

PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



Annual Report 2021-2022

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.

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Laila's First Library Card!



Staff member with Laila, Southwest Library

Thank you to everyone at PCPL for everything you do to make our libraries extra special for families and littles!"

— Monique

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In early June 2022, Librarian Substitute Monique Perez took her daughter Laila (age 3) to get her first library card. The pair went to Southwest Library, where they also enjoyed a puppet show!

Monique says, "I was three when I got my first PCPL card and I wanted to carry on the tradition. In addition to Southwest Library, we visited the Children's Room at Joel D. Valdez Main Library."



Bringing imagination to life!

On June 15, 2022, staff from the Tucson Museum of Art led an art workshop for youth at Joyner-Green Valley Library. Here are some of their creations!

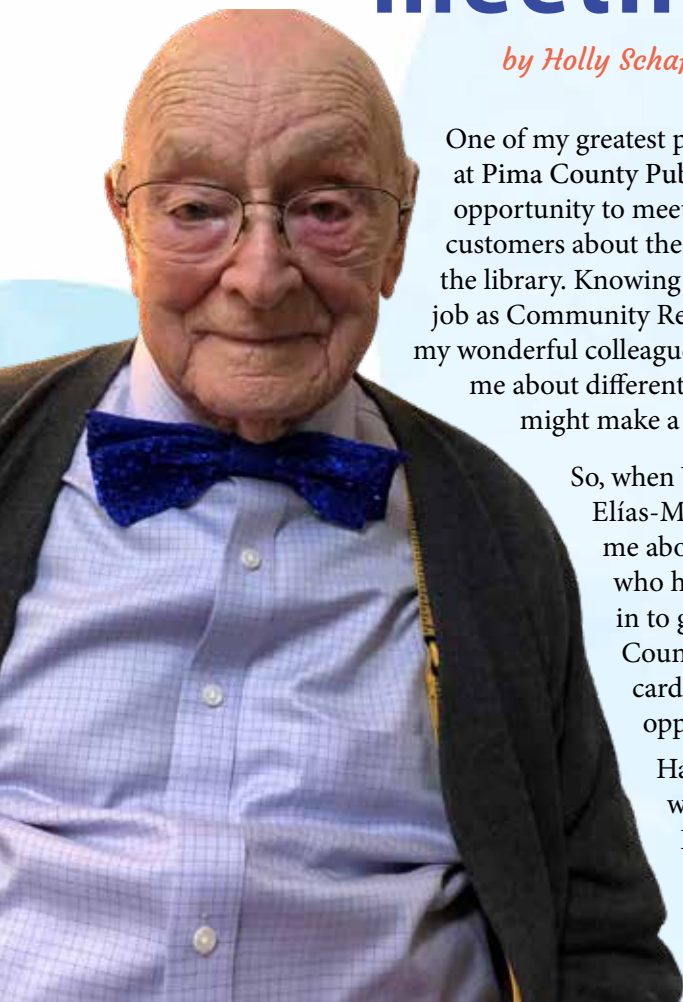


Charlie Touseull, Teen/Tween Librarian who booked the program, said, "I selected the Tucson Museum of Art for a combination of reasons. First, I know what a good reputation they have within the community for being intelligent and kind and I heard that they had the same approach towards classes and community outreach. Next, I selected them because I knew that our customers here would appreciate an art class taught by professionals who could both explain the art process and inspire those in attendance to create something wonderful. Also, I love visual arts but am in no way a visual artist, so I knew it would be best if someone else led that workshop. It worked out for the best and it was a smashing success!"

"Creativity takes courage."
— Henri Matisse

You won't want to miss meeting Harold

by Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager



Harold on his 99th birthday

I thought the best way to start would be to ask about the library card. I was curious—was it his first card? Boy was I mistaken. When I asked him, he gave me a quizzical look and replied, “Are you serious?” It became clear in that moment that, at 103 years old, he’s held his fair share of library cards.

Clearly, this interview wasn’t going to be about getting a library card. In fact, the card is only half (or maybe just a quarter) of the story. Harold’s life is the story.

Before our interview, Dorris sent me a copy of “The Story of Harold,” a piece she had written about his life to share at his 100th birthday celebration. Reading it gave me insight into Harold’s early days, including years in rural Canada. Dorris writes, “He lived outside Winnipeg on a rustic farm where bison trampled the filed, and the crops were hailed out two years in a row.” As he grew, his family moved to Winnipeg, where “he walked to school during 40 degrees below zero Canadian winters—long before the days of down ski jackets, thermal snow boots, and Hot Hands pockets.”

One of my greatest pleasures working at Pima County Public Library is the opportunity to meet and interview customers about their experiences at the library. Knowing this is part of my job as Community Relations Manager, my wonderful colleagues often email me about different interactions that might make a good story.

So, when Vicki L. from Richard Elías-Mission Library told me about a 103 year old man who had recently stopped in to get his first Pima County Public Library card, I jumped at the opportunity to meet him.

Harold, a book-loving, world traveling, Ham Radio operating veteran of WWII, and his daughter-in-law Dorris agreed to meet... I was thrilled!

Thinking Harold might have some thoughts on “The Story of Harold,” I asked, “Have you read what Dorris wrote?” He gave me a smile and said, “I haven’t. Best way for it to be unbiased, plus my anecdotes would bore people.”

Nearly halfway into his eleventh decade, Harold is not lacking in anecdotes or a keen sense of humor. During his 100th birthday celebration in Flagstaff, Arizona, where he and his family have a winter house, more than 60 people gathered to celebrate. One guest asked, “What’s the secret to longevity?” Harold remarked, “Good food, you know potatoes, gravy, all that. And orange juice.”

At the celebration, he received a key to the city. “It doesn’t unlock anything,” chuckled Harold.

In 1940, Harold enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force as Leading Air Craftsman and embarked on an unescorted ship—the SS Leopoldville—headed for England on December 30. He led a crew of three airmen installing Identification, Friend, or Foe Stations (IFF) along the East and South coasts of England. He witnessed the Battle of Britain, experienced nightly bombings of London, and watched ships depart for Omaha Beach.

After the atomic bomb ended the war, Harold was discharged and he earned a degree in Engineering Physics at the University of Toronto. After that, he started a new chapter by migrating to New York City.

At this point in our interview, Harold said, “Put in another dime.” There was more to the Story of Harold.

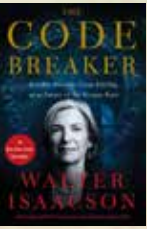
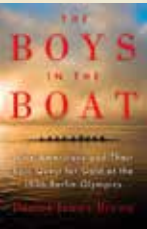
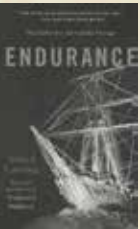
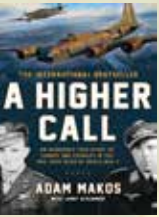
WE ARE CUSTOMER FOCUSED



Harold at Richard Elías-Mission Library with his new library card.

Harold recommends:

- ★ *Endurance* by Alfred Lansing
- ★ *The Code Breaker* by Walter Isaacson
- ★ *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown
- ★ *A Higher Call* by Adam Makos



Harold in his Royal Canadian Air Force uniform. Taken in Winnipeg, Canada in 1940 at the age of 21, just before shipping out to the coast of England.

