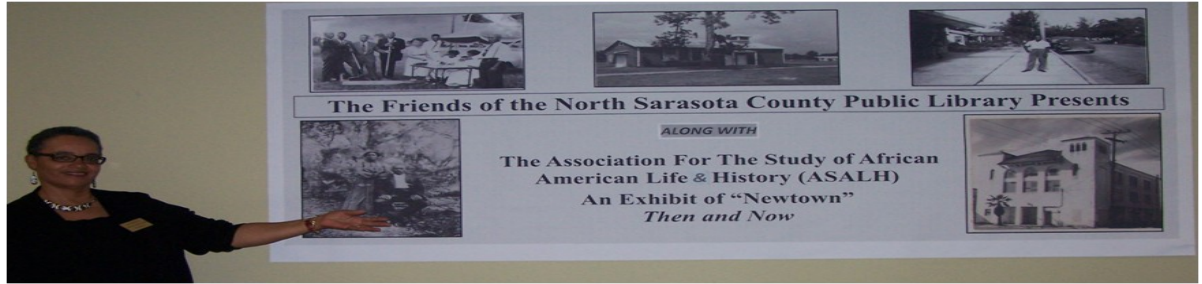


# FRIENDS OF NORTH SARASOTA PUBLIC LIBRARY

VOLUME I, ISSUE I

JUNE 2011



## From the President, Dr. Cheryl Smith

Greetings! The Friends of the North Sarasota Public Library have continued to be very busy during the past year. We have held “fun” fundraisers and supported outstanding children’s programs such as the annual Bike Rodeo, a new character education program, Christmas and Kwanzaa activities, and authors’ events. Bookstore sales events have increased our revenues, which are used to support many of the children’s activities at the library. Under the auspices of the soon-to-be established Cultural Resource Center and co-sponsored by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), we staged a second major Black History Exhibition, “Newtown: Then and Now.” This exhibition celebrated and honored the history of Black people in Sarasota, as well as the vibrancy of its revitalization. We continue to enjoy a mutually beneficial relationship with our library manager, Yvette Robison and her dynamic staff who support our efforts as we support the many new and exciting programs and activities they have developed. Through the efforts of Mrs. Robison and her staff, connections have been made with the local schools in order to encourage more children and families to participate in library programs, including after-school tutoring and cultural enrichment events. We have upgraded our hardware and software as we move the Friends into using the technologies of the 21st Century. We will also soon be employing social media outlets for marketing and communication.



**Mrs. Alice Jones**, our  
**volunteer coordinator**  
continues to build our  
volunteer base.

Mrs. Jones has forged relationships with many community agencies and organizations as she continues to recruit and work with our volunteers. Mrs. Jones also organized another very successful Volunteer Appreciation event this year on May 26, 2011. Peoples interested in volunteering should contact Mrs. Jones at [ajones@scgov.net](mailto:ajones@scgov.net) or [www.scgov.net/volunteers](http://www.scgov.net/volunteers).

The Friends have developed and continued partnerships with groups and agencies such as ASALH, Art Center Sarasota, the Sarasota County History Center, UN Women, the Senior Friendship Center, and the Newtown Economic Development office.

I would like to thank our ever-growing Friends members who have been so supportive in all our efforts. I would also like to thank Mrs. Francina Holloway, our accountant, for her excellent services. Finally, I would like to acknowledge our hard-working and dedicated Board of Directors who make all these endeavors successful. It is an honor and pleasure to work with all who hold the library close to their hearts.

