
DATE: March 7, 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 – February, 2024

The focus this month has been continuing to support staff at the branches as they adjust to our new hours across the system. It has been a change not only for our community, but also our staff. My team has continued to help hear feedback and support staff as we are able to navigate this new change.

In addition to new hours support, I have also been working with a team of staff that are focusing on writing an internal process for implementing Multilingual pay for our staff. The county-wide procedure is in place but it is up to each department to implement an internal process that will work and move their staff through the steps to be able to be eligible for this benefit. We have many staff that use their language skills daily in their interactions with the community that use our branches and our library services. This skill-set is integral and invaluable to our department delivering the exceptional customer service that we are known for, so it's important we get this internal process in place. Our staff deserve this compensation for this service they have been providing for years.

Finally, this month's focus has also been on supporting staff as we navigate the planning and implementation stages for multiple Capital Improvement projects. The Richard Elías-Mission Library closure on March 8th for renovations, the opening of Martha Coope Library in May/June and the beginning stages of planning for the upcoming renovation of the Himmel Library.

Library Services Manager – Paulina Aguirre-Clinch

Many of my meetings this month centered on upcoming and current capital improvement projects. The Richard Elías-Mission Library will be closing in the next month for expansion and renovation. Therefore, the architect of the project convened a meeting to coordinate all the pieces needed for the closure. We will be meeting again in the next few weeks to make sure that everything is covered. In terms of staffing, the interim branch manager and I have been meeting regularly to talk about staff placements during this interval. We have just about figured those out. Another project that has begun is the fencing around the Daniel W. Eckstrom

Municipal Complex by the City of South Tucson, which directly impacts the Sam Lena-South Tucson Library as it forms part of the site. The branch manager, our facilities and finance library services manager, and I met with City of South Tucson Facilities to do a walk-through of the plan. We are hoping to have further discussions with the City of South Tucson regarding the limitations presented by the current location of the main entrance to the complex. It is not easily identifiable. They are planning to include art panels to beautify the fence, which is exciting. In fact, they requested design ideas for the art pieces, which Sam Lena – South Tucson branch manager has already sent.

Library Services Manager – Ken Zambos

During the month of February, I have visited and worked with each of the managers at the six libraries I directly support. I have also had the opportunity to meet with contractors, staff from Pima County Facilities, and other members of administration in an effort to improve the quality and sustainability of bicycle safeguarding at the Eckstrom-Columbus Library. I also worked with a handful of managers from across the library system to create and implement new data tracking measures. These measures will be piloted at select locations through March, after which they will be evaluated for broader roll-out. These measures are intended to capture and process data related to direct customer service interactions, and will hopefully be an improvement over current data tracking practices.

Library Services Manager – Alina Rowe

For the month of February, I was able to find coverage for the lovely Salazar-Ajo Branch. I was able to help with coverage at the amazing Southwest and Oro Valley branches on Mondays and Tuesdays.

I joined my colleagues on the Library Planning Task Force to continue our work concerning the future of our library system.

On February 9th, I visited the Dr. Fernando Escalante Tribal Library to celebrate their 15th anniversary!

I attended the monthly Biblio Lotus and Many Nations affinity team meetings.

Library Services Manager – Em Demeester-Lane

This month I met with my managers individually and at our monthly team meeting. We have a newly promoted Branch Manager for Kirk Bear Canyon Library, Christine Russell, and I am excited to welcome her to her new role. I also met with Valencia Library staff to help answer questions they may have about some facility issues they have as well as system-wide decision making. I was honored to also start the month helping to host a retirement luncheon for a staff person, Angela Harper, who has worked for the library for 23 years as both a Clerk and later a Library Associate. Angela's impact on staff was immeasurable and it was a joy to see the small group gather to honor her. I also had the pleasure of attending February 20th's Board of Supervisors Meeting where another employee in my supervisory line, Leslie White, was commemorated as a Pima County Gem for her outstanding work.

Library Services Manager – Vicki Lázaro

I spent the month supporting our organization by continuing to cover management duties and lunches at Santa Rosa Library daily. This has allowed me to continue to develop relationships with the community of Drachman School and Head Start, that share the campus with the library. This month, representatives from the City of Tucson, TUSD and I had a meeting to discuss some changes in the availability of the parking lot and the small park on the grounds to the public. Further discussions are needed on the parking lot topic. I also have been providing in-person and Teams video check-ins with the five branches I support directly; Murphy-Wilmot, Dusenberry-River, Wheeler Taft Abbett Sr., Santa Rosa and Miller-Golf Links Libraries.