“I packed up and headed to Grand Central Station. There I was, standing outside the kiosk, not a clue in the world.” He asked someone for tips on experiencing New York. “The lady told me, ‘Son, New York will eat you up. Get back on the bus and go home.’”

It didn’t eat him up.

His memory is sharp—he remembers that first night down to the last detail. “I arrived, found a place to eat, and got to watch Joe Louis knock out Max Schmeling in one punch.” He remembers his lunch routine. “I would go to the Automat. You know, you’d put in a quarter and get a meal.” Every night, he’d walk to Central Park and eat a roast beef sandwich at “a hole in the wall where Jack Dempsey ate, too. I had custom roller skates and heard Dinah Shore sing Oklahoma at ‘I Am an American Day.’”

When I asked him if his time in New York was his favorite memory, Harold casually replied, “It was just another interval in my life.” He’s not shy, though, to share his favorite memories, which include climbing the steps of the Leaning Tower of Pisa with his wife. “You can’t do that anymore; it’ll fall. It might be a trivial memory, but it’s a moment most people don’t have.”

In 1950, Harold earned his Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics and then landed his career-long job at Southern California Edison. He began as a Helper/Testman and spent the next 33 years seeking and receiving promotions. In 1983, he retired as a Consulting Engineer. Dorris says, “He would finish his career in the Long-Range Planning Department, which calculated power needs into the decades ahead. Anyone plugging in a hair dryer or charging their phone in Southern California today has Harold Wood to thank.”

At Edison, Harold met his wife Louise. Their first date was the Pasadena Rose Parade. They fell in love, married, and had not one, but two sets of twins. They settled in San Gabriel and made memories as a family of six.

Harold recalled a trip to the Grand Canyon in April 1960. “It snowed the entire time and we were holed up in a small cabin with four kids under the age of eight. As we were driving out, the sun came out. We got a flat when I put the tire chains on wrong.”

As the kids grew and started their own lives, Harold and Louise took up traveling by RV. They saw the Four Corners, Black Hills, Lake of the Woods, The Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, Lake Champlain, Myrtle Beach, Atlanta, Montreal, the St. Lawrence River, and Pittsburgh. “We skied on straw in Carbon Canyon in Malibu.

New Orleans holds a very special place in my heart, especially the music.”

Some years ago, Louise began showing signs of dementia. From Dorris’s “Story of Harold”:

When she was forgetful, he would gently remind her. When she was combative, he never returned an unkind word. He was consistently faithful in conducting reminiscence therapy, showing her old photos and playing music from their era... When asked how he could possibly handle the physical and emotional pressure, his answer was always relentless and steadfast. “Don’t worry. I have broad shoulders. A good British soldier never deserts his post.”

Harold lost Louise, the love of his life, in December of 2016, but today he is still going strong. Dorris says, “He walks laps on the sidewalk every day. He loves going out to dinner, where he often gets a free dessert when they find out how old he is.”

Back in Flagstaff, Harold has lots of neighbors and friends. He sits out front talking to neighbors—there’s a man across the street who once brought over a camping chair to listen.

Dorris says, “His room is full of tech stuff—PC, iPad, iPhone, two color printers, and an ever-present microscope. We often have to tell him, just like a teenager, to put his iPhone down at mealtime.”

As Harold approaches his 104th birthday in February 2023, he still satisfies his sweet tooth with Oreos and eclairs and enjoys the great view from his porch when he’s in Tucson.

Throughout his extraordinary life, Harold has seen many places, created memories, and filled himself with knowledge. As we wrapped up the interview, I couldn’t help but think how incredible it is that, at 103 years old, he still holds libraries in high esteem and recognizes the importance of having a library card.

He had two things left to say to me: “My parting comments, my friend Holly, is my mantra... to each their own. Oh, and Pima County Public Library is one of the best.”

Songwriting is a communication & *shared experience*

The Library is always looking for ways to engage with teens and give them opportunities to learn from librarian mentors and network with other youth to help build a better and stronger community.

One of the ways they get involved is through the **Teen Virtual Volunteer Program**. In July 2021, as part of the Teen Virtual Volunteer Program and the Imagine Our Story Summer Program, teens interviewed peers from local arts organizations to have meaningful conversations about their creative ventures.

Volunteer Sophia Ramirez interviewed singer/songwriter Imogen Rose. Imogen worked with Groundworks, a nonprofit, youth-driven community arts space in Tucson, on a show called “Creation in Isolation,” and was invited back to play for a Livestream fundraiser. Along with performing a set, she learned how to work a song board, oversee sound engineering, and mixing for a live audience.

Here are some excerpts from the interview:

What was your favorite part of the project?

I met loads of talented musicians and really nice volunteers who taught me how to work with all of the moving parts so things run smoothly.

How long have you been making music?

I’ve always been signing. I’ve been writing music since I was really young. But, I would say that I’ve officially been making music and considering myself a songwriter since I was a freshman in high school three years ago.

What inspired the switch from casual hobby to official songwriter?

How often I wrote songs as well as my knowledge on the subject and how seriously I wanted to take it.

What motivates you to create music?

I really want to make music that people can relate to and music that helps me work through the emotions and experiences I’m having. I also want to help other people see their life in a different light or give them something that says what they’re feeling even if

they don’t know it or can’t identify it. To me, songwriting is just a communication and an experience that’s shared. That’s what I love about listening to music. It would be a joy if somebody can connect to my music in any way.

What are your future plans?

I intend to write, always. I intend to study music in college. I’m not quite sure what that’s going to look like yet, but I always want to play and perform. I’m working on recording some more songs and learning more about the recording process.

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*“I really want to
make music that
people can relate to.”*



Photos: THE GARAGE production company (@_thegarageofficial)



Teens, learn more about volunteering!

<https://bit.ly/YouthVolunteerOpportunities>

Watch Imogen sing “Before the Lights Go Down” at Groundworks on YouTube.

<https://bit.ly/ImogenLights>

Visit Imogen online at imogenrosemusic.com



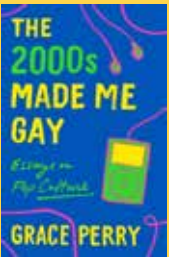
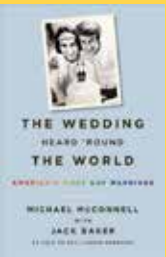
Pride reads!



June is LGBTQ Pride Month. To celebrate, many libraries created book displays to show off our pride and remind customers that we are here for everyone, not just in June, but all year long.



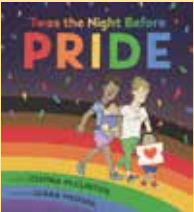
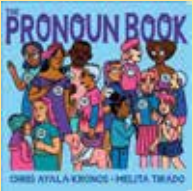
For adults:



- ★ *The Bennet Women* by Eden Appiah-Kubi
- ★ *Love & Other Disasters* by Anita Kelly
- ★ *The Wedding Heard 'round the World* by Michael McConnell
- ★ *The 2000s Made Me Gay* by Grace Perry



Here are some of the books staff had on display:



For kids:

- ★ *Stella Brings the Family* by Miriam B. Schiffer
- ★ *Mama and Mommy and Me in the Middle* by Nina LaCour
- ★ *The Pronoun Book* by Chris Ayala-Kronos
- ★ *'Twas the Night Before Pride* by Joanna McClintick

According to the Library of Congress, “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan. The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally.”