**Dr. Cheryl A. Smith**, President  
Friends of the North Sarasota Public  
Library Board



**Cultural Resource  
Center  
Lovette W. Harper  
Chairperson**

The concept of a Cultural Resource Center at the North County Library was presented to the Friends Board the first year that the library was opened. Board members Lovette W. Harper and Warren Eastman chaired a committee that researched and then presented a document to the Friends Board and the Library Manager outlining the vision and mission, as well as suggested beginning resources for the Center. Committee members Betty Johnson and Lonnie Brookins contributed to the discussions and preparation of the document. The NSPL Friends Board agreed to the Vision and Mission for the Cultural Resource Center:

“A center in the North Sarasota Public Library which will serve Sarasota and surrounding counties as a reference, research facility for materials on all aspects of the Black experience...The Center will contain comprehensive reference collections, comprising books, periodicals, theses and dissertations, videos, cassettes, DVD’s CD’s and limited collections of photographs, posters, prints, paintings, and sculpture. It will provide outreach to the extended community through lectures, classes, youth programs and exhibitions.”

The Friends Board, constituting a Cultural Center Task Force, has mounted two annual exhibitions and developed programs that were widely supported by both the local and broader communities of Sarasota County.

Continue.....

This year's exhibition and programs were entitled "Newtown Then and Now." They attempt to tell much of the early history of Black people in Sarasota. The Exhibition and panel also highlighted current history as well, especially the many positive service projects being carried out by Newtown youth. The opening Reception was held on February 3, 2011 and was attended by a standing-room only, highly enthusiastic audience.



Newtown Then and Now Panel members and guest

### "Fun" Fundraisers

By  
Dr. Cheryl Smith

The Friends of the NSPL held two fun and interactive fundraisers this past year. Both events were suggested by two of our volunteers who worked with us to make them happen.



### Painting Party

The first was a "Painting Party" suggested and implemented by Elaine Gambill, one of our volunteers and a principal in the painting party company "Canvas and Cork" now known as "Joni's Painting Party". The fundraiser was held on November 14, 2010 at the Canvas n Cork" gallery. Elaine and Joni DiPirro, local artists, teach non-artists to paint using the demonstration method. Every participant paints the same picture, demonstrated by one of the artists; all are given step-by-step instructions for each part of the painting. A picture custom-made for the Friends was designed by Joni DiPirro.

The "cork" aspect of the party is the provision of wine, soft drinks and snacks enjoyed by the "artists" while they work on their masterpieces. The camaraderie in the group as all learned together was a highlight of the experience. In 2 - 3 hours, everyone walked away with a completed picture. The event was so successful people are coming back for more and others who missed it want to come to paint. We will be making announcements for the next session sometime in the future. Check the website [www.jonispaintparty.com](http://www.jonispaintparty.com) to see what paintings are available now.

### Bridge Party



The second fundraiser was a Bridge Party suggested by one of our Bookstore volunteers, Adele Garrison, who is an avid bridge player and a director for the American Bridge Association (ABA) group in Sarasota. The Bridge Party was held on

January 29, 2011 at the library. Adele directed the game. Equipment and bridge supplies were provided by the Sarasota Duplicate Bridge Club whose president is Edwin Garrison, Adele's husband. Refreshments were provided by the Friends. Forty participants played duplicate bridge at the party. All proceeds from the entry fees were given to the Friends. In addition to the proceeds from the entry fees, a "50/50" raffle was held in which the winner won half and the Friends won half of the pot that was collected. The event was very successful and people asked when they could have it again. By popular demand, the Bridge Party will now be an annual fundraiser for the Friends.



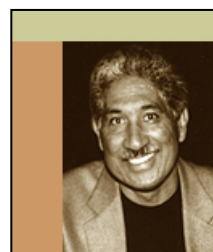
### Author Events

Our activities highlighted the fact that literacy is not only about reading but also about writing. In keeping with one aspect of the mission of the Friends, to promote literacy, the Friends held three author events.



