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**DATE:** April 6, 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 – March**

This month I was able to attend a Public Sector Management Leadership training with 4 of the public services LSM's. It was given by Eller College of Management at the University of Arizona. It was focused on the public sector and had many staff from other Pima County departments as well as the City of Tucson. It was a great opportunity to make those interdepartmental and intergovernmental connections. The training focused on strategic communication, ethical leadership, team dynamics, and driving innovations. It was a very valuable training opportunity and I see our leadership team applying those new skillsets we learned to our work at the library. Beyond this, I have been focusing on helping with the hiring process and also continuing to help support the LSM's and staff in their work.

**Library Services Manager – Paulina Aguirre-Clinch**

The Library's presence at the Tucson Festival of Books was a major success as usual. I heard so many heartwarming stories about the positive impact that our bookmobile and bookmobiles throughout the nation have had on people's lives. One winter visitor mentioned that her library system in Arkansas had just gotten their first bookmobile. She asked if she could reach out to talk about how we run services. There was also a library staff member from Santa Cruz County that stopped by to say hi and was excited to share that they had just gotten their bookmobile too. Overall though, my absolute favorite was issuing library cards and watching how excited people (of all ages) were excited to check something out from the Bookmobile.

I was fortunate to attend Eller College's Foundations in Public Sector Management with our Deputy Director of Public Services/Customer Experience and three other Library Services Managers. It was a great leadership opportunity to learn more about strategic communication, ethics, and innovation. It was also a great opportunity to get to know leaders in other County departments as well as the City of Tucson. Perhaps the biggest takeaway from the program is learning how to "think inside the box," which requires thinking creatively to solve issues in our organization with the resources that are already at our disposal.

**Library Services Manager – Em DeMeester-Lane**

This month I worked with the Health Department to start the process of distributing fentanyl testing strips at all library locations. It is still in the works but we expect that we will be distributing them at libraries soon. We continue to have positive feedback about Narcan distribution from Customers all over the County and I am excited to help bring another harm reduction tool to our community.

I was also fortunate to attend, with colleagues from the Library, other Pima County Depts as well as the City of Tucson, the Eller College of Management's week long intensive on Public Sector Management. It was an engaging opportunity to learn about business sector approaches to public service challenges and I greatly valued the project-based style and ability to work on directly applicable problem solving with colleagues.

I have been working over the last 9 months or so on a project with Branch manager Linde Furman and Deputy Director Karyn Prechtel-Altman to bring Trauma Informed Practices and Management tools to staff. The project is funded through an LSTA Grant we received in 2022. This month we had our second training directed to managers, Trauma Informed Care 101: Trauma Informed Leadership Training for PCPL Branch Managers and Administrators. The goal of the three-hour training was to give managers and administrators tools to deal with staff and personnel issues that are informed by traumatic events staff can experience in the workplace and how to help support library employees to move through them. We received a lot of excellent feedback from managers about how helpful the instructors were and calls for additional training.

**Library Services Manager – Vicki Lázaro**

This month I had the opportunity to attend the University of Arizona's Eller College - Foundations in Public Sector Management training with my fellow colleagues. Not only was this an excellent professional development skill builder, it was also an excellent way to bond with my Library Service Manager team members and our supervisor.

This month also include a Trauma Informed Care 101 workshop with members of our management and administrative teams that was beneficial to learning more about how we can protect ourselves and others mental health during difficult times we have faced and are facing. I continue to support and become familiar with the five branches under my wings. I am taking the time to build those relationships and looking for opportunities to help all of them provide the best environment for themselves and our patrons.

In addition, I participated in REFORMA, Serving Vulnerable Populations, Policy Review Team, PRIDE, the Collaborative Action Team and other meetings. I assisted in staff coverage at Southwest Library and welcomed 1 new Librarian to the Mission Branch, 1 new Librarian to the Miller-Golf Links branch and the promotion to Librarian of someone I have directly supervised and mentored for the last year. This makes 7 people under my mentorship who have been promoted in the last year and a half. I am very proud of them and happy to keep these valuable assets withing Pima County Public Libraries!