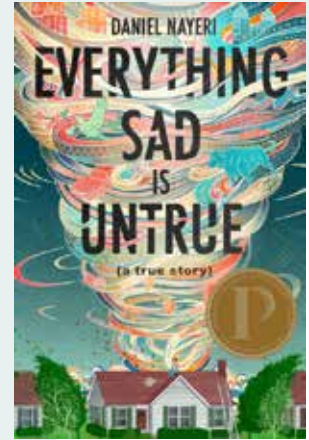
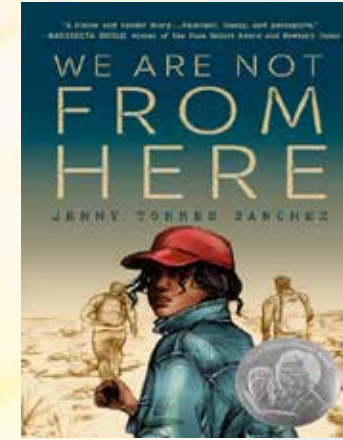
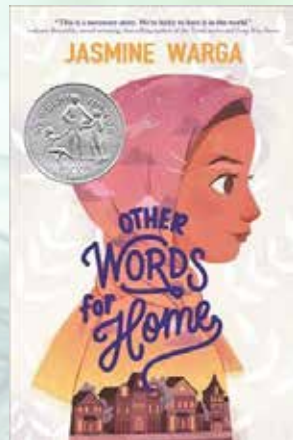
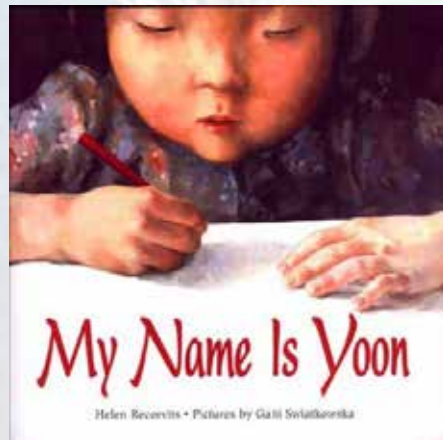
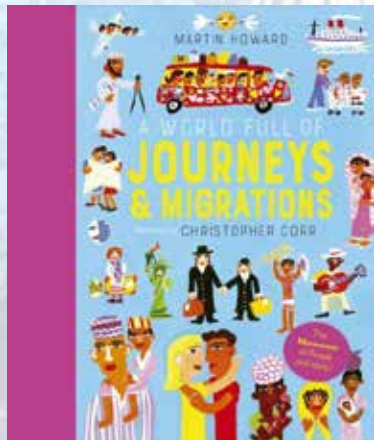
Other Words for Home, *Celebrating the Immigrant Experience in America*

Immigrant Heritage Month is celebrated annually in June. According to the I Stand With Immigrants Initiative, “Since June of 2014, Immigrant Heritage Month has given people across the United States an opportunity to annually explore their own heritage and celebrate the shared diversity that forms the unique story of America.”

Numerous libraries marked the month with displays featuring books for all ages. Some of the titles they recommended include:

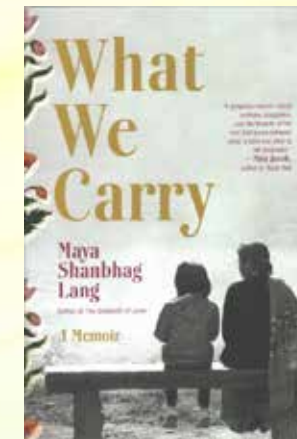
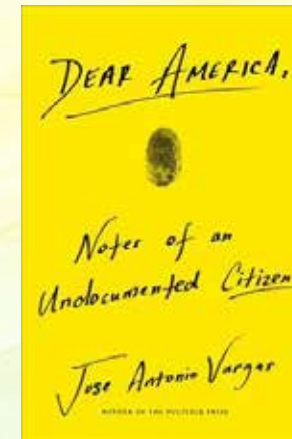
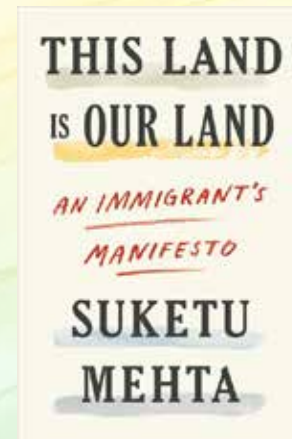
Kids

- ★ *A World Full of Journeys & Migrations* by Martin Howard
- ★ *My Name is Yoon* by Helen Recorvits
- ★ *Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga



Teens

- ★ *Almost American Girl: An Illustrated Memoir* by Robin Ha
- ★ *We Are Not From Here* by Jenny Torres Sanchez
- ★ *Everything Sad Is Untrue: A True Story* by Daniel Nayeri



Adults

- ★ *What We Carry: A Memoir* by Maya Lang
- ★ *This Land Is Our Land: An Immigrant's Manifesto* by Suketu Mehta
- ★ *Dear America: Notes of An Undocumented Citizen* by Jose Antonio Vargas

The United States is a Nation of immigrants — shaped by the courageous people from around the world who leave their homes, lives, and loved ones to seek refuge and opportunity on our shores. Their sacrifices and entrepreneurial spirit have contributed to the rich tapestry that has defined the character of our country for generations. Since our founding, the very idea of America as a Nation of limitless possibilities has been nurtured and advanced by immigrants. During National Immigrant Heritage Month, we honor the contributions of immigrants to our great Nation and celebrate their profound impact.

— President Joseph R. Biden Jr., *A Proclamation on National Immigrant Heritage Month, 2022*

WE HONOR
DIVERSITY

Library adopts land acknowledgment in consultation with the

Tohono O'odham & Pascua Yaqui Nations

In December 2021, we issued a formal statement acknowledging the Native peoples on whose lands the Library operates:

The Pima County Public Library (PCPL) acknowledges the sovereignty of Native Nations and acknowledges the twenty-two federally recognized Indigenous tribes of the state of Arizona and those who inhabit Pima County. We honor the vast and often unrecognized contributions and sacrifices of Indigenous people and are conscious of the ongoing experience of inequality and political invisibility.

In partnership with Native Nations, PCPL advocates for full access to its education, information and recreational resources.

In a process that took about 10 months, members of the Library's **Many Nations Team** consulted with the Tohono O'odham Cultural Preservation Committee and the Pascua Yaqui Department of Language and Culture to draft an acknowledgment that was then presented to and approved by the Tribal Councils.

"As a Yaqui member of the Many Nations Team, born on this land that is now Arizona, I and the Many Nations members and employees of Pima County want to acknowledge our history; our peoples and ancestors who came before us. Our motivation is to ensure our Native patrons feel seen and honored by us and that we recognize and appreciate the opportunity to provide our services on their ancestral lands. Land acknowledgments are a first step. These are the plans to uplift Native patrons that we are putting into action for Tohono O'odham and Pascua Yaqui Nations."

- Maria Esparza,
Many Nations Team member



World Refugee Day Event

Celebrating and supporting neighbors from around the world

On Saturday, June 18, 2022 at Amphitheater High School, members of the Library's Welcome to America Team joined numerous local organizations including the Muslim Community Alliance, International Rescue Committee, Child & Family Resources, Tucson Afghan Community and others at World Refugee Day.

The team gave out bookmarks, pencils and sharpeners, highlighters, stickers, crayons, activity books, embroidery kits for adults, Marigold

seeds from the Seed Library, and Summer Learning trackers.

