

Vol. 7 No. 2

## MAGAZINE

News • Events • Stories





Director's Column



The library is off to a great start this year! We're excited to announce Largo Turns a Page returns this March, culminating in a visit with NYT bestselling authors Christina Lauren! The community read title will be their book, *The True Love Experiment*. The library will host a live book talk and signing on Thursday, March 21st at 6 pm. We have lots of copies of their books, so be sure to read one, two, or all of them and secure your spot for this fun event in our online registration portal!

Input has always been important to the library staff when planning or continuing library programs and services. Once again, we ask to hear from you in our patron survey. Please use the link on page 7 to let us know what programs and services you support or any ideas you may have for future offerings.

As always, thank you for being a library patron and supporting the library with input, donations, and volunteer hours.

Casey McPhee,  
Library Director



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LIBRARY HOURS

Mon - Wed | 9am - 8pm  
Thu - Fri | 10am - 6pm  
Sat | 10am - 5pm  
Sun | Closed

CLOSED

Monday, February 19

BE THE CHANGE

By Toni Green, MLIS, Communications Librarian

Books all have to start somewhere, and that place is typically in the depths of a writer's mind. But where do writers come from?

The first time I met an author - an actual person who had written and published books - was in 3rd grade when Eric Carle (of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* fame) visited my elementary school. Our class had to make our own picture books as part of our studies leading up to his visit. I wrote about climbing trees. Like most adults looking at children's work, he told me it was very good and to keep writing - so I have.

Fast forward a few decades and today's students have access to generative AI programs that can do the work for them. Not only is this not making them practice what they've been learning in school, but it can affect creativity. If one can create a story or piece of art by typing a prompt (a description of what content to include in the creation) into an AI program and clicking a button, they skip the entire creative process.

Beyond the topic of academic honesty, it is hardly a stretch to imagine that one day soon, we will see books created using this AI technology. Authors who have to craft every sentence, every paragraph of their work, could find themselves unable to keep up with unrealistic deadlines set by publishers who expect them to be faster than a machine. To put it frankly, the creativity and culture that we, as humans, have created for millennia, will suffer the effects of technology.

So, how can we curb this and make sure that society is raising writers, as well as readers? Encourage children to write! It could be journaling, short stories, poetry, or even fiction based on their favorite characters. Help them love writing as much as they love reading and support their creative endeavours when they share them.

Do you already have a budding author in your life? The Friends of the Largo Library are currently presenting the **40th Annual Iris & Stanley Shalit Short Story Competition!** The competition is open to all Pinellas County students in grades 4 - 12. This year's prompt is "The Five Senses," and submissions are due on Saturday, March 30th by 5:00 PM EST. Cash prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each age group: grades 4 - 5, 6 - 8, and 9 - 12. If you have any questions about this Short Story competition, please reach out to [libraryshortstorycompetition@gmail.com](mailto:libraryshortstorycompetition@gmail.com)



LARGO TURNS A PAGE - A COMMUNITY READ



**R Largo Turns a Page**  
**Thu | Mar 21 | 6:00pm**

It's almost time again for one of the most highly anticipated library programs of the year – Largo Turns a Page (LTAP)! LTAP is an annual community read that culminates in a visit from the book's author, or, in this case, authors! On Thursday, March 21st the Largo Public Library will host a signing and book talk with Christina Lauren! Christina Lauren is comprised of long-time writing partners and best friends, Christina Hobbs and Lauren Billings. The #1 international bestselling coauthor duo writes both Young Adult and Adult Fiction and together has produced seventeen New York Times bestselling novels.

This year's LTAP is all about romance and many of our programs will lean into the theme as we prepare to welcome Christina Lauren. As part of the fun, we will be issuing a Passport to Romance (learn more on page 5). You

can join us for a series of romantic comedies with our Reel Romance Film Series, create gorgeous crafts, and, of course, read *The True Love Experiment* along with our library community!

Copies of select Christina Lauren books, including *The True Love Experiment*, will be available to purchase the night of the event\*, or you may bring your own copies in to get signed by the authors! Space will be limited and registration begins on February 1st at 10am - set your alarms now so you don't miss out on this experience!

The library would like to give a huge 'thank you' to our Friends of Largo Library for sponsoring Largo Turns a Page and helping to bring these renowned authors here for what will surely be an incredible evening!

\*Cash or check only



# Book & Poetry Clubs



**Poets Live!**  
Mon | Feb 12 & Mar 11 | 6:00pm  
Read your poetry and learn about noted poets during our biography segment.  
  
Feb 12: Donald Hall  
Mar 11: Kenneth Rexroth



**Chapter Chat**  
Wed | Feb 14 & Mar 13 | 5:00pm  
All are welcome to join this stimulating and engaging book club! This group of adult readers facilitates an environment perfect for exploring and engaging with the selected titles. Please contact Ben Wiley (bwiley@tampabay.rr.com) to join.

Feb 14: *Euphoria* by Lily King  
Mar 13: *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie



**Adults Read YA Book Club**  
Wed | Feb 14 & Mar 13 | 6:00pm  
Who says Young Adult books are just for teens? Join us on the second Wednesday of each month at 6pm for a YA Lit book club – for grown-ups!

For our February & March meetings, copies of the books will be available to check out through PPLC as physical copies. E-books or e-audiobooks are also available through Hoopla or Libby. Ages 18+ are welcome.

Feb 14: *This Time It's Real* by Ann Liang  
Mar 13: *Threads That Bind* by Kika Hatzopoulou



**Shelf Indulgent Romance Book Club**  
Wed | Feb 28 & Mar 27 | 6:00pm  
Join us for a book club built for hopeless romantics and cynics alike as we explore different tropes, sub-genres, and themes.

As we read across the spectrum of the romance genre, our choices will reflect various books that may contain steamy scenes, various sexualities, experiences, and cultures. Everyone is welcome to respectfully attend but registration is required. Ages 18+.

Feb 28: *The True Love Experiment* by Christina Lauren  
Mar 27: *The Serpent and the Wings of Night* by Carissa Broadbent

# ADULT PROGRAMS

Ages 18 and Up

For programs that require registration, please register online or call 727.587.6715.



**Wake Up With the Library**  
Sat | Feb 3 & Mar 2 | 9:00am  
You are invited to join us for a before-hours tour of the Library. See what goes on behind the scenes. The coffee is on us! This is a walking tour that lasts an hour.

**SHINE: Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders**  
Wed | Feb 7 & Mar 6 | 1:00pm  
If you are celebrating your 65th birthday this year, recently retired, or just want to know more about your healthcare options under Medicare, SHINE may be able to help. SHINE schedules free, unbiased, and confidential counseling appointments each month at Largo Public Library. Please call to schedule your 1- hour appointment between 1:00pm-4:00pm. Please bring a list of your current prescriptions to your appointment.

