

PROGRAMS



DR. GERSON YESSIN MUSIC SERIES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 6:30 P.M.
BAROQUE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA



The Baroque Chamber Orchestra;
photo courtesy Seth Williams

The Baroque Chamber Orchestra with Randy Tinnin as conductor and trumpet soloist features Hector Gonzales, countertenor and Timothy Edwards, violinist. The concert will include music by Bach and Molter. Admission is free and doors open at 6 PM.

DR. GERSON YESSIN MUSIC SERIES 2011-2012

Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30

January 24, 2012

Dot Wilder & Peggie Black, jazz and popular vocalists will perform standards to delight you.

February 28, 2012

A newly formed string quartet headed by the JSO's Associate Concert Master Melissa Barrett.

March 27, 2012

The brilliant duo Alexei Romananko, cellist, and Christine Yoshikawa, pianist.

April 23, 2012

The JSO Brass Quintet with James Jenkins, tuba, playing exciting music in a variety of styles

ADVENTURES IN ART Presented by FOL and FOCUS Cummer 2011 – 2012

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2011, 6:30 p.m.
Susan Gallo, Cummer Director of Education
“Exotic Streets of North Africa as seen through French Artist Eugene Charvot’s Paintings, Prints and Drawings”

Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2012, 6:30 p.m.
Nadine Terk, Artist
“Asian Woodcuts and Their Influence on Impressionism”

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2012, 2:00 p.m.
Chef Andrea Rosenblatt
“Renaissance Art to Table—From Canvas to Plate”
With slides and tasting

Tuesday, March 20, 2012, 2:00 p.m.
AT THE CUMMER MUSEUM
Holly Keris, Curator
A guided tour of “Impressionism and Post Impressionism from the High Museum of Art”
A fee of \$12 will be collected at the door
Please call 280-2976 for reservations

Tuesday, April 10, 2012, 6:30 p.m.
Cummer Museum Director Hope McGrath and Vietnam Veteran Richard Chamberlain
“Art and Healing—the Year of the Sheep”

Tuesday, May 15, 2012, 6:30 p.m.
Debra Murphy, Chair, UNF Dept. of Art & Design
“New Museums in Rome, Italy”

Please note that program times vary. All programs at the Ponte Vedra Library are free and open to the public. The March program at the Cummer Museum requires a \$12 fee. **Reservations must be made for the March program.** For further information, please call Marianne Stein, 280-2976, or Gerry Bialka, 285-1114.



Newsletter of the Friends of the Library - Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

November-December 2011

check this out! is a publication of the Friends of the Library, Ponte Vedra Beach Branch of the St. Johns County Public Library System. It is published bi-monthly for its members and supporters.

Editor: Kathleen Cohen

Membership Info: 273-3990

THIRD ANNUAL WRITING CONTEST FOR YOUTH

ATTENTION TEACHERS of English and Media Specialists, St. Johns County
Topic: “In the world of computers, i-pods, and blackberries, do we still need libraries full of books?”
Encourage your students to be creative, thoughtful, and wise!
Deadline: **December 1, 2011**

Submit: By mail or in person to the Ponte Vedra Beach Library,
P.O. Box 744
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004

Application form to be attached to the writing
NO NAME ON TEXT OF ESSAY

Text Requirements: Original prose only, word count, typed
Elementary (grades 4-5): 150-200 words
Middle school (grades 6-8): 250-300 words
High school (9-12): 500-750 words

Evaluation Criteria: Introduction: the importance of reading; Discussion: electronic vs. print books;
Conclusion: what the future holds. Evaluation includes punctuation, grammar, spelling, and reasoning.

Judges: Members of the Board of the Friends of the Library
Cash Prizes: High School and Middle School: \$50, \$25, \$15; Elementary School: \$25, \$15, and \$10
Award ceremony at Friends of the Library Annual Dinner: January 19, 2012



P.O. Box 744
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004
www.friendspvlibrary.org
Change Service Requested



LIBRARY CLOSINGS

FRIDAY, NOV. 11 (VETERANS' DAY)

NOVEMBER 24, 25, 26, 27 (THANKSGIVING)

DECEMBER 8 (STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY)

DECEMBER 23, 24, 25, 26 (CHRISTMAS)

JANUARY 2 (NEW YEAR'S)

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to make the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch of the St. Johns County Public Library System an outstanding educational, cultural, civic and recreational center for the community. This will be achieved by providing supplemental books, materials, volunteers and programs; fundraising and advocating on behalf of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. By enlisting support of all those dedicated to disseminating knowledge, we believe the community will be enhanced and enriched.