They also distributed nearly 150 free books in English, Spanish, Arabic, Dari, French, Pashto, Somali, and Swahili. Titles included bilingual versions of American classics like *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes* and *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* as well as unique books like *Adnan and the Hoopoe* in Arabic/English, *Wanyama Animals* in Swahili/English, and *The Three Little Sunbears* in Dari/English.

"I participated because one of the most impactful things that can be done to assist new Americans is to introduce them to the library. Getting to hand books to families in their own languages and tell them yes, it's free, and seeing their eyes light up is one of the most rewarding things I've gotten to do at PCPL. After the past few years of isolation, seeing so many organizations come together to celebrate and support our neighbors from around the world was an absolute joy."

– Hannah, Early Learning Coordinator,
AmericCorps VISTA

"Everyone tries to find meaning in their work and that's easy to do as a librarian. Being part of the Welcome to America team and participating in events such as World Refugee Day turbocharges the satisfaction I get. I'm honored to work at a place that is truly a light at the end of a very dark and scary tunnel for so many people."

– Karen, Librarian



It's Not about Me, *It's About Them*

by Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager

WE ARE A
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YOU

Masks were still mandatory on the day I met M—first name withheld at customer's request—at Murphy-Wilmot Library. Although I couldn't see her smile, her bright blue eyes and vibrantly colored mask adorned with poodles and bright hearts let me know that I was about to talk to someone who loves—really loves—the Library. I was excited to get started!

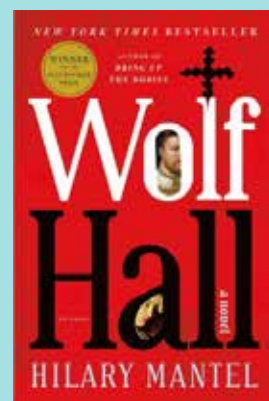
We sit across from each other in the Library's meeting room and M begins, "No names, please. This isn't about me. It's about them. It's clear to me how much librarians do for me."

M's husband has Lewy Body Dementia, a disease that, according to the National Institute on Aging, "is associated with abnormal deposits of a protein that affect chemicals in the brain and can lead to problems with thinking, movement, and behavior."

"It's difficult to bring him in with me. He can be violent," M comments. "We have a caregiver at home, so I come here to use the computers."

Shortly into the interview, it becomes clear to me. M isn't here to share her story—she is here to talk about the Library.

We always have to
ask about books!
M names *Wolf Hall*
by Hilary Mantel as
one of her favorites.



She says, "Library staff watch out for people. They watch to see if we're having trouble finding something, they locate the materials... They're wonderful people." M also applauds the work of staff giving out snacks and meals. "That's a lot of work for them, and they do it because they care. People need to acknowledge it."

M visits the Library frequently. When not using the computers, she cruises the catalog and works on a sociolinguistics book she's co-editing for Oxford University Press. Her Library visits, however, date back to when her children were little. "First you come for the kids..." she remarks, but drifts immediately back to the staff. "They're always willing to step in. I love seeing them assist moms with kids to find the right book. It's important that kids start loving books when they're little."

Recalling some of the interactions she's had with staff, M tells

me, "One librarian would pull aside books she thought I'd like and another would help with my husband when he was still able to come out. And then there was the one who collected boxes so I could pack up books for donation to the Friends of the Pima County Public Library, where I used to volunteer."

M has more to say. "Librarians are always looking for a way to support people, even if it's unconventional like turning vegetable boxes into donation boxes. You have to admire them for going above and beyond."

As our time wraps up, M remarks, "Thank you for writing this up. It's my little something to pat them on the back."

You're welcome, M. Thank you for being our customer and a lifelong library champion.



WE ARE A
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Kindness & generosity fueled donation drive for Afghan refugees

From January 10, 2022, through February 10, 2022, the Library partnered with the Tucson Afghan Community (TAC) and International Rescue Committee (IRC) to collect items for Afghan refugees arriving in Tucson. The drive was led by the Library's Welcome to American Team.

It was an outstanding success:

- ★ People donated 106 large boxfuls, or approximately 3,200 square feet of items.
- ★ The donations filled 3 public storage units.
- ★ \$1,900 in donations by check filled in the gaps for these newly arrived families.
- ★ 42 Afghan families and individuals received much-needed household and daily-use items, such as bedding, kitchenware, small electrical appliances, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene supplies, clothes, and toys.



Irina Delone

"The drive came up as a quick response to the needs of newly arrived Afghans. I heard from a friend about families with children staying in hotels while waiting for permanent housing to become available. I attended a Tucson Afghan Community meeting, where I met with leaders trying to help them with obtaining basic hygiene supplies, household items, cleaning supplies, and more. After discussing it with the Welcome to America Team, we came up with the idea for the donation drive. We are glad it was successful because we were able to make a difference in people's lives. It was made possible by the hard work of the team, the employees of the participating branches, and most importantly, the generosity of the Tucson community and library customers."

- Irina Delone, Miller-Golf Links Library and Welcome to America Team member

It's a *rewarding* experience

Rose Kim began volunteering at Murphy-Wilmot Library in November 2021. Since then, she has volunteered every Wednesday and Friday after school until closing time.

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FOR YOU

We checked in with Rose about her volunteer service and her hopes for the future.

What do you do at the library and what have you learned?

I shelve books, sanitize areas, help older adults with technology, and prepare arts and crafts activities for children. I've learned the ins and outs of Murphy-Wilmot Library. I know which genre is where and how to put books back properly. I've also learned that the library is not only for books, but also the home of various resources and job and program opportunities.

What is your favorite part?

My favorite part about volunteering at the library is how peaceful, yet rewarding the experience is. Though it may not seem like a big deal, I know that I'm giving back to my community while disregarding my stresses for a few hours.

Has the staff inspired you in any way?

Vicki Lázaro has inspired me in so many ways. She's always trying to look for and share opportunities with me and the other volunteers to gain life-changing experiences.

She also holds so much empathy and care for the impoverished population within our community. One time, I helped her pass out COVID tests and food kits to low-income families. I watched her speak to them in a soothing tone, comforting them with a friendly voice. These types of experiences with Vicki taught me how important it is to be aware of others' circumstances and to try to make changes to benefit them.

What have you taken away from volunteering?

In a literal sense, I took away a shadowing opportunity with a general surgeon and an internship as a Health Action

Team member at Woods Memorial Library. This was all because of the connections I made with the library staff and their willingness to find new things for volunteers.

What are your plans for the future?

I plan to go to an out-of-state college and earn my undergraduate degree. I hope to get into a medical school, get my MD, undergo clinical rounds, and achieve my dream of becoming a cardiothoracic surgeon.

What would you say to people who don't think libraries are important?

Libraries are safe havens filled with knowledge and resources that can change lives. It's imperative that people try to take advantage of the free support that libraries offer.

If you could visit any library in the world, which one would it be?

I have always wanted to visit the library on Yale University's campus. It is the most beautiful building I've ever seen, and it houses a vast collection of rare books that I hope to read one day.

