

Pinal County Library District Newsletter

Director's Column

On February 19 we were thrilled to receive word that the LSTA grant applications submitted by the Library District were approved and fully funded. The Technology Enhancement grant for \$32,400 will enable us to purchase additional equipment in the form of network-aware printers that will aid in completion of the online project.

In keeping with the state-wide long-term goals set at last summer's ACTivate conference, we have been approved for funding in the amount of \$14,275. This is a joint project with McFarland Library and Archives to digitize the museum's unique collection of historical photographs and documents. The digitized photographs will then be mounted on the library's server and made available to the public via the Internet.

In addition to the above grants, the Apache Junction Public Library and the Florence Community Library were also funded. Apache Junction will receive \$17,000 for literacy project, and Florence \$3,000 to help them plan and organize a retrospective conversion

March/April 1999

project. Congratulations, Pam and Patty!

We have received the good news of grant awards, and we are on our way towards county-wide automation. What might be on the horizon for the libraries in Pinal County?

In order to prepare for the future, I want to propose that the libraries work together to produce a long-term plan. Strategic planning can help us visualize where we want to be in the next 5-10 years and keep us on track to achieve those goals. Old files at the District Office indicate that the last long-range plan for the county was done for 1989-1994. So far, responses have indicated that this Fall would be a good time to start the planning process. It is very important to have the input and participation of the libraries in every community.

The latest news on the Online Project: the gap tape and McNaughton back titles have been successfully loaded. By now, everyone is aware that John Rubin had to resign due to health problems. This will cause a few unavoidable delays while we search for a replacement. In the meanwhile, we are preparing to upgrade the Innopac to Release 12. The actual upgrade will take place while all libraries are closed, in an effort to minimize operational

problems. As soon as we have set a firm date, advance notification will go out. Release 12 is the first step toward Y2K compliance. In April, Innovative will be installing a mid-release software update, 12.1, as part of their ongoing software support.

Last but not least, is anyone else tired of calling the catalog "Innopac?" Perhaps there are a few good ideas floating around for a name for our catalog. Please share your ideas, and consider the possibility of running a contest to come up with a clever name.

Denise Keller, Director

REFERENCE & OUTREACH SERVICES

Genreflecting Workshop:

Diana Tixier Herald, author of Genreflecting: A Guide to Reading Interests in Genre Fiction, was at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library in February. She spoke on Reader's Advisory Service, which she defines as simply "putting people and books together." In order to effectively do this, however, one must have a broad working knowledge of authors and titles, and genres overall. The sheer volume of fiction across all the genres can be daunting; however, many resources are available to guide library staff through the Reader's

Advisory process. A copy of suggested resources is included with this newsletter.

As genre publishing continues to expand exponentially, genres are created, transformed, and blended together. It's difficult to decide where to shelve a book with many different elements--i.e., a Romantic Mystery. That is why the service element is so important; we can guide patrons to different sections in our library based on what we know of their reading preferences.

In our "high tech" age, the human element ("high touch") can be easily overlooked as we strive to provide faster and broader access to electronic resources and information for our patrons. But how many of us remember attending the library as a small child, and having the librarian place that absolutely perfect book into our hands? For many of us, that early contact turned us into library users (and employees!) for life. It is important not to forget our roots as we seek to define our identity within the information age. Nothing is more satisfying than personally connecting our patrons with the books that speak to them.

Don't Forget:

April 16 at PCLD, 8:30 - 4:00:

REFERENCE TRIAGE: The Fine Art of Question Handling:

This course will focus on the steps involved in clarifying with the client what the reference question is, and constructing an appropriate strategy for tackling the question. The course will identify the variables that affect the question handling process: "internal"

variables, such as the mission of the library, as well as the resources available and "external" variables relating to the client such as age, native language, educational level, and status.

PLEASE R.S.V.P. to myself or Antoinette if you would like to attend. Space is limited!

New at PCLD Professional Reference:

Madame Audrey's Guide to Mostly Cheap But Good Reference Books for Small and Rural Libraries, by Audrey Lewis.

"A comprehensive and cost-conscious resource for locating fundamental reference sources to use in developing a small -- but strong -- reference collection. This fun-to-use guide provides complete annotations for the reference sources small libraries should offer in a solid reference collection."

Being Analog: Creating Tomorrow's Libraries, by Walt Crawford.

