

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.

"I always imagined heaven would be a kind of library" —Jorge Luis Borges

Jan-Feb 2015

Times columnist to share insights on top issues

If any of the newspaper column topics listed here have aroused your passion – while agreeing or not; made you cheer that someone with a forum says things you wish you could tell the powers that be, or if you learned more about how it's not easy to live in a democracy, come meet the author on Sat., Jan. 17 at 2 p.m. at Main Library.

The Friends of Main Library will host *Tampa Bay Times* Metro columnist John Romano as an opportunity for Friends and interested citizens to hear and question

(Please see *John Romano* on Pg. 2)

Recent Romano topics:

- Why aren't we doing everything possible to help anguished veterans?
- At this point, any pier in St. Petersburg will look good.
- It's time to stop being chumps for the PSC.
- Evaluations rate most teachers as terrific. Really now?
- Good grief, how could Democrats lose Florida elections so badly?
- St. Pete's parking rules are unconstitutional — and goofy.



Conflict make your palms sweaty? Here's help

We've all known the feelings of panic: heartbeat speeds up, breathing changes, words don't come out right, eyes don't know where to look. Anger is growing. A confrontation has dropped in and the feelings aren't pleasant.

Some of us were fortunate to learn how to get a grip, master the emotions and handle the situation effectively. Others were not so lucky and, even as grown-ups, struggle with these episodes in daily interactions.

Well, help is on the way. Plan to attend the Friends of Main Library's Feb. 21 program at 2 p.m. and learn ways to increase your confidence and learn

"Conflict is inevitable in our lives. Yet most of us have never learned how to deal with it effectively. We try to avoid conflict, but it doesn't go away. We get angry and lash out at others, which only makes things worse.

"Yet, there's hope. New research into conflict has discovered ways that people can respond more effectively and get better outcomes from disagreements. Find out how you can address conflicts at home and work, and in the community."

— Craig Runde



proven techniques to employ in these episodes.

On hand will be Craig Runde, Director of the Center for Conflict Dynamics at Eckerd College. He is also the coauthor of *Build-*

ing Conflict Competent Teams (2008); Developing Your Conflict Competence (2010), and Becoming a Conflict Competent Leader-2nd Edition.

(Please see *Craig Runde* Back Page)

Friends of the Library

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We have openings on our Board of Directors. To inquire, contact Friends President Debbie Haslam by email at president@stpetelibraryfriends.com You may also leave general comments at this email. Visit and "like" us at [facebook.com/StPeteLibraryFriends](https://www.facebook.com/StPeteLibraryFriends)

Calendar Dates with Friends

Friends Board Meeting

Jan. 15, 2015 4-6 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 17, 2015, 2 p.m.

Tampa Bay Times columnist **John Romano** will speak and take questions.

Sat., Feb. 21, 2015, 2 p.m.

Author/Professor Craig Runde
On Conflict Resolution

Sat., March 7, 2015, 2 p.m.

Peter Meinke, author and poet
St. Petersburg's Poet Laureate

Sat., April 18, 2015

Speaker from Sunken Gardens

Sat., May 9, 2015

Author/Educator **Dr. Mack Hicks** on the "Elephant" in the classroom

Centennial planning under way

Ideas are buzzing for the Centennial celebration of the St. Petersburg Library System. Many exciting plans for 2015 will be posted on the Library website, www.splibraries.org.

Main Library Happenings . . .

Climate Conversations:

Thurs., Jan. 22, 6 p.m.

Pinellas County Extension Agents will discuss the science of climate change, and plausible futures for Tampa Bay in the face of climate change.

Register now for January computer classes at library

Basic Excel: Tues., Jan. 6, 10 a.m.
Learn how to use Excel 2007 to create simple spreadsheets, using basic functions.

Basic Microsoft Word 2007: **Tues., Jan. 20, 10 a.m.** Use Microsoft Word to write letters, papers, create resumes, flyers and much more.

Internet Basics: Mon., Jan., 12, 4 p.m. Get started using the Internet and learn how to surf the web.

Walk-in Computer Help: Tuesdays, Jan. 6, 13, 20, and 27, 4-6 p.m. Get help with e-mail, job applications, e-books, and more.

