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**DATE:** March 2, 2023

**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:** Marissa Alcorta  
Deputy Library Director

**SUBJECT: Public Services Report – February 2023**

This month continues to be a month of learning and professional development. I have attended and completed the county's Fundamentals in Supervision series of classes. It was a refresher but was very informative and a great way to connect and network with supervisory staff from other county departments. This month has also been focused on hiring. I have been working on Librarian I, Librarian III, and the Ajo Library Associate recruitment, as the hiring manager. Each recruitment is in a different stage but we are hopeful in onboarding new staff and also promoting our current staff into these vacant positions.

**Library Services Manager – Alina Rowe**

As part of my commitment to actively support managers and fellow LSMs, I was able to attend Flowing Wells staff meeting, met with my direct reports, and helped provide coverage for the Southwest branch, Flowing Wells branch, and Miller-Golf Links branch. As an active member of the Trauma Informed Team, along with my fellow teammates, we provided coverage to one of the branches receiving EAP (Employee Assistance Program) care sessions. This coverage allowed the staff to participate in the session without worrying about opening and running the branch.

**Library Services Manager – Ken Zambos**

Considerable efforts have been made this month to support professional development, both my own, and that of staff from across the library system. I personally was able to participate in two professional development classes offered by the County, designed to provide valuable tools to supervisory staff. Additionally, I participated as a member of the Growing Our Own staff development team to provide mock interview sessions for staff. These sessions were open to staff from various classifications, and are meant to support individuals interested in exploring additional career opportunities within the library system.

## **District 1 – Supervisor Rex Scott**

### **Dewhirst–Catalina Library – Christine Dykgraaf**

February has been a month for art and other creative pass times. Adults and teens attended four art programs featuring Valentine paper crafts, watercolor painting, and bookmaking. Requests for more art classes followed upon these classes, so an appetite has been wetted! Kids in Catalina got a real treat this month with a presentation about all the cool things that can be done with dry ice and super cold temperatures. This program in conjunction with our local partner, The Catalina Community Center, resulted in over 35 kids getting some hands on science learning! The youngest of our patrons closed out the month with a fun wooden trains play time with a Thomas the Train movie playing in the background. Our patrons are looking forward to more programs as they become more comfortable meeting together inside once more.

### **Dusenberry-River Library – Matías Torres**

Dusenberry-River Library continued with a variety of programming for our community this February. Children had Yoga Storytime that both engaged their minds and bodies and those of their caregivers. Homework Help was available alongside our consistently popular pop up craft experiences and giveaways. Teenagers had Reid Park Zoo alongside Games Galore and Art Club. Our Teenage Advisory Board also hosted craft focused Valentines Fun Times to the enjoyment of patrons of all ages. Two sessions of Yoga for Adults were available for beginners. Buffelgrass: The Alien Invader presented concerned citizens a serious overview of a local invasive species. Our Master Gardener and Art in the Afternoon series rounded out much appreciated offerings to adults.

Our library spaces continued utilization by neighbors, students, civic groups, book clubs, writing groups, non-profit organizations, and homeowner associations. As winter concludes, we are ready for a changing season and fulfilling library expectations for our community and ourselves.

### **Nanini Library – Caitlin Burns**

Children's Services staff from Nanini Library visited Ironwood and Manzanita Elementary Schools during Love of Reading Week and met over 130 kids. All other children's programs are seeing big crowds, whether Storytime, Read to a Dog, Homework Help, or the special event programs in February including bookbuilding crafts and live music.

La Paloma Family Services, a division of La Frontera, tabled at Nanini Library during Storytimes in February to share information with families and caregivers about foster care while the Saludarte program has been working with community members to spark ideas about public art in the 85741 zip code. After 3 years of reduced programming and meeting room use we are looking forward to rebuilding community partnerships.

### **Oro Valley Public Library – Kaitlyn Sparks**

We started the month with two great programs. *Civil Rights Activism from a Child's Perspective* was a firsthand account by Puntadeleste Bozeman about her parents, Alabama civil rights activists during the 1960s. The audience was highly engaged, asking many excellent questions during the Q&A session. We also celebrated the Year of the Rabbit with the Jasmine Asian Music Ensemble. Playing Chinese traditional instruments, the ensemble will wore Chinese

traditional dress and taught the audience the song *Little Rabbit* in Mandarin. One participant noted, that it “was so peaceful, and the musicians were so talented.”

