
DATE: June 2, 2022

TO: Library Board, Pima County Public Library

Pima County Board of Supervisors
Pima County Administration
Friends of the Pima County Public Library, Board of Directors
Friends of the Arivaca Library, Board of Directors
Friends of the Esmond Station Library, Board of Directors
Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library, Board of Directors
Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library, Board of Directors
Friends of the Pima-Green Valley Library, Board of Directors
Pima Library Foundation, Board of Directors

FROM: Karyn Prechtel-Altman
Deputy Library Director

SUBJECT: Public Services and Community Engagement Report – April 2022

Latinx Program Manager – Hassael Cazesuz

During the week of April 25, the Nuestras Raíces team, collaborating with the Many Nations affinity team as well as PCPL's Seed Library, distributed seeds, a cultural Grab n Go kit and books to giveaway to all branches at PCPL. Additionally, Grab n Go kits, with seeds, were distributed to our local Tribal communities in honor of Día de lxs Niñxs/Día de los libros. In April I was involved with assisting the HR department at PCPL with its hiring efforts and participated in a hiring panel. I am pleased and excited for the potential applicants entering PCPL and supporting the branches systemwide.

Library Services Manager – Paulina Aguirre-Clinch

The major point of discussion during my branch managers meeting was feedback for the staffing task force in regards to making the MLS required or preferred for the librarian position. There was also discussion around indoor storytimes for the younger children during this meeting and at individual conversations with several of my branches.

Library Services Manager - Sharla Ronstadt

During this period, I continued with regional meetings with library managers to discuss staffing and future hour's changes. I will continue to host these monthly over the next few months. Because of these meetings, I helped coordinate staffing assistance from Administration and Support Services to work in rotation at locations opening on Saturdays. The In-charge Team continues to meet to update the new employee checklists. In addition, this month, I assisted in collecting staffing information from managers, collecting, and presenting data to Administration about staffing trends. I attended the Oro Valley Friends Board Meeting this month and did site visits to El Río library and Oro Valley Library. I most enjoyed walking the floors at the Joel D. Valdez Main Library to assist staff and help listen to their concerns and feedback.

Library Services Manager - Amy Rusk

April started off with co-presenting an Intellectual Freedom Training to 95 library workers and teachers in Tucson Unified School District. Throughout the month, I attended multiple regional

meetings with branch managers and the other library services managers to determine the best way to move forward with expanding services to the public. A day-long visit to the Ajo Library allowed me to see firsthand all the efforts that the new managing librarian, Daniela Buchberger, has made to make the Ajo Library an even more integral part of the community. Helping branches that are short-staffed and meeting with managers about their upcoming programming plans and furniture and facility requests also kept me busy this month.

Program Manager for Literacy and Connected Learning – Kendra Davey

PCPL has been offering in-person and virtual code clubs for several years through a service called Prenda. Prenda has recently changed their name to Fiero. The company has been working hard on updating services for computer code learners. One of the updates is improved data tracking measures. As of April, 2022 there are a total of 1,071 users with a total of 6,346 logins. The average time spent in the app per login is about 45 minutes so that means Pima County youth have spent approximately 285,570 minutes learning and practicing coding on topics like HTML, Java, Python and more. These skills are all marketable job skills. PCPL is helping build the workforce needed in Pima County and in Arizona.

Program Manager for Workforce and Economic Development – Ken Zambos

Pima County Public Library's Career Online High School program welcomed another eight new students this month! Library staff welcomed students and set them up with their scholarships to enroll in the program free of charge during the new student orientation, which was held virtually on April 14.

The program's recently enrolled students expressed their excitement to get started and shared their aspirations for once they receive their high school diplomas. Among these, students talked about going to college to get various degrees or learn a new trade to be able to advance in a career they genuinely enjoy. As part of their motivation for completing the high school program, they expressed wanting to strive for a better future for themselves and their families. Several students talked about wanting to set an example for their children and teach them the value of having an education.

One of our students shared a dream of wanting to graduate alongside her oldest and being able to share that empowering moment with the rest of their family. When asked how they plan to stay motivated throughout the 18-month program, another student conveyed, "I will stay motivated by recognizing that this is to better myself and teach my kids it is never too late."

