



Friends
of the
St. Pete Beach
Library
Founded 1965

SUMMER/FALL 2017

TIDINGS

Library Hosts Big Crowd for August 21 Eclipse

Story & Photos by Steve Traiman

The St Pete Beach Library had over 150 guests in the parking lot at the height of the August 21 solar eclipse but the Library staff estimated that over the course of the four-hour event, there were between 350 and 400 attendees. Door count was 3,100 -- one number for coming and one for going -- so actual count was 1,550.

“In addition to the numbers of people,” Library Administrator Betcinda Kettells said “we were left with a pristine parking lot (no trash or water bottles) and many strangers sharing glasses so that we all got to enjoy the event. Other numbers: 255 pieces of candy; 18 Moonpies (cut in quarters); 336 bottles of water, two cans of sunscreen; and 205(+) questions answered.

“The Library would like to thank StarNet, NASA@ My Library, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and Google for providing 1,000 free eclipse glasses through a grant. We also wish to acknowledge the ongoing support from the Florida Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services, which feeds Florida libraries with news and information to better provide for residents and visitors.



Library administrator Betcinda Kettells welcomes guests at height of eclipse

“Some 750 pairs of glasses were given out to individuals from August 1st through 8th; another 50 to attendees of the Pre-Eclipse show and craft program held August 18 for kids ages 7-12; and the remaining 200 to attendees of the Beach Chair Eclipse Viewing event.

“It was wonderful to have Bay News 9 visit to promote the event and then shoot live from the Library parking lot on the day of the event. The Library is a vital asset to the community and brings people of all walks of life together. We strive to be relevant to readers and non-readers, to people all ages and demographics; and to bring people together in this day and age of economic, political, and digital divide.”

Also on hand for the eclipse viewing event were Friends’ Board members President Muriel Desloovere, Lance Peterson, Linda Rhyne and Steve Traiman.



An estimated 350-plus were in the Library parking lot during the 4-hour eclipse event



Betcinda's Space *By BETCINDA KETTELS, LIBRARY ADMINISTRATOR*

One of the main goals of a public library is to be relevant to the community. That can mean different things for different communities based on population size and demographics; the presence or absence of an institution of higher learning; and a host of other factors including, as in our case, whether we have a distinguishing natural resource such as our beautiful beaches.

Many times, our community tells us what they need. They will ask for certain books or DVDs, tell us that they need lessons on computers, and they will bring students in for cards and to learn the basics of the Dewey Decimal System. Other times, we have to make our best guess as to what the Library can offer that will inform, entertain, and enrich the community.

In our ongoing quest to serve the community we have some projects we are working on, as they say, "behind the scenes." One of our immediate goals is to increase the number and quality of the programs the Library offers. We're excited to say that we have some great history programs coming this fall which cover both local and national history. We will also offer craft programs for adults and kids, hot new movies for adults and kids, informative presentations on Medicare and consumer protection, and a series of computer classes which will progress from very basic to more advanced as we move from fall into winter.

Also behind the scenes we are working on collaborations with other community institutions

including the Gulf Beaches Historical Museum, the city's Recreation and Fire Departments, and the Don Cesar, just to name a few. More details will be announced as we finalize plans.

In the technology realm we have plans to offer iPads for use in the Library, increase the number of computers for public use and add another computer dedicated to searching for library materials. Additionally, we hope to upgrade the technology in our community room so that our programs are not limited by our aging and superseded machines.

And speaking of behind the scenes, the city is working diligently on upgrading and repairing the building to enhance the safety and comfort of the residents and visitors who come into the Library every day. While you may not see visible signs of the work for a month or more, rest assured that improvements are on the way.

On a final note, one of the most valuable contributors to the success of the Library, often working behind the scenes with little fanfare and scant recognition, is the Friends of the St. Pete Beach Library. The Friends volunteer their time and talents to the Library in many ways including shelving, computer help, providing financial resources for materials, furniture, programming, stocking and running the bookstore, managing donations to the Library, providing the newsletter you are now reading, and so much more. On behalf of myself and the staff, I offer a sincere "Thank You" to our Friends.

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Contact the Friends: Phone (727) 363-9238
stpetebeachfriends@yahoo.com

A Benefit of Membership in the Friends

If you are a current member of the Friends of St. Pete Beach Public Library, you may use the services of a notary without a fee. President Muriel Desloovere is generally at the library on Tuesdays until 1:00 p.m. She'll be happy to accommodate you!

Tidings News

Upham Beach Stabilization Project

Upham Beach, at the north end of St Pete Beach, is one of the beaches on the barrier islands providing not only a beautiful recreational area, but also serving an important purpose in separating the Gulf of Mexico from the mainland. It is also home to nesting sea turtles and many birds and other wildlife. Unfortunately, its location has meant much erosion, caused by wave action and storms, which has required a number of renourishments to restore the sand on the beach. From 1986 to 2006, the beach underwent six replenishments. One was accomplished by dredging sand from Blind Pass in Treasure Island that had the added benefit of keeping that open to water traffic. In 2006, five large yellow geotextile tubes of sand, referred to as T-groins, were buried in strategic places along the shore of Upham Beach to determine whether they would slow beach erosion. The test was successful and it was decided to replace them with four permanent rock groins. The project started in August and is expected to be completed in February 2018. After this, the beach will be renourished once again with sand pumped from the Gulf of Mexico. Only one half of Upham Beach will be closed to residents and tourists at any one time. The additional sand will cost between \$2 million and \$3.5 million, and that is in addition to the \$9.5 million the rock groins cost. The funds are being provided by a portion of the Tourist Development Tax, commonly referred to as the “bed tax” levied on hotel occupan-



cy, and from a state grant. It will be a wonderful sight to see a vastly enlarged beach when all is done and know that it will not soon disappear again.

