Largo Public Library
MAGAZINE
News • Events • Stories

Bookmobile 5th Anniversary - p.3 • Bonsai for Beginners - p.5 • Pinellas Memory - p.7
B E T H E C H A N G E

By Toni Green, MLIS, Communications Librarian

The Largo Library Outreach Services Team is one of the most innovative and engaging services that the Library brings to our patrons. Our Bookmobile, LYN, has been on the road for five incredible years and makes stops frequently around Largo and our surrounding unincorporated areas (See pg. 10 for the schedule). From schools and day camps to assisted living facilities, the bookmobile makes our collection available to many patrons in our community.

My children just so happen to frequent one of the many places that LYN visits and are always excited to tell me when they’ve checked out new books from it!

I recently had the opportunity to spend an afternoon on our home delivery route with Michael Anderson, one of our Outreach Services team members. It was a great experience to get out into the community and see how accessible the process makes it for patrons to receive materials at home. We visited residences throughout Largo, and I was shocked by how many books we exchanged at each location - our Home Delivery patrons are avid readers! I’m so glad the Library can help them continue doing what they love, and I know that it is a service our staff is proud to offer. The combined number of patrons served by Home Delivery and LYN, our Bookmobile, is around 1200 per month!

LYN and our new Home Delivery Vehicle have been made possible by support from the Greater Largo Library Foundation, the Friends of Largo Library, and many generous donors, including business owners, civic groups, and individuals, along with the City of Largo. The newest addition to our team, the Home Delivery Vehicle, was made possible by a lasting gift from a good friend of our community, David Bohrerstma. David’s gift in perpetuity was given in his name by his longtime companion, Bonnie Starr.

SISTER CITY CELEBRATIONS

By Geri Remming, Assistant Library Director

Did you know that Largo has had a “sister city” for almost 55 years? The city of Kami (formerly Tosayamada) Japan has been Largo’s sister city since 1966, when the Largo Lions Club and Tosayamada Lions Club formed twinning. The relationship then went on to include the City of Largo and the city of Tosayamada. Sister city affiliations between the United States and other countries started after World War II, becoming a national initiative when President Dwight Eisenhower proposed a “People-to-People” program in 1956. By involving groups in citizen diplomacy, Eisenhower hoped to reduce the chance of future world conflicts. Florida is the second most active sister city participant behind California.

Largo’s sister city program started through the Lions Club organization, when a Florida District Lions club member, George Brooks met the incoming district governor from Japan who was at an international Lions Club meeting. Tosayamada is a rural community on the Shikoku island in southern Japan. There [were] about 24,000 residents, and Lions Club member George Feaster described the sister city as “like Largo was in 1969.”

Since then, civic leaders and city officials have visited each other’s countries about every 5 to 10 years staying with host families to really experience the culture. When the town of Tosayamada merged with another town and a village in 2006 to become the city of Kami, the relationship continued.

One of the more memorable visits to Largo was in 1969 when the group included the Yamada Daiko Drum Corps, which brought along a Daiko Drum for a performance at the Southwest Recreation Complex to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the relationship. Tosayamada’s Daiko Drum weighs 2 1/2 tons and is 6 1/2 feet in diameter. How big was it? A Tampa Bay Times article at the time put it this way, “bigger than two Subaru station wagons.” This type of drum is usually found in local temples, and it was extremely rare to see and hear one outside of Japan. The prohibitive cost to ship and insure the drum truly made it a once in a lifetime experience for many of the 5,000 people who attended the festival.

The exchange expanded to include Largo High School and Yamada High school students in 1992 when the principal and eight students from Yamada High School made the first official visit to Largo. The Largo students then created a Japanese friendship club, exchanging emails and gifts over the years to help them learn about the culture, people, and country of Japan. Largo High teacher Deborah Pettingill who traveled with the students in 2004 said “It really broadens their horizons...they really come back with a different view of the world. They learn how to survive in other countries.”

In 2011, the School Board of Public Education in Japan added to the exchange by joining the Sister City relationship. The exchange now includes the exchange of students, teachers, and faculty. Participating in the exchange helps students learn about other cultures and broadens their perspectives. The exchange is a valuable activity that benefits students and the community.

I recently had the opportunity to learn more about sister cities. Wikipedia has a list of municipalities in Japan which have standing links to local communities in other countries. In most cases, the association, especially when formalized by local government, is known as “town twinning” (usually in Europe) or “sister cities” (usually in the rest of the world).

Thank you to George Feaster who provided additional information for this article.