**Library Services Manager – Ken Zambos**

Over the course of the month, I visited managers and staff from multiple library locations that I directly support. I also met with the manager of the Knowledge River program at the University of Arizona to discuss upcoming graduate assistant opportunities that will be available at Pima County Public Library. This partnership has seen broad success over many years and has been instrumental in connecting future librarians with the opportunity to serve Pima County residents through public librarianship.

During the month of March, I also had the opportunity to attend the University of Arizona's Eller College - Foundations in Public Sector Management training. This course was a full week of

intensive training revolving around aspects of leadership including communication and team dynamics.

### **Library Services Manager – Alina Rowe**

I traveled to Ajo to meet with the Salazar-Ajo Library branch manager and the Natural Resources and Park and Recreation department to coordinate the placement of staff during the Salazar-Ajo library closure. I worked to arrange coverage to branches needing assistance. I visited the Oro Valley Library staff and joined the staff meeting. I provided coverage at the Salazar-Ajo branch in support of the staff taking safety trainings with John Stuckey from the Risk Management Department.

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

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

Dewhirst Catalina Library users are warming up along with the weather and attending programs in growing numbers. Programming at the branch is also diversifying with a lot of offerings for all ages from wooden train play times to Lego Builds for slightly older kids and Zine making for the teens. The adults have added pleasure at several programs this month where we served coffee or tea. Janice Deardorff came and sang songs based on the book series by Nancy Turner based on pioneer journals and Deb Liggett, a retired national park ranger, came to speak about her adventures as depicted in her book *The Ranger Chronicles*. Dewhirst-Catalina Library patrons had Persian tea and cookies during a Persian Poetry Night (hour) that featured a haft sin (6 esses) table celebrating spring's arrival and No Ruz (the Iranian new year). Rumi and Hafez were read in Persian by a U of A professor, Dr. Kamran Talattof, and then read in English as well. Displays this month are featuring Women's National History Month and our new Literacy Reads collection.

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

The onset of Spring coincided with wonderful transition in our media collection and burgeoning program options for community at Dusenberry-River Library. An annual assessment of patron trends guided our ongoing consolidation into a more intuitive representation to encourage more efficient checkouts of in-demand items and more complete browsing or overall collection. The Desert Museum brought animals for children and families to interact with as well as draw for posterity at *Desert Drawing Life*. *Yoga Storytime* finished its season strong with its reinterpretation of interactive story time. Our teens had the opportunity to create robots at *Make a Robot Jitterbug* and fashion themselves with harmless tattoos at *Plant Based Tattoos*. *Yoga for Adults* was a new initiative that was well received by community. *No Stress Nature Journaling* complimented *Herb Gardening* program. *Warm Season Vegetable Gardening* followed later in the month. *Military Wives on the Arizona Frontier* concluded March. *1-1 Tech Help*, *Teenage Advisory Board*, and *Art in the Afternoon* remain stalwart programming. Civic groups, Book Clubs, Social Groups, Homeowner Associations, Non-Profit Organizations and Writing Groups continue to be grateful for the space the library provides.

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

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum visited one of Nanini's Family Storytimes in March and brought some desert treasures for kids to learn about and admire, including: parts of a saguaro cactus, a family of scorpions, a kangaroo rat, and a gopher snake. The program filled up very quickly and staff had to turn people away when the room reached max capacity.

A Veterans Employment Counselor from Arizona@Work, a department of DES, is tabling at Nanini weekly to advertise employment resources available for Arizona veterans. Through this service, veterans looking for work can receive resume assistance, personalized career guidance, training opportunities in their fields of interest, interview outfits, and even work clothes

as soon as participants get a job offer. Job counseling sessions can be scheduled in advance or same-day appointments can be arranged for people visiting the Library and first learning about the service.

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

At the beginning of the month, Oro Valley Library hosted an Author Talk with Jennifer Coburn, one of the writers from the Tucson Festival of Books. The audience was extremely engaged, asking many questions. Many in the audience had not read the book but were there for the topic: World War II. The author and her bookseller sold many copies of the novel, *Cradles of the Reich*.