The first Author Event presented **Jackie Peters Cully's** newly published book "Journeying: The Colours of Our Pathways," held on October 16, 2010 at the library. Jackie, a local

artist and senior, released her first book which is a semi- autobiographical collection of her major body of work. The book contains collages that trace the African-American experience from the "Door of No Return" in Africa through the times of slavery, the Underground Railroad, the Great Migration to the Hot Jazz of Harlem. Jackie Cully is a ground-breaker, the first Black textile designer on Fifth Avenue whose life and work is profiled in the book. The living history embodied by Jackie and her work is a fitting contribution to the body of knowledge about the African American experience in particular as well as the universal human experience



The second Author Event was a book discussion by **Dr. Robert Greer**, a multi-talented mystery writer and author who is also a physician and dentist. Dr. Greer's presentation on

December 30, 2011 was preceded by a Kwanzaa candle lighting, the third annual Kwanzaa lighting and book signing sponsored by the Friends. Dr. Greer traveled from Colorado to visit friends in Sarasota who helped organize the event. The presentation focused on Dr. Greer's newest work "First of State" a prequel to his very popular C J Floyd mystery series. The discussion was wide-ranging from the content of this particular book and why he wrote it now, to how characters were developed, the use of place in the settings of the work and his process of writing.



The Third Author Event was a reading and discussion by **Leita Kaldi**, a former Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) and author of her memoir about her three year service in Senegal.

*Roller Skating in the Desert* is a compilation of stories about Ms. Kaldi's Experiences as a 55 year old PCV woman working in Africa.

Accompanied by photos, paintings and books as well as Peace Corps brochures and posters, Ms. Kaldi's presentation included reading excerpts from the book, expansion on the stories and answers to questions from the audience which included other former PCVs.



**\*North Sarasota Library Friends Bookstore and Activity SALE: \$5.00 for a bag of books!**



**From the Manager...  
Yvette Robison**

A couple of months ago I described to a very dear friend the goals and dreams we have for the North Sarasota Public Library. "And they let you call that work?", she responded. So it goes! I continue to be amazed and humbled by the positive feedback I have received since my arrival last summer. Steadfast in their individual and collective dedication to the library prior to my arrival, I stepped on firm ground that had been tended by central library administration under the leadership of Sarabeth Kalajian, the general manager of the library system; the North Sarasota staff; and the Friends of the North Sarasota Library Board of Directors with Dr. Cheryl Smith as President.

As we establish goals in 2011 for services to our patrons and the community, everyone graciously has continued their great support.

For 2011 we will focus upon:

- Families with children from birth-5 years of age
- Enrichment activities for school age students
- Expanding services to adult patrons

The membership drive and fundraising efforts of the Friends are most important, because the revenue provides funding for our lifelong learning programs. I hope you will become a member or renew/upgrade your membership to help us make a reality our place in the I-Zone. What is the I-Zone? We have declared this library the I-Zone, the place for intelligence, integrity, and inspiration. Please join us on the odyssey.

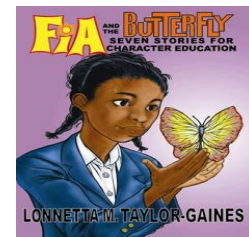
We are pleased to report the following awards, donations and grants to be used for library programs: \$500 from ASALH for the 1st Dr. Shirley Ford Not-for-profit award for education programs; \$500 from Rita L. Major Hallerdin for educational programs; \$500 from FPL for a Science program; \$500 from the Central Library system for Prime Time Family Literacy Program; \$500 from Friends of the North Sarasota Public Library for Prime Time Thank you all.

**Yvette Robison**  
[yrobison@scgov.net](mailto:yrobison@scgov.net)

*FRIENDS  
OF THE LIBRARY HELP TO BRING FIA MAGIC  
TO OUR CHILDREN!*

**By Lonnetta M. Taylor-Gaines**

For twelve days, from July 12 through July 29, 2010, Dr. Lonnetta M. Taylor-Gaines and Mrs. Priscilla H. Crumel co-taught a series of twenty-four classes for children and youth at the North Sarasota Library. The classes, based on Dr. Gaines' acclaimed book, *Fia and the Butterfly: 7 Stories for Character Education*, brought the Magic of FIA-- Friendship, Intelligence, and Artistry--to over fifty-five FIA Scholars from the nearby Newtown Estates Recreation Center, assisted by Ms. Liz Jones, Director and Ms. Juanita Cherry, Supervisor of the Summer Camp. Children also came from the greater Sarasota area and a few from Gainesville, Florida!



