

Friends of the Library

Leroy Collins Leon County Public Library System

Newsletter

Summer 2022

President's Page

Dear Friends,

Summer is here . . . temperatures are rising and vacations are underway. As always, the Friends are engaged with some interesting projects and activities. Let me bring you up to date on what's been happening in recent months, as well as what we can look forward to in the future.

“The Friends of the Library was recently nominated for a Florida Library Association (FLA) “Special Projects Award” for our funding and ongoing support of the innovative Library of Things.”



The Friends of the Library was recently nominated for a Florida Library Association (FLA) “Special Projects Award” for our funding and ongoing support of the innovative Library of Things. We were thrilled to learn that we had won this statewide award! Pamela Monroe and I accepted the award on behalf of the Friends during the FLA Conference in Ponte Vedra.

The Friends have established a partnership with the Knight Creative Communities Institute

(KCCI) to create “Wander & Wonder Story Trails” at three Leon County library and park locations. The Story Trails will provide children (and adults) the opportunity to read a book while being outside and active. Further details about this exciting project can be found below.

Looking forward, our Fall Title Wave Book Sale is set for Friday, November 4 through Sunday, November 6. That may seem far away, but it will be here before we know it. In the meantime, please remember that we are always accepting donations of books for the Friendship and the book sales.

Thank you for being a Friend. Your commitment to our goals is truly appreciated.

All the best,
Dale

Dale DeHart
Grigas and
Pamela Monroe
accept the award
on behalf of the
Friends.

From the Library Director

When is the best time for a book? Anytime (and anywhere)! Just because it is summer and the kids are out of school, doesn't mean that your long overdue summer reading list is getting any attention. Many of us have busy lives and may not find time to crack open a book.

According to an article in Psychology Today (August 2020), reading can reduce stress, improve understanding and extend your life span (by about two years). But... to find the time? Oh boy. Here are a few things to think about:

“When is the best time for a book? Anytime...”

Go for the audiobook. We are always traveling somewhere. Work. Vacation. Grandma's house. Take time to listen to the bestseller that has been sitting on your nightstand for the past week. Listening to a book while traveling can reduce stress and it can help tune out the kids bickering in the backseat.

Find a book club (or create your own). Grab some friends and schedule a time to devote to reading and discussion (and eating). Lots of us live on a schedule. Trick yourself by reading on a schedule until it becomes natural.

Library Director Pamela Monroe practices her paddling technique with equipment from the LCLCL Library of Things.

Connected to a device? Try eBooks. If you can't get off your tablet, download the Libby app and read from your device. Set your notifications off for 20 minutes and get your reading time in. The Library has a huge selection of eBooks to choose from with all types of genres for all ages.



Writer Dave Barry refers to reading as “a vacation for the mind”. Let the Library become your vacation destination either in person or virtually. This trip will be an unforgettable one.

Pamela Monroe
Library Director

Bailey's Brainstorms

When I joined the Friends in late 2019, I thought I knew what to expect: we're a group that treasures the Library and everything it does for our community, and our mission is to support the Library and its programs. We collect donations, host events, and provide a volunteer base to help the Library do all the things it does. Simple, right? Imagine, therefore, my surprise when the first assignment I was given as a member of the Friends board was to analyze the Friends' holding of a parcel of land in Arizona and recommend a course of action.

“And now, my task, consistent with the Friends’ mission, was to figure out how to make all that sand and sagebrush support the Library and its programs.”

Yes, you read that right. Years ago, a generous benefactor had deeded a parcel of vacant land in south-central Arizona to the Friends as a donation. The land itself was a stretch of windswept desert hillside located nine miles north of the Mexican border, just outside the town of Rio Rico (population 19,000). None of us had ever visited the site, but we continually joked about organizing a field trip to see it (and the lovely state park nearby). And now, my task, consistent with the Friends’ mission, was to figure out how to make all that sand and sagebrush support the Library and its programs.

Many options presented themselves. My first thought was that the Arizona Land (as it had come to be known) could be used as backup storage for the red tote-bags the Friends sell during the Title Wave, but this option was rejected because they might blend in with the landscape and be inadvertently misplaced. Suggestions to use it for offsite Library parking and as a place to maroon individuals with substantial late fees were similarly vetoed. Given its remoteness, I thought the administrators of the Federal Witness Protection Program might find it an excellent buy, but—for reasons that I confess are obvious in hindsight—it appears that nobody knows their address nor how to contact them.

Ultimately, after much brainstorming and a bevy of phone calls, the Arizona Land was sold to a private buyer in Rio Rico. The proceeds were used to support Library programs like the Library of Things and ongoing literacy programs. It goes to show that, with a strong commitment to the Library and a little creativity, the Friends can find a way to use just about anything and turn it to the Library’s—and, thus, our community’s—benefit.