We had two very popular children's storytimes performed by library presenters. The first was Yoga Storytime, highlighting *The Napping House*. The second was a musical storytime with the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. Both presenters remarked that groups at Oro Valley — children and parents — were the most enthusiastic groups they had seen recently, and the parent-child participation was fantastic. After the Desert Museum program, one grandparent remarked, "We learned as much as the kids did!"

Our Teen Advisory Board began learning how to use the 3-D printer, which was funded by the Friends of the Oro Valley Library. According to the teens, both the software and hardware are functional and easy-to-use. The first item they printed was an ornate chess piece, followed by a miniature figurine of a rat. The teens are planning to teach staff and host programs to teach the public to use the 3-D printer in the future!

Other notable events this month included Scrabble Club and Roblox Round Up. The weekly Scrabble Club returned to Oro Valley for the first time in over three years. The group was popular before the pandemic, and participants said they were glad to play again. For teens and tweens, we hosted a Roblox Round Up session, which grew to include 27 participants. Teams competed against other teams, and plans were made for a competition that would include participants from the nearby, Dewhirst-Catalina Library.

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

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

This month has been very lively at Eckstrom-Columbus Library. We have had Outreach events and class visits with our neighboring schools, including 4 class visits from Mexicayotl Academy of Excellence charter school Kinder-5<sup>th</sup> grades. Our Youth Services Librarian hosted some young adults from Job Corps for a library orientation and visit. With all of our visitors we were able to get library cards into many new hands. We continue to host AARP Tax Help which has been very well attended, Job Help, Homework/Reading Help, Chess Club, Code Club, and multiple storytimes every week. We are seeing many faces become more regular attendees every week. Our Beginner English Classes took a short break this month and will welcome new attendees when they resume. Vivianne Uyeda presented a well-received yoga class this month, The Red Herring Puppets enthralled families with Hansel and Gretel, and a beautiful Harp Concert with Rebecca Reinhard Foreman was enjoyed by all.

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

Quincie Douglas branch is excited to introduce our new Crafternoon program in March. The program invites kids, tweens and families to explore their creative side with various crafts and art projects. Supplies are free to participants and the program will be on a weekday afternoon to ensure it is accessible to kids who need an afterschool outlet. The program had one of our best turnouts since we resumed offering in-person programs again.

Adults who visit our library enjoy crafting so much that all of our grab and go crafts for adults were taken quickly, and our Soap Making Class with Jaqueline Soule has a full sign-up and waitlist. These creative outlets are examples of the non-traditional enrichment public libraries add to the lives of our users.

This month the Pima County Photographer came to capture the Buffalo Soldiers display and collection housed at the Quincie Douglas library. The Greater Southern Arizona Area Chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers were also present and in uniform. We look forward to seeing this important aspect of local history and legacy featured in upcoming Pima County communications. Staff have seen an increase in Job Seekers who need one-on-one assistance with their job hunting process. Staff shared that they are proud to see these community members, who often come in stressed and nervous, getting the help they need to feel confident continuing in their employment search.

The Writer in Residence program is a true success with most appointments booked for consultations each week. Participants appear energized and inspired by their time spend with author Estella Gonzalez, who also shares her love of the experience when she checks in with staff after the program.

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

In March, we hosted NASA Fun at the Library for all ages, a new Read to a Dog program (with Chihuahua Molly) on Saturdays, and Yoga with Vivanne. Our Chess Club is also gaining in popularity – both kids and adults enjoy practicing their skills and learning new techniques from each other. Seventeen participants joined us on March 11. In honor of Women's History Month, our book club tackled *The Woman's Hour* by Elaine Weiss, which explores seven decades of political strategizing and the legal battles that secured the right to vote.

