



Friends
of the
St. Pete Beach
Library
Founded 1969

WINTER 2020

TIDINGS

The Library's 50th Celebration

Since the beginning of 2019 the St. Pete Beach Library has been celebrating our 50th year in this award-winning building. We've introduced special performers, hosted special programs, issued special edition library cards, and hidden prize-winning tickets in the Library for fun. October 5, 1969 was the formal opening of the (then named) St. Petersburg Beach Public Library and so to commemorate that occasion the Library hosted a special party on Monday, October 28 of 2019.

The evening consisted of food, beverages, and mingling before we unveiled a museum display on

the history of the Library created by USF students as part of their "How to Make History" class. Additionally, guests were addressed by Jennifer Webb, Florida House Representative of district 69; Mayor Alan Johnson; Terri Finnerty, Vice Mayor and commissioner of District 1; and Ward Friszolowski Commissioner of District 2. Later, we were treated to a presentation by Elizabeth Britt on the history of the Library and we gave out door prizes. Over 150 people were in attendance for this terrific party and we had a great time!





Betcinda's Space *By BETCINDA KETTELLS, DIRECTOR*

Director's Report

2020 will be an exciting year for the Library! The building will be renovated, during which time we will temporarily relocate to 7470 Gulf Blvd. As of press time, we don't have an official "move out" date, but we will certainly get the word out in as many ways as possible when we have information to share. The best source of all updates is our webpage: SPBLibrary.com.

You may notice small disruptions in normal operations while we prepare for the move. For instance, the wonderful library programming you've come to expect has been pared down to the essentials and those programs are now taking place in other venues in the City. S.H.I.N.E Medicare counseling; Mayor's Open Office; Book Discussion group; Topics in American History; and Music Appreciation are being held at the Community Center on Boca Ciega Drive. AARP Tax Aide, a very popular service, will be held this year upstairs in City Hall at 155 Corey Avenue.

Something else you may notice if you are a regular library user is that many of the books are shifting as we try to imagine our new space and how we'll fit materials in a smaller footprint. We're lucky enough to be able to offer a little bit of each collection in the new space for browsing. There will be some fiction and non-fiction materials for adults and youth; we'll highlight the newest of our DVD and music CD collections; we'll make room for the CD books and

the ever-popular Playaways. And you'll be happy to hear that all our materials will be available—but some will be housed in a "closed stacks" area which only staff will be able to access. Just ask us for any item and we'll bring it out to you. Better yet—request it on the online card catalog and it will be waiting on the holds shelf up front for you! We will have an outside book drop for materials return and a dedicated parking space just for this purpose.

We will continue to provide PC's for public use, we'll still offer newspapers and magazines, honor books for visitors, and the Friends' bookstore will still be offering quality, discounted items for purchase. Rest assured, we want you to continue to have the quality library service you've come to expect, and we will be working to make it as easy and pleasant as possible for you to visit us. If you have suggestions for us during our time in the temporary facility, please feel free to share them.

Finally, I'd like to send a big "thank you" to everyone who has offered to help us move. So many of you, our loyal, generous patrons, have offered to pack, lug, unpack and help during the move in many ways! We're so grateful for your support. Please remember that the best way to support us is to visit and check out materials. The more items you have in your homes to enjoy, the fewer we need to move!

FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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VICE PRESIDENT Steve Traiman (also writer)

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EDITOR Lorrie Bellinger

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Tidings is published by the Friends of the St Pete Beach Library to provide the community with news about the library's and the Friends' activities. New members are always welcome. To join, please use the membership form on the back of this newsletter.

Tidings News

What the Friends do for the Library...

- Purchase newspapers including: Tampa Bay Times; New York Times; Wall Street Journal; USA Today & BookPage book review magazine
- Pay for volunteer background checks
- Run the bookstore which includes: Sorting, pricing, boxing, arranging, discarding, selling, distributing, picking up deliveries of donated materials, and handling unneeded materials
- Give annual thank you gift cards to staff and volunteers
- Host author and other events, providing food and mingling
- Run monthly board meetings
- Manage donations and earnings
- Support the Library Director's financial requests for items outside the budget
- Improve awareness of the Library and its mission by attending community events
- Volunteer their time shelving materials
- Maintain an email list of supporters and send regular email notices regarding library events
- Run the monthly book club/movie viewings (now in its 24th year!)
- Create, print, and distribute the "Tidings" newsletter
- Host an annual "Friends" meeting reporting on activities of the previous year, accompanied by an array of delicious goodies
- Purchase "Books for Babies" for staff to distribute free to its youngest patrons



