

A CONTINUATION OF THE HISTORY OF THE
PONTE VEDRA FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

2001-2002 – CONSTRUCTION !

After eight years of planning and fund raising, the \$2,000,000 project of enlarging the Ponte Vedra Library was ready to begin. The Friends of the Library contributed almost a half million dollars to the project, most of which made possible the addition of a 200 seat Community Room. In 1999, the PGA Tour had pledged \$10,000 a year for 10 years to support the building and equipment of a Multi-Media Room. The County supplied the rest. By April 2001, the architects, Hunter/ McKelleys, and the contractor, River City Contractors, Inc., were on site. However, their work during 2001 did not interfere with the regular activities of the Library.

First, the land on the south side of the Library had to be cleared for the new parking lot, and part of the pond on the west side had to be filled in for the base of the Community Room. Some conduits had to be buried before the cement base for the addition was poured. Then the “Green Monster” started moving in building materials, and the walls started going up. By August, the Friends’ Mega Meeting Room was taking shape, and the west wall was going skyward. By November, the roofs were on, the heating and cooling area was done, the insulation had arrived, and the north and south walls were finished. The outside of the Library was pretty much completed by December 2001.

January and February of 2002 saw the air conditioning / heating ducts, electric wiring, lighting fixtures, paint, and carpeting installed in the new addition. It was ready for books and people. But because many changes were planned for the existing Library, it had to close for eight months.

The Library Staff and FOL Volunteers moved a good many books and much equipment to the Palm Valley Community Center and stored what was left. They were able to welcome Patrons the day the main Library closed. During the closure, the Winston YMCA graciously provided space for the many regular children’s activities of the Library, and the Neptune Beach Library services were available, free of charge to Ponte Vedra Patrons.

By May, the new interior walls of the Library were up, and the book stacks were in place. The driveways, walkways, and parking areas were ready with much attractive planting. In June, the Marsh Landing Garden Club gave \$2,000 for a topiary “Bookworm” to be created by Joe Kyte to be ready for the opening. June and July saw the return of the books to the stacks (they had to be dusted!), and all the counters, desks, chairs, computers, and other equipment moved in. The Library Staff and the FOL

Volunteers had done a great job, and were now planning for the opening of August 11, 2002.

On Sunday afternoon, August 11, there was an arch of balloons in the foyer, a clown and refreshments were standing by, the beribboned scissors were laid out, and the ceremonial ribbon was in place across the entry. Jack Morgan's pamphlet "History of the Ponte Vedra Library and the Ponte Vedra Friends of the Library" was ready for distribution. The Staff and trained Volunteers were waiting for the great occasion.

A tent seating 200 people was set up for the opening ceremonies, but 500 Patrons came. The speakers in the tent were St. John County Administrator Ben Adams, U.S. Representative John Mica, County Commissioner Mary Kohnke, County Library Administrator Mary Jane Little, and Jack Morgan, the force behind it all. Then Martha Stachitas, First Vice President of the FOL, led ten speakers and dignitaries toward the entry where they took their scissors and cut the ribbon. The audience of Patrons thronged through the doors, and not only enjoyed the refreshments and entertainment, but explored all the amenities of the new facility. Most important, they stood in lines at the Circulation Desk to check out books. They were immediately at home.

During the following weeks, the Friends added Class Visits, Bibliographical Instruction, Word Processing, and Desk Top Publishing, to the programs already in place. They held a contest to name the topiary Book Worm, and chose "Seymour Books" from the 385 entries. The Friends also planned to open their own Bookstore of the same name. Donations of books were welcomed, and more Volunteers were needed for the Friends' Festival on September 22, 2002.

A huge crowd, mostly families, came to the Friends' Festival on Sunday afternoon. Co-chairs, Louisa Kuhn and Martha Stachitas secured the sponsorship of Merrill Lynch and Winn Dixie. The children enjoyed everything from a Clown-Magician to story-telling Face Painters, while the adults examined displays of quilts and antiques. Papa John's provided pizza for everyone. A display cabinet built by an Eagle Scout and filled with Chinese Porcelain was dedicated, and the lobby walls were graced by paintings of "Scenes around the Library" by Nease Art Students. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts raised a flag which had flown over the Capitol and was presented by Congressman Ander Crenshaw, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and a solo of the Star Spangled Banner. The Nease Marching Band played before and after these ceremonies. And many families became members of the Friends.

The Friends still had other projects. They were searching for a piano for the Community Room, and on December they opened Seymour's Book Store, just inside the front door of the Library, to sell "Gently read books at a bargain price". The Store was staffed by FOL Volunteers.

Probably the most important accomplishment of the Friends in 2002 was the establishment of the Endowment Fund, when the Sun Trust Bank offered to match

\$10,000 in contributions. The interest on this fund is intended to support the purchase of consumable materials used by the Library and the Friends. The Endowment Fund has grown rapidly.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY – 2003

The 2003 Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Library was held at the Sawgrass Country Club. President Carolee Bertisch thanked the Library Staff, the Volunteers, and the Board for a very successful 2002, and reviewed all their achievements. She then introduced Betty Frederick, Library Branch Manager, who spoke about how pleased she was with the new building, in spite of some finishing touches it still needed. She reported that all Library statistics had reached new records.

Mary Davis, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of Officers: President, Carolee Bertisch; First Vice President, Gary Reichow; Second Vice President, Susan Drain; Corresponding Secretary, Mary Davis; Recording Secretary, Kitty Morris; and Treasurer, Don Johnson. The slate was elected unanimously.

After a lovely dinner, the speaker was Dr. Michael Gannon, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Florida.

At the January Board Meeting it was reported that the accordion doors for the alcove in the Community Room and a door for the Kitchen had been ordered. The County had purchased and installed a refrigerator in the Kitchen. The FOL would buy a microwave for the Kitchen.

Don Johnson reported very good financials and introduced a representative from Merrill Lynch, who tried to explain FOL investments. But the Board wasn't satisfied. Don agreed that the Board needed better materials with which to review investments on a yearly basis.

The Board approved \$500 to purchase an FOL Banner for the wall behind the Speaker's Stand, as well as an FOL Emblem for the Podium. The Board also approved \$5,000 to be spent on cornices and shades for the Community Room.

Seymour's Book Store was averaging \$92.00 a day in sales, and 20,000 volumes were ready for the Annual Book Sale at Our Lady Star of the Sea, January 29th to February 1st.

The FOL programs for January included "An Evening with Joh Weiss and Chuck Day" local authors of the book "The Making of the Super Bowl". There was also a joint program with FOCUS-CUMMER. Their Executive Director, Dr. Maarten VandeGuchte spoke about their Spring exhibition: "Modern Masters: Corot to Kandinsky".

GREAT DECISIONS, FRIENDS ON THE GO, and GREAT BOOKS were continuing programs sponsored by the FOL.

The Library Staff scheduled 17 programs a month for Infants, Children, Teens, and Families. There was a one day Florida Library Youth Program workshop for Librarians, and several two day training classes for Tutors in the Learn to Read program.

Video Teleconferencing was available in the Multimedia Room, and the Library Internet Zone – “LIZ” – was ready to give Patrons free Internet access.

The February Board Meeting was abbreviated to allow time to get advice about Long Range Planning. CHECK THIS OUT had been revised and reformatted. Heat had been provided in the FOL Office. The Annual Book Sale netted about \$16,000. The Silent Auction was a success.