We also want to share highlights from the Maker Fair we held on the evening of February 28 in partnership with Sahuarita Unified School District. We featured maker demonstrations, science experiments, presenters, textbook art, and 3D printing. We welcomed NASA Ambassadors who had two telescopes out on the front patio and information about trailblazing women scientists. Pima Community College shared equipment from their own Maker Space and kids were working on projects right up to closing time. Refreshments were available in the lobby to keep folks fueled for the event. Library staff set up Connected Learning kits in study rooms and had the 3D printers running. Robots were seen scurrying around the library. We had 220 participants and it was wonderful to see such joy on everyone's faces. The library was bustling with positive energy. A retired engineer sent us the following email – *"I'm writing to applaud all of the workers who brought us the wonderful Maker Fair on February 28. I was delighted with all of the great hands-on stuff for the kids, and especially happy to see all of the girls participating. I have since learned that this is not the first such fair. I missed that memo, but I will definitely be looking out for the next one."* We hope to continue this partnership for years to come!

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

In March, Sam Lena- South Tucson Library has experienced a busy start to Spring. Our weekly youth and family programming has received consistent participation. Toddler story times have welcomed new families this month. The parents have reported that their children are adorably replicating the story time songs and rhymes at home. The Pima County Health Department offered free flu and COVID vaccines, for two separate events in March. The team was very satisfied with the turnout they received for these pop-ups. The library also hosted two STEM family events this month. The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum presented *Meet the Neighbors*, sharing information about our unique desert surroundings with the help of some animal friends. Presenter Michael Cardenas shared his program, *You and Your Brain- The 5 Senses*, in which participating families engaged in various sensory-focused activities and their connection with the human brain.

**Santa Rosa Library** – Victoria Villanueva

Spring is back at Santa Rosa!

We're celebrating with programs galore!

From visits with our goat friends, getting covered in plant-based tattoos and working in the garden we have been enjoying the weather as we got to have fun in Rain, Sun, and Snow all in one month! With all the different weather changes we find ourselves wanting to spend more and more time outside and appreciate the support of the garden kitchen to help get our garden back in to full bloom for the spring season. Were excited for the new and fun things we are starting to plan for summer learning.

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

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

Flowing Wells library was excited to bring the Read to a Dog program back starting this month. Coco and her handler had two very successful visits and staff were happy to visit with her and see the kids enjoying her visits. Many kids and tweens chose to read with her and she appreciated the cuddles and the stories.

Tweens at Flowing Wells enjoyed the “How to be a Pirate” program where they could gain real life swashbuckling skills. From sword fighting to pirate history, the program was a jolly good time for all.

Our children's librarian provided a Gruffalo themed Storytime at a local elementary school after their students attended “The Gruffalo, Live, based on the children's book “The Gruffalo,” by Julia Donaldson.

The second month of our Writer in Residence program with Estella Gonzalez has been a great success, with most sessions booked each week. Estella truly enjoys talking about writing with our community members. Customers have provided great feedback on the value of her program, and their experience with her individually, in their evaluations.

**Salazar-Ajo Library** – Daniela Buchberger

March was a busy month at the Salazar-Ajo Library. Library patrons enjoyed several of the presentations by AZ Humanities Speakers. Scott Warren joined us to discuss what makes up the Southwest and Gregory McNamee presented about the history of the taco. Our facilitator Dr. Matthew Whitaker discussed the wealth gap in the United States and participants were able to have a productive discussion about it.

Our Whatever Wednesday programming is generating a nice following in the community and this month folks were able to paint small plant pots, make a small circuit, create recycled jewelry and make and take mini piñatas.

Library staff continues to see the popularity of our passive children's activities that are refreshed weekly to offer a variety of learning opportunities. Some highlights are recycled flowers and designing and creating your own unicorn.

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

The children's services staff have already been busy this month with storytimes for babies, toddlers and preschoolers and several paid presenter programs including You & Your Brain: The 5 Senses, Messy Science: Reactions, and special yoga storytimes. A music/rap flow and hip-hop/K-pop program and a colorful kiddos preschool storytime is planned during the last couple of weeks. Folks are already excited about these two remaining ones!

The library continued to provide Thursday movie and snack programs for Tweens and Teens during the month of March. Teens were also welcomed to participate in creating paper flowers to assist in decorating the children's room for Spring. A passive program library seek-and-find event was also established for all youth in the library this month called 'Find the Pikmin'.

