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Selby Public Library celebrates its tenth anniversary on August 2

Selby Public Library, 1331 First St., Sarasota, will celebrate its tenth anniversary on Saturday, Aug. 2, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The "Selby Library Tops 10!" celebration will include live jazz, a magic show, crafts and refreshments.

Selby Public Library opened its doors at its current location on Aug. 1, 1998. Much has changed since the early days, from the design and look of library spaces to the vast array of services offered to the public. Selby Public Library offers more than just books and has become a dynamic community center.

The impressive architectural features of the two-story building offer no hint of its very humble beginnings. It all started in 1907 when the first library was housed in a building near a watering trough for cattle and horses at Five Points in downtown Sarasota. From there it moved to what is now the Florida Studio Theatre and then on to larger quarters on Main Street.

In 1941, winter visitors John and Ida Chidsey donated money to construct a 3,000 sq. ft. library, currently the Sarasota Count Visitors Center and History Center Museum. As the library's popularity and collection continued to grow the facility gain found itself in need of more space. In 1976, the newly named Selby Public Library opened on Boulevard of the Arts, currently G.WIZ, Hands on Science Museum opened with 31,000 sq. ft. or space. Ten years later, there was talk of expanding yet again and the Five Points location was selected, culminating with the new library dedication on August 1, 1998.

On Saturday, August 2, The "Selby Library Tops 10!" Celebration starts at 11 a.m. with a magic show for children in the Geldbart Auditorium. Local actress Jenny Aldrich will portray Marie Selby and be available to meet and mingle with guests in the library Rotunda from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. At noon the popular program Read to the Dogs, where children will have an opportunity to read a story to a certified pet therapy dog from the Humane Society of Sarasota County, takes place. At 1 p.m., there will be a short recognition ceremony, followed by refreshments. At 2 p.m. there will be a live jazz concert with O Som do Jazz. In addition, the Mote Mobile Aquarium and Touch Tank will be available throughout the day.

To celebrate the anniversary, the Friends of the Selby Public Library will be holding a celebration book sale Monday, July 28 through Saturday, August 2. Most books will be at least half-price and there will be many special "celebration" surprises!

All events are free and open to the public. For more information contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about Selby Library Tops 10! Celebration.

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