

DATE: February 1, 2024

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 – December 2023

December was filled with more discussions and meetings with staff and branch managers around our shifting of library hours. The next step in our timeline is the branches will finalize their plans by January 1st. And the hours changes will be implanted by January 29th. This will give us time to market and promote to the community.

This month I was able to attend a website ability meeting hosted by IMLS. They are working on a new information literacy website for librarians, museum staff, and other cultural institutions. There were staff from around the country. We broke up into focus groups and analyzed the beta version of the website, and gave feedback on the information literacy needs of the communities we serve. It was a great networking event and I believe valuable feedback was given for the website to be a valuable asset in the future.

Library Services Manager – Paulina Aguirre-Clinch

The month of December has been slow but steady. Here's an abbreviated list of accomplishments: assisted with the hiring process of library technical assistant supervisors; sat in meetings with the Seed Library and Many Nations to discuss the direction of the teams in the coming year; held one-on-one meetings with branch managers; attended budget meetings held by our deputy of support services; participated in the second workshop related to the future redesign of the summer learning program; participated in meetings regarding the renovations/expansions of the Himmel and Richard Elias-Mission libraries; and led discussions regarding future evening and weekend hours at libraries on the east and far south regions of the County. And finally, the last two weeks of December will be dedicated to covering vacations at least four branches giving me an opportunity to check in with staff and to keep up with my public services skills.

Library Services Manager – Alina Rowe

For the month of December, I was able to work at the Oro Valley and Flowing Wells Branches to support coverage.

On December 6, 2023, I attended the Wood's Memorial Branch all staff meeting where staff touched on important branch topics. After the business portion of the meeting, staff were able to create a snow globe or other holiday craft their manager provided as part of their team building activity. The Wood's Memorial Branch had a lovely display celebrating Kwanzaa, Hanukah, and Christmas.

I was able to attend the in-person Trauma Informed Care Team meeting, we gathered to team build with one another.

In December I attended the Many Nations in person team meeting, and I also attended the online meeting to discuss the methods the team is using to tag materials intentionally and respectfully on our library's catalog. This important work will allow the public and staff to locate materials labeled "Many Nations", easily. These materials have been curated to make sure they are materials that reflect the Indigenous community in a respectful, authentic, and accurate manner. The team included members of the Nuestras Raices team to share what process they are using so that both teams can continue to tag materials on the library catalog properly.

Library Services Manager – Em Demeester-Lane

This month I continued to do work with our emerging vulnerable populations service area and team to help focus our goals for 2024. I also met with the 4th Avenue Coalition to get information about the bi-monthly showers they are offering in conjunction with the City of Tucson to folks experiencing houselessness. I helped support the El Rio Library as we await Librarian II hiring. I was also very lucky to attend multiple Holiday parties with the staff at Joel Valdez Main Library and El Rio.

Library Services Manager – Vicki Lázaro

Happy ALLidays!! I am officially adopting this term used by the Abbett Children's Librarian in their holiday display.

During the month of December I continued to support the staff at the Santa Rosa Library as we anxiously await the hiring of their new Manager to lead the team. I participated in staff hiring discussions, budget meetings, Abbett remodeling updates and future remodel discussions about Himmel Library. I listened to webinars on bed bugs, Censorship of Sexual Freedom and Artificial Intelligence.

An important experience I had this month while watching staff decorate for the holidays is I realized this may be the only experience some people may have to experience a warm safe space getting into the spirit of the holidays, but in that same moment the decorating did trigger a patron to have an outburst about the commercialism of it and he threatened staff. It shows the struggles we have every day trying to provide a place where everyone is welcome, but for some it is still not enough.

I am hopeful that the new year brings more assistance to our house less patrons, especially mental health and wellness resources.

District 1 – Supervisor Rex Scott

Dewhirst–Catalina Library – Christine Dykgraaf

December has been a busy month at Dewhirst-Catalina Library. Books are flying off the shelf from our displays on winter/snow and Christmas fiction. We have a movie planned for kids during their school break in addition to our Lego and Trains programs. Adults crowded into our meeting room for a talk on "The Normally Aging Brain" and a creative collage program.

We are looking forward to an energized new year as we have had a lot of new cards made in the past months and two new neighborhoods are slated to be built nearby in 2024. Staff will continue to participate in outreach events, community partnerships, and planning staff-led programs based on community needs and requests.