Supporting administration by attending and participating in the Policy Review Team meetings, PRIDE Affinity Team, Library Planning Task Force, Library Services Manager Meetings and Public Service Manager Meetings. I showed support for fellow staff members by attending the Pima County GEMS presentation to Leslie White and moving/retirement send-offs for multiple employees as they start a new life journey. I supported Pima County's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion team by attending the Black History Celebration Event at the Tucson Historic Courthouse.

Supporting my professional development in my Library Services Manager role by attending webinars such as The Futurist: The Rise of AI, from the Pima County Health Dept: Rise of Fentanyl and Udemy's Assertive Masterclass: How to be Assertive and Likeable.

District 1 – Supervisor Rex Scott

Dusenberry-River Library – Matías Torres

Dusenberry-River Library concludes February finding our footing with new Tween programming while continuing to engage Children, Teenagers, Adults and Families. *Family Storytime* was joined by *Seollal Korean/English Bilingual Storytime* as was partnership with Mini Time Museum, *Roses and Chocolate*. *Read to a Dog*, *6&8 Time*, and *Games and More* offered children a moment of respite, enlightenment and play be it with a canine, craft or puzzle. Teens led *Cupids Crafts* to create festive crafts for the season for all loved ones. *Black History Jeopardy* also was developed with Teens for Teens for Black History Month. Our *Teenage Advisory Board* remains dedicated; however, they are now at capacity with respect to membership. *Intro to Seed Saving*, *Garden Talks*, and *Art in the Afternoon* were available to adults with the latter consistently filling the room. In addition to *Tween Time* which is focused on a variety of relaxing activities for Tweens, Tweens also created cards at *Valentines for Seniors* for the nearby Assisted Living Center. Interested Tweens were also given a background to library work at *Librarian in Training*. Book clubs, writing group, crafting collectives and study room usage rounded out the use of library as community space.

Nanini Library – Caitlin Burns

Nanini is currently hosting an 8-week series of watercolor classes presented by the Drawing Studio. Registration opened at midnight one evening and all spots had been filled by the following morning. As demand grows for adult programming, Nanini will host more workshops and classes to support continuous learning in the community.

Our Tween Librarian attended Love of Reading Night at Butterfield Elementary last week, handed out free books and talked to over 100 kids and caregivers about our services. Nanini staff have visited schools in the Flowing Wells, Marana, and Amphitheater school districts in the past year and we're excited to be building important relationships with schools and school districts in our service area.

Nanini staff get thank you cards, flowers, and homemade treats from appreciative customers pretty frequently. A long-time customer approached one of our staff with a wonderful compliment last week. She said, "I have learned everything I know about patience from watching your staff at Nanini Library helping older customers. You are all angels!"

Oro Valley Public Library – Kaitlyn Sparks

Great Decisions had its introductory session in January and started their regular sessions in February. Great Decisions is an 8-week foreign policy program designed to encourage thoughtful, non-partisan discussion of current global challenges. The series proves to be very desirable in the Oro Valley community as it filled up with thirty participants within the first week

of registration. Participants told us they really enjoy the discussions, and the moderator does a great job.

AARP uses our room for tax help, and every Tuesday and Thursday we have a full hallway of people waiting patiently for their appointments. AARP volunteers have been running a very smooth tax help season with clear information for setting appointments. Tuesdays had 95-110 participants and volunteers, while Thursdays are half days with 55-60 participants and volunteers.

We have three storytimes a week, Babytime!, Toddler Storytime, and Preschool Storytime, which continue to fill up every week. Our Preschool Storytime presenter has been playing her guitar with storytimes, which participants have commented to other staff how much they love her playing guitar with some of the songs! Our Teen Advisory Board continues to meet and plan programming; right now, they are planning for a “Spring Fling”, PACC Donation Drive, and Summer Learning Kickoff.

District 2 – Supervisor Matt Heinz

Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Kelly Wilson

For a short month Eckstrom Columbus has had a full February schedule. We have been hosting AARP tax help two days a week, Make Way for Books StorySchool two days a week and Literacy Connects English language classes two days a week. These wonderful community partners have kept our library full of new faces exploring the resources we offer and getting library cards.

In celebration of Lunar New Year and in conjunction with our Biblio Lotus Team, our Library Associate Niki hosted a wonderful gathering with the Jasmine Asian Music Ensemble. Over 35 people enjoyed the wonderful music, along with Twin Dragon Almond cookies and Garden Lucky candy. We also supported this holiday with a wonderful book display which was very appreciated by our patrons. Our yoga, bi-lingual job help, Eclectic Book Club and a TEP home Energizer Workshop all brought a wealth of programming to our adult community members.