Bailey Howard
Assistant Treasurer

Wander & Wonder Story Trails

FOL President Dale DeHart Grigas and Tiffany Baker of KCCI review Story Walk stands created and manufactured by Wilderness Graphics.

“We believe the Wander & Wonder ...will promote and enhance library programs and activities inside and out.”
-Jonathan Klepper
FOL Board Member

The Friends of the Library has partnered with the Knight Creative Communities Institute (KCCI) to create Wander & Wonder Story Trails at three Leon County library and park locations: Pedrick Pond/Eastside Branch, Fort Braden, and Woodville. The Story Trails will bring books outdoors through ADA accessible, interactive stories that people can read as they walk along the trails. In other words, the project will include elements to enhance literacy while merging art and nature. The books will rotate throughout the year thanks to a collaborative partnership with Leon County Libraries and a special library committee responsible for selecting the books. Two FOL Board members, Jonathan Klepper and Morgan Evers, will serve on this committee.



The Wander & Wonder Story Trails are a component of the KCCI 2022 Community Catalyst team’s “Fully Booked” initiative to merge art, nature, and literature throughout Leon County. The Story Trails will be installed in late summer and early fall at the three locations. Stay tuned for further details about this exciting project!

Membership Moments

Did you know in 2021, the Friends were able to donate \$85,000 to support the Library’s programming? Or that in 2018, the Friends donated 12 Newtonian telescopes to be checked out to explore our remarkable universe? Or that the work of the original Friends of the Library in 1954 helped generate support for a public library that ultimately brought our beloved LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library to fruition?

These fantastic achievements are only made possible by the faithful support of our membership. As the price of nearly everything has significantly increased over the past few years, our membership levels have remained the same. I hope these projects are at the forefront of your mind as you consider renewing your Friend of the Library membership. We are very grateful for each of you and are excited to see how we can improve the lives of those in our community through our Library’s programs.

Our website is an easy and quick way to renew your membership or even send to your friends to apply. Take a look at our redesigned website for all your membership questions at: <https://cms.leoncountyfl.gov/friendsofthelibrary/Membership/> If you are unsure of your membership status or if you need help navigating the online form, please reach out to me at friendsofthelibrarytally@gmail.com

Ana Ortega
Membership Chair

“Our online platform is an easy and quick way to renew your membership or even send to your friends to apply.”

Best Selling **Traveling Book Club Sets** *Now Available*

TRUE BIZ by SARA NOVIC
EMMA STRAUB THIS TIME TOMORROW
BLACK CAKE by CHARMAINE WILKERSON
THE DIAMOND EYE by KATE QUINN
Liane Moriarty Apples Never Fall

Reserve a Traveling Book Club set online or contact the library at (850)606-2665

Friendshop Books

“Friendshop Books is partnering with Midtown Reader in a ‘Where’s Waldo’ scavenger hunt during the month of July with 18 other local businesses to support the ‘Shop Local’ effort.”

Welcome to Friendshop Books where we have something for every buyer. Are you searching for those recommended “classics” from high school that you didn’t really read? Need a book on healthy living or maybe crafts and hobbies? Or my personal favorite, fiction to take you out of your normal day? We have books ranging from 20 cents to 200 dollars, so there is sure to be something of interest to you. Many customers claim that coming into our shop is like a “treasure hunt,” in that one can always find something unique and unexpected tucked away.

We strive to put out new inventory daily and greatly appreciate the community support and donations that come our way. Our largest donation this month included boxes and boxes of Civil War stories and wow, did they sell quickly! We also had an interesting donation of Victoria Holt and Catherine Cookson novels. What a great throwback to our original gothic and romance writers . . . and all in hardback, Book Club Editions featuring artsy covers.

Friendshop Books is partnering with Midtown Reader in a “Where’s Waldo” scavenger hunt during the month of July with 18 other local businesses to support the “Shop Local” effort. So, pay us a visit at the Main Library in July, find our Waldo and collect a stamp and see what other treasures you can find!

Deitra Kemmer
Friendshop Books



Business Friends of the Library

LEROY COLLINS LEON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

Akerman Law Firm
Avon
Bookends TLH
Carpet One Floor & Home
Chelsea Salon and Spa
Coton Colors
David Kemmer
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Raymond James/Linda Hilaman
Richard & Leigh Ann Greenberg
Sharon and Randy Young
Tighter Brighter Communications

**SPECIAL THANKS TO SHARON AND RANDY YOUNG,
OUR GENEROUS DONORS WHO MATCHED ALL
BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP DONATIONS**