The library will have a variety of programs in January 2024 to help celebrate our sister city relationship. Onzome: Washi Paper Dyeing, Suminagashi: Japanese Paper Marbling, Momigami: Japanese Kneaded Paper and Bonsai for Beginners. Please call (727-587-6715) or visit our website www.largopubliclibrary.org to register.

Director’s Column

Library Outreach Services added a new vehicle to its lineup this summer and an eye-catching wrap was installed on it this fall (proudly displayed on the cover). The Library in Your Neighborhood, affectionately known as LYN, has been on the road for five years now and the Home Delivery Program was started over three years ago. The best way to describe the joy that the staff brings to our homebound patrons when they receive their deliveries is a dream come true. And it’s the same for people at our bookmobile stops. Outreach services are traditional and modern, offering a vast collection of materials to readers unable to travel to the library building. Traditional library service is a framework of shared resources, efficient processes, and highly dedicated staff. The modern approach to library service seeks ways to be innovative, flexible, and engaged. The outreach team includes three hard-working staff that bring the investment in this dream to life. A heartfelt thank you to our team for bringing the promise of literacy to all Largo!

Casey McPhie, Library Director

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LIBRARY HOURS

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

CLOSED

Sat | Dec 23
Sun | Dec 24
Mon | Dec 25
Tue | Dec 26
Mon | Jan 1
Mon | Jan 15
Sat | Jan 20

Register online at LargoPublicLibrary.org -> Events or call 727.587.6715

Registration required.
**Book & Poetry Clubs**

### Poets Live!
**Location:** Nov 11 & Jan 8 | 6pm
Read poetry and learn about noted poets during our bi-monthly segment.

**Dec 11:** Li Young Lee

**Jan 8:** Jane Hershfield

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### Chapter Chat
**Location:** Dec 13 | 6pm
All are welcome! If you are interested in joining, please contact Ben Wiley.

**Dec 13:** Erotic Stories for Punjabi Wedows by Balj Kaur Jaswal

**Jan 10:** The Sweetness of Water by Nathan Harris

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### Adults Read YA Book Club
**Location:** Dec 13 & Jan 10 | 6pm
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 October & November meetings, copies of the book will be available to check out from the LPLC or from physical copies. E-Books or audiobooks are also available through Hoopla or Libby.

**Ages 18+ are welcome, space is limited to 15.**

**Dec 13:** The Girls I’ve Been with by Tess Sharpe

**Jan 10:** Sing Me to Sleep by Rebecca Yarros

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### Shelf Indulgent Romance Book Club
**Location:** Dec 20 & Jan 24 | 6pm
Join us for a book club built for hopeless romantics and cynics alike as we explore different topics, sub-genres, and themes.

As we read across the spectrum of the romance genre, our choices will reflect various books which may contain steamy situations, various sexualities, experiences, and cultures. Everyone is welcome to respectfully attend.

**Dec 20:** Reader’s Choice

**Jan 24:** Fourth Wing by Rebecca Yarros

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### Medicare 101
**Location:** Dec 6 & Jan 3 | 12pm
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.

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### SHINE: Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders
**Location:** Dec 6 | 1:30pm
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 appointment. *Please bring a list of your current prescriptions to your appointment.*

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### Virtual Adult Trivia
**Location:** Dec 6 | 6pm
Want to show off your trivia skills? Join us for monthly, themed virtual adult trivia on the first Wednesday of each month at 6pm. You might even win a prize! Dec 6: Studio Unbli

**Jan 3:** The Legend of Zelda

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### Paint Along with Bob Ross
**Location:** Dec 5 | 6pm
Join us for another painting-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.

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### Adult Sign Language
**Location:** Dec 6 & Jan 10, 17, 24, 31
Beginners | 6pm & Intermediate | 7pm
American Sign Language classes are presented by the PRO-Deaf Literacy Center. The beginner class covers vocabulary, grammar, and structure. The intermediate class includes conversational phrases. Come build your vocabulary, grammar, and structure and learn facts about the Deaf community and Deaf culture.

For additional information, email: sbeganovic@pplc.us.

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### Composting for Your Florida Garden
**Location:** Dec 5 | 6pm
Composting is an excellent way to recycle all kinds of waste materials into a valuable resource for your garden. Not only will your plants thank you, but it will also reduce the amount of garbage that you make. Learn the why’s and how’s of composting with Master Gardener Marianne Martin.