**Medicare 101**  
Wed | Feb 7 & Mar 6 | 12:00pm  
Specially trained volunteers of the SHINE program will provide detailed information on the basics of Medicare, including Medicare supplement insurance, Medicare Advantage plans, and financial assistance programs. SHINE representatives will be available to answer questions and provide enrollment or benefit application assistance.

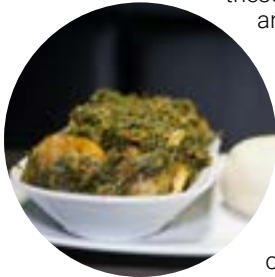
**ASL With Deaf Literacy Center**  
Wed | Feb 7, 14, 21, 28 & Mar 6, 13, 20, 27  
Beginners ASL | 6:00pm  
Intermediate ASL | 7:00pm  
class covers vocabulary and short sentences. The intermediate class covers conversational phrases. Sessions also include in depth discussion and facts about the Deaf community and Deaf culture. For additional details, email sbeganovic@pplc.us



**Paint Along with Bob Ross**  
Mon | Feb 5 | 6:00pm  
Join us for another paint along with the iconic Bob Ross. Supplies and guidance will be provided as you create a beautiful landscape from an episode of *The Joy of Painting*.

**Virtual Adult Trivia Night**  
Wed | Feb 7 & Mar 6 | 6:00pm  
Join us on Zoom to test your knowledge for a chance to win some awesome prizes!  
Feb 7: *Deadpool*  
Mar 6: *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*

**Ukulele Workshops**  
Wed | Feb 7 | 6:00pm | Beginner 2  
Wed | Feb 21 | 6:00pm | Beginner 3  
Hosted by the Tampa Bay Ukulele Society, these free workshops provide an introduction to the ukulele. Bring your own ukulele or a limited number will be supplied by TBUS.



**A Taste of Africa**  
Mon | Feb 12 | 6:00pm  
Learn to prepare a feast of West African dishes in this hands-on class.



**Creating a Pollinator Garden**  
Wed | Feb 14 | 2:00pm  
Learn how you can attract beautiful butterflies and their pollinator friends from Master Gardener Linda Smock.



**Reel Romance Film Series**  
Thu | Feb 15, 22 & Mar 7, 14 | 3:00pm  
Calling all hopeless romantics! Join us for a series of laugh-out-loud rom-coms as we gear up for Largo Turns a Page!  
Feb 15: *Crazy Rich Asians*  
Feb 22: *Marry Me*  
Mar 7: *The Proposal*  
Mar 14: *Breakfast at Tiffany's*



**Tropical Paper Collage**  
Tue | Feb 20 | 6:00pm  
Make your own paper collage inspired by the work of Romare Bearden, a mix media artist who came of age during the Harlem Renaissance.

# ADULT PROGRAMS

Ages 18 and Up

For programs that require registration, please register online or call 727.587.6715.



**Kuumba Dancers and Drummers**  
Tue | Feb 27 | 6:30pm  
Based in Tampa since 1980, Kuumba delights audiences with their insightful display of traditional African folkdance, music, songs and storytelling. Drawing on the dance and

music traditions of the African diaspora, the troupe strives to present an authentic experience while preserving and nurturing the art form for generations to come.

**Sew a North Star Quilt Block**  
Wed | Feb 28 | 6:00pm  
Thu | Feb 29 | 2:00pm  
The North Star played a key role in helping slaves to find their way—a beacon to true north and freedom, and this star is famous as the point around which the whole sky turns. Enjoy a piece of history by making the North Star Quilt Block. Supplies provided.



**Make Paste Paper**  
Mon | Mar 4 | 6:00pm  
Paste papers are one of the earliest methods used to decorate paper for book covers and as endsheets. Create your own colorful, textured paper using acrylic paint added to the paste and a variety of tools.

**Macramé a Wall-hanging**  
Mon | Mar 11 | 6:00PM  
Learn some of the foundational knots of macramé and use them to make a small wall-hanging.



**Plants in Your Diet**  
Tue | Mar 12 | 2:00pm  
Learn to grow edible plants and herbs for a flavorful path to health with Master Gardener Debbie Ingram.



**Make Hamantaschen**  
Mon | Mar 18 | 6:00pm  
The Jewish holiday of Purim will be celebrated this weekend; learn about the history of Purim and make your own hamantaschen.

**The Holocaust - From Trauma to Healing**  
Tue | Mar 19 | 6:00pm  
Ruth Finkel Wade, daughter of Holocaust survivor Sidney "Sevek" Finkel, didn't learn her father's story of dehumanization, brutality, and loss until she was pregnant with her son at the age of 33. Twenty-five years later, she began to understand the enormous impact of his trauma on their relationship as she began writing her contribution to the award-winning anthology *The Ones Who Remember*; Second-Generation Voices of the Holocaust. In this program, Ruth will share her father's story of anguish and resilience in the face of living through the horrors of genocide, the effect of his trauma on her life, and their journey towards healing.



**Largo Turns a Page**  
Thu | Mar 21 | 6:00pm  
An evening with the New York Times Best-Selling Christina Lauren! Authors Christina Hobbs and Laura Billings will join us for a signing and discussion of our 2024 community read, *The True Love Experiment*.

Registration will begin on Feb 1.

**Sew a Pyramid Pinch Pouch**  
Wed | Mar 27 | 6:00pm  
Thu | Mar 28 | 2:00pm  
With a unique shape that's perfect for storing small accessories, this triangular pouch closes tightly with a flex frame. Please bring 1 fat quarter (18" by 22") of fabric.



# Passport to Romance

Fall in Love with reading all over again!

Stop by any time in February and March to pick up your Passport to Romance! Have your passport stamped at select events and turn it in after Largo Turns a Page (March 21st) to be entered in a grand prize drawing!

Our grand prize gift basket will include:

- 2 Hardcover books signed by Christina Lauren
- E&E Stakeout Grill Gift Card
- 2 Wine Glasses
- Box of Chocolates
- Sparkling Water

Participating programs include:

**Reel Romance Film Series**

- Feb 15 - *Crazy Rich Asians*
- Feb 22 - *Marry Me*
- Mar 7 - *The Proposal*
- Mar 14 - *Breakfast at Tiffany's*

**Book Clubs**

- Feb 14 - Adults Read YA
- Feb 28 - Shelf Indulgent Romance
- Feb 14 - Adults Read YA

**Adult Virtual Trivia**

- Feb 7 - *Deadpool*
- Mar 6 - *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*

**Adult Craft Programs**

- Feb 20 - Tropical Paper Collage
- Feb 28 & 29 - Sew a Northern Star Quilt Block
- Mar 4 - Make Paste Paper
- Mar 11 - Macramé a Wall-hanging

**Largo Turns a Page with Christina Lauren**

- Mar 21 - Signing and Author Event





# Gallery 120

Gallery 120 will play host to a few new exhibits in February and March. Art from Randee Baum and Fabio Lopez will be on display during the month of February, and in March Nova University will present *Literature of Prescription: Charlotte Perkins Gilman and "The Yellow Wall-paper."*

## Randee Baum

As a Reiki practitioner, Baum works with the universal life force energy. As an artist and extension of that practice, her focus is on putting these good vibes into the creation of unique pottery pieces. Baum's mirrors reflect this out to the viewer so when you peer into them you must smile.



