

Vision

Our Vision is an educated, connected community of readers, learners, doers, and dreamers.

Mission

We transform lives by educating, inspiring, and connecting people.

Values

We value education, excellence, freedom, diversity, innovation, community, and passion.

We are customer focused

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That makes 27!

On February 16, 2021, we opened our 27th location: W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library. Located at 10931 E. Mary Ann Cleveland Way, this 8,960 square foot library, designed by BWS Architects, serves residents of the greater Vail area, including Corona de Tucson, Vail, and Rita Ranch.

We checked in with staff members to see what they had to say about the opening and working there...

"My favorite thing about working here is the view (patrons also love it), and the walking path right next door. It's also nice how many people tell us, 'I'm so glad you're finally out here!'"
– Amy B., *Library Associate*

"The view from the window on the north wall makes all the difference. It's wonderful how many people tell us every day how happy they are that they have a library now. I also love the big circle cutout in the concrete wall near the entrance. Sometimes kids sit in the circle while they're reading. Whenever that happens, it's like the library proves its reason for being." – Mary M., *Managing Librarian*



"I love interacting with so many different people on a daily basis—babies on up to some of our most mature residents; people with very specific information needs and those who simply want a book recommendation; people needing a listening ear and people needing a quiet corner." – Sara D., *Tween Librarian*



Meet Leah the Library Card Collector!

This year, we had the good fortune to meet Leah—hailing all the way from the Empire State—when she emailed us asking for a **Pima County Public Library card**. You might be wondering why. Well, according to Leah, “I like to collect things. Coins, erasers, keychains, to name a few, but library cards, too. At this point I have 107!”

We gladly sent her one, of course, but we also checked in with her about her growing collection.

First things first, how many library cards do you have?

The answer for this question depends on how you count, but I’ll try my best to explain. Most libraries sent a standard size card as well as a keychain card, some libraries only sent a regular size card, and a few only sent a keychain card. Additionally, some libraries chose to send multiple card designs. Here are the numbers broken down—at this point, I have 107 standard size library cards and 96 keychain cards. I have cards from 76 different libraries.

What inspired you to start this project?

I’ve seen videos of people collecting things by asking people for them, like collecting flags by reaching out to embassies. I wanted to collect something in this way, something that I can’t collect just by buying online. And I realized that library cards would be a perfect thing for this.

Where do you store them?

Currently I keep them in pouches from airplanes. I have yet to figure out a more permanent system. I do have a very good system to keep track of who I asked for a card, who answered, and which I already received. I have a very detailed spreadsheet, organized by state and alphabetized within each state’s section.



When asked if there’s anything else she wanted to share, Leah said,

“Collecting cards has been an amazing experience. I’ve been so glad to interact with some incredible librarians, and I’ve learned so much about so many different areas around the country!!”

High School Art Invitational

THEY CREATE, WE APPLAUD

In March, every year since 1994, Pima County Public Library exhibits artwork from local youth artists at the **Joel D. Valdez Main Library**. In this year's virtual High School Art Invitational, we had 24 art and photography teachers respond to the call, and submitted 96 images of student work!



ALONE by Jordan D.
Gouache on paper



Untitled by Lola L.
Acrylic and pastel



SPACES by Julianna S.
Watercolor and gouache on paper



Untitled by Carlisa P.
Reduction relief printmaking



HIDDEN GUILT by Hailey C.
Acrylic on canvas

While the event is more about highlighting the creativity, talent and effort of local youth, their teachers also received a prize for their classrooms. A jury of artists, librarians and arts professionals looked at the art and the winning classrooms received a delivery of fresh baked cookies for the students and \$300 worth of art supplies for the teacher.

The winning art came from Ms. Elizabeth Denneau's art class at Marana High School. The jury applauds the work she's done to get the students where they are artistically and admires the range of themes, originality and creativity in the work and the diversity of formats she teaches.

To see Honorable Mentions, visit <https://bit.ly/HSHonorableMention>

To see all the submitted art, visit <https://bit.ly/SubmittedArt>

“Supporting youth arts means a lot to us here at the library and we recognize the creativity and effort of all who participated.”

—Matt Landon, Young Adult Librarian

We've got award-winning staff!

In December 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had us in dire need of some great news. We were grateful when we got it—thanks to the hard work and dedication of three amazing Library staff members. Caitlin Burns, Heather Severson, and Elma Schaffer were named among the recipients of the Arizona Library Association's (AzLA) awards: Outstanding Youth Services Award, Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library Support Staff Scholarship Award, and Sharon G. Womack Outstanding Library Technician Award, respectively.

Of Caitlin, her nominator said:

Caitlin demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to all the youth in Pima County as well as to the general public. In late April while libraries were closed due to COVID-19, Caitlin coordinated with community partners to provide pick-up snacks for youth and their families at 12 Pima County Public Library (PCPL) locations. This was the first face-to-face service PCPL offered during the pandemic and it became a lifeline for hundreds of families.

In her nomination letter, Heather said this about her commitment to her ongoing learning:

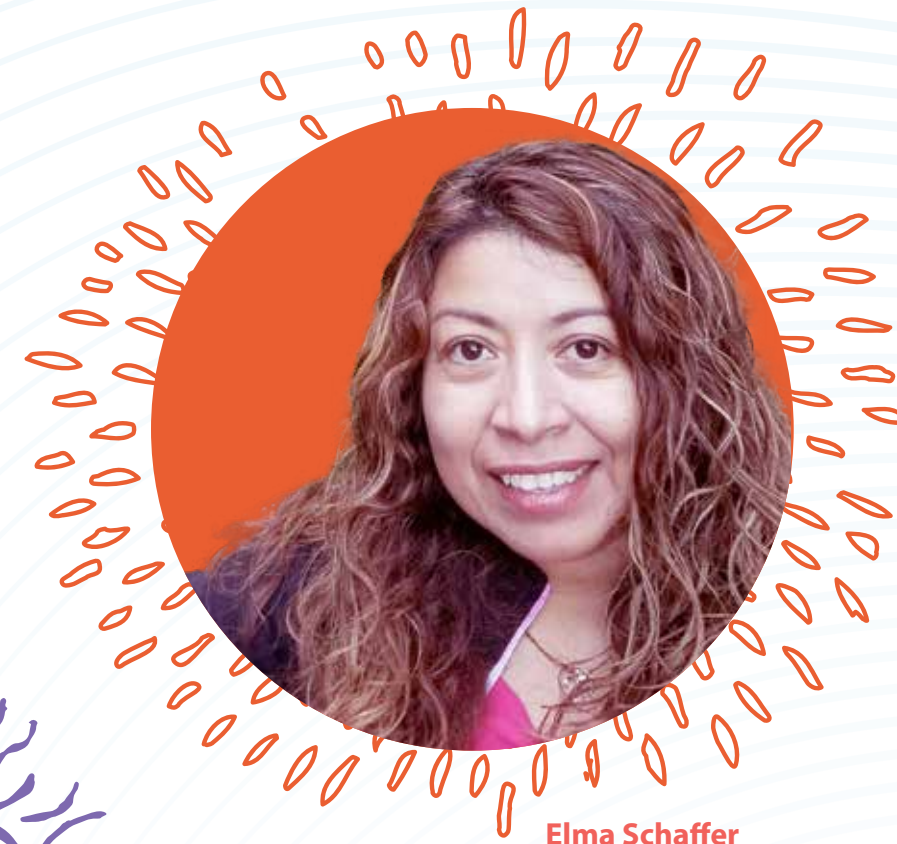
I have a particular but flexible professional agenda for my education, experience and career preparation. This is half of the equation for me; the rest involves what I can contribute to my fellow learners. My curiosity, respect for others' experiences and viewpoints, and willingness to help my classmates and workplace colleagues, and celebrate their accomplishments, ensures that I am a valuable member of any team of adventurers in Information Science.

