



JULY 2022

PRESIDENT'S NOTE



**By Betty Simpson
President Friends of the Library**

As I begin my President's note this month, my heart is heavy with the sad loss of our "Island Icon," Russ Carter. He was so much a part of our Library for so many years, whether greeting everyone at the first floor desk or doing one of his famous "Historic Lectures"... he was a special gentleman and will be missed by many of us. Love always to you, Russ and to your darling wife and sidekick, Susan!



If you're feeling the heat and humidity more than usual this summer, as I am, now may be the time to make a visit to our beautiful Library and cool off a bit. We are indeed so fortunate to be able to go up to the third floor for a view of our island and check out the fabulous patriotic tree decorated by the Estero Island Garden Club. It never ceases to amaze me how their members come up with such unusual displays each season. Their artistic talents are something I look forward to seeing on each visit.

While on the third floor, also enjoy the artwork displayed by Berry van Boekel. We'll be having a Meet and Greet with Berry on Friday, July 29 from 1-4 p.m., where you can enjoy his Top 100 paintings from 2021. Please put that on your calendar.

And of course, while on the third floor, please visit our Friends Bookstore for all your new and gently used books, games, puzzles, greeting cards and gift items. This is where you can learn more about the Friends of the Library. We are an active group and welcome new members. Hope to see you soon!



The View from the Director's Chair

By Cletus Poser, FMBL Director

It has been 9.5 years since the installation of the metal roof on the addition was finished. Expected lifespans, when located on the beach, has ranged between 10 – 50 years when salt and rust have been removed and repaired. The first picture shows the before and after of the mold buildup on the gutters in front of the building. There were many more. The original roof installers gave an estimate for pressure washing but another company had a better bid and also painted the benches and yellow caution poles seen in the next two photos.

In the process of having different companies look at the roof and do the pressure washing, two holes, several rusting metal pieces and gutter drainage problems leading to rust were discovered with the help of drones. That project is waiting for completion of bids by two companies that have already looked at the roof.

The garage metal lattice openings allow the breeze to flow through and the rain has blown in as well, rusting the metal sills. One option is to seal and paint but the company that originally installed them no longer deals with metals and will be proposing an aluminum alternative, which will eliminate the need to keep repainting the rust stains on that wall.

Before – After photos of painting and pressure washing.



A new elevator control box has been ordered, from Canada, so when installed we will be able to use the 3rd floor again. The tree has decorations with a timely patriotic theme.

Art on Display: Top 100 Paintings by Berry van Boekel

Come meet Berry van Boekel and enjoy his Top 100 paintings from 2021. The Top 100 began as a hobby for Berry during his teen years in the Netherlands as a way to pay tribute to his musical heroes. The first Top 100 collection debuted in 1991 and has continued annually.



The 2021 exhibition consists of painted double portraits featuring a juxtaposition of the recorder and the one recorded and are accompanied by audio field recordings compiled by Berry so bring your smartphone and ear buds to listen to the music. Light refreshments will be served at the reception, July 29th.