## Fabio López

The artist tells us that "The art is in honor of Lordes López, who inspires my work. Her encouragement is priceless."

Nova University presents *Literature of Prescription: Charlotte Perkins Gilman and "The Yellow Wall-paper"*

During a time when women were challenging traditional ideas about gender that excluded them from political and intellectual life, artist and writer Charlotte Perkins Gilman rejected these ideas in a terrifying short story titled *The Yellow Wall-Paper*. Literature of Prescription: Charlotte Perkins Gilman and *The Yellow Wall-paper* explores the story behind Gilman's indictment of the medical profession and the social conventions restricting women's professional and creative opportunities.



# TECHNOLOGY & DIGITAL LEARNING

Ages 18 and Up

Learn basic computer skills, programs and ways to connect virtually through social media. Discover how to use the devices that make our everyday lives easier.

## BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS

No prerequisite

**R Introduction to Gmail & Google Drive**  
Wed | Feb 21 | 2:00pm

Create a Gmail account, or learn more about the one you have, as we look at how to best use your google account and google drive.



**R Intro to Zelle, Venmo & ApplePay**  
Wed | Feb 28 | 2:00pm

Come and see how these financial apps work and how they might benefit you.

**R Spectacular Spring Places & Events**  
Wed | Mar 27 | 2:00pm



In this hands-on computer class, we'll look at fun destinations and happenings in our area that we can enjoy in this beautiful time of year! We're living in paradise! Let's make the most of it!

## TECHNOLOGY

No prerequisite - Make sure to have your passwords.

**Tech Help Tuesday**

Tue | Feb 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th | 1:00pm

Tue | Mar 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th | 1:00pm

Bring your technology questions and your device (or use one of our laptops) to connect with all kinds of help. All questions welcome! Make sure to have your passwords.



**R Library Orientation**  
Sat | Feb 10 | 9:00am  
Sat | Mar 9 | 9:00am

Register for this before hours class orienting you on the amazing resources our library has to offer, including an in-depth training on our catalog, plus a whole lot more!

## SMARTPHONES & TABLETS

**Prerequisite: Have Apple ID and/or Google Login and password**

**R Essential iPhone Tips**  
Thu | Feb 1 | 3:00pm

This class will cover iPhone tips for the maps, safari, health apps and much more! Come learn fun new ways to use your iPhone and your questions are welcome here!



**R Apple Watch**  
Thu | Feb 8 | 3:00pm

In this class, learn new and fun ways to use your apple watch. We will look at text size, screen shots, sending text messages, the fitness and workout apps, and more. Questions welcome!

**R Intermediate iPad**  
Thu | Feb 15 | 3:00pm

Learn intermediate skills such as multi-tasking, speaking text, group facetime, enhancing emails, and more! Questions welcome!

**R Advanced iPad**  
Thu | Feb 22 | 3:00pm

All-new tips for the mail, photos, and notes apps, plus a lot more! Questions encouraged!

**R Intermediate iPhone**  
Thu | Mar 7 | 3:00pm

Learn new & fun iPhone tips! Bring your questions!

**R Apple Pencil**  
Thu | Mar 14 | 3:00pm

Come see how much fun you can have with your apple pencil where we'll learn both creative and super practical skills!

**R Android 101**  
Mon | Mar 18 | 2:00pm

Come in to learn basic Android tips! Brush up on your Android skills with this beginner level class.

# TECHNOLOGY & DIGITAL LEARNING

Ages 18 and Up

Learn basic computer skills, programs and ways to connect virtually through social media. Discover how to use the devices that make our everyday lives easier.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

**Prerequisite: Have an active email address and password**

**R Getting started with YouTube**  
Wed | Feb 7 | 2:00pm

Learn about the great resource that is YouTube, as well as how to create your own YouTube channel, so that you can start uploading and tagging your videos!



## MICROSOFT

No Prerequisite

**R Basic Word**  
Wed | Mar 6 | 2:00PM

Create a document, copy & paste, change the font, save & print.

**R Intermediate Word**  
Wed | Mar 13 | 2:00pm  
Make a document where we'll insert and fine-tune pictures, shapes, and text boxes.



# Library Apps

Have you ever wanted to read something *right now*, only to realize that there are no copies checked in? Or want to listen to an audiobook but don't have a CD player to listen to it on? Our eBranch has you covered! If you have a valid PPLC library card, all of these services (and more) are already available to you!

PPLC libraries like Largo Public Library give you access to a number of eResources that allow quick access to eBooks, eAudiobooks, videos, music, and more!

## Libby



Check out eBooks, eAudiobooks, and eMagazines! If the item that you're searching for isn't available immediately, place a hold and receive a notification when it's ready to download! New titles are being added all the time and you may check out up to 10 items at a time!

## Freegal

Are you a big music lover? Check out Freegal! With Freegal, you are able to download five items per week! New music is available on the same day it drops and there are over 200 music genres to choose from!



## hoopla

Borrow up to five items per month from a catalog of over

900,000 titles! Titles include TV shows, eBooks, comics, movies, music, and eAudiobooks! There is even a kids mode for little ones to find titles meant just for them!

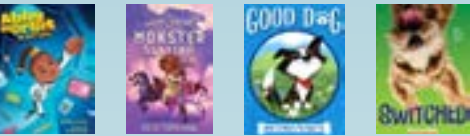
Want to learn more about these amazing apps? Be sure to register for our how-to classes in February and March to get hands-on instruction with our Research and Access Librarian!



# Book Clubs & Contests

## Book Clubs

Attention readers! Sign up early in the Children's Department to receive your book and activity packet. Visit the library to discuss the book, learn about similar books, and complete an activity. For these book clubs, the packets are available a month prior to the date listed to allow for enough time to read the book and work through the packet. Registrations must be made in-person at the Children's Service Desk. Book club meetings are held Wednesdays at 6pm on the dates listed below.



- R Bookworms Book Club | Ages 6-8**  
Feb 14 - *Abby in Orbit #1: Blast Off!* by Andrea J. Loney  
Mar 13 - *Good Dog #1: Home is Where the Heart Is* by Cam Higgins
- R Fiction Addiction Book Club | Ages 9-12**  
Feb 28 - *A Royal Guide to Monster Slaying* by Kelley Armstrong  
Mar 27 - *Switched* by Bruce Hale

## Reading Incentive Programs

Read for rewards! Encourage children to read all year long using our Beanstack challenges! Simply download the Beanstack Tracker app onto your phone or other device and register to start tracking your progress online. If you would rather not use the app, simply register on our website at <https://largopubliclibrary.beanstack.org/>

## Contests

*Ages 12 and under | One entry per day*  
Completed forms can be entered in a prize drawing! Winners will be contacted by phone at the end of the month.