Quarterly Reports for Cultural Affinity Teams and Seed Library

Biblio Lotus – Sharon Yang-McNeil

Biblio Lotus team's current project involves the ongoing collections that reflect the Asian community in Pima County. During this period, we received Chinese language materials donated from Tucson Chinese Cultural Center, after the sorting some were added to PCPL collection.

Biblio Lotus Team published Three Books on a Theme: Asian Demons and Female Foes. These books at different reading levels involve Asian monsters meeting their matches.

One team member wrote a blog about Executive Order 9066. [Executive Order 9066 – Day of Remembrance | Pima County Public Library](#)

Another blog posted by a Biblio Lotus member is about Japanese culture. This year on February 3, Setsubun is a fun and exciting holiday, [Demons out! Good luck in! Happy Setsubun!](#)

Biblio Lotus Team participated with the Tucson Festival of Books in March, at the Nuestras Raices tent to give away books in Chinese, along with the "Grab & Go" kits- tiger Puppet, and included the writing of the culture of Lunar celebrations in Asian countries. About 200 Grab& Go

kits were distributed at the Festival.

LGBTQ+ - Kaitlyn Sparks and Ray Baca

2022 is the LGBTQ+ Services Committee's 25th Anniversary Year! We are celebrating this milestone with a series of Virtual Author Talk events. To kick off our series, we invited PCPL's very own Jessica P. Pryde to talk about her recently released book, *Black Love Matters: Real Talk on Romance, Being Seen, and Happily Ever Afters*, which celebrates and examines romance and romantic media through the lens of Black readers, writers, and cultural commentators. A former member of the library's Kindred affinity team joined us to moderate the event and 50 people tuned in for the live broadcast. Attendees enjoyed a lively discussion of black and queer romance and the importance of those voices in our lives. There are three more virtual author events to come in May, June, and July!

Our Rainbow Reads book club has been seeing continued support throughout the first quarter of the year. From January to April, we have had over 40 attendees discuss books like *The Space Between Worlds* by Micaiah Johnson and *Rainbow Milk* by Paul Mendez and other personal favorites. The LGBTQ+ Services Committee's Instagram also continues to grow. Over the last three months, the page has gained 137 followers, reached over 32.9K accounts, and had 5,233 content interactions.

Kindred – Jessica Pryde

Kindred has continued to work towards bridging the gap between members of the Black community and Pima County Public Library. There have been four Read Black Book Club meetings via Zoom: *A Deadly Inside Scoop* by Abby Collette in January, with 10 attendees; *The 1619 Project* edited by Nikole Hannah-Jones in February with 18 attendees; *Seven Days in June* by Tia Williams in March with 8 attendees; and *The Black Panther Party*, written by David Walker and illustrated by Marcus Kwame Anderson in April, with 13 attendees. Members of the Kindred team continue to make lists for the library website and recommend books to expand the collection to the Collection Development Office. The team has been amassing all the tools necessary to proceed with the project funded by the LSTA focused on oral storytelling and memory preservation, and looks forward to getting that project off its feet.

Nuestras Raíces – Hassael Cazesuz

I am very proud and excited for the Nuestras Raíces team's efforts to honor and celebrate our Latinx culture with our diverse community. In addition to the events mentioned in my report above, the Nuestras Raíces team also collaborated with community partners including REFORMA-Tucson Chapter (an ALA Affiliate), as well as Galeria Mitotera and the Arizona Center for the Book for a Día de lxs Niñxs event on April 30. This event was hosted on-site at the Galeria Mitotera in South Tucson and it brought many families to the festivities. The Nuestras Raíces team was able to provide the same Grab n Go cultural kits created for PCPL for this event including the seeds as well as books for giveaways and a quick craft to create on-site. If that was not enough, Covid-19 self-test kits were distributed to the community during the event. Overall, we estimate 700 community members participating and 500 books were given away. I am beyond ecstatic with the partnerships and the results of these programming and could not be prouder of the hard work of all of the participating teams and individuals. Collectively we are hoping next year could bring even bigger celebrations with more in-person programming.

Many Nations – Amy Rusk

Many Nations partnered with Nuestras Raíces and the Seed Library to celebrate Día del Niño/Día del Libro by creating Grab N' Go kits that include seed packets with the One Seed info card, fact sheets about Día, instructions on how to make a pot with newspaper, seed lifecycle worksheets or coloring pages, easy children's recipes, an Earth Day themed booklist with English and Spanish titles, a picture book and a bookmark. Each PCPL branch will receive kits

to giveaway, and in addition 500 kits will be sent to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Spread the Wealth donations sent to the Venito Garcia Library in Sells were given away in March. At their book giveaway event, over 1,000 books were donated to over 100 people. Many Nations will continue to collect and send them donations through the Spread the Wealth program.

