

Friends OF THE St. Petersburg Main Library

SEPTEMBER 2017 3745 9th Ave. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33713 • Visit www.splibraries.org

Tony Pepper, Young Adults Librarian for the Entire Library System

— By Mandy Morris —

Several library staff members will have new job titles at the end of September. New to the Main Library, and shared with other libraries in the St. Petersburg library system, is Tony Pepper, Young Adults Librarian. He has been involved in planning and coordinating the Library's STEAM Program (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math).

Anthony Pepper has a Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences with concentrations in Anthropology and Political Science and a minor in Leadership Studies. He received a Masters in Library and Information Science in 2016. This is his first position as a librarian, but prior to this he served as a Library Assistant at the Barbara S. Ponce Public Library in Pinellas

Park where he worked in Youth Services. He started programming for toddlers and preschoolers as well as middle school kids, but it was when participating in programming for the monthly teen events that he found his calling.

Anthony's approach to programming for teens is to "go to where they are", which is to say, find out what they're interested in, what they like to do with their free time and find ways to craft programs based on that. Young people of that age face a lot of pressure from a variety of sources so participation in a library event shouldn't feel like work to them. "It's our job to come up with creative ways to engage with them on



Photo by Lorraine Franckle

Tony Pepper will be the Library System's Young Adult Librarian

their level while also getting across our core library values. When asked, Anthony also shared "I'm also a firm believer that young people should be involved with the creation of their own programs; therefore, I look forward to starting a Teen Advisory Board to get input directly from them. This will also

help with raising awareness amongst their peers.

Anthony is very eager to begin crafting programs that engage the imaginations of our community's young people and that teach them valuable skills, but most importantly, he's looking forward to creating lifetime library-lovers like all of us!

A Presentation of the Friends of the Main Library:

Florida Gardening with Malory Foster

Saturday, Sept. 30 • 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
at the Main Library Auditorium
3745 9th Ave. N., St. Pete

Malory Foster will speak on seasonal gardening in St. Pete. Learn what to plant and how to care for it.



The author, Mandy Morris, is currently Acquisitions & Technical Services Coordinator, St. Petersburg Library System. She will assume the role of Youth Services Coordinator in October.

Your Involvement Requested

Friends of the Main Library seeks volunteers and board members.

LEARN MORE at our next board meeting: Thursday, Sept. 28 at 4 p.m. at the Main Library, 3745 9th Ave. N., St. Pete.



The Friends of the St. Petersburg Main Library, established in 1961, recognizes the value of our great library and celebrates all it has to offer. Friends' membership dollars and donations support the library's outstanding collections, resources and programs — free and accessible to all.

• FRIENDS OF •
THE ST. PETERSBURG
MAIN LIBRARY

Board of Directors

Lorraine Franckle – *President*
Mozelle Bell – *Secretary*

.....
Barbara Borden
Janis Froelich
Jim Hance

Library Staff

Mika S. Nelson – *City Director*
Lila Denning – *Director of Main Library*
Paula Alexis – *Adult Services Coordinator*
Mandy Morris – *Youth Services Coordinator*
Tony Pepper – *Young Adults Librarian*

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

**Florida Gardening
with Malory Foster**
Saturday, Sept. 30, 2017
2 p.m.

To Be Announced
Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017

**Dr. Robert Williams
Directs the St. Pete
College Titans Korale**
Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017

To Be Announced
Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017

Antiques Evaluation Fair
Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018

To Be Announced
Saturday, Feb. 17, 2018

Authors Panel
Saturday, Mar. 17, 2018

To Be Announced
Saturday, Apr. 24, 2018

Find us on 

Visit and “Like” us at
[facebook.com/Friends of the
St Petersburg Main Library](https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-the-St-Petersburg-Main-Library)

How a Book Challenge Works

— President’s Message By Lorraine Franckle —

Last year, one of the books selected to be read in the Young Adult division for the “One City, One Book” citywide read was one that I read and thought was a very poor choice. It was full of cursing, the f-word and situations that I didn’t think teens need further exposure to, such as bullying, domestic violence, racial and gender discrimination, and teen drug use. I really wondered how such a book could be encouraged and even promoted for teenagers to read.