**Count the Conversation Hearts | Feb 1 - 29**  
Visit the Children's Department and count the many colors of conversation hearts!

**Cool Chicks Scavenger Hunt | Mar 1 - 30**  
Look for the chicks hiding all around the Children's Department! Fill in the letters near the chicks to answer a riddle!

# CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

## Ages 12 and Under

For programs that require registration, please register online or call 727.587.6715.

## Storytimes, Play, & More!

**Pre-K Pals**  
Thu | Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 & Mar 21, 28  
10:30am Ages 3 - 5  
Join in the fun with stories, songs, crafts, and more that help to encourage the development of early literacy and school readiness skills. For children ages 3 to 5 with an adult helper.

**R Off to Kindergarten: A School Readiness Program**  
Mon | Feb 5, 12, 26 & Mar 4, 11, 18 | 1:00  
Ages 4 - 5  
Have fun at the library and help get your child ready for school! In this special six-session series, families will enjoy stories and activities designed to encourage the development of early learning practices. Exploring literacy, science, and math through music, stories, art, and play will help you and your child prepare for kindergarten. The experience of learning together with peers also teaches children important social-emotional skills that will help them adjust to being in a classroom environment. Registration is required only once for the six weeks of programs, which will be offered repeatedly throughout the year.

**Toddler Tales**  
Tue | Feb 6, 13, 20, 27 & Mar 19, 26 | 10:30am  
Ages 24 - 36 months  
Join us with your active littles as they listen, learn, and have fun! For children ages 24 to 36 months with an adult helper.

**Baby Bookworms**  
Wed | Feb 7, 14, 21, 28 & Mar 20, 27 | 10:30am  
Ages 12 - 24 months  
Join us for stories, music, and fun for everyone! For walking children ages 12 to 24 months with an adult helper.

**Fun With Friends**  
Fri | Feb 2 & Mar 1 | 10:30am  
Ages 5 & under  
Come hang out with your littles and socialize with other adults on a select Friday each month. This self-led, play-based program will help your child socialize with other children, develop problem-solving skills, and learn through play.

**Paws Up for Mental Health**  
Mon | Feb 12 & Mar 11 | 10:30am  
Ages 2 - 11  
Join us for a special story time led by Nannette Prevost of Remember Me NFP, a local nonprofit dedicated to education and raising awareness of suicide prevention. Using the book, Gizmo's Pawesome Guide to Mental Health, program attendees will sing, play an instrument, talk about feelings, and establish their own mental health pledge.

**R SENSEploration**  
Fri | Feb 16 & Mar 22 | 10:30am  
Ages 5 & under  
Check out this interactive program for littles to learn through exploration. Encourage curiosity, problem solving, and creativity in this sensory play opportunity. Kids and their adult helpers will move around the room to different sensory stations and discover all the fun-filled things your senses can do! Caregivers will be required to stay with their children for the full duration of the program. Please dress for mess.

**Stories with Officer Bowling**  
Mon | Feb 26 & Mar 25 | 10:30am  
Ages 3 - 5  
Join us for stories read by a special guest, Officer Bowling of the Largo Police Department. Get an up-close look at his vehicle, learn about a day in the life of an officer, and ask your most inquisitive questions, followed by a themed craft activity. For children ages 3 to 5 with an adult helper.

## Weekly and Specialty Programs

**R Tinker Lab**  
Thu | Feb 1, 8 & Mar 7, 14 | 4:00pm  
Ages 8 - 12  
Join your young inventors as we get their creative juices flowing in this monthly STEAM workshop designed to unleash children's imaginations with science experiments, building challenges, and arts & crafts activities. Parent participation is required, and only registered children may attend-no younger siblings, please.  
Feb 1: Mini Desk Light  
Feb 8: Pendulum Painting  
Mar 7: Springs and Things  
Mar 14: Leprechaun Traps

**R Tween Time: Soothing Scents**  
Fri | Feb 2 | 4:00pm  
Ages 8 - 12  
Chill out and have a good time with us while creating and exploring a variety of soothing scented crafts and activities. There's sure to be a treat for everyone!

**R Monday Night Mayhem**  
Mon | Feb 5, 12, 26 & Mar 4, 18, 25 | 6:00pm  
Ages 5 - 12  
Join us on select Monday nights for creative fun! Some crafts will get messy (and/or stain) so please dress accordingly.  
Feb 5: Wooden Heart Painting  
Feb 12: Valen-Slime  
Feb 26: DIY Squishies  
Mar 4: Ice Cream Ceramics  
Mar 18: Watercolor Creations  
Mar 25: Shrink Paper Fun

# CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

## Ages 12 and Under

For programs that require registration, please register online or call 727.587.6715.

**R Elementary Explorations**  
Tue | Feb 6, 13, 20, 27 & Mar 5, 12, 19, 26  
6:00pm | Ages 5 - 7  
Join your young explorers as we investigate a variety of scientific phenomena from the everyday to the unexpected. Parent participation is strongly recommended.  
Feb 6: Under The Sea - Experiment and play with projects inspired by ocean life.  
Feb 13: Racing Wheels - Build battery powered cars and DIY spinning tops.  
Feb 20: Chemistry Quest - Run hands-on experiments on chemistry and states of matter.  
Feb 27: Falling Forward - Let gravity power this rolling car project.  
Mar 5: Spring Cleaning - Make and take past projects to make room for new supplies.  
Mar 12: Leprechaun Traps - Make a tricky trap to fool an unlucky leprechaun.  
Mar 19: Clever Cardboard Games - Construct and then play with games of skill made from recyclables.  
Mar 26: Bunch of Bugs - Make wiggly critters that will skitter across a tabletop.

**R Hour of Code**  
Wed | Feb 7, 21 & Mar 6, 20 | 4:00pm  
STEAM Spot  
Feb 7, Mar 6: Ages 5 - 7 w/ Adult Helper  
Feb 21, Mar 20: Ages 8 - 12  
Learn basic computer programming skills in this fun 1-hour class featuring Bitsbox® and other platforms. No coding experience necessary, but basic computer skills are recommended. Limited spaces available.

**R Gotta Love Crafts: Beautiful Birds**  
Wed | Feb 7 | 6:00pm  
Since February is National Bird-Feeding Month, we'll be celebrating by decorating some birdhouses with paint, stickers, and more. Please dress for mess.

**A Very Valentine Celebration**  
Fri | Feb 9 | 4:00pm  
Ages 3 - 12  
Come celebrate Valentine's Day in this love-filled program. Create some heart-filled crafts to give as a gift or to keep for yourself.

