



APRIL 2022



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

**By Betty Simpson
President Friends of the Library**

I hope you were all able to get to our recent Book Sale! Although it was our last one for this season, rest assured we will be back in November for the next one, to be followed by more next January, February and March.

Our \$15 for a large Publix bag filled with wonderful books, puzzles or CDs/DVDs has become so popular that we plan to continue them! When the next dates are available, we will let you know so you can fill another big bag of treasures to enjoy.

It is always such a pleasure to see how the Estero Island Garden Club has decorated our large tree on the third floor of the Library. The latest was all about celebrating St. Patrick's Day with the shamrocks and green hats and decorations... beautifully done as usual. I am truly amazed as to how the Garden Club comes up with such unusual displays every single month. Their artistic talents are something to look forward to seeing on every visit to the beautiful third floor. As usual, the displays of artwork by local artists are fun to see as those change often and give us an opportunity to view their works.

Are you currently a member of the Friends of the Library? If not, please stop in the Book Store on the third floor of the Library to pick up an application to learn more about our organization. One of our helpful volunteers will tell you about us. During season, we meet once a month and at various times throughout the rest of the year.

I look forward to meeting you on your next visit to the Friends Bookstore. See you then!

**STOP BY THE FRIENDS' BOOK STORE ON THE 3RD FLOOR OF THE LIBRARY.
OPEN MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 9:30 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M. AND SATURDAY 9:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.**



The View from the Director's Chair

By Cletus Poser, FMBL Director

There is a box inside of the Library's front door especially for food that winter residents won't be taking with them, to be donated to the Harry Chapin Food Bank. Their web page states "151,600 people in the Southwest Florida counties we serve struggle with hunger. In 2021, their food distribution programs provided 47.6 million pounds of food." They accept food, money and volunteers. One way to help is to bring unopened canned or dry goods to this Library – there are 21 drop locations in the county.

Recent events at the Library, through photographs:



Book Sale

The February 2022 Book Sale was the most successful one that we have had, thanks to all who volunteered their time and donations of books. Enjoy the reading!

Donation from the Friends of the Library

This check for the Library was presented to Liz Rhodes, Head of Circulation (center) at the annual Friends of the FMB Public Library Meeting by Friends' officers Sandra Walker, Treasurer (left) and Betty Simpson, President.



PUZZLES!

There are 3 puzzles on second floor, and they have continuously been replaced with new ones.



The Sand Gallery on the 3rd Floor

The third floor Sand Gallery has a new creation. Many people watched during the three weeks Ed was designing this.



More of his 'work' can be seen at his web page edthesandman.com.

If you are walking on the beach and see him sculpting, send him a thanks for what he volunteered to do here.

FOOD DONATION BOX AT THE LIBRARY

A food donation box to support the Harry Chapin Food Bank has been placed by the Library entrance on the first floor. Please bring your unopened canned or dry goods to donate. **Please help feed the hungry by donating your unused canned/dry goods.**

This Season's Book Sales **By Jan Fleming**

What a great season we had with our giant book sales in the Library garage. Since we had so many books that were collected over the summer, we decided to sell books, CDs, and DVDs by the bag. Publix donated paper and recyclable bags for our November sale, and we sold a bag for \$15. It was a huge success, and we sold just under \$1,900 in used items. We always take December off since it's jam packed with holiday activities, and we looked forward to our three sales in 2022.

Due to the increase in Covid cases throughout the nation, the Friends of the Library voted to cancel the January sale. Even though we were disappointed, we felt it was the right decision.

Our February sale made up for not holding a sale in January. It was a record-breaking sale bringing in just over \$3,000! We were thrilled with the results.

We finished up the season strong in March with \$1,836 in sales and donations. We are so grateful to all our residents and visitors for coming out to support the Library.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the many volunteers who spend countless hours, unpacking, sorting, and repacking the books. We start on Thursday with set up and finish up on Sunday afternoon.

Our giant book sales along with our year-round used bookstore on the 3rd floor of the Library enable us to donate \$20,000 a year to our director for special items that are needed for the Library. We hope to continue this tradition for a long time to come.

Yoga Classes Supported the Friends of the Library **By Paula Smith**

During the months of March and April of this year, our local yoga studio, The FMB Yoga Project, supported our community, our visitors and the Friends of the Library. Every Friday a wonderful yoga class was offered in our community room and four dollars from each student's fee was donated to the Friends of the Fort Myers Beach Library!

FMB Yoga Project, we thank you for being a Friend!

Namaste!



Writers, Photographers & Book Lovers!

Have an idea for the next Friends' Newsletter? We want to hear it!

Send it to: Jessica Hernstadt at miamijess@aol.com.