Dusenberry-River Library – Matías Torres

Dusenberry-River Library will end 2023 with much promise. In conjunction with holiday festivities that took place at River Center, we opened on Saturday for three hours in addition to tabling at event. Our community was incredibly grateful to see us there and to see us open on Saturday. During regular open hours, we continued to provide our popular *Storytime* (including one bilingual English/French session) and *Read to a Dog*. *Snow globes* created during a crafting program were the centerpiece of children's holiday programming.

Computer Gaming and *Digital Storytelling* were offered to enthusiastic Teens. Our *Teenage Advisor Board* was integral to developing our *Whimsical Winter Wonderland* program at the end of the month. *Garden Talk* brought winter gardening adults to River as did *1-on-1 Tech Help*. *Study Rooms*, Book Clubs, Writing Groups, Art Collectives, Civic Organizations, Lifestyle and Environmental Associations made the most of our public spaces here at Dusenberry-River.

Nanini Library – Caitlin Burns

Nanini's sidewalk construction project was completed in late November, which added extensive lighting, sidewalks, and crosswalks to one of the library's two entrances. This project created safe access between the library, DMV, and the bus stop on Shannon Road. For decades before this addition, pedestrians and library customers were put at risk when they traveled by foot on the roadway, which was also a very sharp turn for drivers entering. Library customers and community members have been very appreciative of this upgrade.

Storytime presenters are taking a well-deserved two-week break in late December and will return in the new year. After offering four storytimes weekly for most of 2023, our Children's Services library staff have reached thousands of kids and caregivers in Tucson-- often seeing people travel to our northwest side branch from across town and even Vail. We are proud to have provided so many opportunities for caregivers and families to meet each other, while also learning about early literacy, child development, and how to instill in their children a love of reading and learning early in life.

Oro Valley Public Library – Kaitlyn Sparks

December in Oro Valley Public Library was full of holiday cheer. Staff dressed up for 12 festive days, and we posted our pictures on our Facebook page. Patrons loved to see us in our themed holiday gear and enjoyed the Hannukah and Christmas decorations throughout the library. One child loved our reflective menorah and told us what she was learning about Hannukah from reading books at the library.

For adults, we had our usual monthly programs such as Chess Club, Mahjong Club, multiple book clubs and discussion groups, as well as a few special programs - Gouache Painting with Palette Up! filled up quickly. Attendees, and patrons who were unable to attend, requested more painting and crafting programs for adults in the future. The monthly Poetry Circle, led by a docent from the UA Poetry Center was a Holiday Poetry Jam! a festive celebration of the spoken word with delicious refreshments. The Poetry Circle has been enjoyed by the community since 2015! Another unique program was a movie night with the Teen Advisory Board, where the teens stayed late after the library closed to enjoy some ramen noodles, hot chocolate, and a film.

District 2 – Supervisor Matt Heinz

Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Kelly Wilson

We continue to serve our community this month with weekly Bi-Lingual Job Help, Pre-K and Baby Storytimes, Crafternoons and Chess Club. Our wonderful Librarian II was interviewed by KGUN 9 News about our super successful after-school snack program. Winston the Bulldog helped many children practice their reading, during our bi-monthly Read to a Dog program.

Patrons of all ages joined presenter Jeanine Colini for a Learn to Draw Class that was wonderfully suited to artists of all abilities. Catherine Eyde helped creatives make wonderful cards from collage materials, much to the enjoyment of all. Our monthly Yoga continues to be well attended and appreciated by a consistent group of practitioners.

Quincie Douglas Library – Lois Miller

We've had a lot going on at Quincie Douglas this December! Our snack pack program from the Community Food Bank is going strong. We give out snacks to children and teens every day between 2-4pm. The leftover snack packs go to adults the following day. We've received many expressions of gratitude from people of all ages for food received through this program.

A resource navigator for the homeless comes to Quincie Douglas the first Wednesday of each month from 10-12pm. He helps anyone who asks him about resources available in the community, from getting a cell phone to resources for food, pet food, eviction prevention, utility assistance and filling out an application for emergency housing (completing the VI-SPDAT).