Of Elma, her nominator said:

Elma's commitment to working closely with the Santa Rosa community located south of Downtown Tucson reaches far beyond the requirements of her position. As one of four full-time staff members at this busy neighborhood library, Elma works tirelessly to develop new programs that engage, educate, and entertain the kids she sees each weekday when they come to the library after school.



Heather Severson



Elma Schaffer



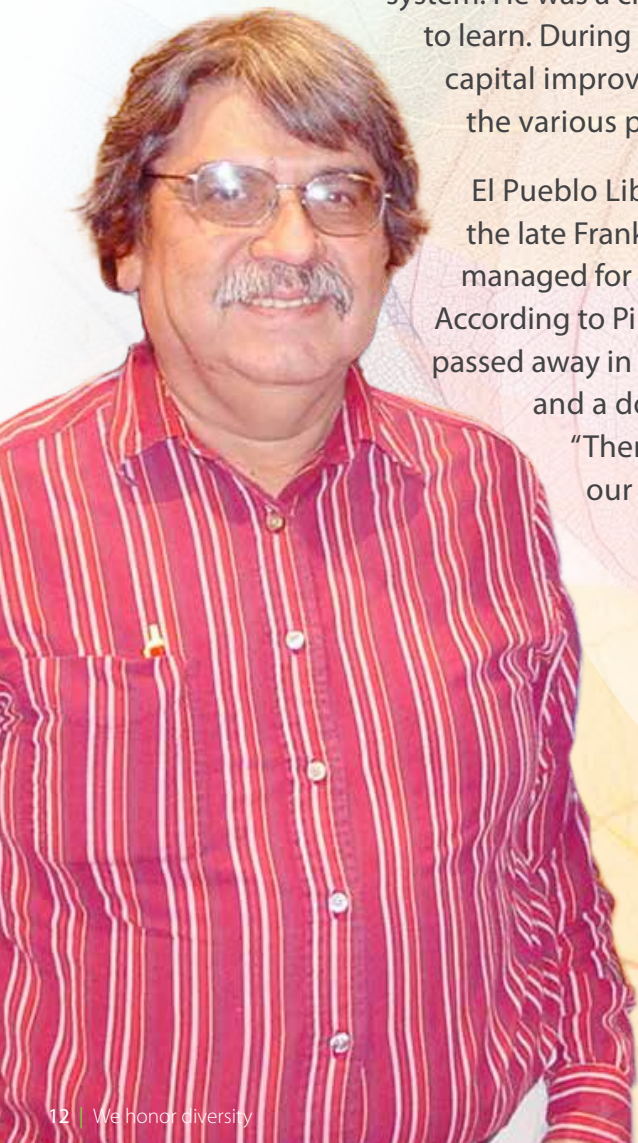
Caitlin Burns

Two libraries renamed to celebrate beloved community members

In October 2020 and March 2021, the Pima County Board of Supervisors approved the renaming of two libraries.

Mission Library was renamed the Richard Elías-Mission Library after the late Board of Supervisors Chairman. Elías, who passed away unexpectedly in March 2020, was a lifelong book lover and supporter of the library system. He was a champion of literacy programs, a voracious reader, and always eager to learn. During that same meeting, the Board also approved \$6 million in future capital improvements to the library, including a tile mural that will represent the various public service commitments and community values of Elías.

El Pueblo Library was renamed the Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library after the late Frank De La Cruz, the heart and soul of the El Pueblo Library, which he managed for 21 years. In total, Frank worked for the library system for 35 years. According to Pima County Supervisor and Vice Chair Adelita Grijalva, "Frank, who passed away in 2015, was an exceptional librarian, but also a community activist and a dogged advocate for justice." Congressman Raúl Grijalva added, "There are countless individuals who, because of Frank, came to see our public libraries as a necessary resource and important in their lives."

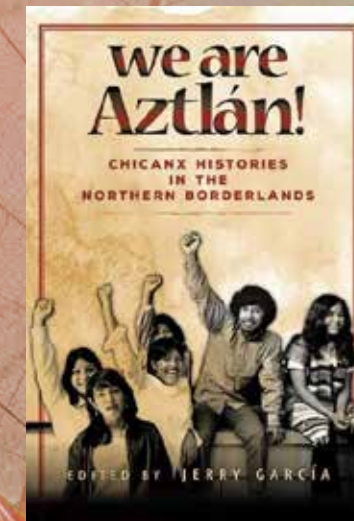
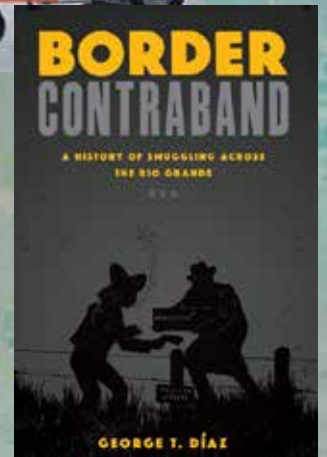
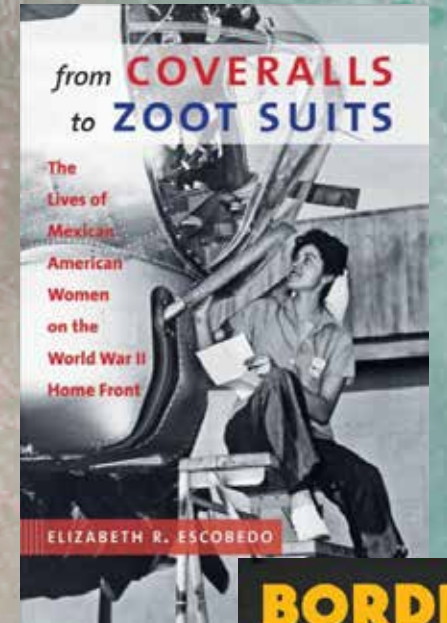
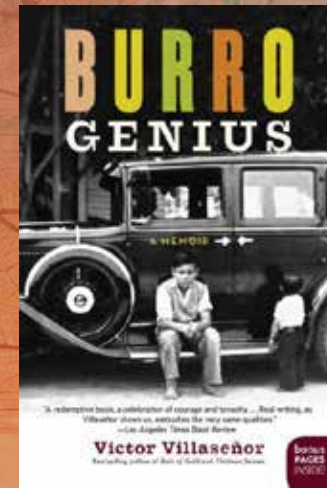
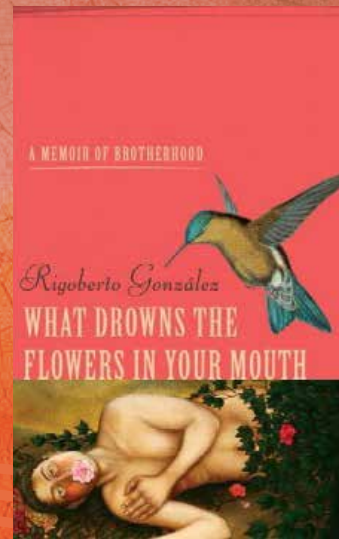
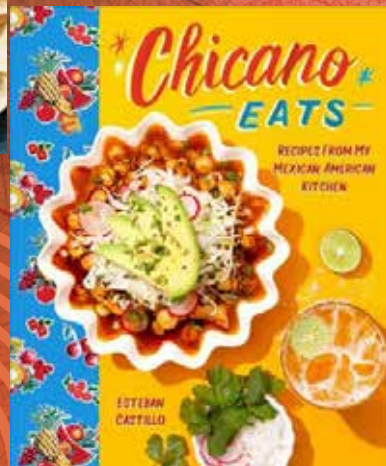
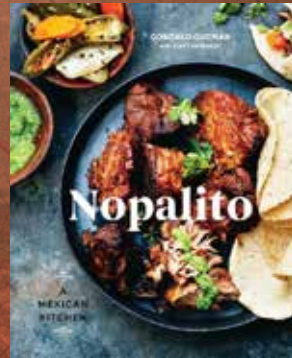
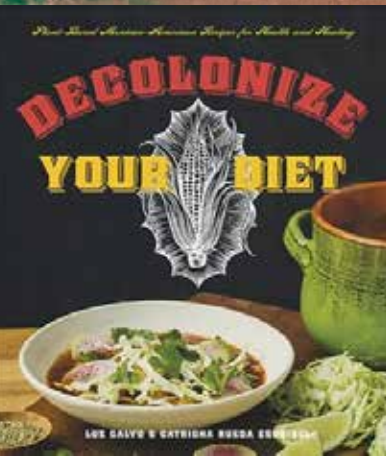


