



Friends to Friends

Supporting and Promoting South County Regional Library

Vol. 1 No. 1

Fall 2004

Your library: Books and more mean 166,000 items for you to experience

Plans for the South County Regional Library (SCRL) in Estero began in 1989, when the need to keep up with the rapid growth of south Lee County became evident. At the same time the Lee County Library System began planning a regional system of service to make in-depth collections available while reducing duplication of resources.


The 32,600-square-foot South County Regional Library opened August 23, 1996 and was presented as a model of recycling and conservation. The building was originally a data processing center, and many of the fixtures were reused or recycled. A partnership with Florida Power and Light resulted in an innovative air conditioning system, still in use today, that freezes ice during off hours to cool the building in peak hours. The construction cost \$2.5 million, and the aggregate budget was \$6 million.

The library on Three Oaks Parkway quickly became an Estero landmark. Registered users total more than 22,150, and circulation of materials exceeds more than 45,000 most months. Total circulation for Fiscal Year 2002 – 2003 was 467,684, and this year's circulation figures are far exceeding previous years.

Community groups take advantage of the library's 99-seat meeting room and two quiet study rooms where tutors and students can meet.

Computer training classes for the public are offered regularly in the library's computer lab. Several of Lee County's system-wide library services operate out of SCRL, including the Bookmobile, the Books-by-Mail program, and the multicultural program.

The South County Regional Library has gained a reputation for offering the community a variety of programming: Baby-Parent Rhyme Times, toddler and pre-school story times, after school programs, puppet shows, summer reading activities, Teen Cafés, and game and craft sessions for children of all ages. Book discussions, humanities programs, and scholar-led discussion series draw adults to the library.

SCRL offers more than 166,250 items, including regular and large type books, magazines and newspapers, videos and DVDs, books on CD and audiocassettes, and music CDs. The library also offers full Internet service and access to a number of licensed databases and to Microsoft Office Suite products. 

— Linda Holland,
Principal Librarian

“Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'”

— **The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.**



Total circulation for fiscal year 2002-2003 was 467,684, and this year's circulation figures are far exceeding previous years.

Happy 100th Birthday, Estero

Friends of South County Regional Library join in celebrating



This is one of the paintings entered in the Methodist Church Art Sale by Friends member Heidi Bates. It was purchased by Friends members, Dan & Dottie Kendrick.

Friends of SCRL joined in the Old - Fashioned Centennial Celebration November 6 on Broadway between the Estero Methodist Church (art sale location) and Estero post office.

Friends Claire and Sid Hauenstein, Cas Obie and Linda Holland rode in the parade. Gail Obie, Lori Van Wagner, Carolyn Piscitello and Head of Reference Ann Clark worked the Friends table. That's where the public signed up for library cards and Friends memberships. When people weren't meeting Friends of SCRL, they were

gathering information from other tables, appreciating the art show, listening to the big, beautiful band organ, and munching good food. 📖

Friends of SCRL are growing fast

Friends membership stands at 75 as of November 10, 2004. Our goal is to double membership this season!

As of the same date, memberships have contributed \$2,843, book sales \$2,868, First Dibs book sales \$1,853 for a total raised to date of \$7,564. Expenses to date, \$929 (12%). Our goal is to disburse approx. \$5,000 to the library before year's end.

Friends of SCRL features area residents in its 2004 - '05 "Meet the Author" series

The Friends of South County Regional Library, Inc. inaugurated its new season with Kathryn



Diana Gessler to talk about travel books on January 19

Childress of Fort Myers speaking at the November 10 general membership meeting. Mrs. Childress, author of *Cindy, Oh Cindy*, discussed Publishing Your Book, and led the audience through the process of writing a book for the fun of it, resource publications, and reasons to self-publish.

The January 19 annual membership meeting will feature Bonita Springs resident and author Diana Hollingsworth Gessler discussing *Giving Birth to an Illustrated Travel Book*. Ms. Gessler combines prose with her own artwork in works like *Very California* and *Very Charleston*.

She will touch on the stages required in developing an illustrated travel book.