In addition to our core class offerings of Toddler Storytime, Homework Help and Read to a Dog, we offered some specialty classes as well. Adults loved learning about how to take quality photos with their cell phones from Megan Fujawa, a volunteer presenter from the Pima County Natural Resources Department. There will be another adult services painting class offered on December 22nd—presenter Dolores Haro will teach how to paint holiday ornaments.

Teens have been learning to use our 3D printer that we got for our mini makerspace. They love seeing how it works, and looking up possibilities items to print on Thingiverse. Teens have also been participating in card making workshops—they have been making holiday cards to send to assisted living facilities for people who will be cheered up by getting a card for the holidays. Teens can get volunteer hours by participating in this program. Teens and adults also enjoyed a resin casting craft class taught by presenter Emy. Participants made beautiful resin paperweights with dried flowers in them. The people who attended mentioned how much they loved the class, and asked for it to be offered again.

Finally, children have loved the festive Crafternoon classes offered by our children's librarian. The December theme was "Christmas Crafternoon"—participants made cards using Polaroid photos that they took of themselves, using a connected learning kit that was designed by our children's librarian and can be used by anyone in the PCPL system.

Sahuarita Library – Betsy Langley

On December 2, we welcomed Peter Biedermann who kicked off the month with a guitar concert featuring cross-genre style melding of American, European, and world influences. He delved into the history and evolution of original fingerstyle guitar playing with 14 participants enjoying the show. We also have a group of eight folks practicing Meditation for Mindful Living on Monday evenings. Our Book Club read *Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernardine Evaristo.

Children's staff hosted several home school groups to learn about library resources, practice using the catalog, and select books to take home. Read to a Dog with Molly and Rex is incredibly popular with a 30+ early readers taking their turn reading to these patient pups in the

Storytime Room every Wednesday. Lots of new participants coming to Chess Club this month and we talked about maybe hosting another tournament in the new year. December STEAM programs included a nature scavenger hunt, junk journal creation, and holiday ornament decorating. Study Rooms are filled to the brim each day with students coming in after school. Teens have also been busy DJ-ing and learning about creative bookbinding in the afternoons.

Books have been flying off of our winter holiday display. Staff are also taking some time over the break in programming to clean up the collection, look for gaps in topics, and put together displays of items that may have been overlooked.

Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – Lu Guerrero

PogoArts presented *Luar Bodyweight Fitness*. JVYC kids learned how to work together while staying fit. There were 4 different stations set up and a couple involved working in pairs. *How to Draw Cartoons and Comic Books with Your BFF* also drew interest this month, presented by Frank Powers.

The library's weekly programming continues to be well-utilized. The branch Bookbike continues its routine ride to restock neighborhood Little Free Libraries. Community members visit to access COVID self-test kits for themselves and family. Sam Lena-South Tucson Library staff have begun repackaging bulk quantities of seeds for PCPL's Seed Library 2024 summer collection.

District 3 – Supervisor Sylvia M. Lee

Caviglia-Arivaca Library – Jodi Ohlson

December started out with our *Nineteenth Annual Fiends of the Caviglia Arivaca Library Holiday Tea*, with music provided by the Jasmine Asian Ensemble. Much singing, chatting and snacking occurred, and it continues to be a much-loved annual community event.

Our Teen Advisory Board (TAB), with guidance from Library Technology Supervisor Madian Romero, created an *Escape Room* that took place in the Grinch's home on Mount Crumpit. They turned our meeting room into a Dr. Seuss inspired cave, complete with rock walls (crumpled packing paper) and colorful swirly furniture (BIG cardboard boxes.) Each available session was filled, and everyone had fun with all the puzzles, lock boxes and hidden clues. Each session had a helper from TAB in the room to provide additional clues or a nudge in the right direction if participants were stumped and needed guidance.

Our newly graduated part-time Librarian Merrilee Steely created and presented her first children's program, '*Stuffie Sleepover and Storytime*.' It was a great hit! Stuffed animals were brought in all day Friday and were picked up Saturday along with an individualized book of pictures of their overnight adventures. They shelved books, climbed the shelves, played on the computers, snuggled together to watch a movie on a laptop, and all brushed their teeth before bed.

This month we also made a visit to *San Fernando Elementary in Sasabe* to bring Holiday Cheer to their Christmas celebration and let them know about all the fun activities planned for the week after Christmas. The kids were excited to see us there, and we were invited back to provide educational programs tied into their school curriculum.