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### Watercolor Layered Treescapes
**Location:** Dec 13 | 6pm
Learn about cookies from countries around the world. This fabric bowl goes on behind the library. See what other benefits.

**Dec 13:** Momigami: Japanese Kneaded Paper

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### Library Orientation
**Location:** Dec 9 & Jan 13 | 9am
Register for this before-hours class and get to know our library. Find out where to check out books, where the computers are, etc.

**Dec 9:** Wake Up with the Library

**Jan 13:** The Sweetness of Water by Nathan Harris

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### Library Workshops
**Location:** Dec 6 | 6pm
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.

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### Ukulele Workshops
**Location:** Jan 9 | 6pm
Fold and dye paper to create kimonos. Designs: You'll also be able to create patterns on your own kimegi. Marking your name on the morigami card on January 30th.

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### Orizome: Washi Paper Dyeing
**Location:** Jan 9 | 6pm
Learn about cookies from countries around the world. This fabric bowl goes on behind the library. See what other benefits.

**Jan 10:** The Sweetness of Water by Nathan Harris

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**Adult Winter Reading Challenge: December 4 - January 15**

Cozy up with a good book and take A Trip Down Cozy Lane using Beanstack! Download the Bearstack Tracker app or visit the library's Bearstack website to sign up or create an account to begin your reading journey.

Log your reading minutes to earn tickets for the Grand Prize and Bonus Prize drawings. Earn more tickets by writing short book reviews! Be one of the first 60 patrons to earn and show your completed Registration prize badge, along with your library card, to library staff and receive a Largo Public Library cozy winter mug and book set.

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Two Grand Prize and three Bonus prizes will be rewarded. The more minutes you read, the better your chances are.

Participants must be 18+, be a resident of Pinellas County and possess a valid Pinellas Public Library Cooperative card in good standing to win prizes. All prizes must be picked up in person.

For details, ask a staff member or go to our website LargoPublicLibrary.org
**News**

**Events**

**Stories**

December 2023/January 2024

**Largo Public Library**

**Registration required.**

Register online at LargoPublicLibrary.org -> Events or call 727.587.6715

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**Gallery 120**

The Professional Association of Visual Artists (PAVA) is pleased to return to Gallery 120 at Largo Public Library for the first time since March 2020. The show in December and January is a juried fine art and fine craft event, open to all PAVA members and all media types.

PAVA is a non-profit organization of 140 professional artists and craft persons. Members work in a variety of 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional media, ranging from Ceramics to Wood and Acrylics to Printmaking.

Founded in 1988, PAVA is well known for the annual Cool Art Show, an indoor booth show held each July in the St. Petersburg Courthouse.

PAVA also offers its members the opportunity to exhibit in the Cool Art By PAVA Gallery, established in Dunedin in September 2020. More information about PAVA can be found at www.pava-artists.org.

Art pictured is from previous PAVA exhibits and is representative of what may be on display.

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**T E C H N O L O G Y & D I G I T A L L E A R N I N G**

**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.

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**B A S I C C O M P U T E R S K I L L S**

No prerequisite

- Local Holiday Happenings
  Wed | Dec 6 | 2pm

In this hands-on computer class, we will be looking at local places of interest for this magically special time of year. Let's celebrate!

- Exploring Community Resources
  Wed | Jan 3 | 2pm

Learn about and connect with resources for all kinds of help and assistance, including our library, our government, and some nonprofit agencies right here in our community.

- Wonderful Winter in Tampa Bay
  Wed | Jan 17 | 2pm

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

- Retired Not Expired
  Wed | Jan 31 | 2pm

Let's look at all the great reasons why life as a senior citizen rocks! We'll examine the many perks and benefits of being further along in this beautiful journey and ways to enjoy life and give back too!

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**A P P L E**

Prerequisite: Have Apple ID and password

- Intermediate iPhones
  Thu | Dec 7 | 3pm
  Thu | Jan 10 | 3pm

Learn new & fun iPhone tips! Bring your questions!

- Essential iPhone Tips
  Thu | Dec 14 | 3pm

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!

- Intermediate iPads
  Thu | Dec 21 | 3pm

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

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**S O C I A L M E D I A**

Prerequisite: Have active email account and password

- Getting Started with Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram
  Wed | Dec 10 | 2pm

Create a Facebook and/or Twitter and/or Instagram account, or learn more about the one you already have, and start following, tweeting, and using hashtags.

- Intro to Facebook Marketplace
  Wed | Jan 24 | 2pm

Explore Facebook Marketplace and learn how to make the most of this helpful online resource.

