

Zontians Meet Margaret Mohundro, Library Director

Zonta had the pleasure of learning about what's new and hot for the summer months and beyond, when Margaret spoke at the June meeting. She shared her thoughts on her first year at the library and how impressed she has been with the high usage of the library and the enthusiasm of the residents. Statistically, the library is ranked near the top in both the state and nation. Margaret credits much of that accolade to the community, volunteers and Board in their enthusiasm and support of library events. She stated, "We are in the people business."

She also commended the Library Foundation Board that enabled her to try innovative and creative ways of building awareness and expanding users. She complemented Zonta's new President and a member of the library Board, Linda Robison, saying, " you are lucky to have her and we are, too- she has done a great job." Some of the new activities the Board has helped fund are:

- A Play- Away audio device in a stand alone carrier that can be loaned out without needing a CD/DVD player.
- A pilot project in genealogy technology that can only be accessed in the library and has been well- received, widely used and for some has become "addictive".
- Known national authors with a literary reputation have been invited as speakers at an "Author Party", such as James Grippando, Joyce Oates, and Susan Vreeland. The events have been well attended and will continue through '08-'09_[CL1].
- Cool Back-packs for the student summer reading program are popular.

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- A teen area is being decorated with fun furniture of their choice and has VIP special hours.

There have also been a number of special interest and affinity book collections: Florida authors and murder mysteries (check out the eye-catching dead body display). There are 130 popular identified authors that are always being updated. The Computer Lab has been upgraded with more than double the wireless capacity due to increased usage. Lastly, the on-line catalogue will be updated next year to make it more user- friendly.

Zontians were then given the opportunity to ask questions, which created a lively discussion, around a variety of topics;

Q- What are the rules about taking books- on tape on road trips?

A- The library provides self addressed, although not pre-paid- return envelopes.

Q- Have you thought about having marked trash cans for recycling empty water bottles?

A- That is something we should look into.

Q- Have you monitored the usage by Government and Businesses on the Island?

A- We have talked about having a research project on that topic.

Q- Is it possible to get more large size print books?

A- Yes. There is a special section for those and we add the new ones into that collection.

Q- If a person is off Island, can they use the Lee County Library with their Sanibel card?

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A-Yes, but you must pay \$10 for a card, if you want to take a book out.

Of course, we could not let Margaret leave without a token of our appreciation and an invitation to come back to a Zonta meeting as our guest. Stop by the library and you can get a tour of all the new projects first-hand.

Zonta International is a worldwide service organization of executives in business and the professions working together to advance the status of women and girls. Zontians volunteer their time, talents, and energy to local and international service projects to advance the status of women.

Submitted by Cyndy Lorry