
DATE: April 4, 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 –

This month the focus has been supporting our partnership with the Elections and Records departments for upcoming elections. Most of our library locations play a role in the elections, whether they are early voting site, general election voting centers, ID Stations for provisional ballots, or spaces where staff from these departments conduct pre-training for staff. We continue to provide space for the community to find a convenient spot to exercise their right to vote.

Library Services Manager – Ken Zambos

This month, I have met with managers and staff from across the system and took the opportunity to work at a couple of libraries for the day. I have met regularly with the Presenter Planning Team to review systemwide presenter arrangements, and have worked as a member of the Library Administration Team to help with the planning and implementation of our organizational goals.

Library Services Manager – Alina Rowe

For the month of March, I was able to help at the Southwest Branch. I was able to witness the increased foot traffic due to the closing of the Richard Elías-Mission Branch. Many new customers share how they did not know where the Southwest library was located until now and they mentioned how it was actually closer to their home.

The meetings I was able to attend were the one on one meetings with my managers and the monthly team meeting, the Biblio Lotus, Many Nations, and Nuestras Raices Affinity Teams meetings.

By attending the Admin planning retreat, I was able to collaborate with my colleagues and administrators in discussing the library of the future and what that may entail.

Library Services Manager – Vicki Lázaro

I spent the month supporting our organization by covering management duties at Santa Rosa Library. The great news is that we have a new Branch Manager coming in to manage the Santa Rosa branch, they start on March 25th. I also have been providing in-person and Teams video check-ins with Dusenberry-River, Wheeler Taft Abbott Sr., Santa Rosa and Miller-Golf Links Libraries. Performance Appraisals and new Performance Plans are in progress for existing and promoted staff. This month also included saying goodbye to Matías Torres, our Dusenberry-River branch Manager as they have taken a position in Oregon. I am supporting the branch at the end of the month, by being onsite, when scheduling allows, until a new Manager is in place. Supporting administration by assisting branches by attending and/or participating in the Vulnerable Populations Team, Collaborative Action Team Meetings, Policy Review Team meetings, Admin Planning Retreat, PRIDE Affinity Team, Library Planning Task Force and Public Service Manager Meetings. As the administrative lead of the PRIDE team, I connected Michelle Simon and the Pima County Office of Digital Inclusion with our group to brainstorm some ideas of how they could offer resources to people in the LGBTQA+ communities.

Amber Mathewson, our Director, has also tapped me to be the PCPL representative in partnership with the UA School of Information on a grant supporting education to the public on Artificial Intelligence. This 3 year project will involve planning, training and executing classes in public libraries, by library staff, about navigating artificial intelligence and using it responsibly. This month I also attended a lunch that allowed me and my fellow Library Services Managers to get to know our new Deputy Director, Jessica Thornburg, better. I was also able to support our Nuestras Raices Team by working at the Tucson Festival of Books tent on Sunday, welcoming patrons and handing out library resources and swag...free books!

Supporting my professional development in my Library Services Manager role by attending webinars such as Supporting transgender individuals: A conversation with Ben Greene, continuing my Assertiveness Webinar on Udemy and Retirement Income with Pima County.

District 1 – Supervisor Rex Scott

Dewhirst–Catalina Library – Christine Dykgraaf

The year's first quarter of programs closed out with a packed room of adults learning the basics of calligraphy. Participants raved about the class and scooped up books on the subject to pursue the art further at home. Children on spring break this month found the library brimming with art supplies, analog and online games, Legos, and a movie matinee. Current displays celebrate Women's History Month and Classics-Old and New. Materials from the Mission Library have complimented our existing collection so everyone can find something new. Our Great Decisions class continues to meet twice a month to tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges and topics. Staff are gearing up for the summer months and staff-led programs for kids, tweens, and teens.

Oro Valley Public Library – Kaitlyn Sparks

In March, we were a vote center for Early Voting, Emergency Voting, and Election Day. The elections brought in some people who haven't visited the library in a while; staff made quite a few library cards this month for the voters who wanted to start using the library again! Great

Decisions had more sessions in March, and AARP continued to provide tax help for the community.