Adult services staff hosted multiple author event programs, and even had a program with some of the authors featured at the Tucson Festival of Books. Adult Services staff also conducted outreach at numerous senior living facilities and communities, and we've seen an uptick in program attendance since then.

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

This month, the children's area is decorated with book suggestions from youth. Staff invited them to share great books they think other kids would like to read. We received nearly 50 responses, from ages ranging from 2-14. The recommendations fill an entire bulletin board, and also partially cover a pillar in the children's area. The recommendations are also being transferred to the library's website and will be featured in the library's next E-Newsletter.

Speaking of E-Newsletters, Woods Library patrons can now sign up to receive monthly updates in their email inbox, about upcoming Woods Library programs, and events. They can sign up on the library's website, at this link: <https://www.library.pima.gov/preferences-for-customization/>

The Seed Library here at Woods, has been seeing a lot of visitors so far this spring. Staff have created new dividers for the seed drawers, using images as well as large text, to help gardeners easily identify seeds, and navigate the draws to find what they need. The Master Gardeners presented a program on planting warm season vegetables this month, as well.

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

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

The Friends of the W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library sold over 2000 books at their book sale at Vail Pride Day, an annual event celebrating student achievement and community.

The Pima County Assessor's Office held a property tax exemption workshop for widows/widowers and people who are certified as 100% disabled. The Assessor's office staff had trouble locating the library because it was their first time visiting, but they eventually made it, and stayed later than expected in order to help a dozen or so community members to apply for exemption.

Megascience Meg's Magic Volcano program was a blast for an audience of 50. Meg's programs have been kids' favorites at the library for many years.

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

March was a terrific month for patrons to enjoy experiences at the library that enrich their reading—author talks and book discussions! Early in the month, Karen Winters Schwartz, author of five novels including her latest, *Vast Clear Blue*, discussed her writing career as well as her use of creative literature as a tool for both advocacy and education in meeting the need for increased mental health awareness. Representatives from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) were also on hand to offer resources on mental illness to all interested library patrons, many of whom expressed their gratitude to library staff and PCPL's Synapse Team for coordinating the event.

Mid-month, Eileen Valentino Flaxman, author of a memoir and two collections of poetry and essays, shared stories of her life, discussed her path to become a writer, and read passages from her books. In addition, Joyner-Green Valley Library's Page Turner's Book Club read and discussed two titles this month, *The Alchemist* and *You Think It, I'll Say It*, by Paul Coelho and Curtis Sittenfeld, respectively.

Finally, in late March, Tom Zoellner discussed his latest work, *Rim to River: Looking into the Heart of Arizona*. Mr. Zoellner is a fifth-generation Arizonan and highly acclaimed author of eight nonfiction books, including the 2020 National Book Critics Circle Award winner, *Island on Fire: The Revolt That Ended Slavery in the British Empire*. Mr. Zoellner recently participated on three panels at the Tucson Festival of Books, but Joyner-Green Valley Library patrons were thrilled to welcome him in his special trip to our branch. After all, one chapter in *Rim to River*, titled "The Green Valley Grin," is of particular interest to local residents!

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

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library's most exciting announcement for March is the completion of our wonderful children's area refresh! We have brand new shelving with improved line of sight and access for children and adorable new furniture. One of our favorite installations is the new shelving for our boardbook collection, which is housed in bench seating located in front of the windows in our children's area. There are sensory toys installed on some of the endcaps for kids and their caregivers to enjoy. For ease of access in finding materials, we have also moved some collections around in this area, including bring juvenile nonfiction upstairs to the children's section instead of having it interfiled with both adult and teen nonfiction items. We are very pleased with these amazing improvements to our branch and we can't wait for everyone to stop by to see them!

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

Murphy-Wilmot started its Ready, Set, School series in March for children starting kindergarten in August. After the first class, parents and caregiver shared that they liked the great teaching atmosphere, the interaction between the children and the teacher, the mix of educational and fun activities, and the song and dance time. They called the class a wonderful source of information. We are excited to offer this learning experience to our youngest customers and to help them become more prepared to succeed in school.

