



Friends  
of the  
St. Pete Beach  
Library

Founded 1965

SPRING/SUMMER 2021

# TIDINGS

## WORTH THE WAIT!

At long last, after a \$2.1 million renovation, our Library reopened to the public on March 1, 2021. Work on enlarging the parking lot and new landscaping was not quite finished, but nothing was going to hinder the Library's reopening. Those improvements have now been completed. The official reopening ceremony was held April 26, 2021 with Library Director Betcinda Kettells, shown in the photo below holding the over-sized scissors and standing next to St. Pete Beach Mayor Alan Johnson, officiating. We think you'll agree after seeing the photos included in this issue that the transformation of the Library is

nothing short of incredible. The Friends applaud Director Kettells' reimagining of the Library's original look. We are very happy to have enabled the purchase of a larger and more secure book return (now located in the north alley), outdoor benches outside the 73rd St. doors, the whimsical bicycle rack, exterior signs, and interior retro clocks, among other items, not included in the City's budget. We thank the generous members of, and donors to, the Friends, as well as the patrons of the Friends' bookstore, for making it possible for us to do this.

Please see more photos on pages 4-6



Photo credit: Gabrielle Reeder/The GABBER

Betcinda Kettells, Library Director, and St. Pete Beach Mayor Alan Johnson officially "open" the renovated library on April 26, 2021, as Friends of the St. Pete Beach Library Vice President Steve Traiman holds one end of the ribbon. Looking on, from left: Ass't City Manager Vince Tenaglia, Community Development Director Wesley Wright, Fire Chief Jim Kilpatrick, City Clerk Amber LaRowe, City Manager Alex Rey, Commissioner Chris Graus (District 1), Commissioner Mark Grill (District 2), Parks & Recreation Director Jennifer McMahon, and Commissioner Ward Friszolowski (District 3).



# Director's Report

Big deep breath in. And...exhale. A year of moving the entire library and all its contents-twice. A year of masks, gloves, sanitizing, and nervousness. That year is gone. Exhale.

There are so many reasons to be excited now! The library is beautiful, the work is finished, and it's wide open! The parking lot is completely renovated, and we welcome you all back.

If you have not been in since we've completely re-done the inside of the building, you're in for a treat. The interior is light and bright, the shelving, carpets, and the furniture are new, and we've tried to honor the architect's original intent for the building by bringing back the mid-century modern aesthetic and removing the columns so the ceiling once again "floats." We've made it easier to browse the large print materials and the huge DVD collection. If you've become addicted to jigsaw puzzles in the past year, let's trade. We've got many.

The Friends of the Library have been instrumental in purchasing many amenities to complement the city's investment. The Friends have provided the new self-check-out machine, the new book drop, all the signage, and much more. To date, their contribution exceeds \$28,000! Your purchases in the bookstore, donations, and Friends membership have enabled the Friends to support the Library in such a generous fashion. A big "Thanks!" to all of you.

The Library is starting to reinvigorate its programming and we hope to bring back the quality programs you've loved and probably missed. June 1 was the start of our summer reading program for children and adults with this year's theme "Tails and Tales." Here's a great write-up about it done by our resident P.R. staff member, Julie:

"Our Summer Reading Program starts June 1;

come by the library to pick up your Tails and Tales Summer Reading Bingo Cards, for kids and adults! Check our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/SPBLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/SPBLibrary)) or our event calendar on our website ([www.spblibrary.com](http://www.spblibrary.com)) for exciting virtual shows, fun and easy to follow along craft videos, and even virtual visits with authors reading some of our favorite books! Also join us at the library for Family Movie Night every Monday at 6pm, and Adult Movie Night every Wednesday at 6pm, June-July; see our website for movie titles."

Plans are still being finalized for autumn but a sneak preview of programming includes AARP driving courses; a partnership with SCORE to create a "Small Business Hub" to foster small business creation through mentoring and education; movie nights for adults and kids; and we'll see if we can bring back some of our popular lecture series.

One last note, we'd like you all to let your South Pasadena friends and neighbors know that they, too, can enjoy all that the library has to offer. For South Pasadena residents it is now quicker and easier to get an annual South Pasadena library card. Upon payment of \$25 at South Pasadena City Hall, residents may immediately take a voucher to the St. Pete Beach Public Library to get a library card (or renew an existing card). While residents may only take their voucher to the St. Pete Beach Library, library cards may then be used at any library in the Pinellas County Library Cooperative. But once you've seen the beautifully remodeled St. Pete Beach Public Library, with 12 public computers, extensive large-print book and DVD collection, cozy seating, fun children's area with educational touch-table, and printing/copying station, you'll want to make it your library home!



# Tidings News

## Zelda Troiano

The Friends of the St. Pete Beach Library mourn the unexpected and untimely passing of one of its board members, Zelda Troiano, in March. An enthusiastic volunteer at the Library for a number of years, she eagerly accepted a position on the board of the Friends. Among other duties, she served as co-chair of the membership committee and was our Zoom

expert. She was a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. She also was the Events & Arts and Leisure Coordinator for Paradise News, thus having her pulse on all the local happenings. Zelda had an infectious good nature and you couldn't help but like and admire her. She contributed so much to the community and is missed very much.