For spring break, we had the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum talk about desert animals and bring some of their scaly friends. It was a great hit with the children and parents alike. We now have a library sponsored Teen Book Club that is being run by one of our teen volunteers once a month. They had a great turnout to talk about *Maus* by Art Spiegelman and are welcoming anyone who would like to join!

Our patrons have been very kind this spring and have let us know that “Librarians Rock!” and that the Oro Valley location is one of the nicest libraries they’ve visited. One man told us that he has used 10 different library systems in his life and our location was the “nicest and prettiest with wonderful staff!” Another mentioned how much he liked our layout, cleanliness, signage and displays making it easy to find items and discover new things, like the Seed Library!

District 2 – Supervisor Matt Heinz

Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Kelly Wilson

During the busy month of March, Eckstrom Columbus Library hosted the Presidential Primary Election, an informative Frank Talk, a Tucson Festival of Books Author Talk with Dominic Lim, AARP Tax help and resumed our Literacy Connects English classes. We also had the pleasure of engaging our neighborhood youth during their Spring Break from school with a movie day and Breakout Box/game day. Our monthly Yoga, Book Club and Read to a Dog were all well attended and appreciated. Our very popular Chess Club continues with great weekly attendance. How to Draw Comic Books with Frank Powers drew a crowd of enthusiastic, aspiring artists and the Five Sweet Seasons Workshop helped guide our local gardeners into their Spring plantings. Snack time remains a favorite resource for our local families and after school youth. Today a patron let me know that his meeting with the Community Resource Officer who tables at our library had led to him getting a phone and a job which put him on the path to secure housing!

Quincie Douglas Library – Lois Miller

We’ve had lots of fun activities for children at Quincie Douglas Library in March! Our children’s librarian, Miss Brie, has put a lot of thought and work into planning engaging programs for kids. On March 2, she planned a Dr. Seuss’ birthday party, compete with a cupcake cake with Dr. Seuss on it, craft activities, and a story time session where she read his books to the kids. On March 16th, Miss Brie held a Saint Patrick’s Day crafternoon where the kids made green crafts, and posed for selfies in front of a green backdrop.

On Tuesday, March 19th, she held a Very Hungry Caterpillar storytime. The kids in the community love to come to Miss Brie’s programs!

On Tuesday, March 15th teen artists Amariah and Rayne volunteered to teach an art class to children. They called it “Be Bold, Be Brave!” and included art therapy in their class instructions. After each child painted on a canvas, they could choose to share their paintings with the rest of the group—they described them, and explained why they painted what they put on the canvas. Teens and adults enjoyed a painting class with Dolores Haro, a very popular presenter. YA staff also offered a comic or manga creating class.

Adults at Quincie Douglas are still really enjoying learning basic computer skills in the Spanish Basic Computer Class offered by Literacy Connects volunteers. They also participated in a creative bookbinding class offered by Julia Miller.

On Tuesday, March 26th we are looking forward to an author talk from presenter and author Dr. Nooshie Motaref. This is part of the Welcome to America team's Beyond the Book author presentation that will take place every quarter.

Sahuarita Library – Betsy Langley

On March 6, The Tucson Children's Museum was here to present Dino Discovery, a dive into the prehistoric era. Read to a Dog remains super popular with community members. We offer two weekly programs in our warm and inviting Storytime Room with the lovely Chihuaua, Molly, on Wednesdays and a sweet German Shepard, Rex, on Thursdays. Both dogs have qualities that children love, so this has been a great way for them to relax and develop confidence in their reading skills.

Our Book Club read and discussed *Olga Dies Dreaming* by Zochitl Gonzalez this month. Musician, Dave Shaul, brought in the soothing sound of harps from around the world and performed for 17 participants on March 16, giving folks an opportunity to handle and play the instruments.