**Play Chess!**  
Sat | Feb 10 & Mar 9 | 10:00am  
Ages 6 - 12  
Join us at the library on the second Saturday of every month for a game of chess. No experience is needed, and new players will be taught the basics of the game. Players already familiar with the game can challenge each other!

**Library LEGOs**  
Sat | Feb 10, 24 & Mar 9, 23 | 2:00pm  
Ages 5 - 12  
Challenge yourself to create a new LEGO® masterpiece every week. All materials are provided.

**R Code Squad**  
Wed | Feb 14, 28 & Mar 13, 27 | 4:00pm  
STEAM Spot  
Feb 14 & Mar 13: Ages 5 - 7 w/Adult Helper  
Feb 28 & Mar 27: Ages 8 - 12  
Learn basic computer programming skills in this fun 1-hour class featuring CodeMonkey® and other platforms. No coding experience necessary, but basic computer skills are recommended. Limited spaces available.

**R LEGO Constructors**  
Thu | Feb 15, 22 & Mar 21, 28 | 4:00pm  
STEAM Spot  
Ages 8 - 12  
Register for your time slot to build and program Lego® projects with a simple-to-use computer interface, Lego® WeDo 2.0. Working in pairs or teams, you will follow 2D drawings to build 3D models, while developing problem solving and communication skills.

**Game Zone**  
Fri | Feb 16 | 3:00pm  
Ages 6 - 12  
Come hang out and play Nintendo Switch® games like Just Dance™, Mario Kart™, and more, or relax and play some board games with friends.

**Pokémon Club**  
Sat | Feb 17 & Mar 16 | 2:00pm  
Ages 5 - 12  
Dive into the world of Pokémon® trading cards, battle in epic Pokémon® card games, and unleash your creativity with a Pokémon-themed craft. It's a fantastic opportunity for fans of all ages to connect, trade, play, and craft their way through the Pokémon® universe. Bring your own cards and don't miss out!

**R Cook-a-Book**  
Wed | Feb 21 & Mar 20 | 6:00pm  
Ages 5 - 12  
Following recipes helps to build a child's reading comprehension and vocabulary. Join us as we read a few stories, followed by a specially themed snack. It's fun for the whole family!

**R Pup Pals Reading Dogs**  
Sat | Feb 24 & Mar 23 | 10:00am  
Ages 5 - 12  
Improve your reading skills and make a new furry friend by reading to therapy-trained dogs.

**R Robot Invasion**  
Fri | Mar 15 | 11:00am & 3:00pm  
Ages 5 - 12  
Robots are invading the library! Learn basic coding skills using Dash and Dot™, Kamigami Robot Bugs™, Osmo™ and much more.



**R Tween Time: No-Sew Pillow**  
Fri | Mar 1 | 4:00pm  
Ages 8 - 12  
Who doesn't want a pillow with a yummy chocolate bunny on it? Celebrate Easter or just your love of chocolate by making this no-sew pillow with us.

**R Gotta Love Crafts: Spring-y Creations**  
Wed | Mar 6 | 6:00pm  
Ages 5 - 12  
Spring arrives this month! Join us for crafts involving rainbows, flowers, and all things spring.

**Missed the Mayhem**  
Mon | Mar 11 | 4:00pm  
Ages 5 - 12  
Did you miss a craft program? Or maybe you loved it so much you were hoping to do it again? Now is your chance! This program is a combination of different programs that have passed. These are supplies that were left over but not enough to do a full program. Quantity of each project will be limited to what is left. Come check it out!

**Melt Bead Mania**  
Tue | Mar 12 | 11:00am  
Ages 5 - 12  
Who doesn't love melt beads? Fill your board up with colorful beads in a fun pattern and we'll melt them together for you! Have fun making something from one of our guidebooks, or a creation of your own!

**Spring Bingo**  
Fri | Mar 22 | 4:00pm  
Ages 5 - 12  
Spring has Sprung! Celebrate with this specially themed Bingo game that includes flowers, raindrops, ladybugs, bubbles, and much more!

**R Hop To It!**  
Fri | Mar 29 | 11:00am  
Ages 3 - 12  
School's out so there is no egg-scuse not to bring your Peeps to this egg-ceptional event! Join us for an egg hunt, a visit from a special bunny friend, and other egg-cellent crafts and activities. We understand, if after all this fun, you are egg-hausted and need to make your egg-sit.



## Pinellas County Schools Workshops



### Pinellas County Schools ESOL Workshops

These presentations for English learner and Spanish-speaking families will cover a variety of topics to help parents and caregivers to help their students achieve academic success in Pinellas County Schools!

#### PCSB ESOL Workshop Grades 6 - 12

**Tue | Feb 13 | 6:00pm – 7:00pm**

Topics covered will include:

- Meeting School Academic Expectations
- High School Graduation Requirements
- Resources Available for Students' Success
- Dual Enrollment
- Financial Aid Resources

#### PCSB ESOL Workshop Grades K - 12

**Tue | Mar 26 | 6:00pm – 7:00pm**

Topics covered will include:

- Pinellas County School's Spring Tests and Test Resources
- Pinellas County Schools (PCS) Student Information System - Focus
- Clever, and other resources available for families and students

Stay tuned for more great workshops from Pinellas County Schools covering the 2024 - 2025 school year coming up in April and May!

## LIBRARY IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Keep up to date on schedule changes, added stops, and all the latest information on the Bookmobile and LibraryHD by visiting [LargoPublicLibrary.org](http://LargoPublicLibrary.org).

#### Plato Academy

10888 126th Ave N, Largo  
Tue | Feb 6th, 20th, & Mar 5th, 19th

#### High Point Family Center

5812 150th Ave N, Clearwater  
Tue | Feb 6th, 20th, & Mar 5th, 19th

#### High Point Youth Empowerment Center

5343 Laurel Pl, Clearwater  
Tue | Feb 6th, 20th, & Mar 5th, 19th

#### The Barrington Senior Living

901 Seminole Blvd, Largo  
Wed | Feb 14th, 28th & Mar 13th, 27th

#### Oak Manor

3600 Oak Manor Lane, Largo  
Wed | Feb 14th, 28th & Mar 13th, 27th

#### Heather Haven

10476 131th St, Largo  
Wed | Feb 7th, 21st & Mar 6th, 20th

#### Paradise Island

1001 Starkey Rd, Largo  
Thu | Feb 8th, 22nd & Mar 7th, 21st

#### Sodalis Senior Living

333 16th Ave SE, Largo  
Thu | Feb 8th, 22nd & Mar 7th, 21st

#### Imperial Palms

4711 Imperial Palm Dr, Largo  
Tue | Feb 13th, 27th & Mar 12th, 26th

#### St. Patrick's Catholic School

1501 Trotter Rd, Largo  
Wed | Feb 7th, 21st & Mar 6th, 20th

#### Royal Palms

200 Lake Ave NE, Largo  
Thu | Feb 1st, 15th, 29th & Mar 14th, 28th

#### Elison of Pinecrest

1150 8th Ave SW, Largo  
Fri | Feb 2nd, 16th & Mar 1st, 15th, 29th

#### Holiday Belleair Towers

1100 Ponce De Leon Blvd, Clearwater  
Fri | Feb 2nd, 16th & Mar 1st, 15th, 29th

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

#### **R** Adult English Classes

**Mon - Wed | 9:30am - 2:30pm**

**Thu - Fri | 10am - 3pm**

In collaboration with Pinellas County Schools, this program will help adults speak, write and read English in a classroom setting. Registration is required and continuous throughout the semester. There is a \$45 fee for each six-month term of enrollment. For more information, please call 727.942.9146.

