Director's Column

The library is off to a great start this year! We’re excited to announce Largo Turns a Page returns this March, culminating in a visit with NYT bestselling authors Christina Lauren! The community read title will be their book, The True Love Experiment. The library will host a live book talk and signing on Thursday, March 21st at 6 pm. We have lots of copies of their books, so be sure to read one, two, or all of them and secure your spot for this fun event in our online registration portal!

Input has always been important to the library staff when planning or continuing library programs and services. Once again, we ask to hear from you in our patron survey. Please use the link on page 7 to let us know what programs and services you support or any ideas you may have for future offerings.

As always, thank you for being a library patron and supporting the library with input, donations, and volunteer hours.

Casey McPhee, Library Director

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LIBRARY HOURS

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

CLOSED
Monday, February 19

LARGO TURNS A PAGE - A COMMUNITY READ

Largo Turns a Page
Thu | Mar 21 | 6:00pm
It’s almost time again for one of the most highly anticipated library programs of the year – Largo Turns a Page (L TAP)!
L TAP is an annual community read that culminates in a visit from the book’s author, or, in this case, authors! On Thursday, March 21st the Largo Public Library will host a signing and book talk with Christina Lauren! Christina Lauren is comprised of long-time writing partners and best friends, Christina Hobbs and Lauren Billings. The #1 International bestselling coauthors write both Young Adult and Adult Fiction and together has produced seventeen New York Times bestselling novels.

This year’s L TAP is all about romance and many of our programs will lean into the theme as we prepare to welcome Christina Lauren. As part of the fun, we will be issuing a Passport to Romance (learn more on page 5). You can join us for a series of romantic comedies with our Reel Romance Film Series, create gorgeous crafts, and, of course, read The True Love Experiment along with our library community!

Copies of select Christina Lauren books, including The True Love Experiment, will be available to purchase the night of the event*, or you may bring your own copies in to get signed by the authors! Space will be limited and registration begins on February 1st at 10am - set your alarms now so you don’t miss out on this experience!

The library would like to give a huge thank you to our Friends of Largo Library for sponsoring Largo Turns a Page and helping to bring these renowned authors here for what will surely be an incredible evening!

*Cash or check only

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

By Toni Green, MLIS, Communications Librarian

Books all have to start somewhere, and that place is typically in the depths of a writer's mind. But where do writers come from?

The first time I met an author - an actual person who had written and published books - was in 3rd grade when Eric Carle (of The Very Hungry Caterpillar fame) visited my elementary school. Our class had to make our own picture books as part of our studies leading up to his visit. I wrote about climbing trees. Like most adults looking at children's work, he told me it was very good and to keep writing - so I have.

Fast forward a few decades and today's students have access to generative AI programs that can do the work for them. Not only is this not making them practice what they've been learning in school, but it can affect creativity. If one can create a story or piece of art by typing a prompt (a description of what content to include in the creation) into an AI program and clicking a button, they skip the entire creative process.

Beyond the topic of academic honesty, it is hardly a stretch to imagine that one day soon, we will see books created using this AI technology. Authors who have to craft every sentence, every paragraph of their work, could find themselves unable to keep up with unrealistic deadlines set by publishers who expect them to be faster than a machine. To put it frankly, the creativity and culture that we, as humans, have created for millennia, will suffer the effects of technology.

So, how can we curb this and make sure that society is raising writers, as well as readers? Encourage children to write! It could be journaling, short stories, poetry, or even fiction based on their favorite characters. Help them love writing as much as they love reading and support their creative endeavours when they share them.

Do you already have a budding author in your life? The Friends of the Largo Library are currently presenting the 40th Annual Iris & Stanley Shalit Short Story Competition! The competition is open to all Pinellas County students in grades 4 - 12. This year’s prompt is “The Five Senses,” and submissions are due on Saturday, March 30th by 5:00 PM EST. Cash prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each age group: grades 4 - 5, 6 - 8, and 9 - 12. If you have any questions about this Short Story competition, please reach out to libraryshortstorycompetition@gmail.com

LARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY
MAGAZINE
News • Events • Stories | February/March 2024

LIBRARY HOURS

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

CLOSED
Monday, February 19
A Wake Up With the Library
Sat | Feb 3 & Mar 2 | 9:00am
You are invited to join us for a before-tour of the Library. See what goes on behind the scenes. The coffee is on us! This is a walking tour that lasts an hour.

Virtual Adult trivia Night
Wed | Feb 7 & Mar 6 | 6:00pm
Join us every Tuesday at 6pm to test your knowledge for a chance to win some awesome prizes! Feb 7: Deadpool | Mar 6: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

Ukulele Workshops
Wed | Feb 7 | 6:00pm | Beginner 2
Wed | Feb 21 | 6:00pm | Beginner 3
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.

A Taste of Africa
Mon | Feb 12 | 6:00pm
Learn to prepare a feast of West African dishes in this hands-on class.

Creating a Pollinator Garden
Wed | Feb 14 | 2:00pm
Learn how you can attract beautiful butterflies and their pollinator friends from Master Gardener Linda Smock.