Unfortunately, the February Maker Fair had to be cancelled due to circumstances outside our control. However, staff are working on rescheduling for March 28, 4:30-7 pm! We continue to plan with maker space educators at Sahuarita High School, Walden Grove High School, and Pima Community College. We will offer STEAM demonstrations, science experiments, art displays, robotics activities, as well as seedling and book giveaways. Earlier that day, we'll also have a program on Afro-Brazilian Music, with rhythms, songs and instruments of Capoeira and engaging activities for all ages.

Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – Lu Guerrero

In March, the library kicked off the month by inviting presenter Lori Jo as a storytime guest. Lori shared activities and stories with participating families that nurture artistic talents through engaging sensory activities. Children had fun listening and singing along to Lori's guitar playing and later created a sun-inspired craft activity. The same week, the library hosted Frank Talk: What is Civic Engagement? in partnership with Arizona Humanities and Arizona State Library. Attendees had the opportunity to engage in a conversation about the issues communities currently face and what people can do about them.

Later in the month Yusuke Bano presented Koi Fish Watercolor & Salt Art. Teens and children were invited to learn to paint using salt. The library also hosted a Local Artist Reception for Emma Sezzi, whose artwork will be displayed at Sam Lena-South Tucson Library for six weeks, from mid-March through April.

Santa Rosa Library – Michaela Grady

Thursdays at Santa Rosa have gotten a little more exciting with our new weekly program, Read to a Dog. This program will help to strengthen our kids, tweens, and teens reading skills and help them to build their confidence. We also hosted a program making paper flowers, and a very special presentation on STEM featuring the magic of George McSly. We invited Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association to give a presentation on the solar eclipse in anticipation of the

phenomenon in April. Partnering with local organizations for their expert knowledge is a great opportunity for educating our community. For our younger patrons we have presented Story Time as well as hosted a Spring themed Yoga Storytime. For outreach this month, our Story Time is hitting the road to present to Pio Decimo. Little ones and their adults are coming together for a 1, 2, 3, Read with Me program all about nutrition and math, and we're happy to be partnering with the Garden Kitchen for that event. Finally, after positive community feedback for the program last month, we're hosting another scrapbooking program for our adult patrons.

District 3 – Dr. Sylvia M. Lee

Caviglia-Arivaca Library – Jodi Ohlson

This month has been exceptionally busy, with our snowbirds still in town and the additional kids activities during Spring Break. We started March out with learning to raise mealworms, which are easy to raise and expensive to purchase. Chickens and birds love to eat them, and I've had multiple requests to repeat the program in the fall.

Our Teen Advisory Board, with the support of Library Technical Supervisor Madian Romero continued their work on The Arivaca Pathway Project. Several teens also helped facilitate *Spring Break programming*, which included an afternoon movie, building mazes, Lego Bridges over water, and a Tallest Tower contest with toothpicks and mini marshmallows. We finished the week with an adorable 'If I Were a Fish' Storytime lead by Librarian Merrilee Steely, complete with ukulele and kazoo sing-along.

Our monthly *Art Salon* and *Fiber Arts Fridays* continue to build a following, and our Arivaca Library *Book Group* took a break from reading fiction to try *The Body Keeps the Score by Bessel Van der Kolk*. The book received mixed reviews, and inspired a passionate discussion on the impact of trauma on a personal, social, and global level. Patron's are excited about our new partnership with the Sky Island Alliance, and their new program which allows individuals to borrow wild life cameras for extended periods of time.

This month the Friends of the Caviglia Arivaca Library celebrated what would have been *Byrd Baylor's 100th Birthday*, complete with cake, ice cream, several readings from our favorite of Byrd's essays and books, and the planting of Byrd's Children's Garden for the summer growing season. Last year the garden was full of beans, tomatoes, flowers and gourds. We are all looking forward to seeing which of the many seeds planted actually come to fruition.

March ends with the Arivaca Vulture Fest, which we are thrilled to play a roll in. This all-day extravaganza of Turkey Vulture Culture, culminates at the library with an afternoon campy classic from 1957, *The Giant Claw*; a *Children's Art Exhibition*; and finally *renowned Bassist Glen Moore* will be playing as the vultures fly into their evening roosts in the giant cottonwood trees near the library.

What a month!

