



FALL 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Save the Date!!! The Friends will gather on Friday, October 20, from 6:00-9:30 PM at Sanders Beach Community Center to honor our 50 year history and celebrate our future. Sue Straughn, WEAR3 News Anchor and Community Activist, has graciously agreed to host, and Pensacola native Craig Pittman, author and American journalist, will provide a presentation (<https://craigpittman.com>) on "Oh, Florida! How America's Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country". Our faithful members and dedicated volunteers will be appreciated and recognized.

Cocktails will be served and a delectable dinner will be provided!! Music and dancing will follow and a raffle/silent auction will be held with chances to win a multitude of marvelous prizes!! Please dress in cocktail attire/suits and have your picture taken in the lobby!! Gina Boyleston, Boyleston Auctions, will conduct a Paddle Raise at the conclusion of our event to encourage and inspire donations for our worthy cause.

Purchase your tickets early when they go on sale in August (dates provided later) for \$50 each, we are expecting all 300 tickets to go fast and sell out well in advance of the event. For further information, please contact Janet M. Reeves, Friends Board Member and 50th Anniversary Planning Chair, at 850-359-8344 or janetreeves1963@gmail.com.

SPRING BOOK SALE SUCCESS

Our April book sale was a great success and we made \$15,580! A multitude of books found new homes and were recycled instead of placed in a landfill! The Friends received wonderful press coverage from WEAR3 News and Rick Outzen's Real News podcast. Sale announcements were posted on our website, Facebook Account and aired on WUWF radio station. As usual, the Friends are very grateful for the awesome community support we receive from our steadfast Friends volunteers, many who have been helping for years. Volunteers range from high school students to seniors as well as military helpers who moved a massive number of boxes of books. It truly takes a village to make the book sale happen!!!

Stay tuned for details about our upcoming summer sale at the end of July at the new Bellview location. For more information contact Linda Williams, Friends Vice-President and Book Sale Chair at 850-450-2469.

SPRING 2023

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

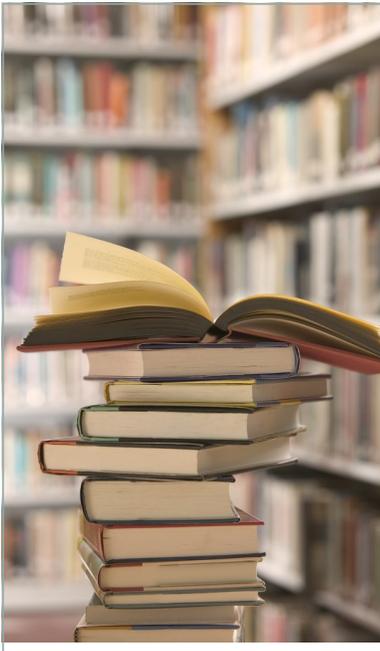
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THE BIG BOOK SORT

Every Thursday morning, book sorters gather from 9:00 AM-Noon at 325 Commerce Street in Warrington at the Friends' storage warehouse. As you look from the street down the gravel driveway, the warehouse seems small from the front, but as you approach the building, the full size of the 4,000 sq. ft. facility can be seen. Books are provided by generous donors from the Pensacola community and then organized, sorted and stored until they can be sold at book sales, bookstores and even online at an e-Bay site.

Stopping by on an average Thursday morning, you will find 10-18 dedicated volunteers sorting books into categories and moving filled boxes onto pallets for storage until they are ready for delivery. It is truly a labor of love for those who have a passion for books and reading. Sorters joke about funny titles and interesting covers and also recommend books to each other among the thousands of stacked books. Some of the sorters have been volunteering together for years and the casual atmosphere reflects camaraderie, friendship and laughter. For more information contact Linda Williams, Friends Vice-President and Book Sale Chair, at 850-450-2469.

“There is no friend as loyal as a book.” –Ernest Hemingway

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

July 1
New Friends Website
Goes Live

July (TBD)
Summer Book Sale
Bellview Library

September 14
Annual Membership
Meeting
Downtown Library

September 22-24
Fall Book Sale
Downtown Library

October 20
50th Anniversary Gala
Sanders Beach

WAREHOUSE UPDATE

In the past, the Friends had used the Downtown Library garage, various old public-school buildings and units at a local Uncle Bob's Storage facility to sort and store books. These were literally dark days as the lighting was poor and sorters struggled to read back covers in order to assign genres. The Friends recognized the need for a permanent storage facility and purchased the warehouse in 2016. The building was older and over the years updates to the electrical, lighting and AC systems have been made. Currently, the warehouse is in dire need of a new metal roof, which is scheduled for replacement later this year.