In addition to being attracted to this area by all its beauty and recreational opportunities, many “sunbirds” and tourists happily discover our library. They not only visit for reading material, but, among other things, to get help from the library’s friendly and knowledgeable staff. From navigating a myriad of e-devices to using a computer to print airline boarding passes, they are ready to assist all who visit. The Friends want to thank all visitors and residents for their purchases from the Bookstore, the proceeds of which are used to further the library’s activities.



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.

Tidings News

A New Way to Support the Friends of the St. Pete Beach Library



Do you know about Amazon Smile? It is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. We hope you will make that Friends of the St Pete Beach Public Library Inc.

You can support the Friends when you shop at smile.amazon.com. Simply click and link your account to Friends of the St Pete Beach Public Library Inc. and we will receive 0.5% of the price of every eligible purchase you make. Your generosity is always appreciated and this is effortless on your part once you have signed up—very easy to do. Please show your support of the Friends today or when you next sign onto Amazon.

Thanks to a grant from READ Pinellas, the library was able to buy a collection of high-interest, low level novels for adults who may be struggling to read, or who may be intimidated by a standard-length novel. The collection is prominently displayed.



Tidings News

Adopt-a-Magazine

Do you want to feel more like a member of the Library family? It's easy—just “adopt” a magazine. The library stocks a great variety and number of magazines, the cost of which comes out of the library's budget. You can make those dollars go farther by volunteering to contribute the cost of a year's subscription. If you are interested, please speak to Betcinda Kettells, the library administrator.

Don't Be Taken In



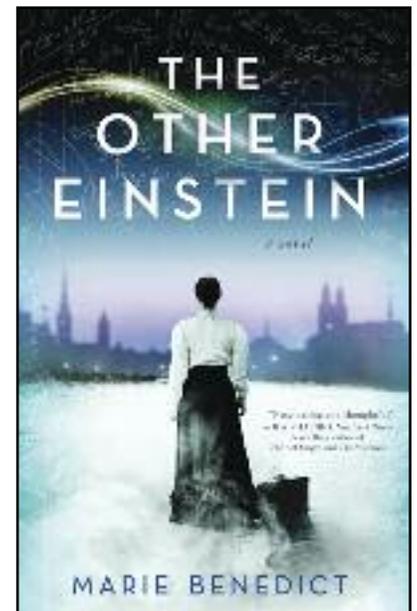
On October 16, 2017 at 1:00 PM, Lenora Spence of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, will speak at the library to describe ways in which scams can “getcha” and how to recognize and avoid them. The Division of Consumer Services is the state's clearinghouse for consumer complaints, information and protection. The Division regulates various businesses, and protects consumers and businesses from unfair and unsafe business practices across a wide range of market sectors. Among the topics she may speak about are pyramid schemes; home employment "opportunities"; telemarketing fraud; emails from supposed friends needing money wired to them; emails or telephone calls from purported computer service departments, or banks, or internet providers that require your immediate action involving money. If you would like to learn more about your rights as a consumer or you've been the victim of scams, fraud or identity theft, you should attend the presentation on October 16.

'The Other Einstein' by Marie Benedict

This is the story of Mileva Maric, Einstein's first wife, a brilliant physicist and mathematician in her own right. Who really discovered the theory of relativity? Mileva or Albert? This is a topic still hotly debated today, 100 years later.

Mileva Maric is a 20 year old woman, born with a birth defect that makes her unmarriageable in her Serbian culture, but born with a brilliant mathematical mind. Encouraged by her father, she enrolls in the Zurich Polytechnic Institute where she meets fellow student Albert Einstein who insinuates himself into her life, her friendships, and eventually her bed. Their relationship is described as a partnership of both the heart and the mind. But over the years of their affair and later marriage, as a wife and mother, she lives in his shadow. What happened to their first child? Does he continue to steal her ideas and theories? How much did she contribute to his theories and ideas? How does he manipulate her?

The book also explores the conflicts that exist between Mileva's personal goals, her intellect, the influence and acceptable behaviors expected of women in the 19th and early 20th century, to say nothing of the ill treatment and demeaning behavior by Einstein. What will Mileva's future bring as a single mother, a divorcee, a brilliant scientist? You will just have to read this fascinating book to find out.





Friends
of the
St. Pete Beach
Library

2017 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 _____

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

Suggested Membership Levels:

Individual \$15 • Family \$25 • Donor/Business \$50

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

Mail completed form and check to:

Friends of the Library

P.O. Box 66557, St. Pete Beach, FL 33736

or bring to the library during business hours.

I would like to help with:

___ Book Store/Sales

___ Programs

___ Membership

___ Publicity/Promotion

___ Fundraising

___ Board Officer

Friends of the St. Pete Beach Library

P.O. Box 66557

St. Pete Beach, FL 33736