Salazar-Ajo Library – Daniela Buchberger

During the month of March, patrons continued to appreciate the Salazar-Ajo Library. Many of our guests were travelers, who stopped in to use our Wi-Fi or to simply use our facility to take a break from their trip. Comments such as "Wow this is a really nice library!" were gladly received by the library staff. We recently acquired newer soft seating and workstations that have been greatly appreciated by the community.

We concluded our AZ Speaks series with Dr Laura Tohe, the current Navajo Nation Poet Laureate and her beautiful presentation about Navajo Code Talkers. Attendees learned about a critical part of US history and provided library staff with positive feedback about how many new things they have learned through this speaker series.

Families continued to enjoy our regularly scheduled Wednesday afternoon program and shared their delight in the artistic exploration which this month included learning how to make pompoms and then turn them into critters. Our weekly Storytime paired with Yoga has also been very successful and families continue to join us to dance, play, stretch, read and sing.

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Sam Hennig

In March, we have been busy planning special programs and activities for our children and families for summer learning. Two San Miguel interns have been assisting our storytime presenter in babytimes, toddler and preschool storytimes. They have been instrumental in helping us with setting up for storytimes, playing our music, participating in activities, assisting with stories and songs, and cleaning materials after storytimes. It has been a great experience for them!

We are excited about partnering with Make Way for Books to host their Story School, a free, bilingual early reading program for children ages birth-5 and their caregivers at our library beginning in April. Participating families will receive 20 free books and school supplies.

For Teen Services, March saw the continued usage of the Adulting Display to bring in interests of 17-24 year olds with our first handout subject running out of flyers (resumes were the big hit). We hosted a robotics and classics games afternoon to accommodate the early release of the nearby school that also drew in other participants that usually cannot attend our 3:00 to 4:00pm timeslot for activities. Teen Advisory Board has shifted focus from author interviews into preparing to help host an Escape Room in April as well as working on creative project to help prepare decorations for Summer Learning. Interest in 3D programming has also been rising as attendance to TnT Tech Day has risen over the past month which has encouraged staff to incorporate more technology days into Summer Learning planning.

On Friday, March 8, Abbett Adult Services staff were pleased to welcome author Hank Phillippi Ryan, who was in Tucson participating in the Tucson Festival of Books. I had a patron just tell me that she really liked hearing Ms Ryan talking about becoming an author, and discussing her new book. Additionally, Mostly Books came to sell books, and they said that every person who attended purchased a book.

Woods Memorial Library – Chinyere Olumba

“You can find magic, wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book”- Dr. Seuss, was the kickoff theme for an outreach trip to Sells, Arizona for “*Read Across America*” month, which was held on Friday, March 2nd at the Baboquivari Unified District Intermediate Campus. The Librarian, Chinyere was able to read *Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock* and *Anansi and the Talking Melon* by Eric Kimmel to three, 4th grade classes reaching 78 students and 3 teachers.

In March, Woods Memorial Library was able to wow its' customers with crafting projects during our *Maker's Mayhem* program days. Which were March 2nd with Cultural bracelet making from

3-4:30 pm, March 13th and March 16th with *Saint Patrick's Day button Art* from 3-4:30 pm, and Master Gardeners Garden Talk on March 28th from 3pm -5pm. We have also been able to celebrate with our patrons through our displays for Ramadan, St. Patrick's Day, and Holi. And Woods continues to offer Mapping Q, a program that incorporates youth, art, and identity, every 4th Tuesday of the month.

Also, Woods this month will start Nourish and Flourish program, it's first collaboration with the University of Arizona outreach extension to offer the Cooking Matters series which start March 26th. Woods Memorial has also welcomed Daniel, who volunteers to help to create a love for math through tutoring on Saturday's from 1pm to 5pm.

Woods Memorial continues to offer its leading programs *Read to a Dog* on Wednesdays and Saturdays, *Family & Baby Time* on Thursdays and Fridays, *Homework Help, Job Help, Snack Time, and English Classes with Literacy Connects* on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am until 11:30 am.