"20 years ago we talked about libraries as if they were passé. They're not passé. They have evolved. And the folks that are here from the Library Advisory Board know that. And our librarians know that and we should be very proud of them."

— Richard Elías at the January 2020 groundbreaking of the W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library

A collection to honor Frank De La Cruz, longtime librarian, humanitarian, and social activist

Frank De La Cruz, who helped establish the El Rio Library in 1972, began a collection at El Rio Library that attempted to fill in the blanks found in mainstream literature regarding U.S./Mexico Borderland history, culture, and tradition. When he passed away on Friday, November 13, 2015 the Library—and the greater community—lost a truly wonderful man and a truly wonderful librarian.



In memory of his accomplishments, PCPL's Nuestras Raíces Team created the Frank De La Cruz Collection, which comprises a circulating and reference collection available to all those seeking to enrich their grasp of a history worthy of being known.

The depth and breadth of the topics highlight 500 years of cultural and political evolution of the Mestizo Southwest community. Ultimately, the collection enhances knowledge of this thriving region and people, and encourages recognition of the important part those of Mexican descent have played in our country's identity, growth and prosperity.

In the Frank De La Cruz Collection, readers can find books on everything from poetry and fiction to politics and immigration. *Here are some we recommend:*

Food

- *Chicano Eats: Recipes from My Mexican American Kitchen*
- *Nopalito: A Mexican Kitchen*
- *Decolonize your Diet: Plant-Based Mexican-American Recipes for Health and Healing*

Memoir

- *Burro Genius*
- *House Built on Ashes*
- *What Drowns the Flowers in your Mouth*

History

- *We Are Aztlán*
- *Border Contraband*
- *From Coveralls to Zoot Suits*

To view the entire Frank De La Cruz Collection, visit <https://bit.ly/FrankDeLaCruz>

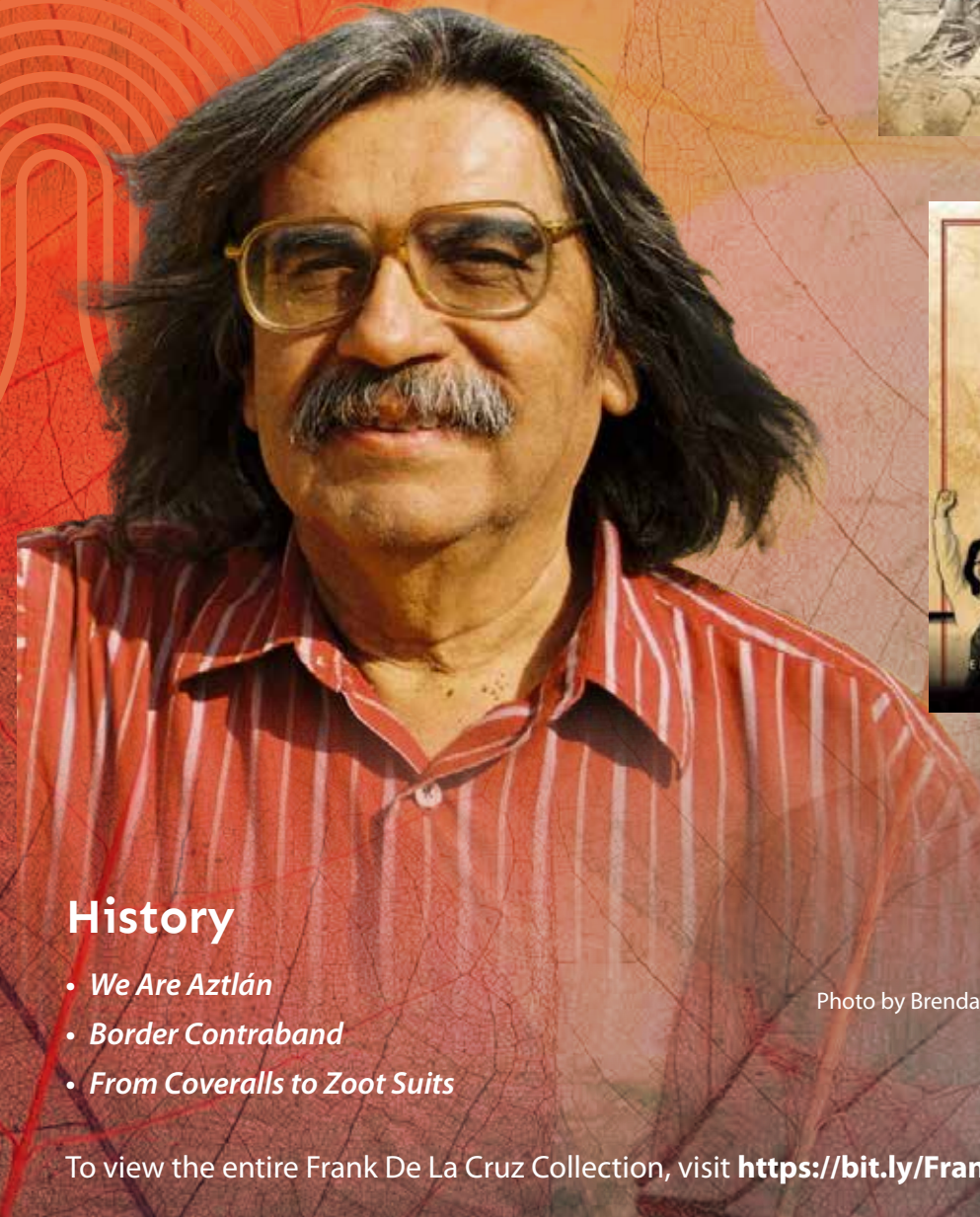


Photo by Brenda Limón-Condit



NUESTRAS RAÍCES
PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Introducing Biblio Lotus

Pima County Public Library has numerous teams and committees dedicated to ensuring representation and equitable access to communities who are systematically and historically excluded.