Thanks to Friends of the Pima County Public Library funding, Murphy-Wilmot offered some interactive and fun programming for intergenerational audiences. During the Her Words, My Music: Storytelling Through Song, musician and storyteller Janice Deardorff used portions of award-winning Arizona author Nancy E. Turner works to take participants on a memorable musical journey. Our Pom Pom Craft Making program was a big hit for children, teens, parents and grandparents. Using books as inspiration, participants created a wide variety of pom pom critters including caped superheroes and Oscar the Grouch. One parent expressed gratitude for learning about the program during her regular Saturday library visit and shared how much she and her child enjoyed the experience.

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

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

Frank de la Cruz-El Pueblo Library has started to do more programming this month. ELP staff collaborated with the PCPL bookmobile for outreach at Coronado Elementary School's Love of Reading Night to inform them about all of the programs and services offered at the Pima County Library. This was a wonderful opportunity to meet with families and share the selection of children's books on the bookmobile and in the library catalog. Library Associate Brianna Velador also held Family Storytime in the children's area of the library. This is a steadily growing



program, with two families joining at the biweekly story time this month. Participants ranged from toddler to preschool age and engaged in activities led by Library Associate Brianna Velador. This included singing, rhyming, dancing, reading, and playtime. This was the first bilingual story time session for ELP, focusing on learning “colors” vocabulary in English and Spanish through singing “De Colores” and learning with toys. They also learned vocabulary through rhyming, singing “The Wheels on the Bus” with Pete the Cat, followed with a Pete the Cat arts and craft project.

More story times are planned around children’s early literacy learning in English and Spanish, including the next session which will be all about “brushing your teeth and singing.” ELP is focusing on engaging more families in library programs and resources at ELP, and have more plans in the upcoming month for outreach and engagement.

Frank de la Cruz-El Pueblo Library also had a program by Ms. Rebecca, who played the Harp in the library for patrons and library staff to enjoy. She focused on Latin American music this time around and we had 16 people in attendance.

The Library also continues to have two Pima County Deputy Sheriffs on duty Monday through Friday and is helping cut down the drug use in our restrooms. Drug use does still continue to happen around the library especially at night. We still continue to see drug paraphernalia around the library.

#### **El Río Library – Jeff McWhorter**

This past month the El Río library has been hopping. Gate counts have been rising each week as we continue to see longtime patrons returning to the library and new patrons moving to the neighborhood. We have tried to have something for everyone who comes to visit El Río. Job Help, Homework Help, Storytimes with the El Río Center Preschool, and our craft programming have all been well-attended. We’ve even hosted a couple of special events to make origami and papier-mache with patron families who requested them. We’ve also been doing consistent passive programming – ongoing puzzles, take and make crafts, for example - for which patrons have expressed gratitude. The free covid tests that we offer from the Health Department also remain popular.

We have been active in outreach at the El Río Center this past month. We have coordinated with the Senior Center to do arts and crafts programming and visited classes at the Pima Community College Adult Education Center next door. Literacy learners there have been particularly excited about the new Literacy Reads collection as well as the ease with which they can access audiobooks via the library’s website. New arrivals to Tucson in the English language classes at the Adult Education Center have also come by to take advantage of this new “high/low” collection for adults learning to read as well as to access the resources in our citizenship corner. Other patrons taking advantage of what we offer include many who are new to e-books and resources and utilize our guidance in digital literacy as well as the Connect Arizona Digital Navigators program that the Arizona State Library provides. Lastly, we’re glad to have a new teenage volunteer that is assisting with Homework Help and art programming one day a week.

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

Himmel Park Library closed for two days in March to allow for the installation of a new customer service desk. The library reopened on March 21 to reveal a larger, better-designed desk that will allow staff to more easily assist customers. “We love our beautiful new space!” staff exclaimed.