Real Romance Film Series
Thu | Feb 15, 22 & Mar 1 | 6:00pm
Calling all hopeless romantics! Join us for a series of laugh-out-loud rom-coms as we gear up for Largo Tuna’s Pager.

The Holocaust - From Trauma to Healing
Tue | Mar 19 | 6:00pm
Ruth Walitzer, a Holocaust survivor Sidney “Sievie” Finkel, didn’t learn her father’s story of dehumanization, brutality, and loss until she was pregnant with her son at the age of 33. Twenty-five years later, she began to understand the enormous impact of his trauma on their relationship as she began to write her contribution to the award-winning anthology The Ones Who Remember; Second-Generation Voices of the Holocaust. In this program, Ruth will share her story of anguish and resilience in the face of living through the horrors of genocide, the effect of his trauma on her life, and their journey towards healing.

Shelf Indulgent Romance Book Club
Wed | Feb 7 & Mar 28 | 6:00pm
You can’t get rid of love. Love isn’t even a concept. Love is a force. Love is a duty. Love is a bond. Join us for a book club focused on hopeless romances and rom coms! We explore different tropes, sub-genres, and themes. As we read across the spectrum of the romance genre, our choices will reflect various books that may contain steamy scenes, various sexualities, experiences, and cultures. Everyone is welcome to respectfully attend but registration is required. Ages 18+

Shine: Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders
Wed | Feb 7 & Mar 6 | 1:00pm
For our February Picker Creek, our choices will reflect various books that may contain steamy scenes, various sexualities, experiences, and cultures.

Medicare 101
Wed | Feb 7 & Mar 6 | 12:00pm
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.

ASL with Deaf Literacy Center
Wed | Feb 7, 14, 21, 28, & Mar 13, 20, 27 Beginners ASL | Feb 7, 14, 21, 28, & Mar 13, 20, 27 Intermediate ASL | Feb 7, 14, 21, 28, & Mar 13, 20, 27
Cloth classes vocabulary and short sentences. The intermediate class covers conversational phrases. Sessions also include in-depth discussion and facts and stories about the Deaf community and Deaf culture.

Make Paste Paper
Mon | Mar 4 | 6:00pm
Paste papers are one of the earliest methods used to decorate paper for book covers and as endpapers. Create your own colorful, textured paper using acrylic paint added to the paste and a variety of tools.

Plants in Your Diet
Tue | Mar 7 | 12:00pm
Learn to grow edible plants and herbs for a flavorful path to health with Master Gardener Debbie Ingram.

A Tasting of Turtles
Thu | Mar 21 | 6:00pm
Largo Turns a Page with Christina Lauren

Stop by any time in February and March to pick up your Passport to Romance! Have your passport stamped at select events and turn it in after Largo Turns a Page (March 21st) to be entered in a grand prize drawing.

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

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**TECHNOLOGY & DIGITAL LEARNING**

**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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**BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS**

No prerequisite

- **Introduction to Gmail & Google Drive**
  Wed | Feb 21 | 2:00pm
  Create a Gmail account, or learn more about the one you have, as we look at how to best use your google account and google drive.

- **Intro to Zelle, Venmo & ApplePay**
  Wed | Feb 28 | 2:00pm
  Come and see how these financial apps work and how they might benefit you.

- **Spectacular Spring Places & Events**
  Wed | Mar 27 | 2:00pm
  Use these hands-on computer class, we’ll look at fun destinations and happenings in our area that we can enjoy in this beautiful time of year! Let’s make the most of it!

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**TECHNOLOGY**

No prerequisite - Make sure to have your passwords.

- **Tech Help Tuesday**
  Tue | Feb 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th | 1:00pm
  Tue | Mar 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th | 1:00pm
  Bring your technology questions and your device (or use one of our laptops) to connect with all kinds of help. Ask questions welcome!

- **Library Orientation**
  Sat | Feb 10 | 9:00am
  Sat | Mar 9 | 9:00am
  Register for this before hours class during you on the amazing resources our library has to offer, including an in-depth training on our catalog, plus a whole lot more!

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**SMARTPHONES & TABLETS**

Prerequisite: Have Apple ID and/or Google Login and password

- **Essential iPhone Tips**
  Thu | Feb 1 | 3:00pm
  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!

- **Apple Watch**
  Thu | Feb 8 | 3:00pm
  In this class, learn new and fun ways to use your apple watch. We will look at text size, screen shots, sending text messages, the fitness and workout apps, and more. Questions welcome!

- **Intermediate iPad**
  Thu | Feb 15 | 3:00pm
  Learn intermediate skills such as multitasking, speaking text, group facetime, emojis, scrolling on your phone, and more! Questions welcome!

- **Advanced iPad**
  Thu | Feb 22 | 3:00pm
  All-new tips for the mail, photos, and notes apps, plus a lot more! Questions encouraged!

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**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Prerequisite: Have an active email address and password

- **Getting started with YouTube**
  Wed | Feb 7 | 2:00pm
  Learn about the great resource that is YouTube, as well as how to create your own YouTube channel, so that you can start uploading and tagging your videos!