The first Culturally-relevant Book Giveaway is currently being planned and prepared for May 16. Many Nations is partnering with the San Xavier Learning Center Library to donate 130 newly purchased copies of *A Tohono O'odham Grammar* written by the local author Ofelia Zepeda. These books will each include a Grab n' Go giveaway that will contain a poetry themed writing prompt, created by Many Nations Knowledge River Graduate Assistant Lindsey Curley, and felt bookmark kit called *Prickly Pear Harvest* designed by Many Nations team member Vivian Enos. Many Nations will have two more giveaways throughout this year that will each feature a different library or school from the Tohono O'odham Nation or the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

Seed Library – Susannah Connor

One of Seed Library's goals this year is to collaborate with PCPL Affinity Teams to better promote existing programs and services to diverse communities. The first quarter of 2022 was spent making connections and developing strategies to make this a reality. We are collaborating with Nuestras Raíces, Many Nations, and the LGBTQ+ committees to develop Grab-n-Go kits and attend outreach events. The Seed Library Book Club celebrated Black History Month in February by discussing [Farming While Black](#) by Leah Penniman.

The Seed Library has connected with outside partners like the Master Gardeners to reestablish programs as we return to in-person programs. The [Community Science Kit](#) project has provided an opportunity to connect the Seed Library to the Davis Elementary school garden. We have provided Lemon Queen Sunflowers to the school to support their school garden and The Great Sunflower Project featured in our Pollinator Science Kit.

Welcome to America – Tara Foxx-Lupo

In January and February, the Welcome to America (WTA) team facilitated a donation drive to benefit recently arrived Afghan refugees in partnership with Tucson Afghan Community, a local non-profit. Fifteen library branches participated in the project and collected 106 carloads of household items, small appliances, clothes and person hygiene products. The items filled three storage units and supported over forty families just in the month that the drive was active. Families continue to benefit from the donations as they secure housing and move out of temporary, hotel based accommodations. The drive was a huge success, and the community response was heartwarming for all involved. The team hopes to explore opportunities for similar efforts in the future.

The team has a number of sub-teams working on a variety of projects this spring. As we prepare for more outreach opportunities in the community, team members are working closely with collection development and program management staff to purchase relevant giveaway materials.

The primary use of the multi-lingual giveaways is to build home libraries for kids and families and to increase knowledge of and visibility of library services in communities that are often harder to reach. We will have representatives at a number of local events in coming months, including an April Health and Wellness Fair hosted by Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest.

As we have in the past, the WTA team is working with local partner Make Way for Books. This project provides multi-lingual giveaway books and library promotional materials to the partner agency who promote library Storytime and early literacy programming in environments that are more difficult to access for library outreach teams, like local daycares. We are looking forward to re-engaging this project as it has been on hiatus for some time.

District 1 – Supervisor Rex Scott

Dewhirst–Catalina Library – Christine Dykgraaf

Dewhirst-Catalina Library has welcomed back a growing number of families with children eager to read and complete homework. In late March, we began marketing our Homework Help program and some homeschooling families have discovered us! As kids and teens begin to return toward the end of this school year, we look forward to keeping them busy in the summer with the Summer Learning Program.

Two interns at Dewhirst-Catalina Library have progressed very smoothly through initial training and are well on the way to being pages if not library assistants as well on down the road. The help the interns give to our small but active library has been invaluable. They also look forward to the summer and seeing how the ebb and flow of materials and patrons changes with the seasons.

We recently had a new Friends volunteer arrive to get our Friends Book Sale cart active again. We are so happy to have this back in operation.

Our Grab-N-Go arts kits continue to be a hit! This month we handed a 3-D cactus kit, a Parks and Rec camouflage art kit, and the last of the coffee cozy card/book art kits for a total of 41 art kits handed out in late March and early April. We will be back on April 25 after closing April 8 for two weeks to get new carpeting installed.