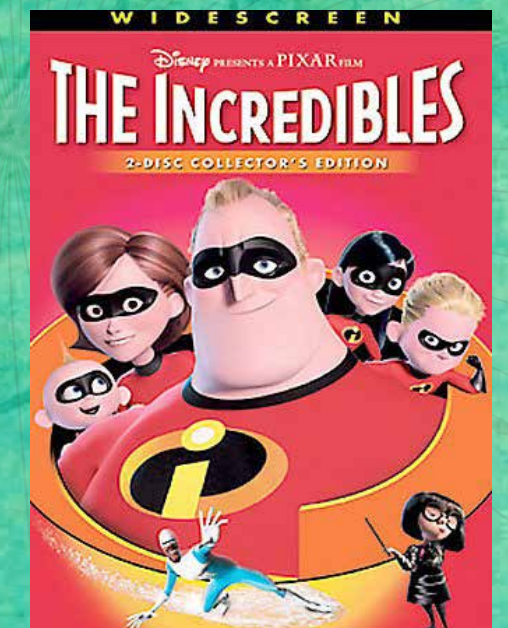
If you could be anyone in the world, who would it be and why?

I would be Richard Smith—the biomedical engineer and founder of SynCardia (an artificial heart manufacturing company). He went through multiple career changes and took time to find what he enjoyed, then he invested his life's work into a company that saves patients with biventricular heart failure. I want to be like him—inspiring youth, saving lives, and doing what he's passionate about.



“These experiences have taught me how important it is to be aware of others' circumstances.”

“If I could be any fictional character, I'd be Jack-Jack from The Incredibles. He has every superpower imaginable.” – Rose



Calling all hobbyists and DIYers!

Last year we added two online tools for burgeoning and advanced hobbyists and DIYers:

Hobbies and Crafts Reference Center

<https://bit.ly/HobbiesCraftsReference>

Got a hobby you'd like to nurture? Looking for a new activity to pass the time? Hobbies & Crafts Reference Center contains thousands of articles from top hobby and craft magazines and books as well as recipes, "how-to" videos, and hobby profiles.

Categories covered include:

- ★ Arts and crafts
- ★ Collecting
- ★ Home and garden
- ★ Kids' crafts
- ★ Model building
- ★ Needlecrafts and textiles
- ★ Performing arts
- ★ Recreation (indoor and outdoor)
- ★ Science and technology
- ★ Scrapbooking and papercrafts

Home Improvement Reference Center

<https://bit.ly/HomeImprovementReference>

Looking to install a new door, fix a leaky faucet, or spruce up your garden? We've got just the thing for you! Home Improvement Reference Center has thousands of articles from leading home improvement magazines and reference books, plus a collection of home repair images not found anywhere else online. Quickly find the information you need by searching by keyword or browsing projects from A to Z or by category.

Categories covered include:

- ★ Decorating home and garden
- ★ Electrical work
- ★ Maintenance
- ★ Outdoor improvements
- ★ Plumbing
- ★ Remodeling
- ★ Woodworking

Home Improvement Reference Center also includes:

- ★ Conversion charts
- ★ Homeowner's journal
- ★ Advice for working with contractors
- ★ Glossary of terms

WE WILL AMAZE
YOU WITH ALL WE
HAVE TO OFFER

A Year's Worth of Shout Outs!

We never get tired of receiving kind comments from our community. This past year we were really feeling the love! Here's what some Library customers had to say about everything from the E-Library and branch staff to the ease of our website and the size and breadth of our collection.

"The online process is so easy and provides great access to all sorts of materials. Receiving electronic notices when books-on-hold are available is terrific. Thanks!"

"Being able to hold books online and pick them up curbside during lockdown connected me to the world. I've always loved the library, but now I feel a special affinity. Thank you for making life that much easier."

"Thank you for carrying Clean Eating Magazine. Every issue has a grocery list with meal planning for a week. So easy with no food waste. Great recipes. Very grateful."

"The Library is a great place to be a kid."

"Pima County Public Library is a local treasure!"

"My eyesight was significantly affected when I contracted COVID-19 in December 2020. I wasn't able to read for a while and became completely reliant on downloadable audiobooks. My eyesight has since improved, but I continue to download audiobooks to entice myself to get daily exercise walking on the treadmill. I find a book to be a much better way to relieve the boredom of the treadmill than listening to even the peppiest music. I'm so grateful for the online library services."

"Fantastic website! Easy to use and understand. I love that you can keep track of books you want to read, books in progress, and books completed. Great way to encourage reading!"

"The El Rio Library team is amazing. I love these people; they are so kind and helpful. Always friendly and pleasant!"

"The Library, in addition to the Sonoran Desert, is the finest element of Pima County."

"This is wonderful to download eBooks and to hear downloaded audiobooks. No worry about running to the library. No fines. The books appear and disappear from my OverDrive account with ease. Thank you!"

"Keep being awesome! I am grateful for our libraries and librarians."

"The Seed Library is an awesome service! I'm trying container gardening... cherry tomatoes and leaf lettuce. My goal is for seeds to sprout and grow, and to keep the plants alive so I can make a salad!"

"My dad and I recently got to talking about genealogy. He had done research in the past, but had stopped. Through our discussion, he realized that his father's draft card might have his hair color listed. My dad is the only one in the family with red hair and was teased about it a lot. He also never knew his father because he passed away when he was only three or four. I was able to use Ancestry to pull up an image of the draft card on my phone and showed him that his Dad had red hair, too! My dad does not express much emotion, but I could tell having this question answered meant a lot to him."

"I wanted to thank you for sharing the Read Harder 2022 Asexual/Aromantic book list. I read *Elatsoe* by Darcie Little Badger based on those recs, and I thought it was great. It was nice to have a young adult novel with a lead character with whom I could relate. Plus, I liked being exposed to Apache culture, values, and folklore."

"I loved, loved, loved the donation drive for Afghan refugees. I hope it was successful for those moving to Pima County. I go to the Dusenberry-River Library and it has been a lifesaver for me."

"Your staff offered to help me even when I never asked, and I was so grateful. They are the friendliest, most helpful library staff I have ever encountered and I have encountered many since I travel for a living."

"Thank you for being part of the greatest library system in the U.S."

"The way the library has coped with COVID has been heroic. We are very lucky to have such a wonderful community resource."

"I really love your website. It's so easy to find what I'm looking for and I especially love the "Best Of" lists."

"Everyone was so friendly and my daughter loves the library. She has always loved to read, but now she likes to share, too. They have been so great through the pandemic, adapting and offering creative programs."

"I have never had a better experience at a library. Staff are excellent, choice of books is superb and the online ease is amazing. Thank you Pima County!"



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Cathy Kainer is a customer at W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library. We were excited to receive this note from Cathy about Libby, a reading app by OverDrive, which offers thousands of eBooks, audiobooks, magazines, and more, and is loved by millions of readers worldwide.

I heard about Libby from a couple of my book club members, but it took some motivation on my part to stop by the library to make my acquaintance!

Libby has saved me anxiety, time, and best of all, money!

Libby is one of the library's online book loan programs. It's so easy to use. My first step was to apply for a library card, something I haven't had for years. My experience was fast, easy, and there were nice people who worked with me. I also picked up the online (Libby) instructions from the front desk.

Next, I downloaded the Libby app, opened it, and started browsing for library books to borrow. I created my own 'shelf' to manage my book holds and when I'm done reading my current library book, I send it back (electronically) and the next one in line pops up. I can decide to read that one or any of the other several books on my personal shelf. I can send books back anytime which releases the hold and makes them available to others who may also have those on hold.