Register for computer classes at the Information Services Desk or call 727-893-7928. Computers available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Book Discussion Groups

Modern Classics Book Club. 3rd Thursday, 6:30 p.m. Contemporary favorites.

Speculative Fiction Book Club. **First Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.** Details: 727-893-7724. Fiction with supernatural, fantastical or futuristic elements.

The Real Deal: Non-Fiction Book Club. **Last Thursday, 6:30 p.m.** *For a wide range of non-fiction tastes.*

All are welcome, titles available online at http://splibraries.org/book_clubs.html.

Florida Writers Association:

Thurs., Jan. 8, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Monthly meeting featuring topical speakers. See speaker schedule at <http://fwatpete.blogspot.com/>.

John Romano *continued* From Page 1

this long-time journalist with his ear to the ground for state and local issues that affect us all.

Retired columnist Howard Troxler was among the Friends oft-invited, popular speakers; now we have a chance to welcome his successor.

John Romano was born and raised in St. Petersburg. He graduated from the University of South Florida in Tampa, joined the *St. Petersburg Times* as a sports writer in 1985 and has covered the UF Gators, the Orlando Magic, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Rays.

He has been a columnist since 2002, and was honored as one of America's two best sports columnists in 2003. Further national and statewide awards have been earned, and his writing on local and area issues is widely admired. His column appears on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

His Metro column debuted just as the newspaper's name became the *Tampa Bay Times*.

Enjoy the *Book Page* . . . Compliments of the Friends

Next time you are at Main, pick up a free copy of a terrific publication called *Book Page*. This monthly magazine is a goldmine of a guide for new books. It claims editorial independence and includes author features, editors' picks, topical columns and compact reviews. The Friends fund Main Library's subscription to this handy reference — plus it's fun reading!

Dear Friends of the Main Library,

I really enjoyed our antiques appraisal fair on Nov. 8. It was a beautiful day with a steady stream of antique and collectible owners coming to the library. Thanks to articles in area media outlets, we had visitors from all over Pinellas and Hillsborough counties, and from Lakeland.

I didn't have much time to look at the things that were brought in, but one piece caught my attention. It was a bronze figure from the late 19th century that was in the owner's garden when she moved to her home. Her son heard of the antiques fair and suggested she bring it in to be checked. Our appraiser, Andrea LeGrant, looked through her reference sources and found it listed for more than \$1,000 -- a happy discovery!

I'd like to thank everyone who helped this year: John and Andrea LeGrant, Michael Lough, Gary DesMarais, and Michael Slicker. Publix donated a gift card we used to help provide lunch for everyone who helped. Thanks to Friends Mozelle Bell, Lorraine Franckle and Neil Franckle, Bertie Bloxom and Greg Bloxom, and my husband, Andy Haslam. The efforts of these, and our many supporters, help with the funds we are raising for library projects in 2015.

Sat., Dec. 6, was the annual performance by the St. Petersburg College Madrigalians. We love having them and their beautiful voices, singing holiday favorites, and introducing us to some new pieces as well.

The Mirror Lake Friends of the Library have been planning

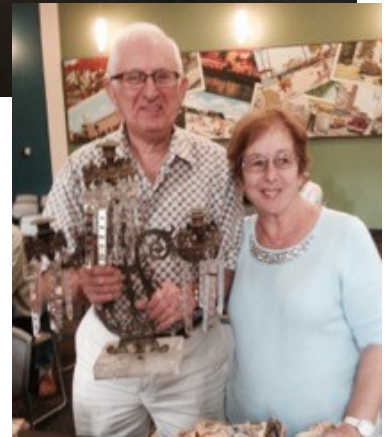
their first centennial activity on New Year's Eve at First Night in downtown St. Petersburg. They will have a special memento, and hands-on activity, celebrating the history and beauty of the Mirror Lake Library. If you go to First Night, be sure to visit.

On Jan. 17 we are looking forward to having John Romano from the *Tampa Bay Times*. I enjoy his thought-provoking columns and look forward to his program at 2 p.m.