- **Basic Word**
  Wed | Mar 13 | 2:00pm
  Create a document, copy & paste, change the font, save & print.

- **Intermediate Word**
  Wed | Mar 13 | 2:00pm
  Make a document where will insert and fine-tune pictures, shapes, and text boxes.

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**E-RESOURCES & E-BOOKS**

No prerequisite

- **Learn Libby!**
  Mon | Feb 5 | 2:00pm
  Learn how to get electronic books, audiobooks, and magazines to your phone, tablet or computer!

- **Learn Freegal!**
  Mon | Feb 26 | 2:00pm
  Learn how to download and stream free music to your phone, tablet or computer!

- **Learn hoopla!**
  Mon | Mar 4 | 2:00pm
  Learn how to get electronic books, audiobooks, movies, music, and more to your phone, tablet or computer!

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**Microsoft**

No prerequisite

- **Basic PowerPoint**
  Wed | Mar 20 | 2:00pm
  Create presentations for work or school, slideshows for special events.

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**Library Apps**

Have you ever wanted to read something right now only to realize that there are no copies checked in? Or want to listen to an audiobook but don’t have a CD player to listen to it on? Our eBranch has you covered! If you have a valid PPLC library card, all of these services (and more) are already available to you!

PPLC libraries like Largo Public Library give you access to a number of eResources that allow quick access to eBooks, eAudiobooks, videos, music, and more!

- **Check out eBooks, eAudiobooks, and eMagazines!**
  If the item that you’re searching for isn’t available immediately, place a hold and receive a notification when it’s ready to download! New titles are being added all the time and you may check out up to 10 items at a time!

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**DiGiTal LeAرنIng**

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**Ages 18 and Up**

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**SMARTPHONES & TABLETS**

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**SOCIAL MEDIA**

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  Wed | Feb 7 | 2:00pm
  Learn about the great resource that is YouTube, as well as how to create your own YouTube channel, so that you can start uploading and tagging your videos!

- **Basic Word**
  Wed | Mar 13 | 2:00pm
  Create a document, copy & paste, change the font, save & print.

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**MICROSOFT**

No prerequisite

- **Basic PowerPoint**
  Wed | Mar 20 | 2:00pm
  Create presentations for work or school, slideshows for special events.
Look for the chicks hiding all around the many colors of conversation hearts! Count the Conversation Hearts | Feb 1 - 29 online. If you would rather not use the app, Tracker app onto your phone or other device read all year long using our Beanstack prior to the date listed to allow for enough Children’s Department to receive your book on the dates listed below.

Mar 27 - R Bookworms Book Club | Ages 6-8

Fiction Addiction Book Club | Ages 9-12

by Bruce Hale

News • Events • Stories February/March 2024

of early literacy and school readiness skills. For Storytimes, Play, & More!

health pledge.

about feelings, and establish their own mental Pawesome Guide to Mental Health, program of suicide prevention. Using the book, Gizmo’s

Join us for a special story time led by Nannette Mon | Feb 12 & Mar 11 | 10:30am

 Toddler Tales Thu | Feb 8, 13, 20, 27 & Mar 24, 31 | 10:30am

Ages 2 - 5

Join your active little ones as they listen, learn, and have fun! For children ages 2 to 36 months with an adult helper.

Fun with Friends Fri | Feb 2 & Mar 1 | 10:30am

Ages 2 - 11

Come hang out with your little ones and socialize with other adults on a select Friday each month. This self-led, play-based activity will help your child socialize with other children, develop problem-solving skills, and learn through play.

Paws Up for Mental Health Mon | Feb 12 & Mar 11 | 10:30am

Join us for a special story time led by Nannette Prevost of Remember Me If I'm a local nonprofit dedicated to education and raising awareness of suicide prevention. Using the book, Giamo’s Performance Guide to Mental Health, program attendees will sing, play an instrument, talk about feelings, and establish their own mental health pledge.

SENSepiration Fri | Feb 16 & Mar 22 | 10:30am

Ages 5 & under

Check out this interactive program for littles to explore sensory exploration. Encourage curiosity, problem solving, and creativity in this sensory play opportunity. Kids and their adult helpers will move around the room to different sensory stations and discover all the fun-filled things your child can do! Children will be required to stay with their children for the full duration of the program. Please dress for mess.

Stories with Officer Bowling Mon | Feb 26 & Mar 25 | 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, learn about a day in the life of an officer, and ask your most important questions, followed by a themed craft. For children ages 3 to 5 with an adult helper.

Weekly and Specialty Programs

Tinker Lab Thu | Feb 9, 23 & Mar 7, 14 | 4:00pm

Ages 8 - 12

Join your young inventors as we get their inquisitive questions, followed by a themed snack. It's fun for the whole family!

Avery Carmicahle Valentine Day Fri | Feb 9 | 4:00pm

Ages 3 - 12

Come celebrate Valentine’s Day with this heart-filled craft. Look for our gift list to order for yourself.

