



Windows News & Views from the

Friends of the Selby Public Library

VOLUME XXXV • ISSUE #2 • DECEMBER 2009 • FRIENDS OF THE SELBY PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER • SARASOTA, FLORIDA

THE FRIENDS INVITE YOU TO "COCKTAILS by the BOOK"

Friends of Selby Library will present an inaugural fundraising gala "Cocktails by The Book" on Saturday, January 23, 2010 at the Selby Library. The library's spectacular rotunda and spiral staircases will be lavishly decorated to provide a beautiful setting for fabulous food, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and dessert. There will be dancing with live music, a Chance Auction with sensational prizes, and festive entertainment. Meet local author H. Terrell Griffin.

The proceeds of the evening will benefit Selby Library and provide funding beyond what state and county resources can make available. The Library's role in the community is of vital importance. Its many diverse educational and entertaining programs are offered free to all members of the community. The mission of Friends of the Selby Library is to continue to promote the use and growth of library resources and the expansion of program offerings with financial support.

The gala "Cocktails by the Book" needs the help of local businesses as well as private donors to ensure that Selby Public Library will continue to remain a crown jewel of our cultural and educational community.

Please join us on January 23, 2010 and help keep Selby Library an important and vital part of our community.

Visit our website www.selbylibraryfriends.org or telephone (941) 861-1140 to order tickets, become a sponsor, donate an auction item or offer a donation. Please help us support the Library.

FRIENDS OF THE SELBY PUBLIC LIBRARY
cordially invites you to attend

Cocktails by the Book

Black Tie Optional
Full service open bar
Cuisine by Fête
Live music by Jennifer Leigh and her New Digs

Complimentary valet parking
Chance Auction with sensational prizes
Meet Author H. Terrell Griffin and other local authors

Saturday, January 23, 2010
6:30 to 11:00 p.m.
at the Selby Public Library, Downtown Sarasota

Tickets: \$125 per person / \$200 patron recognition
Ticket information or sponsorship opportunities
941-861-1140
selbyfriends@comcast.net
www.selbylibraryfriends.org

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Blockbuster: \$5,000	16 Tickets, Recognition on Sponsorship Page of Program, Priority Valet Parking, 2 Reserved Tables with Signage at Event, Premiere Seating Location, Recognition on Ticket & Printed Materials, Signage Displayed at Event
Limited Edition: \$2,500	8 Tickets, Recognition on Sponsorship Page of Program, Priority Valet Parking, Reserved Table with Signage at Event
Best Seller: \$1,000	4 Tickets, Recognition on Sponsorship Page of Program
Classic: \$500	2 Tickets, Recognition on Sponsorship Page of Program
Mainstream: \$200	Recognition in Program on "Patron Page"
Popular: \$125	Per Ticket; or Other Genre (Your Choice)

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OUR MISSION

The mission of Friends of the Selby Public Library is to support and coordinate with the library – and the community – in the development of services by raising funds, providing a volunteer base to assist library staff and advocating the use and growth of library resources.



From Our President

I spent my summer vacation in the library, and, oh, what fun it was and how much I learned! You might have found me in the Bookstore behind the cash register, and for the first few days on my shift, you probably wished I were somewhere else. My biggest problem, though, in being in the Bookstore was to keep from buying all the wonderful books for sale. Harriet, Alice and Sue certainly know how to keep those books “moving.” Thank you, book lovers, for all your donations. Keep them coming in!

Marilyn Nykiforuk, the Youth Librarian, gave me a test on the Dewey Decimal System before turning me loose to shelve books. The greatest pleasure was sitting at the main desk just beyond the aquarium, waiting for parents to come in with their children for the “Express Yourself!” programs or to select DVD’s and books. “Express Yourself!” offered 149 planned activities for infants from zero months of age to teenagers. According to Marilyn, there were over 5,000 participants. Look for the cozy corner in that department for parents and children to sit and read together. One father brought his six-year-old son in for a chess game. The boy soundly beat his father that day.

Karen Geis guided me through the Reference Department, showing me where different government forms and documents, newsletters, foreign books, and useful pamphlets on every subject are kept. Computers are available for on-line research by patrons.

