

President's Greetings

Friends of Freedom Public Library are very likely to hold books in special regard which, in turn, makes it very difficult for Friends to throw books away. But as book donations increase, we have to throw away those books that are not likely to sell and that take up space for books that do sell.

Pat MacMurray who supervises the acceptance and storage of donated books has prepared guidelines to help us decide which books to discard. I summarize those guidelines below both for those who sort donated books and for all of us who donate books to the Friends.

Computer books over a year old and medical books over two years old are outdated, and the information they contain may be incorrect because of new developments in the fields. This could actually be dangerous in the medical area.

Text books and technical books on specific topics again contain outdated information and information that appeals to only one or two people in 500. Let them go.

No one will buy tour books from AAA or travel agents. Yes, many have wonderful pictures, and perhaps these can be used by teachers or students so put them in the free magazines baskets.

Encyclopedias, too, particularly series on home repair, music, mythology etc. can be placed in a box labeled "Free" and offered to the public. If there are no takers in two or three days, discard them. Remember, Goodwill takes many of our unsold books but does not want encyclopedias.

Religious books offer a challenge. Core books such as the Bible, Koran and Book of Mormon that are in good condition will sell as will books about the history, ideas and elements of world religions, and self-help spiritual books. Books that promote specific denominational techniques and practices such as ministers' training and guides for spiritual leaders should be discarded as inappropriate literature for us to distribute. People can find these in the churches of their choice.

Thanks to Pat for helping us with a difficult but necessary task!

Florence Pritchard

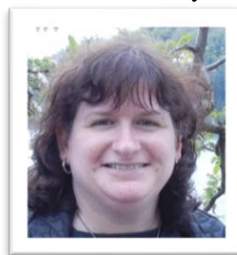
Focus on Freedom

Helpfulness flows through the veins of librarians, and Public Services Librarian III, Paula McCahon, is an outstanding example of this. Paula works at Headquarters in Ocala where she provides in-depth reference and readers advice to the public, instructs patrons on library technologies, creates a floor schedule for 15 staff members and oversees CREATE, the teen program that showcases 100 participants' artistic talents for more than 500 attendees.

At the same time, Paula is supervising at Freedom Public Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays until new supervisor, Ellie Bushhousen, completes her comprehensive orientation. As Paula says, keeping up with two positions is demanding, but the warmth and friendliness at Freedom helps make her work a pleasure. She is amazed at how busy Freedom is and pleased at the friendliness of patrons as well.

Paula became a librarian in good part because of her systematic approach to decision-making. She completed a B.A. in the History of Art and not finding a job in the field, continued working at Publix where she had worked to support her undergraduate study. Soon, it became clear to her that Publix was not her life's work. She researched a variety of career areas and decided that librarianship should be her métier. She enrolled in USF and earned a Master of Arts in Library and Information Science. Then she went on to a Public Services position with Manatee county for eight years. In 2008, she came to Marion County.

Paula applauds the work of Friends groups in library program support and advocacy and hopes our members will introduce themselves to her as she works to serve the needs of our library community.



On the Horizon

March is National Women's History Month. In 1978 a Sonoma County, Ca. Commission on the Status of Women initiated a "Women's History Week Celebration." Its success inspired national leaders of women's and girls' organizations who participated in the 1979 Sarah Lawrence College Women's History Institute to initiate similar celebrations in their own communities. President Jimmy Carter proclaimed the week of March 8th, 1980 as National Women's History Week, and Representative Barbara Mikulski and Senator Orrin Hatch co-sponsored a Congressional Resolution for National Women's History Week in 1981. By 1987, state-by-state lobbying resulted in Congress declaring March as National Women's History Month in perpetuity. Following are excerpts from President Carter's original Proclamation.

"From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well. . . . I urge libraries, schools, and community organizations to focus their observances on the leaders who struggled for equality – Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Lucy Stone, Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Harriet Tubman, and Alice Paul. Understanding the true history of our country will help us to comprehend the need for full equality under the law for all our people. . . ."

Most of our Freedom Friends are women. Perhaps those of us who wish might donate to Freedom Public Library a biography of a woman who has helped build our nation.