In 2021, Library staff founded our newest team: **Biblio Lotus**. The Biblio Lotus Team supports and values the culture and voice of our Asian communities in Pima County by providing resources and programs and by establishing ongoing partnerships with Asian organizations therein. Their vision is a blooming Asian community, represented in the culture and operations of the library system.

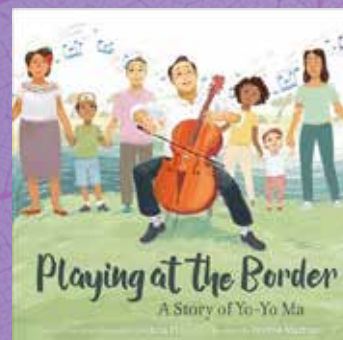
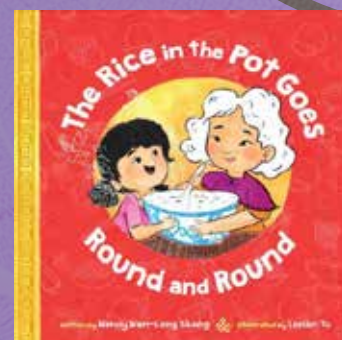
Biblio Lotus values...

- **Diversity** - We honor the dynamic and rich Asian cultures.
- **Inclusion** - We raise our own voices and honor one another's.
- **Education** - We inform and connect staff to community.
- **Community** - We share culture and knowledge within and outside of the library system.

Biblio Lotus recommends...

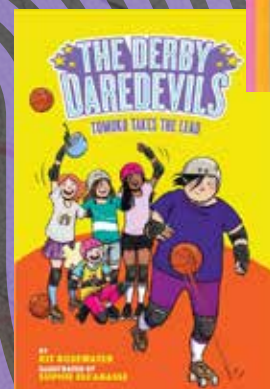
For kids

- *Kuan Yin: The Princess Who Became the Goddess of Compassion*
- *Playing at the Border: A Story of Yo-Yo Ma*
- *The Rice in the Pot Goes Round and Round*



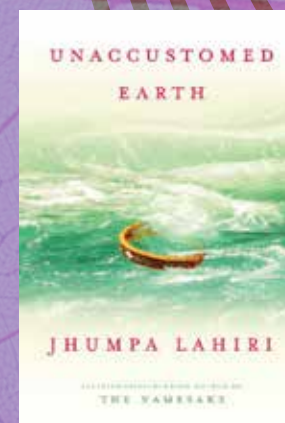
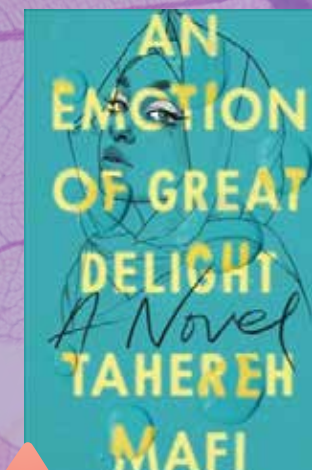
For tweens

- *Tomoko Takes the Lead*
- *The Many Meanings of Meilan*
- *Pahua and the Soul Stealer*



For teens

- *Made in Korea*
- *How We Fall Apart*
- *An Emotion of Great Delight*



For adults

- *The Night Tiger*
- *Unaccustomed Earth*
- *Land of Big Numbers*



Between March 2020 and June 2021, we sent eight emails to Library customers highlighting the work of our affinity teams: Biblio Lotus, Kindred, LGBTQ+, Many Nations, Nuestras Raíces, Seed Library. Taken together, they had an astounding average open rate of 83%!

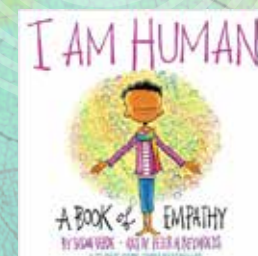
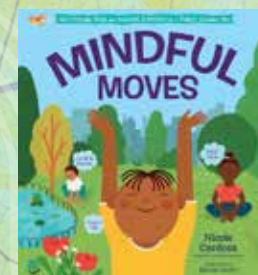
Breathe, Read, Learn!

Summer Learning 2021 kicked off on May 29 with an event featuring author and meditation guide Rebekah Borucki. The event was hosted by the Library's Kindred Team and included a Q&A with the author, a reading from her picture book *Zara's Big Messy Day (That Turned Out Okay)*, and a short meditation.

Rebekah's works feature racially diverse characters that appeal to readers of all ages, including those who may be new to meditation and mindfulness practice. The founder of Row House Publishing and its children's imprint, Wheat Penny Press, Rebekah has taught meditation as a profound act of self-care that can be executed effortlessly and effectively. Hundreds of thousands of individuals have benefited from her online and live workshops for more than a decade. Because Rebekah believes that wellness is a social and racial justice issue, her mission has been and will always be to make mental health support and stress management tools accessible to all, but especially the most vulnerable among us.

According to Rebekah, her purpose and mission is simple:

- Help humans who want to make an impact.
- Show people how to heal themselves so they can heal others.
- Make mental health and wellness tools accessible to all who need them.
- Encourage others to put worthy, meaningful content out into the world.
- Spread laughter and joy in the process of it all.



We asked Rebekah for book recommendations about helping kids learn to deal with big emotions and learning to use breathing techniques and meditation to manage feelings.

Here's what she had to suggest!

Mindful Moves by Nicole Cardoza

The Boy with Big, Big Feelings by Britney Winn Lee

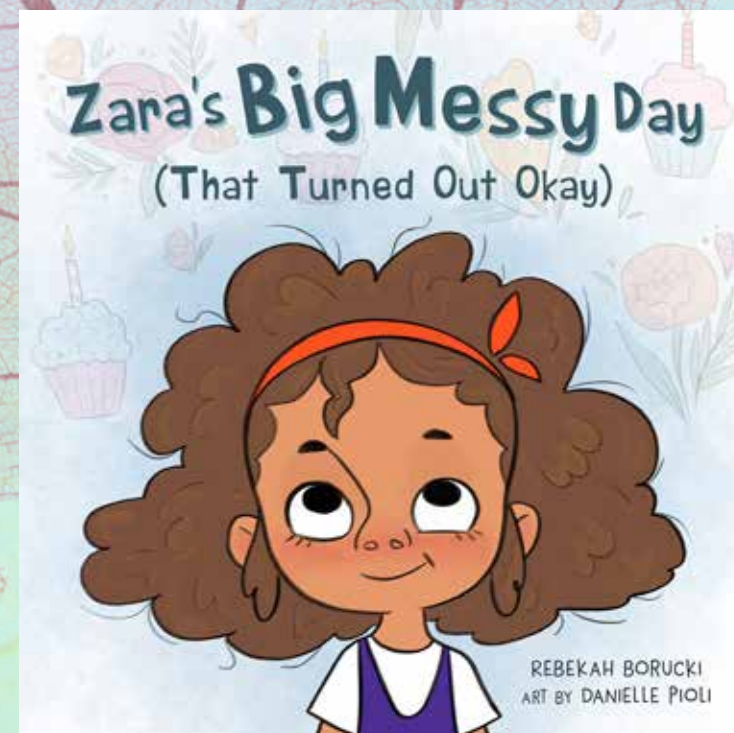
I Am Human: A Book of Empathy by Susan Verde