The 2011 FIA Academy will run from July 11—28, 2011. This year FIA scholars and their parents went on a field trip to Selby Botanical Gardens. The trip was made possible because of a donation made by Mrs. Judith C. Owens-Lalude of the j. camille cultural academy of Louisville. KY. Mrs. Owens-Lalude who had observed a FIA class and was impressed by the program and donated the entrance fees for children between the ages of 6 and 12.



JoAnn M. Hughes, Board Member and Civil Rights Hero.



Friends Of North Sarasota Public Library  
 2801 Newtown Bld.  
 Sarasota, FL 34234

# Bike Rodeo

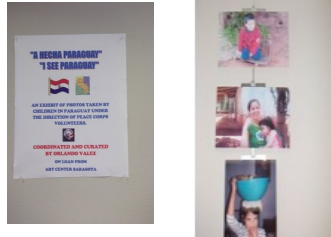
Saturday, October 30, 2010 – another busy day at North Sarasota Library. The Fourth Annual Bike Rodeo filled the Kids’ Zone, Reading Garden, and the library parking lot with laughter and triumphant shouts of achievement as 50 children ages 3-14 participated in a bicycle obstacle course, arts/crafts/ games, and a story time related to bicycle safety. Thank you to all the Friends, volunteers, community groups, and staff who worked very hard to make it such a big success! Watch for announcements for the October, 2011 Rodeo.



Guess who??  
 (FOL VP “Alex” Alexis & friends)



In keeping with our mission promoting multiculturalism, we have exhibited photographs from the children of Paraguay "A Hecha Paraguay" "I See Paraguay"



### Children’s Art Show



This year the art work of the children from our elementary school service area was displayed in our lobby gallery. Coming directly from the North Sarasota School Art Exhibit at the Art Center Sarasota, art work from Emma E. Booker, Tuttle Gocio, Alta Vista and Fruitville Elementary schools was displayed for two weeks in the lobby, enabling children, parents and families as well as library patrons to see and enjoy the work of the very talented children in our area. Thanks go to the art teachers of the schools shared the work. They were so pleased with the idea they intend to display their students’ work every year.

### The Membership Committee

Greetings!  
 The Membership Committee is encouraging all of our Friends supporters to renew their memberships, to join, or to encourage others to join if you haven't already done so for 2011! Thank you for your continued support. Our Mission is to promote pride and opportunity, reflect the diverse history and multicultural interests of the community, recruit library patrons, raise funds and be an advocate for the library.

Please come into the North Sarasota Public Library Friends Bookstore to complete a Membership Form. For more information or if you have any questions please call 941-861-1370 or 72 or E-mail us at [friendsnsp@gmail.com](mailto:friendsnsp@gmail.com)

### Join The Friends

Fill out the form below and make your check payable to:  
**Friends of the North Sarasota Public Library**  
 Mail To: 2801 Newtown Blvd.,  
 Sarasota, FL 34234

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Dues Categories:

Child (12 & Under) .....	\$ 2.00
16-21 .....	\$ 5.00
Individual .....	\$ 10.00
Family .....	\$ 20.00
Contributor .....	\$ 25.00 –99
Patron .....	\$100.00 –249
Benefactor .....	..\$250.00 & up
Business Patron .....	\$150.00

*Dues and contributions are tax deductible.*

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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■ *would like to work for the Friends!*

- \_\_\_ Committees
- \_\_\_ Membership
- \_\_\_ Public Relations
- \_\_\_ Newsletter
- \_\_\_ Fund-raising

Special Field of Expertise  
 If you have a background or an expertise you believe would be useful to the Friends, please add below.

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