Dusenberry-River Library – Matías Torres

April saw the reintroduction of core programming alongside signature design features at Dusenberry-River Library. Our meeting room was primed and ready with new furniture and laptops for *Homework Help* and staff eager to assist. *Virtual Art in the Afternoon* will conclude this month with expectation of an in-person return in the fall. Our virtual *Code Club* made a successful return for excited tweens and teens. All of our public computers were accessible to the public as we reached another chapter in the pandemic. Our custom chess table now takes a prominent space in our teen area. Additional color is now on display at our library thanks to efforts of local regional photographer that has shared her collection in our art space. We have a number of proposals for upcoming programs for the upcoming summer months finalized at the end of this month and look forward to the joy this will bring to our patrons

Nanini Library – Caitlin Burns

Nanini resumed its all-ages storytime in April and word is getting out in the neighborhoods near Richardson Park where it's being temporarily hosted. The children's services team will be representing the Library at an upcoming family YMCA outreach event, and staff are looking forward to strengthening and building connections between Library staff and families. The building is looking bright and fresh with newly painted, colorful accent walls throughout the building, while new furniture for the children's area is coming soon. Nanini will be reopening on Mondays for the first time in over a year and expanding to a six-day, Monday-Saturday schedule the first week of May.

Oro Valley Public Library – Kaitlyn Sparks

Outdoor Family Storytime and Homework Help both returned to Oro Valley in mid-April. The new semi-covered patio, near the children's area, accommodated the storytimes. Homework

Help will continue until the end of the spring 2022 semester, providing free drop-in assistance for K-12 students. In the Children's Area this month, we featured displays for National Poetry Month and Earth Day.

The Sonoran Sleuths Mystery Book Club met this month in person for the first time in two years. Going strong for almost two decades, during the early days of the pandemic the group transitioned to virtual meetings. Now, for each monthly book selection, the club will come together twice, in-person and virtually.

Staff celebrated National Library Workers Day (April 5), the day to recognize contributions made by all library workers. Management acknowledged, with donuts in the morning and pizza at lunch, the critical role PCPL staff plays in keeping our libraries running.

This month, library customers signed up for six different classes, learning subjects as varied as genealogy, the Libby app, and how to use their library cards to connect to hundreds of free library resources.

The art gallery this month featured works by award-winning photographer James Capó, a long-time resident of Oro Valley. Capó's photos capture the beauty, majesty and wonder of wildlife from a variety of ecologically diverse environments.

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Meggin Kitterman

The youth services team has been busy connecting with the Wheeler Taft Abbett Library, Sr Library community this month. The children's librarian participated in a literacy outreach event at Twin Peaks K-8 school and promoted library services and our homework help program to 115 students and parents. The teen librarian reached out to three classes of juniors—77 students total—at 77 at Marana High School. She helped them set up their online library accounts and instructed students in using several databases and other digital resources to support their work on a class research assignment. She made a second visit with the same three sections of 11th grade English to further support the teacher by providing additional research help to students one-on-one. Additionally, the Homework Help program is being offered twice a week. Although only two students have attended so far, the homework help display featuring math items and resources has been popular.

The Job Help program is back in action at the Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr Library, and it is evolving as patrons become aware we are offering this service. Customers using library PCs have been excited to hear that the library is resuming job search and resume help and plan to return job help sessions the next time they visit. Customers are also using the study rooms for job interviews.

Community partners are using the library space again, too. The Living River of Words 2022-2023 Traveling Exhibit landed at Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr Library this month. The beautiful art exhibit, as well as the Living River of Words program, is managed by the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Environmental Education Office. In addition to providing space, staff are supporting the project by passing out award packets to participating students. Another community partner, The Arizona Master Naturalists, hosted a table outside the library to spread the word about the City Nature Challenge and to teach people how to use the iNaturalist app.

District 2 – Supervisor Matt Heinz

Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Kelly Wilson

Ekstrom Columbus library expanded our snack days to Monday through Friday this month resulting in the distribution of 463 after school snacks, and 140 Emergency Food (TEFAP) bags. We opened up the rest of our public computers so that we can better accommodate the needs of our community with all 52 computers now available for public use. We engaged with local teachers to provide free books and Summer Learning information to the Lineweaver Elementary Spring Fair, and collaborated with Martha Cooper Library to bring an Outdoor Story time to over 60 attendees. We are participating in the Refugee Awareness Health Fair on April 23rd and Dia de Los Ninos on April 30th at Pasqua Yaqui. Our weekly Job Help and Homework help continue to grow each week as awareness expands amongst our neighbors. We are looking forward to commemorating Earth Day by provided Pima County One Seed Marigolds to our gardening friends and neighbors beginning April 22nd.