Laura Tohe had a full audience for *From “Chief” to Code Talker: Four Profiles of the Navajo Code Talkers*, sponsored by Arizona Humanities. In the evaluations, the audience rated the speaker as “informative, stimulating” and the discussion as excellent, overall. Tohe is an ASU professor emerita, with distinction, and the current Navajo Nation Poet Laureate; she is also the daughter of a Navajo Code Talker.

*AARP Tax Aid* at Oro Valley returned this month. The program helps file tax returns for low to middle-income taxpayers, focusing on taxpayers 50 and older. Many Oro Valley residents expressed their gratitude and convenience for the service at the library. Also returning this month was Great Decisions with the waitlist filled within the first hour of registration! This 8 week foreign policy program is designed to encourage thoughtful, non-partisan discussion of current global challenges.

In the children's area we had a Valentine's Day scavenger hunt for the week, which kids enthusiastically completed. Three siblings had such a great time, they gave the librarian a fun-sized candy bar, saying “we had so much fun; we had to give you a candy!” Toddler and Preschool storytimes were well attended and participants received a take-home craft every week to make connections and continue learning at home. In Toddler Storytime, one of our parents said her toddler now dresses herself and sings *This is the Way We All Get Dressed* from storytime – even putting on her own socks!

## **District 2 – Supervisor Matt Heinz**

### **Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Kelly Wilson**

February has been a blur here at Eckstrom-Columbus Library. We began hosting AARP Tax help this month. Both interest and participation levels have been very good. Our Literacy Connects Beginning English Classes continue to move forward successfully too. Bilingual Job Help assists individuals in their career pursuits each week. We hosted two Adult programs this month. Bookbinding with Julia Miller was a big hit. Everyone enjoyed her presentation and had fun creating their own special books. Yoga with Vivianne Uyeda brought much delight and centeredness to regular patrons and new patrons alike.

We continue to offer Homework and Reading Help two times per week, and have added Code Club and Chess Club, which had seventeen participants in the second week. Our three storytimes per week continue to grow and we are seeing families connect and create play groups and mom groups through their attendance. Pima County Health Department assisted our Children's team in bringing Dental Health to storytimes this month. Each child received a new toothbrush and lessons on how to use it correctly. For Rodeo Break we will host a button making workshop in lieu of Homework Help.

### **Quincie Douglas Library – Tara Foxx-Lupo**

Quincie Douglas Library was in high demand for Love of Reading month with a number of requests for library visits to schools and school visits to the library. Our children's librarian did a great job juggling all of these requests and having a presence in the lives of kids in surrounding schools. Circulation staff supported the effort by issuing over one hundred library cards for classrooms. Other exciting children's happenings included a dental Storytime, presented by a local dental non-profit, the program brings fun and excitement to dental topics and participants get some great things to take home to support their dental health.

The library is for everyone and so are arts and crafts! Our adult services team brought in presenter Catherine Eyde for a collage workshop. In their ongoing efforts to create inclusive, accessible spaces, the topic of collage seemed like a good fit. Collage is a low-pressure way towards creative expression and is accessible no matter how skilled the participant might be in the arts. Staff collected ephemera and magazines in the lead up to the program to be sure participants would have opportunity to express their creative side.

### **Sahuarita Library – Betsy Langley**

February has been a busy month. Our Family Storytime and What's Up Wednesday craft program have been bringing in between 40 and 50 participants each week. Some of the themes included Love of Reading Week, Rodeo Days, and Robotics. We also hosted Creative Heart Kidz Art on February 15, who presented a step-by-step guided drawing class. A few families attended a program on Raising Backyard Chickens! Participants discovered how to find out if chickens are allowed in their neighborhood, best practices for feeding and housing the birds, and the fascinating social interactions between chickens.

Our Adult Book Club read *There There* by Tommy Orange and nine participants joined us for an engaging conversation around the book. We also partnered with the Joyner-Green Valley Library to host Yoga with Vivianne during alternate weeks at each of our libraries. Customers seemed to enjoy being able to join all of the classes or just one or two at their home branch. We've been seeing more customers registering for One-on-One Tech Help opportunities as we help each of them with their particular digital needs. On February 16, we visited one of the local club houses to give a presentation to 14 residents about the history and development of PCPL's newest branch, as well as the resources and services currently being offered by the Sahuarita Library.

Staff created beautiful displays in celebration of Black History Month, highlighting books for all age groups. We recently received a new display stand and quickly filled it with titles written by all the amazing Tucson Festival of Books authors. We're getting excited for the Festival!