The best part is that nearly all the books I have put on hold are available immediately, or with a short wait, and are sent directly to my electronic reader FOR FREE! My book club has 12 women in it and we are bunch of readers! Dozens of book titles are suggested each month in addition to the selected book for the month.

I used to spend hundreds of dollars purchasing books from Amazon for my Kindle reader, and now, they are all FREE! In addition, I don't need to stop at the library (although it is very nice!), which saves on gas and time, and I can browse through the library anytime, at my leisure in my pjs.

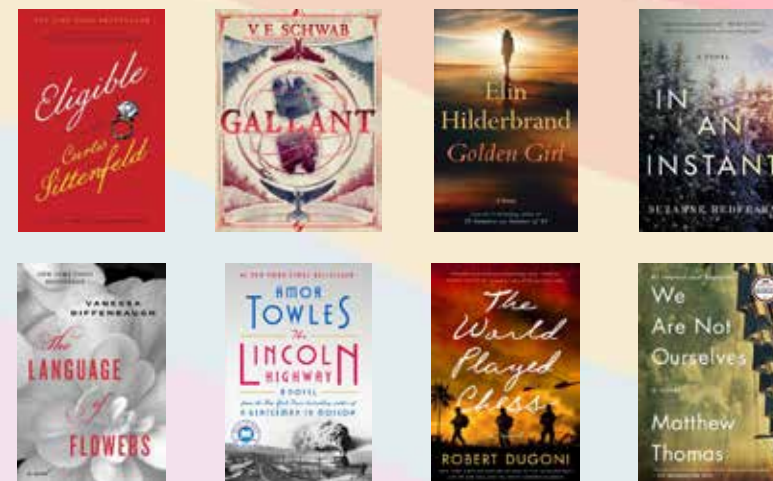
Thank you to the forward-thinking neighbors of ours who made this little gem of a library a reality. I encourage readers to explore this local resource and thank a librarian!

Happy Libby fan,
Cathy Kainer

I finally met Libby!

We checked in with Cathy about what the books she's recently read and enjoyed. Have you read any of these?

- ★ *The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh
- ★ *We Are Not Ourselves* by Matthew Thomas
- ★ *Lincoln Highway* by Tamor Towles
- ★ *In An Instant* by Suzanne Redfearn
- ★ *The World Played Chess* by Robert Dugoni
- ★ *Golden Girl* by Elin Hildenbrand
- ★ *Eligible* by Curtis Sittenfeld
- ★ *Gallant* by V E Schwab



Libby: The Top Ten!

Last year, the total number of Libby check outs exceeded 840,000. Here are the Top five checkouts in magazines, audiobooks, and eBooks:



Magazines

- ★ *The Economist*
- ★ *US Weekly*
- ★ *The New Yorker*
- ★ *New Scientist*
- ★ *Star Magazine*



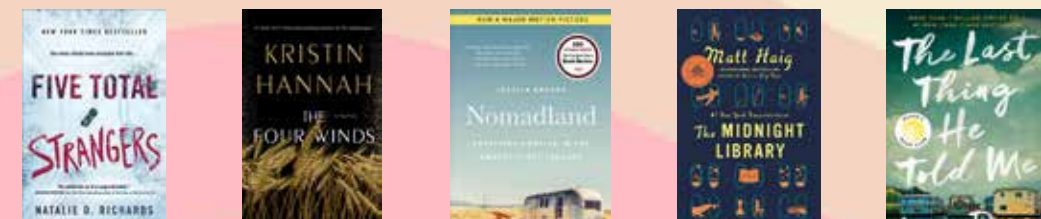
Audiobooks

- ★ *Where the Crawdads Sing*
- ★ *Pride and Prejudice*
- ★ *Cold Mourning*
- ★ *The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck*
- ★ *American Dirt*



eBooks

- ★ *Five Total Strangers*
- ★ *The Four Winds*
- ★ *Nomadland*
- ★ *The Midnight Library*
- ★ *The Last Thing He Told Me*



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A Celebration of Culture



On September 22, 2021, more than 500 people tuned into Global Arts Showcase: Mes de la Cultura, a virtual presentation coordinated by Arizona Public Media and Pima County Public Library's Welcome to America and Nuestras Raíces teams. The event was a celebration of the rich Mexican-American and Latinx cultural heritage of Southern Arizona. It featured local Mexican-American and Latinx art, music, and dance with performances by Mariachi Estrellas de Tucson, Mariachi Los Changuitos Feos, and Ballet Folklórico Tapatío.

Attendees also enjoyed an exclusive preview of the Arizona Illustrated story about Carlos Valenzuela, a Chicano tile artist, and his work across Tucson's south side; and an inside look at the Library's Frank De La Cruz Borderlands collection.



Here's what some people
had to say:

"Outstanding!"



*"Shout
out to all my
PCPL people
who made this
happen!"*



*"The
Nuestras
Raíces team is
FIRE! Thanks
for all your
work!"*

*"Such
a beautiful
program, thank
you for putting
it together!"*



Did you miss Global Arts Showcase: Mes de la Cultura? Don't worry! You can watch it on YouTube <https://bit.ly/MesDeLaCultura>



ARIZONA PUBLIC MEDIA.

Ten Years of *Seeds, Bikes, and Books!*

WE WILL AMAZE
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HAVE TO OFFER

The Bookbike and the Seed Library are celebrating 10 years of service!
Both services were established in 2012 and continue to be very popular.

To celebrate, we checked in with team members about this special milestone:

Seed Library

“I joined the Seed Library team because of the incredible people that make it function. I’m excited to discover what awaits me on my seed journey, and to assist first time planters with my developing knowledge.” – *Carlos Aguila, Library Technical Assistant*



“I’ve always seen the library as a place for connection. Connecting people to information, to resources, to other people, and to community. The Seed Library extends these possibilities by connecting people to the earth they live on.” – *Ellery Page, Library Associate*



“Seeing people work to improve access to healthy food, to adapt to climate change, to beautify their neighborhood, to steward robust seeds for future generations makes me hopeful for the future.” – *Susannah Connor, Seed Librarian*



“When the chance to be a member of such a wonderful group offered itself, I seized it. Since then, I’ve learned a lot and gotten to know many wonderful individuals. I adore the Seed Library and am eager to continue.” – *Natalie Guillen, Library Technical Assistant*

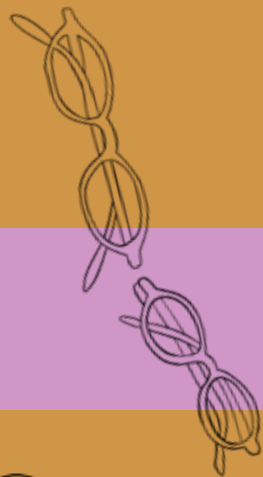


“I’ve learned a great deal about partnerships and the power of community connections. Being part of this growing movement is one of the highlights of my library career.” – *Betsy Langley, Managing Librarian*