Newsletter of the Friends of the Library - Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

November-December
2011



Upcoming Events at Your Library

Monday, Nov. 7 & Dec. 5, 3 – 5 p.m.
Great Books

Monday, November 21, 4 – 6 p.m.
Great Decisions
Making sense of multilateralism

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2011, 6:30 p.m.
Susan Gallo, Cummer Director of Education
“Exotic Streets of North Africa as seen through French Artist Eugene Charvot’s Paintings, Prints and Drawings”

Tuesday, Nov. 29, 6:30 p.m.
Dr. Gerson Yessin Music Series
Baroque Chamber Orchestra
Randy Tinnin, Conductor

Saturday, Dec. 10, 2 p.m.
Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants
Holiday Fun with Flowers

Monday, Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m.
Book Talk Café
Larry Baker, novelist

BOOK TALK CAFÉ

Monday, December 12, 6:30 p.m.
Larry Baker, Novelist



Larry Baker has had a love affair with Northeast Florida, setting both his first novel, *The Flamingo Rising* (1997), and his last novel, *A Good Man* (2009), in St. Augustine. Baker took a circuitous route to becoming a novelist. After many jobs that included stints as a security guard, an emcee at a strip club, a sports reporter, and the owner and operator of several movie theatres, he settled down to write and published his first novel when he was 50. *The Flamingo Rising* was one of three finalists for the Barnes and Noble “Great



Larry Baker

New Voices” award for 1997, a *Los Angeles Times* “Top 100” book for 1997, and was chosen by the *Iowa Center for the Book* to represent Iowa at the 2010 National Book Festival in Washington. It was also adapted for a Hallmark Presents TV movie in 2001. His latest novel, *A Good Man* (2009), was nominated for “Book of the Year” by the Southeast Independent Booksellers Association in 2010. That novel is the focus of a documentary about the creative process of writing fiction. Much of the filming for that project has already been done in the St. Augustine area. Most recently, Baker was selected as one of the outstanding writers in America, and inducted into the Iowa Literary Walk of Fame, joining other writers such as John Irving, Flannery O’Connor, Kurt Vonnegut, and Marilynne Robinson. Less than a hundred world writers have been accorded this recognition.

Baker lives in Iowa City where he teaches at the University of Iowa. He recently completed his third St. Augustine novel, *Love and Other Delusions*, about an adulterous affair between a teacher and student, to be published in April 2012. Baker emphasizes that the story is fiction, “although St Augustine readers will certainly recognize various locales in the story, such as the Alcazar Restaurant, the Fort, the old St. Johns River Community College building on Hildreth, and the downtown plaza.” Baker will read a short excerpt from that book as well as discuss his other novels.

As always, Book Talk Café is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served and Baker’s books will be available for purchase.

Book Talk Café rings in the New Year with *New York Times* bestselling author Steve Berry on Tuesday, January 10th. Other visiting authors coming to Ponte Vedra Beach in 2012 include John Dufresne, James W. Hall, and Mary Anna Evans.

Visit our Website at: www.friendspvlibrary.org

Contact us at: pvfriends@comcast.net

Check
this
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BOOK TALK CAFÉ

BOOKS

IT'S ELEMENTARY

Hanukkah Traditions

"Are you going to light the Hanukkah candles while Bing Crosby sings 'White Christmas'?" This is the question Sam's father asks his mother in the middle of a very confusing holiday season. Sam is twelve years old and very unhappy when his Jewish father and Christian mother refuse to replace the Christmas tree/Hanukkah bush toppled by the dog. They decide to celebrate both holidays at the same time. There are questions about religions and about what's important in life. This theme becomes more common as cultures and religions are shared by marriage. Instead of practicing one religion, parents let their children choose when old enough to know what they want. The book *Sam I Am* by Ilene Cooper (ages 9 - 12) is a valuable book for children to read in this particular situation.