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**M I C R O S O F T**

No prerequisite

- Basic Excel
  Wed | Dec 20 | 2pm

Basic introduction to spreadsheets and making a simple budget.

- Intermediate Excel
  Wed | Dec 20 | 2pm

Follow up class to Excel for Beginners. The intermediate skills we cover will be building directly on this previous class. Basic introduction to spreadsheets and making a simple budget.

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**P I N E L L A S M E M O R Y**

By Delaney Roque, Library Assistant I

Pinellas Memory, a county-wide digital archives collection, is a window to the past that gives library patrons the ability to explore the vibrant history of Pinellas County.

This collection houses a treasure trove of photographs, yearbooks, and historical documents, providing a rich tapestry of the region's history. For anyone interested in unraveling the roots and unique evolution of Pinellas County, this resource is indispensable.

The collection of photographs offers vivid glimpses into the county's past. From its architecture and changing landscapes to the lives of its residents and key events, these images transport visitors through time, creating a sense of connection to the past.

Pinellas Memory is a vital resource for residents, students, and historians with a curiosity about our county's past. This collection invites exploration of the treasures of a bygone era. It's more than just an archive; it's a timeless portal to the heart and soul of Pinellas County's history.

Explore Largo Public Library's collection and other participating libraries at pinellasmemory.org.

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**Databases/App Updates**

By Hannah Duff, MLIS, Research and Access Librarian

Have you visited the Morningstar Investing Center recently? If not, you should give it a look!

The Investing Center is available at Largo Public Library card holders and is the perfect one stop place for anyone interested in financial literacy. The Investing Center allows you to compare different stocks or different mutual funds. You can check on the market history and make informed decisions about your finances. Morningstar provides articles and insights on all things finance that you can't find anywhere else. From market forecasts to how to save for your dream vacation, Morningstar has an article on it.

New to the world of finance and investing or want to grow your knowledge? Try the Investing Classroom. The Morningstar Investing Classroom has free courses covering everything from Stocks 101, to Exchange Trade Funds, to Retirement, and even courses on finding out the Environmental, Social, and Governance impact each stock or mutual fund has.

If you've tried Morningstar in the past and found the database difficult to use give it another chance! They recently updated their look. It's clearer and easier than ever to navigate.
Book Clubs & More

**CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS**

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

### Children’s Department

**Ages 12 and Under**

The school-year challenges run Aug - May. Each week we will ask that you only enter one a day. Winners will be contacted by phone.

#### Snowy Sillies

**Dec 1 - Jan 31**

Have fun in images hiding around the Children's Department. Grab an entry form and fill in the letters found near the images to answer a riddle. Place it in the box for a chance to win a prize.

#### Storytimes, Play, and More

**Little Littles & Chat**

**Fri | Dec 1 & Jan 5 | 10:30am**

Ages 24 months & under

**Come hang out with your littles and socialize with other adults on a select Friday each month.**

#### Toddler Tales

**Tue | Dec 5, 12, 19 & Jan 16, 23, 30 | 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 | Dec 6, 13, 20 & Jan 10, 17, 24, 31 | 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.**

#### Pre-K Pals

**Thu | Dec 7, 14, 21 & Jan 18, 25 | 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. For children ages 3 to 5 with an adult helper.**

- **SENSExploration**
  **Fri | Dec 8 & Jan 12 | 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. See our website for more information.**

- **Stories with Officer Bowling**
  **Mon | Dec 11 & Jan 22 | 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, and learn about a day in the life of an officer. For children ages 3 to 5 with an adult helper.**

- **Tweens: A Pocketful of Trash**
  **Sat | Dec 11 | 1:30pm**
  **Ages 6 - 9**
  **Pick up a treasure in a wooden box hand painted by you. We may even give you a few golden coins to add to your collection!**

### Fiction Addiction Book Club

**Wed | Dec 7, 14, 21 & Jan 11, 18, 25 | 3:00pm**

**Ages 12 - 18**

**Join us every 3rd Wednesday for a different book discussion.**

#### Bookclubs Book Club

**Ages 6 - 8**

**Dec 13 - Peter Powers and the Sinister Snowman Showdown** by Kent Clark

#### Beanstack Challenges

**Where you can purchase books to keep.**

- **Every Day Readers Challenge**
  **Ages 0-5 and our Mini Readers is designed for ages 0-5 and our Mini Masterpieces for ages 5-12.**

- **Join us online for the second Saturday of every month for a game of chess. No experience is needed!**