And then I saw the title appear on the Top Ten Challenged Books of 2016. I was not the only person who thought the book inappropriate.

What is a challenged book? What is a banned book? Who can ban a book? Fill out the Banned Book Form and submit it to the library or school. Parents can request a book be removed from a school curriculum, and patrons can request removal of a book from a library. This constitutes a challenge. While the challenged book is reviewed, the book remains on the shelves.

Although hundreds of books are challenged each year, only about 10% are actually removed from the location where the challenge took place.

The most common reasons listed for challenging a book are: offensive language, profanity, sexual explicitness, LGBT content, inappropriate sexuality for young adults, transgender content, offensive political viewpoints, and drug use.

If a book contains content you do not want your child/grandchild to read, it is the parent’s responsibility to decide what material is appropriate for their family.

We each need to make our own decision. If we ban reading material, we are removing these materials for others to read, others who may not agree with our objections. Germany under Nazi Rule and the burning of books in the city square is an example of banning taken to the extreme? Burning pages doesn’t destroy the ideas contained within. When ideas are repressed, First Amendment rights are suppressed. The voices of storytellers are trampled.

So, what do you want: a free and open press or censorship? It is an individual decision.

*“Winning doesn’t always mean
getting first place; it means getting
the best out of yourself.”*

— Meb Keflezighi

BOOK REVIEW: *The Walk* by Richard Evans

— Reviewed By Barbara Borden —

A friend suggested I read *The Walk* a fast, easy summer read. The opening statement sparked my interest: “According to legend, once the sand of Key West is in your shoes you cannot go back from whence you came.” I knew once I began reading that I was going to fly through the pages until the very end. Walking away from it all takes on a new thought provoking meaning.

What would you do if you lost everything—your job, your home, and the love of your life—all at the same time? When it happened to Seattle ad executive Alan Christoffersen, he’s tempted to end his misery. Instead he decides to take a walk: a life changing journey both physical and spiritual. Finding a map, Alan spreads it out, examines it, and plots his course. Packing up a camping backpack,

fastening on quality hiking boots, he sets out on his journey.

The characterization of Alan is simple and very real. The characters along the journey help Allan shed some light into the dark areas of his life. The book ends with an unexpected cliff hanger.

The Walk is the first in a series of 5 short books. The library has several copies of Evans’ books.

BOOK REVIEW:

The Vanishing American Adult

— Reviewed By Neil Franckle —

The Vanishing American Adult: Our coming of age crisis and how to rebuild a culture of self-reliance by Sen. Ben Sasse

The author argues that there is a crisis in today's society. Many of our youth are derailed on the path to adulthood, threatening the development of strong, independent adults and the integrity of our society.

Sen. Sasse, prior to his political career, was the president of Midland University in Fremont, NE. He is also a parent, who with his wife Melissa, helps home-school their three children.

Sasse's experience has led him to diagnose a serious problem in the current generation: adolescents today are not only NOT growing up on schedule, but they don't have the tools to become adults. The transitional phase

of adolescence has been extended, lasting into the mid-twenties. While he disclaims assigning blame for this problem to the present-day environment or enabling parents for dereliction of duty in guiding them successfully to adulthood, it is hard to escape that conclusion.

The solution involves the inculcation of character and core values into the adolescent: such old-fashioned virtues as hard work and an understanding of other people's deprivation.

Sasse discusses five main pillars of character building. He offers compelling and timely solutions. Boxes at the end of each chapter feature helpful suggestions for implementing change.

Sasse sees the problem as fixable, with the parents being a large part of the solution.

COMMENTARY

Censorship is Alive and Well

— By Lorraine Franckle —

Banned Book Week, Sept. 24–30, is the annual celebration of the freedom to read, sponsored by the American Library Association. Don't get distracted by the title. The idea being promoted is that of intellectual freedom: freedom to seek, publish, read and express ideas, even some ideas considered unorthodox or unpopular.