Pat Wheeler was most helpful in the Genealogy Department, and I was able to go on line with Ancestry.com and verify that my great-grandfather had served in the Union Army and lived to receive a pension. That gave me a “goose-bump” moment. And the nice thing about using Ancestry.com in the Library is that it is a free service and instructions on its use are available from the friendly staff.

Trina Turton of Circulation showed me the process of “ins and outs” for all books and media. Every item is checked out thoroughly on its return, and there is a designated place for every piece of media in the Circulation Department before being returned to the shelves. I learned about Allycat, the national cyberspace warehouse for tracking all books in print wherever they are in the world – and their availability for users.

Of course, all the summer programs, including the children’s events, were awesome. Dr. John Goodman’s musical lectures were excellent. John will keep his musical series going throughout the year, and the Music Archive will keep the successful “Second Sunday at the Selby” going as well. John and Annie Morrison in their musical presentation received a standing ovation from the packed house.

The Socrates Café series (First and Third Wednesdays) provides an intellectual feast. Interesting topics are debated in a friendly way, with a moderator keeping tabs on time and making sure all participate. Open to the public on a drop-in basis, the “Café” is the place where you can have your “say.”

Summer is long over, but I am proud to say that many programs are continuing at the Library or reopening for the season, including “Books & Coffee.” Check the information desk in the rotunda area for what’s happening. A printed copy of the whole month’s library activity is available.

Many thanks to all the Library staff and volunteers for their help and encouragement. You all are the best.

Jeanne Brown

Jeanne Brown

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E-MAIL: selbyfriends@comcast.net • WEBSITE: www.selbylibraryfriends.org

SELBY PUBLIC LIBRARY: 861-1100 • WEBSITE: www.suncat.co.sarasota.fl.us

LIBRARY HOURS: MONDAY – THURSDAY – 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

FRIDAY–SATURDAY: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. • SUNDAY: 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.



From The Desk of Liz Nolan, Library Manager

Hello, my Friends.

Ah, the promise of a brand new year. Always exciting, isn't it? Out with the old. In with the new. Looking forward to better times. Putting a challenge behind us, or perhaps setting our sails into the wind to weather one. All the same, the dawn of a new year is an opportunity, a chance, a blank slate, an open book.



The role of the public library has changed over the years. Once upon a time, the library may have been just a place to check out a book or find a quiet corner to do homework. Now, the library is a place to do those things but also to learn how to use a computer so that you can keep in touch with a friend across town or check on family members half a world away. It's a place to watch a foreign film, attend an art lecture, listen to a musical performance, participate in a book discussion group, meet people, do volunteer work, find assistance

with social services...well, to be part of a community.

You've heard that we are getting ready to remodel our lovely Selby, right? Plans are still in the works, but we will definitely brighten up the place with new paint, carpet, and improved lighting. We'll re-arrange the furniture, always fun, to make things better for customers and staff alike. And we hope to throw in a couple of beautiful surprises, so please stay tuned.

There's definitely more to come.

Thank you so much for helping to create such a wonderful sense of community here at the Selby Public Library. The support that you provide through your membership, donations, and volunteering helps to make it all possible. The coming year promises to be one of great change and progress, and I, for one, am breathless with anticipation.

Twelve shiny new months. What will you do with yours?

Selby Friends News in Brief

In celebration of **National Friends of Libraries Week** in October Friends Board Member **Nat McCulloch** generously donated the Friends of the Selby Public Library flag that now flies beneath the Florida State flag. The raising of the flag kicked off the celebration. Mayor Clapp presented the Friends with a proclamation. Other activities included a book sale and a membership/information table in the Library rotunda hosted by Friends Board Members. Author James Swain gave a free presentation and signed his books.

Children's Reading Day on November 22nd, hosted by the Friends at the Children's Garden was another successful and fun event for the entire family that cultivated the joy of reading—especially for children. Much gratitude to sponsors **Comcast, the Community Foundation of Venice, the Erin Mae Ryan O'Grady Fund, Florida Power and Light**, plus all other corporate sponsors, and all involved who contributed time and donations to raise funding for Selby youth programming.

The **Books, Baubles & Bing Sale** held on November 6th in the Library Auditorium and the Bookstore netted over \$1,600 in just over 5 hours. Many thanks to the volunteers and the many thoughtful donors for their contributions of amazing and unique items.