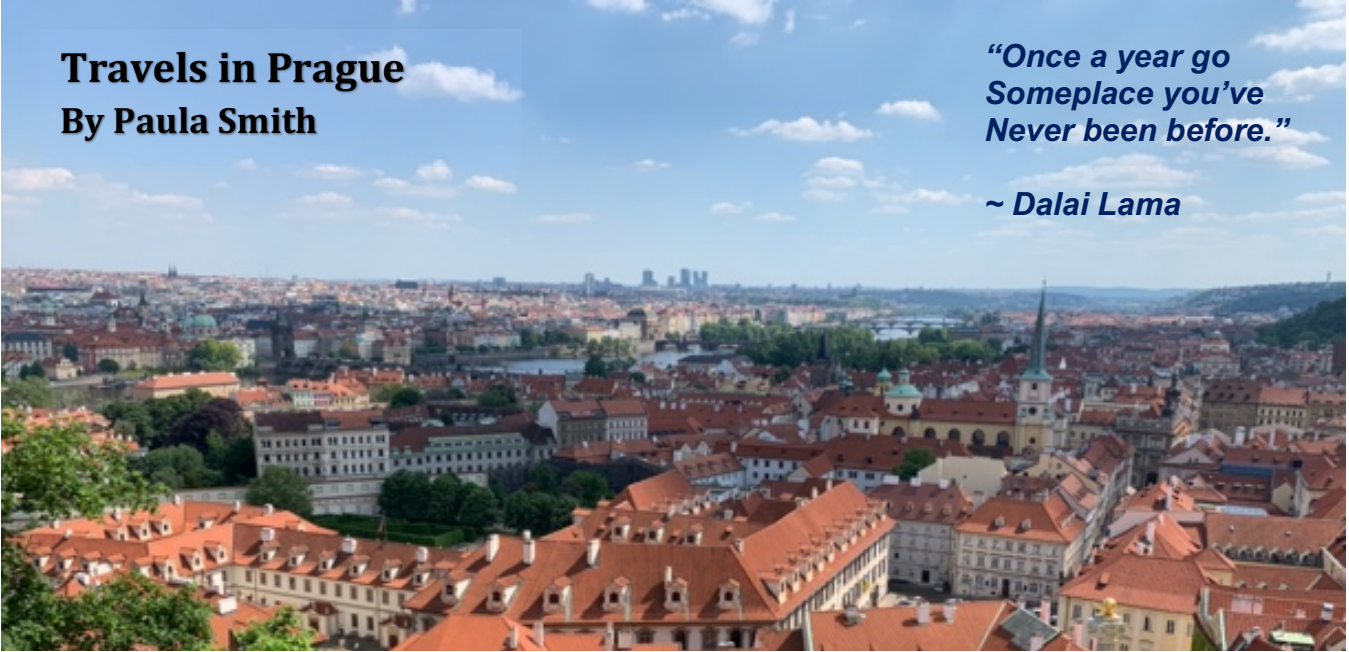


Travels in Prague

By Paula Smith

*“Once a year go
Someplace you’ve
Never been before.”*

~ Dalai Lama



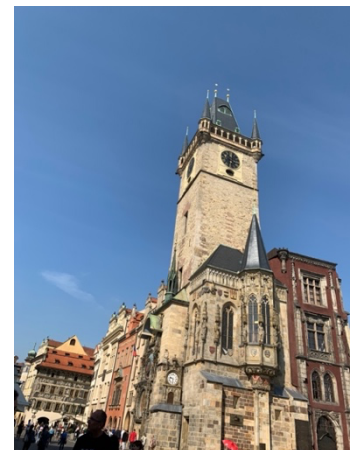
For those of us who love travel and adventure, these past few years probably kept us closer to home. But as many parts of the world began lifting restrictions and travel became a bit more accessible and a little less daunting, I found that “someplace” for me was the capital of the Czech Republic, Prague.



The city of Prague is an architectural jewel. Our first day was spent in the area known as Old Town. This was the site of a major crossroad on the 12th century trade route and the focal point of the city’s early development. The influence of various cultures and styles are evident in the mix of Romanesque, Baroque and Gothic architecture. One of the highlights of the afternoon was witnessing the 15th century Astronomical Clock come alive on the hour with what is called the “Walk of the Apostles”. This clock was first installed in 1410 and is now the oldest in operation in the world. It not only tells the time and date but shows astronomical and zodiacal information but also provides some theater for viewers as the statues become animated.

Strolling over the famous Charles Bridge is a lovely way to view Prague Castle. The castle is the residence of the Czech president and was the seat of bohemian kings and Holy Roman emperors of old. The bridge is a medieval stone arch bridge that crosses the Vltava River. Started in 1357 under the auspices of King Charles IV and finished in the early 15th century, the bridge is decorated by 30 statues most in the baroque style. The bridge is also a great place to find artists and craftsmen displaying locally crafted items.

The only privately owned section of Prague Castle is owned by the Lobkowitz family. This palace museum is filled with Medieval and Renaissance works of art and hand-annotated manuscripts by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. After enjoying a wonderful lunch in





one of the private dining rooms, we were treated to a classical music concert in the elegant concert hall. Our afternoon was filled with exquisite art, delicious food and beautiful music!

