

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.

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

May 2015

Myths, mistakes, test overload, plus elephant?

Whatever your experience, interest and concerns about how our kids are doing in our schools today, the speaker at the Friends' program on Sat., May 9 will offer local research-based information, and plenty of "food for thought."

Mack R. Hicks, Ph.D., scientist/practitioner/neuropsychologist, has lived and worked in this area for many years.

He has opened and operated academic centers for students with varied special needs and

Planning ahead

Always attempting to appeal to the many and varied interests of Library patrons, the Friends of Main Library Board has started filling its Fall program schedule. Specific dates will be announced in the end-of-summer newsletter.

On **Oct. 3**, popular former *Tampa Bay Times* food and travel writer, **Janet Keeler**, will discuss preserving your family heritage through writing your own cookbook. She is now editorial director of *Sunday Supper Movement* and associate professor at USF-St. Pete.

The third Friends **Antique Fair** will return on **Nov. 7**, and the popular musicians of the **St. Petersburg College Madrigalians** will perform on **Dec. 5th**.

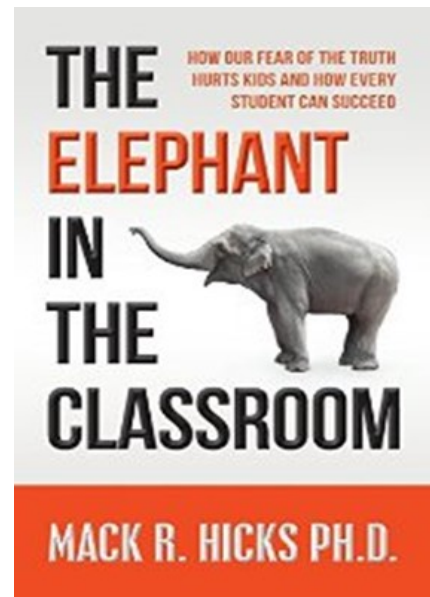
Be sure to mark these dates and invite a friend to enjoy them with you.

provided psychological counseling to hundreds of local students and families over the years. He has conducted years of research and study on school issues here and abroad.

His presentation will cover findings published in his newest book, *The Elephant in the Classroom – How our Fear of the Truth Hurts Kids and How Every Student Can Succeed*.

His talk (and handouts) will share original research on school reform in Pinellas County, other counties and states. He describes the contents as a "controversial and realistic research report that reveals underlying problems and today's solutions."

(Please see *Elephant* Back Page)



Join the Friends of Main
Application in this issue

Dear Friends,

Be sure to read the terrific experiences planned for this year's Summer Reading Program on Page 3!

The Friends have happily helped fund this wonderful way for kids to keep reading while they have time off from school in the summer. You have been so supportive in the past and we are counting on your continued generosity.

The letter from the Library program managers outlines how funds are spent and the appealing events the kids will enjoy.

Thank you for all you do!

—Debbie Haslam, President

Friends of the Library

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Mika Slaughter Nelson,
Library Director, Ex-officio

Beth Lindsay, Library Operations Manager

Lila Denning, Main Library Coordinator

Sharon & Jim Moorhead

Newsletter Editors

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

May 21, 2015 4 p.m.

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

Author/Educator **Dr. Mack Hicks**
The Elephant in the Classroom

Sat., Oct. 3, 2015

Janet Keeler, on preserving family heritage through writing your own cookbook

Sat., Nov. 7, 2015

Third Friends Antiques Fair

Sat., Dec. 5, 2015

St. Petersburg College Madrigalians

Dues changes announced

Two categories of Membership Dues for the Friends of the Library have changed:

Individual: Now \$20 per year

Family: Now \$30 per year

*Your support is needed,
and appreciated*

Main Library Happenings . . .

For Manga and Anime aficionados grades 6-12

There's even a club for this! Join followers of the centuries-old Japanese arts of comics, cartoons and animation. Come watch anime from Crunchyroll, eat popcorn and share interest in all things anime and manga, every third Tuesday from 6:15-7:45 p.m. at Main Library. For more information call 892-5296.



Figure in Manga style, image credit: Niabot.

And, or, meet up with other teens in grades 6-12 to enjoy classic and new table-top games at Main every Thursday from 5-7:30 p.m. Bring your own games or plan to use the Library's stash.

Useful Computer Classes at your Library

Intro to Online Searching: Tues., June 9, 10 a.m. Learn how to search the Internet and get the results you need.

Craigslist Basics: Tues., June 16, 10 a.m. Learn how to use Craigslist to buy and sell, as well as find information on jobs and housing.

Basic Microsoft Word 2007: Mon., June 22, 10 a.m. Use Microsoft Word to write letters and papers, create resumes and flyers, and much more.

Walk-in Computer Help: Tuesdays, June 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 4-6 p.m. Get help with email, job applications, e-books, and more.

Florida Writers Association: 2nd Thursday, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring topical speakers. Speaker schedule at <http://fwastpete.blogspot.com/>

Make Your Own Instrument/Instrument Petting Zoo:

Presented by **The New Music Conflagration, Inc.:** Sun., June 7, 2:30-4:30. A hands-on afternoon with instruments for orchestral, world and electronic music for attendees to try. Stations for children and adults of all ages to make their own musical instruments -- which they can take home -- will be provided.

New Music on a Sunday Afternoon: Sun., June 28, 3-4:30 p.m. Presented by **New Music Conflagration**, a nonprofit dedicated to making quality performances of contemporary, chamber and solo music accessible to the public. Performances also on July 19 and Aug. 16. See program information at www.thenewmusicconflagration.org.