Elijah was a wood carver, but made his living in a barbershop. Michael loved to watch him work, and spent many days admiring Elijah's work. When Christmas and Hanukkah came at the same time, Elijah gave Michael an angel, but how could he display an angel in his Jewish home? Michael's parents understood how important this gift was and encouraged Michael to give old Elijah a menorah made from painted spoons and glitter. *Elijah's Angel* by Michael Rosen (ages 4 - 8) is another story about the two holidays which often fall at the same time.

A very important food during the Jewish Festival of Lights is the latke. Naemi Howland's story *Latkes, Latkes Good to Eat* (ages 4 - 8) is about a poor Russian Jewish family, where the mother has to gather fire wood, meets an old woman and gives her the wood out of kindness. The old woman in turn gives the mother a frying pan that can make latkes without fire, but needs magic words to work. In their mother's absence the children try it out, but do not know the magic words to stop it. As a result the whole village has latkes for days. A great Hanukkah feast!



Playing the dreidel game and singing the dreidel song is another Hanukkah tradition. The beautifully illustrated picture book *I Have a Little Dreidel* by Maxie Baum, illustrated by Julie Paschkis (ages 4 - 8) is based on the song with each page's text rhyming while showing how the family makes latkes, has their meal and plays the game. Both latke recipes and dreidel music are included.

The lights, the foods, and the games have an ancient history.

Hanukkah, Jewish Festival of Lights by Terri Sievert, in the First Facts series, explains to children (ages 4 - 6) the history and traditions of the holiday. In 175 B.C.E. the Jews were not allowed to practice their religion and hid in caves to study the Talmud or Holy Book. Whenever they heard the Greek soldiers approach, they pretended to gamble by spinning the dreidel. The Jews, led by the Maccabees, fought the Greeks and won after three years. When they gathered in the temple once again, there was only a little bit of oil to light the menorah, but by a miracle, it burned for eight days.



The author Lemony Snicket, famous for his "unpleasant" books, has also *written The Latke who Couldn't Stop Screaming, a Christmas Story* (ages 4 - 6). As soon as the latke was dropped into the boiling oil, it jumped out of the pan, screamed, and ran down the street past colored lights. "So you're basically hash browns," said the flashing colored lights. "Maybe you can be served alongside a Christmas ham." "I'm not hash browns!" cried the latke. "I am something completely different!" The screaming latke keeps going and meets candy canes and Christmas trees but eventually is picked up by a family who appreciates his true self: a symbol of Hanukkah.

These are examples of books for children who want to know why their neighbors don't celebrate Christmas.

Marianne Stein,
FOL Board Member

RAPID REVIEWS

The Paris Wife, by Paula McLain, is a fictionalized version of the marriage of Hadley Richardson to Ernest Hemingway and their life together, mainly in the Paris of the 1920s. McLain was inspired to write this novel by a remark in Hemingway's book *A Moveable Feast*: "I wished I had died before I loved anyone but her...I loved her and I loved no one else and we had a lovely magic time when we were alone." But those lines were written 30 years later, after Hemingway married three more times, all to women who were journalists. Hadley tells the story about meeting the young Hemingway in Chicago and daring to marry him and move to Paris, where he would write his short stories and novels in the cafes he loved. The facts are based on letters and research, but the dialogue is imagined. Balance your reading of this book with Hemingway's recollections of the time to appreciate the story from his nostalgic viewpoint.

Tea Obrecht, the author of *The Tiger's Wife*, completed her award-winning book at the tender age of 25. She is the youngest winner of the prestigious Orange Award, given to a woman writing in English and she is included in a *New Yorker* edition of 20 Writers Under 40. The book is set in the Balkans during the lengthy wars that ensued among the countries, although none are named. Because the author was born in Yugoslavia, the superstitions and rituals of the Balkans are part of her memory. Obrecht creates a mythological atmosphere with Natalia's stories about her grandfather, a famous physician. Natalia travels to unravel mysteries about her grandfather after the wars have decimated their country. This is a book about the effects of war on ordinary people, written in a form of magical realism that will take you on a trip to both genuine and literary places.

