

FRIENDS OF THE UPPER TAMPA BAY REGIONAL LIBRARY

By Maureen B. Gauzza, President

<http://www:uppertampabaylibrary.org>

Our next Friends of UTB Regional Library Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 10th at 7:00 P.M. at the Westchase Swim and Tennis on Countryway Blvd. This would be a good time for you to come to one of our quarterly meetings and learn more about the Friends Group and your future UTB Library. Many of your friends and neighbors belong to this group, and we hope to see you there!

The UTB Library sign will probably already be back up on the property site by the time you are reading this newsletter, and it will help some of the new people to see where their Library will be built on Countryway Blvd. by December 2004. You will notice the new sign has been redesigned, and in addition to the sign you should also be seeing the construction equipment moving into clear the land. We will all be eagerly looking forward to seeing the bulldozers and other construction equipment busy at work at the UTB Library site on Countryway Blvd. Just think -- the Library only has 11 months to completion as of this month! Let's all start counting! That is awesome don't you think?

This year in March Hillsborough County Library services will have a new book for their One Community, One Book Program. This year's book project features 2003 Pulitzer Prize winner Nilo Cruz's play, *Anna in the Tropics*. This story is set in Ybor City, Anna tells the story of the waning days of cigar rollers and the importance of literature in their lives as a new lector reads Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* in the factory. There will be more information on this in March. It will remind us all of how important literature is in all of our lives.

Remember as you visit the Library during the month look for "Check it out" brochures. Programs are listed for every Library in Hillsborough County for all ages. There might be something of special interest that you would like to put on your calendar to attend for yourself or one of your family members. It will be wonderful when some of these programs will be scheduled for our UTB Library and you can attend close to home! Also, for those who want to access information from home on your computer don't forget about Alleycat. It is the Anywhere Anytime Library Electronic Catalog at <http://alleycat.tblc.org> and you have a lot of information at your finger tips!

Remember to tell your friends and neighbors in UTB about our upcoming meeting on February 10th, and bring them with you. The Upper Tampa Bay Area consists of residents from: Countryway, Charleston Corners, Citrus Park, Twin Branch Acres, Westwood Lakes, Westchester, Westchase and surrounding areas.