Book Discussion Groups

All are welcome to the following book clubs, titles available online at http://splibraries.org/book_clubs.html.

The Real Deal Book Club:

Thurs., June 25, 6:30 p.m.

Speculative Fiction Book Club:

Tues., June 4, 6:30 p.m.



St. Petersburg Public Library System

City of St. Petersburg
280 5th St. North
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Telephone: 727-893-7318

Dear Friends of the St Petersburg Main Library,

Summer Reading is just around the corner! We hope that you will continue to provide financial support to make this year's program another success.

This summer we would like to host two special activities for children at the Main Library. Steve Turner of Giving Tree Music leads a drumming circle that is always popular. He brings drums and other percussion instruments for everyone in attendance.

World of Reptiles with John Storms is another popular program with our children. John Storms will bring a variety of reptiles. The children will get an up-close, fun and educational opportunity to learn about the animals. Your sponsorship will be announced during the programs and in our publicity.

As always, prizes add a little extra fun and motivation for our program participants. For the children, we would like to purchase paperback books again as prizes for our "Super Summer Reading" incentive game. Children who complete 10 reading-related activities will be awarded a book. Stickers acknowledging the Friends for providing these prizes would be placed inside each book.

Those who complete the 10 reading-related activities will also be invited to our end of summer party. Again this year the party will be held after hours at Main Library and include food, prizes, crafts, a bounce house and a variety of activities for the children. Your sponsorship will be announced during the event.

We are planning programs, activities, and special events for tweens, teens and adults throughout the summer as well as for children.

We are planning several programs for adults in partnership with other community agencies, including a speaker from the Armed Forces History Museum, and a Pet Rescue Fair.

This summer we would like to request \$2,000 to reimburse us for the cost of the summer reading program.

This includes the following items:

Steve Turner of Giving Tree Music Program (\$325)

John Storms World of Reptiles Program (\$275)

Tony the Balloon Guy -- End-of-Summer Party (\$200)

Mad Science Program for Teens (\$210)

Fritzy Bros. Program at Child's Park (\$285)

Youth Summer Reading Prizes and Supplies (\$405)

Teen Summer Reading Prizes and Supplies (\$250)

Adult Summer Reading Prizes and Supplies (\$50)

Given the great anticipation for and participation in the Summer Reading Program, we think you'll agree that the impact of your small investment is phenomenal -- connecting thousands of children, teens and adults with reading and the library.

Paula Alexis

Youth Services Coordinator

Lila Denning

Main Library Coordinator

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

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

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

Author/Educator Dr. Mack Hicks

The Elephant in the classroom discussion

Sat., Oct. 3, 2015

Food Writer Janet Keeler on cookbooks and family heritage.

Sat., Nov. 7, 2015

Third Friends **Antique Fair**

Sat., Dec. 5, 2015

St. Petersburg College **Madrigalians**

Non-Profit Organization

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Elephant continued from Page 1

Topics will include ways to “help your child today,” differences among students, high-stakes testing and, significantly, challenges to the “myth” that all students should attend college. He will also dispel beliefs about our school system many of us may mistakenly hold. And, he says, he will not be blaming teachers, their union or parents.

Part of his book’s premise is what is happening to the students who are “non-selected” for specialized programs not offered in their “neighborhood” schools. Studies show nearly half of Florida students are in schools they “choose.” Those left — sometimes in non-inner-city neighborhood high schools — have lost the example of many motivated peers. These often are the sites of

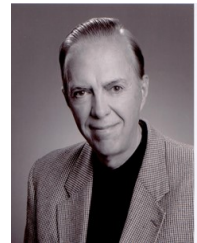
acted-out frustrations, fights and arrests.

Hicks presents his case for greatly increased career-track offerings to kids for whom college should be considered, he says, probably not suitable. Far from relegating such students to the proverbial “flipping burgers,” Hicks sees them having substantial personal success as they contribute as a trained and vital part of the workforce.

If you want to bone up on this speaker’s topics so you can be ready with your questions, his website is mack-hicks.com. He is a prolific blogger, and his contributed columns to *Psychology Today* count thousands of hits.

Oh, and that elephant? Her four legs stand for the necessary, but often missing, traits of concentration, self-control, IQ, and motivation.

“We need to step up our career programs and cut out the nonsense about everyone going to college. Let’s get real, for a change,” says Hicks.



Dr. Hicks

Memorial Day refresher

**Main Library will be closed
Mon., May 25 for Memorial Day.**

Starting with the Civil War, this day honors those who lost their lives while in military service. It is traditional to fly the American flag at half staff. Many people visit national cemeteries where volunteers place small flags on graves.

Also known as Decoration Day, it is not to be confused with Veteran’s Day which celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans.

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

Author, educator, neuropsychologist Dr. Mack Hicks
The Elephant in the Classroom (pub. Jan. 2015)

Sat., Oct. 3, 2015 2 p.m.

Preserving your family heritage through writing your own cookbook
with former *Tampa Bay Times* Food and Travel Editor Janet Keeler, now Editorial Director
of *Sunday Supper Movement* and Associate Professor at USF-St. Pete

Sat., Nov. 7, 2015

Third Friends Antiques Fair

Sat., Dec. 5, 2015

Holiday music with the St. Petersburg College Madrigalians

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 \$20 () Family \$30 () Life \$150 () Business/Corporate \$100

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

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