Himmel Park Library is excited to once again be hosting Master Gardeners from the University of Arizona Pima County Cooperative Extension for a 2022-2023 season of monthly Garden

Talks. The most recent talk, *Herb Gardening*, attracted a crowd of 29 gardening enthusiasts, ranging from those looking to plant their first ever herb garden to experienced growers. Our expert Master Gardener instructed the audience on the finer points of growing herbs in Tucson's desert environment, and answered participants' wide variety of questions. Attendees were also delighted to discover a table of related library materials, checking out herb seeds from the Seed Library and the gardening books on display. Several people told our Adult Services Librarian that they had not known about the existence of the Seed Library. They were pleased to learn of the Seed Library's cost-saving, informative resources that will assist them on their journeys to becoming well-seasoned gardeners with the capacity to contribute back seed donations for the benefit of the community.

**Joel D. Valdez Main Library – Em DeMeester-Lane**

Main Library reference expanded out Letters to Those Who Incarcerated program to library staff at other library locations in PCPL. Librarian II Casey Short trained 7 new staff members and sent out batches of 10 letters this month to each of them. With Coconino County Library having to end their letter answering services as they face staff shortages, we again remain the only library in Arizona to answer these inquiries.

The 101Space has a recent influx in Teen Volunteers and has been orienting them to new leadership roles in their after-school programming. They have also been hosting a drop-in teen job help bi-monthly to support the Pima County Summer Youth Program. They also recently gave a tour the Safford K-8 Student Leadership group. Students were able to tour the entire library and left with library cards.

In Children's Services the Reid Park Zoo's "Zoo to You" outreach program came to Storytime on March 14th. They brought a hissing cockroach, a skink, and a ferret. The Holsclaw YMCA Family Child Care Center came to the program and we had a full house of very excited preschoolers. We also hosted a bilingual puppet show.

Joel Valdez Main and Quincie Douglas Children's Librarians teamed up this month to also attend Literacy Night at C.E. Rose Elementary.

**Richard Elías-Mission Library – Vicki Lázaro**

March was a joyful month for Tween and Young Adult services at Mission. We continued to hold our weekly Gasp! (Games, Arts, and Snacks Program) program, with the following activities and presenters: Lego Time (staff-led), Create-Your-Own-Watercolor with KidzArt (presenter), making recycled newspaper origami planters (staff lead, featuring seeds from the seed library), and more. While we originally created Gasp! as a time for tweens and young adults, we find many attendees are intergenerational, and it has become a great time to get to know the families who spend time in our library. We also continue to offer resources in our teen area, including relevant information about summer work opportunities, as well as Creativity-2-Go grab and go activities featuring stress-releasing coloring pages and writing prompts. This spring Mission has welcomed in a group of student volunteers from Pueblo High School, who have helped plan book displays and prepare materials for future young adult grab-and-gos while also learning about the ins and outs of PCPL. We have great excitement about the addition of a new L1 in our youth services department and are looking forward to renewed energy and focus as we continue to assess how to best to serve our community.

In Children's Services Mini-Miracles presented a Reading Rodeo for children ages 0-5 years old. Activities included coloring sheets, book browsing and reading with a live mini horse! Family Storytime continues to fill up the meeting room with returning and new attendees. Children were able to create their own pot of gold on St. Patrick's Day using materials purchased by the Friends of the Library.

This month in adult services we had a performance by the Jasmine Asian Music Ensemble and a Poetry Writing Workshop. The U of A Cancer Center set up an outreach table to raise community awareness of cancer prevention and treatment. The Pima County Assessor's Office also had a drop-in service to explain property value notices and assist with their appeals and exemptions processes. The pet food distribution program in partnership with Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) is successfully underway and providing assistance to local families with dogs and cats.

In technology, we successfully installed new printers and a new charging station for patrons to use. Staff was trained on the use of these new amenities so that patrons can receive the best possible assistance with utilizing them during library visits.

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

Southwest has enjoyed a busy spring with plenty of programming and outreach. We did our final "Love of Reading" event in early March at an elementary school and were able to sign up a number of kids with library cards and also give parents information on the many ways PCPL can aid in their children's learning process. At the library we've had a number of programs geared toward children including a presentation from the Children's Museum, a Pop-up Planetarium, and the most popular of all, the Reading Rodeo where children could read to Apollo, a miniature horse, in the library. We also just concluded a three week yoga program that was popular amongst our older patrons.