"In today's competitive funding environment, digital dreams of virtual libraries pose the real threat of misguided physical and budgetary planning. Crawford's cogent arguments will help you articulate your own viewpoint to administrators, staff, or users who claim that the virtual library will do it all for less. He explores the roles of libraries and the reasons people use libraries. He helps you make choices among the ever shifting, complex combinations of digital and analog resources."

Linda Shaw, Reference/Outreach Services

INNOPAC TIPS AND TRICKS

We're creating a new column in our newsletter for libraries to share helpful information about the Innopac. If you've discovered a method, procedure, hint, etc. which works well for you, chances are it would be helpful to others as well. Please send anything you'd like to include to Linda Shaw at PCLD.

This month's tip comes from Patty Freeman at the Florence Community Library:

When preparing to "go live" with the Innopac system, it is helpful to label your collection with color-coded slips of paper inside the book to alert Circulation staff as to its status. Patty has run off three different slips:

- 1.) Orange: No Bibliographic record for this title. (Needs full cataloging, including Bib and Item records.)
- 2.) Yellow: Add our location to holdings for this title. (Needs an item record, and "03" field in Bib record needs library location added.)
- 3.) Pink: Update item record and add barcode for this title. (Bib and Item records exist; barcode addition is all that's left to do.)

This helps Circulation staff to determine whether an On-the Fly Bib and/or Item record will need to be created, or if a barcode is all that is missing from an existing record. A red dot on the top of the book indicates that the book is completely done--Bib and Item record exist, and barcode has been entered.

NEWS AROUND THE COUNTY

APACHE JUNCTION:

Listed below are our upcoming events for the months of March and April, 1999.

March 9 at 6:30 p.m. Vera Walters will present a program entitled "**Birds of the Sonoran Desert.**" Ms. Walters is an instructor at CAC.

March 25 Victoria Mogilner will be here to give a program about "**Natural Stress Reduction**" at 7 p.m. This sounds like one many of us can use!

April 10 RIF will have a **picnic at Prospector Park** for RIF families.

For National Library Week, April 11-17, we will have the **American Girls Dolls** on display. Our finale for the week will be an **American Girls tea** for girls aged 7-10 on Saturday, the 17th. The tea will take place at 11 a.m. Registration is required and will begin on April 1. Girls are invited to bring a favorite doll. (This does not need to be an "American Girl" doll.)

April 15 the Great Arizona Puppet Theater will present "**The Packrat who Cried Bobcat**" at 10:30 a.m.

Toddler and Preschool Storytimes continue through April 7 on Wednesday mornings. This session we are adding an experimental drop-in session on

Friday mornings. The first day had a very good turnout!

Free introductory classes on computer use continue. These are offered in **Microsoft Word, Internet and E-mail**. Classes are for all ages and are designed for those with little or no computer experience. Registration is required. The classes are made possible through a grant by the US WEST Foundation.

Making a debut in the annual "Lost Dutchman Days" parade this year is our newly organized "**Book Cart Brigade**". The group is made up of enthusiastic staff members and teen volunteers. (Parade was Feb. 27).

The **library planning committee** has meetings every other week through April. The planning committee is made up of staff members, library board members and other citizens of the community.

CASA GRANDE:

Arizona Humanities Council Book Discussion "**Families**" continues with **Common Ground**, by J. Anthony Lukas, on March 16 from 4:00-5:30. Discussion leader is Chuck St. Clair. Copies of the book are available at the circulation desk.

"Writers of the Purple Sage," the Brown Bag Discussion Group, features **Education of a Wandering Man**, by Louis L'Amour, on March 18 from 11:00-12:30. Paperback copies of the book are available for purchase at the circulation desk. Readers are urged to bring their lunch; beverage is provided.

The Spring Series of Storytimes begins the week of March 30. "**Nursery Rhyme Time**," for toddlers ages 2 - 3 1/2 and their adult, meets Tuesdays at 10:00. **PreSchool Stories** for children ages 3 1/2 - 6 meets on Wednesdays from 10:00-10:40 and **Lapsit**, for newborns - 2 and their adult meets on Thursdays at 10:00. Storytimes continue through the last week in April.

The Friends of the Library will be holding an **Author Autograph Auction** on Sunday, March 21, in the historic Casa Grande Women's Club. Up for auction will be autographs from the likes of James Michener, Robin Cook, and Ursula LeGuin, to name a few. Autographs are on old catalogue cards--remember those? Doors open at 2:00; live portion of the auction begins at 3:00. Admission to this fundraising event is \$10 per person; light refreshments will be served.

