as an antiquarian bookman himself, brings to the narrative details one needs to be aware of when collecting rare books: paper age, book construction, type face, marginalia and the aura of mystery – is the book truly rare? All the questions are answered and the two tales come together in a satisfying conclusion. A recent news article about forging a book by Galileo noted that “when a book is false, it is equal to, if not better than, the original,” a case of life imitating literature, and leads one to question whether perhaps not all the mysteries have been solved.

Although the central character in Clara and Mr. Tiffany comes across as self-centered, author Susan Vreeland conveys a good deal of information about the Tiffany Glass & Decorating Company in its early days (1893) and the personalities which grew the company. Based on real people, the book portrays Louis Comfort Tiffany as an aloof man with strict principles (he does not hire married women, and will fire any of his “girls” who marry) and fully focused on the stained-glass department of the company, rather than the jewelry side. His ambition was to achieve artistic recognition for his stained-glass windows. Clara Driscoll became the head of his women’s division and also desired respect as an artistic designer. She suggested, and ultimately formulated the shape and process for producing the now iconic stained-glass lamps. Clara’s drive and ambition help bring more equality to the whole company, while her own personal life is a mixture of highs and lows. She is protective of the members of the women’s division while she “struggles with the challenges that she faces as a professional woman.” Vreeland describes New York society of the times, with galas and balls in contrast to the poverty of the immigrant population, while creating fictional scenarios that make a good read; as she did with Luncheon of the Boating Party. Detailed descriptions of the process of designing and working with glass add to the pleasure of the book. The author leaves the reader with a greater understanding of the make-up of the artistic personality, through both Clara and Tiffany, and how and why some extremely talented people are not particularly well-liked.
Friends' Annual Meeting:
January 15, 2014, 10:00 a.m.
Fruitville Meeting Room

FRIENDS OF THE FRUITVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Please make checks payable to: Friends of the Fruitville Public Library
100 Coburn Road
Sarasota, FL 34240

* * * Membership Fees Are Tax Deductible  * * *

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!