Monday Night Mayhem Mon | Feb 5, 12, 26 & Mar 4, 18, 25 | 6:30pm

Ages 5 - 12

Join us for select Monday nights for creative fun! Some crafts will get messy (and/or stain) so please dress accordingly.

Wooden Heart Cookies Feb 12: Valen-Smith

DIY Glitter Mar 4: Ice Cream Ceramics

Mar 18: Watercolor Creations

Mar 25: Shrink Paper Fun

Elementary Explorations Tue | Feb 13, 20, 27 & Mar 5, 12, 19, 26 | 6:30pm

Ages 7 - 12

Team Spot

Feb 14 & Mar 13: Ages 5 - 7 | Adult Helper

Feb 28 & Mar 27: Ages 8 - 12

Learn basic computer programming skills in this fun 1 hour class featuring CodeMonkey® and other platforms. No coding experience necessary, but basic computer skills are recommended. Limited spaces available.

LEGO Constructors Thu | Feb 15, 22 & Mar 28 | 4:00pm

STEAM Spot

Register for 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 2D drawings to build 3D models while you develop problem solving and communication skills.

Game Zone Fri | Feb 16 | 3:00pm

Ages 5 - 12

Come hang out and play Nintendo Switch® games like Dance Dance Revolution®, Mario Kart®, and more, and play some board games with friends.

Pokémon Club Wed | Feb 1, 8 & Mar 14, 21, 28 | 4:00pm

Ages 5 - 12

Join your young explorers as we investigate a day in the life of an officer, and ask your most important questions, followed by a themed craft. For children ages 3 to 5 with an adult helper.

Code Squared Wed | Feb 14 & Mar 13, 19, 26 | 4:00pm

Ages 8 - 12

six weeks of programs, which will be offered repeatedly throughout the year.

Toddler Tales Thu | Feb 8, 13, 20, 27 & Mar 24, 31 | 10:30am

Ages 24 - 36 months

Join us for stories, music, and fun for everyone! For walking children ages 12 to 24 months with an adult helper.

Baby Bookworms Wed | Feb 1, 8, 14, 21 & Mar 20, 27 | 10:30am

Ages 12 - 24 months

Join us for storytimes, read-alouds, and play with colorful beads in a fun pattern and we’ll make a masterpiece every week. All materials are provided. Registration is required only once for the six weeks of programs, which will be offered repeatedly throughout the year.

Weekend Reading Incentives

For rewards! Encourage children to read all year long using our Beanstack challenges! Simply download the Beanstack Tracker app onto your phone or other device and register to start tracking your progress online. If you would rather not use the app, simply register on our website at https://largopubliclibrary.beanstack.org.

Ages 12 and Under | One entry per day

Completed forms can be entered in a prize drawing. Winners will be contacted by phone at the end of the month.

Count the Conversation Hearts | Feb 1 - 29

Visit the Children’s Department and count the many colors of conversation hearts! Cool Chicks Scavenger Hunt | Mar - 30

Look for the chicks hiding all around the Children’s Department! Fill in the letters near the chicks to answer a riddle!

Contests

Spring has Sprung! Celebrate with this special-themed Bingo game that includes flowers, raindrops, ladybugs, bubbles, and much more!

Missed the Mayhem Mon | Mar 13 | 11:00am

Ages 5 - 12

Didn’t you miss a craft program? Or maybe you loved it so much you were hoping to do it again? Now is your chance! This program is a combination of different programs that have passed. These supplies were left over but not enough to do a full program. Quantity of each project will be limited to what is remaining. Come check it out!

Melt Beat Mania Tue | Mar 12 | 11:00am

Ages 5 - 12

Who doesn’t love melted beads? Fill your board up with colorful beads in a fun pattern and we’ll melt them together for you! Have fun making something from one of our guidebooks, or a creation of your own!

Spring Bingo Fri | Mar 22 | 4:00pm

Ages 5 - 11

Fun for everyone!

Hop To It! Fri | Mar 29 | 11:00am

Ages 3 - 12

Hop To It! is our annual egg hunt, with no egg-Scuse not to have fun!

It’s just for fun, no prizes or egg-cellent gifts will be awarded. Remember to dress for mess.

Pup Pals Reading Dogs Sat | Feb 24 & Mar 3 | 10:00am

Ages 5 - 12

Join us for our reading and making a new furry friend by reading to therapy-trained dogs.

Robot Invasion Fri | Mar 15 | 11:00am & 6:30pm

Ages 8 - 12

Robot Invasion is a game that includes basic coding skills using Dash and Dot™, K’ploom Robot Bugs™, Dash™ and more!

Gotta Love Crafts: Spring-y Creations Wed | Mar 6 | 6:00pm

Ages 5 - 12

Spring arrives this month! Join us for crafts involving rainbows, flowers, and all things spring.

Miss the Mayhem Mon | Mar 14 | 11:00am

Ages 5 - 12

Did you miss a craft program? Or maybe you loved it so much you were hoping to do it again? Now is your chance! This program is a combination of different programs that have passed. These supplies were left over but not enough to do a full program. Quantity of each project will be limited to what is remaining. Come check it out!