#### Citizenship and Naturalization Preparation Classes

**Mon & Wed | 6pm - 8pm**

**No Class Mon, Feb 19**

Legal, permanent residents of the U.S. can prepare for the naturalization process and practice for the Citizenship Interview with Learning Empowered Citizenship instructors. For more information, please call 727.244.9301 or email [citizenship3@learning-empowered.org](mailto:citizenship3@learning-empowered.org).

#### English Conversation Club

**Thursdays | Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 & Mar 7, 21, 28 2:15pm - 3:30pm**

This is a fun, casual atmosphere to practice and improve your English. Speakers of all levels are welcome. This free club is designed to be attended at your leisure, and there is a new topic at every meeting! The club meets in the ELL room on the 2nd floor of the library.

#### **R** One-on-One English Tutoring

Applications are available at the library or by going to [www.largopubliclibrary.org/ell](http://www.largopubliclibrary.org/ell). Individuals are matched according to the availability of volunteers, mutual scheduling preferences, and waiting list order. Instruction is based on each learner's needs and goals. Tutors and students meet two hours per week for a 6 month period. For more information, please call 727.587.6715.



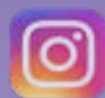
#### **R** Become a Volunteer Tutor! English Language Learning Tutor Training and Orientation Workshop

Saturday | Feb 10 | 10am - 4pm  
ELL tutors at the library commit to two hours per week of teaching and mentoring a neighbor in need of improving their English. Becoming an ELL tutor is a great way to make friends and give back to your community. Lunch is included. Registration is required as well as an online application. Questions? call 727-587-6715 Ext. 2547.

## TEEN PROGRAMS

#### Ages 12-18

For programs that require registration, please register online or call 727.587.6715.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TEEN CONTENT

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!

@LARGOTEENS

### Special Programs & Contests

#### 100 Books Before Graduation Reading Challenge Ongoing

Challenge yourself to read 100 books before you graduate high school! Open to grades six through twelve. Register at any time on Beanstack.



#### Blind Date with a Book

**February 1 – February 29**

Don't judge a book by its cover! Check out our month-long display.

#### For the Love of Reading Challenge February 1 – February 29

Love (of books) is in the air! Read books this February to be entered into the Grand Prize drawing! Register on Beanstack or see the Teen Desk for a paper log.

#### Book Boxes

**Fri | Mar 8 | All Day**

The boxes include a free book and some fun treats. First come, first serve, and teens must be present! 20 available, one box per person.



#### Spring Break Boredom Busters

**Mon - Sat | March 11 - March 16**

Stop in for activities in the Teen Room during the break!

### Programs and Events

#### Teen Art Night

**Mon | Feb 5 & Mar 4 | 5:00PM**

**Teen Program Room**

Stop by and make art with us!  
Feb: Paper Valentines  
Mar – Cherry Blossom art



#### Tabletop Tuesday

**Tue | Feb 6 & Mar 5 | 3:00PM**

Swing by and play some board games with us in the Teen Room!

#### Anime & Manga Club

**Mon | Feb 12 & Mar 18 | 5:00PM**

Hang out and watch anime with us!  
Feb - *One Piece*  
March - *Haikyuu*



#### Rainbow Social

**Wed | Feb 14, 28 & Mar 20, 27 | 3:00PM**

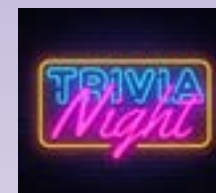
All high school students are welcome to this safe, inclusive hangout space for LGBTQIA+ teens and teen allies.



#### Teen Trivia Night

**Mon | Feb 26 & Mar 25**

Want to show off your trivia skills? Come hang out with us and test your knowledge for a chance to win some fun themed prizes!  
Feb – *The Hunger Games*  
March - *Demon Slayer*



#### **R** How to Amigurumi: Mochi Bunny Tue | Mar 19 | 5:00PM

Learn how to make cute and tiny crochet animals! (Skills to know beforehand: Magic Ring, single crochet, increase, invisible decrease.)



## Winter FreeCycle

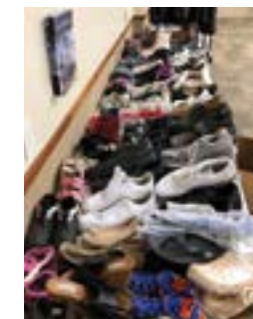


On January 16th, we held our second FreeCycle and welcomed 146 children, teens, and adults who attended the event! Donations of gently used clothing, toys, and home goods were collected over the last few months with support from community members and our very own Plato's Closet here in Largo.

For the uninitiated, a FreeCycle works like a thrift shop or yard sale in that goods are previously owned, but all items are free to take home. In the "swap, don't shop" spirit, FreeCycles encourage swapping within your community vs shopping for new items whenever possible. These events help to reduce waste by keeping goods out of landfills, increase access to resources, and strengthen community values.



If you missed the Winter FreeCycle, stay tuned as we hope to offer another opportunity later this year!





# GENEALOGY CLASSES & GROUPS

For more information and full program descriptions visit [LargoPublicLibrary.org](http://LargoPublicLibrary.org), [pinellasgenealogysociety.com](http://pinellasgenealogysociety.com) or email [info@pinellasgenealogysociety.com](mailto:info@pinellasgenealogysociety.com)

## Genealogy Lectures



### Intro to US Church Records Sat | Feb 17 | 11:00AM

Why we care where Grandma went to church! US church records of many denominations can reveal ancestors' vital events, family relationships, overseas birthplaces and other residences and religious lives. From the co-author of the acclaimed book *How to Find Your Family History in U.S. Church Records*, learn what these records may look like, how to identify an ancestral church, locating original manuscripts, and successfully accessing

them.

**Sunny Jane Morton** is an internationally known genealogy speaker and award-winning writer and editor. She is a long-time contributor at Family Tree Magazine, YourDNAGuide.com, and FamilySearch's blog. She has twice received prestigious awards from the National Genealogical Society, most recently for her book *How to Find Your Family History in U.S. Church Records*, co-authored with Harold Henderson, CG. Her book, *Story of My Life: A Workbook for Preserving Your Legacy*, is now in its 2nd edition. Her presentations are packed with "try-this-now strategies" and delivered with humor and humanity with motivating examples and stories.

