

Something to read...

NEWSLETTER of the FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
TAMPA-HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

SPRING 1999

Friends and Friends= Projects Nominated for FLA Awards!

Two Friends and three projects have been nominated for awards from the Florida Library Association. Winners will be announced at the FLA Annual Conference on May 6 in St. Augustine (see page 8).

Outstanding Citizen Award

Sharen Harrison and **Jill Buford** have been nominated for the Outstanding Citizen Award. Together, Sharen and Jill have been a tour de force in Port Tampa! If not for their tenacity, the new Port Tampa City Library would not be a reality.

Their work, under the auspices of Port Tampa Woman's Club and Civic Association has had a profound effect on the community especially in the transformation of a vacated, run-down historic structure into a new neighborhood library branch.

In December 1992, Sharen and Jill noticed a demolition tag on the stately Commercial Bank Building. Concerned that this classic building would be destroyed, and recognizing the fact that the community had long outgrown its old library building, Sharen and Jill vowed to save this unique historic building and turn it into a new library. They launched the 1993 Promenade Port Tampa (today, an annual showcase of homes, gardens, and buildings of distinction in the neighborhood) as a fundraiser to save the landmark building.

Their efforts raised \$1,000, which was offered to the City of Tampa as proof of their commitment to save the building. By 1995, through the continuation of the annual Promenade and the formation of the Civic Association of Port Tampa City, Inc., Sharen and Jill were able to present a check for \$5,000 to the Friends of the Library to be used for the Library.

Simultaneously, Sharen, Jill, the Woman's Club and community members lobbied City and County officials and the Library Board to purchase and renovate the Commercial Bank Building. They were

(continued on page 4)

Storytelling Festival

On Saturday, **April 17**, hundreds of people will gather at Hillsborough High School from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to enjoy over 400 storytellers of all ages at the Nineteenth Annual Tampa- Hillsborough County Storytelling Festival. This free, family-oriented Festival helps to preserve the oral tradition of storytelling, provides positive storytelling models, and brings together people of all ages and cultures through stories.



The majority of the storytellers at the Festival are students who have learned stories throughout the fall and winter. The Festival also features a nationally known storyteller; this year **David Novak**, who has proven to be popular at previous Festivals, is returning. The Festival also includes a number of regional and local adult professional and semi-professional storytellers.

The Festival is produced by Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System and the City of Tampa Recreation Department Creative Arts Theater, with the support of the Arts Council of Hillsborough County and the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners.

The Festival now has a website; visit www.tampastory.org to see a schedule of this year's events, download a copy of the excellent manual, ask questions, link to other great storytelling sites, and find out more about next year's Homecoming 2000 Festival. And while you are there, take a moment to add a link from your home page to the site.

For more information on this FREE Festival, call

Friends Annual Meeting

Monday, April 12, 6 p.m.
Main Library Auditorium

Join us for a light supper following the election (page 2) and business meeting.

Tampa Recreation at (813) 931-2106.

Focus on Friends

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate of Friends members for the Board of Directors term April 1999 - 2002. Additional nominations to the Board of Directors may be made by members of the Friends of the Library. Nominee's name, address, and phone number should be submitted in writing to the Friends office prior to the annual meeting. Call 273-3616 for details.

Mr. Jim Gleason has lived in and used libraries in communities all over the world. He is a Director Emeritus of the Swem Library at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg. If one patent makes one an inventor, then he is an inventor. He also is presently serving on the Friends Book Store and Sale committee, and coordinated the March Big Book Sale.

Mr. Roman Korchak has been a book sale volunteer for the Friends. He works as an engineer with the city of Tampa.

Ms. Maria Leeds has always loved books, and has a large personal library focusing on history and biography. She has worked as a volunteer in the school system for many years, particularly in Media Centers. She is currently serving as the Chair

of the Friends Volunteer committee. This will be her fourth term on the Board.