Pamela Gilman, a Wordsworth scholar with a Ph.D. in English and American Literature from Yale University, has written a book that will echo in the hearts of all parents: *The Anti-Romantic Child, A Story of Unexpected Joy*. At the age of three, her son Benjamin was diagnosed with hyperlexia, a syndrome observed in children who have the following characteristics: a precocious ability to read words, far above what would be expected at their chronological age or an intense fascination with letters or numbers; significant difficulty in understanding verbal language; and abnormal social skills, such as difficulty in socializing and interacting appropriately with people. Benj also had slow development of motor skills. Devastated by this diagnosis for a child she thought she knew so well but also knew was unusual, Gilman found comfort in Wordsworth's descriptions of infancy and childhood and in his poetry of nostalgia and longing. The book is a unique combination of a quest for professional support, therapeutic terms and an academic's love of poetry. Gilman wanted "...to be the devoted mother of the romantic child [she'd] imagined; even if (or especially because) the child didn't match the ideal, my love for him would." Mothers will identify with this feeling. She uprooted her family and moved back to New York City, where she had grown up, to provide the school and the specialized therapy Benj needed, and to accommodate the profound change in both of them.

Carolee Bertisch

Check
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NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

ADULT LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Seymour's Bookstore Silent Auction – ongoing
Seymour's hours in the lobby of the Library.

Great Books
Monday, Nov. 7 & Monday, Dec. 5,
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

The Great Books Discussion Group meets in the PGA Media Room. The short stories and essays in the program have been chosen for the richness of ideas and the quality of writing. We welcome all interested readers. For more information, call 273-1658.

Great Decisions
Monday, Nov. 21, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

We choose topics on current international issues for the following month for group discussion. Our group welcomes new participants. For more information, contact Bonnie Morrow at 285-6096 or bonimoro2601b@aol.com .

Book Talk Café
Monday, Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m.

Novelist Larry Baker returns to St. Augustine for the setting of his next book.

Art Program
Tuesday, Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m.

Susan Gallo, Cummer Director of Education, "Exotic Streets of North Africa as seen through French Artist Eugene Charvot's Paintings, Prints and Drawings"

Dr. Gerson Yessin Music Series
Tuesday, Nov. 29, 6:30

Baroque Chamber Orchestra, Randy Tinnin, Conductor and trumpeter

Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants
Saturday, Dec. 10, 2 p.m.

Holiday Fun with Flowers for Christmas and Hanukkah! Win the arrangements created by Cathy and Marilyn. Light refreshments will be served. Doors open at 1:30.

CHILDREN'S & FAMILIES' LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Just for Babies Storytime
Tuesdays, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 10:15 a.m.

All babies birth – 15 months and their caregivers are invited to join this lapside program especially designed for one-on-one interaction between caregiver and baby. Families with a baby and older children are encouraged to attend our Family Story Time programs.

Family Story Times
Tuesdays, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 11:00 a.m.

Families with young children are invited to come out to enjoy songs, dancing, stories, nursery rhymes. Nov.8 is our "Bed-Head" Storytime— give your hairbrush a day off and come in your pj's to enjoy some sleepy stories!

After School Crafts With Teens
Wednesday, Nov. 2 & Dec. 7, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

All elementary-aged children, Kindergarten – 5th grades are invited to make fun crafts with the teens of Nease High School's Arts in Motion Club in our library's Small Conference Room. All materials are provided, no registration needed.

Teens Read With Kids
Saturday, Nov. 5 & Dec. 3, 10:00 a.m.

This monthly program is presented by the teens of Ponte Vedra High School's Book Club.



TELEPHONE NUMBERS

LIBRARY 827-6950
SEYMOUR'S BOOKSTORE 273-3990

PONTE VEDRA BEACH LIBRARY HOURS

Mon.-Wed. 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thurs.-Fri. 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Closed

SEYMOUR'S BOOKSTORE HOURS

Mon.-Wed. 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thurs.-Fri. 10:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday Closed

"TWEENS" & TEENS LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Lego Club for Tweens
Wednesday, Nov. 9 & Dec. 14, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Join us for our Lego Club for 4th – 7th graders in the Small Conference Room. You can make creations with Legos with your friends at the Library. Legos provided by the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

National Gaming Day
Saturday, Nov. 12, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Celebrate by playing a wide range of board games for all ages! From 2:00 – 4:00 you can try out different video gaming systems (PS3, Wii, Xbox 360) and cool games in the FOL meeting room.