### We're Related to George Washington? Proving (or Disproving) Family Stories Sat | Mar 16 | 11:00AM

I have them and you have them. In fact, we all have them, that story about our family's brush with greatness. Maybe you're related to Jesse James, or your ancestor was on the Titanic, or you're descended from three brothers who came to America. But is it true? Learn the methodology for proving or disproving that family story.



### Her Name was Not Unknown: Finding Female Ancestors

"What's her maiden name?" "What happened to her after her husband died?" "How do I start researching my great-grandmother?" We've all felt the disappointment of seeing the word "unknown" to describe a female ancestor's name. How do we go from "unknown" to finding a name? This presentation will explain techniques, methodology, and resources vital to family history research. Enhance your research skills using a 5-step approach to researching (and finding) female ancestors.

**Gena Philibert-Ortega**, author, researcher, and instructor, focuses on genealogy, social, and women's history. She holds a double master's degree and has published three books including *Tracing Female Ancestors*, and numerous articles, including the GenealogyBank blog. She is the editor of the Utah Genealogical Association's magazine, *Crossroads*, and is a popular speaker. Her research projects range from a scholarly biography to PBS's *Genealogy Roadshow* & the Travel Channel's *Follow Your Past*. Her current research projects include women's issues in the 20th century and foodways, the intersection of food, culture, traditions, and history.

## Genealogy Classes & Groups

### DNA Basics II: Shared Matches

Thu | Feb 1 | 7:00PM | Virtual - Zoom only

This class focuses on how to use DNA "cousin" matching in your research. Whether it is called "Shared Matches", "In Common With", or some other title, all of the primary DNA companies have tools that allow you to analyze your matches based on the groups that have DNA in common. DNA Basics I is recommended, but not required before attending Basics II. Manning & Luce

### Family Tree Maker User Group

Sat | Feb 3 & Mar 2 | 10:00AM | Virtual - Zoom only

Questions & answers plus demonstration of how to use the Family Tree Maker genealogical database software. This class explores the use of this popular genealogy software program and demonstrates the many features, from the basics of initial entry of family information to more detailed topics. Bryan

### Family Tree Maker 2019 Basics

Tue | Feb 6, 13, 20 & Mar 5, 12 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom

This is a five-part class providing a detailed explanation and demonstration of the many features of this most popular genealogy database program. Hahn

### FUNDamentals of DNA

Wed | Feb 7 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom

Learn DNA fundamentals in a fun yet scholarly way without having to read 5 books! Using easy-to-understand terms with helpful images, we first explain the definitions (like chromosome, SNP, and haplogroup). Then we show you how you can use DNA in genealogy and describe the four kinds of DNA that you can test. If you are new to DNA or a visual learner, this is the place to start your DNA journey! Coffey

### They Lived Where? Using City Directories in Genealogy Research

Thu | Feb 8 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom

City directories are a valuable genealogy resource. They can give information on household composition, residence and business location, and insights into the lives our ancestors led. They can also be used as a substitute for the US Federal Census or used in conjunction with the census to locate hard-to-find ancestors. This class explores the history of this resource, the research value of the information they provide, and where to find the records. Styx

### King Philip's War, 1675 – 1676: Causes & Consequences

Mon | Feb 12 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom

Although largely forgotten, King Philip's War was a widespread conflict that had a significant and long-lasting impact on New England colonists and Native Americans. The class will look at causes leading up to this brutal war, analyze the course of the war, and outline the consequences that helped shape the future of the United States. Fortin

### First Germans in America

Thu | Feb 15 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom

In the 1600s, a ship full of families escaping religious persecution headed to the shores of the New World which began a great migration. If you think these are the Pilgrims, think again! These were Germans who fled to Pennsylvania on the Concord. A watershed moment in history that has been long forgotten, until now. We learn about the political unrest and religious persecution which drove these cousins of William Penn to help found his new colony. And watch as they grow their German town to be a beacon of light for the 7 million Germans who follow. Coffey

### Tour of the Genealogy Center

Sat | Feb 17 | 12:30PM

A guided tour showing the resources available in the Genealogy Center.

### PGS Seminar

Sat | Feb 24 | 8:00AM – 4:00PM

Featuring four presentations by J. Mark Lowe

- Ready, Set, Plan! Developing a One-step Research Plan
- Documenting the "Right" Family While Staying on Track
- Making Those Early Census Records Talk to You
- Finding Your Landless Ancestors

The registration fee for PGS members is \$35 and for non-members is \$40 whether attending in-person or virtually. Box lunches will be available for purchase.

### DNA Interest Group

Tue | Feb 27 & Mar 26 | 1:00PM | Virtual - Zoom only

Every month on the 4th Tuesday. Learn how to interpret your DNA test results and apply those results to your current family history research. Join our casual group as we research and learn together. Manning & Luce

### Immigration and Passenger Lists

Thu | Feb 29 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom

NEW! America is a country built on immigration. What did your ancestors endure to come here? Learn the history from the earliest European explorers through the golden age of immigration when a million foreigners a year arrived to become citizens. Learn what genealogical information the passenger lists provide and where they can be found. Coffey

### Facebook for Genealogy

Tue | Mar 6 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom

You may use Facebook every day sharing family photos and stories, but have you ever thought to use it for genealogy research? We will discuss how to find relatives and search tips, plus the hundreds of Facebook groups dedicated to family history! But before we explain all that, we give an overview and tour to learn how this ubiquitous program actually works, so you can control what you see and what others see about you. Coffey

### DNA Basics III: Ancestry.com

Thu | Mar 7 | 7:00PM | Virtual - Zoom only

By looking at DNA test results through the lens of one of the most popular testing companies, class participants will be able to apply what they have learned in Basics I and II to their understanding of their own test results at Ancestry.com. This class reviews the tools and resources available through Ancestry DNA. While Basics I & II are recommended, they are not required prior to taking this class. Manning & Luce

### Census Tracking

Mon | Mar 11 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom

Probably the fundamental way of using the US Federal Census is to track ancestors from one census year to the next. In that process we seek to uncover relationships and lost or heretofore unknown ancestors. This class shows a strategy on how to do that, using an actual family as an example. In addition, it also shows how to uncover hints on using resources outside of the census itself. Roberson

### Life Aboard Mayflower 1620

Thu | Mar 14 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom

We all know the Mayflower Pilgrims' story of thanksgiving after a grueling winter of failures and death. But how much do we know about this tiny ship with the huge reputation? The Mayflower was their lifeline and their home, where babies were born, and heroes were created as tempest and destruction crashed over them. See what life was like for Saints, Strangers, and Sailors. Learn what it took for the Pilgrims to survive on the Mayflower for 243 days. Coffey