The treasurer reported that the Annual Dinner and the items for the Community Room had come in under budget. Supplies in the amount of \$500 were purchased for Computers for the Homebound. And arrangements were being made for four FOL Officers to become check signers for both Sun Trust Bank and Merrill Lynch.

The Library Staff had begun using local artists to display their works in the Gallery of the Library, making the entry very attractive. Many non-library groups such as homeowners associations, committees, clubs, and civic groups were using the Library meeting rooms.

President Bertisch then introduced Barbara Turley, the Long Range Planning Facilitator, who presented evaluation questions and many ideas for the Board's edification.

March brought the Long Range Planning Session with three and five year Goals and one year Actions in five areas: Community Building and Collaboration, Programs, Finances, Advocacy, and Overarching Items.

There were other FOL activities in March beside those regularly scheduled. Library Support started buying extra copies of best selling books to help circulation. PONTE VEDRA RAISES READERS canvas bags containing blue or pink library cards were given to Infants up to one year old. “The People's Law School” opened with John Crawford speaking on “Tax Tips”. And Edwin Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service, related the story of “The Civil War on the Mississippi”.

In April the Board had many details to attend to. There was a need for some method of hanging displays in the Community Room that wouldn't result in holes in the walls. The Children's Librarian needed additional die cuts for the Ellison Die Cut Machine. The Board approved \$1,000 for the purchase of the die cuts. Library Support

spent \$868.00 for extra copies of best seller, subscriptions to newspapers, supplies for the Children's Library, and reference books for the Young Adults.

The Annual Book Sale was so successful, the Board approved a donation of \$1,300 to Our Lady Star of the Sea for the use of their hall.

Signs were ordered for Seymour's Book Store, and the Board approved \$1,048 for shelving and storage space.

A Major Author Event was approved for November. Anita Shreve, the author, asked a fee of \$10,000, plus expenses.

The purchase of an 8'x10' glass beaded heavy duty movie screen for \$1,400 installed in the Community Room was approved. The County agreed to do the extra electrical work that was needed, and a \$1,000 donation eased the vote.

A motion was passed to allot \$2,500 to provide signage throughout the Library.

Carolee Bertisch, Luisa Kuhn, M. L. Gallegher, and Don Johnson reported on the County Commissioner's meeting with Library Administrators that they attended.

The maps used for GREAT DECISIONS discussions were lost during the expansion of the Library, so the Board approved \$700 for the purchase of new maps.

Welcome packets were being made up for new Members, and magnetic name-tags for the Board were ready for delivery.

The big program in April was a Major Author Event held at the Marriott. "An Evening with William Safire" was very popular, with ticket sales of \$12,000. The publicity for the Event was outstanding.

Clint Dominick used two sessions of THE PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL to explain the Constitution and the Supreme Court. There was also a session on Land Use/Planning/Zoning.

The Library Staff was supporting English as a Second Language Tutors as well as Learn to Read Tutors. Seventy-five Adult Students were working with trained ESL and LTR Tutors.

With FOL support, the Staff had added plants, shelves, and signs where they were needed throughout the Library, and their Local Artist project made the Gallery most attractive.

At the May meeting of the Board, a film was shown of the Library System's presentation to the County Board of Commissioners.

The Ponte Vedra FOL Members were winners in May. Their entry in the FOLUSA Great Ideas Contest – “Friends Festival” and “Ponte Vedra Raises Readers” – won beautiful Library Chairs from Bogart, which were placed in the Library Gallery.

Carolee Bertisch and Don Johnson represented the Ponte Vedra FOL at the County Library Budget Review.

After months of discussion a Mission Statement was finally adopted by the Board:

“Our mission is to make the Ponte Vedra 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, programs; raising funds, 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.”

Membership was 888, with 131 former members who had still not been heard from.

The newly installed movie screen in the Community Room was inaugurated with a program on the North Atlantic Right Whales.

Dr. Andrew Dillon, from Flagler College, spoke about “MacBeth” by William Shakespeare.

The FOL gave a luncheon for between 75 and 80 Volunteers/Volunteens, with many Board Members attending and supporting the event. Also 15 Volunteens had a pizza party at which they did some planning.

In June a most important “finishing touch” for the Library was made with the installation of professional signage throughout.

The Antiques Exhibit Committee sponsored TEA AND TALK about Meissin porcelain, and a new exhibit of English porcelain and pottery was in the display cabinet.

Seymour’s had a two day paperback Mini Book Sale featuring books for the beach, for trips, and for summer reading.

The last session of THE PEOPLE’S LAW SCHOOL, organized by Judge Tatti Christensen, was very well attended. Eighty students heard about “Condominium and Homeowners Association Law.”

Library Support asked for \$3,200 for Adult Books. The Board approved.

Looking ahead to the Community Reads project, the Board approved \$10,000 to buy copies of the book chosen, to be given away to FOL Members.

In July, the Library Staff put on 26 Children's Programs with FOL financial and Volunteer support.

In August, the Library Staff started a project to honor the Alumni of "Ponte Vedra Raises Readers". A reunion party was planned for the Fall.

The Teen Advisory Board was established with by laws, and the distribution of VOLUNTEEN NEWS. At their pizza party, they expressed a desire for more furniture in the Teen Area. The Board had received \$1,000 donation from The Ponte Vedra Woman's Club and dedicated the money to the Teens.

September was "gearing up for the Fall" month. Seymour's Book Store was booming, but if it could be open another two hours, Guy DiCarlo felt it would really take off. Library Support not only bought extra copies of best-selling books. But also additional copies of the Sunshine State Reading List books for the Young Adults.

Josh Petrie led a Power Point Workshop for 11 people with need to know. The Library had Power Point on all its office computers and on all the computers in the PGA Tour Multimedia Room.

PONTE VEDRA READS 'CROSS CREEK' started on September 13th at 10:00 A.M. with the distribution of 320 copies of the book. These copies were free to FOL Members, and sold to non-members at cost - \$9.00.

The Alumni of PONTE VEDRA RAISES READERS were treated at their Party to "Liang, Chun Asian Acrobatic Show" thanks to the County Library Systems funds from the sale of Florida Arts License Plates. Each of the Alumni was given a Certificate of Recognition at the close of the party. The community was welcome.

GREAT DECISIONS presented Dr. Pam Zeiser, University of North Florida, to discuss the relationship between the U. S. and Russia.

October brought the new Fall programs, but there was business to attend to also. The Board agreed to fund the basic costs involved in the creation of the Ponte Vedra Park at Library Boulevard. The establishment of a Library Enhancement Fund was discussed. Library Support bought \$8,000 worth of reference books. The Volunteer Office was moved in with the Volunteen Office. This led to much discussion of possibilities for the Bookstore. A survey would be made of the use of the FOL Room to see if the Book Store hours could be increased. Membership was up to 950. Volunteers were recruited for the Children's Halloween Party.

The Board approved a \$9,000 budget for the Major Author Event in November with Anita Shreve. Both Books-A-Million and The Book Mark had agreed to publicize and sell tickets to the Shreve Event.

Volunteer Librarian Joyce Baldwin conducted a survey of Teens to find their favorite books of 2002 – 2003. The FOL bought the 18 books not already in the Library. Monthly Teen Movies and Teen Bash Nights were continued, as was Videoconferencing for Young Adults.

The Board discussed the possibility of obtaining a Piano for the Community Room.