Ruby Finds a Worry by Tom Percival

B Is for Breathe: The ABCs of Coping with Fussy and Frustrating Feelings by Melissa Munro Boyd

Just Breathe: Meditation, Mindfulness, Movement, and More by Mallika Chopra

And of course, don't forget Rebekah's book *Zara's Big Messy Day (That Turned Out Okay)*!



-Joy, 2020 graduate

A pandemic didn't stop us from connecting with teens

As with many things, the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way the library engaged with teen volunteers. Rather than suspending the volunteer program—and the contact we love to have with our younger customers—Library staff in young adult services created a virtual volunteer program.

Among the projects they worked on, teens wrote more than 200 love notes—words of encouragement—that were distributed to local assisted living facilities. They also participated in a civic engagement project, which had them reaching out to friends and families about the 2020 Census and presidential election, and engaging in discussion about the issues they care about.

In addition, teens created a limited edition bookmark centered on the theme “The Library is a place for...” They joined regular meetings where they learned from artist Catherine Eyde and consulted directly with the Library’s Visual Marketing Manager, Reneé Bibby.

We had the opportunity to sit down with one volunteer, Suhaani S., who participated in a number of projects. In this interview, she told us about her experience, what the library means to her, and what she would tell her peers about the importance of volunteering.

Photo Suhaani S.

What projects did you work on?

I worked on a few projects. One was very environmental-based, which was educating people on ways to help make the world a greener place. The second major one was interviewing local teens participating in art programs. I also helped by creating book reviews and book lists for posting on the library’s website.

Why did you decide to become a teen volunteer?

My sister volunteered at Oro Valley Public Library and I was inspired by the difference she made. I’m an avid reader, so I already loved the library. When I turned 13, I joined the Teen Advisory Board in Oro Valley. When in-person volunteering was suspended due to COVID-19, I joined the virtual volunteer team.

What did you like most about the projects?

The projects I worked on virtually weren’t that different from in-person. The best part, however, was the accessibility in these projects, both for the volunteers and the recipients. For me, it was easier because many of the projects I could do on the go and, because of this, more people benefitted from our work.

How does the library—and volunteering—make you feel?

Volunteering makes me feel connected with my community. It’s educational and helps me more deeply understand my surroundings and the people who occupy it. I am very thankful for the opportunity to participate.



If you could make one statement to your peers to encourage them to volunteer at the library, what would it be?

I would tell them how volunteering makes me feel—that volunteering allows me to learn about my community in a very different way. It gives me a new perspective and a new level of respect.

What have you read recently? What is your favorite book?

I have recently read quite a few books. Currently, I am reading *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid and before that was *Heartless* by Marissa Meyer, both of which are excellent. I have a hard time choosing a favorite book, but the first two that come to mind are *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon or *All the Bright Places* by Jennifer Niven.



Teen Virtual Volunteer Projects 2020-2021

- 1. Pima County Love Notes**
31 youths created over 200 Love Notes
- 2. Civic Engagement**
5 youths
- 3. Mental Health Awareness/Encouragement Cards**
17 youths created over 200 Cards
- 4. Teen Bookmark Project**
12 youths created 12 unique bookmarks. They were professionally printed and distributed to 27 branches, as well as the teen participant for copies for family & friends
- 5. Teen Audio Interviews**
8 youths
- 6. Start of Passive Project Options**
16 over summer
Deliverables: Over 300

We love helping people

Whether building rapport with children, stepping in to help during the pandemic, or sharing the joy of getting a library card, staff love what they do. Read what they had to say in the ongoing Arizona Daily Star monthly series.

Too much free time led to a career I love

Libraries were a big part of my upbringing. My mother has always loved reading. As a child, my mother and father constantly read to me and my sister, in English and Spanish. Every new town we moved to, the library was the first place we would go. Being a child and handed your own library card is one of the most exciting gifts a curious young mind can receive. – *Hassael Cazesuz*



My journey to Tucson and Pima County Public Library

Tucson as a whole is an amazing place, and I hope everyone living here feels the same. The public library is a magical place that is dear to my heart, and I love sharing this joy with everyone who comes to visit. – *Xuan Zhou*



Your stories mean the world to the library

I love that Story Sketches encourages children and teens to share their creative writing. We have so many talented young people in our community—all with such diverse perspectives to share. It is an honor to provide a platform for their creativity. – *Megan Hellwig*



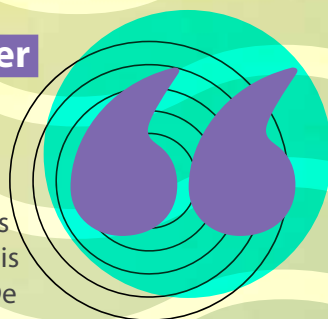
The puzzle pieces fell into place—I should work at the library

This month I'll be working my first shift at the Martha Cooper Library, where I hope to finally fulfill one step in my dream of becoming a librarian—checking out a book to an eager reader. Maybe it will be you! – *Sarah Tarver-Wahlquist*



New collection gives a broader view of our shared past

Our local youth should have meaningful access to Chicana/Mestizo history and the understanding that it is just as American as what they will find in their classroom. This is what makes Pima County Library's Frank De La Cruz Collection essential. – *Lu Guerrero*



Greetings from your picture-book-loving library friend

I'm a gift-giving, picture book lover. I do it because they make me think of you and something you are contending with in life. I have faith that whatever is churning in your world, whether it is for good or for bad, there is a picture book reminder that you are not facing it alone. – *Jeannie Constantine*



You aren't just our customers, you are our purpose

Contrary to popular belief, you don't start working with the library just because you like books (though we all do). We got into this field because we like people and love helping them. Personally, this is why I've been doing this for over 26 years. – *Lupita Chavez*



We love celebrating life's little victories with you

The library has been there for all the milestones in my life, and I love that in this job, I get to be there for other people's big moments, too. We love helping people. That being said, be sure to tell your library staff if you got the job, an A on the assignment, or if you love the dinosaur books we recommended for your 4-year-old. – *Kelly Kuper*



Memory Kits connect generations, deepen relationships

When you share a Memory Kit with an older adult, you open the door for them to relive and talk about their most pleasurable memories. The act of reminiscing feels good, especially when shared with others. These kits let them know that their unique experience is important to remember. – *Amy Bivins*



This work came from my heart

During the pandemic, I traveled to the Adult Detention Center seven days a week to pick up 300 lunches made for the Casa Maria Soup Kitchen. In mid-April, I took approximately 300 loaves of bread and extra boxes of bananas before they spoiled. The next day, I loaded the usual lunches, 29 racks of bread and six boxes of bananas along for the ride to Casa Maria. – *Brandon Milligan*



I believe community begins with its youth

Handing out snacks from a distance through our masks is not the same personal interaction that I missed from the pre-pandemic StoryTimes, but I was so relieved and happy to see one of my StoryTime children healthy and doing well. After I showed him I had snacks, he told me he would rate me a "200 out of 100!" – *Tima Farhat*



It's been one of the greatest honors of my life

My approach to working with kids? First and foremost, it is important to me to get to know all of the kids who visit our library. Something as simple as "Hey, buddy. How was school today?" can go a long way with building rapport. – *Annie Wicks*



We recommend, you read!