- **Library LEGOS**
  **Wed | Dec 13, 20, 27 | 2 - 3pm**
  **Ages 5 - 12**
  **Challenge yourself to create a new LEGO® master-piece every week. All materials are provided.**

#### Holidays Around the World Bingo

**Fri | Dec 15 | 4pm**

**Ages 5 - 12**

**There are so many holidays to celebrate at this time of year - join us for a specially-themed Bingo game that includes Santa, a menorah, mistletoe, masquerade, carols, and much more. Win some cool prizes and get yourself ready to fall in love with playing Bingo!**

#### Holiday Cookies and Crafts

**Mon | Dec 18 | 5 - 7pm**

**Ages 5 - 12**

**The holidays are the perfect time to show someone how much you love them by making them a handcrafted gift. Using various craft supplies, make something special for yourself or a loved one and enjoy a sweet treat or two!**

#### Robot Invasion

**Fri | Dec 22 | 11am & 4pm**

**Ages 5 - 12**

**Robots are invading the library! Learn basic coding skills using Dash and Dot™ "Kamigami Robot Bugs", "Domo" and much more.**

#### Games Galore

**Wed | Dec 27 | 1 - 4pm**

**Ages 3 - 12**

**Don’t sit at home being bored when you could come to the library and play games with us! Board games, puzzles, and other challenges will be available! Come join in on the fun!**

#### Code Squad

**Wed | Jan 10 & 24 | 4pm**

**Ages 10, 12**

**Join us for a 1-hour class featuring CodeDogg© and other platforms. No coding experience necessary.**

#### Winter Break

**Activities**

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

**Winter Break Breakouts!**

**Fri | Dec 29 | 2 - 5pm**

**Ages 8 - 12**

**Who says Library LEGOS can only be on a Saturday? Come on-in and challenge yourself to create a LEGO® master-piece. All materials are provided.**

#### LEGO Constructions

**Tue | Jan 2 | 5 - 7:30pm**

**STEAM Spot**

**Ages 8 - 12**

**Register 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 20 drawings to build 3D models, while developing problem solving and communications skills.**

#### Mini Masterpieces

**Wed | Jan 3 | 1 - 4pm**

**Ages 5 - 12**

**Come create a mini masterpiece! One mini canvas per age-appropriate child will be provided along with a craft supply. You will bring some of your own supplies to add to your creation, you are welcome to do so, but all supplies must fit on a mini canvas. Each mini masterpiece will be on display for 2 weeks for library goers to admire and vote on their favorites. At the end of the 2-week span participants may pick up their projects to take home. Winners will be notified by phone.**

#### No-Sew Pillow Creations

**Wed | Jan 3 | 1 - 4pm**

**Ages 8 - 12**

**Create your own no-sew pillow made with fleece and cotton stuffing. Make it as a gift or keep it for yourself!**

#### Race to the Finish

**Thu | Jan 5 | 2 - 5pm**

**Ages 5 - 12**

**It might be slightly colder outside, but these wheels will still be hot! Build a track and launch your car. Will they reach the finish line or crash and burn? What will the weather burn?**

#### How Cool Are You?

**Fri | Jan 5 | 2 - 5pm**

**Ages 5 - 12**

**Drop in for some winter-themed “Minute to Win It!” challenges and crafts. Can you beat the clock and win, or would you rather build a snowman? Join us for some frosty fun!**

Register required. 

Visit our website at LargoPublicLibrary.org -> Events or call 727.587.6715 for more information.
Also, thank you to all our library patrons who donated to the Welcoming Week cause. Statewide VISTA & Regional Task Force libraries and their governing agencies, and electronic and print literature by the three story, outreach via social media and other Cooperative’s September Newsletter cover provided by the Cathy Wos, & Katherine Kelly, in Pinellas Park, lead coordinators included: Library, & the Barbara S. Ponce Public Library, the Palm Harbor Public Library, the Largo Public Library where the participating libraries were present as well as local libraries were present as well as local.

Welcoming Week was led by the Largo Public Library, the Palm Harbor Public Library, & the Barbara S. Ponce Public Library in Pinellas Park, lead coordinators included: Catherine Kelly, Megan Muddura, Kathy Wos, & Beth Brewer.

Promotion was provided by the Pinellas County Public Library Cooperative’s September Newsletter cover story, outreach via social media and other electronic and print literature by the three libraries and their governing agencies, and by Janet Blair, Program & Policy Analyst, Statewide VISTA & Regional Task Force Lead, Refugio Services, Florida Department of Children and Families.

