We Celebrate Sarabeth

Visionary Leader Retires

As Sarabeth Kalajian retires as Director of Libraries and Historical Resources, she is rightly credited with building four new libraries and guiding her department through the turbulence of budget cuts and recession. The new libraries represent the state of the art in services and materials and continue to serve the people of Sarasota County with distinction.

Leaders within Sarasota County also credit her with instilling a philosophy of building community through educational and cultural programming. When author Eric Kleinenberg distilled that philosophy into the ideal of libraries as “Palaces for the People,” Sarasotans recognized that concept already realized in their libraries.

Sarabeth’s staff and the Friends of the Library have a more personal sense of her contribution to the culture of the Library. Unfailingly kind and generous, she brought out the best in those around her.

Fall Membership Drive Begins

Bookstore offers Discounts

Membership in the Friends is a gift for all seasons, but we try to simplify the process by sending reminders to all members in October.

You can decide to support the library anytime and we'll gratefully accept your tax-deductible donation. We deliberately keep fees low—only $15 per year for an individual membership! We want to enable everyone to demonstrate their commitment to the library by signing up as members.

This year we’ve launched a new program we call Member’s Mondays. Friends of the Fruitville Library will be eligible for a 50% discount on purchases in the Bookstore. Just bring your membership card on Mondays to claim your discount.
The Mission of the Friends of the Fruitville Library is to advocate the value of the library to the community and elected officials, promote volunteering, and provide financial support.

www.friendsofthefruitvilletlibrary.org

A Message from
Beth Cassell, President

Transitions can be hard, especially when a creative visionary leaves the institution she’s led for two decades.

Sarabeth Kalajian has been rightly recognized for her leadership of the Sarasota County Library System and Historical Resources. She has overseen the design and building of four public libraries during her tenure—including the Fruitville Library in 2001. Her graciousness in dealing with the public, her colleagues, and those who volunteer is legendary.

In September the Board of the Friends of the Fruitville Library celebrated Sarabeth’s many contributions to the community by adding an interactive element to the Reading Garden she loves so much. The metal sculpture invites children (and playful adults) to add a gentle musical note to nature’s beauty in our garden.

Thanks, Sarabeth— for books, blossoms, and butterflies that add so much to our enjoyment of the library!
Many Happy Returns!

With these welcoming words the Sarasota County Library System announced its new policy of eliminating late-return fines. We want to enable those who are unable to pay overdue fines to return to the library and use its resources. Our records show that children have been particularly prevented from using the library because their parents fear they will incur fines.

Research on such a policy change in other library systems has shown that it positively affects circulation of materials. Patrons continue to return materials in a timely way and libraries recover long-lost materials. (Note: patrons will still have to pay to replace lost materials.)

As we celebrate the brilliant career of Sarabeth Kalajian and welcome Renee DiPilato as Director of Libraries, We welcome you and your overdue books back to Fruitville Library!

Welcome Renee DiPilato

Renee Di Pilato, the new Director of Libraries and Historical Resources, previously served as Deputy Director of the Alexandria Library in Alexandria, Virginia. She brings with her nearly 20 years of professional library management experience. She has also served as an adjunct professor of Library Management at the University of Southern California since 2017.

Her impressive educational credentials include a doctoral degree in Managerial Leadership in the Information Professions from Simmons College; a Master of Arts in Public Administration from George Mason University; a Master of Arts in Science, Library and Information Science from The Catholic University of America; and a Bachelor of Arts in History and Urban Planning from Old Dominion University.

Meet our Librarians

Ashlee Elling serves as a part-time Library Assistant in the Youth Department. She was born and raised in Sarasota, and she recently graduated with her Associates Degree in Business Administration and Marketing. Ashlee has been an avid reader since she was little, and she has amassed a personal library of over 800 books.

Robert Petrillo graduated with an Associate’s Degree in Commercial Photography from the Ohio Institute of Photography & Technology in Dayton, Ohio. He has worked as a Beach Patrol Lifeguard for Sarasota County and a Rural Carrier for the United States Postal Service. Some of Robert’s hobbies include: travel, beach volleyball, alpine skiing, swimming and cooking.
A memorial brick can honor a loved one or commemorate a special occasion, such as a birthday, anniversary, or graduation. We offer a special discount for bricks honoring veterans.

Your memorial gift will help the Fruitville Library purchase books and media and provide special programs for adults and children. The path beautifies the first Reading Garden in the Sarasota County Library system.

If you have any questions, please call Pat Ward at 941-955-8512.
Computer Classes

Bring your equipment or use a computer from our mobile lab. 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.

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. Preparations are underway for the annual sale of items with proceeds going to the Friends of Fruitville Library.