Mr. John D. Mullen moved to Tampa from Missouri in 1983. After graduating from New College of the University of South Florida, he worked for two years with the Florida House of Representatives. John graduated from the New York University School of Law in 1994, and has been an attorney with Holland & Knight since that time.

In his pre-teen years, John worked as a part-time shelver at the Main Library. His father, Jess Mullen, was head Reference Librarian and compensated the young Mullen with all the Pepsi and Oreo cookies he could stomach. John learned of the hazards of library work first-hand when some less respectful library patrons on the second floor

dropped two huge couch cushions on his head. John lives and works within walking distance of the Main library. John has led the Friends' advocacy efforts for several years.

Dr. William Scheuerle served as Book Sale Chairman for many years. He has been on the Friends Board for over 20 years, and has served as President. He is a Professor of English at USF. His hobby is working with dollhouses.

Dr. Anthony Zaitz has been on the Board more than ten years. He was a pioneer faculty member at USF in 1960, and is now enjoying retirement and playing in several local jazz bands. He is proud of the Friends' efforts to stimulate interest in books and reading during his terms on the Board.

Continuing Board Members:

Ms. Linda Bowen
Mr. David Brown
Ms. Claire Cardina
Ms. Amy Crane

Mr. Al Davis
Dr. Ed Hirshberg
Ms. Heidi Johns
Ms. Patrice Koerper
Ms. Jonie Maschek

Ms. Karen McClure
Ms. Sally Ordway
Ms. Josephine Terry
Ms. Linda Taggart

The nominating committee has proposed the following slate of officers to be elected by Board Members:

President	Claire Cardina
Vice President	Roman Korchak
Secretary	Karen McClure
Treasurer	Bill Scheuerle

Thanks to the Nominating Committee for their hard work: **Tony Zaitz** (chairman) and **Ed Hirshberg**.

L Members whose dues are current can vote at the Annual Meeting, April 12 at 6 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Main Library. Call the Friends office at 273-3616 if you are unsure of the status of your membership. Dues may be paid by sending a check in advance (see the coupon on page 7 of this newsletter), or by paying at the Annual Meeting. See you there!

Branch Friends News

compiled by Nathan Beller

Austin Davis

The Friends are taking applications for the Austin Davis Library Friends of the Library Community Service Award. The winner will be honored at the Friends annual Dinner in the Stacks on May 14 at 7 p.m. The theme of this year's dinner is **Community Canvas.** There will be extensive art displays to accompany the catered dinner in the library. Steve Otto of *The Tribune* will delight all as the guest speaker. Tickets are \$25 a person. For information or to volunteer, call Sherry Turner at 908-0246.

Brandon

The Friends are so excited over their new 3M Self Check System to speed up the library checkout line.

The Brandon Friends membership grows little by little. The Friends are blessed with an anonymous angel who has assisted with the mailing expense. The Friends say, **Thanks, angel, you're special!**

North Tampa

The Friends are buying two sets of children's tables and chairs plus one children's book cart with the proceeds of their last book sale. Plans are now being made for their big paperback book sale to be held on June 5 at the North Tampa Library.

Plant City

The Friends are sponsoring a library photo contest; **Beyond Words: Celebrating America's Libraries** aims to capture the spirit of our nation's libraries and the many ways they touch our lives. Winners will be announced during National Library Week, April 11-17. First place winners in each division will be forwarded to the national competition.

Also during National Library Week the Friends will hold their popular children's Read Aloud. Students from local elementary schools will read aloud from their winning entries in the Young Authors program.

Back by popular demand, the Friends will present another Mystery Dinner at the library in May. If you missed the first one, you will definitely want to get your tickets early for this one. It is also one of the Friends' major fundraisers. For

information and tickets, call the library at 757-9215.

Seminole Heights

The Friends raised over \$300 at their winter book sale.

78th Street

The Boys and Girls Club purchased a CD-ROM Interactive Station and a small collection of fun and educational programs with a grant from the Hillsborough County Children's Board and chose to feature them in the 78th Street Community Library where they are greatly appreciated and used with enthusiasm.