Flowing Wells Library – Angie Grischkowsky

In addition to our usual roster of ongoing programs, this month we also had 5 events for various ages that gave our community the opportunity to learn new skills through making and doing: December Crafternoon, Sequined Barrettes, make Your Own Stamp, Book Building Workshop, and Intro to Origami!

During one of the maker programs a social worker was overseeing a family visitation, and she remarked to one of the librarians that she had no idea that libraries offered that type of programming!

In addition, a patron attended the December Crafternoon program with her granddaughter and told library staff that earlier in the day she had used one of our study rooms and laptops for a job interview over Zoom after one of our staff showed her how to use the camera. She said that at the end of the interview she was offered the job, and she was very grateful for the help and the use of the room and computer. Just another month of helping people change their lives for the better!

Salazar-Ajo Library – Daniela Buchberger

The month of December brought a lot programming and outreach opportunities. We continued to see patrons using the library daily and enjoying the lounge area near our magazines.

Staff members of the Salazar-Ajo Library were invited to visit the Tohono O'odham High School and signed up students for library cards. Many of the students requested Hotspots which were delivered to the school for them to use at home.

The library is now offering Family Storytime every Friday morning. Children and their caregivers arrive to dance, sing, read and learn together. Attendance has been consistent and families are excited to come together.

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Sam Hennig

The Wheeler Taft Abbett Sr. Library kept up with the hustle and the bustle of the season with a staff back room refresh that temporarily displaced staff into our community meeting room. We are however very excited to see the project after it is finished next week.

Children's services celebrated diversity, inclusion and access in the children's area with special "all-idays" displays. Thanks to our Friends of the Library, Bob Effertz presented Children's Day Around the World, where families learned about how different cultures celebrate this special season by making crafts, playing games, and playing music and dancing together.

Young Adult services staff focused on continuing our successful Teen Advisory Board, working this month more closely with our 3D printer to prepare passive programming material for library patrons. We also had several special sessions of our afternoon program, T.n.T., which focused on gift-creation as an opportunity to help youth participate in seasonal events without concern to personal finances.

Adult services staff stayed busy by hosting an author talk, "Crime Fiction From the Desert" on Friday, December 1st. We welcomed authors Kathy McIntosh, Susan Cummins Miller, and D.R. Ransdell, chatting about the short stories in the short story collection, SoWest: Wrong Turn and how the right setting can increase conflict. The program was very popular and patrons asked many great questions about the art of writing.

Woods Memorial Library – Chinyere Olumba

Ooh! The joy of gift-giving. The Woods Memorial Library started gift-giving a little early with last month on November 22nd with 17 patrons creating their own mug/tumblers, the result was patrons coming out to the December 2nd DIY snow-globe event that captured the hearts of 50 people and the joy in the room was so contagious, it was scheduled again for December 6th with an attendance of 30 patrons. The *Make -A-Gift* program continued December 9th and the 13th with *Make-A-Bracelet* with an attendance for both days totaling 47 patrons. The December 16th event, create a *Candy Clown*, had a participation of 19 patrons and a participation of 13 patrons on December 20th. The making of gifts will end on December 27th with a *Paint with Your Library*.

The joy of giving isn't the only happiness that has happened at Woods Memorial in December, we are still having literacy fun in our *Family Story-time* hours with a consistent patronage of more than 17 patrons, as well as our Baby-time story hour with over 20 patrons weekly. Also, on December 21st a *Music and Movie* program with *Lori* will be at Woods Memorial during *Storytime* hour and there will be a *Puppet Show* on Thursday December 28th with *Red Herring*. Also in December, although Literacy Connects classes have ended for the semester, we have had the privilege of Literacy Connects tutoring for those class patrons who wanted to continue their English language learning.

Also, in the month of December the Woods Memorial Team and Patrons had to send their condolences to Gizmo, one of the *Read to a Dog*, dogs. Many cards and pictures were sent to Mark to show how much he was loved and how much he would be missed. Gizmo was one of Wood's Memorial's favorite dogs.

District 4 – Supervisor Steve Christy

W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station – Mary McKinney A KidzArt drawing class on December 8 allowed preschoolers to get creative. A very patient instructor led the kids in learning some fun new ways to express themselves, and they had a blast!

