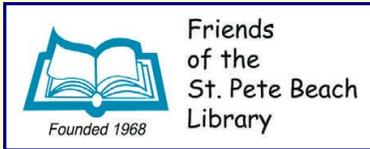


Tidings



Spring 2015

News for Patrons of the St. Pete Beach Library

Tim Dorsey's January 28th Visit

Dressed, as always, in his trademark tropical shirt, popular author and raconteur, Tim Dorsey, once again made the library a venue on his yearly book promotion tour. His latest work is *Shark Skin Suite*.

For several years, Tim has included our library on his schedule when he introduces his most recent work. He very skillfully piques interest in each adventure showcasing his main character Serge Storms, Florida history buff and ingenious serial killer, without actually giving away the plot of the story.

Always easy and personable, Tim is as much entertainer as author. His personal anecdotes keep everyone laughing, while causing him to blush frequently. He's at his best interacting with the audience, many of whom asked about his character development and where he gets ideas for his characters. Are any of them based upon people he knows—the answer is yes! Coleman is based on a real-life friend of Tim's by the name of Coleman. Tim confessed that he uses Serge as a mouthpiece for expressing his own ideas.

Tim revealed that he sometimes comes up with ideas for new characters based on people he meets during his tours. For example, a particularly pushy woman



insisted upon Tim's attention telling him that she had "important information for your next book and you're walking away from me!" Tim decided that when he incorporates a character based on this woman in a future book, he will surely come up with some ingenious idea for killing her off. You take your revenge where you can!

Tim usually brings theme-related items for sale, such as tee-shirts, mugs, and naturally, books. This year two new items were added to the offerings: two flavors of hot sauce given names related to characters and places in his books: Follow Nobody Hot Sauce and Myakka River Jam. His themed merchandise is a treat for his many fans.

If you haven't yet experienced one of Tim's visits, join us the next time he comes to the library at the invitation of the Friends. You'll receive plenty of notice of the event on library calendars and Friends newsletters. We promise a highly entertaining evening and good things to eat and drink!

Incidentally, for all you Dorsey fans waiting for the next book, Tim has already submitted the manuscript for Serge's next big adventure to his publisher.

Would You Like to Sponsor a Magazine Subscription?

If you would like to make a contribution to the library in 2015, please consider sponsoring one of the magazine subscriptions that the library purchases for its patrons. Your sponsorship would enable the library to extend its budget for the purchase of additional desirable materials for the community. You can see the various magazines to which the library subscribes in the periodicals section. Please see one of the staff at the circulation desk for more information about how to become a sponsor.

Thank you for supporting your library!



Phyllis's Space—Library Administrator's Report

WELCOME The unexpected resignation of part-time Library Clerk Cynthia Horst gave us the opportunity to hire Jan Pellegrino into this position. Jan is a long-time resident of SPB and has been a Library volunteer for many years. Fortunately, she was able to step in as our newest staff member immediately during the very busy "winter" months when our seasonal residents are here. Also, changes have occurred in the Library Advisory Committee membership. Steve Traiman was recently appointed by Commissioner Finnerty and the sad passing of John "Ken" Hurley, who served for several years, has created yet another vacancy on the Library Advisory Committee.



TBT Donation The Tampa Bay Times made a very generous donation to the Library at the start of 2015. Newly released books that their editorial staff receive from publishers for review throughout the year are offered to public libraries as a free donation. Our Library was fortunate to receive several hundred books, many of which were added to our collection. Those not selected for inclusion were a windfall for our Friends Bookstore customers. The Library graciously accepts all donations of relatively recent copyright and in acceptable condition. Often donated titles are used to replace our existing, but extremely worn copies of well-read books or help augment what is purchased with finite funds. This is a very useful way of expanding or "refreshing" the breadth of books available for our patrons.