New Amazon Program Enables Shoppers To Easily Donate To Their Favorite Nonprofits

**BUY FROM AMAZON =
RAISE FUNDS FOR
FRIENDS OF THE
ST. PETE BEACH
LIBRARY**

AMAZON has a fundraising program that's really simple to use. Part of every \$\$\$\$ you spend will be donated by Amazon directly to the Friends of the St Pete Beach Library. It's really simple...when making a purchase from Amazon, use this new address: **www.smile.amazon.com**

In the preference box, just type in Friends of St. Pete Beach Library and make this your permanent choice of a "Charity". That way, every time you shop, the Friends of the St. Pete Beach Library will receive a donation from Amazon.

You can even install the app on your mobile device or pc.

Thank You - And Happy Shopping!

Tidings News

Manatee Fossil Display Big Hit with Kids

Story & photo by STEVE TRAIMAN

The September display of manatee fossils in the case donated by the Friends of the Library was a big hit with kids of all ages. It was put together by Aymee C. Laurain, Director of Imagine Our Florida, Inc. The organization is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Laurain said, “We focus on science-based education that accomplishes three goals; to connect people with nature, teach them to respect nature, and coexist with the elements within.

“Outreach activities such as the manatee display help accomplish those goals. The manatee bones were provided through an education permit with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The fossils (see photo) of a skull, flipper and rib are approximately 15,000 years old, and manatees have roamed Florida waters for more than 45 million years!



“We hoped viewers would understand the importance of having a legacy species such as the manatee living among us. Much like deer, manatees play an important role in grazing and can even help manage invasive species.

“The introduction of this program came in response to the drastic increase in boating speeds this year. In 2018 there were 86 manatee deaths from boating accidents. So far this year there have been a record breaking 103 deaths. Of those deaths, nine occurred in Tampa Bay; five in Hillsborough County and four in Pinellas. We hope that through education we can encourage people at a local level to be more aware and considerate of our unique Florida wildlife.

“We are thrilled that the display at your SPB Library was such a hit. I hope we can provide more topics in the future.”

For more information, to volunteer and/or donate, go online to imagineourflorida.org

2020 Power of Libraries Award

In 2017, Hurricane Irma damaged artifacts at the Gulf Beaches Historical Museum in St. Pete Beach.

This event, in combination with a conference session on digitalizing efforts by the Digital Public Library of America, inspired the Library and the University of South Florida Honors College to begin a collaborative effort to digitalize the museum’s collection.

In two semesters, students have digitalized 14 oral histories and over 150 artifacts for the Museum.

The collection is accessible online at the Library’s website, SPBLibrary.com through the Pinellas Memory Project.

In coming semesters, USF students will continue this collaboration, as well as expanding their digitalizing efforts, to other county historical sites.

For this collaborative endeavor, the Library won a 2019 Power of Libraries award from Sirsi Dynix, the company that supplies its online card catalog.

Tidings News

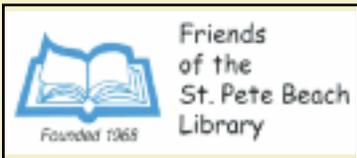
Tim Dorsey Book Signing Appearance



Steve Traiman, VP of the Friends, at left, introduces author Tim Dorsey at the start of his book signing appearance on January 9, 2020. Anticipating the temporary move of the library for its renovation, the event was held in the gym at SPB's Community Center.

It's Time to Renew

With the start of the new year, we want to remind you that it is time to renew your membership in the Friends of the St. Pete Beach Library. Memberships are based on the calendar year and are payable in January of each year. If dues are not paid by April 30, your membership will lapse. Please don't let that happen! Continue to show your support for your library and the Friends by completing the form on the back of this issue and forwarding it with your check by mail or by dropping it off at the library's circulation desk.



2020 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

_____ **New** _____ **Renewal**

Membership dues and other donations to the Friends may be tax-deductible.
Ask your financial advisor.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone and Cell _____

Email _____

Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____ (Payable to Friends of the S.P.B. Library)

Suggested Membership Levels:

Individual \$15 • Family \$25 • Donor/Business \$50

Life \$100 Individual/\$150 Couple • Business \$250

Mail completed form and check to:

Friends of the Library

365 73rd Avenue, St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

or bring to the library during business hours.

I would like to help with:

___ Book Store/Sales

___ Publicity/Promotion

___ Programs

___ Fundraising

___ Membership

___ Board Officer

Friends of the St. Pete Beach Library
365 73rd Avenue
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706