In August 2020, we received a tremendously positive response to a new service launched by our Ravenous Readers Team: Personalized Reading Recommendations!

As the COVID-19 pandemic halted library services, customers lost the ability to browse the stacks and land on that one book they had yet to discover. Oh, the sadness of book lovers was almost palpable!

Enter the Library's personal reading assistants, aka bibliophiles of the highest caliber. The service features seven specialized personas—from romance to young adult fiction—who help customers discover their next great read.

Between August 2020 and June 2021, our team received more than 600 requests and ultimately recommended approximately 3,100 books!

Here's what some customers had to say:

"I applaud this new service being provided by the Library. Although we can not communicate face-to-face, it adds a personal element to 'browsing' and helps compensate for the lack of opportunity at this time to enter the library building in person, hang out and chat with librarians about our reading. For some folks this in-person contact is often one of the few settings for which there is reason to get out of the house to chat and share with 'real people.'" – Terry



DR. LUC INGBACH

If your idea of good time is to visit the past through an engrossing story, the Perspicacious Professor of the Past can lead you towards historical fiction of all kinds.

Prefer the present? Dr. Ingbach has kept up with modern times and will be your guide to fiction from around the world. Why, a translated book is one of his favorite things! The good Doctor has seen much of the world over his many years and will introduce you to all the best places.



URSULA

Want YA Fantasy? LGBTQ stories? Non-romantic YA?

Ursula can help you, Darling. They are acquainted with the magical, the wondrous, the queer, and the fantastic.

If you need a story about the joys and heartbreak of youth or the epic journey to save the world, Ursula will guide you to the thing you need.



REN & FRIDA

Best buds Ren and Frida are always up for an adventure! Are you looking for books that center around an epic quest, mythology, and exploration? Or maybe a mystery steeped in a historical setting? What about friendship, identity, and growing up?

The Biblio Amigos can help you discover your next great tween read!

Unforgettable trilogies, graphic novels, or Minecraft manuals, Ren and Frida have got you covered.



MR. E

The Mysterious Mister wants to help you find the answer to the question: Who did it? And why did it happen?

Don't like blood, don't worry! Mr. E knows some cozy whodunits.

Would you rather your crimes were gruesome? That's great, because he can find something for you, too.

If it involves a mystery, thrills, or adventure of any kind, Mr. E. is the recommender for you.



CY CLOPEDIA, PHD

Cy knows all the things. Cy is as entertained by an in-depth book about climbing Everest as a book about military history in the U.S.

If it happened in the real world, Cy can find you a book about it—memoir, history and biography, social and cultural discourse, sports, music, and much more!

Cy is not stumped by much, so will you be the one to find a topic so obscure she can't find you something to read?

"Thank you so much for your recommendations!! I really am thrilled to have some new book ideas! What a brilliant service the library provides! I heart my library!" – Amanda



KID KAT

Kid Kat Reads! If you have a young reader who's already blown through the 800 books in the most popular series (seriously, how did they read all those books already??), Kid Kat can find some cool new books or series to keep them occupied (for another day, at least).

Do you have a little one who is just starting out in chapter books? Or a little one mesmerized by picture books? Kid Kat is your recommender!

Books, chapter books, comics, or Minecraft manuals—anything a kid may want to read.

"You answer a few questions about books you've loved, books you didn't and what kind of books you enjoy reading. Then you get recommendations from a real live librarian. I have read three of the recommended books and loved them all. What a great service. How wonderful to have dedicated public servants who are book lovers." – Kate



APHRODITE JENKINS

Miss Aphrodite Jenkins loves love! She would love to recommend a romance—a guaranteed happy ending to brighten your day.

Think you've read all the romance? Think again! She'll take you on a deep dive to some delectable reads.

She can recommend for all ages and levels of heat. Looking for warm fuzzy stories without romance? She's a sucker for those, too.

"I especially appreciate the diversity in your recommendations as I have been making an effort as of late to be more intentional when exploring new titles and new authors. This is a great service offered by the library and I hope it stays around for a long time! I can't wait to seek out more recommendations after finishing a couple more titles." – Kelsey

Troy Neiman and Pages of History

Local metal artist Troy Neiman was selected by the Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona to create the public art that adorns the exterior of the W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library, which opened in February 2021. Troy recently sat down with us to discuss the piece, Pages of History—a 40-foot-long screen cut from steel plate—and its evolution from concept to reality.



Can you tell us a bit about the process of creating it, from vision to implementation?

The original call to artists was put together by the Arts Foundation and included the participation of Vail community members, Library personnel, Pima County Facilities Management and BWS Architects. This panel specified that the artwork would capture the history of the area, while also reflecting the mission of the library and compliment the newly constructed building.

The design process involved looking at all possible locations around the property. I always start with location and evaluate the light and shadow throughout the year. Whenever I create a site-specific piece, I want to understand fully how it will interact with the location and how people can interact with it.

With this project, I created several different ideas around the theme and then presented them to the artist panel, which helped to narrow the concept. In the case of the Esmond Station area, there are many different chapters to the history of the area and some significant events that the panel wanted to include. In order to satisfy the desire to include all of these historical factors I would need to create something large and use images to reference the region's history.

The overall wave-like shape of the piece references an open book—one that is still being written. As customers enter the library they can see the first inhabitants of the land and then continue along the timeline to the present day with a human form, presumably a young person looking forward to the future or writing the next chapter. The piece then leads you into the library to tell that next story, learn of the past, connect, create and dream.

How long did it take?

Overall, the whole process took about 2 years from start to finish, however these projects ebb and flow a bit depending on a number of factors. The pandemic slowed things down for a while during the fabrication and install phase as well.

What is the process of producing something so substantial?

Lots of planning. I don't have a huge shop or lots of heavy equipment so creating it in pieces that can still be maneuvered by hand was essential.

How does it represent the region's culture and history?

I had been to Colossal Cave and Saguaro National Park before, but I learned so much more about the history of the Esmond Station/Vail area over the course of this project. J.J. Lamb, President and CEO of the Vail Preservation Society, was a tremendous resource for this project and maintaining the history of the area in general.

How did you decide what represents the region's culture and history?

I had access, mainly through the Vail Preservation Society, to historic photos of the area. I would work from the historic photos when possible. I also referenced other historic structures, which are still standing.

What else would you like Library customers to know about it?