Our energetic youth patrons who we have grown to know over the months, engaged in a Card Making program using our Maker Space Cricut machine. This tool utilized programming and technology skills to create beautiful valentines. Winston the pup gave kids the opportunity to practice their reading skills to a very non-judgemental pooch. Homework Help, Chess Club and snack time continue to have very enthusiastic participation. Rodeo Break and Teacher planning days brought all day energy to the branch.

For the smaller children we brought Mama Coal's Kid Country to our Preschool Story time and cheerful music filled the library. The regular Monday Crafternoons are a huge hit with children and their parents coming to see what Miss Krystal has in store. Babytime brings all the cuteness, and offers wonderful opportunities for new parents to bond, and learn new skills to help their babies develop.

The flowers are beginning to pop in the planters and we are ready for Spring!

Quincie Douglas Library – Lois Miller

February has been a busy month at Quincie Douglas Library! We have been celebrating Black History month with a wonderful display of books by African American authors and an interactive coloring sheet hung up in our entryway for children to color on. We're also hosting three BHM events—one with local dance artist Barbea Williams and her dance troop; another with one of the members of the Buffalo Soldiers' chapters; and one with hairstylist Miss Sahara, who read

books and led a craft about Hair Love. All three presenters engaged in storytelling during their events.

Quincie staff also went to various local elementary schools to read to classes for Love of Reading month—they chose the books to read carefully, and were a big hit!

In addition, we've hosted other programs for all age groups. Presenter Emy taught a Japanese watercolor class for teens, and staff led a Valentine's Day crafting class for teens as well. Adults enjoyed a recycled jewelry class, and children loved attending a Valentine's Day themed Crafternoon session along with the regularly scheduled storytimes. We've also enjoyed having Story School, which is run by our partner organization Make Way for Books.

Our new Spanish Basic computer class has been very well received and attended. The class is taught by Literacy Connects volunteers and brings in many interested customers. Students have been learning how to use a computer and do basic skills like creating an email account, writing documents in Word and complete internet searches. After the class, the students come to the front desk to say how much they enjoy it and want it to continue. In addition to these programs,

Our snack program is also going strong. We give out snacks from the Community Food Bank from 2-4pm each day, and most days we give out the allotment of 30 snacks in total. The Homeless Resource navigator who comes on the first Wednesday of the month is very helpful and gives customers tips on how to get a cell phone, get food for pets, help with housing, and more.

The culture pass program is very popular at Quincie Douglas. We've given out almost all of our culture passes recently, especially with students off during the Rodeo Days holiday.

We have new hours and are now open Tuesday-Saturday and closed on Mondays. Additionally, we are open until 7pm on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

Sahuarita Library – Betsy Langley

We offered some fun presenter programs in February, including a Bali bead jewelry-making workshop and collage art. Teen volunteers are working on a new book display with their own book reviews. Storytime, Babytime, What's Up Wednesday, and Read to a Dog are very popular each week. An egg drop challenge had everyone's brainstorming and trouble-shooting skills on full display. The building was filled with excitement as youth explored new ways to keep their egg safe from destruction. Loads of school children are using study rooms after school to connect and hang out with friends.

Beginning and Immediate English classes taught by Literacy Connects are completely full this session. It's wonderful to see new faces and students moving up to the next level. Our book club read *Solito* by Javier Zamora and had a lively discussion on February 13. Adults have also been getting to know each other during a new Crafting, Coloring, Cookies and Conversation program for adults on Fridays.

Staff are excitedly preparing for our upcoming Maker Fair for all ages on February 29, 4:30-7 pm. This effort is in partnership with the maker spaces at Sahuarita High School, Walden Grove High School, and Pima Community College. We are planning engaging activities around STEAM demonstrations, science experiments, art displays, robotics, astronomy, as well as seedling and book giveaways.

Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – Lu Guerrero

The library hosted How to Draw Cartoons and Comic Books, presented by Frank Powers. Participants created unique characters for comic strips and books, using simple shapes and lines. This month Pogo Arts also presented Play Capoeira, introducing the Brazilian martial art to attendees. They shared the history of capoeira and fun challenges at all levels of fitness. Pima Community Health Department hosted a Community Health Mobile Clinic in the library's parking area, providing testing for sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy testing, birth control, and more.