Sahuarita Library – Betsy Langley

We're celebrating Earth Day and National Poetry Month through various book displays. We're also hosting a Bad Poetry Contest for kids and teens, letting them know they can play around and have fun without strict poetry parameters. We received a wonderful response from the community when we resumed Storytimes this month. Around 80 participants joined us outside on the Performance Patio one morning to shake their sillies out and read books about going to the library. We were also able to collect surveys with feedback about community preferences for days and times. Staff are busy preparing for Summer Learning Programs, as well. We also started drop-in Homework Help and Job Help this month and a few folks have been trickling in.

Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – Lu Guerrero

The library has focused efforts on outreach to the surrounding community with intentions to reconnect and promote services available to the public. The library was at the City of South Tucson's first annual Earth Day Celebration, coordinated by Tucson Clean and Beautiful. Library staff and volunteers are keeping neighborhood little free libraries stocked with books of varying genres, for all ages. Craft kits for youth and Seed Library packets are available to community members onsite, and at La Galería Mitotera, a local nonprofit partner.

Customers continue to visit us for computer access, faxing, printing and study room use. The library's daily snack program reflect high public participation (supplies provided by Community Food Bank of Southern AZ).

Santa Rosa Library – Victoria Villanueva

We are celebrating Santa Rosas Libraries 20th anniversary this month! To celebrate the occasion our fabulous substitute librarian volunteered herself and her dance troupe to do a special Polynesian dance demonstration. It was a big hit, reaching the max capacity of our meeting room of 24 participants. We also had our very first outdoor story time in partnership with Headstart and had 15 participants. Homework help has continued to increase in participants weekly. Santa Rosa is also celebrating Dia de los Niñx's with a large display of books from around the world that has been very popular, as it needs daily restocks. Staff is also working hard in preparation for Summer Learning with planning programs for every week of summer including programs with The Children's Museum, Reid Park Zoo, Mobile Planetarium and so much more.

District 3 – Supervisor Sharon Bronson, Chair

Caviglia-Arivaca Library – Jodi Ohlson

In April The Caviglia Arivaca Library joined with the Arivaca Action Center, the Arivaca Community Center, Human Resources, and other interested community members to work together and create a plan to the keep Community Center open and available as a resource. In the past month, we went from our initial meeting where Joe Barr from Pima County Parks and

Recreation explained the change in how the county funds the Community Center, to having multiple grants written and our first Summer Camp scheduled to start June 6. There is a grant to have regular open hours with staffing, another grant to address the needs of our senior population and veteran's, and yet another to put on an intergenerational production of The Wizard of Oz. All in four short weeks! I look forward to seeing what the community decides to create, and will continue to provide them all the tools at my disposal to help them be successful.

We have had five book displays this month: *April is Poetry Month*, *Pay unto Cesar (Tax information)*, *April Showers Bring Spring Gardening*, *Readers Advisory (For example, 'If you're obsessed with Bridgerton, read this!')* and a Children's display that evolved from *Lego Fun* at the beginning of the month to *Earth Day* towards the end. The Friends of the Caviglia Arivaca Library purchased ten copies of *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* for the enjoyment of this month's Book Group. We have had multiple Grab and Go Kits: *Puzzles to Go*, *Basket Making*, *Learn about Camouflage*, and *Book Art*.

Finally, staff has been busy planning for Summer Learning and our reentry into community wide programming. It is a joy to return to considering Library Presenters and how their programs fit into our overarching plan for the coming summer. Our goal is to increase opportunities for people to come together and celebrate the unique community that Arivaca is, with as much intergenerational programming as possible.

Flowing Wells Library – Ingrid Trebisky

The weather has been perfect for storytimes on the patio. A number of families have been coming and the kids can sit comfortably on the colorful story time and shag carpets. This month was the start of computer classes as well as one-on-one computer help one day a week. University of Arizona nursing students did a Depression/Anxiety Presentation and Substance Abuse Presentation for teens and others in the library. They were able to reach out to a number of youth. The Pima County Assessor's Office made themselves available in the large meeting room. Carden School brought a class of middle school students who got a library tour, library cards, and a presentation on library sources for a major school research project. The library had a Sexual Assault Awareness Month book and information resource display, a children's Easter/Passover/Ramadan Spring book display, and a Poetry book display with sidewalk chalk poetry outside the library.