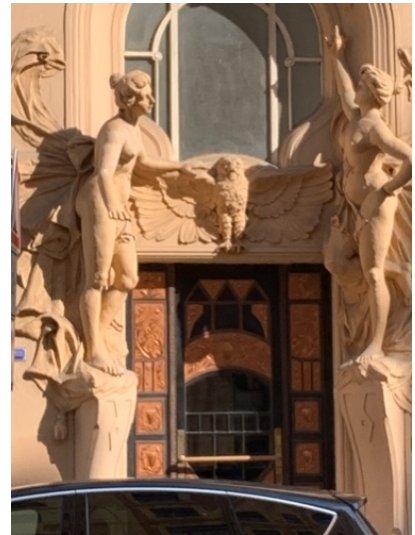
On our last day in the Czech capital, we decided to enjoy a ride through the scenic countryside to the town of Kutna Hora. At one time, this area was the site of a prosperous silver mine and was considered a cultural rival to Prague. One of the most interesting spots in Kutna Hora is The Church of All Saints. Within this Roman Catholic chapel is a most unusual site. On the lower level there is a small chapel called the Sedlec Ossuary



that is adorned with over 40,000 human skeletons. Beginning in 1278, the graveyard surrounding the church became very popular for burials when "Holy Soil " from Jerusalem was spread on the grounds.



In the 15th century, many of the remains were relocated to the lower level of the church to make room for the town's expansion. In 1870 the bones were excavated and organized into religious displays. This was intended to remind us that the chapel has always been and remains today to be a respectful place of worship despite its rather unusual contents. No photography is allowed in the holy space. The chapel is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most visited sites in the Bohemian region. Another stop that afternoon was St. Barbara Cathedral which is dedicated to the patron saint of miners. It is considered one of Central Europe's most impressive Gothic structures.



We ended our adventure in Prague with a tour of the city at night. Starting with a trip to Zizkov TV tower, the highest building in the city, we enjoyed spectacular views of this gorgeous city. Prague Castle and Charles Bridge at night were even more impressive. Our last stop for the evening was at the Strahov Monastery where we enjoyed a local beer as



well as stunning vistas from its grounds overlooking Prague!

My adventures this year did not end with my trip to Prague, but the medieval brilliance of the city made Prague a true treasure!

Wishing you all a trip to a place you've never been before, even if it's still close to home! Happy Adventuring!

LIBRARY NEWS By Jan Fleming

Giant Book Sale Dates Set

It's never too early to start planning for our next season's book sales. Mark your calendars now so you can plan to attend and take home a bag full of treasures including DVDs and CDs in addition to books. The sales start at 9 a.m. and end at 2 p.m. on the following dates:

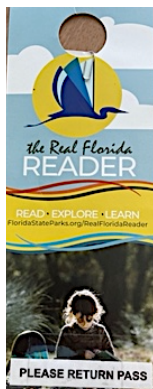
- November 19 & 20, 2022
- January 28 & 29, 2023
- February 23 & 24, 2023
- March 25 & 26, 2023



Start cleaning out your closets now. If you have books, magazines, DVDs, CDs, or puzzles, drop them off at the Library's first floor desk. If you need help carrying your donations to the first floor, call ahead and the Library will have someone to help you.

Thank you in advance.

Real Florida Reader Program





Through a partnership among the Florida Department of State's Division of Library and Information Services, you can check out a Real Florida Reader pass from the Fort Myers Beach Library for free admission to one of more than 170 participating state parks as long as you have a FMB Library card.

You can use your FMB Library card to check out a day pass, which provides free admission to state parks for up to 8 people in a vehicle. Parks excluded: Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park, Skyway Fishing Pier State Park and Weeki Wachee Springs State Park. The promotion will run through September 12.

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THIS PASS

- Good for one vehicle (up to eight people).
- Excludes Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs, Skyway Fishing Pier and Weeki Wachee Springs state parks.
- Does not include camping or any other fees.
- Checkout times and periods vary by library location, and passes must be returned to the same library.
- This pass is only valid from May 21 – Sept. 12, 2022.