Recurring programming also continues to offer a variety of services. Literacy Connects' English Language Acquisition course draws a full attendance twice a week. Afterschool Snacktime are well utilized, and the library recently added a fourth weekday to our schedule. Toddler Storytime continues to draw in new families audience each week and is building its participant community. Library staff were invited to participate in Love of Reading Week at Carrillo Elementary. Staff also participated in Literacy Night at Borton Elementary.

Santa Rosa Library – Michaela Grady

February sees the end of our Make Way for Books Story School programming. This program has had an amazing response and turn out, allowing for literacy support for children and their families. Additionally, Santa Rosa is hosting a special Yoga Storytime with one of our library presenters. We've also invited presenters for our after-school programming with LED cards, and a special presentation by the Reid Park Zoo.

Our adult patrons have been led by staff in making scrapbooks. They learned about different techniques to create a keepsake for all of their special memories. Not to be outdone, the tweens and teens created some gifts this month for themselves or others by making cards, bracelets, bookmarks, and paper flowers. The library pages helped with this by dreaming up some of these fun and creative programs. Library staff also featured a physics lesson with STEAM cars. Everyone from children to their adults were able to explore the library by completing an extra sweet Valentine's Day scavenger hunt. We are looking forward to using the cyanotype kit loaned by the CSO to combine science and art. And of course, the crowd favorite, Loteria, will be presented by our staff. Not only do the kids love to play and win, they enjoy practicing their Spanish vocabulary together.

Finally, we're excited for the beginning of Spring, and we were able to mark this by harvesting the garden that we planted with help from the University of Arizona's Garden Kitchen. Our bounty included lettuces, radishes, and herbs.

District 3 – Supervisor Sylvia M. Lee

Caviglia-Arivaca Library – Jodi Ohlson

February was a challenging month at the Caviglia Arivaca Library. In addition to our scheduled programming, opportunities for outreach and forming new community partnerships have kept us busy and feeling creatively engaged. Library Technical Supervisor Madian Romero, and Librarian II Lupita Flores of Joyner Green Valley have been participating in Literacy Nights at Sopori Elementary School. From Madian: "...Sopori will pick a book of the month, read it, and then have crafts that have to do with the theme of the book. Attendees also get a free copy of the book! The evening also includes dinner for the families, sponsored by Women Who Care." On this visit "...they read "Turkey's Valentine Surprise" by Wendi Silvano. In the story Turkey makes all these Valentine's cards for his farm friends wanting it to be a secret but all his friends knew it was him. I decided to provide the craft of making cards but with paper circuits! (Using copper tape, little LED lights and CR2025, CR 2032 batteries.) There were 3 crafts total, the kids only had 10 minutes on each table to do the craft, so I created kits, where I explained the craft and how paper circuits work. Then they took the kits to make the light up card at home.

They loved it! And several wanted to make their cards right there and then, which it was impossible to do in 10 minutes. I was able to show them how to play with their little light bulbs because you can make it light up with the battery. They had fun seeing all the different color LED light I had for them to pick.”

While Madian was planning and prepping for her Sopori visit, I was working to help plan for the Arivaca Vulture Festival on March 23, and working with Arivaca Human Resource and the Arivaca Fire Department on implementing their new Paramedicine Program. The Caviglia Arivaca Library will be hosting a vulture inspired Community Art Show, and I am excited to announce that local jazz bassist Glen Moore will be playing live music as the vultures fly in to roost for the night in the large eucalyptus trees just west of the library. I am also meeting regularly with Arivaca Fire Chief, Tangye Beckham, and several board members from Human Resource, to strategize and implement a plan that will encourage the elderly or homebound to consider the Paramedicine Program, which will provide local supports for aging in place. This service is desperately needed in Arivaca, and I am proud the Caviglia Arivaca Library was asked to be part of its launch.

This month we hosted *Arizona Humanities presenter Jay Cravath*; and *Fiber Arts Friday* was a hit with requests to host it weekly rather than monthly. The Book Group read *Assistant to the Villain* which was a hit with few and a miss with many, which made for a loud and lively meeting. We also had a presentation on *How to Care for Rabbits*, complete with rabbits and a diverse group of attendees divided between rabbits as pets and rabbits as a protein source. Yet another lively discussion in the meeting room!

Flowing Wells Library – Angie Grischkowsky

In February Flowing Wells changed from being open Mon – Fri to being open Tues – Sat. We have heard from several people how happy they are about the new hours working better with their schedules.

In February we also had some faulty ceiling tiles replaced in our multipurpose room, study rooms, and main entrance and computer lab. The new ceiling looks fabulous and should take care of the previous issue we had with tiles falling during especially humid parts of the year. Patrons have remarked that the new tiles look great.