The unwavering local support of our refugee and immigrant communities manifested itself during Welcoming Week 2023. Special credit is due to the Friends of Largo Library who made a generous monetary donation to the Welcoming Week cause. Also, thank you to all our library patrons who donated household goods or made monetary contributions.

ENGELICHA LANGUAGE LEARNING

Adult English Classes
Mon - Wed | 9:00am - 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. Registrations are required and continuous throughout the semester. There is a $245 fee for each six-month term of enrollment. For more information, please call 727.942.9146.

Citizenship and Naturalization
Preparation Classes
Mon & Wed | 6pm - 9pm
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.

Looking Ahead:

Become a Volunteer Tutor! English Language Learning Tutor Training and Orientation Workshop
Saturday | Feb 11, 10am - 1pm
ELL tutors at the library commit to two hours per week of teaching and mentoring a new student in reading. You will be given training in using the materials, English language instruction, and working with volunteers.

One-on-One English Tutoring
Applications are available at the library or by going to www.largopubliclibrary.org. Each individual is matched according to the availability of volunteers, mutual scheduling preferences, and waiting list order. Each participant is matched with an English language needs and goals. Tutors and students meet two hours per week for a 6 month period. For more information, please call 727.587.6715.

Library Programs

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.

Teen Events
Exam Cram
Fri | Dec 1, 8, 15 | 2 - 5pm
Tue | Dec 5, 12, 19 | 4 - 7pm
Study and relax in a quiet space after school!

Rainbow Social
Wed | Dec 6 | 5:30 - 6:30pm
All high school students are welcome to this safe, inclusive hangout space for LGBTQIA+ teens and their allies.

Teen Art Night
Mon | Dec 11 & Jan 8 | 5 - 6:30pm
Stop by and make art with us!

Teen Self-Care
Thu & Sat | Jan 18 | 1 - 4pm
Learn new habits and relax with us.

Anime & Manga Club
Mon | Dec 11 & Jan 8 | 5 - 6:30pm
Hang out and talk about anime and manga!

Winter FreeCycle Donation Drive
Fri, Dec 8, All Day
This year's winners were published between January 1st, 2022 and December 31st, 2022.

1. All My Rage by Sabaa Tahir
2. Five Survive by Holly Jackson
3. Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea by Axie Oh
4. I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepets
5. Icebreaker by Hannah Grace
7. Gallivant by VE Schwab
8. Nothing More to Tell by Karen McManus
9. The Rumor Game by Dhonielle Clayton and Sonia Charapoi
10. Some Mistakes Were Made by Kristin Dwyer

For more information and teen content follow us on Instagram @LARGOTEENS

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

2023 Teens’ Top 10 Reads
1. The art of Faking It by Breaststroke
2. Fleeing in 50 Acts by Hanya Yanagihara
3. Girl in the Sky by Tanya Bryer
4. I Have a Voice by Idris Muse
5. The Art of Faking It by Breaststroke
6. The Art of Faking It by Breaststroke
7. The Art of Faking It by Breaststroke
8. The Art of Faking It by Breaststroke
9. The Art of Faking It by Breaststroke
10. The Art of Faking It by Breaststroke


Looking Ahead:  }

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Teen Self-Care
Thu & Sat | Jan 18 | 1 - 4pm
Learn new habits and relax with us.

Anime & Manga Club
Mon | Dec 11 & Jan 8 | 5 - 6:30pm
Hang out and talk about anime and manga!

Winter FreeCycle Donation Drive
Fri, Dec 8, All Day
This year's winners were published between January 1st, 2022 and December 31st, 2022.

1. All My Rage by Sabaa Tahir
2. Five Survive by Holly Jackson
3. Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea by Axie Oh
4. I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepets
5. Icebreaker by Hannah Grace
7. Gallivant by VE Schwab
8. Nothing More to Tell by Karen McManus
9. The Rumor Game by Dhonielle Clayton and Sonia Charapoi
10. Some Mistakes Were Made by Kristin Dwyer

For more information and teen content follow us on Instagram @LARGOTEENS

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

2023 Teens’ Top 10 Reads
1. All My Rage by Sabaa Tahir
2. Five Survive by Holly Jackson
3. Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea by Axie Oh
4. I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepets
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Looking Ahead:  }

Library Programs

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.

Teen Events
Exam Cram
Fri | Dec 1, 8, 15 | 2 - 5pm
Tue | Dec 5, 12, 19 | 4 - 7pm
Study and relax in a quiet space after school!