The book selection for "Writers of the Purple Sage" on April 22, 11:00-12:30 will be **Angle of Repose**, by Wallace Stegner. Paperback copies of the book are available for purchase at the circulation desk.

"Murder in the Stacks: A Dinner Theatre Production," presented by the Friends of the Library, will take place on Saturday, April 24 at 7:00 p.m. \$25.00 per person; \$50.00 per couple. The play takes place in Chicago in the twenties; audience is encouraged to dress for the era! For additional information, call Sue Eberle, 836-9494.

COOLIDGE:

Coolidge Cotton Days were celebrated March 5-7. The staff of the library once again entered a float, of an old Rolls Royce (the car was trailer long and looked like a giant cartoon car -- it looked good!). Thanks to Frank Pannella who built the frame onto the trailer and to the staff who spent many hours putting the chicken wire on, stuffing 18,000 napkins into the chicken wire and spray painting it and making whatever decorations were needed. All of our hard work and creativity paid off--we won a first place trophy. All had a good time.

We are planning to hold the first ever **overnight pajama party** at the library on March 19th, we'll let you know how it turns out.

April 8: Betty Jean Steinshouer, "**Adobe Dreams**"
April 12 - 14: **Golden Book Hunt** (a little Golden Book will be hidden within the city limits, clues will be given daily at the library and all clues will be advertised in the Wednesday's Coolidge Examiner.)

April 14: **Appreciation Night**, 7:00p.m. Entertainment by storyteller Martin Rivera. Everyone welcome!

April 16 - **Patron Appreciation Day.**

FLORENCE:

Staff Changes: We have recently had two staff members

resign their positions at the library: Rhonda Gideon, due to ongoing medical problems has resigned. The position of Library Assistant Children's Programmer has been advertised. We will be conducting interviews during the first week of March, hopefully to have someone in the position by month's end.

Kay Williams resigned her position as part-time library aide in order to move to New Mexico. Kelly Sherwood was hired to fill her position.

Automation: Library staff is still diligently working towards the date we can honestly say we are automated. Items and barcodes are being added to the system daily. We hope to be finished with the initial process in order to have a big celebration during National Library Week.

Programming: Tuesday, March 2, 1999 at 6:30PM: **An Evening with Dr. Seuss:** To celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss, the library will sponsor an hour-long program of Dr. Seuss stories. Members of the community who love Dr. Seuss and his unique and creative use of language are invited to come to the library and to share in their favorite Seuss stories.

Friday, March 5, 1999: **Deadline for the Bookmark Design contest.** All entries should be turned in to the library or school office by 5:00p.m. Bookmarks will be judged during the week of March 8th and the winning design will be sent to a professional print shop to be reproduced for distribution during National Library Week.

Thursday, March 11, 1999 at 6:30PM: **An Evening with Ezra**

Jack Keats: Another celebration of an award-winning author of children's books is being held at the library, as Ezra Jack Keats will be honored during this program. If you are not familiar with the writings of Ezra Jack Keats, or have not read the charming book *The Snowy Day*, you will be in for a delightful surprise this evening.

Mondays, March 15 and 22, 1998 at 6:00PM: **Celtic Film Festival:** The library is offering the opportunity to view motion pictures filmed in "Celtic Country" (Ireland, Scotland, Wales) with international casts and themes. This is an opportunity to see some "classic" films. Films rated PG.

Wednesday, March 17, 1999 at 6:30PM: **Cead Mile Failte - A Hundred Thousand Welcomes:** MaryAnn Stoddard, a librarian at Florence Community Library, and frequent visitor to the Emerald Isle, will present a travelogue about Ireland. She will share travel ideas, suggestions on how to pack for the climate, and some great stories about the wonderful land of leprechauns and shamrocks.

Saturday, March 20, 1999 at 10:00AM: **E-Mail Workshop:** Library Staff will present a two-hour program introducing e-mail via the Internet with Hot Mail, a free of charge e-mail server. Space is limited. Registration is necessary to participate in this workshop.

Saturday, April 10, 1999 at 1:00PM: **Florence Community Library's Annual Bookmark Design Contest Winners' Reception:** In honor of National Library Week, the Florence Community Library will honor

the winners of their annual bookmark design contest with a reception and awards ceremony.