BASKETS OF BOOKS The Silent Auction of Baskets of Books both for the Holidays and Spring is always a successful fundraising project of the Friends of SPB Library. Ron Waters, the Friends Bookstore Manager, is the talented leader of these projects. During the Holiday auction, 19 baskets reflecting a variety of themes, were sold to the highest bidders, raising \$1,800 and the 10 Spring baskets of books auctioned off brought in an additional \$900. This money goes directly into the Friends savings to eventually be contributed to making a "new" Library a reality for this community.

BUILDING UPDATE City officials seem to be in agreement about the need for a new SPB Library but are undecided about the location and design. The original plan to expand and renovate the existing building remains an option. An alternate option of moving the Library to the current City Hall building is being reconsidered since the former Police Station facility has been assessed to be unacceptable as a relocated City Hall. The recently hired Community Development Director and the vacancy in the Public Services Director position will no doubt further delay any determination about the future of the Library. The good news is that, at the request of the City Manager and the articulate advocacy of the City Mayor, the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative Board of Directors has approved a 12-month extension of the \$200,000 grant awarded to the City in 2013. In order to avoid forfeiting this grant funding, the City will have to approve a plan and have progress toward a new Library significantly underway by February, 2016. **SPB residents need to show their support of the Library building project by expressing their opinions of the various building options to City Commissioners, the Mayor, and the City Manager.** All resident input as well as donations to the ongoing *Reimagine* fundraising campaign would be most appreciated.

PLEASE show your



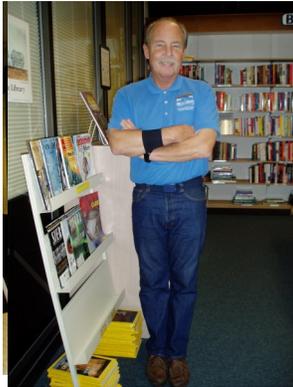
FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Contact the Friends:
 Phone: (727) 363-9238
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Tidings is published quarterly by the Friends of the St. Pete Beach Library to provide the community with news about the library's activities. New members are always welcome. To join and support your library, please use the form on the back of this newsletter.

Friends Board - Spotlight on Ron Waters

Most library patrons are aware that there's a bookstore in the library just to the right as you enter the library. The bookstore has become the Friends most important fund-raising arm, currently bringing in from \$1,000—\$1,500 a month. This success is due to the talent and dedication of Friends Board Member, Ron Waters, also the Friends Bookstore Manager for the past 6 years.



Ron moved to St. Pete Beach in 2003 and began using the library and participating in the book discussion group. He credits his recruitment to the Friends Board with the fact that he was the only male attendee at the book discussions, so former Board member, Barbara Moody, thought he would be a good addition to the Friends Board of Directors, where he's been since 2007.

Early efforts to get a bookstore underway were being handled by another former Board member, Marie Stock, who passed away in 2013. Ron volunteered to help her and, slowly but surely, items for sale were organized by category and displayed on shelves, tables, and carts, making it easier for patrons to find items to purchase. Our bookstore has become one of the best organized public library bookstore in the area.

Ron reached Florida via his life's cross-country journey from his birthplace in Seattle, upbringing in Alaska (he survived the strongest earthquake every recorded), to a 34-year career in varied locations with Air Canada, retiring as Director of Passenger Sales U.S.A. He says that retirement and remarriage resulted in relocation to his present home in Pass-A-Grille, where he enjoys the village atmosphere with its eclectic mix of residents, and the weather. Hopefully, his valuable experience with earthquakes have prepared him for hurricanes!

Over the years, Ron has served on his condo board, served for 4 years on the city's Library Advisory Board, and currently serves on the Board of the Gulf Beaches Historical Museum. He also graduated from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Citizens' Academy and is also a graduate of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Advisory Board, which provides citizen feedback to the Sheriff's Department.

As a dedicated library volunteer, Ron hopes that the community continues its awareness of the contribution the library makes as a cultural asset to residents and visitors alike.

Would You Like to Donate Books & Magazines to the Library?

The library is looking for gently used books that can replace items needed in the library's collection or can be sold in the Friends Bookstore.