West Tampa

The Friends held their first social of the year in March, which was also their annual Friends Drive. They have a renewed sense of hope and are making their way to a bigger, brighter future. Join them for one of their regularly scheduled meetings on the first Monday of every month; all are invited.

{ { { {

News of other Branch Friends was not received by press time. Let us help you promote your events in our newsletter, which reaches 1,000 households quarterly. Send copies of meeting minutes and announcements to the newsletter (see page 6) or call Nathan Beller at 961-5495. The deadline for the Summer Newsletter is June 1, with a July mailing date.

Annual Friends Big Book Sale a BIG Success!

by Jim Gleason, Book Sale Chairman

Congratulations to all Friends of the Library volunteers and staff members who worked on this year's Big Book Sale. Proceeds exceeded \$3,000! This was the best sale in recent years. Book sale proceeds are used for many library services, such as programming, which benefit all library locations.

In addition, during the month of February, the Friends received as donations over \$2,500 worth of computer software which was donated to the Library System.

Something to read...

FLA Award Nominees

(continued from page 1)

successful! Work began on the restoration in 1997 and the Library moved in June 1998.

Today, the Port Tampa City Library represents both an outstanding preservation of cultural fabric and an eminently viable reuse of historically significant architecture. The Library blends traditional architectural elements of the past with state of the art telecommunication systems offering access to the Library System's materials, a myriad of online databases, and the Internet.

Sharen and Jill had the vision to see the grandeur of the building under its aged crust, and brought many entities to consensus to accomplish the building's renovation and phoenix-like transformation to a public library. The community is fortunate to have such dedicated residents as Sharen and Jill.

Special Events Award

In celebration of the Port Tampa City Library's opening, the Port Tampa City Friends of the Library took the lead and joined with the Civic Association of Port Tampa, Inc. to host a formal gala in the new building. **Puttin' on the Ritz** featured a 1920s theme with guests dressed in period clothing or black tie. State Representative Faye Culp was the honorary chair of the event.

Over 150 people attended the evening event which featured a buffet, music, dancing, and viewing of the revamped building. This successful event brought Library Board members, Library administration and staff, City and County officials, state politicians, and the community together to raise over \$4,000, which was shared equally by the Friends of the Library and the Civic Association of Port Tampa.

Special Projects Award

The Development Committee of the Friends of the Library designed, produced, and sold the **1999 Burgert Brother Photographic Calendar** to promote and raise funds for the Burgert Brothers Collection of the Library System. The Burgert Brothers Photographic Collection

consists of 15,000 black and white photographs which represent a unique pictorial record of the commercial, residential and social growth of the greater Tampa Bay area from the late 1800s to the early 1960s. This project was an overwhelming success, raising both funds and public awareness. Publicity and sales goals were exceeded, new partnerships were formed, and the Collection is quickly being identified as an accessible historic treasure of Hillsborough County.

Newsletter Award

Something to Read... is the quarterly newsletter of the Friends of the Library. Originally, an occasional letter was sent by the Library Staff Liaison to update Friends on events of interest. It has grown to be a six to eight page quarterly newsletter that highlights Friends-sponsored Library events. The newsletter also contains information on activities of the many branch Friends groups in the county, encourages advocacy efforts, informs readers of library programs and services which may be of interest, invites people to become members, announces new and renewing members, and publicly thanks donors to the Friends and to the Library System.

Did You Know?.....

... that you can access THOR (Tampa-Hillsborough Online Resources **C** a.k.a. the computer card catalog) from home using your computer and a modem or the Internet? You can request a book and have it sent to your favorite branch from the comfort of your home.

You can access THOR via Dial-up:
Local Dial-up Phone Number: 813-276-2770
Modem Settings --> 8-N-1, Emulation --> vt100
Login --> thor (all lower case!)

Press your [enter] key a couple of times after you have connected to get to the login prompt.

Or access THOR through the Free-Net.

