



Friends of the Cape Coral Library

Winter Update

Welcome New Members

Kara Bourk
Ashley Braccia
Jayme Dillard
Christina DeMarco

Joseph Gonzalez
Teresa Ost
Craig Patricola
Allen Thomas

Welcome to our new members listed above and the 27 of you who joined us in 2025 (including 4 lifetime members!) For those of you who haven't renewed your membership - or know someone who wants to join - you can now do so online at capefriends.org. Signing up online saves time and postage. Membership is the lifeblood of our organizations, allowing us to continue to support the library in so many ways. In 2025 we were able to provide \$19,000 worth of programming and other upgrades to our library! Renew, rejoin or join for the first time today!

[Renew or Join](#)

January General Meeting



Forty five members and guests attended our January 17th General Membership meeting. The program for this meeting was an excellent presentation by the Scientists' Society of Southwest Florida that encourages careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and

Mathematics (STEM). Guest speakers included Jacquelin Collins, the current president of the society; Trudy Sampson, liaison for funded programs and scholarship chair; Dave Sampson, science fair judge coordinator; and board of directors member Dick Devlin. In addition, the president of the Cape Coral Solar Car Club, Mason Huffman, spoke about the projects that keep so many local students engaged in the club's fun and educational STEM activities. Special thanks to our Friends of the Cape Coral Library member and publicity director for the scientists' society, Paula Martinez, who recommended this interesting program topic for our first FOCCL general meeting of the new year.



Congratulations and welcome to the Board of Directors Barabara Nightingale our new assistant treasurer! Shown here with former president Maria Maddalena at our January meeting.

UPCOMING Events

Burrowing Owl Festival

This festival is a family day of fun featuring live animals and birds, wonderful guest speakers, a silent auction, guided tours of our Tom Allen Memorial Butterfly House, a children’s corner with face painting and educational activities, fun food and beverages, and of course guided tours of nature around Cape Coral. The Friends of Cape Coral Library will have a booth at the festival to encourage children to draw pictures and enter our Coloring The Earth Art Contest.



Southwest Florida Reading Festival



Saturday, March 7 10AM-4PM

27 Years Celebrating the Power of Reading!

This free annual Festival incites a passion for reading. Renew your interest in reading as the Festival authors are announced. Hear an author speak at the Festival and get inspired to borrow or buy the book, maybe even to write one of your own! The FOCCL will be sponsoring author Wally Lamb and will have a booth for the Children's Coloring the Earth Art Contest. Don't miss what is sure to be a fun filled day for lovers of reading and literacy!



Saturday, March 21

General Membership Meeting

9:30 AM

Join us for light refreshments in the library meeting room at 9:30 followed by a short business meeting- after which we will have what's certain to be an interesting and informative presentation from the Brotherhood of Heroes Resource Center and Museum. The

Brotherhood of Heroes Museum hopes to educate the community as well as honor First Responders and Military Service Personnel through our exhibits that capture the dramatic events that shaped our nation.



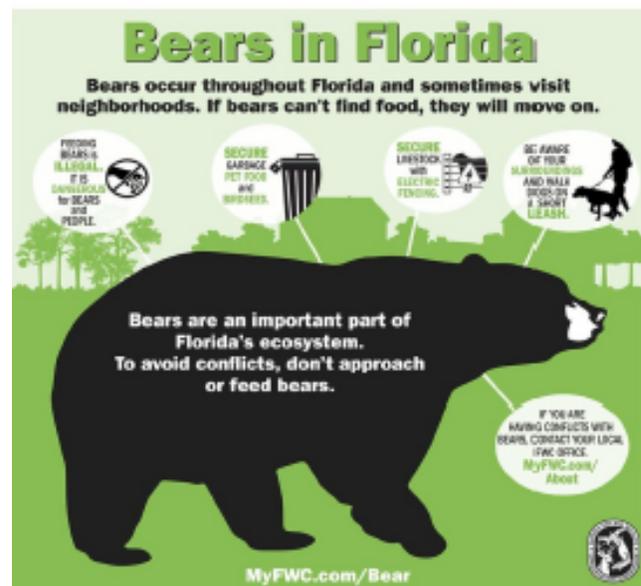
Festival Volunteers

We will need volunteers to man booths at both the Burrowing Owl Festival and SWFL Reading festivals above. It's a fun way to spend a Saturday drawing with little ones and sharing information with them to create something special.