When donated books come into the library, they are first reviewed by library staff to see if they can be used in the library's collection, thus saving some budget money. Those not selected by staff are reviewed by Bookstore Manager, Ron Waters, who selects suitable items to place on bookstore shelves for the regular bookstore price or on a sale cart. Ron is often able to use some of the donated books to create themed auction baskets, which have provided

excellent fund-raising results.

Magazines are very popular and sell quickly. Please donate those you no longer need that are more recent and in good condition.

Non-saleable items are donated to either the Salvation Army or St. Vincent de Paul. Ron disposes of those in unusable condition.

If you have books or magazines in good condition that you'd like to donate, please put them in boxes and deliver to the library. Thanks to the many patrons who have already donated items!

Floridians Value Their Public Libraries



An independent, academic study was completed several years ago to determine what the “economic return on investment” is for the taxpayers in the state of Florida for total \$\$ allocated to public libraries. The study was replicated in 2013 and the results are once again significant.

The basics:

82 million people visited the 555 public libraries in our state this past year.

126 million items were checked out by 9.5 million patrons with their public library card.

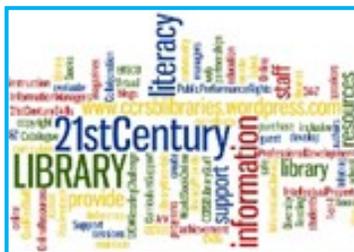
Of the monies to support public libraries, 90% is from local taxes while only 5% comes from the state.

The results:

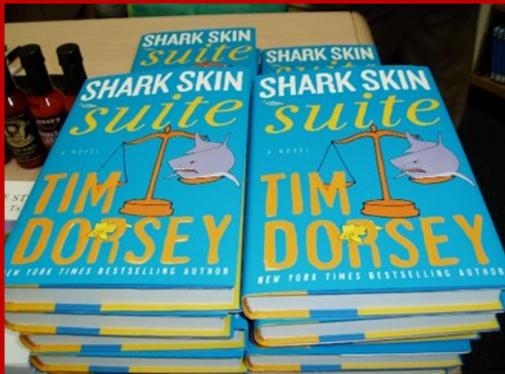


Other indicators from the study emphasize the value placed on access to public libraries by state residents. Approximately 62% think public libraries increase the value of their property; 84% consider the information made available via public libraries as either *important* or *essential*, and 90% consider their local public library “an essential service, like a school”.

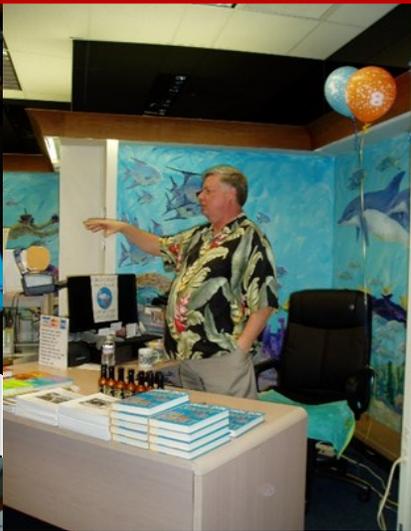
Once again, thank you to the FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Institute of Museum and Library Services for funding this study and sharing the results with the citizens of Florida.



Photos: An Evening with Tim Dorsey



Tim's most recent book in his Serge Storms series.



Tim regales his audience with hilarious anecdotes about his life and works.



The Friends provided a delicious spread with cubanitos, cookies, fruit, wine, and soft drinks.



Steve and Bonnie Traiman look over books and themed merchandise that Tim offers for sale.



An SRO crowd attended Tim's book signing.



Friends Directors Joanne Lentino and Steve Traiman with Tim and his latest book.



Now available: two hot sauces based on characters and settings inn Tim's books.