For further information on either of these methods, look for a flyer in your library or visit the Library's web site at <http://scfn.thpl.lib.fl.us/thpl/thpl.htm>.

Great Books

by Nathan Beller

During my lifetime, I have been an avid reader of books. I always have liked a diversity of writing styles, authors, and subjects. In my vintage years, I recall books that I particularly remember. Some of them I recommend for your consideration.

The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway: A group of men and women meet in Paris to discuss their frustrations and problems. They are losers, seeking the meaning of life.

For Whom the Bell Tolls by Ernest Hemingway: During the Spanish Civil War the people revolted against General Franco, the tyrannical dictator. An American explosive expert decides to help the rebel cause. He meets a young Spanish girl and they fall in love. An excellent character story of the rebels wonderfully written in Hemingway's distinctive style.

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald: Fascinating story of a man trying to belong in a society where he does not fit.

Les Miserables by Victor Hugo: One of the great French classics. Spellbinding story of a man who steals a loaf of bread to feed his family and is hunted by an obsessed policeman who is determined to bring him to justice.

Parallel Lives by Plutarch: The ancient historian and biographer compares the lives of a variety of ancient Greeks and Romans. Critics consider Plutarch's publications some of the world's best. [Note that the various editions in the Library's collection have slightly varied titles.]

Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoyevsky: a marvelous suspense story written by a master. A student, in dire need of money, asks his landlady for a loan. When she refuses, the student kills her in a fit of rage. A policeman suspects the student, but has no evidence.

Goodbye, Mr. Chips by James Hilton: A heartwarming story of a dedicated schoolmaster who spends forty years in a private English boys' school. Mr. Chipper, fondly called Mr. Chips,

is not only their teacher, but also their friend and mentor; his house is always open to them. A joy to read.

Babbitt by Sinclair Lewis: A book by a great American novelist. The book tells of a small business owner who has an enterprise in an average American city. Lewis gives a realistic picture of the activities of Mr. Babbitt.

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens: This is Dickens at his best. During the French Revolution an aristocrat is unjustly held in prison awaiting execution. Dickens writes a poignant love story and concludes with a famous statement by the nobleman.

Collected poems of Rudyard Kipling [found in a number of collections, including **Complete Verse**]: In the poem titled **Friendship**, Kipling's description of the qualities of a true friend is masterful. Other well-known poems are **Gunga Din** and **The Road to Mandalay**.

Enrich your life: enjoy reading good books. I do. [Look for these and other classics at your favorite library. The librarian will be glad to assist you.]

Congratulations to **Carla Holden**, a long-time reader at the Ybor City Library and daughter of Main Library Page Patricia Johnson.

Carla was nominated by the Ybor library staff in the Nestle's Very Best in Youth Contest through the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) Program. Carla has been selected as one of 30 winners. She and her Mom will be flown to Los Angeles where she will speak out for RIF.

Often remembered as the youngster who wrote and read a poem about the Ybor City Library when its mural was restored by the Friends several years ago, she continues to write poetry and is active at her church and Booker T. Washington Magnet School.

Ybor's RIF program will also receive \$1,000 to continue its fine work.

Officers

David Brown, President
Claire Cardina, Vice President
Al Davis, Treasurer

Board Members

Ms. Linda Bowen
Mr. David Brown
Ms. Claire Cardina
Ms. Amy Crane
Mr. Al Davis
Mr. James Gleason
Dr. Ed Hirshberg
Ms. Heidi Johns
Ms. Patrice Koerper

Mr. Roman Korchak
Ms. Maria Leeds
Ms. Karen McClure
Ms. Jonie Maschek
Mr. John Mullen
Ms. Sally Ordway
Dr. William Scheuerle
Ms. Linda Taggart
Ms. Josephine R. Terry
Dr. Anthony Zaitz

Library Support

Patrice Koerper, Friends Coordinator
Bruce McDowell, Administrative Assistant

Something to read... is a quarterly newsletter of the Friends of the Library of Tampa-Hillsborough County, Inc. edited by Amy Crane (813-839-8899) with contributions from Library Friends and staff. Send news, letters, and brief book reviews to Friends of the Library, in care of Amy Crane, 3306 Sierra Circle, Tampa, 33629. Not printed or mailed at Library expense.