Salazar-Ajo Library – Daniela Buchberger

The Salazar-Ajo Library spent all of April celebrating the arrival of our new telescope. Our most prominent display had a variety of books centering on space exploration and astronomy. We hosted a special night of stargazing on April 28 to welcome the newest librarycope right here in Ajo. Ajo's remote location offers wonderful opportunities to 'check out' the stars.

The Library got a nice mention in the local newspaper for the collaboration with the Ajo CSA Food Pantry. More customers continue to take advantage of the easy to access, non-perishable food items and there is even an option to leave behind food that is not needed or take extras of the leftovers.

Our winter visitors are departing, but there has been an uptick on younger patrons visiting the library. We continue to see high circulation in children's and teen graphic novels.

Woods Memorial Library – Victoria Salajko

As the spring weather warmed up Tucson this month, librarians at the Woods Memorial Library have been making connections with neighboring schools. They attended the grand opening of a lending library at the Brichta Infant and Early Learning Center, talked with families at the Rio Vista Elementary Family Literacy Night, and gave a tour of our library branch to an after school club of elementary students. Some comments heard at these events include, "I Love the

Library!" "I've been coming here since I was 5." One student on the tour mentioned that he hoped library staff would come visit his school.

Our Adult Services team observed use patterns at our job help computers, and used what they learned to make the spot welcoming and user friendly. As a result, more fliers were taken this month from the area. Patrons used the job help binder more frequently also, thanks to a new stand that displays the notebook in an inviting way, and makes it easy for patrons to access the information inside. Additionally, Job seekers can now get in-person help during our Job Help Program, which we relaunched this month.

District 4 – Supervisor Steve Christy

W. Anne Gibson Esmond Station – Mary McKinney

April marked the first opportunity for in-person core programs to begin at Gibson-Esmond Station. This meant that the first ever sessions of Homework Help and Job Help occurred. Additionally, this month, librarians were once again able to plan and arrange presenters for summer programs, and they scheduled a dozen presenters for June and July!

Staff and patrons recognized National Unicorn Day on Friday, April 8. There were grab and go craft activities for kids as well as coloring sheets, stickers, and bookmarks. Patrons took part in finding a unicorn-themed book in exchange for a unicorn-themed reward too. While the unicorn was celebrated as a favorite symbol of happiness and wonder, some great titles from the library's collection were highlighted at the same time.

Joyner-Green Valley Library – Sam Hennig

Green Valley staff are eagerly awaiting the return of non-core programs. Although we have said goodbye to most of our snowbirds, the remaining adult patrons are very excited for the programs we have lined up for this summer. Many of our library volunteers returned this month, and have been assisting us with computer help in our computer lab and have been extremely helpful while assisting our paging staff.

We have begun to refresh and expand our DVD collection with newer popular titles and we often receive compliments from patrons on our collection. We are also preparing to shift a large part of the collection to find a more visible permanent housing for our Spanish collection which will be refreshed and expanded this summer.

As we await the return of summer programming, our youth services staff are preparing for outreach opportunities in Green valley and other surrounding communities, and are reestablishing community partnerships that were put on hold throughout the pandemic.

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library – Linde Furman

Bear Canyon staff have been busy getting ready for an exciting Summer Learning Program this year. Our Children's Librarian and our Young Adult Librarian have been connecting with some local schools to share information about Summer Learning. For the first time in a long time, one of them is looking forward with excitement to attending a family night at a local school.

Our customer base has been increasing with Wilmot's upcoming closure and we are so pleased to be meeting many new people and welcoming more customers to our branch.

This month, we also have some new displays up, including one in the children's section to celebrate National Poetry Month. Our one-year anniversary celebration of our mural, *Southwestern Storytime* by Joe Pagac, has been a success. We've happily given away many coloring sheets and bookmarks to our community members. A commemorative plaque has been

installed on one of the pillars directly across from the mural to celebrate and remember how the mural came into existence. We hope everyone will stop by to visit and experience this wonderful piece of art.

