



Advocating Increased State Aid for the Library

Friends President Pam Macabio and Community Service Coordinator Nellie Slaton as well as Roxanne Bennett (Librarian at the Punta Gorda Library) represented Lee, Charlotte and Collier Counties as well as SWFLN at the State Library Days in Tallahassee on March 9 and 10.

They advocated increased State Aid for Libraries to Senators Aronberg, Richter, Deter, and Bennett as well as with Representatives Roberson, Williams, and Kreegel. At each visit, they left a small packet of information outlining how State Aid is used and the effect that huge reductions in funding would have on library services in our counties. In addition to fact sheets, they used anecdotal evidence to tell the library story.

There is no doubt that drastic reduction in State Aid will adversely affect services. More and more citizens are turning to their libraries for help in these stressful economic times. For example, in Lee County the circulation of books and other materials has increased 22%, attendance has increased almost 10%, and the number of library card holders has increased over 7% over the

last year. And, the growth in need for needed library services is expected to continue this year.

According to Pete Hamill, columnist for the New York Daily News: "In hard times, libraries are more important than ever. Human beings need what books give them better than any other medium....Today, with books and movies more expensive than ever, and television entertainment in a free fall to the lowest level of stupidity, free circulating books are an absolute necessity....For those without money, the road to the treasure house of the imagination begins at the public library."

Legislators seemed very aware of library issues brought to their attention, but reluctant to go on record as supporting increased State Aid, although the amount of State Aid has steadily decreased over the past several years while the request for and use of library services has substantially increased.

The Friends continue to support the Cape Coral Library through book sales and by funding programs to help our community take advantage of the wonderful library we have locally.

Friends Install 2009-2010 Officers



Pictured above from left are the officers elected in March for the coming year: Elaine Berryhill (Secretary), Anne Marie Alonso (Treasurer), Nellie Slaton (Community Services Coordinator), Paula Novander (Financial Services Coordinator), Marcy Schaller (Immediate Past President), Joyce Calabrese (Vice President/Programs) and Pam Macabio (President).

Celebrating the Power of Reading for Ten Years!

A record-setting 20,000 people came to downtown Fort Myers on March 21, 2009, for a spectacle of best-selling authors and a host of programs and activities representative of typical library services.

Festival organizers credit economic times for the increased attendance since more people are looking for free activities to enjoy. The most star-studded line-up of authors in festival's ten year history was another big draw with presentations from Jeff Kinney, Dennis Lehane, Lois Lowry, Tess Gerritsen, Jeff Lindsay and more than a dozen others.

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President's Letter

Dear Friends,

The first thing I want to do is thank all those who served on the board last year for their excellent service. Your time and efforts have been invaluable to this organization. Thank you all. And, welcome to the new members of the board. I hope you will enjoy your time and feel it is worthwhile.

For those of you who are not familiar with my Friends and library activities, let me give you a little background and mention some of the activities in which I am involved. I joined the Friends in 2004. This will be my 4th year on the board. My first job was Community Services Coordinator and then I served two years as Vice President.

Currently, I am Recording Secretary for the LCLS Advisory Board which is the liaison between the Lee County libraries and the community. I have also attended F.L.A.

Advocacy Workshops which have helped me understand the need for Friends organizations. The Foundation sponsors a Friends President Forum 3 times a year where we get together and share ideas. This year I also traveled to Tallahassee with Nellie Slaton to encourage our State Legislators to maintain funding for our Florida libraries.

Volunteering weekly at the library is one of my favorite activities. I am also on the Art Gallery committee which sets up new exhibits each month. Seeing the children's expressions as they view the art makes all the work worthwhile!

So, I am very involved in many aspects of the library and will do my best to serve you as President of the Friends. In this challenging economy I encourage everyone to volunteer their time so we can continue to help our library provide its valuable community services.