On Feb. 21 we have invited Craig Runde from Eckerd College to give a presentation about conflict resolution. He has written several books and has a lively, interactive program.

Please join us for any of our programs.

- Debbie Haslam, President



Friends 2014 Antiques Appraisal Fair

Treasures for sure, values sometimes surprising, what items actually are — not always so clear.

One thing certain—good time had by all while raising funds for Main Library. Thanks to all who took part.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

c/o Public Library
3745 Ninth Ave. N.
St. Petersburg FL 33713-6001

Jan. – Feb. 2015 Issue

Main Library Phone: 727-893-7724

Main Library website: www.splibraries.org

Main Library Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday:

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday:

10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Sunday: Noon - 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming Friends programs:

Sat., Jan. 17, 2:00 p.m.

John Romano, columnist
Tampa Bay Times

Sat., Feb. 21, 2015, 2 p.m.

Author/Professor Craig Runde
Conflict Resolution

Sat., March 7, 2015, 2 p.m.

Peter Meinke, author and poet
St. Petersburg's Poet Laureate

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Craig Runde *continued* from Page 1

He is a frequent speaker and commentator on workplace conflict issues, and on the editorial board of the *Journal of Conflict Management*. Before joining Eckerd College, he was the director of the International Center for Computer Enhanced Learning at Wake Forest University.

Runde received his B.A. from Harvard University, M.L.L. from the University of Denver, and J.D. from Duke University. He has practiced law in Colorado and has taught at the University of Minnesota Law School and at Wake Forest University.

He also directs the Mediation Training Institute International at Eckerd.

The Feb. 21 program (2 p.m.), like all others by the Friends, is free. Everyone is welcome.

Madrigalians return to sing for the Friends



Gathered Dec. 2 around Main Library's Parlor Grande piano (a Friends donation) were some of the Madrigalians — advanced vocal students from St. Petersburg College. Along with longtime director, Dr. Vernon Taranto, (back row, with beard), and longtime accompanist, Barry Stevens (seated), the group is always welcome at Friends' events.

Starting the holiday season with the wonderful vocal gifts of the St. Petersburg College Madrigalians is an historic Friends' tradition. This hugely talented group's renderings never fail to enchant.



Friends of the Main Library . . .

Invite you to attend our upcoming programs held in the auditorium at Main Library. Admission is free.



Mark your calendar:

Sat., Jan. 17, 2015, 2 p.m.

Tampa Bay Times columnist John Romano

Sat., Feb. 21, 2015, 2 p.m.

Author and Eckerd College Professor Craig Runde on conflict resolution

Sat., Mar. 7, 2015, 2 p.m.

Peter Meinke, author, Poet Laureate of St. Petersburg, Eckerd professor (retired)

Sat., April 18, 2015, 2 p.m.

Speaker from Sunken Gardens

Sat., May 9, 2015, 2 p.m.

Author, educator, psychologist Dr. Mack Hicks

Main Library, 3745 Ninth Ave. N, St. Petersburg

Light refreshments follow

Friends of the Library, Inc. St. Petersburg Main Library

We are a 501(c) (3) nonprofit group whose purpose is to support the library through volunteerism, fund-raising activities, and sponsorship of programs and services. Your membership offers you the opportunity to get involved, share thoughts and lend your talents to the library – a priceless resource. Friends meeting dates vary, generally October through April, in Main Library Auditorium. *What we do:*

- Support the library to help make it a vital part of our community
- Fund summer reading programs
- Purchase books, equipment, furnishings and other materials
- Support library programs for new parents, children of all ages, teens, adults and families
- Host author visits, guest speakers and cultural events

To join the Friends and support library programs and services, please complete this application and mail it with a check payable to Friends of the Library at 3745 Ninth Ave. N, St. Petersburg, FL 33713-6001

YES! I want to be a **Friend of the Library!** () new () annual renewal [Jan-Dec 2015]

Name _____ Phone _____ Date _____

Address _____ Email _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Membership choice: () Individual \$15 () Family \$25 () Life \$150 () Business/Corporate \$100

TOTAL enclosed \$ _____ Membership is annual - January through December

I can help with: () hospitality () fundraising () newsletter () programs () membership () publicity