Then, of course, there was CROSS CREEK. A first edition of the book and a signed edition had been donated and were on display in the Gallery. Channel 3 TV televised a preview of Deborah Gianolis' discussion of CROSS CREEK, the first in the series. Carolee Bertisch led the second discussion group. David Nolan, author and historian, talked about "The Amazing Life and Times of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings". Mary Kohnke led the third discussion group. Chef Robert demonstrated "Cross Creek Cookery". The movie "Cross Creek" was shown. And Chef Robert repeated his demonstration. A total of 550 copies of the book were given out, and membership climbed to 1,018. PONTE VEDRA READS CROSS CREEK was off to a great start, but was not the only program around.

Robert Fulton, author of "But... You Know What I Mean", spoke to prospective writers and was given a \$250 honorarium.

The first of the monthly TWENTIETH CENTURY ART series was held with FOCUS – CUMMER co-sponsoring. Van MacDonald spoke on "The Influence of Cezanne".

FRIENDS ON THE GO featured Dr Kevin Neal, a Ponte Vedra dentist and avid mountain climber. He spoke about his expedition to the South Summit of Mt. Everest.

GREAT DECISIONS presented Colonel George McQuillen. His topic was "The Deployment of U.S. Troops".

And to top off the month, the FOL provided Volunteers and financing so the Library Staff could do the hard work of organizing the very popular Halloween Parties.

Early in November a special meeting of the Board was held to analyze the problems of buying, using, and maintaining a Piano for the Community Room. At the end of the meeting, the motion to buy the Piano and give it to the Library passed.

At the regular meeting of the Board, the Library Enhancement Fund was created. This Fund would, with a 2/3 majority vote of the Board, pay for major purchases for the

Library. Excess money from the General Fund, 20% of Book Sales, and Donations would go into this Fund. It would be invested with Merrill Lynch. The Board approved the immediate transferring of \$40,000 from the General Fund to the Enhancement Fund, and paying for the Piano from the Enhancement Fund.

Seymour's Book Store was given some extra hours during the holiday season: it would be open Saturday mornings and until 8:00 P.M. weekday evenings.

A lovely Doll House was donated to be raffled off during November and December, with tickets at \$1.00, and the winner's name being drawn on December 20th.

There was an open-to-the-public meeting about the Ponte Vedra Park on Library Boulevard. Much information was given about the Park and there was a display of the proposed design.

The MAJOR AUTHOR EVENT with Anita Shreve at the Marriott was attended by 200 people.

GREAT BOOKS and GREAT DISCUSSIONS joined to talk about Schopenhauer's "The Indestructability of Our Inner Nature".

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY ART SERIES presented Van MacDonald explaining the works of Picasso and Matisse.

The topic for GREAT DECISIONS was China.

TEA AND TALK presented antique expert Betty Gaines who displayed and talked about antique glass and Christmas ornaments.

Marshall Read and Richard Pelletier donated and installed purple martin bird houses by the lake outside the Library.

The Teen Advisory Board meeting was a videoconference between the Ponte Vedra Board and the Teen Advisory Board of the Queens Borough (New York) Public Library.

Grades 5 and 6 had an interactive videoconference presented by the Ponte Vedra Library and the Library of Congress entitled "The Spy Map and General Washington".

A popular series of three FAMILY EVENTS, "Zoo Saturday", concluded in November.

And CROSS CREEK DISCUSSIONS continued with sessions led by Luisa Kuhn, Dr. Pherbia Engdehl, and Cathy Portrie. It was quite a month.

In the December meeting of the Board, the budget for 2004 was approved, as was the transfer of \$7,500 from the newly designated Operating Fund (the old General Fund) to the Endowment Fund. The Library Support budget had \$6,600 remaining, but \$3,000 was already committed.

The Treasurer's Year-End Report for 2003:

Income from Memberships and Book Sales:	\$83,000
Expenses for Programs, Support and Enhancement	\$75,500
Year-End Cash and Investments:	
Operating Fund	\$60,000
Enhancement Fund	\$20,800
Expansion Fund	\$36,000
Endowment Fund	\$265,000

The FOL was financially sound!

The Kinder Family's granite bench, honoring Mr. Kinder, was installed by the front entrance of the Library.

Most of the meeting concerned wishes for the future, as everyone looked forward to the Holiday Party

The Holiday Party for the Volunteers, Volunteens, and Library Staff was a happy occasion. The new Piano had been delivered, so the guests were treated to the playing of Dr. Gerson Yessin. This was a great ending to a very exciting year.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY – 2004

In 2004, the Friends and the Staff of the Ponte Vedra Library continues to identify needs for new equipment and new programs for the spaces in the expanded Library.

On January 19th, the Annual Meeting was held at the Sawgrass Country Club. President Carolee Burtisch presided. The membership elected Gary Reichow, President; Mary Davis, 1st Vice President; Kitty Morris, 2nd Vice President; Don Johnson, Treasurer; and Pat Yost; Secretary. It was also approved to add Guy DiCarlo, Vice President for Book Sales and Jan Bialka, Vice President for Library Support to the Executive Committee. Also approved were the purchase of the Baldwin Piano and a Public Address System for the Community Room, and Computers for the Young Adults Department. The after-dinner-speaker was Michael Kelly, Chief Operating Officer of the Jacksonville Super Bowl Host Committee.

Just two days later, January 21, the new Baldwin Piano was dedicated. Seventeen year old Ricky Alessi was the artist. Ricky was a senior at the Douglas Anderson School

of the Arts and a student of Dr. Gerson Yessin. This was the first program in a series "Musicians of the Future".

The February Board Meeting approved the FOL's participation in the County-wide "Community Read" program. Also approved were monthly purchases of books, audio tapes, and reference materials from the Library Support Budget. From the Enhancement Fund, which receives 20% of all book sales revenues, the purchase of a Credenza and Bulletin Board for the Lobby and the building of a Stage in the Community Room were approved.

Meanwhile, the FOL and the Library Staff were busy organizing new events to be supported by the FOL. For Teens, there were "Book Talks", a "Teen Movie", "Game Bash", "Sunday Sundae", and "Volunteen Orientation". For Toddlers, in addition to the "Story Times", there would be "Family Events". A "20th Century Art Series", "Friends on the Go", and a "Major Author" series were added for Adults.

On February 18th, Guy DiCarlo presented a "Civil War" program. He was organizing material that could be used for research. And on February 24th, the Volunteers were entertained at a morning "Coffee".

In March, due mainly to the "Ponte Vedra Reads Cross Creek" program, the PVBFOL won the 2004 Florida Library Association Membership Award! The Board paid off the last part of its commitment to St Johns County for the expansion - \$36,061.01.

The Book Sale, March 2nd to 6th, was a complete sell-out with net proceeds of \$18,303.

Some topics for March programs included Art – Barbara Savis on Louise Nevelson; Great Decisions – The Phillippines; Great Books – Gibbon's "The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire"; and Music - The Flory Brothers (ages 15 and 17) Violin Concertos.

In April, the newly revised and updated "Check This Out" reported new Youth activities such as "Teen Bingo" and "Teen Crafts", "Digital Camera for Kids", and "A Gathering of Poets". The Library was averaging 33 programs each month, expenses for which were paid by the FOL.

The Board Members reported, on April 19th, that the Seymour Book Drop had been installed and that the Rolling Carts were in use. The Intercom for all areas of the Library was installed. A Quiz with prizes had been added to the Web Site. Mrs. Kinder, A Patron of the Library, had donated a beautiful granite bench in memory of her husband.