Rainbow Social
Wed | Dec 6 | 5:30 - 6:30pm
All high school students are welcome to this safe, inclusive hangout space for LGBTQIA+ teens and their allies.

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DNA Basics I - Ethnicity
Thu | Dec 14 | 10am | Virtual – Zoom only
This one-hour class defines DNA, gives examples of DNA inheritance patterns and discusses the different types of DNA tests and the nuances that go with them. It gives ideas for the best ways to make the most of your DNA dollars and how you might want to “target test” some of your relatives.

In addition, the class provides information on the ethnicity estimates provided by each company and how you might use them for your research. Manning/Luce

DNA Basics IV
Thu | Dec 7 | 7pm | Virtual – Zoom only
This class will be an overview of mitochondrial DNA, Y DNA and X DNA. Luce/Manning

DNA for Adoptees - Strategies to Find Birth Families
Tue | Dec 12 | 1pm | Virtual – Zoom only
This class is for those that have taken the DNA Basic class and are ready to explore ways to use DNA to help find birth families. You need to have a good understanding of general genealogical research strategies and databases such as FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com search engines and be familiar with using DNA testing company’s products and tools. Luce/Manning

Orphan Trains and the Children Who Rode Them
Thu | Dec 21 | 7pm | Hybrid – Local History & Zoom
The story of the Orphan Trains, which relocated children from the eastern states to rural farmlands, has become a part of American popular culture. This presentation explores the facts behind the legend; follows a group of children “placed-out” in 1880, and provides resources available to learn more about the orphan trains and their riders. Fortin

RootsMagic User Group
Sat | Dec 23 | 10am | Virtual – Zoom only (Library Closed)
Questions and answers and demonstration of how to use the RootsMagic Genealogy software program. Hagner

Excel for Genealogy
Thu | Dec 28 | 1pm | Hybrid – Local History Room & Zoom
You may have used Excel to crunch your budget numbers, but have you thought about using it specifically for genealogy? Even if you’re new to Excel, we will teach you the basics of using a spreadsheet. If you already use Excel in genealogy, we add tips to take your skills to the next level whether you’re using your own computer or the library’s. Coffey

Funeral Homes
Thu | Jan 18 | 1pm | Virtual – Zoom only
This class will present how to discover information about your family from the records of funeral homes, cemeteries, and grave sites. How and where to find these records will also be discussed. Hagner

DNA Interest Group
Tue | Jan 23 | 1pm | Virtual – Zoom only
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. Luce/Manning

Creating the Perfect Family History Book
Sat | Jan 28 | 1pm | Hybrid – Local History & Zoom
If you are investing your time and money to create a lasting legacy, don’t do it wrong! Family tree reports, plus images, narrative, and local history all go into the PERFECT family history book that people want to read again and again. We will give you ideas on what to do and what NOT to do! Coffey

Pinellas Genealogy Society and Largo Public Library Present: Annual Genealogy Seminar
Saturday, February 24, 2024 | 8am - 4pm
Featuring four presentations by J. Mark Lowe
- Ready, Set, Plan! Developing a One-step Research Plan
- Documenting the “Right” Family While Staying on Track
- Three genealogists, plus much more
- Finding Your Landless Ancestors

We at PGS are proud of this annual, day-long event, and excited about the selection of topics we have scheduled. Novice researcher or experienced genealogist—there is something for everyone, so please join us! Mark your calendars now! Registration opens on January 1, 2024, at http://www.PinellasGenealogySociety.com. 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.
The Five Senses

Submissions Due: Saturday, March 30th, 5:00pm

About the Prompt:
Taste. Touch. Hear. See. Smell. Just about everything we perceive about the world around us comes through these five amazing senses. These senses help us with all our everyday tasks—waking up, eating breakfast, heading to school, interacting with friends and teachers, talking to parents, doing homework, walking the dog, playing video games, kicking the ball, singing the song, slurping the smoothie, texting, TikTokking, cooking the frozen pizza, encountering dirty socks, finding the lost phone, teasing the little brother, licking the strawberry ice cream cone, knowing what’s fresh milk and what’s sour, watching the movie, riding the roller coaster, realizing the fish hook is embedded in your palm, playing the trumpet, taking a hot shower, taking a cold shower, and everything else. The 5 senses help us process data, correct our mistakes, detect threats, locate food, and communicate with those around us. How do humans beings compensate when some of these senses are missing? What happens when there is sensory overload? Maybe there are 6 and 7th extraordinary senses too, but for the purpose of this short story prompt, imagine a world where these 5 “ordinary” senses provide extraordinary insight into the world around us. Write an original short story where some aspect of the 5 senses—maybe you’ll want to focus just on one of the senses, or you might want a story that incorporates all of the senses—is central to the story’s plot and conflict.