Share your travel photos and stories or a review of the latest book you have read with your fellow Friends of the Fort Myers Beach Public Library!

Book Review By Paula Smith

Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr

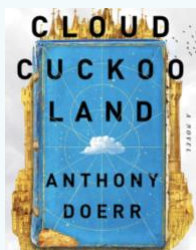
Cloud Cuckoo Land is probably the most interesting book to pass my way this year.

It is a historical science fiction novel published in 2021. In this novel, the author shows his mastery of the art of blending a complex world of plots that cross several generations. The fascinating title refers to a phrase used in literature and philosophy that critiques the idea of utopias and those who believe in them.

There are five main characters in the novel. Anna and Omeir are found in the 15th century in Constantinople. Zeno and Seymour find their plots converging in 2020. Konstance is our character from the future. The connection between all of their storylines is a fictional Greek myth by Antonius Diogenes. The myth tells the story of Aethon, who is searching for a utopia in the sky.

We meet each of the five characters as children as they deal with the consequences of war, death of loved ones, economic instability, climate change and the influence of ecoterrorism.

Yet, there is hope in this novel. We realize our characters and perhaps ourselves can find salvation through the essential importance of preserving books and stories that can connect our past, present and our future.



Annual Meeting Recap By Jessica Hernstadt

On January 18, 2022, The Friends held their Annual Meeting in the Community Room at the Library. A moment of silence was held in honor of Dr. Leroy Hommerding. The Friends presented a donation to the Library in the amount of \$20,000 to Circulation Director Liz Rhodes. Friends' members were delighted to have author Mary Tartarian as the special guest speaker.

Two changes were approved to the by-laws: one to widen the scope of scholarships that may be awarded as part of the Dr. Leroy Hommerding Scholarship Endowment at FSW; the second change enabled the creation of an Employee Educational Assistance Program.

The slate of Board Members and Officers for 2022 were presented. Board Members are: Marge Bejune, Carol Dallas, Jan Fleming, Kim Frease, Eric Olson, Kelly Smith and Lorrie Wolf. Officers are: Betty Simpson (President), Paula Smith (Vice President), Sandra Walker (Treasurer) and Jessica Hernstadt (Secretary).



Seated: Lorrie Wolf, Betty Simpson, Sandra Walker and Jan Fleming. Standing: Carol Dallas, Marge Bejune, Paula Smith, Kelly Smith and Jessica Hernstadt. Not pictured: Kim Frease, Eric Olson.



President Betty Simpson & Author Mary Tartarian.

Shrimp Festival Parade By Kelly Smith

How excited, and thankful we all were, that the Lions Club Shrimp Festival Parade was taking place March of 2022!

In 2018, Dr. Hommerding and I started the tradition of driving in the parade to represent the Library. We had 10 lbs. of candy to throw, and needless to say, we ran out before the end of the parade route!!

2018



2019

In 2019, Maria Van Boekel and I drove the parade route, to represent the Library. This time we were better prepared, and doubled our candy supply. But we still came close to running out! So, Maria ordered a 40 lb. box of "Smarties" in preparation for the 2020 parade, only to have it cancelled the day before.



This year, it was Director Cletus Poser, Liz Rhodes, her daughter Lenah and I representing the Library, and did we have a great time!! I've never seen Cletus laugh so much!

A huge group of Liz and Lenah's family were there to cheer them on, and we all laughed when Lenah tried to throw the candy, but ended up hitting me in the back on the head instead! We even had a few handfuls of the 50 lbs. of Smarties leftover!



2022

Our Lucky Friends!

This year anyone renewing their membership or establishing a new membership to the Friends of the FMB Library during the months of January, February and March had a chance to win a \$50.00 gift card to one of our island restaurants.

Our January winner of a Doc Ford's gift card was Carol Dallas. In February, a new member, Victoria Gunn won a gift card to Shuckers. Our March winner of a gift card to South Beach Restaurant was another new member, Barb Moller!

Congratulations and thank you for supporting the Friends of the Fort Myers Beach Library!

~ The Membership Team



Among Friends is the newsletter of **The Friends of the Fort Myers Beach Public Library**, located at 2755 Estero Boulevard, Fort Myers Beach, Florida 33931.

The Friends' Bookstore, *Beachcombers*, is located on the third floor of the Library. Pay us a visit and browse the wide selection of books of all genres, unique greeting cards, CDs, DVDs, puzzles, and more!

While you are there, say "hello" to our volunteer on duty and find out how you can become a Friends member. Volunteers are always welcomed!

For more information, visit our website at <http://www.fmb.lib.fl.us> or call us at 239-765-8162. Like us on Facebook (The Friends of the Fort-Myers Beach Library).