The Music programs continues with "The Life and Music of Fannie Mendelssohn," and the Sawgrass Singers performing their Spring Concert. Irma Schwartz and Her Dogs entertained a Family Event on May 8th.

The Volunteer Luncheon was held on May 11th. It was at this event that the first Jack Morgan Volun Teen Service Award \$500.00 was presented to Julie Papparelli, a senior at Nease High School. The VolunTeens had a pizza party on May 14th and announced their new logo: “GOTTA” – Group of Teens Taking Action.

At the May 17th Board Meeting, members reported that FOL had an initial posting on the new BCCI web site which lists cultural events taking place at the Beach. The “Sidewalk Book Sale” grossed \$1,300, and more such sales were scheduled. New membership materials were being formatted, and 36 FOL sponsored programs were scheduled for the summer months.

May 25th saw the kickoff of Just For Teens’ summer reading program. The theme was from the ‘60s – “Peace, Love, Libraries”.

June brought a Family Film Fest: June 7th – “Finding Nemo”; June 14th – “Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets”; June 21st – “Brother Bear”, with a Magic Show on June 26th.

On June 7th, the Library kicked off the statewide Florida Youth Library Program with entertainment by The Mashed Potato Players, and many copies of “The House on Mango Street” were made available by the FOL.

On June 11th, the Red Cross gave a class of Baby Sitting and CPR for 11 to 15 year olds, and on the 18th the Betty Griffffin House led a seminar on Dating Violence.

At the Board Meeting on June 21st, it was reported that Guy DiCarlo’s Civil War Collection was available for circulation. The Library had purchased 100 copies of “The House on Mango Street” for The First Coast Reads Program. The FOL purchased 50 copies for Seymour’s Book Store to sell at cost and 20 copies for circulation. A Podium and a new Carousel Slide Projector were purchased for the Community Room. The promotion for the Children’s Major Author, Steven Kellogg, would start soon.

July and August were spent getting ready for the Kellogg event: Honorarium, Transportation, Accommodations at The Lodge, Advertising, Flyers, Press Releases, Tickets, Decorations, Lapel Mike and Carousel in working order, Books for sale and autograph, Luncheon after Presentation. The cost of all this was \$3,100.

The FOL was also getting ready for the November Membership Drive,

At 10:00 A.M. on August 21, in the Community Room, Steven Kellogg, the author of 90 children’s books, told stories and drew illustrations for a very large and enthusiastic audience of both children and adults.

At the September 20th Board Meeting, members reported purchasing a desk and two computers for the Teen Study Station. Also purchased were 5 small carts for moving

books all over the Library. Plans were made for the Walter Isaacson Major Author event and the Membership Drive. A professional, David Varga, had been hired to redesign and make the FOL web site more user friendly.

September 21st was the date for the Music event. Charlotte Mabrey, the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra's Principal Percussionist, performed, accompanied by the University of North Florida's Percussion Ensemble. On the 27th, Fabio Mechetti and Aida Ribiero presented a preview of the Jacksonville Symphony season.

In October, Guy DiCarlo was nominated for the Jacksonville Jaguar's Community Quarterback Award. He was pleased to make the top 25 finalists.

On October 7th, a new series, "Art Talk" was inaugurated.

The Music event on the 19th featured the UNF Chamber Singers, directed by Dr. Merrill Palmer.

On October 29th, the Halloween Parties, one for Toddlers and one for Teens, brought large crowds. These events were organized by the Library Staff with funds provided by the FOL, and were becoming the most well attended and popular events.

By November, the Membership Data Base had been set up, so mailings could be targeted to a member's interests, and everything was ready for the Isaacson Major Author event. On November 10, Walter Isaacson entertained a large crowd at the Marriott Convention Center. The cost of the event was \$15,300, paid by the FOL.

On November 16th, Bill Prince and His Cruise Quartet were the Music event.

On December 1st, there was a Family Event which included a Fairy Tale Princess.

In December, the FOL Board paid the cost of reusable holiday decorations for the whole Library, and the first discussions were initiated regarding the creation of an outdoor reading area. Much effort and enthusiasm made the Volunteers Holiday Party on the 13th a huge success. The entertainment for the Party was the North Florida Women's Chorale.

On December 4th, the first Seymour's Secret Book Shop for Kids took place. Many young Library Patrons enjoyed the music, treats, Santa, and free gift wrapping.

The FOL Finances for 2004 were in excellent shape. Income was \$120,121, Expenditures were \$105,505, for a net \$14,616. Of the Expenses, approximately 20% were for Administration, 40% for FOL Programs, 30% for Library Support, and 10% for Library Enhancement. \$7,500 of the net was transferred to the Endowment Fund, bringing its total to \$285,317. It was a very good year!

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY - 2005

The Annual Book Sale was so successful, the Board approved a donation of \$1,300 to Our Lady Star of the Sea for the use of their hall.

Signs were ordered for Seymour's Book Store, and the Board approved \$1,048 for shelving and storage space.

A Major Author Event was approved for November. Anita Shreve, the author, asked a fee of \$10,000, plus expenses.

The purchase of an 8'x10' glass beaded heavy duty movie screen for \$1,400 installed in the Community Room was approved. The County agreed to do the extra electrical work that was needed, and a \$1,000 donation eased the vote.

A motion was passed to allot \$2,500 to provide signage throughout the Library.

Carolee Bertisch, Luisa Kuhn, M. L. Gallegher, and Don Johnson reported on the County Commissioner's meeting with Library Administrators that they attended.

The maps used for GREAT DECISIONS discussions were lost during the expansion of the Library, so the Board approved \$700 for the purchase of new maps.

Welcome packets were being made up for new Members, and magnetic name-tags for the Board were ready for delivery.

The big program in April was a Major Author Event held at the Marriott. "An Evening with William Safire" was very popular, with ticket sales of \$12,000. The publicity for the Event was outstanding.

Clint Dominick used two sessions of THE PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL to explain the Constitution and the Supreme Court. There was also a session on Land Use/Planning/Zoning.

The Library Staff was supporting English as a Second Language Tutors as well as Learn to Read Tutors. Seventy-five Adult Students were working with trained ESL and LTR Tutors.

With FOL support, the Staff had added plants, shelves, and signs where they were needed throughout the Library, and their Local Artist project made the Gallery most attractive.

At the May meeting of the Board, a film was shown of the Library System's presentation to the County Board of Commissioners.

The Ponte Vedra FOL Members were winners in May. Their entry in the FOLUSA Great Ideas Contest – “Friends Festival” and “Ponte Vedra Raises Readers” – won beautiful Library Chairs from Bogart, which were placed in the Library Gallery.

Carolee Bertisch and Don Johnson represented the Ponte Vedra FOL at the County Library Budget Review.

After months of discussion a Mission Statement was finally adopted by the Board:

“Our mission is to make the Ponte Vedra 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, programs; raising funds, 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.”

Membership was 888, with 131 former members who had still not been heard from.

The newly installed movie screen in the Community Room was inaugurated with a program on the North Atlantic Right Whales.

Dr. Andrew Dillon, from Flagler College, spoke about “MacBeth” by William Shakespeare.

The FOL gave a luncheon for between 75 and 80 Volunteers/Volunteens, with many Board Members attending and supporting the event. Also 15 Volunteens had a pizza party at which they did some planning.

In June a most important “finishing touch” for the Library was made with the installation of professional signage throughout.

The Antiques Exhibit Committee sponsored TEA AND TALK about Meissin porcelain, and a new exhibit of English porcelain and pottery was in the display cabinet.