### **Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – Lu Guerrero**

This month has offered Sam Lena-South Tucson a number of programming and outreach opportunities. Love of Reading week arrived with scheduled visits for read-a-loud adventures at neighborhood schools. Staff also supported Seed Library's outreach efforts at the Santa Cruz Rivers Farmer's Market. Youth programming, ranging from Storytime, Code Club, afterschool snack hours, Crafternoons, and two stand-alone programs, presented by KidzART and Dolores Haro, continue to draw the interest of families. Our staff has also dedicated time to repackaging bulk seeds to distribute to Seed Library site for community Spring gardening needs.

### **Santa Rosa Library – Victoria Villanueva**

February is love of reading month! In addition, to celebrate we have been donated a large amount of graphic novels to spread with the community. While extremely popular, we have found ourselves in abundance and are excited to pay it forward to this year's Tucson Festival of books to be able to share with patrons countywide!

Programming rolls forward as this month we were grateful to have Dari Johnson stop by and teach a yoga class for all ages, as well as the garden kitchen as we start to gear up to bring our own little community garden back to life after the harsh winter we had this year. As the weather, starts to warm the more we see our young patrons wanting to play outside and we plan to join them with our various sports equipment. Flag football in our grassy area has been the most

popular with our young readers! We are happy we are able to support the community in any way we can!

### **District 3 – Supervisor Sharon Bronson, Chair**

#### **Caviglia-Arivaca Library – Jodi Ohlson**

Our Teen Advisory Board (TAB) has been getting accolades for their *Saving Aphrodite Escape Room* for Valentine's Day. They put in countless hours learning how to design an escape room, and had a great time acting as guides for any confused players. Since the group started, they have jumped on every opportunity to pitch in, including playing elves for the Friends of the Caviglia-Arivaca Library Christmas Candy Shack. This month the Friends presented our TAB group with a \$300 check as a thank you for all the support they have been giving all our local non-profits.

Library Associate Madian Romero visited the San Fernando school and shared Vulture Stories followed up by making a vulture-inspired kite all in preparation for the upcoming Vulture Fest. I had the good fortune of being invited to the Arivaca Early Learning Center to have a literacy discussion with parents, and it is heartening to see so many parents invested in their children's development.

#### **Flowing Wells Library – Tara Foxx-Lupo**

Flowing Wells staff are excited to host our first in-person Writer in Residence series with Estella Gonzalez, a local author and community member. The program has had good interest from the community and the author has reflected on how much she enjoys the program. As a writer, she shared that she loves to discuss writing and leaves each session with a smile.

The Culture Pass program, in partnership with Act One, has been on loan to the Flowing Wells branch during the Martha Cooper Library closure. The program has been an instant success, and local passes are usually checked out as soon as they become available. Especially popular are the Reid Park Zoo and Arizona Sonora Desert Museum and Tohono Chul Park, which is just up the road. Staff were excited to learn about a recent decision to allow participation from any interested branch. The Flowing Wells library plans to have the passes going forward and for as long as they are a benefit to our customers.

Our young adult services librarian is excited to offer an improve workshop this month with local non-profit theatre organization the Unscrewed Theatre. Teens will get to hone their dramatic skills and learn the principles and practices of improvisation during their rodeo break.

#### **Salazar-Ajo Library – Daniela Buchberger**

In February, the Salazar-Ajo Library hosted the Enid and Mel Zuckerman College of Public Health to offer health checks and COVID boosters.

Our Wednesday Programming, Whatever Wednesdays has picked up speed and community members of all ages were able to make buttons, learn simple container gardening, got plant-based tattoos and even learned how to make cyanotypes. Presenters are returning from all over Arizona to share their knowledge here in Ajo.

The Salazar-Ajo Library created a display to honor Black History Month that has been well received and perused. Our Blind Date with a Book had a very positive reception from those

brave enough to try a mystery read and one community member even took the time to thank us for giving her the opportunity to read a book that she would never have tried otherwise.

### **Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Sam Hennig**

Children's staff were kept busy with multiple special storytime events in February. Presenter Dari Johnson did a special Children's Yoga storytime, and Children's staff are also doing a special Reading Rodeo story time to coincide with Tucson's 98<sup>th</sup> Rodeo.

Youth staff continued to provide after school programming including the Movie Mania on Thursdays for teens afterschool, and are excitedly awaiting the Mini Maker space that will be coming to our library.

Adult services staff have continued promoting health and clean living programming through ongoing health related programs such as Yoga and Master Gardener. In addition they also hosted a Healing Sounds program that staff and the public thoroughly enjoyed. One patron said it was "very soothing and refreshing, and just what they needed". At the end of February and beginning of March, in preparation for the Tucson Festival of Books, Adult services staff will also be having multiple author and literature discussion events.