In addition to all of our usual programming, this month we also offered a Mah Jongg program for adults, courtesy of the Biblio Lotus team and Lunar New Year, a Crafternoon Bracelet Making program for kids and families, and a preschoolers’ music program from Mamma Coal that had the little ones and their caregivers dancing and clapping along!

And finally we are pleased to be hosting Laura Markowitz, our current Writer in Residence, for weekly one-on-one sessions, as well as a large-format workshop on Writing Engaging Podcasts, Radio Plays, and Other Audio Works of Fiction and Nonfiction, which was a unique and topical subject that appealed to many.

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Sam Hennig

February has been a busy month for celebrating diversity, inclusion, and access everyday! Children’s staff focused on Love of Reading, Black History Month, Lunar New Year, Valentine’s Day and the Tucson Rodeo throughout the children’s area on our bulletin board and displays, and in our storytimes and activities.

Recently, we conducted a library tour and shared 3 of our special “library secrets” with a group of twelve adults who are part of a day program called WOLVES at Beacon Group. We worked with each of them to learn how to search the catalog. WOLVES is a program for adults with disabilities to practice work and life skills. The purpose of their visit was to get their members more comfortable being in public settings and learning how to interact with people. They all

commented that they enjoyed being at the library, and we are planning to schedule another visit soon, so they can continue to learn more about using the library.

Teen Services enjoyed a very flexible February where we tried to be attentive to the needs of our afterschool community by offering movies in the library during the early-release days. Teen Advisory Board has continued to develop their skills by working together to make a poster announcing the next in-library passive program run by teens for teens, "Pigmagedon" where two resin pigs will be hidden in the teen area every afternoon for a quick program to engage the teens that are only in the library for a few minutes before being picked up by guardians. Teen Services has also unveiled a new long-term display called "Adulting 101" where various resources from both the library, county government and community partners will be put on display to address the continued desires expressed by teens for resources on how to develop life-skills. The goal of the Adult 101 display is not only to satisfy the desire from life-skills passively but to also encourage teens and young adults to fill out a survey about what programming related to life-skills they would be interested in attending.

Adult services staff are excited to host another Writers In Residence program. For February, March and April, we have author Laura Markowitz who will be meeting with writers one on one regarding their works in progress, project ideas, writing challenges, or questions about books proposals, agents, self publishing, and more. We look forward to having other programs like this in the future, as they are well received by our patrons.

Woods Memorial Library – Chinyere Olumba

"The most important thing is to try and inspire people so that they can be great in whatever they want to do." -Kobe Bryant

February has been a month of inspiration for Woods Memorial Patrons. Woods Memorial staff welcomed and inspired 2 elementary classes from Prince Elementary School on February 6th and February 3rd. Our small patrons had the privilege of getting a story time and tour from youth librarian Meg and they also were able to receive library card applications. Also, on February 20th we held an Amphi parents as teachers' program that allowed parents to see how the library can be of value to them.

This Month at Woods Memorial, we have revamped the *TNT program* and now call it, *Makers Mayhem*. The *Makers Mayhem* program started with the first program on February 3rd, and February 7th, with *Black History Button Art* from 3-4:00pm. On Saturday, February 10th, Chinese New Year Celebration with *Paint with Woods*, and *Movie Day with Woods* program. On February 14th, Valentine's *Paint with Woods*. On February 17th, we learned about Jean-Michel Basquiat and painted like Jean-Michel Basquiat. On February 24th, patrons will be able to create a *mug project* using quotes from African Americans throughout history using the Cricut mug press. And to end Black history month patrons will be able to create a bracelet using the colors of Black history (black, green, red, and yellow).

Also, in February the patrons were still and are able to participate in Woods Memorial, *Read to a Dog*, *Family & Baby Time*, *Homework Help*, *Job Help*, *Snack Time*, and *English Classes with Literacy Connects*.

District 4 – Supervisor Steve Christy

W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station – Mary McKinney

The room was dangerously close to occupancy as a beloved staff member, Mr. Tim bid adieu with a storytime finale. Even fans of years past came to give their best wishes and show their

appreciation for all that they had gained from attending storytime through the years. There were stories, songs, dances, many laughs, and even some tears. It was clear to see that Mr. Tim's years of dedication had made a positive and remarkable difference in the lives of many children...and their caregivers too.

The community welcomed the Year of the Dragon as they enjoyed a performance by Jasmine Asian Music Ensemble (JAM), featuring Asian music performed on a variety of traditional Chinese instruments in the afternoon on February 22.

Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation gave a Seeds and Sprouts presentation on February 23. The kids explored the magical world of seeds and sprouts as they learned how plants grow, what parts of the plant we eat, and sprouting and seed-saving activities to do at home.

Joyner-Green Valley Library – Heather Tyndall

The Joyner-Green Valley Library refresh is complete! The new Service Desk functions very well and looks great (compliments from patrons abound!), and staff really appreciate their new workspaces in the backroom. *Family Storytime* returned this month as did our *Read to a Dog* program. The latter now has two sessions a week: Tuesday afternoons with lovable golden retriever, Lucy, and Friday afternoons, with adorable Maltese poodle, Mali. In addition, Librarian II Lupita and Librarian I Kelli conducted their second outreach with the staff at Continental School District, who expressed praise for the informative presentation about library resources on mental health and appreciation for some meditation exercises led by one of the volunteer leaders of our weekly library program, *Mindfulness Meditation and More*.

February also brought the kick-off of two new, weekly children's programs at Joyner-Green Valley Library. Children aged 2-5 years and their caregivers, enjoyed stories, songs, and activities in English and Spanish during *Hora de Cuentos Bilingüe (Bilingual Storytime)*. The second new program, *STEAM ScholarSphere*, provides students Kindergarten-8th grade with opportunities to explore science, technology, engineering, art, and math through hands-on activities. For example, participants designed and built towers using only paper tubes and paper plates, hypothesizing and testing which designs would yield the tallest and most stable towers.

The month was also rich in a variety of experiences for adults in our community. Customers got assistance with their property tax exemption applications from representatives of the Pima County Assessor's Office, listened to The Outlaws perform a mix of rock, pop, and country during *Music @ Your Library*, and/or discussed Linda Ronstadt's book, *Feels Like Home: A Song for the Sonoran Borderlands* at the *Page Turners Book Club* meeting. Others practiced yoga, enjoyed this month's Tucson Museum of Art *Docent Talks* (one about the artwork of 12 African American women artists, and the other called "Matisse, the Magnificent Master of Color"), and/or donated 39 units of blood to the American Red Cross.

Joyner-Green Valley Library also hosted a Writers Workshop Series given by the renowned Gregory McNamee, author, editor, photographer, and publisher who has over 40 books to his credit along with thousands of articles, essays, reviews, poems, short stories, and interviews. Each of the four workshop sessions focused on a different topic, including nonfiction writing, self-publishing, blogging, and travel photography. The limit of 12 participants at each session afforded all a generous amount of Greg's expertise in the service of their individual projects.

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library – Christine Russell

The staff at Kirk-Bear Canyon Library was ready to leap into February. Three of the top ten items checked out at the branch have been Culture Passes, and from our Seed Library, radishes broke into the top ten too! Monthly displays in our glass cases provided by Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library included nods to the gem show, lunar new year and Valentine's Day, as well as a celebration of Black History Month.

Patrons came out to learn something new. Our *Knitting Class* sponsored by the Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library has been a great success with morning classes averaging 10 people and afternoons about 5. This month's *Garden Talk*, presented by the Pima County Master Gardeners from the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension was on Herb Gardening. The 12 attendees were ready to grab some seeds from the seed library and get their garden growing.

Interactive discussions abounded this month. The *Great Decisions 2024* program is in full swing with over 25 people coming for discussions every week. Participants have a book of materials created by the Foreign Policy Association with articles to read before discussion. This month they've covered Science Across Borders, the US/China Trade Rivalry, NATO's Future and Understanding Indonesia. Finally, for adult programming we ended the month with our Kirk-Bear Canyon Library Book Club discussion of *The Last Beekeeper* by Julie Carrick Dalton. Our usual 20 attendees were here to talk about this environmental-dystopia novel.

Our children's librarian has been all over this month. She started with a *Love of Reading* outreach at Agua Caliente School where she interacted with 200 people! Our monthly Read to a Dog on February 13th had over 20 attendees. The kids love reading in a low-stress, judgement-free environment. As usual, our *Sensory Program*, targeted at neurodivergent children five and under, was a hit, with the four sessions averaging 35 people per session. Our weekly *Storytime* continues to be a big draw with about 80 children and families attending each week.