Seymour’s had a two day paperback Mini Book Sale featuring books for the beach, for trips, and for summer reading.

The last session of THE PEOPLE’S LAW SCHOOL, organized by Judge Tatti Christensen, was very well attended. Eighty students heard about “Condominium and Homeowners Association Law.”

Library Support asked for \$3,200 for Adult Books. The Board approved.

Looking ahead to the Community Reads project, the Board approved \$10,000 to buy copies of the book chosen, to be given away to FOL Members.

In July, the Library Staff put on 26 Children's Programs with FOL financial and Volunteer support.

In August, the Library Staff started a project to honor the Alumni of "Ponte Vedra Raises Readers". A reunion party was planned for the Fall.

The Teen Advisory Board was established with by laws, and the distribution of VOLUNTEEN NEWS. At their pizza party, they expressed a desire for more furniture in the Teen Area. The Board had received \$1,000 donation from The Ponte Vedra Woman's Club and dedicated the money to the Teens.

September was "gearing up for the Fall" month. Seymour's Book Store was booming, but if it could be open another two hours, Guy DiCarlo felt it would really take off. Library Support not only bought extra copies of best-selling books. But also additional copies of the Sunshine State Reading List books for the Young Adults.

Josh Petrie led a Power Point Workshop for 11 people with need to know. The Library had Power Point on all its office computers and on all the computers in the PGA Tour Multimedia Room.

PONTE VEDRA READS 'CROSS CREEK' started on September 13th at 10:00 A.M. with the distribution of 320 copies of the book. These copies were free to FOL Members, and sold to non-members at cost - \$9.00.

The Alumni of PONTE VEDRA RAISES READERS were treated at their Party to "Liang, Chun Asian Acrobatic Show" thanks to the County Library Systems funds from the sale of Florida Arts License Plates. Each of the Alumni was given a Certificate of Recognition at the close of the party. The community was welcome.

GREAT DECISIONS presented Dr. Pam Zeiser, University of North Florida, to discuss the relationship between the U. S. and Russia.

October brought the new Fall programs, but there was business to attend to also. The Board agreed to fund the basic costs involved in the creation of the Ponte Vedra Park at Library Boulevard. The establishment of a Library Enhancement Fund was discussed. Library Support bought \$8,000 worth of reference books. The Volunteer Office was moved in with the Volunteen Office. This led to much discussion of possibilities for the Bookstore. A survey would be made of the use of the FOL Room to see if the Book Store hours could be increased. Membership was up to 950. Volunteers were recruited for the Children's Halloween Party.

The Board approved a \$9,000 budget for the Major Author Event in November with Anita Shreve. Both Books-A-Million and The Book Mark had agreed to publicize and sell tickets to the Shreve Event.

Volunteer Librarian Joyce Baldwin conducted a survey of Teens to find their favorite books of 2002 – 2003. The FOL bought the 18 books not already in the Library. Monthly Teen Movies and Teen Bash Nights were continued, as was Videoconferencing for Young Adults.

The Board discussed the possibility of obtaining a Piano for the Community Room.

Then, of course, there was CROSS CREEK. A first edition of the book and a signed edition had been donated and were on display in the Gallery. Channel 3 TV televised a preview of Deborah Gianolis' discussion of CROSS CREEK, the first in the series. Carolee Bertisch led the second discussion group. David Nolan, author and historian, talked about "The Amazing Life and Times of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings". Mary Kohnke led the third discussion group. Chef Robert demonstrated "Cross Creek Cookery". The movie "Cross Creek" was shown. And Chef Robert repeated his demonstration. A total of 550 copies of the book were given out, and membership climbed to 1,018. PONTE VEDRA READS CROSS CREEK was off to a great start, but was not the only program around.

Robert Fulton, author of "But... You Know What I Mean", spoke to prospective writers and was given a \$250 honorarium.

The first of the monthly TWENTIETH CENTURY ART series was held with FOCUS – CUMMER co-sponsoring. Van MacDonald spoke on "The Influence of Cezanne".

FRIENDS ON THE GO featured Dr Kevin Neal, a Ponte Vedra dentist and avid mountain climber. He spoke about his expedition to the South Summit of Mt. Everest.

GREAT DECISIONS presented Colonel George McQuillen. His topic was "The Deployment of U.S. Troops".

And to top off the month, the FOL provided Volunteers and financing so the Library Staff could do the hard work of organizing the very popular Halloween Parties.

Early in November a special meeting of the Board was held to analyze the problems of buying, using, and maintaining a Piano for the Community Room. At the end of the meeting, the motion to buy the Piano and give it to the Library passed.

At the regular meeting of the Board, the Library Enhancement Fund was created. This Fund would, with a 2/3 majority vote of the Board, pay for major purchases for the Library. Excess money from the General Fund, 20% of Book Sales, and Donations

would go into this Fund. It would be invested with Merrill Lynch. The Board approved the immediate transferring of \$40,000 from the General Fund to the Enhancement Fund, and paying for the Piano from the Enhancement Fund.

Seymour's Book Store was given some extra hours during the holiday season: it would be open Saturday mornings and until 8:00 P.M. weekday evenings.

A lovely Doll House was donated to be raffled off during November and December, with tickets at \$1.00, and the winner's name being drawn on December 20th.

There was an open-to-the-public meeting about the Ponte Vedra Park on Library Boulevard. Much information was given about the Park and there was a display of the proposed design.

The MAJOR AUTHOR EVENT with Anita Shreve at the Marriott was attended by 200 people.

GREAT BOOKS and GREAT DISCUSSIONS joined to talk about Schopenhauer's "The Indestructibility of Our Inner Nature".

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY ART SERIES presented Van MacDonald explaining the works of Picasso and Matisse.

The topic for GREAT DECISIONS was China.

TEA AND TALK presented antique expert Betty Gaines who displayed and talked about antique glass and Christmas ornaments.

Marshall Read and Richard Pelletier donated and installed purple martin bird houses by the lake outside the Library.

The Teen Advisory Board meeting was a videoconference between the Ponte Vedra Board and the Teen Advisory Board of the Queens Borough (New York) Public Library.

Grades 5 and 6 had an interactive videoconference presented by the Ponte Vedra Library and the Library of Congress entitled "The Spy Map and General Washington".

A popular series of three FAMILY EVENTS, "Zoo Saturday", concluded in November.

And CROSS CREEK DISCUSSIONS continued with sessions led by Luisa Kuhn, Dr. Pherbia Engdehl, and Cathy Portrie. It was quite a month.

In the December meeting of the Board, the budget for 2004 was approved, as was the transfer of \$7,500 from the newly designated Operating Fund (the old General Fund)

to the Endowment Fund. The Library Support budget had \$6,600 remaining, but \$3,000 was already committed.

The Treasurer's Year-End Report for 2003:

Income from Memberships and Book Sales:	\$83,000
Expenses for Programs, Support and Enhancement	\$75,500
Year-End Cash and Investments:	
Operating Fund	\$60,000
Enhancement Fund	\$20,800
Expansion Fund	\$36,000
Endowment Fund	\$265,000

The FOL was financially sound!

The Kinder Family's granite bench, honoring Mr. Kinder, was installed by the front entrance of the Library.