### **Woods Memorial Library – Victoria Salajko**

Woods Memorial Library has seen great participation in English Language classes (ELAA). The class for beginners is full, but there is still room in the intermediate classes, for new students.

The branch honored Black History Month, with two displays, one for adult readers, and one for children. We received a lovely comment from a patron, about our display for children: "I passed by a wonderful collection of children's books about Black History and pictures and names of a number of Black activists and leaders and inventors. I was charmed by it and immediately drawn to it for closer inspection. I have even ordered a couple of the books displayed. It was beautifully done, and so well put together -- it just grabbed my attention."

## **District 4 – Supervisor Steve Christy**

### **W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station – Mary McKinney**

A celebration of the Lunar Year of the Rabbit with Silk Bamboo Music presented by the Jasmine Asian Music Ensemble occurred on February 2. The ensemble played Chinese traditional instruments and taught the audience how to sing "Little Rabbit" in Mandarin.

Patrons can't keep their hands off them! Some have to have more than one! Books wrapped to disguise their content were placed on display throughout the library for the annual Blind Date with a Book, and the mystery proved irresistible. All genres were part of the fun, and hints written on tiny hearts attached to the wrapped package gave clues to what was inside.

### **Joyner-Green Valley Library – Heather Tyndall**

Question: Where can you find a bed of alfalfa, animal kibble, and two Nigerian Dwarf goats named Lucy and Stormy? Answer: The Joyner-Green Valley Library on Valentine's Day! Children and adults alike had a terrific time meeting, petting, and feeding Lucy and Stormy while learning about raising dwarf goats here in the Sonoran Desert. Other program highlights this month include two very well attended Tucson Museum of Art Docent Talks, one on Vincent Van Gogh and the other on the Harlem Renaissance. This series of art talks, two per month

November through April, continue to be incredibly popular, with folks lining up 40 minutes ahead of time to get a seat. In addition, we hosted a presentation by a docent from Tohono Chul on the amazing variety of cacti and other flora that exist in the Sonoran Desert, described as the most biologically diverse of North America's four deserts.

Yoga class is back at Joyner-Green Valley Library! Participants all expressed their gratitude to the Library for providing a peaceful space, mats if needed, and a qualified instructor. February also ushered in Joyner-Green Valley Library's inaugural *Read to a Dog* program. Mali (with the support of her owner, Barb) is certified by the Alliance of Therapy Dogs and is "all ears" as young learners, ages 7 to 11, read aloud to her. She is an 11-year-old Maltese poodle mix whose adoring eyes and non-judgmental listening help kids relax and have fun while sharing a book, so much so that it hardly feels like practice. Mali visits the Joyner-Green Valley Library two Wednesday afternoons every month. Go to [facebook.com/GreenValleyLibrary](https://facebook.com/GreenValleyLibrary) to see a wonderful photo of her rolled over on her back, pink belly up, at the end of the program!

### **Kirk-Bear Canyon Library – Linde Furman**

Staff have been hard at work creating engaging, meaningful, and inclusive displays. We have recently featured sculptures created by students at Sabino High School and will have more on display in the coming months. Right now, customers can stop by to admire our Black STEM Stars display in our children's area and a display celebrating the history of The Buffalo Soldiers, which we had help from a generous community member in creating. We also have a new permanent Pride display near our nonfiction collection featuring book titles and community information.

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library has seen more of our adult customers enjoying and participating in library programming since the turn of the year. Our branch has brought back a successful Great Decisions program for this year, for which registration has been full since the outset of the program's return in January. We have returned to holding an in-person book club for adults, The Bear Canyon Book Club, which is also seeing terrific attendance. We are very pleased to bring educational programs of interest for adults back to our library for 2023. Keep an eye out for more programs geared toward adults and all age groups over the coming months, including programs from the Master Gardeners and programs featuring local musicians.

The most exciting news we have is that our children's area will be getting a refresh with new shelving and furniture next month in March. For this reason, our location will be closed Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> through Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, in addition to being closed on weekends as is normal for our branch at this time. We hope everyone will stop by to see the improvements when we re-open on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>!

### **Miller-Golf Links Library – Angharad Daly**

Several of our page staff got together this month to create a Black History Month display! The display has become so popular that it's taken over two sections of shelving, and the whole area is decorated with the red, yellow and green of Black History Month.