The theme of this year's is the Florida Black Bear which is sure to be a hit with the kiddos! If you can give some time for either festival please reach out to us through our website capefriends.org

Believe it or not- our April book sale is right around the corner!

Set up day is Wednesday April 15th and the sale will run from Thursday (members only) through Saturday -April 16-18.



Volunteers are needed for all days. We will have sign up sheets at our March 21st meeting or you can email your availability to booksale@capefriends.org



President's Message



Dear Friends,

Here we are almost two months into 2026! Our “cold” weather is hopefully behind us and we can stop hunkering down, enjoy the beautiful Florida weather and get busy. Being a friend gives us plenty of opportunities to be out and about in February and March. We will have a presence at both the Burrowing Owl and Southwest Florida Reading Festivals. You can stop by our booth and help children with their drawings for the Environmental Art Contest (and maybe learn something about the Florida black bear yourself!). This year we are pleased to sponsor author Wally Lamb at the Reading Festival. Check out the festival’s website <http://readfest.org> for information on all the authors and activities for children and adults. When you’re at the library, step outside and visit the butterfly garden (located behind the main circulation desk). It’s a quiet oasis funded by the FOCCL and tended year round by the Garden Club of Cape Coral. Of course there are plenty of indoor things to do as well - don’t miss our General Membership meeting on March 21st when we will host the

Brotherhood of Heroes- but it sure is nice to be able to get out and enjoy our famous sunshine here in southwest Florida and celebrate literacy at the same time!

Teresa Goulding



The FOCCL are happy to sponsor in part with other Lee County Library Friends a program of online author events. Each month a bestselling, award-winning, and highly acclaimed author from around the world will be featured in this new program.. These featured writers and thought leaders cover a wide range of fiction and nonfiction genres. Participants have the opportunity to ask questions and interact with the author. All presentations are available on demand after the live event. Registration is required. For more information and to register go to [LSC | Watch | Lee County Library System Online Author Events](https://www.library.org/LSC/Watch/OnlineAuthorEvents) (library.org)



The first exhibition of the new year in the spacious art gallery of the Cape Coral Library features work by talented members of the North Fort Myers Arts Association (NFMAA) gracing all the walls and the three illuminated display cases. The Library is located at 921 SW 39th Terrace, off of Mohawk Parkway, and the exhibit will be open for viewing free of

charge during their business hours. The exhibition includes over a hundred pieces of art in a wide variety of different media such as three-dimensional figures, fabric art, woodwork, jewelry, photography, mixed-media creations, and many paintings. Visitors to the Library will enjoy the work of the following NFMAA artists: Jeannette Batko, Judy Biddle, Cindy Cone, Pam Cupp, Leonor Gomez, Sunny Lee, Jasmine M. of Art n'Designz, Ken Maddox, Sheilana Massey, Gail Novak, Ron Powell, Gilberto Sanchez, Jola Mart Shani, Donna Sillars, Joan White, Mari Witherspoon, and Rosie Young.



Website: CapeFriends.org

Photos from Events: CapeFriends.org/events-photos

Annual Calendar: CapeFriends.org/calendar

Follow us on Facebook: [Friends of the Cape Coral Library](https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-the-Cape-Coral-Library)

Hotline Message Ph.# 239-349-2572

Cape Coral Public Library [Calendar of Events](#).

Contact Library Ph.# 239-533-4500

Subscribe to Library newsletter:

<https://www.leegov.com/library/stayconnected>

We have moved to a new email delivery provider. Let us know if you have any issues.
You received this email because you subscribed to our list or are a member of the Friends. You can [unsubscribe](#) at any time.

PO Box 152471
Cape Coral, Florida 33915-2471
USA

Sent with  EmailOctopus