District 4 – Supervisor Steve Christy

W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station – Mary McKinney

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum gave a desert reptiles presentation to kids on March 21. Attendees learned about the movement, defense, feeding and adaptation methods of tortoises and snakes of the Sonoran Desert. At Tweet Origami on March 22 tween and teens folded paper into a swallow, a hummingbird and parrot. Tweens and Teens made floral and mandala style Diamond Art Bookmarks at a Crafternoon on March 28. A kids' edition of *Treats & Titles* on March 29 invited kids to enjoy treats while hearing about some great books they will surely want to read.

March Madness swooped through the branch with brackets of competing books. Patrons voted to determine the Elite Eight, the Final Four and, of course, the champion!

Joyner-Green Valley Library – Heather Tyndall

In a special event for spring break, Nigerian Dwarf Goats returned to Joyner-Green Valley Library this month! Mama goat, Carol, and her offspring, Stormy, visited the branch, getting to know patrons of all ages who were only too happy to pet and feed them while their handler explained the ins and outs of raising goats in the Sonoran Desert. One patron was so thrilled that she photographed both the goats and their "contact information" in hopes of arranging a visit to her school!

STEAM ScholarSphere, our newest program for kids in grades K-8, was offered every Wednesday afternoon to coincide with early-release days from school. One week, a parent remarked to library staff that her son was so excited because his cancelled basketball practice meant he would be able to come to *STEAM ScholarSphere* instead. Students who attended the program this month created bouncy balls from simple ingredients, practiced coding with Ozobots, built roller coaster tracks with common household objects, used old CDs and chalk markers to create spinning tops, and made flubber!

There was also much for adults to enjoy at the library in March. Our monthly program *Music @ Your Library* featured the Hardscrabble Duo who entertained the audience with sing-alongs and other songs from the country, folk, and classic rock traditions. The Tucson Museum of Art

Docent Talk focused on the ways that motherhood has been depicted in art throughout history and across different cultures. In town for the Tucson Festival of Books, a panel of five authors brought a little of this year's Festival down to Green Valley. The common thread in the work of the participating authors—life in the Old and New West—played well with the Green Valley crowd, many of whom are fans of both Western history and the Western fiction genre. Finally, Joyner-Green Valley Library community members once again showed their humanitarian spirit and commitment with another strong, life-giving turnout for the fourth American Red Cross blood drive hosted at Joyner-Green Valley Library.

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library – Christine Russell

Time marches on and the adult programming at Kirk-Bear Canyon Library continues to draw enthusiastic locals. The Master Gardner series had 20 attendees this month learning about herb gardening for the spring. We also wrapped up our annual Great Decisions 2024 discussions. Finally, our monthly book club met to discuss *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann. Interestingly, our knitting club wrapped up last month but the members were so enthusiastic, they've begun coming on their own to knit and chat.

For youth, we're working to get our teen programs re-energized. That began with *Bali Beads with Martha Underwood*. The memory wire bracelets turned out beautifully. We've also increased passive art offerings in the teen area with a talkback table and intricate coloring sheets. Our children's program had another successful month of storytimes, sensory programs and Read to a Dog.

Miller-Golf Links Library – Anna Lawrence

On March 9, GLF hosted Francis Gary Powers Jr, the son of a famous pilot, who spoke about the events surrounding the shutdown of his father. This presentation was well received by those who attended. For tweens and teens, March was a great month, including a 90s craft program of making designs with perler beads, a drop-in hangout time, and our monthly book vs movie club, featuring *The Giver*. Origami for ages 7 and up was held on March 16, where children, tweens, teens, and adults all crafted together to create beautiful work from simple paper. Our last session of story time before our temporary closure will be a special Music and Movement time for preschool students. Children can also learn a little more about art with the Kidz Art Drawing Program.

The Golf Links library will close on April 1 for workflow improvements and reopen on Saturday, April 20. You will not be able to place items on hold for pickup at GLF until we reopen. For those of you who are graciously hosting GLF staff, thank you! We are all excited to have a fresh coat of paint, and a workstation for all employees, as well as other improvements. I hope you all have a chance to see our changes this spring or summer!