### Identifying Female Ancestors

Mon | Mar 18 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom

The names and parentage of our female ancestors can sometimes be elusive in comparison to our male ancestors. This presentation will look at various types of records that might hold clues to female identities, some techniques for finding the answers, and a case study showing how one such mystery was solved. Fortin

### George Washington's Body Guards

Thu | Mar 21 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom

George Washington took command of the first U.S. Army to protect our new country. Then he trained some of his elite continental soldiers to protect him. Learn the story of the four groups that guarded our future president, the different units he needed and why, and how they protected him to win the war. Redd

### RootsMagic User Group

Sat | Mar 23 | 10:00AM | Virtual - Zoom only

Questions and answers and demonstration of how to use the RootsMagic genealogy database software program. Hagner

### WorldCat and ArchiveGrid: Finding Books, Manuscripts, and More

Mon | Mar 25 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom

A treasure trove of genealogical material is available in books, manuscripts, and other print resources. However, much of this material is scattered in libraries and archives throughout the country. WorldCat and ArchiveGrid are online resources that allow you to search many of these repositories to identify and locate materials on the families and topics you are researching. Fortin

### Occupation in Genealogy Research

Thu | Mar 28 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom

Our ancestors' jobs can reveal so much about their lives. This class explores the world of ancestor occupations--what our ancestors did for a living, where to find that information, and what to do with it once found. Styx

### Family History Assistance Day

Sat | Mar 30 | 11:00AM – 4:00PM

Family History Assistance Day is Back! Bring your research notes and delve further into your family tree with one of our volunteer researchers!

This program is first-come-first serve and sessions are available in person and online. Registration is required for Zoom attendees. Please visit <http://www.pinellasgenealogysociety.com> for more information or to register.





# FRIENDS OF THE LARGO LIBRARY

For inquiries, please email the Friends of Largo Public Library at [lpfriends@gmail.com](mailto:lpfriends@gmail.com)

## A Guilty Pleasure

Romance novels invariably feature a shirtless cowboy on the cover. Or a shirtless stevedore, doctor, lawyer, lumberjack, construction worker, firefighter, policeman, maybe even a shirtless software developer, Wall Street broker or local librarian. Maybe it's a cover with a bare chest and a kilt, or a Brooks Brothers suit jacket open to the navel, or even surgical scrubs gaping open while the doctor performs his miracles. Skin sells. And with romance novels dominating the fiction market with over \$1.44 Billion in revenue and 19 Million printed units sold in 2022, that is a lot of skin. The Friends Bookstore offers romance novels with shirtless hunks promising excitement or enlightenment all for a dollar on the spinning paperback racks or in bags of 10 for \$2.



## Children Welcome in Friends Bookstore

Abraham and Frankie discover that books and friendship go together. They've come to the Friends Bookstore with their moms to browse our extensive offerings of children's books and illustrated classics, and for older children, YA books and graphic novels. Nothing is better than sitting on a bench with sunlight streaming in while sharing a drink and a book!



## Largo City Commission Recognizes the Friends of Largo Library

The Friends of Largo Library was recently recognized by the Largo City Commission during the national Friends of Libraries Week. Libraries can appear under attack these days, and such official government recognition of libraries and their Friends support groups validates and reinforces the central importance in our democracy of free and open access to library collections to all citizens.

On this occasion, the Friends displayed a ceremonial check for \$92,000 to support ongoing library programs (expansion of e-book collection and access, subsidies to the countywide Pinellas library system) and to initiate new community outreaches (Freedom to Read campaigns, Florida Humanities Speaker Series, library volunteer monitoring system). This \$92,000 represents a lot of \$1 book sales in the Friends Bookstore, a lot of \$10+ book sales on the Friends Amazon site, and a generous philanthropic bequest from the estate of Leslie Chandler.



This photo features, L to R, Friends board members Carolynn Reed, Pat Bell, Jackie Guthrie, Assistant Library Director Geri Remming, Library Director Casey McPhee, Friends President Ben Wiley, Largo Mayor Woody Brown, and Friends board members Dorothy Borst and Karen LaCorte-Nies.



# GREATER LARGO LIBRARY FOUNDATION

## A Special Tribute

One of the many great programs offered in the Children's Department at the Largo Public Library is Pup Pals Reading Dogs.



The Pup Pals Reading Program gives children between the ages of 5 and 12 the opportunity to read out aloud to trained therapy dogs to help improve their reading skills and help them build confidence in their reading. Many children who attend the program have their favorite dog to read to each month. One of these children was Joseph, who formed a special bond with registered therapy dog Conrad. Joseph read to Conrad for many years. Joseph would run to Conrad when the program doors opened and immediately sit down and begin to read to him.

Conrad passed away last year at age 15. Joseph and his family wanted to honor his memory and have a special place at the library to remember him. They chose to purchase a commemorative brick arrangement offered through the Greater Largo Library Foundation to remember Conrad. The commemorative bricks to honor Conrad will be placed around the planter box at the entrance to the library.

## Foundation Presents Check to Graduate



The Greater Largo Library Foundation presented a scholarship check to Heather Wagman on December 14, 2023. Heather graduated from Largo Public Library's Career Online High School last year. Now that Heather has her high school diploma,

she is determined to reach bigger goals. She is working on earning her real estate license (that is what she is using the post-COHS scholarship for). Heather believes this work will enable her to have a career and buy her family their forever home and help others do so as well.

For more information about Largo Public Library's Career Online High School please contact Katherine Moser Kelly, Community Services Librarian at 727-587-6715 X 2547 or [kkelly@largo.com](mailto:kkelly@largo.com)

## Nan Colton Returns as Harriet Beecher Stowe

**Nan Colton will return to the Largo Public Library on Thursday, April 18, 2024.**

Nan wowed the audience last year with her portrayal of one of literature's most famous mavens of murder mysteries, Agatha Christie. Nan is an accomplished playwright, director, storyteller, actress and arts educator who has performed and lectured professionally on stages throughout South Africa, Great Britain, and the United States.



Tickets will go on sale beginning March 1. Please visit the Foundation website at [www.gllf.org](http://www.gllf.org) or Facebook page for additional information.

## Successful Donor Match Fundraising Drive

During the month of December, a generous donor stepped forward to match all donations made to the Greater Largo Library Foundation, dollar for dollar, up to \$15,000. The Foundation is pleased to announce that the goal was reached and the full match was made. Thank you to all the Foundation donors who contributed to the success of this special initiative.

The Foundation supports multiple programs at the Largo Public Library as well as the expense of operating the Bookmobile, which will continue to expand our reach to those in the community who are not able to physically come to the library.

To learn more about the Greater Largo Library Foundation or to make a tax-deductible donation please visit our website at [www.gllf.org](http://www.gllf.org) or contact the Foundation Office at (727) 586-7398.







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PHONE 727.586.7390  
FAX 727.586.7391

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