



Friends
of the
St. Pete Beach
Library

FALL/WINTER 2020

TIDINGS

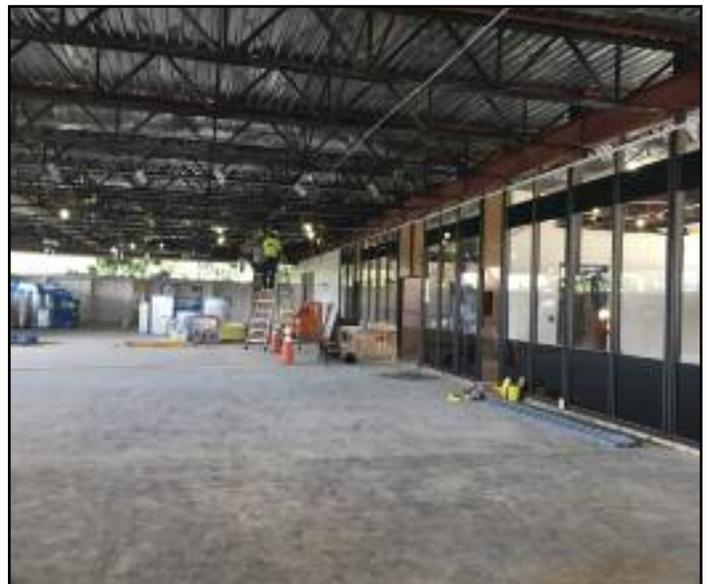
Work in Progress!

While it was originally thought that the renovation of the library would be completed within budget and on time to permit an early January 2021 move back in, the date has been pushed back to March. This is because the parking lot is also going to be redone and the two cannot be done concurrently. The parking lot is used as a staging area, for

the construction office, the dumpsters, etc. It wouldn't make sense to move back in then have to shut down again for a couple of months while the parking lot is worked on.

What follow are photos of the work being done in various stages of the project.

See more photos on page 3





Betcinda's Space *By BETCINDA KETTELLS, DIRECTOR*

As we are nearing the end of the \$2.1 million+ renovation project at the Library building on 365 73rd Avenue I'd like to share with you some of the details that might not be very noticeable during our grand-reopening.

As you may recall, before the project started the Library was formally named a locally designated historic property by the St. Pete Beach Historic Preservation Board. It was designated as such in part because of the design by the now-famous architect Glenn Q. Johnson who also designed St. Petersburg's bird-cage homes and other buildings in the 1950s and 1960s. As we embarked on the renovation project and looked at interior furnishings it became clear that the modern furniture would look incongruous with the exterior of the building and with Johnson's vision.

With this in mind, we looked at many design elements such as furnishings, colors, shapes, fonts and incorporated, where we could, the mid-century modern look and feel to recreate what we imagine the Library looked like when it opened in 1969. The library logo created four years ago happened to be designed with a color palette that was prominent in the 50s; the primary oranges and yellows, and the secondary Florida-type teals. So, we incorporated these colors into the furnishings. The building's original sign on the corner of 73rd and Blind Pass Rd. read "Public Library St. Petersburg Beach" and over the door at the 73rd Avenue entrance the name

and the font, which we would now describe as "retro," was duplicated. I'm not sure when the lettering disappeared, perhaps in 1994 when the city officially became St. Pete Beach. At any rate, the letters on the building were never replaced with an updated version. We're going to remedy that by putting the name of the institution over both the east and the south entrances using a font similar to the original. We've updated the logo and ordered some interior way-finding signs with the same font.

When looking for furniture with the mid-century modern look we were disappointed in our choices for computer carrels and circulation desks. They will be new and modern. We were, however, able to find some casual seating and work tables that may evoke the memory of your parents' (or grandparents') living room. Carpet trends have changed over the years and currently trend toward carpet squares laid in an alternating pattern. We've chosen rolled carpet that will complement, not detract from, the furnishings. I promise you we've stayed away from shag carpet and anything avocado-colored!

One of the changes I'm most excited about is the re-opening of the doorway on the south entrance. We'll put benches out so that you can stroll out with a magazine or newspaper (yes, the Library still carries these things!) and have a quiet read in the sunshine. The only thing we'll be missing is reposing lions on the edge of the steps. I imagine they might be named "Kindness" and "Empathy." Any donors?

FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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.

Tidings News



‘The Secrets We Kept’ by Lara Prescott

In January, 1958, at the height of the Cold War, British Intelligence sent the CIA 2 rolls of film showing hand written pages of Boris Pasternak’s “*Dr Zhivago*” and suggested the CIA find a way to use the book as a propaganda tool to influence the thinking of Russian citizens. The Russian government would not allow the book to be published or distributed as it painted a dark picture of this repressive regime.

And so begins one of the best kept CIA secrets of that era, not declassified until 2014, when it caught the attention of author Lara Prescott, who is named after the “*Lara*” of “*Dr Zhivago*” fame.



She has written this wonderful spy novel revealing all the deeply kept secrets of the CIA, the women who were formerly spies for the OSS during World War II, now relegated to typists and office clerks for the newly formed CIA, and the secret undercover plan they developed to have “*Dr Zhivago*” published, printed, and smuggled into Russia. This is a true story, but reveals all as the plot evolves in Prescott’s novel.

The book also tells the love story of Boris Pasternak, who won the Nobel prize for “*Dr Zhivago*”, although never allowed to claim it, and Olga Ivinskaya, his lover and muse and model for “*Lara*”.



LITTLE FREE PANTRY

The Library exists primarily to educate, enlighten and make happy the mind, and also to enrich the soul, but it doesn’t want to forget to nourish the body as well, especially in these trying times. So it has set up a “Little Free Pantry” outside the Library doors. It is mainly filled by provisions from the Friends of the Library, but gratefully accepts donations from all comers. They don’t need to be just canned goods, just food that lasts a few days, and doesn’t need refrigeration or cooking, like bread, vegetables, and fruit. Anyone needing something “in stock” can just help themselves.

Tidings News

Farewell, Jeanne

We reluctantly say good-bye to Jeanne O'Hanlon, long-time Library volunteer and member of the Friends Board of Directors. She has decided to return up North to be closer to her children and family. She knows she will always have many places

to stay here when it gets too cold up there! We will miss her and all the invaluable work she did for the Library and the Friends, but have a feeling she'll find a similar niche in her new home. Best wishes, Jeanne!

We regret to inform you that...

One of our favorite authors, Tim Dorsey, whose most recent Serge novel, *Tropic of Stupid*, is scheduled for release January 21, 2021, will not be touring next year. It is not known whether another one of

our regular author visitors, Wendy Wax, will be touring. Her latest novel, *The Break-Up Book Club*, is due to appear May 18, 2021.



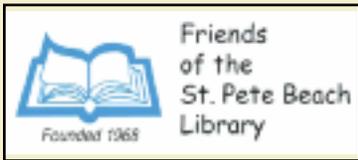
Children's game table and "bouncy" chairs purchased by the Friends for the children's area.



Friends Board members Bill Thompson and Alice Thomas trying out the new game table and "bouncy" chairs

It's Time to Renew

With the start of the new year, we want to remind you that it is time to renew your membership in the Friends of the St. Pete Beach Library. Memberships are based on the calendar year and are payable in January of each year. If dues are not paid by April 30, your membership will lapse. Please don't let that happen! Continue to show your support for your library and the Friends by completing the form on the back of this issue and forwarding it with your check by mail or by dropping it off at the library's circulation desk.



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

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

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Programs

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Membership

Board Officer

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