February has also seen the return of our adult volunteers. Our whole branch has come together to help train and welcome the volunteers, and they have been doing a fantastic job helping out in the library. The community is excited that these opportunities are expanding again – they have really missed the ability to volunteer with us and are excited about making a difference in the community!

### **Murphy-Wilmot Library – Kathy Konecny**

The Embroiderer's Guild of America (EGA) celebrated Stitch-In-Public Day in Murphy-Wilmot's café on Saturday, February 4. Incredibly skilled embroiders shared their love for needle arts with the public through the demonstration of their talents. Customers and staff alike were amazed by their intricate and stunning pieces. The EGA was also kind enough to provide giveaways to visitors who wanted to try embroidery at home.

An intergenerational group of customers learned the fine art of bookmaking at Murphy-Wilmot on February 4. Participants sewed, glued, folded and cut to create wonderful handmade books. They learned about the appropriate materials and tools used in the craft. Participants shared many positive comments and were excited to know when the next program would be scheduled.

### **District 5 – Supervisor Adelita Grijalva**

#### **Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library – Martha Díaz for Melissa Salazar**

This month the Frank de la Cruz-El Pueblo Library hosted the Community Reinvestment Day Celebration a collaboration from the great minds of the Sunnyside Foundation, Selina Barajas and Elizabeth Soltero among others. The public was invited to bring photos from El Pueblo Neighborhood Center's past in an effort to digitalize the photos and archive them after sharing them at a later presentation. A story time was presented by our very own Brianna Velador, the Pima Health Department was on hand distributing health information on Covid as well as test kits. Our counter rose to an all-time high of 471! It was a great day for everyone.

#### **Himmel Park Library – Heather Ross**

This month, Himmel Park Library began a six-week series of yoga nidra classes for adults. There has been a great deal of interest in this offering from our community, and space in the class filled up rapidly. Several attendees have expressed their gratitude to the library for *Yoga Nidra*, saying that programs with a focus on reducing stress and anxiety are much needed in their lives. We are glad to provide our community with this opportunity to enhance their well-being.

Himmel Park Library had the chance to welcome customers who had recently arrived in the United States. A customer who had previously lived in North Africa was excited to learn about our printing and faxing services. "This is so cool!" he exclaimed, when he saw that he could pay for his copies with a credit card. Another woman came in with a friend to get a library card, telling us that it was her first library card issued in the United States. She and her friend each checked out a culture pass to the Desert Museum so they could go there together with their children.

A group from the Nurse Family Partnership came to family storytime on February 15. This organization supports first-time parents, so the group included nurses, parents, and little ones, many of whom had never experienced storytime before! Everyone had a great time and some of the parents asked about other storytimes, so we hope to see these families again.

#### **Southwest Library – Maggie Dwenger**

February has been busy with outreach for "Love of Reading" events at several schools surrounding the Southwest Library community. Staff participated in story times and tabling events to help promote Pima County Public Library resources as well as encourage school children to get library cards and, most importantly, read! We had a lot of fun and made some



valuable connections with families, teachers, and other librarians. We have also started spring programming with a lot of fun activities for kids including plant-based tattoos, a presentation from the Reid Park Zoo, and a sing-along activity with performers Mamma Coal.

As always, Grab-and-Go snacks continue to be a popular reason for kids to make a stop at the library, so popular, in fact, that we've decided to up our daily amount that we put out so as we don't run out. GED and Homework Help continue as popular programs, with two participants in the GED program passing exams in February. We start a series of Yoga classes next week and are looking forward to programming geared more towards adults and teens in the upcoming months.

### **Activities funded by Friends Groups**

#### **Friends of the Joyner Green Valley and Sahuarita Libraries**

Green Valley Library – Storytime, Read to a Dog, Yoga with Vivianne, Tohono Chul Docent Talks, Raising Nigerian Dwarf Goats, Recycled Materials Jewelry

#### **Friends of the Pima County Public Library**

Himmel Park Library – Yoga Nidra

Oro Valley Public Library – Celebrate the Year of the Rabbit with the Jasmine Asian Music Ensemble, Beep Beep! Storytime with Children's Museum of Tucson, Learn to Paint a Desert Sunset, Teen Advisory Board, Mini Horse Veterinary Program, Make a Mini-Robot Jitterbug!, Harp Performance: Spain Meet the New World, Button Making 101

Salazar-Ajo Library – AZ Speaks:Chiles & Chocolate, Plant-Based Tattoos, Container Gardening with Jacqueline Soule, Rabbit Resistant Gardening with Jacqueline Soule  
W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library - Jasmin Asian Music Ensemble