Miller-Golf Links Library – Anna Lawrence

The Miller-Golf Links library has been very busy during the month of February, hosting several very popular programs for all ages, including a Hula Dance Class, Acro Yoga, Friendship Bracelets, and Seed Mosaics for any age group. We had children, teens, and adults in every one of these multi-generational programs! For children only, GLF hosted a Bilingual Story Time en Inglés y Español para Aprender y Jugar. Tweens and teens have their Wednesday hangout time, and the Book vs Movie Club, this month featuring the book/movie comparison for *Hidden Figures*. Continuing our partnership with Literacy Connects, GLF hosts a twice weekly GED session. Attendance has been low, but we hope to continue spreading the word. Attendance has not been low for our adult book club, The Voracious Readers. This month they discussed *Love Poems* by Pablo Neruda; some readers did not enjoy the collection of poetry since it did not rhyme, but one patron in particular loved it so much she put more poetry collections on hold.

In addition to programming, we remain busy with our circulation and gate count numbers. Upon returning from the long Presidents Day weekend, 8 carts of materials were waiting to be checked in. Never a dull moment!

Murphy-Wilmot Library – Kathy Konecny

Culture passes are a big hit at the Murphy-Wilmot Library. Parents and caregivers who attend our Family Storytime started a group that checks out these passes and takes their children to the various venues. Thanks to these passes children are enjoying hands-on science and cultural experiences at wonderful Pima County attractions including the Reid Park Zoo and the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum.

Murphy-Wilmot Library is the busiest Tax Help location for the AARP in Tucson with about 100 people participating in the program every Tuesday and Thursday during tax season. Customers are grateful for this program especially those who struggle using computers or those whose first language is not English. We are grateful for the AARP partnership and for the positive impact that their dedication makes on our community.

Our Meditation Class Series had great attendance. Each of the four sessions had 18 participants who learned about various approaches to meditation. Attendees shared how focused and relaxed they felt after each session. Many looked forward to starting a regular practice.

District 5 – Supervisor Adelita Grijalva, Chair

Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library – John Muñoz

ELP participated in some exciting outreach and programming events this month. We supported the Love of Literacy Night at White Elementary, meeting about 175 students and their families, and did Storytimes with 90 kindergarten and second grade students at Liberty Elementary. Bilingual Storytimes at the branch continue to draw a steady average attendance of 20+ families, on par with a special Bilingual Storytime from the Desert Museum. ELP also offered a Lotería painting class and our ongoing Chair Yoga class for adults at the Senior Center next door. Additionally, ELP continued its partnership with Dr. Jacqueline Barrios' Public and Applied Humanities Course (PAH 420), hosting about 60 University of Arizona students who are studying ELP's historic murals. Lastly, along with the rest of the Neighborhood Center, ELP was affected by closures stemming from the rerouted Rodeo Parade, and had to reschedule an outside presentation and offer somewhat limited services this week.

El Río Library – Em DeMeester-Lane (interim)

El Rio had a wonderful month of storytimes and outreaches. We had visits from Tully Elementary 4th graders to our library over the course of 2 days during Love of Reading Week where we signed up dozens of 9 and 10 year olds with for their first library cards. We also did a storytime with Tucson Garden Club as well.

Himmel Park Library – Heather Ross

Himmel Park Library had a lot of school visits this month! First, our children's and tween librarians visited the 8th grade of St. Cyril's of Alexandria Catholic School to discuss libraries, library cards, and what libraries had to offer. The whole grade wrote very kind thank you notes, and almost all of them mentioned how excited they were to share what they were reading as part of the visit. One student said, "I learned many things about my classmates!"

We also welcomed a kindergarten class from First Southern Christian School; and then in February, three kindergarten classes from the closest public school (Sam Hughes Elementary) came to get library cards, tour the library, and check out books before eating lunch and playing in the park. Sam Hughes Elementary School serves the immediate neighborhood and is within walking distance of the library. This is the second year we have done this in partnership with Sam Hughes Elementary School, and it was amazing to see children from all of the classes get excited about the library and receiving their first library card!

This month the Himmel Park Library was pleased to welcome back frequent guest speaker and our Sam Hughes neighbor, Dr. Albrecht Classen, who is a University Distinguished Professor at the University of Arizona. A warm atmosphere of community suffused the meeting room as 28 people, including friends, neighbors, and even some former students, gathered to spend their Valentine's Day evening listening to Dr. Classen's presentation, *The Middle Ages and its Magic*. The talk took the audience on a tour of the art, music, literature, and architecture of the Middle Ages to gain insights into the "magic" that medieval culture holds for us today. After the talk, Dr. Classen answered questions from attendees, through which he had the opportunity to debunk a myth (those grand medieval buildings were constructed by skilled craftspeople, not slaves), and to share what he believes to be one of the most important lessons we can learn from that illustrious period in history (the value of silence).