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

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Ages 5 - 12

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HIGH-QUALITY LIBRARY MATERIALS

Largo Public Library

News • Events • Stories February/March 2024

News • Events • Stories February/March 2024

Book Clubs & Contests

Book Clubs

Attention readers! Sign up early in the Children’s Department to receive your book and activity pack and discuss the book, learn about similar books, and complete an activity. For these book clubs, the packets are available a month prior to the date listed to allow for enough time to read the book and work through the packet. Registrations must be made in person at the Children’s Service Desk. Book club meetings are held Wednesdays at 6pm on the dates listed below.

Bookworms Book Club | Ages 6-8

Feb 8: Baby in Orbit #1: Blast Off by Andrea J. Loney

Mar 13 - Good Dog #1: Home is Where the Heart is by Cameron Hughes

Feb 28 - A Royal Guide to Monster-Beaying by Kelley Armstrong

Mar 27 - Switched by Bruce Hale

Reading Incentives Programs

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

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LIBRARY IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
Keep up to date on schedule changes, added stops, and all the latest information on the Bookmobile and LibraryHD by visiting LargePublicLibrary.org.

PLAZA ACADEMY
10880 126th Ave N, Largo
Tue | Feb 6th, 20th, & Mar 5th, 19th

HIGH POINT FAMILY CENTER
5812 15th Ave N, Clearwater
Tue | Feb 6th, 20th, & Mar 5th, 19th

HIGH POINT YOUTH EMPowerMENT CENTER
5245 Laurel PI, Clearwater
Tue | Feb 6th, 20th, & Mar 5th, 19th

The Barrington Senior Living
901 Seminole Blvd, Largo
Wed | Feb 14th, 28th & Mar 13th, 27th

Oak Manor
3600 Oak Manor Lane, Largo
Wed | Feb 14th, 28th & Mar 13th, 27th

Heather Haven
10476 131st St, Largo
Wed | Feb 7th, 21st & Mar 6th, 20th

PARADISE ISLAND
1001 Stanley Rd, Largo
Thu | Feb 8th, 22nd & Mar 7th, 21st

SODALIS SENIOR LIVING
336 16th Ave SE, Largo
Thu | Feb 8th, 22nd & Mar 7th, 21st

IMPERIAL PALMS
471 Imperial Palm Dr, Largo
Tue | Feb 13th, 27th & Mar 12th, 26th

ST. PATRICK’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
1301 Trotter Rd, Largo
Wed & Thu, 7th, 21st & Mar 6th, 20th

ROYAL PALMS
200 Lake Ave NE, Largo
Thu | Feb 1st, 14th, 28th & Mar 14th, 28th

ELISON OF PINESTREET
1150 8th Ave SW, Largo
Fri | Feb 2nd, 16th & Mar 1st, 15th, 29th

HOLIDAY BELLAROE TOWERS
1100 Ponce De Leon Blvd, Clearwater
Fri | Feb 2nd, 16th & Mar 1st, 15th, 29th

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

ADULT ENGLISH CLASSES
Mon - Wed | 9:30am - 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. Registration is required and continuous throughout the semester. There is a $45 fee for each six-month term of enrollment. For more information, please call 727.942.9146.

CITIZENSHIP AND NATURALIZATION PREPARATION CLASSES
Mon & Wed | 6pm - 8pm
No Class Moe, Feb 19
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@learnempowered.org.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES
Thursdays | Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 & Mar 7, 21, 28 215pm - 3:30pm
This is a fun, casual atmosphere to practice and improve your English. Speakers of all levels are welcome. This free club is designed to be attended at your leisure, and there is a new topic at every meeting! The club meets in the ELL room on the 2nd floor of the library.

ONE-ON-ONE ENGLISH TUTORING
Applications are available at the library or by going to www.largepubliclibrary.org/ELL. Individuals are matched according to the availability of volunteers; mutual scheduling preferences, and waiting list order. Instruction is based on each learners needs and goals. Tutors and students meet two hours per week for a 6 month period. For more information, please call 727.587.6715.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER TUTOR!
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING TUTOR TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP
Saturday | Feb 10 | 10am - 4pm
ELL tutors at the library commit to two hours per week of teaching and mentoring a neighbor in need of improving their English. Becoming an ELL tutor is a great way to make friends and give back to your community. Lunch is included. Registration is required as well as an online application (Questions?) call 727-587-6715 Ext. 2547.

TEEN PROGRAMS

AGES 12-18
For programs that require registration, please register online or call 727.587.6715.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TEEN CONTENT
FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!
@LARGOTEENS

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.

BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK
February 1 – February 29
Don’t judge a book by its cover! Check out our month-long display.

FOR THE LOVE OF READING CHALLENGE
February 1 – February 29
Love (of books) is in the air! Read books this February to be entered into the Grand Prize drawing! Register on Beanstack or see the Teen Desk for a paper log.

BOOK BOXES
Fri | Mar 8 | All Day
The boxes include a free book and some fun activity items. Come, first serve, and teens must be present! 20 available, one box per person.