Murphy-Wilmot Library – Kathy Konecny

Six Boy Scouts visited the library to work on requirements for the Reading Merit Badge. Our children's librarian acted as the Merit Badge Counselor for this section of requirements. They toured the library, learned how the library is organized, got library cards, learned how to search the catalog using filters to narrow the searches, and checked out the books they found during their search. The scouts will also share books with others and complete a project such as reading to children or setting up a book swap with other scout.

Murphy-Wilmot served as a Voting Center in the Presidential Preference Election. Customers found being able to vote and drop off their ballots at their local library very convenient. Library staff were happy to support our community in this important way.

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, Chair

Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library – John Muñoz

ELP's Children's programming continues to be well-attended. We averaged about 25 participants for our outsider programming this month, including a puppet show, Storytime collaboration with the County Health Department, and a visit from the Comic Bookmobile. We hosted the latter at the Activity Center next door as they generously allowed us to use their larger space. We also hosted another class visit from Dr. Barrios, whose interdisciplinary work at the University of Arizona focuses in part on the relationship between historic murals and the communities where they are located; ELP's murals are an ongoing topic of study for her students. Additionally, we are starting to see increased foot traffic at the branch, presumably as a result of MIS' renovation closure, and are starting to provide more services here, including Homework Help.

Himmel Park Library – Heather Ross

Himmel Park Library has started *Babytime* again for the first time since the pandemic. People are very excited to hear that it is back, and the first *Babytime* on March 15 had two happy babies and their caregivers! Some parents who picked up a flyer also mentioned that the Friday afternoon time slot was perfect for them and their little ones.

On March 13, over 50 people attended the program *Reptiles!* presented by the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Accompanied by presenters Michelle and Nic, Nagini the Gopher Snake, Wilma the San Esteban Island Chuckwalla Lizard, and Vanilla Ice and Ice Cream the Desert Tortoises, fascinated the all-ages crowd. The "oohs" and "awws" could be heard all the way from the service desk at the appearance of tortoises Vanilla Ice and Ice Cream, who stole the show with their tiny cuteness, being only 10 months old and about three inches long.

Speaking of tiny cuteness, a very young patron recently captured the hearts of staff at the service desk with a sweet request for assistance in locating "Bunnies on the bus?". Staff

discovered that *Bunnies on the Bus* by Philip Ardagh was not on shelf that day, but they were able to satisfy the customer with companion picture book *Bunnies on the Boat* (greeted with an enthusiastic “Bunnies in a boat! Bunnies in a boat!”). Himmel staff resolved to learn more about the mischievous, transportation-loving bunnies our young friend was so passionate about. Several staff members read and immensely enjoyed the “bunnies” books. Both of the books were nominated for inclusion on our Staff Picks display, where they were rapidly checked out by other curious customers.

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

This month Main Library had several teen volunteers join our talented team in young adult services. They will be gaining workplace experience and developing library knowledge and skills. The volunteers go through practice interviews and then training with library staff on how the library books are organized and maintained. They will help support various library programs for children and other teens. Toward the end of March, we are happy to share that we had an expert giving a presentation to kids on how to care for rabbits as pets, and we got to see some actual rabbits in the library!

In children's this month, Red Herring Puppets presented an original musical of the classic folktale, *The Ugly Duckling*, where in the end the duckling realizes acceptance lies within oneself. For STEAM Tuesday, the Portable Planetarium erected their traveling astronomy exhibit, showcasing stars and constellations. Finally, children's held an event to dedicate Joe Pagac's stunning new mural, celebrating the art, literature and legacy of Byrd Baylor: longtime Pima County resident and UA alum. The event was held on March 28th, which is Byrd Baylor's birthday. Baylor's work presents images of the Southwest, with a deep connection among the land, the animals and its original, indigenous inhabitants. PCPL worked on this event in partnership with the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality, who wrote a grant to fund the mural itself. We are thankful for our work together! We hope everyone will stop by to see it.