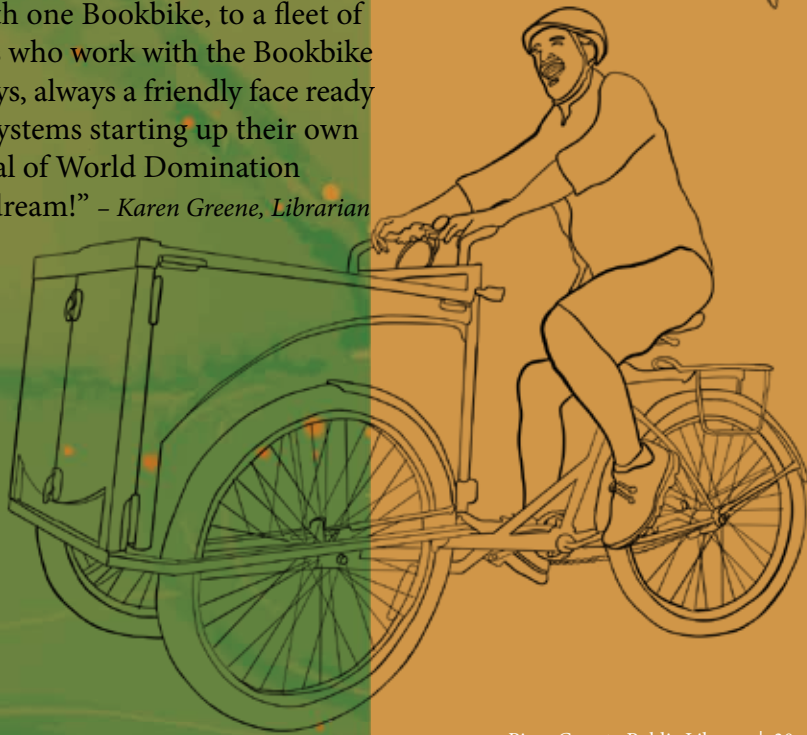
BookBike

“Who would have guessed that in 10 years, the Bookbike would have given away almost 100,000 books to the Tucson reading community? We have come a long way from our first year with one Bookbike, to a fleet of three and a fabulous partnership with the Tucson Downtown Lions Club. Folks who work with the Bookbike are a flexible bunch, rolling with the times, adapting as needed and always, always, always a friendly face ready to give away free books and reading glasses. We have mentored other library systems starting up their own Bookbike programs and presented at national conferences, always with the goal of World Domination by Bookbike. Perhaps in the next 10 years it will be a reality – we can always dream!” – *Karen Greene, Librarian*



A brief look at 10 years!

- ★ 92,231 books given out to readers
- ★ 1,247 visits to community events
- ★ 3,165 miles traveled
- ★ 2,851 volunteer hours logged



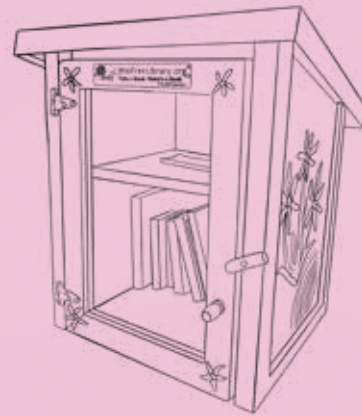
DID YOU KNOW?

On the road *again!*

After a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Library's **Bookbike** was back on the road this year. The wheels began rolling again in February 2022. Between then and the end of June 2022, Bookbike staff and volunteers **attended 35 events, traveled 120.6 miles and gave away 3,126 books!** They also started delivering books to nearby Little Free Libraries!

Where did the Bookbike stop?

- ★ Casa Maria Soup Kitchen
- ★ Galeria Mitotera
- ★ Ochoa Elementary
- ★ Santa Cruz River Farmers' Market
- ★ The Historic Y
- ★ Tucson House Apartments
- ...and more!



“Stewards of Little Free Libraries have been so excited to have the Bookbike bring books each month. Some Little Free Libraries really have a lot of visitors and it’s nice for folks to have a selection of books that can be parceled out throughout the month, rather than having a Little Free Library sit empty.”

— Karen Greene, Librarian

Seeds, seeds, and more seeds!

Last year, Library staff and volunteers packaged and labeled **106,497** seed packets representing **218** individual plant varieties and/or donations. Of the total, **9,999** packets were of seeds donated by local gardeners from seeds they collected!

A snapshot of some of the packaged plant varieties:

- ★ Radishes – Cherrybelle (*Raphanus Sativus*)
- ★ Arugula – Dragon’s Fire (*Diplotaxis Tenuifolia*)
- ★ Turnips – Purple Top White Globe (*Brassica Rapa*)
- ★ Sweet Peas – Bijou (*Lathyrus Odoratus*)
- ★ Chamomile – German (*Matricaria Chamomilla*)
- ★ Amaranths – Red Garnet (*Amaranthus Cruentus*)
- ★ Cucumbers – Marketmore 76 (*Cucumis Sativus*)
- ★ Okra – Burgundy (*Abelmoschus Esculentus*)
- ★ Lima Beans – Henderson’s Baby Bush (*Phaseolus Lunatus*)
- ★ Safflower – Corrales Azafran (*Carthamus Tinctorius*)



Getting test kits into *hands and homes*

Between November 2021 and January 2022 and again in May and June of 2022, the Library partnered with the Pima County Health Department to make COVID-19 test kits available at libraries for free to members of the public.

Altogether, 39,700 test kits were distributed!



Tallying the *Top Ten*

Here’s what Pima County Public Library customers enjoyed most in the E-Library last year:

New York Times

Complimentary online access to the New York Times Digital Edition, from current issues all the way back to 1851.

<https://bit.ly/DigitalNYT>

NewsBank

NewsBank offers free, instant access to Arizona Daily Star issues and archives, plus hundreds of other newspapers in English and Spanish around the country.

<https://bit.ly/PCPLNewsbank>

Student Resources in Context: Middle & High School

With Gale In Context, High School, middle and high school students can research topics like history, geography, social issues, health, and more.

<https://bit.ly/PCPLStudentResources>

Chilton Library

Working on a car or truck? Use Chilton Library for all your repair and maintenance needs.

<https://bit.ly/PCPLChilton>

MasterFILE Complete

Have a paper due on any topic? Want to know every fact there is about someone famous? MasterFILE Complete offers the highest quality collection of popular full-text magazines, reference books, videos, and other sources covering virtually every subject area.

<https://bit.ly/PCPLMasterFILE>

ABC Mouse

Build a strong foundation in reading, language arts, math, science, social studies, art, and music with more than 3,500 books, games, puzzles, and activities.

<https://bit.ly/PCPLABCmouse>

Gale in Context: Opposing Viewpoints

Hear opposing opinions on today’s hot-button social issues, then get more information from articles, videos, interactive maps, and more

<https://bit.ly/PCPLGale>

Ancestry Library Edition

Find birth, marriage, and death records, as well as military records and more from Ancestry Library Edition, the largest general collection of genealogical information.

<https://bit.ly/PCPLAncestry>

Reference Solutions

Data Axle Reference Solutions offers a nationwide business directory, job searching, market trends, competitive analysis, and research to move businesses or organizations forward.

<https://bit.ly/PCPLReferenceUSA>

NoveList Plus

Find the perfect book to read next! NoveList has book reviews, series book lists, and author biographies, and helps you find other books that read like your favorite books and authors.

<https://bit.ly/PCPLNovelist>

Chris Lasch & *Dreaming the Sky*

The new Sahuarita Library features a large, wall-mounted mosaic by nationally and internationally acclaimed architect Chris Lasch, of the firm Aranda/Lasch. The piece, titled *Dreaming the Sky*, wraps around the library's collection room. It depicts a day, from sunrise to sunset, through an abstract image of the sky.

The change in light is reflected in the color of the sky and clouds as the day progresses, creating a narrative image that moves with the visitor around the space.