Most of the meeting concerned wishes for the future, as everyone looked forward to the Holiday Party

The Holiday Party for the Volunteers, Volunteens, and Library Staff was a happy occasion. The new Piano had been delivered, so the guests were treated to the playing of Dr. Gerson Yessin. This was a great ending to a very exciting year.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY – 2006

In January, 2006, the first Board Meeting discussed past accomplishments and future events. Plans for the Annual Dinner Meeting of the FOL Membership were finalized. The Annual Book Sale had been held at Our Lady Star of the Sea, and, as usual, was very successful. Since membership in the FOL was required for attendance at the Preview Party, the Membership Committee was very active.

The necessity to get a properly licensed contractor for the Courtyard project meant that the cost would go up. The Board approved an additional \$10,000 for the project, for a total of \$75,000.

Barbara LeVoy announced that Dr. David O'Brien was an additional candidate for the 2006 Board, and his name would be added to the slate to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting. There would be a New Member Orientation Meeting later in January.

The Librarian reported that there would be a "Local Author's Showcase" in January with 30 published authors participating. Also, through an agreement with Recorded Books and Net Library, St. Johns County Public Library Patrons could now download audio books to their home computer, if they had the right equipment.

The 2006 Annual Meeting was held at the Sawgrass Country Club Grille Room. The first half of the meeting was congratulatory, with Mary Davis thanking all FOL Members and the Board for their support in 2005. Mitzi Thomas, Branch Manager, thanked the FOL for their support and announced that the Library Staff was purchasing a paver for the Courtyard engraved "Friends of the Library". Mary Jane Little, County Director, complimented the Friends, and then along with Mitzi Thomas and Betty Frederick, presented six books to be added to the Library collection in honor of the retiring Board Members.

Barbara LeVoy presented the nine Board Members whose terms continued in 2006, and the ten nominated new Members of the Board. The latter were unanimously elected. Mary Davis then reviewed the accomplishments of the retiring Board Members and presented each with a Certificate and a token gift.

After a brief adjournment, the Board reconvened to elect officers: Mary Davis, President; Liz McAlhany, 1st Vice President; Jan Bialka, 2nd Vice President; Guy DiCarlo, Vice President for Book Sales; Doug Wilson, Treasurer; and Pat Yost, Secretary.

After a lovely dinner, the Speaker for the Evening was John Delaney, President of the University of North Florida.

CHECK THIS OUT was essential to keep up with the multitude of programs produced by the FOL and the Library Staff with the FOL's financial and Volunteer

support. Every Wednesday there were seven programs for Children, Teens, and English-as-a-Second-Language Adults. Kids Crafts and Genealogy 101 were one Wednesday a month. The Teen Advisory Board Meeting, Teen Movie Night, and Teen Bash (Harry Potter Trivia in January), Basic and Advanced Computer Classes, and Library Skills Classes each met once a month on different Tuesdays throughout the year. Special programs in January were “A Chinese New Year Party” for Children, and a Local Author’s Showcase with 30 published Authors.

The FOL programs were an AUTHOR, John Moran, author of “Journal of Light: A Search for the Soul of Florida”; GREAT BOOKS; ADVENTURES IN ARTS, a tour of the Cummer Museum; and MUSIC with baritone Kristof Biernecki.

And Seymour’s Book Store was open seven days a week in the afternoon, but the differing hours were listed in CHECK THIS OUT.

The Board Meeting in February dealt with lots of research as well as business. In addition to the letters of thanks she received, Mary Davis announced that Gerson Yessin had donated the FOL honorarium he received for a recent musical performance and asked that it be used to enhance the Library’s CD music collection.

Doug Wilson’s Treasurer’s Report was positive, but the Finance Committee planned to evaluate the strategy of investing primarily in mutual funds.

Liz McAlhany’s Membership Committee was still striving for the 2005 numbers. Liz was working with Deb Skorewicz to review and document the FRIENDS database platform and database collection system for wider utilization. Liz had also drawn up a chart of all FOL programs, showing the type of support each needed. Her information indicated the need for a person responsible for publicity.

Luisa Kuhn reported that a contractor had been hired and building permits issued for the Courtyard, with groundbreaking in March. The brick pavers were being engraved, the six teak benches had donors, with four more donors waiting in reserve for other needs.

Many details for the Hosseini MAJOR AUTHOR EVENT were being taken care of. Emphasis was on ticket sales and publicity, including not only press releases, but paid advertising in the local media: 30 spots on radio and several TV spots.

Bob Franskousky, Rotarian, described a \$9,000 clock with the signage “It’s Time to Read” to be donated and installed over the Library’s entryway by the Ponte Vedra Rotary Breakfast Club.

Marianne Stein reported on representing the FOL at the PVB Chamber of Commerce’s “Chamber Fest”. She also presented an overview of the book “Great Ideas for Libraries and Friends” in anticipation of the Annual Planning Session that followed

this Board Meeting. The report of the Strategic Planning Session was full of evaluations and ideas.

Carolee Bertisch reported nominating Guy DiCarlo for the Trustees and Friends Library Award for Outstanding Service or Achievement, the winner to be announced at the Annual Florida Library Association Convention in April.

The COMMUNITY READS program of “The Kite Runner” inspired many February programs. The Library Staff put on a Saturday Family Event, “Go Fly a Kite”, with kite flying and much more. An evening program presented Dr. Bashir Sayer, Jacksonville University Professor of Culture and Education in Afghanistan. There were three discussions of the book and two movies about Afghanistan. Print copies and audio books of “The Kite Runner” were also available, and it could be downloaded to compatible computers.

In addition to the regularly scheduled programs, there was a Valentine Cookie Decorating Party for the Children. The Teens had a Mardi Gras Party. GREAT BOOKS discussed Henry Ibsen’s play, “An Enemy of the People”. The ART program was a talk by Jack Slaughter, owner of the Fairfax Gallery. The MUSIC program featured The Ritz Chamber Players. GREAT DISCUSSIONS followed a Foreign Policy Association Book (cost - \$15). This was part of a nationwide group and met eight times a year. And Seymour’s Book Store sold “gently read” books donated by Library Patrons.

The March Board Meeting highlight was the discussion of Vic DiGenti’s proposal of the possibility of having a Coffee Concession in the Library Gallery.

Doug Wilson and Jan Bialka were working with the County on its new advance-pay purchasing procedures.

Membership was lagging but steps were being taken to reach the goal of 917. It was suggested that more use of the Web Site be encouraged and that more mention of the Web Site be made in printed material.

Guy DiCarlo announced the reorganization of the Annual Book Sale. It would be held in two segments in the FOL Community Room starting in September.

The Courtyard Committee was ready to publicize the Groundbreaking Ceremonies, and the Board agreed to donate an inscribed paver for Khaled Hosseini.

The Hosseini MAJOR AUTHOR EVENT was most successful with 785 Patrons attending. The Lazzara Theater at UNF was an excellent venue for such events, and Vic DiGenti was congratulated on the unprecedented amount of publicity. Vic and Liz McAlhany asked Board Members to start thinking about the next MAJOR AUTHOR EVENT.

The Family Fest was organized, and tickets would go on sale in March. The Selection Committee for the \$1,000 Jack Morgan Scholarship Award was meeting.

In addition to the regularly scheduled Library programs, there was “Kids Read to Dogs” with Irma Schwartz and her dog, Splash, for reluctant readers. The Self-Defense Class for Teenage Girls, a free six-hour course, was presented by the St. Johns County Sheriff’s Department’s Woman’s Personal Safety Program. And the Teens had a St. Patrick’s Day Party.