The Friends recently hosted in the Library auditorium a **Holiday Luncheon for all Selby Library Volunteers** who thoroughly enjoyed the catered fare as they listened to pianist Glenn Stout play holiday and other favorites.

Selby Friends is appreciative to James Sweiderk of THEYWILL.com, Inc. for donating and hosting the Friends website.

Longtime Friends Bookstore volunteer **Susanna C. von Reibold** presented the Friends Bookstore with a very generous donation of \$1000—"To my very most favorite place to be—where else but our Bookstore" Susanna has always been one of our favorite Friends volunteers and customers!

Special thanks to **Pelican Cove Condominiums** among our other loyal book contributors.

The Friends Bookstore has donated over 400 books to **McGowen Towers**. Many disabled and elderly residents are much appreciative.

The Friends, Selby Library and the community are indebted to all new and renewing members, the many contributors, book donors—and of course, the Friends Bookstore Volunteers. All of you are "priceless".

TO BECOME A SELBY FRIENDS MEMBER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS, VISIT WWW.SELBYLIBRARYFRIENDS.ORG

BUY FROM AMAZON.COM AND YOU CAN NOW HELP FRIENDS of the SELBY LIBRARY! Access to the Amazon site is on www.selbylibraryfriends.org. We will receive up to 15% of the sale! The Amazon site is on the Friends website, where you proceed with your purchase.

We want your used books!

Are gently read books piling up in your home or office? Instead of tossing them away, please consider giving them to the Friends for resale in our bookstore. All proceeds benefit Selby Public Library and its programs. If you can't bring them in yourself, the Friends can arrange to have a courier pick up your cartons of books. For more information, please call the Friends at **365-5228**.

We are the "SILENT FRIENDS"—the books of the Selby Public Library Bookstore, the most profitable fundraising program for the Friends, and one of the busiest stores in downtown Sarasota.

This past year we bestowed joy to thousands of lives not only in Sarasota County, but we've traveled the world. Our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan were delighted to receive some of us, as well as local veteran hospitals, schools, and charities. In India, we helped found a library.

The "Silent Friends" gave to Selby Library over \$50,000 for funding and free programming for adults and children, and saved the Library \$22,000 in book/media purchases.

Thousands of generous donors continuously bring us to the Friends Bookstore. Over 70,000 of us, plus our cousins, magazines and media, were adopted by grateful customers at low, affordable prices. Our guardian/manager, Alice Baudner, high-

lighted us in show-stopping displays. Longtime volunteers gave their expertise to groom us for adoption: Harriet Oxman, Sue Brady and Jim Kitchell sorted, priced, and moved us from cartons to shelf homes. Noel Steinberg ensured that the more valuable tomes were auctioned at maximum prices on the internet. Thirty-one trusty volunteers donated 5,000 hours selling us. The Friends Board, led by Presidents Kathy Hultquist and Jeanne Brown, all gave endless support and book donations.

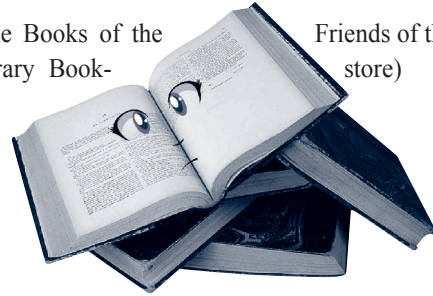
The "Silent Friends" offered an inexpensive remedy for bibliomania. Sometimes, we left the Bookstore via truck loads. We, of all genres and ages, profited book dealers. Interior designers purchased us—"eye candy" for home libraries. We provided "brain food" for children; 3,000 of us were given free to children. We encouraged literacy—the gateway to education.

Striving to assuage loneliness, provide spiritual support, humor, education and fantasy, our story is just the prelude to what we'll continue to do for Selby Library—and the community.

Sincerely,

Your Silent Friends

(AKA: The Books of the Friends of the Selby Public Library Bookstore)



**Books & Coffee
2nd Tuesdays Through April**

**SAVE THE DATES!
"Cocktails by the Book"
January 23rd**

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