Pam Macabio, President

Summer Reading Team HELP

We are fast approaching our busiest and most rewarding time of the year. Our children and teen summer program starts June 10. The Cape Coral Library typically signs up 3000+ participants and we could certainly use your help. The summer reading program runs six weeks, so your commitment would be limited. If you are able to work a few hours per week over the six-week period, please fill out a volunteer form. Linda Dzuik, our volunteer coordinator, will contact you after you have submitted your application. Please mark on the application that you would like to help with the summer program. Come help us and share the excitement.

Library Quote for the Month:

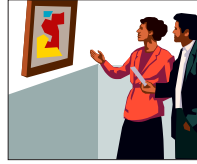
“Some books are to be tested, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested.”

Francis Bacon (Of Studies)

Gallery Exhibits

May 1 - June 12

Lee County Library staff will exhibit for the first time at the Gallery with a wide variety of motifs including jewelry, quilting, flower arrangements, art, and digital photography. Over 15 different staff members will be participating.



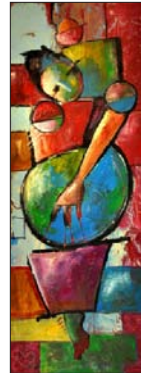
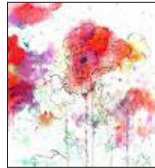
June 15 - July 31

David Acevedo has established himself as a solid artist and a fighter, winning Visual Artist of the Year at the Lee County's Angel of the Arts Awards in 2009. He is focused in the promising future of his new home town and will keep working in different projects and proposals to help the local art scene grow to its maximum potential.



Angela Elliot will exhibit watercolors in a variety of styles and scenes.

Ralph Del Coro will display a variety of egg art, a unique style that is colorful, engaging and wistful.



Celebrating the Power of Reading for Ten Years

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Kinney, author of the wildly popular "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series, drew a record 1,100 people for a single presentation. Festival organizers are thrilled that he is inspiring so many young people to read. Kinney was supremely loyal to his many fans. He signed every last book and was as engaging with the last child in line as he was with the first.

The festival's eLibrary also had a record high of 1,150 demos of electronic resources, helping

fulfill the festival mission of promoting reading, literacy and the wealth of services available from Lee County Library System. Previously, the number of demos ranged from about 400 to 450.

For the first time in its 10-year history, Reading Festival costs were entirely covered by generous donors, sponsors, and grants secured by the Library System Foundation of Lee County, Inc. Organizers were concerned about the festival's finances early on, but now have seed money left for the next event, which, by the way, is slated for March 20, 2010.

Mark Your Calendar

May 2	Board Meeting
May 8	Spring Luncheon
July 11	Board Meeting
July 18	Member Meeting
September 5	Board Meeting
September 19	Member Meeting
November 7	Board Meeting
November 21	Member Meeting
December 4	Holiday Luncheon

Welcome New Members

- Anne Marie Alonso
- Connie Boggs
- Kathy Bowen
- Sandra Coppolino
- Catherine Fritz
- Mary Giambattista
- Jeri Lash
- Peter Pellicoro
- Monica Rohman

A Memorial for Carolyn Johnson

Carolyn Johnson was a dedicated advocate, volunteer, and supporter of the Cape Coral Library and the Lee County Library System for over twenty years.



She served as President of the Friends and Trustees of the Cape Coral Library, and as President of the Little Acorns, Friends of the Cape Coral Library and was instrumental in joining the two groups into one. She served as President of the Lee County Advisory Board, and also in other positions on both Boards. A long time volunteer and advisor for our Cape Coral Library, she was a great friend to patrons and staff alike. She will be greatly missed.

In the near future, a memorial service will be held. A donation to the Little Acorns-Friends of the Cape Coral Library would be appreciated by her family.



Use this form to join or **renew** your membership
or change your address.

Membership	Year
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate	\$ 10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$ 15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Civic Benefactor	\$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Benefactor	\$100.00

I would be interested in helping at:

- Library or Friends of the Library events
Friends of the Library Committee work such as:
 Book Sale Accents Publicity Gallery

Name (please print) _____

Phone _____

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Zip _____

Email Address _____

Signature _____

Date _____