The MAJOR AUTHOR EVENT included a Patron’s Party to meet Dr. Hussein before the lecture and a book sale and signing afterward. For ADVENTURES IN ART, Richard Lundgren demonstrated pastel painting. GREAT BOOKS discussed Henri Poincare’s “The Value of Science”. MUSIC featured The Escapade Quartet, a leading Florida Ladies Barbershop Group. GREAT DECISIONS continued with Foreign Policy.

At the April Board Meeting, Mary Davis was proud to announce that Guy DiCarlo had won the Trustees and Friends Library Award for Outstanding Service or Achievement State of Florida. The Award would be presented at the FLA Convention in Lake Buena Vista on April 21, 2006.

Doug Wilson reported very good net proceeds of \$7,000 from the Hussein MAJOR AUTHOR EVENT, thanks to the Khan Foundation’s sponsorship.

Local Author Connie Donaldson’s request that the Friends supply refreshments for her book presentation led to Vic DiGenti’s suggestion that the Board consider a new FOL program, “Book Talk Café”.

Liz McAlhany and Mitzi Thomas represented the FOL and the Library at the Sawgrass Community Expo, and found much interest in FOL membership.

The Courtyard Groundbreaking took place on April 10th. Palmetto trees had been planted, and construction was underway.

While there was much support for a Coffee Concession in the Library, there were many hurdles to overcome, and research continued.

In April, a new program was added by the Children’s Librarian: “Bedtime Stories” at 7:00 P.M. with the children in pajamas. The FOL Children’s Art Program was a virtual visit to an Art Museum designed for school age Children. The FAMILY FEST included samples of the kinds of programs presented by the FOL throughout the year. In addition to Children and Adult activities – and, of course, food, there was a raffle for fabulous prizes.

GREAT BOOKS TOPIC was Sigmund Freud’s “Thoughts for the Times on War and Peace”. The FOL MUSIC program presented Kayo Ishimaru, principal harpist and Rhonda Cassano, principal flautist of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra.

In May, Jack Morgan died. To honor his memory a beautiful floral arrangement was displayed in the Library, and a book was purchased – “The Most Beautiful Libraries in the World”. The Morgan Family requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Friends of the Library, Ponte Vedra Beach.

The Finance Committee continued to hold meetings with Merrill Lynch concerning investments.

The first Major Book Sale in the Community Room in September was being planned with paid advertising in the Recorder and Shorelines. Seymour’s Book Store had donations of Cds which were now for sale.

The ongoing construction of the Courtyard was being covered by the media. The 315 brick pavers were ready. A new donation was dedicated to the purchase of a Blue Heron Weathervane for the gazebo.

Marianne Stein and Mildred Kelly were congratulated on the success of the second annual Family Fest. 366 people attended, and 32 Volunteers staffed the activities. Total expenses were \$3,260.87 with more than half being for publicity. The raffle yielded \$464.00, since 27 businesses gave the prizes.

Mildred Kelly reported that 60 Volunteers attended the FOL Luncheon in their honor. The cost was \$893.98, but resulted in much media attention. The Jack Morgan Scholarship was presented to Volunteen Kelley Braden.

A motion to authorize Liz McAlhany to solicit from potential vendors proposals for the Coffee Concession in the Library was approved unanimously.

Vic DiGenti reported that the Architectural Review Committee issued a final approval for the outdoor clock. He was also contacting Author’s Agents concerning the next MAJOR AUTHOR EVENT.

The Babies and Toddlers Storytimes were discontinued until September. Instead, the Library Staff offered many events for Families: “Mr. G with His Magic and Musical Show”; “School’s Out”; “Breakfast and a Movie”; “Teen Career Night”; and “Teen Open Mike Night”. Regular Teen and Adult programs continued.

The GREAT BOOKS subject was “The Secret Sharer” by Joseph Conrad. GREAT DECISIONS followed their briefing book. The topic for READER’S THEATER was “Women and the Written Word”, with five local women reading and commenting on five female Authors.

The June Board Meeting was pleased with Mary Davis' announcement of a \$1,000 donation from the Ponte Vedra Woman's Club, and membership was reaching its goal.

Jan Bialka reported that Library Support had spent \$3,100 for popular DVDs and \$925 for Children's programs. She was ordering a new reference desk for the Children's Library.

Luisa Kuhn reported that the building of the Courtyard was completed except for the roof. The brick pavers for the Reader's Walk were ready to be installed. The teak benches, the small table, the commemorative plaques, the weathervane, and low plantings were all in the pipeline. The Friends' efforts in funding and constructing the Courtyard would be acknowledged with a bronze plaque at the entrance to the gazebo.

Liz McAlhany had contacted four vendors with a proposal for the Library Coffee project and found varying degrees of interest. The Friends would continue to support this project, but any contracts would be between the County and the Vendor.

In memory of Jack Morgan, more than \$3,235 had been donated for a memorial fund. There was discussion about what form the memorial would take.

The "Time to Read" Clock donated by the Ponte Vedra Rotary Club was dedicated on June 14, 2006.

Every Monday in June the Library Staff had a Film Fest for Children: "Madagascar", "Valiant", "Because of Winn Dixie", and "The Incredibles". Other programs were The Mashed Potato Players, Storyteller Kaye Byrnes, and The Battersby Duo, a musical comedy team. The Teens had Open Mike Night and Teen Game Night.

The FOL's MUSIC program was Gene Nordan and his Champagne Music. GREAT BOOKS discussed "The Theory of the Leisure Class" by Thorstein Veblen, and GREAT DECISIONS followed their briefing book.

While the Board did not meet in July and August, CHECK THIS OUT kept FOL Members informed of Library activities, and Seymour's Book Store served customers all summer. Guy DiCarlo announced that Paula Hellman would become the Assistant Manager of the Book Store on September 1st. The regular Teen and Adult programs continued as usual.

In July, for the first time ever, all five of the St. Johns County Public Libraries worked together to celebrate the end of the Florida Library Youth Program with a three day visit from Children's Author Tedd Arnold. This was paid for by the Arts License Plate fees.

The Film Fest for Children continued with "The Wizard of Oz", "Shrek", "Robots", and "Aladdin". There was an interactive musical show with Anna Moo, a Dr.

Magic Show, and an Ice Cream Party. The Teens had their own Ice Cream Party and a Game Night. The Adults enjoyed Betty Jean Steinshower's portrayal of Authors Willa Cather, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, and Gertrude Stein during World War II.

In August, there was a Family Event with the people from "My Gym", a Kids Kraft Event, and Bed Time Stories for Children.

The September Board Meeting dealt with the reordering of the FOL finances. Doug Wilson had asked Josh LeMaster, CPA, to update the FOL's accounting records and close the books at the end of the month. George Halverson moved to retain Mr. LeMaster for financial services through 2006 for a fee not to exceed \$1,000. The Board approved unanimously.

The additions to the Library's collection of CD music titles suggested by Gerson Yessin were ordered,

The Membership Drive would be launched one month earlier – mid October – to avoid competition with other year end solicitations. The membership database was being reviewed, and Liz McAlhany asked the Board to consider getting clerical help with the job.

Library Support had spent \$19,189 so far in 2006, but still had about \$12,544 left in the budget.

Printed announcements had been mailed about the Dedication Ceremony for the Courtyard, scheduled for October. Formal invitations were being prepared for VIPs. Installation of the benches and landscaping would shortly complete the Courtyard.

The Library Coffe project was still being reviewed.