About the Story:
The story should revolve around an experience, setting, problem, challenge, tragedy, triumph, or any circumstance that will intrigue readers and bring characters to life. Describe to readers what the characters look like, how they communicate, and how they act, feel and think. Develop the main character(s) by including supporting characters. Describe the place and time in which the story is set. The prompts—"The 5 Senses"—is not the title of your story but is meant to provide a creative focus where some aspect of the 5 senses is central to the story’s conflict and resolution. Remember, this is an original story you created.

Submission Guidelines:
- Stories MUST include a cover sheet with all of the following information: TITLE, Student’s Name, Student’s Age, School, Teacher’s Name, Teacher’s Email, Parent/Guardian Name, Home Address, Home Phone, and Home Email
- Stories should be typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, with numbered pages
- Stories should be carefully edited and proofread, with attention paid to grammar and spelling
- Stories should be original, fiction, written by one writer
- Stories should be 4-8 pages, no more. Cover sheet information does not count toward total
- Do not attach drawings, photographs, or any other material
- Stories will NOT be accepted by mail or drop-off, only PDF
- Stories MUST be submitted in PDF format. No other formatting is accepted. Submit the PDF to libraryshortstorycompetition@gmail.com
- Participation implies consent that these stories may be submitted to any readers and that Submissions are restricted to Pinellas County residents

St. Petersburg School Visits the Largo Public Library

Nan Colton Wowed the Audience at the Largo Public Library

A group of 28 students from the Indi-Ed School in St. Petersburg, along with their chaperones and lead teacher Nina Shand, visited the Largo Public Library on Saturday, September 19th. Nina was a former employee of the Greater Largo Library Foundation. Students had the opportunity to talk with expert genealogy volunteers before attending the Salem Witch Trial class offered by the Pinellas Genealogy Department at the library. Lori Coffey, History Evangelist and Genealogy volunteer, was the instructor.

The students were very interested in learning about this period and came prepared with questions about their family history. For more information on the Indi-Ed School, please visit their website at https://indi-ed.com/

Winners and Prizes:
Elementary: 1st place - $100, 2nd place - $75, 3rd place - $50
Middle School: 1st place - $150, 2nd place - $100, 3rd place - $75
High School: 1st place - $200, 2nd place - $125, 3rd place - $100

Nan Colton’s portrayal of one of literature’s most famous mavericks of murder mysteries, Agatha Christie, mesmerized a crowd of more than 75 attendees at the Largo Public Library on Thursday, October 12th. Nan Colton 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. The Greater Largo Library Foundation hosted this event sponsored by Royal Palms. Ben Wiley, Foundation Board member and President of the Friends of the Largo Library moderated a lively Q&A session after the presentation. Nan fielded questions from the audience, both as herself and in character as Agatha.

Nan Colton will return to the Largo Public Library in the spring of 2024, but the date is a mystery for now! Please visit the Foundation website at www.gllf.org for upcoming information.

Year-End Giving 2023

By Deborah Schuler, GLLF Board Member

Everyone has the option to itemize their tax deductions, but if yours do not exceed the higher standard deduction, there are still alternatives for tax-advantaged giving.

- Donate appreciated assets (e.g.: stocks or bonds) directly from your investment account to the eligible charity, which then sells the asset. They get the full value of the stock or bond and you do not owe any capital gains tax on the sale.
- Cluster your cash donations in alternating years or every third year, so that your total itemized deductions exceed the standard deduction, giving you income tax savings that you can use to add to your charitable giving.
- Consider using a Donor Advised Fund, especially if you have unusually high taxable income this year. The full cash contribution is tax deductible in 2023 (up to 60% of your Adjusted Gross Income), but you can choose what tax year the funds are given to your choice of charities. Meanwhile, the fund invests your yet-to-be-gifted donation.

Please consult your financial or tax advisor to find the approach that best suits your situation and goals.
Daily Hot Specials &
10% Off to All
First Responders

Mon-Wed 9am-6pm
Thu-Fri 10am-6pm
Sat 10am-5pm
Closed Sunday

120 Central Park Drive
(In the Largo Library)
Largo, FL 33771
Phone 727.586.7390
Fax 727.586.7391

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