You might think censorship does not exist in our country, but that is not the case. In January 2017, the Tucson Unified School District decided to dis-solve its highly praised Mexican-American Studies Program, judging it to be racially divisive, and banning it from public schools. Teachers were fired, books were boxed in front of astonished students, and classes were suspended as classrooms were stripped of

“banned” materials.

Recently, it is not only sexually offensive material likely to be banned, but political and social history which causes some of the powerful “ins” to hide inconvenient truths, calling them unpleasant and dangerous. Think Post Civil-War Reconstruction in the South.

Texas is a leader in banning books from school libraries: *To Kill a Mockingbird* is labeled as politically, racially and socially offensive, and Poe's short story, *The Tell-Tale Heart*, was banned for violence and horror offensive to religious sensitivities.

So although we may not like the content, the right to publish and distribute information, especially historically accurate information, is endangered in some areas of the country. Let's keep truth alive: Support banned books.

Computer Access A Valuable Community Resource

— By Zach Heath, Librarian I —

St. Petersburg Main Library offers free computer access to the community, as part of our mission to Inform, Connect, and Empower. St. Petersburg Main Library has 44 general use computers with internet access, Microsoft Office, and printing capability. Many patrons rely on our computers to search and apply for jobs, to apply for benefits such as unemployment, healthcare, housing, and food assistance, and to complete school assignments. Our patrons also research topics of interest, keep up-to-date on the news, stay connected with friends and family through e-mail and social media sites, and shop online. The library's subscription to Ancestry Library

Edition is available exclusively on library computers. Many people enjoy using our computers for playing games or watching videos. Out-of-town visitors are also welcome to use the computers; our new 15-minute express computer is perfect for printing airline boarding passes.

Main Library also has computers dedicated for use by young people. Our Youth Services area has eight computers for children ages 12 and under, with internet access and educational games, including the library's subscription to ABC Mouse. Three computers are reserved solely for our teen patrons, and frequently used for homework or gaming. We also have four new parent computers,

allowing adults to use a computer while keeping an eye on their children in the nearby Youth Services area.

Each week, library staff and community partners offer free classes in our computer lab. The ten computers in the lab are available for public use as a quiet zone when classes are not in session. In addition to scheduled classes, library staff also assist computer users when they need help.

An average of 6800 users per month log on to the public computers at Main Library. The community uses these computers for information, for entertainment, and in many cases, as a lifeline.

**FRIENDS OF
ST. PETERSBURG
MAIN LIBRARY**

3745 Ninth Ave. N.
St. Petersburg , FL 33713-6001

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Petersburg, FL
Permit No. 1145

**SEPTEMBER 2017
NEWSLETTER**

Main Library Phone: 727-893-7724
Main Library Website: www.splibraries.org

Main Library Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday:

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday:

10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday: Noon – 6:00 p.m.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 MEMBERS!

Alton & Mary Barbineau
James Barnes, Judith Wacha
Mozelle Bell
Sharon Bond
Hack & Barbara Borden
Dr Charles & Nancy Christ
Mary Cross
Ruth Dady
Harry & Margaret Eisenaugle
Ellen Esteva
Nancy Fernandez
Neil & Lorraine Franckle
Janis Froelich
Steward & Elizabeth Goldie

Leslie Greene
Jim Hance
Dr. & Mrs. Mack Hicks
Edith & John Holtzclaw
Larry Hooker & Francis Gallagher
James Kennedy
Kathleen & Peter Lefferson
Joanne Lentino
Morris & Marilyn Levine
Sheryl Long
Dorothy Longstaff
Cheryl MacNeill
Roger & Nancy Martindale
Al May
Mary Anne Mulder

Vincent & Judith Murante
John & Nancy Ogden
Linda Paul
Jean Reed
William Rollins
MaryAnne Rouse
Dr Francis Schattenberg
Jimmy & Joann Schmal
Sharron Scott
Linnea Sennott
Sydney Shollenberger
Dolores & Jesse Smith
Ruth & James Thurman
Leslie Waters