David O'Brien was exploring allangles of donations to the Library "In honor of / in memory of". Mildred Kelley moved to donate a book "In honor of" Polly Kosar's many years of Volunteer service to the Library. The motion was carried.

Mary Davis and Carolyn Hirsch met with Mrs. Morgan concerning the Memorial to Jack Morgan. Mrs. Morgan said the family's preferred choice was an outdoor fountain. Cathie Petrie would be the consultant for the Memorial.

The Nominating Committee was appointed for FOL's 2007 – 2008 Board of Directors.

Storytime Programs for Babies, Toddlers, and Pre-Schoolers started again in September. The Bedtime Stories continued. There was a Family and Children Craft Event, "Didgeridoo Down Under", and Breakfast with a film – "Monsters, Inc." The Teens had a movie night – "Larry the Cable Guy – Health Inspector", and a Knitting Clinic.

The FOL semi-annual Book Sale was held in the Community Room for the first time. GREAT BOOKS discussed Carl Jung's "The Stages of Life". GREAT DECISIONS started a series of the Middle East.

At the October Board Meeting, Doug Wilson distributed to Committee Chairmen copies of their 2006 budget with expenses to date. He asked that they submit their projected budget for 2007.

The Library Advisory Board enthusiastically endorsed the concept of Coffee Service in the Ponte Vedra Library, but there were still some legal problems. There was much discussion of the Membership Drive, the next MAJOR AUTHOR EVENT, AND book Sales which were \$48,000 to date.

The Nominating Committee was interviewing prospective Board Members and was directed to bring Board Membership up to 18 for 2000.

St. Johns County selected "Lay That Trumpet in Our Hands" by Carol McCarthy for the COUNTY READS program in 2007. Liz McAlhany moved to contribute \$250 to help fund the program and to buy copies of the Author's book. The Board approved.

To honor Polly Kosar's years of Volunteering, the FOL purchased the book "The Collectors" by David Baldacci.

David O'Brien was continuing research for a system for donating books to the Library and Carolyn Hirsch was meeting with Mrs. Morgan about the Fountain in honor of her husband, Jack Morgan.

The highlight in October programs was the Dedication of the Library Courtyard. The day was beautiful and everyone was expressing appreciation, especially to Luisa Kuhn and Wayne Galloway. County Officials as well as Library Officials spoke on this great occasion. The Donors were searching for their engraved brick pavers, and enjoying the refreshments provided by the Patisserie and Winn Dixie.

The Volunteer Coffee featured Starbucks' barista, Jean Kohn, who brought and brewed the coffee and served pastries. Starbucks had also collected from their Patrons Children's books and donated them to the Library.

There were 14 Children's Storytime events in October. There was also a Halloween Craft session before the highly successful Toddler and Pre-school Halloween Party. The Teens had their Knitting Clinic, a Game Night, and their own Haunted Pizza Party in the Gazebo.

GREAT BOOKS studied "Tell Me a Riddle" by Tillie Olsen. STORYTIME FOR ADULTS was a new program. ADVENTURES IN ART featured Deborah Murphy speaking about "The Glories of Irish Art". For the MUSIC program, The Johnson Duo

played contemporary music with vocals piano and guitar. GREAT DECISIONS was still in the Middle East.

In November, the Board was winding down 2006 and planning for 2007. Amanda Le reported that the Library had three open staff positions for which she was interviewing. Mildred Kelly offered FOL Volunteers if Amanda needed help.

Nine hundred Membership Renewal notices were mailed in early November. Corporate matching funds and supplemental donations for special events were discussed.

The County Commissioners issued a Formal Resolution approving the Ponte Vedra Branch Library's Coffee project, and Liz McAlhany had prepared an invitation for bids for five potential vendors.

Book Sales were continuing to grow, with this year's sales (\$53,070) already surpassing last year's total.

The Courtyard had cost \$69,000+ to date, and still needed a few finishing touches: glazing the brick pavers, adjusting the irrigation heads, and adding gutters to certain rooflines. Sale of the pavers raised \$23,000, but the net after cost was \$7,000. Elwood Collier, the Contractor, had remained close to the project, at no cost, after his work was done, so Luisa Kuhn moved that the FOL donate a book to the Library in his name in thanks. The Board approved. (The final cost of the Courtyard was \$70,138.)

The 2007 MAJOR AUTHOR was selected: Sue Monk Kidd, author of "The Secret Life of Bees". The Committee was already at work.

To launch the "In Honor of / In Memory of Program", it was suggested that a recently received bequest made in the names of Luisa and Bowie Kuhn by the Kuhn Family be spent on books, and that the information be publicized in CHECK THIS OUT.

The Nominating Committee presented the names of four candidates for the 2007 Board, to increase the Board's size to 18 Members.

All programs were "Go" in November, with 13 Story Times for Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers. Dr. Magic presented "The Magic of November". For Children's Book Week there was "Bingo for Books". The Children played Bingo and the prizes were Books. There was a Thanksgiving Craft event, and the Breakfast and Movie event showed "An American Tail".

In addition to the regular Teen Advisory Board Meeting, the Teens had a Movie Night with "Hoot", and a Teen Knitting Clinic.

For the Adults, GREAT BOOKS discussed Alice Munro's book "Boys and Girls". ADVENTURES IN ART brought "Three Dimensional Art", a hands-on creative art experience with Barbara Sarvis. GREAT DECISIONS was continuing with the

Middle East. GREAT MUSIC presented Lynne Arriale and the UNF All-Star Quintet for an evening of Jazz. Also continuing were Adult Storytelling, Genealogy, and Library and Computer Skills.

In December, the Board met three of the four proposed new members. Each candidate gave a brief summary of background and interests.

Doug Wilson, Treasurer, reported that the FOL income was up for the year by \$31,000, instead of the projected deficit of \$2,600. He also moved to spend \$400 for “Quickbooks”, financial software to help convert the FOL’s accounting system. The Board approved unanimously.

More than half of the Membership Renewal notices had brought positive responses, and more work was being done on the database program.

The Library Coffee Project was on hold due to procurement and contract problems.

Gross revenue from Book Sales was \$57-58,000, with a net after expenses of \$45-46,000.

Invitations to the Annual Dinner Meeting of the FOL were to be mailed the day after Christmas.

Pepi and Michael Kahn (their Foundation) had agreed to be major donors for the 2007 MAJOR AUTHOR EVENT, and activities in connection with the event had been planned.

For the Memorials and Gifts Program, book requests would be limited to categories rather than titles and would be purchased through the Library System to expedite processing.

The Treasurer’s Report showed balances at the end of the year: Operating Fund - \$88,171, with expenses of \$76,680; Enhancement Fund - \$20,352, with expenses of \$70,138; Endowment Fund - \$354,799, with expenses of \$200.

While most of the on-going programs met in December, there was little time for extras. GREAT BOOKS discussed “Conversions, Samson in the Bible Book of Judges”. At the Volunteer Holiday Party, 150 Volunteers were entertained by Chelsea Chacon and Juan Rogers, piano students of Aida Mechetti.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

Donations – More than 150 benefactors offered donations in honor of life events in members of their families.

Volunteers – Over 100 Adult Volunteers worked in the Library, shelving books, etc, and assisting with FOL supported programs. There were 21 regular and 30 substitute Volunteers who kept Seymour’s Book Store open seven days a week.

Library Support – 145 events for Children, Teens and Adults arranged by the Library Staff were supported with FOL Volunteers and FOL financing.