The adult services team also hosted a very successful Frank Talk at the 4th Avenue Coalition Space, with 11 participants who had a great time discussing “What Is Civic Engagement?”. In addition, our Reference to Those Who Are Incarcerated team is hard at work answering letters; we responded to 249 letters (that's over 700 questions!) in February alone.

Richard Elías-Mission Library – Tara Foxx-Lupo

Richard Elias Mission Library staff worked very hard to prepare the building for renovation and expansion in the month of March. The library closed to the public on March 8th and staff remained on site to pack the building through the following week. All staff activities have been completed and the library will be closed until approximately Summer of 2025.

Southwest Library – Melissa Salazar

With the closure of Mission Library on the 8th of March, Southwest has seen an increase in patrons coming in to pick up their holds and also more check -outs for our culture passes. We also welcomed Mission Library's LTA Supervisor, Fred Alegria, to the Southwest team while Mission is getting their renovation. There was no children's programming for the month of March but we continue to have our GED help and Homework help at the Branch. Although there was no children's programming for this month, we are continuing to plan to have programming in the summer months.

Valencia Library – Ivonne Ramirez

As part of the Valencia Library and Readrunners Mobile Services team, Luther Watts has been managing the Deposit Collection since 2023. This this month, Valencia Library will increase our impact on Outreach and Community Engagement with the Bookbike program, with Luther as the lead. In early March, he began training with the Bookbike team at the Joel-Valdez Main Library, as well as shadowed an experienced Bookbike Ambassador through the streets of downtown Tucson around to Barrio Viejo and back.

As we prepare to roll out our own Bookbike team, additional staff at Valencia Library will participate in training for routes in and around this service community. Library staff and community members are already expressing their enthusiasm for bringing the bookbike program to the area.

Valencia Library hosted tour for the ELAA English Language Learning class on election day. On this day, class was hosted in an open area within the library and we took the opportunity to have an interest-driven walk-through and tour of the facilities. Participants we delighted to hear about our program offerings for all ages, as well as were able to discover the garden and seed library that were previously unknown to them. The tour ended with a short demonstration of the digital resources for language learning on the catalog computers and a welcome to refer to the public service desk staff for library card applications and any questions.

As the public services and programs hosted at Valencia Library are growing and evolving, even now through the addition of new library users to our branch resulting from the temporary closure of Richard Elias-Mission Library, as well as the AARP Tax preparation on Mondays and Fridays, we are seeing a high demand for staff assistance on the computers and at the front desk. Valencia Library staff have received numerous compliments and commendations from our library visitors for being patient, knowledgeable, and ready to share their joy and expertise.

Activities funded by Friends Groups

Friends of the Pima County Public Library

Murphy-Wilmot Library-Her Words, My Music: Storytelling Through Song; Pom Pom Craft Making
Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Yoga with Vivienne Uyeda, Frank Powers Comics, Five Sweet Seasons Workshop
Quincie Douglas Library – Red Herring Puppet Show; Painting with Dolores Haro; Creative Bookbinding; Dr. Nooshie Motaref
Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – Storytime w/Lori Jo, Koi Fish Salt Painting
Salazar-Ajo Library – Whatever Wednesdays, Family Storytime, AZ Speaks, FRANKTalk
Valencia Library – Family Storytime, Create Club, Teen Time, Crochet Circle

Friends of the Arivaca Library-

Friends of the Caviglia Arivaca Library: Byrd Baylor's 100th Birthday Celebration

Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library- Family Storytime, Spanish Bilingual Storytime, Sensory Program, Garden Talk: Herb Gardening, Great Decisions 2024, Jewelry Design: Bali Beads with Martha Underwood

Friends of the Green Valley Library (Green Valley & Sahuarita)-Raising Nigerian Dwarf Goats, STEAM ScholarSphere, Family Storytime, Hora de Cuentos, Writers Workshop with Gregory McNamee, Music @ Your Library with Hardscrabble Duo

Friends of Oro Valley Public Library Programs: Great Decisions Series, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum presents Desert Reptiles

Friends of the W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library- Desert Reptiles, Tweet Origami