A dad told staff that on his way to the library with his 5-year-old daughter talked the entire time about how she would use her credit card to get some books. He said she was insistent about this, and when it came time for checkout, staff played right along as she was so proud to take care of the transaction all by herself using the library credit card.

Joyner-Green Valley Library – Heather Tyndall

December has been a busy month at the Joyner-Green Valley Library for customers of all ages! Our youngest patrons enjoyed "Gingerbread Storytime Yoga," a *Family Storytime* with a twist . . . and bending and stretching . . . all while listening to a delightful gingerbread man story. At a "Volcano Party," kids also delved into science concepts, experimenting with dry ice gases. They made homemade root beer and created an erupting chocolate "volcano cake," complete with flowing "lava" (thanks to the addition of red Jello powder!).

The fun continued later in the month for teens and adults who participated in the class, "Introduction to Tie Dye." Using t-shirts, socks, and bandanas provided by the library presenter, participants learned how to tie fabrics to produce varied patterns and effects and then got to take home their creations. Another highly engaging program was an interactive adult art class, "Drawing Desert Life," conducted by the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Museum staff brought two live critters, native to the Sonoran Desert, for participants to observe and draw: a 10-year-old female tarantula named Applesauce and an adorable, burrowing owl named Minerva.

Our ever-popular series of Art Talks presented by docents from the Tucson Museum of Art continued with two events this month. During the first presentation, attendees were taken on a virtual tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art that focused on works outside the Western European tradition in "Exploring the Masterpieces of the Met with New Eyes: A Reawakening!" The second talk, "Mesoamerican Art: How Art Shows Links Between Olmec, Maya, and Aztec Civilizations" also provided a fabulous window into the art of other cultures. Attendees at both sessions expressed their pleasure and appreciation to the docents for sharing their expertise and to library staff for bringing such enriching experiences to Joyner-Green Valley Library.

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library – Melissa Salazar

Kirk Bear Canyon Library continues to stay busy with programming even through the holidays. We had four sessions of our Sensory Program which is geared towards neurodiverse children and features a calm down room. We had two sessions on December 5, and two for December 19th. This program is one of our popular programs and even with the holidays we had a total of 61 participants this month. Our Family Storytimes are held on Thursdays, now with two sessions, and we average about 47 to the max of 50 people for the first session and about 30 for the second session. We had an additional storytime this month, which was Spanish Bilingual storytime. We had two sessions to manage crowds, and we had a total of 65 participants.

On December 21st, we had a Yoga Storytime presentation, which was meant for the whole family. December 12th, we had a special presenter from the Reid Park Zoo do a program which had 23 participants. On December 13th, our Children's Librarian, Megan, put her many talents to use and offered a Felt Ornament Making program. She taught tweens how to sew their own ornament and for those who chose not to use a needle and thread, fabric glue was provided. There were 14 tweens making ornaments at this event.

For adult programming at Kirk Bear Canyon Library, Pima County Master Gardeners from the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension put on an event called, Garden Talk: Growing Great Tomatoes on December 8th, and participants learned the tricks of the trade on how to grow fresh ripe tomatoes. On December 15th, we had a "Beautiful Harp Music Concert" given by Rebecca Foreman, who is a local musician/Harpist and the principal harpist with the Tucson Pops Orchestra. Mrs. Rebecca's Harp concert has 49 people watching her perform a variety of Holiday music from different genres from classical to folk.

Murphy-Wilmot Library – Kathy Konecny

The Schumaker Infant and Early Learning Center invited our Children's Librarian to attend their Winter Carnival on December 9. Fifty families attended the event that included many literacy-based hands-on activities, a giant Gingerbread Man, and even a photo opportunity with Santa. Library resources were shared with the adults and many library card applications were taken by those who were interested in getting library cards for themselves and their children at their neighborhood libraries. A craft activity and coloring pages focused on the winter theme of their event were completed at the library table or taken home.

A Sonoran Environmental Research Institute representative made a short presentation during our Family Storytime about the hazards of lead. She provided lots of helpful information to families and talked about a City of Tucson program that not only tests for lead but also helps qualified individuals get it removed from their homes. Several parents took her card so that they could schedule home inspections.

Murphy-Wilmot staff participated as the community representative for Pima Community College's Medical Laboratory Technician Program's Business and Industry Advisory Committee. Staff learned about the innovative workforce development programs that the college is creating in support of medical labs across Southern Arizona. Library staff offered ideas on community connections that may be able to support some of the lab community's initiatives.