The panel is a cement board onto which the glass mosaics are mounted. The glass mosaics themselves were derived from an image that were created and robotically assembled into 1-foot square sheets by the company Artaic. Artaic shipped these sheets to Lasch's studio, where they were mounted onto the backing board in the same way that one might tile their bathroom.



DID YOU
KNOW?

Of the creation, Chris says:

We wanted to create something substantial, that would engage and support the architecture. With the project review committee, we decided on a long linear art element at the top of the wall that would complement the long clerestory that runs along the floor. The piece also helps unite the different divisions of the reading room together by creating one visual movement, a single narrative that stretches from one corner of the space to the other.



Meet Our Staff

For eight years, Library staff have contributed to a monthly column in the *Arizona Daily Star*. In it, they share stories of what they love about their work, what inspired them to pursue their path in libraries, and what our community means to them.

“These are my favorite things about the Library”

I would love to get paid to read all day, but nope, I get to do something much more fun. I get to welcome you to your library—yes, your library. And I get to introduce you to the many resources available to one and all.
– *Belinda L.*

Enter the library, meet a world of possibilities

Every day, I work to send the message that I found so valuable all those years ago: We see you. You belong. You matter. You're welcome here. – *Angharad Daly*



Rediscovery of my Asian Self – Reflections of a Japanese American Librarian

The library was a wondrous place where I could explore many different worlds. The library gave me hope and imagination. I was a human being thirsting for knowledge, and the library gave me the ability to quench my thirst. The library validated my existence.
– *Debbie Quakenbush*

Librarians reflect the reality of the world we live in

I will continue to vocalize, listen, advocate, and push for social change in my line of work as a public librarian. Doing so will ultimately have me, as well as the rest of my colleagues, become a more empowered, knowledgeable, compassionate, and empathic workforce of service providers. – *Brie Chillious*



A library state of mind

There are many places in the world where we're asked or most often, demanded, to prove ourselves. To earn it, or to pay for the space we take up. The library is a place where that narrative, that myth of meritocracy, is not needed. It is a place that deeply connects people, information, and resources.
– *Ellery Page*

It's not surprising I became a children's librarian

Throughout the interstices of life, the library system was there for me — as it is for you, as well, reader. As the managing librarian in the Joel D. Valdez Main Library Children's Room, my goal is to create that welcoming, vibrant space that I remember so well from childhood.
– *Davida Larson*



My desk is like a book mountain!

I am the Interlibrary Loan Manager in the Technical Services Department. No, you won't see me at the front desk of your neighborhood library, but if you were to visit me on the fourth floor of the Joel D. Valdez Main Library, you might find me neck deep in a mountain of books. – *Jacqueline Felix*

I can imagine my grandfather in that library

I believe the enthusiasm that drove us both to dream about the future, my grandfather and me, was the hope for something better. Not for ourselves, but for the people of the world. – *John Muñoz*



Librarians play a vital role as connectors

While Los Angeles, CA might be my hometown, Tucson is the place I now call home and where I would like to continue working towards making libraries more equitable, diverse, and inclusive spaces.
– *Jesus A. Castañeda*

We are helping them forge a better path

What hasn't changed is that the 25-35 youth here are just that: Youth. Teenagers. Kids. What brought them here does not erase the hope, promise and ambition that lives in every young person. The Library is proud to partner with the Juvenile Detention Center to nurture these qualities and equip youth to forge a better path for themselves.
– *Stephanie Mitchell*



Excitement had me gasping for air

I was assigned to the Joel D. Valdez Main Library and I was thrilled that this is where I had been placed. I had a mad, passionate love affair with the library, but using the library and working in the library are two totally different things. I felt that there was no better place than the Main Library to learn how to become a librarian!
– *Tenecia Phillips*

Thank you, *Friends*

Annually, the Friends of Green Valley and Sahuarita Libraries select library staff to receive a unique scholarship to help them pursue advanced degrees in library science at the University of Arizona’s School of Information.

In 2022, four staff members were chosen to receive tuition assistance. Thanks to the generosity of the Friends and their members, the total awarded was \$20,000!

THE RECIPIENTS

Merrilee Steely, Library Associate
Caviglia-Arivaca Library

Brianna Velador, Library Associate
Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library

Victoria Mironenko, Library Technical Assistant
Wheeler Taft Abbett, St. Library

Hassael Cazesuz, Latinx Program Manager
Community Engagement Office



Learn more about the Friends of the Green Valley and Sahuarita Libraries <https://bit.ly/GVYSAHFriends>

STAFF CORNER

“Each of these recipients is committed to becoming a librarian and bring experience, knowledge, and talent to their work. We are pleased that they have been chosen to receive this assistance.”

*– Polly Daly,
Chair, Scholarship Committee*

“I am grateful that Friends of Green Valley and Sahuarita Libraries is supporting me to continue in my career towards librarianship with the Pima County Public Library System. I love what I do, and I love helping the folks of Pima County continue as a community of readers, learners, doers and dreamers.”

– Brianna Velador



“I am forever grateful and honored to be a recipient of the Friends of Green Valley and Sahuarita Libraries scholarship. Having local community support investing in my future gives me the fuel to continue my passion for librarianship to offer the best services to Pima County but especially the Latinx, Chicanx and Spanish-speaking communities. ¡Mil Gracias Friends! – Hassael Cazesuz



“This scholarship means the world to me. It makes pursuing my love of librarianship possible and affirms that this is the career field I am meant to be in. I am so grateful and appreciative of the Friends’ generosity.”

– Merrilee Steely



“I am beyond grateful to be the recipient of this scholarship. It has lightened my financial burden and allowed me to focus more on the most important goals for me: learning, growing, and being able to follow my dream of becoming a librarian. Thank you for believing in me.” – Victoria Mironenko

Library leaders earn top honors!

In April 2022, librarians Kaitlyn Sparks and Betsy Langley received awards from the Arizona Library Association.

Kaitlyn, who manages the Oro Valley Public Library, earned the AzLA Library Leadership Award; and Betsy, who manages the Sahuarita Library, received the Emerging Leader Award.

Their nomination letters from colleagues included noteworthy (and very true!) praise...

"I have worked with Betsy under a myriad of different library settings over the years and in that time my admiration for her gifts in public service, as a colleague, and as a leader has become more resolute. There are so many reasons for her to be recognized, but I am nominating her because of her efforts over this past year to advance the conversation around pay equity for library employees both locally and nationally." - Justine Hernandez, Librarian



Betsy Langley

"Whenever something needs to be done in PCPL, Kaitlyn seems to be among the first to volunteer to get it done. She's a member of our LGBTQ+ affinity group, has assisted the Accounting Department and Administration in performing money handling audits, has stepped into multiple managerial positions even during times of turbulence—and that's all just in the three years I've been in the system."

- Amy Boelman, Librarian



Kaitlyn Sparks

What did Kaitlyn and Betsy have to say about working for the library?

Betsy:

"I love connecting customers to the resources and services they're looking for. It's also a great opportunity to engage in creative practices, critical thinking, and problem solving."

Kaitlyn:

"I love working with like-minded individuals, who are here to serve the community. There are many great collaborations happening every day among library staff to reenergize a space, create an exciting community event, or find ways to provide the best services needed in our immediate community."



PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Tucson, AZ 85701



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*For readers, learners,
doers, & dreamers*

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