SPRING BREAK Boredom Busters
Mon - Sat | March 11 - March 16
Stop in for activities in the Teen Room during the break!

TEEN TRIVIA NIGHT
Mon | Feb 26 & Mar 25
Want to show off your trivia skills? Come hang out with us and test your knowledge for a chance to win some fun themed prizes! Feb – The Hunger Games, March - Demon Slayer

HOW TO: AMIGURUMI: MOCHI BUNNY
Tue | Mar 29 | 5:00PM
Learn how to make cute and tiny crochet animals! (Skills to know beforehand: Magic Ring, single crochet, increase, invisible decrease.)

TEEN ART NIGHT
Mon | Feb 5 & Mar 4 | 5:00PM
Teen Program Room
Stop by and make art with us! Feb: Paper Valentines, Mar – Cherry Blossom art

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

TEEN FREECYCLE

ON January 16th, we held our second FreeCycle and welcomed 146 children, teens, and adults who attended the event! Donations of gently used clothing, toys, and home goods were collected over the last few months with support from community members and our very own Plato’s Closet here in Largo.

For the uninitiated, a FreeCycle works like a thrift shop or yard sale in that goods are previously owned, but all items are free to take home. In the ‘swap, don’t shop’ spirit, FreeCycles encourage swapping within your community vs shopping for new items whenever possible. These events help to reduce waste by keeping goods out of landfills, increase access to resources, and strengthen community values.

If you missed the Winter FreeCycle, stay tuned as we hope to offer another opportunity later this year!

Pinellas County Schools
ESOL Workshops

These presentations for English learner and Spanish-speaking families will cover a variety of topics to help parents and caregivers to help their students achieve academic success in Pinellas County Schools!

PCSBS ESOL Workshop
Grades 6 - 12
Tue | Feb 13 | 6:00pm – 7:00pm
Topics covered will include:
• Meeting School Academic Expectations
• High School Graduation Requirements
• Resources Available for Students’ Success
• Dual Enrollment
• Financial Aid Resources

PCSBS ESOL Workshop
Grades K - 12
Tue | Mar 26 | 6:00pm – 7:00pm
Topics covered will include:
• Pinellas County School’s Spring Tests and Test Resources
• Pinellas County Schools (PCS) Student Information System - Focus
• Clever and other resources available for families and students

Stay tuned for more great workshops from Pinellas County Schools covering the 2024 - 2025 school year coming up in April and May!
Genealogy Lectures

Intro to US Church Records
Sat | Feb 17 | 11:00AM
Where do you start when you go to church US church records? By learning a large set of records it can reveal ancestors' vital events, family relationships, overseas birthplaces and other residences and religions. From the co-author of the acclaimed book How to Find Your Family History in U.S. Church Records, learn what these records may look like, how to identify an ancestral church, locating original manuscripts, and successfully accessing them.

Sunny Jane Morton is an internationally known genealogy speaker and award-winning writer and editor. She is a long-time contributor and staff writer at FamilyTree.com, Ancestry.com, and FamilySearch’s blog. She has twice received prestigious awards from the National Genealogical Society, most recently for her book How to Find Your Family History in U.S. Church Records, co-authored with Harold Henderson, CG. Her book, Story of My Life: A Workbook for Writing Your Legacy, is in its 2nd edition. Her presentations are packed with "in-this-now-strategies" and delivered with humor and humanity with motivating examples and stories.

Genealogy Classes & Groups

DNA Basics II: Shared Matches
Thu | Feb 17 | 7:00PM | Virtual - Zoom only
This class focuses on how to use DNA "cousin" matching in your research. Whether it is called "Shared Matches," "In Common With," or some other title, all of the primary DNA companies have tools that allow you to analyze your matches based on the groups that have DNA in common. DNA Basics I is recommended, but not required before attending Basics II

Manning & Luce

Family Tree Maker User Group
Sat | Feb 3 & Mar 2 | 10:00AM | Virtual - Zoom only
Questions & answers plus demonstration of how to use the Family Tree Maker genealogical database software. This class explores the use of this popular genealogy software program and demonstrates the many features and resources of the basics of initial entry of family information to more detailed topics. Bryan

Family Tree Maker 2019 Basics
Tue | Feb 6, 13, 20 & Mar 5, 12 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom
This class will provide an overview of how to use the latest version of Family Tree Maker, including the demonstration of the many features of this popular genealogy database program. Hahn

FUNdamentals of DNA
Wed | Feb 1 | 7:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom
Learn DNA fundamentals in a fun yet scholarly way without having to read 5 books! Using easy-to-understand terms with helpful images, we will explain concepts (like chromosome, SNP and haplogroup) then we will show you how you can use DNA in genealogy and describe the four kinds of DNA that you can test. If you are new to DNA or a visual learner, this is the place to start your DNA journey! Coffey

They Lived Where? Using City Directories in Genealogy Research
Thu | Feb 8 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom
City directories are a valuable genealogy resource. They can give information on household composition, residence and business locations, and insights into the lives our ancestors led. They can also be used as a starting point for the research of the census to locate hard-to-find ancestors. This class explores the history of this resource, the research value of the information they provide, and where to find the records.