Commissioner Jan Platt Honored

The American Library Association (ALA) recognized Hillsborough County Commissioner Jan Platt on January 30 at the Intellectual Freedom Gala at its midwinter conference in Philadelphia. In the birthplace of democracy, Platt was recognized with other individuals from across the nation who have worked to support intellectual freedom in their communities as one of the honorees for the Intellectual Freedom Honor Roll.

Mary Jane Little, Florida Library Association President, praised Platt's stellar support of the treasured ideal of intellectual freedom. Platt was nominated by FLA for this honor. She was recognized as an outstanding role model of service and leadership for her work with libraries.

Intellectual freedom is a basic right in a democratic society and a core value of the library profession. The American Library Association actively defends the right of library users to read, seek information and speak freely as guaranteed by the First Amendment.

Permanent Art Collection Additions

by Ann Delaney, Gallery Coordinator

The Friends again funded the purchase of art for the Main Library through their annual budget (see Winter 1999 newsletter). This year's Gasparilla Festival of the Arts provided a much wider than usual selection of choices. There were 142 Florida artists to review, many of them new to the Festival. Alexandra Frye, chair of the Arts Council, and Ann Delaney served on the Art Selection Committee. Two quality prints were selected for the collection, both fitting the themes of the collection and providing an interesting new slant.

The first piece is an unusual and highly original digital image by Kenneth Huff, who created the entire work on a Silicon Graphics workstation, and then printed it as a limited edition Light Jet photographic print. This piece fit our theme of groundbreaking, innovative processes and artists who attempt to add to the vocabulary of art. Although open to interpretation, the content also seems to fit our theme of Florida and the way artists refer to elements of the landscape. Huff's awards and other information are listed at www.itgoesboing.com.

The second purchase is *Urban Textures/St. Augustine* by Sandra Russell. It's an altered photographic print, which also fits our technical processes theme, and it clearly expresses another way of relating to the Florida landscape.

Welcome to these new and renewing members of our Libraries= Friends

Friends of the Library of Tampa-Hillsborough County

Mattie Vega †
 Joan Newcomb
 Robert Hickle
 Rebekah Carlson
 Steven Taksnes
 Manuel Rosas
 Everett Mosley
 Marilyn P. Hett
 Kim Wellman-Welsh
 Frank Perkins
 Rob Grace
 Clinton Rost †

Avy Kenny
 Adrienne Welsch
 Dorothy Van Balen †
 Phillip Singletary
 Elizabeth Himes †
 Bonnie Smith Finley †
 William Scheuerle
 Mike Johnson
 Jim Grimes
 Leslie Challenger
 Scott Husband
 Patti MacKey

Edgar Hirshberg †
 Karen & Steve McClure †
 Arnold Kotler †
 Anne Ross & Gregory Vawter
 †
 Patrice Koerper
 Frederick Dunning †
 Maria Leeds
 David Brown †
 Jiune Allen
 Maria Gonzalvo
 Daniel Drummond

Kathleen Ertell
 Judy Fish
 Michael Brennan
 Sherman & Fran Steadman
 Mary Rumph
 Josephine Terry
 Roman & Barbara Korchak
 Marie Mendez
 Tara Christiani
 Glenn & Bernadene Shoutts
 Linda Huser

Friends of the North Tampa Library

Rick Ferriss

Friends of the West Gate Library

Jerry McGuire
 Guy and Lois Grimes

Corinna Miller
 Carla Besson
 Charlotte Schiaffo

† indicates a higher level of giving

Our appreciation to those who have given the following monetary and material gifts

Donna M. Lorenzen, a donation of books

Walter M. Woolf, a donation of books



Membership and Contributions Coupon

Membership: New Renewal \$10 \$25 \$50 ____ Make check payable to **Friends of the Library**.
 Membership will be in countywide Friends or you may specify a Branch here: _____

Special Contributions: \$_____ You may specify your contribution for a branch library, special program, or for books in honor or in memory of a friend or relative. Call the Friends Office for details, 273-3616.