Teen Gaming Night
Monday, Nov. 28, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

For middle and high school students, ages 11 – 18 only. This program offers fun with your friends at the library playing our Playstation 3 (with the new Move), Nintendo Wii, and two X-Box 360s (one with the new Kinect) set up on three TVs and a big screen for simultaneous playing. Snacks served. This event is sponsored by the FOL. Call 827-6950 for more details.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sometimes I wonder why I volunteer. Besides the obvious desire to serve my community, there are other big pay offs. Interacting with the wonderful Board members and the staff at the Library make my life richer and make my efforts very worthwhile. It would be hard to imagine a better reward.

Usually after a Board meeting a group of us get together for lunch. We have retired librarians, dancers, community activists, interior designers and old bookstore owners in our group. Eventually the conversation gets around to, of course, books. Last month we all shared our childhood favorites -- *The Borrowers, The Little Peppers, Nancy Drew, the Bobbsey Twins* -- segueing to all time favorites such as *Little Women, Anna and the King of Siam, Black Beauty* and all the classics that we loved as children and young teens. This is not so unusual but the feeling I felt after lunch was that I was with people that loved books the way I do. And that was exhilarating. So hats off to all you out there that feel the same way.

Jan Bialka

Interim President of the Friends

SAVE THE DATE

FOL Annual Meeting, Thursday, January 19, 2012

Jazz it up with your Friends at the next annual meeting!

According to our FOL bylaws, the Nominating Committee will present its slate of nominees for election to the Board of Directors at this Annual Meeting. The Committee is interviewing a nominee next week and will consider others up to two weeks before the Annual Meeting in accordance with the bylaws.

Change of Address Notification

We don't want to have to come looking for you! If you have a change of address, please be sure to notify the St. John's County Public Library, at 827-6950, and the Friends of the Library.

Change of address notification should be sent to:

Ponte Vedra Friends of the Library
P. O. Box 744
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004

If you'll include your email address, we'll keep you up-to-date electronically also with all FOL events.

BRANCH MANAGER'S REPORT

There are lots of theories out there about why time seems to speed up as we grow older and while I don't know which theory is true I certainly know the phenomenon is! I can't believe the holidays are here again! Time for holiday shopping, holiday eating, and holiday resolutions. I can't help you with the shopping or the eating, but I can suggest three resolutions that you won't have to wait until January 1 to try!



First, become a member of our Friends of the Library. You can join for as little as \$25 a year! Your donation will not only entitle you to bi-monthly copies of *Check This Out* mailed directly to you, but you will also get early entrance into our big book sales. (That might actually help with your holiday shopping because you can pick up great deals on gently used books for gifts!) We are especially looking for young families to join the Friends of the Library. If you have sat on our new blue toddler couch to read some stories with your children, enjoyed some crafts at story time or picked some new books off the ladybug display in the Children's Department then you have come into contact with items purchased directly by the Friends for your families' enjoyment. Please show your support for the library by financially supporting our library Friends! The money they raise purchases materials for all ages!

Another resolution suggestion is to volunteer at the library. Once your simple application has been approved you can help us get items put back on the shelves, stamp cards, help at Children's programs, and more. We are especially in need of qualified volunteers who can teach computer classes to our patrons. Please call me directly at 827-6951 if you are interested! Just a few hours a week of your time helping here at the library can make a huge difference to our patrons and our community as a whole.

Last, try reading something different this year. Do you always gravitate to mysteries? Check out our new non-fiction books. Did you get an e-reader as a gift? Check out the library's e-book collection at <http://sjcpls.lib.overdrive.com> and give a new genre a try. Have you forgotten the wonderful poetry of T. S. Eliot, the simple, powerful words of Edith Wharton, or the "obvious" logic of Sherlock Holmes as written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle? Let a librarian put you back in touch with great literature-- both old and new. Challenge your mind in 2012!

Thank you for your patronage.
Enjoy the holidays and we'll see you in 2012!

Amy Ring,
Branch Manager

Volunteer Statistics for September:
67 adult volunteers
17 teen volunteers
820.5 Total volunteer hours