

February 2008

Dear FRIENDS,

Welcome to 2008 and another year of supporting your library. Thank you for your continued interest and donations. The Friends were able, with your help, to accomplish many projects and programs.

The Friends sponsored and organized three successful book sales, raising almost \$4000, which represents a record for book sale revenue. This money is used to fund book purchases, recorded books on CD, a movie (DVD) collection for adults and kids, and our Children's programs. The movie DVDs features old classics, Academy Award winners, and many of the newest popular titles. The new recorded books on CD are replacing the old cassettes, with many new titles. Don't forget about our music (CD) collection, which continues to expand as well. In addition, our Reference materials continue to be updated for your research needs. We would like to thank our book sale volunteers who were a tremendous help, especially at the November sale. If you are interested in volunteering, we could use your involvement. Even two hours would be most helpful to contribute to a successful and organized sale.

The Friends continues to fund Teresa's Children's Program. This is a series of 8 reading groups which are held at Blue Heron Park throughout the summer. They are well attended and Teresa and the kids love the outdoor environment.

The Friends hopes to offer a Meet the Authors program in the fall of 2008. We have some ideas to continue to sponsor this event, but we welcome both ideas and volunteers to help organize the Program. It would only require a few hours of your time and we would appreciate some new voices on this project.

The Friends participates in the monthly Library Advisory Board Meetings, on behalf of the Big Pine Key Library. The Friends Treasurer, Ralph Close, serves on the County Board, which gives the Friends first hand insight into what is happening with our Library in the County system.

Your library continues to offer a wide range of services including Wireless Internet Access. Remember this service is available 24/7 for the community and the visitors to Big Pine. In addition, the computers are available for all to use and there is a large range of newspapers and magazines for your reading pleasure.

We would like to thank all of the Friends who have helped the library recently, especially by contacting our local County Commissioners in light of the proposed budget cuts. As you are aware, the County is continually trying to enact budget cuts that could affect our library. I'm sure that you know from reading the papers that many of the other Monroe County

libraries are having their staff cut, hours cut and face continued pressure by the County to cut materials spending. So far, Big Pine Key has not been required to cut personnel or hours. Although the budget for materials has been reduced considerably throughout the County, the Friends groups are trying very hard to speak out against any more cuts to services to our library. Please continue to voice your thoughts to our County leaders and please give generously this year to our annual campaign. We can also really use support in the way of volunteers. Please call Ann Marie Sears at 515 0312 or [lomls@aol.com](mailto:lomls@aol.com) . We will work with you to find the volunteer opportunity of your choice and interest.

### Plans for 2008

The Friends had their Annual Meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The proposed slate of candidates is attached. Please vote and send back your choices along with your donation. We would like to acknowledge our Friend Jo Elder, who has been a loyal board member for many years. She leaves the board this year and we would like to thank her for her time and generous spirit that she contributed to the Friends events. Jo made our bright and lovely banner for the book sale.

Our first book sale will be held on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9:00 a.m. till about 4 p.m. We are in need of book donations. Remember we also accept donations of CDs, DVDs and recorded books. All proceeds go directly to the Big Pine Key Library. We hope to see you there. Bring your friends and your neighbors. Other plans for 2008 will be communicated as the year progresses. We will post all information at the library as well as sending communication by email. Please send us an updated email address. See form below. Note that we have made considerable efforts to update our mailing lists. If your information is still not correct, please let us know. For our Lifetime members, we hope that you enjoy the newsletter and thank you for your membership.

Sincerely, Ann Marie Sears President (515-0312 or [lomls@aol.com](mailto:lomls@aol.com) )

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FRIENDS OF THE BIG PINE KEY LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP 2008

Please complete and mail to:

BPK Library, PO Box 431811, Big Pine Key, FL 33043

PLEASE PRINT

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I WISH TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE FRIENDS \_\_\_\_\_

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THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.