District 5 – Supervisor Adelita Grijalva, Chair

Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library – John Muñoz

Librarians participated in two outreach events this month. The first was the kickoff meeting for the Midvale Park-Drexel Bridge (across the Santa Cruz River) on Dec. 5. When completed, the project will include sidewalks, bike lanes, public art, etc. This public information session included light refreshments and a kids area; ELP librarians tabled with the customary PCPL outreach items. Two days later, at Apollo M.S., ELP librarians set up a table at the school's annual Las

Posadas event. During the procession, children were garbed as angels, wise men, etc., carrying lit candles; and adult musicians followed the procession singing holiday songs in English and Spanish.

El Río Library – Em DeMeester-Lane

El Rio Librarian Morgen and Library Associate Angels visited Manzo elementary 3rd, 4th and 5th graders this month to read stories and hand out library cards. We also had a papercraft and card making activity this month with KIDCO for “Write to a friend” month. The City of Tucson Storm to Shade program continues their work at the Neighborhood Center and we are elated to report that an okra plant started from the Seed Library and nurtured and tended to by El Rio staff has been incorporated into the new plants. We are very excited to harvest the seeds from this over 2 foot tall plant to go back into the seed library for all the enjoy.

Himmel Park Library – Heather Ross

Recently Himmel Park Library was honored to host three Tucson Sisters in Crime writers for *Crime Fiction from the Desert*. The authors spent some time discussing their works and the writing process before taking questions from an audience made up of 15 genre enthusiasts, general readers, and aspiring authors of all stripes. A big fan of one of the presenting authors learned that there will be more of the series they love as well as the reasons behind the delay in new books. Several eager wordsmiths received helpful advice to aid them in their varied writing pursuits. After the program, attendees had a chance to chat individually with the writers. One would-be author was thrilled to learn about the library's very own Writer-in-Residence program while talking to one of the presenters, and now looks forward to attending one-on-one sessions when the next Writer In Residence is announced.

Himmel Park Library staff were delighted to receive a box of chocolates and a kind note from one of our customers this holiday season. The customer wrote: “In appreciation for keeping my family and me overwhelmed by books; and for constant attention to our book requests and toting them to the shelves. The library is critical to our quality of life – and reading material! Thank you for your work. Happy Holidays and Good Reading!”

Joel D. Valdez Main Library – Linde Furman/Mikel Stone

December has been a very busy and happy month for Joel D. Valdez Main Library.

Thanks to our Pima County IT department, staff and the public have brand new computers to use that feature current technology. The replacement of all our PCs was nearly seamless due to the efforts of our own Library Technology and County IT teams. We are grateful for the very efficient and speedy process of the individuals working on it, and the new equipment!

This month we hosted an amazing art show entitled “Visionary Art”, thanks to Southern Arizona Friends of Jung. The exhibit featured both sculpture pieces and painted works on canvas. Our young adult team also held another mental health fair for youth, with partners from across Tucson tabling at the event, and many young people in attendance seeking resources and learning about mental health supports just for them.

Our Space saw the return of the fan favorite Waila musical act, Gertie and the T.O. Boyz, with almost 40 community members in attendance. In addition, our Brown Bag Book Share, a lunchtime book club for adults, is seeing some budding success and a growing core group of enthusiastic attendees. The next Brown Bag Book Share is Wednesday, January 3rd from 12-1 PM. We encourage book aficionados to attend!

Last, but not least, some Main staff were thrilled to participate in the annual Parade of Lights. Pima County Public Library always has a merry troupe of employees, along with their friends and family members, featured in the parade. A big thanks to one of our own Main staffers,

Karen, who organizes attendance and coordinates meet up amongst staff across the system every year!

Richard Elías-Mission Library – Tara Fox-Lupo

The Richard Elias-Mission Library's children's librarian ended Preschool Storytime this season with Presenter Carrie Williams. Yoga Instructor Miss Carrie presented Gingerbread Yoga Storytime featuring breathing exercises, yoga poses, and a read aloud of the Gingerbread Man! Children and their caregivers took their shoes off and hopped onto yoga mats eager to listen to Miss Carrie read and teach them all about Namaste.