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

February has been a busy month for Joel D. Valdez Main Library as we prepared for and implemented an additional open hour from 9-10 AM Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Right away we saw lots of customers enjoying our extra open hours and visiting our library a little earlier in the mornings. We are thankful we have an amazing and hard-working team of staff to help us make this positive change happen!

Our February 8th Our Space program for our houseless community saw the return of Gertie and the T.O. Boyz. We had over 50 community members attend the program, enjoy a meal, and experience a sense of connection with others. We also continue to have our El Rio Walk-In Clinic available every Thursday to parallel Our Space and further support this community.

We also hosted the PACC outreach team on February 16th, our second time working with this great crew. We had customers lined up for free pet food and information, and the PACC outreach team kept busy the whole afternoon. Another successful partnership!

Richard Elías-Mission Library – Tara Foxx-Lupo

As Richard Elias-Mission library prepares to close for its' long-anticipated renovation and expansion, staff are working hard to alert customers and prepare them with alternative location information and guidance. Many are happy to hear about expanded hours at our southwestern-most location, Southwest Library, and will plan to use this location for holds pickup and other services.

In this last month we have invited the community in for programming around literacy, entertainment, Love of Reading week and Rodeo. Some of the programs offered in our last month include a Rodeo Storytime, guitar performance by Peter Biederman, Gardening for Birds and Butterflies, Yaqui Paper Flower making, a Grant writing workshop, Bracelet Making and a Storytime presented by Daniel Vandever. Mr. Vandever always draws in an audience and will be the perfect finale for our last days open to the public.

Southwest Library – Melissa Salazar

Southwest has now been open 5 days a week for a month, and we are slowly seeing the rise in numbers coming into the branch. We are getting more and more comments from the community about how much they appreciate this branch being open full time, and we are also getting more patrons from Mission to come and check out the branch before Mission closes for their renovation. There was no programming for the month of February as the branch has all new staff including a new manager, and we're starting to get to know our community and partners. We look forward to doing outreach and programming in the future.

Valencia Library – Ivonne Ramirez

Valencia Library continues to impress with its public program offerings. This month, teens and tweens took the spotlight, as well as integration of cultural knowledge from the Native perspective, which is a strong component of our community.

Teen and tween services featured two self-care programs developed by tween services librarian Lindsey. The Teen Time and Create Club programs incorporated learning about different natural plants and scented oils while making their own lippies balms. Participants enjoyed the integration of traditional knowledge base from an Indigenous perspective in the presentation. Teens, tweens, and their adults came out of the program with their own self-made lippie having learned both the STEAM aspect of combining materials to get the desired texture, as well as the cultural use and significance of different plants and scents.

Later in the month, an all-ages musical event with Gertie and the T.O. Boys brought together the Valencia Library community for a dance and cultural experience. The event featured Ciolim tamales from the San Xavier Co-op Farm and sweet tea, as well as Willa music to enjoy. This event supports Valencia Library's ongoing work to develop partnerships with Native organizations in our community and bring the local knowledge and culture into the library space.

We also received additional patron feedback at Valencia Library:

- At the end of their first crochet circle, a tween patron said, "This library is underrated—if people knew more about all the clubs and stuff you had here, they'd be here all the time." They finished tying off their project and said they were already excited about next week's Create Club.
- Two members of the crochet circle asked, "Is Valencia planning to host another public Spanish class?" They mentioned how they really enjoyed and appreciated the first one, and that they were eager to attend a Spanish class series, whenever we could schedule it next.

Activities funded by Friends Groups

Friends of the Pima County Public Library

Murphy-Wilmot Library- Hummingbird Painting

Richard Elías-Mission Library –Rodeo Storytime, Gardening for Birds and Butterflies, Peter Biederman Guitar Performance, Bracelet Making, Grant Writing workshop.

Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Mama Coals Country, Jasmine Asian music, Yoga with Vivienne Uyeda

Quincie Douglas Library – Emy (recycled jewelry, Japanese watercolor), Koru mindfulness reading

Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – How to Draw Cartoons and Comic Books, Play Capoeira

Valencia Library -- Family Storytime, Create Club, Teen Time, Crochet Circle, Cultural Presentation: Gertie and the T.O. Boys

W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library-Jasmine Asian Music Ensemble

Friends of the Green Valley Library (Green Valley & Sahuarita)-Writers Workshop Series, Family Storytime, Read to a Dog, Hora de Cuentos Bilingüe, STEAM ScholarSphere, Music @ Your Library, Tucson Museum of Art Docent Talks, Outreach at Continental School District

Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library- Great Decisions Series