Miller-Golf Links Library – Kassy Rodeheaver

Miller-Golf Links Library is celebrating Dia de los Ninos this month with a big book display and take away activities for children and their parents to enjoy. Our Adult Services Librarian is also participating in the Refugee Awareness Health Fair on April 23.

The first ever Miller-Golf Links Library People's Choice Awards is happening this month to give community members and library patrons of all ages the opportunity to connect and share their love of books and reading in a fun way, through creating a piece of art (diorama) that is displayed for and enjoyed by anyone who enters the library. After the submission period ends, library visitors will be able to vote for their favorite dioramas. The winners will have bragging rights that they got the first prizes for this fantastically creative program that also engages young minds in writing and reflection.

Murphy-Wilmot Library – Kathy Konecny

Murphy-Wilmot staff were recently surprised with a homemade thank-you card complete colorful drawings from a seven-year customer. His proud grandma added a note of explanation sharing that her grandson "LOVES going to your library. He looks forward to bringing books and movies and snacks and crafts home! You all are the BEST!" Our staff is proud to continue Murphy-Wilmot's 57-year tradition of connecting children with learning.

April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Murphy-Wilmot Library featured books with stories about or authors who are survivors of sexual assault. We also featured children's materials on body privacy, safety and consent. We highlighted a collection of resources from Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness, Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse, Antiviolence Project (AVP), Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) and Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault (SACASA). We included positive phrases that could be helpful to tell a loved-one who is a survivor of sexual assault. These phrases included "Thank you for telling me", "I believe you", "You have options", "You are not alone" and "How can I support you?" We are honored to make these resources available to our community.

District 5 – Supervisor Adelita Grijalva

Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library – Ivonne Ramirez

The Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library Celebrated poetry month and Earth day in April with a bright and engaging display. The display featured an interactive poetry-and-story tree with blank leaves and white pages for children and community members to share their stories and art. The activity sheets were part of a passive program to engage artistic contributions from our community alongside an attractive book display featuring titles from the library collection including nature poetry, gardening, and child and youth poetry books.

One of the most notable visits this month was from three children who came with their parents. The kids were absolutely delighted with the children's area, the activities, and the children's book displays, which on the day that they came in, featured eight new books from their favorite series (*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*)! Mom and dad had work to do on the library computers, looking up and printing documents for a job application. The adults were able to get help copying and faxing from the public services staff at the Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library. The family stayed for a while after the adults were done and spent time doing the art activity in the children's area. The kids left with new library cards and checked out a great selection of books. The adults left with information about summer programming and the new schedule for the

weekly one-on-one Job Help program, in case they needed to come back to do additional work for their job application.

Every day, our staff experiences how the Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library changes the lives of our users in small and big ways—through literacy, programming for children and families, and by making technology and other resources available to the community.

El Río Library – Jeff McWhorter

El Río Library expanded hours this month, reopening from 10am-6pm on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, and from 10am-5pm on Fridays. The library remains closed on Wednesdays for the time being. Patrons of the library expressed their many thanks for the library's expanded hours and we have been bustling during the day. The computer lab, which has seen its capacity expand from three to seven computers, is frequently in use and regulars are in and out each day picking up their books and other items. We continue to receive frequent visits from the students at the Pima Community College Adult Learning Center next door. El Río staff created a 'Citizenship Corner' in the library with the guidance of the PCPL Welcome to America team to help many of the new arrivals to Tucson feel welcome and supported. There is a new Library Page Intern, a 20-year veteran of the Santa Cruz County Library System, now working at the library and they have been a welcome addition to the team. As a staff, we continue to build bridges with the Adult Activity Center for seniors and the Daycare that are part of the El Río Center. We hope to expand programming to serve all of our unique neighbors soon.

Himmel Park Library – Heather Ross

We are beginning to host class visits again for the first time since the start of the pandemic. Students from Edge High School came over for a visit, where they toured the library and learned about our resources. We also hosted sixth-graders from St. Ambrose Catholic School and 2nd-graders from Amerischools Academy. Students received a primer on how the library works, new library cards, and the chance to explore the library and check out books. It was so great to see their excited faces again!

Customers have been enjoying the beautiful spring weather by checking out lots of seed packets and culture passes. Passes to outdoor venues fly out the door almost as soon as we put them out, and customers have been taking home piles of seeds to plant in their spring gardens. Our display for National Poetry Month has been popular too, with customers checking out a variety of poetry books, as well as helping themselves to the little 'pocket poems' staff created for Poem in Your Pocket Day, held on April 29.