The timeline flows from South to North, from the first inhabitants to the most recent migrants. The Raven is a reference to the mascot of the neighboring Empire High School. The worst train wreck in Arizona—a collision that killed 19 people—happened in 1903, just north of the library.

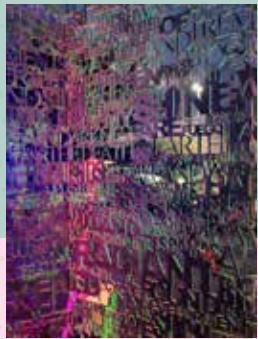


PUBLIC ART

On the previous page, we talked to local metal artist Troy Neiman, who created the public art at W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station. We started thinking it'd be fun to highlight some additional art pieces one can find throughout the library system. Enjoy!

WHEELER TAFT ABBETT SR LIBRARY

"Wondrous" sculpture, Creative Machines Inc., 2008



KIRK-BEAR CANYON LIBRARY

"Southwestern Storytime" mural, Joe Pagac, 2021



CAVIGLIA-ARIVACA LIBRARY

Arivaca Community Quilt made by The Friends of the Caviglia-Arivaca Library



Gnome meditation circle created by Library Manager Jodi Ohlson



Recycled calendar and craft paper butterflies by Sienna Wallen, library



page, and Shirlei Davis, library customer. Painting by local artist C. Hues, given as a gift when the library opened in 1996

ECKSTROM-COLUMBUS LIBRARY

"Santa Cruz" painting, Jim Waid, 1977



FRANK DE LA CRUZ EL PUEBLO LIBRARY



"¿Quién Sigue? / Who's Next?" by Victor M. Escobedo, 2002



Aprendiendo y Construyendo en Armonía / Learning and Creating in Harmony by Victor M. Escobedo, 2002

FLOWING WELLS LIBRARY

Las Artes Butterfly Pillars, 2020



MILLER-GOLF LINKS LIBRARY

"Native Seed Pods" silicone bronze, Judy Stewart, Kathy Hoyer, Joy Fox, and Charles Sternberg, 1999

JOYNER-GREEN VALLEY LIBRARY



Untitled mural above Children's Section, Bobb Vann

MARTHA COOPER LIBRARY

Las Artes decorative tile



ORO VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

"Tree of Life" sculpture, Joe Tyler, funded by Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library



SAM LENA-SOUTH TUCSON LIBRARY

Dedication plaques: Sam Lena, Alicia Meza



WOODS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

"Flying Books" 101 metal books, Simon Donovan



HIMMEL PARK LIBRARY



Mosaic bench, three in total, created by Sam Hughes residents Kim Crooks, Susan Peters, and Molly McKasson



Custom bike racks by Sam Hughes resident and metal artist Ned Egan



JOEL D VALDEZ MAIN LIBRARY

Thunderbird Curios Shop neon sign (fun fact/side note: this was the 1st neon sign in Tucson, 1937)



QUINCIE DOUGLAS LIBRARY

South Park Neighborhood Documentary Portraits, Edward McCain

MURPHY-WILMOT LIBRARY

Stone archway featuring almost two dozen carvings of symbols from various cultures, James Savage

W. ANNE GIBSON-ESMOND STATION LIBRARY

"Pages of History" screen cut from steel plate, Troy Neiman



VALENCIA LIBRARY

"Images of the Southwest" mural, 1993, multiple youth artists: Alejandro Castrellón, Shawn Trujillo, Javier Leon, Nino Sanchez, Danielle Carpenter, Rigoberto Carbajal, Freddie Encinas III, Brian Lord, Monica Nuñez, Fernando Perez



A unique collaboration

The virtual program Global Arts Showcase was inspired by the richness of Tucson's cultures and the oneness of us all.

In March 2021, the Library's Welcome to America Team partnered with Arizona Public Media on its first spotlight—a night of food, music, and culture featuring beautiful violin music by Fadi Iskandar, who immigrated to Tucson from Syria in 2012. The event also featured a discussion with library staff member Bushra Faesal about how food brings communities together, complete with a presentation of appetizing dishes from local restaurant Zayna Mediterranean.

The second Global Arts Showcase, a collaboration between the Library's Biblio Lotus Team and Arizona Public Media, was held in June 2021 and took participants on an exploration of Chinese music, culture, and dance. It featured artists from Southern Arizona, including Purple Bamboo, Duo Chinoiserie, and Tucson Sino Dance.

Nearly 600 people attended these events!



Here's what some people had to say...

This sort of program expands community members' knowledge of cultures outside of our usual connections. It's not a common offering and it is needed.

Enriching on so many levels! Thanks to all for this meaningful collaboration.

Thank you for sharing this performance with us. It was delightful.

ARIZONA
PUBLIC MEDIA®



Fun fact

Global Arts Spotlight attendees hailed from cities in Pima County, but also national and international locations, including California, Kansas, Michigan, Chile, and Australia!



Global
ARTS
Showcase

From Seed to Seed: Spinach

Our Seed Library Team stays busy providing our community with seeds to grow, harvest and acclimate to our unique desert climate. A seasonal seed that they would like to tell you about is... drum roll... the show-stopping spinach (*spinacia oleracea*)—both delicious and nutritious, either cooked or raw, a perfect crop to sow here in January and February!



Do you
need a Seed
Cleaning Screen?

You can check them out!
<https://bit.ly/SeedScreen>

Plant me

Spinach grows best in cool, mild climates but is also tolerant of some warm weather. Bloomsdale Spinach, which we currently have in the Seed Library, is a popular savoy type of spinach with crinkly leaves. Spinach likes full sun to partial shade. Plant seeds 1/8 ~ 1/4" deep. Germinates in 6-15 days. Space plants 6-12" apart. Crowded plants will bolt to seed more quickly.

Save me

Plants will begin to bolt when daylight reaches 12.5-15 hours. Harvest seeds from later bolters. When seeds are dry, harvest the entire plant and thresh on a tarp or over a bowl. Alternatively, you can strip the seeds and leaves from the plants by pulling the stalk through your hands from the base up. Screens are helpful for cleaning.

Harvest me

Harvest entire plants by cutting just below the crown. The outer leaves can also be harvested even if growing as a seed crop. Left too long, oversize leaves taste bitter.

Enjoy me

Now that you've got your spinach, why not make a **tangerine and spinach salad**? It's easy!