As a seasonal treat our Young Adult Services librarian hosted a Holiday Music on the Harp program with presenter Rebecca Foreman. Attendees got to enjoy a performance with many of their holiday favorites played on the unique and beautiful sounding instrument. Also, in celebration of the season, we hosted Dolores Haro for a painting program. Ms. Haro was here to guide community youth in making holiday paintings to share or keep.

In the spirit of giving this month our Adult Services Librarian connected with several local schools and tribal serving organizations to donate lightly used materials. This was just one example of our branch's efforts to support the work of the Many Nations team in recent months. Our librarians have been working to build partnership and connection with tribal groups and tribal serving organizations in a variety of ways.

Southwest Library – John Muñoz

In the middle of the month, Blue Raven Art School presented Shrinky Dinks. The craft session came just in time for holiday gift making. Using "Shrinky Dink" plastic, kids and parents drew their own designs; and then used a heating tool to shrink the design and build a hard, nearly indestructible artwork, complete with a metal pin in the center to fasten it to clothing or accessories.

Valencia Library – Ivonne Ramirez

This month, Valencia Library Storytime staff continued to share stories and literacy tips with our community, in addition to sharing resources for parents, and hosting a special guest for dental health Storytime. Other visitors included a representative from the non-profit Bright by Text who joined the Storytime presentation to tell families about a free bilingual digital resource that provides tips about brain development and emotional literacy for caregivers of children from birth to 8 years old.

Valencia Library's Teen 101 Space is flourishing this winter. Teen programming this month featured computer gaming, which supports teens to develop skills in collaboration, leadership, and technology; teens also created recycled crafts, which nurtures creativity, problem-solving, and application of science concepts. Projects included creating a decorative memory jar and constructing dragon eggs using a variety of mixed media.

We hosted multiple adult programs and received great feedback from attendees. After the last yoga class several of the attendees came to the front desk to comment about the class: "We love Vivianne" "Vivianne is SO GOOD" and "I wish this yoga class was ongoing or at least longer than 3 classes." "This class was so good for my health and stress!" They stood at the desk for several minutes getting all these comments off their chests.

Two regular members of the 2nd Saturdays Crochet Circle arrived to the December meeting with a bag brimming with 13 individually made warm, handmade hats and beanies. They had made the hats themselves, and they said they wanted to give them to our branch so we could hand them out to anyone who might need additional warmth this season. The hats will be made available at our Agency Market table for anyone who may need one.

Every month we receive amazing comments several times throughout the month for the monthly crochet program. "I love coming to the crochet circle" and " I keep needing extra help, but Natalie is always patient and makes me feel completely understood and I always feel so grateful to have found such a nice group" and "I always feel welcome."

Activities funded by Friends Groups

Friends of the Pima County Public Library

Dewhirst-Catalina Library- Collage making, the Normally Aging Brain
Murphy-Wilmot Library- Bookbinding, Try It: Pastels
Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library – Messy Science by Tucson Children's Museum; Chair Yoga by Vivianne Uyeda.
Himmel Park Library – Zach Underwood (chess)
Richard Elías-Mission Library –Christmas Painting with Dolores Haro, Yoga Storytime, Holiday Harp Music, Decorate Your Own Mug
Southwest Library – Shrinky Dinks by Blue Raven Art School
Valencia Library –Teen Time, Create Club, Storytime, Crochet Circle, Yoga with Vivianne Uyeda, Tucson Children's Museum "Amazing Murals", Spanish Language Class with Connie Rodriguez, Dolores Haro Expresiones de Arte "Let's Create Wooden Ornaments"
Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Collage Card Making Class, Learn to Draw, Adult Yoga
Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – *Luar Bodyweight Fitness, How to Draw Cartoons and Comic Books with Your BFF*
Salazar-Ajo Library – Whatever Wednesdays – Family Movie, Gaming, Tie Dye, Shrinky Dinks, Bracelet Making
W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library – KidzArt Drawing

Friends of the Arivaca Library-

Nineteenth Annual Fiends of the Caviglia Arivaca Library Holiday Tea

Friends of the Green Valley Library (Green Valley & Sahuarita)-Gingerbread Storytime
Yoga, Volcano Party, Introduction to Tie Dye, Drawing Desert Life

Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library- Red Herring Puppet Show: Aesop's Fables,
Gouache Painting with Palette Up!, Toddler Yoga Storytime, Preschool Yoga Storytime