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New Amazon Program Enables Shoppers To Easily Donate To Their Favorite Nonprofits

**BUY FROM AMAZON =  
RAISE FUNDS FOR  
FRIENDS OF THE  
ST. PETE BEACH  
LIBRARY**

AMAZON has a fundraising program that's really simple to use. Part of every \$\$\$\$ you spend will be donated by Amazon directly to the Friends of the St Pete Beach Library. It's really simple...when making a purchase from Amazon, use this new address: **www.smile.amazon.com**

In the preference box, just type in Friends of St. Pete Beach Library and make this your permanent choice of a "Charity". That way, every time you shop, the Friends of the St. Pete Beach Library will receive a donation from Amazon.

You can even install the app on your mobile device or pc.

**Thank You - And Happy Shopping!**

# Tidings News



Endcaps by Dean Fortune decorating the new shelves



Clear demarcation of different locations



Part of the reading area and view through the now-opening doors



A larger Friends' bookstore

# Tidings News



Part of the children's area with artist Dean Fortune's murals as a backdrop



Bicycle rack provided by the Friends



Library interior



Larger, improved book return provided by the Friends

# Tidings News



Board member and volunteer  
Alice Thomas at work.



Friends' VP Steve Traiman behind the table of commemorative tumblers with Kisses inside provided by the Friends given out at the ribbon cutting ceremony.



Getting back to normal?



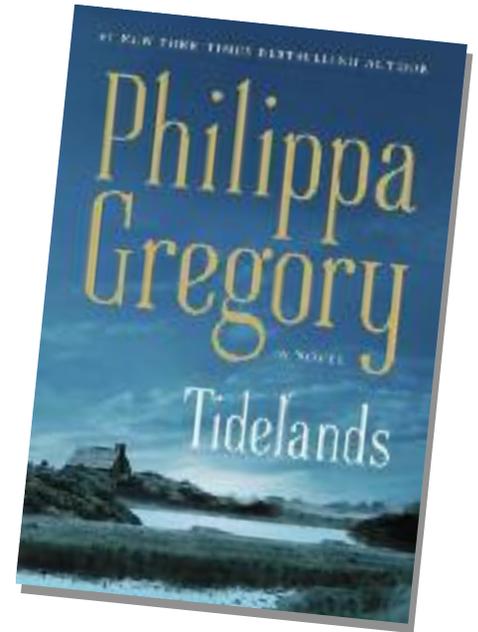
Palm tree saved from removal in large part by action of the Friends

## Tidings News

### ‘TIDELANDS’ by Philippa Gregory

If you are searching for a good read full of English history, political intrigue, spies, lords and ladies, the poor and the well-to-do, witch-craft and religious fervor, this book is for you. Set in the tidal area of England in 1648, Philippa Gregory has created a masterpiece of story telling. One of the main characters is a young, poor mother, whose fisherman husband has been lost at sea. Neither a widow or single, trying to support herself and her children as a midwife and seamstress, she unwittingly becomes embroiled in all these plots when she helps a young priest find his way through the marsh. Although actually a priest, he is also a spy who has been sent from France with funds to secretly aid the Royalists seeking to restore King Charles II to the throne. And there this richly woven tale begins...Many colorful characters, descriptions of life in post feudal England, lots of subplots. You won't want to put the book down.

Don't miss the sequel, "Dark Tides," as this story continues. Find out if the King has been restored, and much more.



#### **FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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VICE PRESIDENT Steve Traiman (also writer)

RECORDING SECRETARY Bill Thompson (also bookstore assistant, email)

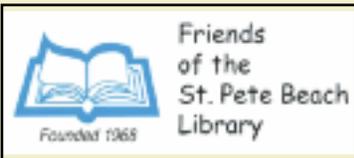
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EDITOR Lorrie Bellinger

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*Tidings* is published by the Friends of the St Pete Beach Library to provide the community with news about the library's and the Friends' activities. New members are always welcome. To join, please use the membership form on the back of this newsletter.



## 2021 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

\_\_\_\_\_ **New** \_\_\_\_\_ **Renewal**

Membership dues and other donations to the Friends may be tax-deductible.  
Ask your financial advisor.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Payable to Friends of the S.P.B. Library)

**Suggested Membership Levels:**

**Individual \$20 • Family \$35 • Donor/Business \$75**

**Life \$100 Individual/\$150 Couple • Business \$250**

Mail completed form and check to:

Friends of the Library

365 73rd Avenue, St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

or bring to the library during business hours.

I would like to help with:

Book Store/Sales

Publicity/Promotion

Programs

Fundraising

Membership

Board Officer

Friends of the St. Pete Beach Library  
365 73rd Avenue  
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706