 **FLORIDA STATE PARKS**
...the Real Florida™

 **DIVISION OF LIBRARY and INFORMATION SERVICES**

For more information, visit:

<https://www.floridastateparks.org/RealFloridaReader>

The Golisano Children's Museum of Naples By Jan Fleming

Do you find yourself looking for something to do with your young visitors? Somewhere inside to take a break from the hot weather? Look no further! The Fort Myers Beach Library has the answer.

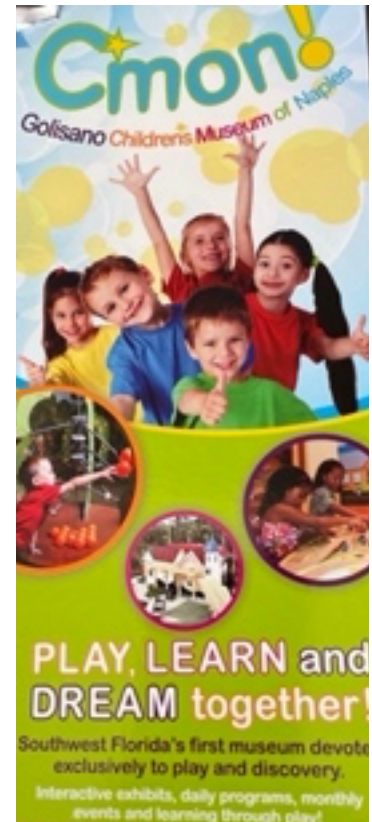
As a Library card holder, you can check out a pass for free admission to the Golisano Children's Museum in Naples. The pass is good for up to four people. Children must be accompanied by a least one adult.

There are interactive exhibits, daily programs, monthly events and learning through play! The museum's mission is to provide an exciting, inspiring environment where children and their families play, learn and dream together. Kind of makes you want to be a kid again!

The museum is located at 15080 Livingston Road, Naples.

The museum hours are as follows:

- ✓ Monday – Tuesday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- ✓ Wednesday: Closed
- ✓ Thursday – Saturday 10:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- ✓ Sunday: 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



CALLING ALL

Writers, Photographers & Book Lovers!

Have an idea for the next Friends' Newsletter? We want to hear it!

Send it to: Jessica Hernstadt at miamijess@aol.com.

Share your travel photos and stories or a review of the latest book you have read with your fellow Friends of the Fort Myers Beach Public Library!



Good Books

By Edgar Albert Guest (1881-1959)

Good books are friendly things to own.
If you are busy they will wait.
They will not call you on the phone
Or wake you if the hour is late.
They stand together row by row,
Upon the low shelf or the high.
But if you're lonesome this you know:
You have a friend or two nearby.

The fellowship of books is real.
They're never noisy when you're still.
They won't disturb you at your meal.
They'll comfort you when you are ill.
The lonesome hours they'll always share.
When slighted they will not complain.
And though for them you've ceased to care
Your constant friends they'll still remain.

Good books your faults will never see
Or tell about them round the town.
If you would have their company
You merely have to take them down.
They'll help you pass the time away,
They'll counsel give if that you need.
He has true friends for night and day
Who has a few good books to read.

Among Friends...

...is the newsletter of **The Friends of the Fort Myers Beach Public Library**, located at 2755 Estero Boulevard, Fort Myers Beach, Florida 33931.

The Friends' Bookstore, *Beachcombers*, is located on the third floor of the Library. Pay us a visit and browse the wide selection of books of all genres, unique greeting cards, CDs, DVDs, puzzles, and more!

While you are there, say "hello" to our volunteer on duty and find out how you can become a Friends member. Volunteers are always welcomed!

*For more information, visit our website at <http://www.fmb.lib.fl.us> or call us at 239-765-8162. Like us on Facebook (*The Friends of the Fort-Myers Beach Library*).*

STOP BY THE FRIENDS' BOOK STORE ON THE 3RD FLOOR OF THE LIBRARY.

SUMMER HOURS: Monday through Friday 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

PLEASE CALL AHEAD IF YOU WILL BE NEEDING TO USE THE ELEVATOR ~ IT IS BEING REPAIRED