Schedule of Events for April, May, June 2015

*National Library Week: April 12th thru April 18th

*IRS Tax Filing Deadline Wednesday 4/15

*LIBRARY CLOSED Memorial Day Monday 5/25

ADULT PROGRAMS:

SHINE—Planning for Medicare Monday 4/13 6:30 pm

Empath Health Monday 4/20 11:00 am

Introduction to Online Genealogy Basics Wednesday 5/20 2:00 pm

Ray Kulla of A.S.P.E.C. Monday 5/11 3:00 pm “A Short History of Blues Music”

BOOK DISCUSSION:

Book Discussion: Tuesday 4/21 10:30 am, *The Yearling* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

Book Discussion Film: Tuesday 4/28 10:30 am, *The Yearling*

Book Discussion: Tuesday 5/19 10:30 am, *Pompeii* by Robert Harris

Book Discussion Film: Tuesday 5/26 10:30 am *Pompeii*

Book Discussion: Tuesday 6/16 10:30 am *The Monuments Men* by Robert Edsel

Book Discussion Film: Tuesday 6/23 10:30 am *The Monuments Men*

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS:

Mother Goose Time: Thursdays 11:00 am 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, (No Mother Goose 5/14), 5/21, 5/28, 6/4, 6/11, 6/18, 6/25

Mother Goose Time (Ages 3—5): Thursdays 3:00 pm 5/21, 5/28, 6/4, 6/11, 6/18, 6/25

I Want to be a Skeeter Reader: Thursdays 4:00 pm 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28, 6/4, 6/11, 6/18, 6/25

Summer Reading/Listening Clubs Signup Wednesday 6/3

FAMILY PROGRAMS: Mondays 5:30 pm 6/8, 6/15, 6/22, 6/29. Come and enjoy an evening of interactive activities that include books, apps, games, crafts, and more based on the summer’s theme of “Heroes.”

TECH PROGRAMS:

E-Reader Help Hour: Tuesdays 3:00 pm 4/7, 4/21, 5/5, 5/19, 6/2, 6/16

I Just Got My iPad, Now What?: Tuesdays 10:30 am 4/7, 5/5, 6/9 and Wednesdays 10:30 am 4/15, 5/13, 6/17

iPad App of the Month: Wednesday 10:30 am 4/1

E-Books for iPad: Wednesday 10:30 4/8; Fridays 10:30 am 5/15, 6/19

More iPad Tuesday 10:30 am 4/14, Wednesday 10:30 am 5/6, 6/10

Florida Electronic Library Overview Wednesday 2:00 pm 5/27, 6/24

Florida Electronic Library Career Transitions Friday 10:30 am 5/29, 6/26

New for You at the St. Pete Beach Library!

Streaming Videos
Now Available to

all patrons

through our online
vendor OVERDRIVE

Free with your
PPLC Library Card

NOW AVAILABLE

YOU too can own a
St. Pete Beach Public
Library Tote Bag.

They are available
for purchase at
at the Library's
Circulation Desk

\$10 each

Canvas Tote w/
choice of Navy
or Burgundy Trim



Learn a New Language with ***PRONUNCIATOR!***

As of last October 1st, ***Pronunciator***, a new language software, replaced *Mango*. The new software, like *Mango*, is accessed through the database section at the library's web page. This new online language-learning system allows you to choose from over 80 languages - from Afrikaans to Xhosa! It also includes ESL for speakers of 50 non-English languages. You can use it right in your browser and there's an app available to use on your mobile device.

The library looks forward to receiving reviews of the new software from users.

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.*



Friends
of the
St. Pete Beach
Library

2015 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

_____ new _____ renewal

Name(s) _____ Email _____
Mailing Address _____
City/State _____ Zip _____
Phone (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

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**

Note: Membership dues and other donations to the Friends may be tax-deductible. Ask your financial advisor.
*You may pay by check, cash, or credit card at the library during regular business hours.

I would like to help with:

_____ Bookstore/Sales
_____ Fundraising

_____ Programs
_____ Membership

_____ Publicity/Promotion
_____ Board Officer

Friends of the St. Pete Beach Library
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