Thursday, April 15, 1999 at 6:30PM: **My Favorite Poem:** Library staff and community members will gather together to hear some of our town's citizens, young and old, read their favorite poems. This program is in conjunction with America's Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky's Favorite Poem program.

Saturday, April 17, 1999 at 10:00AM: **E-Mail Workshop:** Library staff will present a two-hour program introducing e-mail via the Internet with Hot Mail, a free of charge e-mail server. Space is limited. Registration is necessary to participate in this workshop.

Thursday, April 22, 1999 at 6:30PM: **Earth Day: Birds of the Southwest:** In honor of Earth Day, Vera Walters, a local expert on birds and an instructor at Central Arizona College, will present a fascinating program on Southwest birds. If you want to know what those feathered creatures are that frequent your garden, or fly through the desert landscape, join us for an informative program.

Saturday, April 24, 1999 at 12:00 Noon: **Teddy Bear Picnic:** Young library patrons are encouraged to bring their teddy bears to this hour of teddy bear stories and refreshments. Teddy bears are not required, but are highly recommended - they would certainly enjoy a bit of picnic and a story or two.

KEARNY:

The Friends of the Library are conducting a **membership drive** during the month of March. Flyers were sent to members of the community the first of the month. They will be holding a **used book sale** March 12 and 13.

The Friends are still selling See's candy bars, which are very popular with our patrons. All these fundraisers are intended to help pay for new lighting fixtures for the Library. They are also anticipating expenses that will come along with the turn of the century with the computerization of the Library.

Arrangements have been made to have **storyteller Martin Rivera** perform on Monday, April 12th, the first day of National Book Week. This program will be a Family Night, and is made possible by the Friends and the Eastern Pinal Literacy Council.

SUPERIOR:

Superior Public Library held a **Dr. Seuss Celebration** as part of **Read Across America**, on March 2, 1999. Dr. Seuss books were displayed throughout the library. From 3:00-4:00 p.m. a Dr. Seuss storyhour was presented for children of all ages. Several Town celebrities participated by reading to the children. Superior Headstart children were brought to the library for storyhour. Bookmarks, certificates, and puzzles were

given out to the children who participated. A trivia game was handed out to those who wanted to participate in the Trivia Contest.

March 19 - 21 is **Superior Mountain Festival**. We will be entering a float in the parade promoting the theme of the Arizona Reading Program, "READ ARIZONA".

Plans are underway for National Library Week in April. On Monday, April 12, we will present **Mr. Martin Rivera, Bilingual Storyteller** from Tucson, from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Friends of the Library are planning a meeting and membership drive. We will also host an open-house to introduce the public and local government officials to our new Online System. Although we have gone live and are using the system already, there are many members of the community who are unaware of what is going on in the library.

Calendar of Events

March 2 - "Read Across America," www.nea.org/readacross

March 16 - "Freedom of Information Day," www.ala.org/pio

March 17 – Systems Committee Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Eloy Public Library

March 26 – ARLIRT Workshop: “Usability Tests and the User Friendly Web Site”
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., ASU Libraries, Hayden Library, Room C-6

March 31 - County Librarians Meeting, Kingman

April is "National Poetry Month" - www.poets.org/npm/npmfrmst.htm

April 10 – "Arizona Book Festival," www.azbookfest.org

April 11-17 – "National Library Week," www.ala.org/celebrating

April 14 – Area Reference Librarians Meeting, 10:00 a.m.-noon,
Paradise Valley Community College Library

April 16 – Reference Triage Workshop, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.,
Pinal County Library District, Florence

April 16-17 – Basic Cataloging, Central Arizona College, Coolidge Campus

April 19-25 - "Reading is Fun," www.si.edu/rif

April 22 – AzLA Executive Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Yuma

April 23 – AzLA 1999 Regional Forum, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.,
Desert Hills Restaurant, Yuma

April 24 – Special Literacy Event: “Readers are Leaders”, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Downtown Main Street
area, Yuma

April 30 – Summer Reading Program Workshop, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon,
Pinal County Library District

May 15-16 - Arizona Convocation, Prescott

May 21 – ARLIRT/CULD Workshop, “ADA and Web Site Design”, ASU West

June 13–16 – MPLA Conference, Big Sky, Montana

June 24-July 1, ALA Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA

