

WINTER 2023

TIDINGS

President's Report

By *STEVE TRAIMAN*

This issue of Tidings will highlight the Friends' fiscal 2022 Annual Meeting reports from Library Director Betcinda Kettells, President Steve Traiman and Treasurer Moon Metz.

Also highlighted are new Staff member Karen Origlio and new Board members Deb Leadbetter, Monica Grill and Judy Heintzelman.

I'm Steve Traiman, president of the Friends of the SPB Library and it's a pleasure to welcome all of you to our fiscal 2022 Annual Meeting.

We have with us Mayor Al Johnson, City Manager Alex Rey, commissioners Mark Grill and Ward Friszolowski, our Director Betcinda Kettells, and many of our fellow board members.

It's been a bittersweet year for the Friends, as we lost Zelda Troiano, long-time Library volunteer and then our loyal member, and Muriel Desloovere, our long-time president.

On a more positive note, we dedicated a memorial sculpture to long-time Library Administrator Roberta Whipple by noted sculptor Randolph Rose of a boy and girl reading on a bench, by the Library main entrance.

We also established a new Innovation Fund in memory of Tom DuCair, a 12-year Library Staff veteran, that already has received more than \$8,500 in donations that will fund exciting new projects for Library patrons young and old.

We also welcomed three new Friends Board members. Deb Leadbetter and Monica Grill are with us today, and Judy Heintzelman. They already have stepped up to take on important roles on the Board and we look forward to their continuing input.

The Board also has continued our ongoing support of the Library, paying for a long list of priority projects that Betcinda will detail in her report.

The Board is dedicated to our continuing support of the Library, its patrons and exciting new programs.



FRIENDS STORE

To find out the latest updates from the Friends Used Bookstore please visit our new Web page at

<https://spblibrary.com/702/Friends-Bookstore>,

and you can also find us on Facebook by searching for Friends Of The Library SPB.





Director's Report

FY 2021-2022

The past 12 months can be aptly described as the "getting back to normal" year as we navigated the uncertainties of COVID-19 and the difficulties of economics.

As we wrangled our way through the year, we had some terrible losses and some great successes. We mourned the loss of two beloved staff members; most of the staff and their families at some point had COVID; and anticipating the needs of library patrons was very challenging.

Happily, we seem to be on an uphill trajectory now. The seasonal residents are streaming back to town, to the businesses, and the library. We are increasing our programming, our services, and refreshing our inventory. We have new staff members who have reinvigorated us with their cheerful-

ness and enthusiasm for making this library shine. We have new Friends board members to support and advocate for the library. Our Mayor, Commissioners, and City Administration are always here for us, and we have a small but dedicated corps of volunteers to help us shelve all these books! \$14890 was spent by the Friends in support of services such as the holiday concert, author events, newspapers such as the USA today and the Bookpage magazine, volunteer background checks, and my personal favorite, books for babies—a give-away designed to encourage parents to read to their infants.

We made it through the tough times! Yea! Now that we are back to normal, let's go beyond normal and get to great! Let's all look forward to a great year!



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

New Staff

Karen Origlio
Library Clerk

Karen Origlio was born and raised in New Jersey and graduated from Rutgers University. She transplanted herself to Florida over 20 years ago. She has held various positions in corporations for over 35 years, several in adult education departments. She relocated to Pinellas County from Tampa to semi-retire and since she likes to learn, decided working at the St. Pete Beach Library would be a great place to be.



President Steve Traiman gives retired Rabbi Jacob Luski winning \$100 gift certificate from Annual Meeting donation drawing. The Luski also made a generous donation to the Friends.



FOL providing treats at library events.



Nice umbrella picnic table given to staff by Friends Board and set up in nice grassy area.



2022-23 Friends Board, front l-r, Moon Metz, Judy Cohan, Sue Lorenz; back, l-r, Bill Thompson, Ron Waters, Steve Traiman. Alice Thomas, Monica Grill, Deb Leadbetter.

Not pictured, Charlie Kabbash, Judy Heintzelman.

Tidings News

New Board Members



Monica Grill

Born and raised in Stockholm, Sweden, Monica developed her love of books and libraries at an early age.

She moved to the US in 1992 and shortly thereafter started a series of moves around the US and world. The one constant was always books, libraries and book clubs. In fact, the SPB library was one of the reasons she chose to live in SPB. She's excited

to support the library as the new Communications Director for the Friends of the Library.



Deborah Leadbetter

Deborah was born in NYC and moved to Florida with her family in the late 1960s. She was a long term St. Petersburg resident before becoming a long term St. Pete Beach resident. She earned a joint bachelor's degree as well as a joint master's degree in mathematics and education. She taught

mathematics in the Pinellas County School System for over 30 years. A lifelong lover of reading, she decided to add volunteering with the SPB Library to her other volunteer duties with the GBHM and PCS.



Judy Heintzelman

Judy Heintzelman was born and raised in Connecticut. Due to her husband's job she moved often until she permanently moved to Florida in 1989. Her last full time position was as a Community Involvement Liaison with Pinellas County Schools. She currently is a FanHost with the Tampa Bay Rays. Judy is very involved at several local theaters. As an avid reader she felt being on the board of The Friends of the Library would be a perfect fit for her.

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 March 31, 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.

Tidings News

Treasurer's Summary

Submitted by Treasurer Moon Metz

SUPPORT AND REVENUE:

- Book Store Sales (Used Books, Totes & Baskets): \$11,610.39
- Membership Dues: \$835.00
- Donations: Individuals & Institutions: \$13,591.54
- Donations: Innovation Fund : \$8,180
- Other Income (Interest) \$471.92

TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE : \$26,512.85

EXPENSES

Friends Programs & Support:

- Tidings Newsletters - Designing, Printing & Mailing : \$634.00
- Totes & Revenue Generating Activities: \$664.00
- Memberships & Dues: \$141.25
- Supplies: \$167.65
- Charitable Contributions: \$1,250.00
- Misc. Expenses: \$15.00

Library Programs & Support:

- Periodicals & Subscriptions (BookPage, NY Times, USA today, Morningstar Investor, Wall St. Journal), \$3,978.81
- Books for Babies, \$1,600
- Furniture and Equipment, \$8,541.40
- Library Events Support, \$150.00
- Gifts for Staff & Volunteers
- Misc. Expenses, \$15.00

TOTAL LIBRARY PROGRAMS & SUPPORT:
\$14,890.01

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$18,268.53 CHANGE IN NET ASSETS (NET INCOME)

Net Assets, September 30, 2021 + \$8,244.32 & Innovation Fund + \$8,180.00

Net Assets, September 30, 2022: \$163,723.57

Net Assets, September 30, 2022: \$171,767.89 + Innovation Fund: \$8,180.00

Membership Summary

Despite the Pandemic fallout and a slight decline in Library traffic, the Friends of the Library had another good fiscal year, from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022.

Now approximately 170 members strong, the Friends continue to raise money in order to support various Library endeavors. The Friends main revenue streams are bookstore sales, membership dues, and additional general donations. With few expenses such as newsletter preparation and printing as well as specific charitable contributions, most of the earned funds are earmarked to enhance our wonderful community Library.

The Friends contributions support special Library programs (e.g. author, musical, children, and educational events), supplement the purchase of periodicals and subscriptions (e.g. NY Times, Morningstar Investor) as well as helping with books, furniture, equipment, Staff support, and gifts for Staff/Volunteers.

FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT Steve Traiman (also writer)

VICE PRESIDENT Susan Lorenz

RECORDING SECRETARY Bill Thompson (bookstore assistant, email)

TREASURER Moon Metz

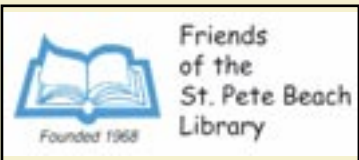
DIRECTORS: Judy Cohan (membership, book reviewer), Charlie Kabbash, Alice Thomas (assistant, transportation), Ron Waters (bookstore mgr.), Monica Grill (communications, bookstore), Deborah Leadbetter, Judy Heintzelman.

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EDITOR Lorrie Bellinger

Contact the Friends: Phone (727) 363-9238

stpetebeachfriends@yahoo.com

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.



2023 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:
Single \$20 • Couple or Family \$35 • Business \$75

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