We Recommend: *Sylvia's Spinach* or *Las espinacas de Sylvia*

"Sylvia's Spinach reminded me that there's a special, secret ingredient in healthy eating — having fun! With great warmth and humor, this book captures the infectious joy of planting one's first seed." —Ian Cheney, Co-founder, FoodCorps



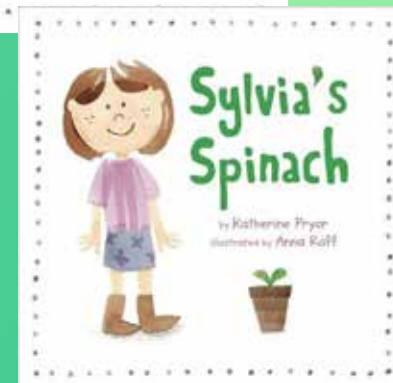
Ingredients

- 9 cups baby spinach
- 12 tangerines, peeled, sectioned, seeded if necessary
- 1/2 medium jicama, peeled, cut into 1/4-inch cubes
- 1 bunch green onions, trimmed, sliced including 1/2 dark green stalks
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp hoisin sauce
- 1 tbsp toasted sesame oil
- 1/2 tsp ground mustard
- 1/2 cup shelled unsalted sunflower seeds
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Garnish: 1/2 cup slivered toasted almonds or 1/4 cup toasted sesame seeds

Instructions

A touch of Asian-style dressing balances nicely with the grassy taste of crisp baby spinach and the sweet-tart pizzazz of fresh tangerine segments. Toast slivered almonds or sesame seeds that are used to garnish in advance to give them time to cool. If desired, the dressing can be made in advance and refrigerated. Place spinach, tangerines, jicama, and green onion in a large bowl. Gently toss.

In a small bowl, combine soy sauce, hoisin sauce, oil, and mustard; stir to combine. Add to spinach mixture and top with sunflower seeds; toss. Add salt and pepper to taste. Divide between eight plates. Garnish with slivered almonds or sesame seeds.



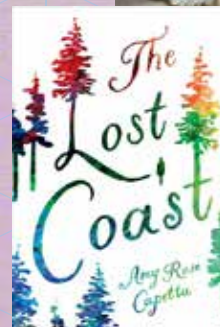
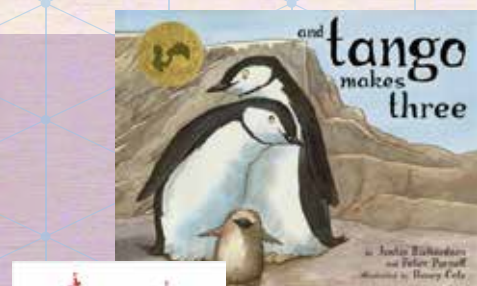
DID YOU KNOW?

Showing off our Pride!

In June, in honor of LGBT Pride Month, members of the Library's LGBTQ+ Services Committee set out to create one book list a day for the entire month. The project resulted in even more... 35 book lists! Here are just a handful of them:

- Found family: LGBTQ+ reads
- Banned and challenged books: LGBTQ+ edition
- Shantay, you stay!: Live your best "Ru Paul's Drag Race" fantasy
- Comics: Pages of pride
- Listen up!: LGBTQ+-themed audiobooks to check out

Visit library.pima.gov/LGBTQ to find these lists and more!



What do Post-Its, toothpicks, and mini books have in common?

They were all part of the Library's **Grab N Go Kits**. Between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, Library staff made 24 activities and distributed 33,000 kits!

Kits included Post-It puppets, toothpick engineering, Día de los Niños mini books, straw pan flutes, Magnus gliders, and more!

According to Kendra Davey, Literacy Initiatives Program Manager, "Each activity had ideas that support STEM subject areas—done purposefully for families who chose to (or had to) homeschool for the first time. We wanted to make sure we were giving families not only something to do, but something that would support learning at home."



Getty

Snack and meal distribution

Last year the Library distributed approximately 150,000 snacks and meals to community members. Our food program is generously supported by the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, Amphitheater Public Schools, Tucson Unified School District, and the USDA. A special shout out to the National Guard for their help delivering food!



"Whenever the library can help someone get what they need, whether it's research, computer literacy skills, connections to a public health nurse or even a meal, we've done what we set out to do every day. We're always brainstorming ways we can welcome people into our buildings, and having food at the library has definitely welcomed more kids through our doors. This program has also proven to be a great way for staff to get to interact with kids in the library; we don't allow food at the computers so they sit and chat with us while they're eating."

— Caitlin Burns, Manager, Nanini Library

kanopy

Thousands to stream from!

Did you know? Kanopy Streaming Video—free with a library card—offers 26,905 titles in 103 categories, from world and classic cinema to educational videos in the arts, business, and health. Here are some films that were added last year:

Fiction

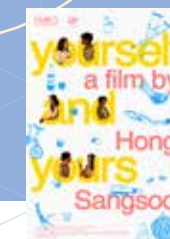
- *Hobo with a Shotgun*
- *Virtuosity*
- *The World to Come*

Documentaries

- *Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am*
- *Going Om*
- *The King of Mambo*

World Cinema

- *Yourself and Yours*
- *The Clay Bird*
- *Parasite*



"*Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am* offers something else, as a dividend yielded by her achievements and her years on the earth: the profound pleasure of her company." — The New York Times

"The phrase 'small gem' was made for a movie like *The Clay Bird*." — San Francisco Chronicle

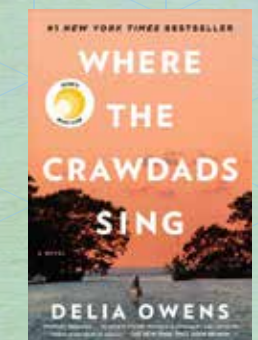
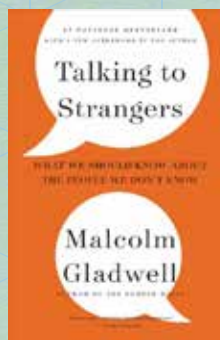
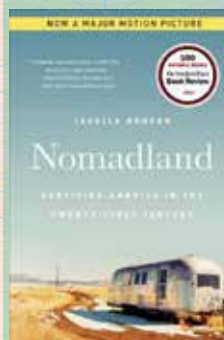
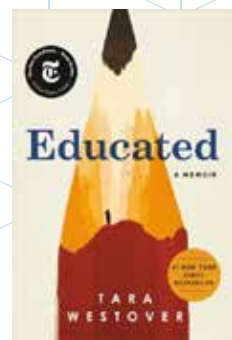
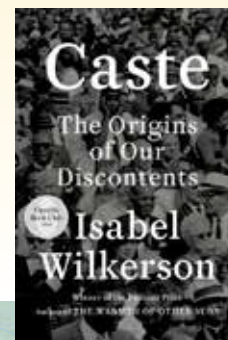
ONE MILLION Checkouts in 2020!

Last year, Pima County Public Library joined—alongside a record number 102 public library systems from around the world—OverDrive's Million Checkout Club.

With more than 19,000 audiobooks and nearly 50,000 E-Books in the Library's collection, customers had tons of great reading materials to choose from!

"Contributing factors included increased digital usage due to the pandemic, elevated interest in social justice titles and BIPOC

authors, and strong circulation growth for children's and young adult titles because of remote learning."
– OverDrive



Top 10 circulating digital books between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021:

- *A Promised Land* by Barack Obama
- *Becoming* by Michelle Obama
- *Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-first Century* by Jessica Bruder
- *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens
- *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson
- *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover
- *Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know About the People We Don't Know* by Malcolm Gladwell
- *Cold Mourning* by Brenda Chapman
- *Blue Moon* by Lee Child
- *The Guardians* by John Grisham

The phone was ringing off the hook!

In support of the Pima County Health Department, Library staff stepped up to the plate when it was time for people to begin registering for COVID vaccines. Between January 14, 2021 and February 22, 2021, staff answered 42,257 calls guiding interested individuals on how to sign up for their shots.





PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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doers, & dreamers*

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