Jan Platt Endowment: \$_____ **Friends Endowment:** \$_____ Make check payable to **Community Foundation**.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Committee interest: Publicity Membership Events Book Sales Advocacy Fundraising Newsletter

Mail this form with your gift to: Friends of the Library, 900 N. Ashley Drive, Tampa, FL 33602. **Thank you!**

Gifts to the Friends of the Library are tax-deductible as allowed by law and will be acknowledged in writing. Friends of the Library of Tampa-Hillsborough County, Inc. is an approved non-profit organization under IRS Chapter 501(c)(3) and is registered with the Florida Department of Consumer Affairs.

○ Upcoming Events: Mark Your Calendar Now!

Friends of the Library Book Store: Grover's Corners is open every Sunday 1-5, Monday 9-3, Tuesday 11-6, Wednesday 11-3, Thursday 11-3, and Friday 11-1; closed Saturday. New books arrive frequently, so shop often. (Staffing is by volunteers, so if we miss a scheduled opening time, please understand C and consider volunteering!)

Best Friends Program: April 3, May 1, June 5, and July 3 at Barnes & Noble in Tampa and Brandon. Donate new or used bestsellers to the Friends of the Library the first weekend of each month.

National Library Week: April 11-17. Tell the librarians and staff that you appreciate the work that they do.

Friends Annual Meeting: April 12 at 6 p.m. at the Main Library. Join us for recognition of volunteers, election of Board Members and officers, and a light dinner. Please bring a dessert or appetizer to share if you can.

Tampa-Hillsborough County Storytelling Festival: Saturday, April 17 at Hillsborough High School from 9 to 4. See page 1 for

information on this day of fun for the entire family.

Florida Library Association Conference: St. Augustine, May 4-7. Friends of the Library events include the awards lunch and workshops on Thursday, May 6. Conference is \$25 for Friends members plus \$20 for the Friends lunch. Call FLA at 407-647-8839 or the Friends office at 273-3616 for information.

Friends Board Meetings: May 10 and September 13 at 6 p.m. in the Main Library Board Room. All Friends are welcome. (*Note change to second Monday of each month.*)

Summer Newsletter Deadline: June 1. Send items to newsletter editor Amy Crane by snail-mail at 3306 Sierra Circle, Tampa, 33629 or by e-mail at acrane@scfn.thpl.lib.fl.us or call her at (813) 839-8899.

Half price book sale: visit Grover's Corners in the Main Library for half-price books, June 4 and 5 from 9 to 5.

Grover's Corners Annual Clearance Sale: six books for a dollar, September 10 and 11 from 9 to 5.

Remember, *your* annual Friends

membership dues

was due by January 1, 1999.

If you haven't sent it in yet,

send it in now

using the handy coupon

on page 7.

Thank you for your support!

Volunteers Wanted!

Friends are needed to work in the book store in the Main Library (Grover's Corners) so that we can open it seven days a week.

If you can work regularly or help out as a substitute, please call the Friends office at 273-3616.

Haven't you always wanted to work in a bookstore?

ÉÉÉÉÉÉ

The Friends would like to enrich the Library System's art collections, particularly for new branches. We are seeking original works of art by Florida artists. If you would like to sponsor a commission or make a gift from your private collection, please contact Friends President David Brown or call the Friends office at 273-3616.

Friends of the Library
Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library
900 North Ashley Drive
Tampa, FL 33602

He ate and drank the precious Words,
His Spirit grew robust;
He knew no more that he was poor,
Nor that his frame was Dust.

Emily Dickinson *A Book*, in *The Complete Poems*, no. 1587 (1955)