Joel D. Valdez Main Library – Em DeMeester-Lane

This April our staff have been buzzing at the slow re-introduction to programming at the library. We have started Homework Help for Children and Teens as well as weekly Job Help. On April 2 we began Job Help again and have been able to provide easy access for job seeking customers, including a new Job Help binder that contains current openings that are updated weekly. While our grants librarians has not started formal presentations, but has been doing one-on-one database explanations which customers have appreciated. Finally, this month we completed our front planters spruce-up. In honor of Earth Day, we collaborated with the UA and planted native plants in front of Main to replace the ones that had been struggling.

Martha Cooper Library – Tara Foxx-Lupo

Early in April Martha Cooper staff attended the Garden District Neighborhood Plant Swap. The event consists of local gardeners who share their plant starts with interested neighbors. Library staff had lots of information on hand about the seed library including planting guides and calendars. This event happens at least twice a year and the library will be excited to be the host location after our remodel and reopening in 2023.

Our April Poetry display has been a success and the books have been going home with customers all month long due the efforts of our Adult Services librarian who curates and stocks the display daily.

The excitement for our first outdoor Storytime and our first Storytime program in about two years was evident in the many calls we took leading up to the event from interested customers. The attendance was an indicator that the community was ready for the return of Storytime, with about 65 in attendance. Our children's librarian was ready, as well as staff from nearby locations, who sang and read to the group. All participants were given a take-home craft at the end of the program.

Homework and Reading Help have been in full swing for a few weeks and kids are starting to come in regularly for the program. Our homework help tutor shared that it has been wonderful to reconnect with some of the young learners we have not since the beginning of the pandemic. One student who she worked with when he was in second grade has returned for help with his fifth grade schoolwork and has grown tremendously in his math and reading skills.

Richard Elías-Mission Library – Vicki Lázaro

In April Richard Elías-Mission Library celebrated National Poetry month featuring modern poets as well as classic ones. We also celebrated music with a book display on topics from instruments to songwriting. In Children's Services we offer Homework Help sessions twice a week. We continue to celebrate and encourage the creativity of our young patrons by featuring their Daily Drawings/Dibujos Diarios on our main lobby's "Gallery Wall". This brings a smile to the faces of all people entering and exiting our branch and encourages community through acknowledging and sharing. The young artists love telling us about their masterpieces of the day. In our Adult Services, we continue to assist patrons through this tax season with help in the computer lab and connecting them with our community partners AARP and VITA. We also have two Job Help sessions per week to assist with online applications and resume writing. A special event this month...we got to meet Harold Wood, a new patron of 103 years old and getting his first Pima County Public Library Card!

Southwest Library – Ray Baca

April was the first month that the Southwest library has seen in-person program in more than two years. We began hosting GED Prep classes and Homework Help. We have already helped a few children with homework and a lot of interest has been shown for the GED Prep classes. In addition, library staff have been busy scheduling library presenters for the months of June and July. From the Reid Park Zoo to puppet shows, the library will have something for everyone this sula Valencia Library accepted an invitation by the Sam Lena – South Tucson Library to participate in the first annual City of South Tucson Earth Day Celebration. Pima County Public Library (PCPL) was amongst several community organizations tabling at this event, which included vibrant music, food, raffles, and games. Library staff handed out One Seed marigold packets, Nature-to-Go kits provided by Pima County's Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, bookmarks, stickers, and information about library services. This event was extremely valuable to the community because it provided a space to talk about the environmental issues affecting the City of South Tucson and other Southside neighborhoods. It also allowed groups like Tucson Clean and Beautiful (TBC) and other Southside environmental groups to highlight some of their current efforts in addressing these issues. It was also an opportunity to encourage more youth from South Tucson to participate in these efforts as well as to consider a career in an environmental field.

Valencia Library – Paulina Aguirre-Clinch

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Valencia Library happily participated in the first annual literacy night at Grijalva Elementary. Students were tasked to walk around and complete different activities at each of the tables. Each table was hosted by a different organization, including the library. Some of the activities included gardening, creating a paper replica of the brain, and jujitsu. In the case of the library, each student received a book, a how-to on book making, and information about the library. Staff also signed families up for library cards.