King Philip's War, 1675 - 1676: Causes & Consequences
Mon | Feb 12 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom
Although largely forgotten, King Philip's War was a widespread conflict that included some of our most famous soldiers to protect us. The story is now in its 2nd edition. Her presentations are packed with motivating examples and stories.

First Germans in America
Thu | Feb 15 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom
In the 1600's, a ship full of families escaping religious persecution headed to the shores of the New World which began a great migration. If you think these are the Pilgrims, think again! These were the Germans who founded Pennsylvania and New Jersey. A watershed moment in history that has been long forgotten, until now. We learn about the political, economic and religious factors. One ship which drove these courageous men of William Penn to help found his new colony. And watch as they grow their German town to be a beacon of light for the 7 million Germans who follow Coffey.

Tour of the Genealogy Center
Sat | Mar 4 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom
A guided tour showing the resources available in the Genealogy Center.

PGS Seminar
Sat | Feb 11 | 8:00AM - 4:00PM
Featuring four presentations by J. Mark Lowe - Researching Plants Over Research Plan - Documenting the "right" Family While Staying on Track - Making Those Early Census Records Talk to You - Finding Your Landless Ancestors 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.

DNA Interest Group
Tue | Feb 27 & Mar 26 | 1:00PM | Virtual - Zoom only
Every month on the 4th Tuesday. 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. Manning & Luce

Immigration and Passenger Lists
Thu | Feb 29 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom
NEW! America is a country built on immigration. What did your ancestors endure to come here? Learn the history of the earliest European explorers through the golden age of immigration when a million foreigners a year arrived to become citizens. Learn what genealogical information the passenger lists provide and where they can be found. Coffey

Facebook for Genealogy
Tue | Mar 6 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom
You may use Facebook every day sharing family photos and stories, but have you ever thought to use it for genealogy research? We will discuss how to use Facebook search and tips plus the hundreds of Facebook groups dedicated to family history! But before we explain all that, we give an overview and tour how to learn how this ubiquitous program actually works, so you can control your Facebook. We also show you what we see and what others see about you. Coffey

DNA Basics III: Ancestry.com
Thu | Mar 7 | 7:00PM | Virtual - Zoom only
By looking at DNA test results through the lens of one of the most popular testing companies, class participants will be able to apply what we have learned in Basics I and II to their understanding of their own test results at Ancestry class. This class reviews the tools and resources available through Ancestry DNA. AncestryDNA Basics I are recommended, they are not required prior to taking this class. Manning & Luce

Census Tracking
Mon | Mar 13 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom
Probably the fundamental way of using the US Federal Census is to track ancestors from one census year to the next. In that process we seek to uncover relationships and lost or heretofore unknown family members. This class explores the various census records that, using an actual family as an example. In addition, it also shows how to uncover hints on using resources outside of the census itself. Roberson

Life Above Mayflower 1620
Thu | Mar 16 | 12:30PM | Local History Room & Zoom
We all know the Mayflower Pilgrims’ story of thanksgiving after a grueling voyage and survival at sea. But how much do we know about this tiny ship with the huge reputation? The Mayflower was their lifeline and their home, where babies were born, and heroes were created as tempers and destruction crashed over them. See what life was like for Saints, Strangers, and Sailors. Learn the story of the Pilgrims to survive on the Mayflower for 243 days. Coffey

Identifying Female Ancestors
Mon | Mar 18 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom
The names and parentage of our female ancestors can sometimes be elusive in comparison to our male ancestors. This presentation will look at various types of records that might hold our female ancestors. We will explore some techniques for finding the answers, and a case study showing how one such mystery was solved. Fortin

George Washington’s Body Guards
Thu | Mar 29 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom
George Washington took command of the first U.S. Army to protect our new country. Then he trained some of his elite continental soldiers to protect him! Learn the story of the four groups that guarded our future president, the different units he needed and why, and how they protected him to win the war. Reid

RootsMagic User Group
Sat | Mar 31 | 1:00PM | Virtual - Zoom only
Questions and answers and demonstration of how to use the RootsMagic genealogy database software program. Hagner

WorldCat and ArchiveGrid: Finding Books, Manuscripts, and Other Sources
Mon | Mar 25 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom
A treasure trove of genealogical material is available in books, manuscripts, and other print resources. However, much of this material is scattered in libraries and archives throughout the country. WorldCat and ArchiveGrid are online resources that allow you to search millions of these repositories to identify and locate the materials on the family and topics you are researching. Fortin

Occupation in Genealogy Research
Thu | Mar 28 | 1:00PM | Local History Room & Zoom
Our ancestors’ jobs can reveal so much about their lives. This class explores the world of ancestor occupations—what our ancestors did for a living, where to find that information, and what to do with the answers. Coffey

Family History Assistance Day
Sat | Mar 30 | 11:00AM - 4:00PM
Family History Assistance Day is Back! Bring your research notes and delve further into your family tree with one of our volunteer researchers!