Since upping our daily amount of Grab-and-go-Snacks in February, we've been able to consistently have snacks available for children without running out. This is especially nice when we have programming and large volumes of children are coming in. GED continues to be a well attended program with a number of dedicated students. We are looking forward to our late spring and early summer programming, especially engaging students as school ends in late May.

### **Valencia Library – Ivonne Ramirez**

2,702 people visited the Bookmobile over the two days of Tucson Festival of Books. The number reached had never gone above 2,000 total in years prior to this event. University of Arizona (UA) staff were extremely helpful in getting the bookmobile in and out safely. Special thanks to Chris the UA coordinator, the electricians who ran a cable to the bookmobile for shore power, and the UA police who escorted the bookmobile out of the event on Sunday evening.

Valencia Library has continued to be a point of contact for other Pima County services in the community, including mental health and addiction outreach, community food pantry, and visits by the Pima County Assessor. At the end of March we hosted a long-awaited visit by the Pima County Health Department Mobile Clinic, which was welcomed by the library visitors and neighbors. Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) was also present promoting pet adoptions.

Our garden and seed library team shared a cross-generational impact story: Using pumpkin seeds from the Seed Library, a Valencia Garden team member was able to harvest several pumpkins this year and gave some pumpkins away to a community member at the library. This community member was very grateful and was amazed at the extended impact of one set of seeds. "You got these seeds from the library, tended to a garden, and now I am able to take the pumpkins back home and use them to learn from my 94-year-old abuelita how to make empanadas."

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

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

Green Valley Library – Family Storytime, Read to a Dog, Author Talks, Yoga with Vivianne,

Tohono Chul: Sonoran Sampler—Birds of the Southwest, Seed Balls and Broadcasting, The Delicious Sonoran Desert, Portable Planetarium, Five Sweet Seasons Worksho

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

Columbus Library – Red Herring Puppet show, Adult Yoga, Harp with Rebecca Reinhard Foreman, Chess Training

Flowing Wells Library- How to be a Pirate

Himmel – Yoga Nidra

Murphy-Wilmot Library – Her Words, My Music: Storytelling Through Song, Pom Pom Craft Making

Oro Valley Public Library – Healing Foods & Natural Remedies, Jewelry Making: Bracelets & Earrings, Musical Storytime with Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum, Ben Franklin and the Levitating Frog, Yoga Storytime featuring “The Napping House”

Quincie Douglas Library – Crafternoon, Storytime, Soap Making,

Salazar-Ajo Library – Yusuke Banno – Paper Circuits, Yusuke Banno – Recycled Jewelry, AZ Speaks – Gregory McNamee- Deconstructing the Taco, Scott Warren – Assembling the Southwest, FRANK Talk: Dr. Matthew Whitaker – The Road to Iniquity

W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library - Megascience Meg's Magic Volcano, Anna Van Devender's 5 Sweet Seasons Gardening, Dolores Amada Haro's Expresiones de Arte painting

Richard Elías-Mission Library- Gasp! (Games, Arts, and Snacks Program) program materials and snacks, Create-Your-Own-Watercolor with KidzArt, Creativity-2-Go grab and go activities materials, Mini-Miracles presenters, St. Patrick's Day pot of gold craft materials, Jasmine Asian Music Ensemble and Poetry Writing Workshop

Santa Rosa Library –Yusuke Banno raising Nigerian dwarf goats, Yasuke Banno Intro to Tye Dye, Vanya Plant based Tattoos, Dari Johnson Yoga Storytime, Reid Park Zoo

Valencia Library -- Special Programs: Nancy Elliott Storytelling Writing Workshop, Julia M Miller Book Binding Workshop, Dolores Haro Painiting Workshop, Lauren Rae Ard's Portable Planetarium Presentations, Rebecca Foreman Harp Concert, Estella Gonzalez Writer-in-Residence Workshop, Unscrewed Theater Teen Program, Regular programs: Create Club, Storytime, Teen Thursdays, Crochet Circle