The Friends have met with a local Boy Scout troop to discuss the possibility of partnering together to make much needed improvements to the warehouse and the surrounding grounds. Eagle Scouts will: construct a rolling book drop which would permit 24/7 donations, create a permanent "Friends Donation Center" sign at the entry street, replace and paint the exterior wood on the front of the building, install a driving barrier to protect water pipes from cracking and place gravel in the parking lot and driveway. Through this partnership, the Scouts will provide the manpower and the Friends will cover the cost of materials. For more information contact Linda Williams, Friends Vice-President and Book Sale Chair, at 850-450-2469.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Kathy McCartan has been a volunteer with the Friends of the Library since 2004. Back then, she grumbled to a friend about not finding the kind of books she wanted to read on the shelves at the Pensacola Library. Her friend invited her to come and sort books for the Friends organization one Thursday morning, and Kathy was immediately hooked. Back in those days, the Friends sorted books for their sales in the garage of the Downtown branch, and she was one of the "young" volunteers who moved and stacked boxes of books. These days, she is one of the "older" volunteers who helps organize the warehouse by asking others to lift the boxes!

In the last couple of years, Kathy has been the liaison between the book sorters and the Friends Board and is currently the Friends Secretary. The book sorters are like family to Kathy, who finds like-minded individuals to work side by side with. Kathy says, "Being a volunteer is a great way to get book recommendations!" Thank you, Kathy, for all you do for the Friends organization!!!

*"We all have responsibilities as citizens to instill in our children a love of reading so that we can give them a chance to fulfill their dreams."
Barack Obama*

FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

Thanks to all who participated in the recent Friends Membership Survey that was conducted using email and Google Forms, here are the results:

- As of the close of the survey date, the Friends had 172 members
- 60 members responded to the survey
- The average member has belonged to the Friends for 12 years
- 7 members have belonged to the Friends for more than 20 years
- The average age of a member is 68 years
- 30% of our members follow the Friends Facebook Page
- About 70% of members attend the Friends book sales
- More than 40% of our members want events such as meet ups, bookclub events and other social gatherings
- 65% of members plan on attending the 50th Anniversary Gala in October

We recognize the need to recruit new members and are taking steps to increase our organization's visibility within the community, enhance membership benefits and make the process to join easier. New members can now join and pay membership fees on the Friends website, www.friendsofwfpl.org, on the Membership tab and then click on Join Online.

We also hope to have more events and social gatherings. If you would like to volunteer to help with scheduling author events, speaker sessions or establishing a monthly bookclub group, please contact Elisabeth Buswell, at 850-384-4241 or Linda Williams, at 850-450-2469.

A MOMENT IN THE FRIENDS' HISTORY

In December of 1974, the Friends held a festive holiday celebration at the downtown library with readings and poems by Patrice Jones, Michael Yots, Jim Pennington and Cheryl Ann Stephens. Both children and adults attended and enjoyed refreshments and discussed recent updates to the library. At the time, the Friends had a total of 140 members and the cost of an individual membership was \$2.00, a family membership was \$5.00 and a lifetime membership was \$100.00. Earlier in 1974, the Friends held a Celebrity Pro-Am Tennis Tournament, presented trophies to winners and raised \$273 during the event.

FRIENDS BOOKSTORES

Did you know we have three bookstores? Our original bookstore was located at the Tryon Branch, then a bookstore was added to the Downtown Branch location, and now we also have the Bellview Book Room. All three bookstores are thriving and bring in between \$3,000-\$4,000 in total sales per month.

Our newest bookstore is at the Bellview Branch and it's actually a "Book Room" because there are no doors! All items are \$1.00 each and payments are made on the honor system by depositing cash into a locked box. If you haven't visited the new Bellview location yet, please stop by soon!

It takes a team effort from our volunteers to make each location successful. First, we want to thank the people who donate books, DVDs, puzzles, and other items; those generous donors provide the inventory we sell. Next, we thank the many faithful volunteers who spend their valuable time stocking and managing the bookstores. Our shelves would be empty, and our doors would be locked if it weren't for our devoted volunteers!

We want to especially thank the people who manage the bookstores: Pam and Jack Beverly at Tryon; David Bryant and Donna Henderson at Downtown; and Kim Stefansson at Bellview. You are all amazing and we thank you for your tireless devotion and countless hours you spend making each location a success!

*"The Public Library is where place and possibility meet."
-Stuart Dybek*

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REDESIGNED WEBSITE COMING SOON

We are excited to announce the Friends organization will soon have a new website. Our existing website has served us well, but an upgrade is needed to modernize the site with a fresh new look that is easy to use. The new website will add greater functionality to improve the user experience, will be easy to use, understand, and navigate. It will also be optimized for mobile users, to allow easy access from cell phones, which is currently a very popular way to access websites.

The new site will also have an overview of our 50 year history that will include interesting events and significant accomplishments of our organization.

The new site will be ready to go "live" around July 1, so there's still time for our members to make suggestions for changes or recommendations for new functions or capabilities the new site should incorporate. If you'd like to contribute comments or ideas, please email Ann Kelly, at annkelly0806@gmail.com.