This program is first-come-first served and sessions are available in person and online. Registration is required for Zoom attendees. For more information visit http://www.pinellasgenealogysociety.com for more information or to register.
A Guilty Pleasure

Romance novels invariably feature a shirtless cowboy on the cover. Or a shirtless stevedore, doctor, lawyer, lumberjack, construction worker, firefighter, policeman, maybe even a shirtless software developer, Wall Street broker or local librarian. Maybe it’s a cover with a bare chest and a kit, or a Brooks Brothers suit jacket open to the navel, or even surgical scrubs gaping open while the doctor performs his miracles. Skin sells. And with romance novels dominating the fiction market with over $1.44 Billion in revenue and 19 Million printed units sold in 2022, that is a lot of skin. The Friends Bookstore offers romance novels with shirtless hunks promising excitement or enlightenment all for a dollar on the spinning paperback racks or in bags of 10 for $2.

Children Welcome in Friends Bookstore

Abraham and Frankie discover that books and friendship go together. They’ve come to the Friends Bookstore with their moms to browse our extensive offerings of children’s books and illustrated classics, and for older children, YA books and graphic novels. Nothing is better than sitting on a bench with sunlight streaming in while sharing a drink and a book!

This photo features, L to R, Friends board members Carolyn Reed, Pat Bell, Jackie Guthrie, Assistant Library Director Geri Remming, Library Director Casey McPhee, Friends President Ben Wiley, Largo Mayor Woody Brown, and Friends board members Dorothy Borst and Karen LaCorte-Nies.

Largo City Commission Recognizes the Friends of Largo Library

The Friends of Largo Library was recently recognized by the Largo City Commission during the national Friends of Libraries Week. Libraries can appear under attack these days, and such official government recognition of libraries and their Friends support groups validates and reinforces the central importance in our democracy of free and open access to library collections to all citizens.

On this occasion, the Friends displayed a ceremonial check for $92,000 to support ongoing library programs (expansion of e-book collection and access, subsidies to the countywide Pinellas library system) and to initiate new community outreaches (Freedom to Read campaigns, Florida Humanities Speaker Series, library volunteer monitoring system). This $92,000 represents a lot of $1 book sales in the Friends Bookstore, a lot of $10+ book sales on the Friends Amazon site, and a generous philanthropic bequest from the estate of Leslie Chandler.

A Special Tribute

One of the many great programs offered in the Children’s Department at the Largo Public Library is Pup Pals Reading Dogs.

The Pup Pals Reading Program gives children between the ages of 5 and 12 the opportunity to read aloud to trained therapy dogs to help improve their reading skills and help them build confidence in their reading. Many children who attend the program have their favorite dog to read to each month. One of these children was Joseph, who formed a special bond with registered therapy dog Conrad. Joseph read to Conrad for many years. Joseph would run to Conrad when the program doors opened and immediately sit down and begin to read to him.

Conrad passed away last year at age 15. Joseph and his family wanted to honor his memory and have a special place at the library to remember him. They chose to purchase a commemorative brick arrangement offered through the Greater Largo Library Foundation to remember Conrad. The commemorative bricks to honor Conrad will be placed around the planter box at the entrance to the library.

Foundation Presents Check to Graduate

The Greater Largo Library Foundation presented a scholarship check to Heather Wagman on December 14, 2023. Heather graduated from Largo Public Library’s Career Online High School last year. Now that Heather has her high school diploma, she is determined to reach bigger goals. She is working on earning her real estate license (that is what she is using the post-COHS scholarship for). Heather believes this work will enable her to have a career and buy her family their forever home and help others do so as well.

For more information about Largo Public Library’s Career Online High School please contact Katherine Moses Kelly, Community Services Librarian at 727-587-6715 X 2547 or kkelly@largo.com

Nano Colton Returns as Harriet Beecher Stowe

Nan Colton will return to the Largo Public Library on Thursday, April 18, 2024.

Nan wowed the audience last year with her portrayal of one of literature’s most famous mavens of murder mysteries, Agatha Christie. Nan 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. Tickets will go on sale beginning March 1. Please visit the Foundation website at www.gllf.org or Facebook page for additional information.

Successful Donor Match Fundraising Drive

During the month of December, a generous donor stepped forward to match all donations made to the Greater Largo Library Foundation, dollar for dollar, up to $15,000. The Foundation is pleased to announce that the goal was reached and the full match was made. Thank you to all the Foundation donors who contributed to the success of this special initiative.

The Foundation supports multiple programs at the Largo Public Library as well as the expense of operating the Bookmobile, which will continue to expand our reach to those in the community who are not able to physically come to the library.

To learn more about the Greater Largo Library Foundation or to make a tax-deductible donation please visit our website at www.gllf.org or contact the Foundation Office at (727) 586-7398.

Foundation website at www.gllf.org or Facebook page for additional information.
120 Central Park Drive
Largo, FL 33771
727.587.6715
LargoPublicLibrary.org

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

Your hosts ~ Argie, Bill and Chef Nick