Conversation Cafe

A discussion group for adults who want to 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. Saturdays 10:30-12 p.m.

Master Gardener Plant Clinic

Want to learn more about Florida-Friendly gardens, composting, or citrus trees? Need a plant or insect identified? Homeowners can receive research-based lawn, landscape and pest management help from the University of Florida. These sessions are made possible through a partnership with UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County.

The Plant Clinic meets in the library lobby the last Saturday of the month, 10-12 a.m.
Something for Everyone

Programs at the Library in 2019
Sponsored by the Friends of Fruitville Library

Programs for Children and Youth

Our outstanding youth librarians carefully plan programs designed to promote early learning, prevent summer slide, and make the library an exciting place for children to develop their skills and interests.

The Friends are proud to be a part of this, supporting programming costs and purchasing supplies and materials to enable children, youth, and parents to find themselves at the library.

A partial list of the programs offered by the Fruitville Library in 2019.

- Family Games and Lego
- Teen/Family Taiko Drumming
- Collage Art
- Painting with Everyday Objects
- Music and Photo Booth
- Fun to be Fit Kids
- Teen Contemporary Dance Workshop
- Forty Carrots Partners in Play
- Magic and Illusion Show
- Preschool Storytime and Play
- Teen/Tween Thursday
- Giving Tree Drumming Circle
- Preschool Music
- Fruitville Anime Club
- World of Reptiles
- Juggling Workshop
- Preschool Yoga

Programs for Adults

Special Events*

- Downton Abbey Tea
- "Fanny Brice Tells All"
- Black History Month Concert
- “Harlem on our Musical Minds”
- Dr. Ken Erb’s Travelogue
- Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe
- “We shall Overcome”
- “Anne Morrow Lindbergh: An Extraordinary Life”
- Sonny and Perley
- “The Great American Songbook”
- Movie: ”A Star is Born”
- “Sarasota’s 50 Year Boom and Bust”
- “Meet Marie Selby”
- “Suncoast Empire and Bertha Palmer”
- Steve Koski: Underwater Archeologist

Series

- Knitting and Crocheting Group
- “Fruitville Rocks”—Adult rock Painting
- Book Discussion
- Jewelry Making Basics
- Socrates Café
- Genealogy Research Program
- Floral Watercolor Workshop
- Chair Yoga

*Many popular special events are repeated. Watch the Library Calendar and sign up on line or in person at the reference desk.
News from the Reading Garden—

Jule Doran, Master Gardener

Fruitville Reading Garden opened in 2003 as an important addition to the completed library. In a large part, the garden was the vision of Sarabeth Kalajian, Fruitville’s first head librarian. Sarabeth believed that every library should have a garden, large or small, as a place where patrons could relax, enjoy nature, and read a good book. Best wishes to Sarabeth on her future endeavors and journeys on new garden paths.

Over the years the garden has been enjoyed daily as a quiet respite from otherwise busy lives. Just now it’s flush with new growth as a result of our abundant summer rains. We enjoyed a great crop of lychees, pomelos, cherries, and figs. The greatest challenge is staying ahead of the weeds but that is usually a losing proposition! We now look forward to some fall weather and cooler afternoons of garden enjoyment.

More Pictures from Breakfast in the Garden
Pictures courtesy of Robert Petrillo
Coming Soon – Return of Sunday Hours

At the June 18 Budget Workshop, the Board of County Commissioners approved the opening of two library locations on Sundays. The decision was largely in response to the hard work of the Library Foundation Community Advocacy Team. Starting in January 2020, the Selby and Frances T. Bourne Jacaranda Public Libraries will be open every Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

The Creation Stations will be open at both libraries to offer activities on Sundays.

Prefer To Pay by Credit Card?

The Friends understand that many folks prefer to use plastic these days. We’re occasionally asked at the Bookstore if patrons can pay by credit card. We’ve thought long and hard about this option, but we think that the Friends members want us to continue our policy of careful fiscal management so we can contribute fully to the library’s needs. For that reason we still operate on a cash or check basis at the bookstore.

However, PayPal makes it possible for us to offer you an opportunity to pay for membership, bricks for the garden path, and books ordered through EBay with your credit card.

To use this way of supporting your library, just check out our website.


MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: ___________________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: ___________________________________________

E-Mail: ___________________________________________________

Telephone Number _________________________________________

I have included a contribution in the amount of $ _________________

One Year Membership

___ Individual $ 15.00

___ Family $ 25.00

Two-Year Membership

___ Individual $25

___ Family $45

___ Life-Time Membership $250

Please make checks payable to: Friends of the Fruitville Public Library

100 Coburn Road
Sarasota, FL 34240

www.friendsofthefruitvillelibrary.org

* * * 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!