The February 3 first annual Friends luncheon will be held at the Estero Country Club at the Vines. Sanibel resident Connie Brown, mother of best-selling author Dan Brown, will discuss the repercussions her son's *The Da Vinci Code* has had on the reading public.

The March 2 general membership meeting ends this season's Meet the Author series. Dr. Ted Childress, a retired history professor specializing in American Colonial, Civil War, Indian and Military History, will offer insights on the impact of World War II on American society. This year is the 50th anniversary of the end of that war. 📖



Make your books fly—and CDs and videos, too

Bring them to your South County Regional Library in Estero

The donated books flew off the tables at the Friends Book Sale last April 3. Those donated books enticed 303 avid shoppers to spend \$1,775 to benefit the South County Regional Library.

"The library and the Estero community are so fortunate to have such hard-working and well-organized Friends," said Linda Holland, SCRL Principal Librarian. "Customers told me that the quality of books was outstanding and this was the best organized book sale that they've attended."

"We priced the merchandise from

twenty-five cents to five dollars, and the books just flew off the tables," said Friends of SCRL President Claire Hauenstein.

The next Book Sale is Saturday, December 4, just in time for holiday buying. There will also be book sales on February 5 and April 2.

Bring your books, audio and video tapes, CDs, and jigsaw puzzles to the library staff during regular business hours. Bring them well before each Book Sale. The library is at 21100 Three Oaks Parkway, just north of Corkscrew Road. 📖



Photo of the first money from customers who picked their books and deposited their money directly into the collection box beside First Dibs bookcase. Said Friends Communications Director Bill Parker, "I still think we should have cracked a bottle of champagne over it."

Pick up First Dibs books now

Whether for tickets to cultural or sporting events or just being let in on a good thing, everyone enjoys getting "first dibs." So go to the Friends First Dibs bookcase just inside the library's main entrance. It's stocked with books in excellent condition, priced from \$1-\$2.50! 📖

Act fast to become a FOSCRL charter member

Friends Secretary Lori Van Wagner reminds, "Be sure to stop at the reference desk and pick up Friends membership applications." Charter memberships are accepted until December 31, 2004. Join by then and you'll be considered a Charter Member with early admission privileges to book sales.

Friends of SCRL

Our Vision

To advance the role of South County Regional Library as an institution vital to the life of the community.

Our Mission

To raise awareness of SCRL as a cultural and educational asset in the community by enhancing programming and services through development of supplemental financial resources.

Join your friends

Pick up membership forms at the South County Regional Library.
Students \$5 Individuals \$15
Families \$25

Sponsoring Patrons \$50
Corporate/Business Patrons \$100
Lifetime Memberships \$250

Pay dues now and be credited through 2005.

We are a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization under IRS rules. Donations are deductible as allowed by law.

Friends to Friends

Friends of South County Regional Library, Inc.
21100 Three Oaks Parkway
Estero, Florida 33928

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Travel author to speak at public
Friends meeting, see page 2

Friends cookbook perking for next year

Send your recipes to FOSCRL@aol.com
or bring to the library staff

Friends of South County Regional Library, Inc.

21100 Three Oaks Parkway
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Board of Directors

Claire Hauenstein, *president*
Charles (Cas) Obie, *vice-president*
Lori Van Wagner, *secretary*
Gretchen Schmidt, *treasurer*
Bill Parker, Carolyn Piscitello
Linda Holland, *SCRL regional manager*

Ann Clark, *SCRL head of reference*
Attorney Lee Carney, *legal advisor*
Dave Hauenstein, *newsletter editor*

Members of the Public Welcome to Meetings and Events

All Held at Library except February 3 Luncheon

- December 4 BOOK SALE, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- December 16 Board Meeting 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
- January 13 Board Meeting 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
- January 19 Annual Membership Meeting
Meet author Diana Gessler 2 - 4 p.m.
- January 26 Village With a Vision Program
Estero Council of Community Leaders
7 - 8:30 p.m.
- February 3 First Annual Luncheon at Estero
Country Club at the Vines
Meet author Dan Brown's mother Connie
The Da Vinci Code repercussions
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- February 5 BOOK SALE 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- March 2 General Membership Meeting
Meet author Dr. Ted Childress 2 - 4 p.m.