

# Pinal County Library District Newsletter

## March/April 2001

### Director's Column

There are many projects afoot these days at the Library District. The problem is that we are so busy, there is barely time to look around and take stock. Relief is in sight, however. After a lengthy interview process, we have offered the vacant librarian position to Cheryl Conrad, currently with the Manatee County Library System in Bradenton, Florida. Ms. Conrad brings a wealth of experience to the position, having worked at Houston Public Library and the Montgomery County Library System in Texas. She will begin her duties on April 2.

In January, we were thrilled to add Andrew Kaplan to the staff (albeit temporarily) as the new SIRLS intern. Andrew is completing his last year at UofA, expecting to graduate in August 2001. In the meantime, he will devote 12 hours a week as a Cataloging Intern. Andrew began duties on January 17, working closely with Ellen to learn cataloging, database clean-up, electronic book ordering and interlibrary loan.

#### *"Wild Thing"*

The first two weeks in February were devoted almost entirely to *Where the Wild Things Are!* programs. Patty Freeman with the Florence Community Library and Sandra Mendoza and Jan Custis

with the Coolidge Public Library traveled from one end of the county to the other to present their entertaining program of stories and puppets. Patty and Sandra took the lead on program content and presentation, and the end product was very creative, humorous, and entertaining. Jan Custis was on hand to film the programs, but her real contribution was her appearance as the "Wild Thing." As some of you may know, wearing a heavy fur costume and dancing around in it is *not* easy. Linda Craft with the Florence Library knows how hot it can be, since she filled in for us when Jan had other commitments.

Overall, the team presented 18 programs with a total attendance of 2,480 children and adults. This year, we broadened the range of program locations by including the Mary C. O'Brien School, Coolidge Head Start classes, and elementary schools in Eloy, Kearny, Maricopa, Stanfield, and Superior. My thanks to Patty, Sandra, Jan, and Linda, without whom none of this would have been possible. Their generous donation of time and effort was far beyond the call of duty. They deserve a round of applause!

#### *Data Reports*

Back in December, I mailed blank copies of the FY99/00 Arizona Public Library Data Report to every library. Please use this form to begin data collection in advance. Availability of the online form has been delayed until May 1. At that time, it should be an easy task to transfer your figures from paper to

the online version. If this presents a difficulty for anyone, please feel free to send me the paper copy and I will see that it gets entered online. Please remember that failure to submit annual library statistics jeopardizes your library's eligibility for grant funding.

#### *LSTA*

The Library District has partnered again with the McFarland Library & Archives to continue the McFarland Digitization project. If approved, this 3<sup>rd</sup> grant will enable us to store all digitized images on an external data storage device that will connect through the network hub and allow the entire collection to be available online.

I attended the Arizona Convocation in Prescott March 4-5, and had an opportunity to meet and discuss possible projects with some museum professionals. Combining our library and programming skills in a collaborative project with a local museum could be the basis for an LSTA grant. Of central interest would be to encourage an interest in reading and history in our children, thereby creating life-long users of libraries and museums. Projects under the LSTA Collaboration category are due October 1, so we have time. Please let me know your ideas!

The last bit of news is that two more libraries went live on the system in February: Arizona City and Kearny. Congratulations!

*Denise Keller, Director*

## Cataloging Corner

### *The Difference Between a Catalog and an Index.*

The difference is similar to the difference between the table of contents in the front of a book or the index in the back of the book. The table of contents gives the title of the chapter and perhaps some idea of what it is about. The index tells you in which chapter and on what page to find particular words or concepts.

When you search a library catalog you are searching the table of contents. It will search for titles, authors, and subjects of books or periodicals. When you search a periodical index you are searching the titles, authors, and concepts from an article in a magazine or journal. Many indexes are now full text searches and scan the words in the full text of the article. It's like finding a word string in a word processor.

A catalog uses a controlled vocabulary. Words are pre-selected to facilitate searching. If you wanted to find something by Mark Twain would you look up Mark Twain or Samuel Clemens? If you look one of them up in a controlled vocabulary such as Library of Congress Subject Headings it will tell you which is used in that catalog.

*Ellen Fallon, Technical Services*

## News Around the County

### APACHE JUNCTION

Due to the very timely arrival of "2001: a Reading Odyssey" materials, that program is currently in place in the youth department.

Story times continue for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. There will be a "Corduroy" story time on March 28, featuring a personal appearance by that character.

There are three new Book Discussion categories in place for adults - "Gentle Reads", "Mysteries" and "Real to Reel" (books to movies). Teens have monthly book discussions as well. We would like to do something for the elementary schoolers. Has anyone had luck with a book discussion group for youngsters in the lower grades?

The Great Arizona Puppet Theater will present "Jack Rabbit and the Desert Tortoise" on Monday, April 2 in honor of National Library Week. Other upcoming events include a performance by the Mountainbrook Irish Cloggers on March 17 and a one-woman show about the life of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings on April 5.

### ARIZONA CITY

February was a busy month, with the Gates workshop, Book Sale, our Annual Meeting, and a float in Arizona City Daze. We are now on line in checking books out.

On Wednesdays in March, a certified representative from the Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens will be at our library. He will counsel people over 60 who have problems with insurance and Medicare, or skilled nursing home cost. There is no charge.

March 10 is the annual rummage, book and bake sale. A raffle will also be held on that day for some nice prizes. Tuesday and Thursday evenings the GED class meets from 6:00 - 9:00 P.M.

March 30 is the appreciation luncheon for all our volunteers sponsored by R.S.V.P. The

luncheon will be held in Casa Grande. Looks like in April we can catch our breath.

### CASA GRANDE

*American Girls* continues with World War II Mollie in March, and Kit, the newest American Girl, in April. Girls in grades 3-6 are invited to play games and create crafts.

The final program in the *You Were There* series of American Wars for boys in grades 4-6 will be the Vietnam War on March 28 from 3:30-5:00.

**Nursery Rhyme Time** for toddlers ages 2 - 3 ½ and an adult, Tues. at 10:00 - 10:30, beginning April 3. **Preschool Stories** for children ages 3 ½ - 6, Wed. at 10:00-10:40, beginning Apr. 4.

The joint Arizona Humanities Council/Casa Grande Public Library book discussion concludes its ninth year with *Hunger of Memory* by Richard Rodriguez on March 20. The **Lunch Bunch Book Discussion** for March 22 will be *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde. The **Lunch Bunch** title for April 26 will be *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Paperback copies are available at the checkout desk.

### COOLIDGE

The Library has a new phone number. You may reach us by calling 520-723-6030.

The library will be celebrating National Library Week April 2-7. Patrons will have the opportunity to enter a daily drawing and answer trivia questions. Appreciation Night will be April 3, an Ice Cream Social/Friends Membership Drive is scheduled for

April 5 at 1:30 p.m., and Patron Appreciation Day is on April 6.

We are continuing our story times, **Read-To-Me** and **Once Upon a Time**, on Wednesdays. We have a variety of ongoing computer training classes, such as **Computer Research Skills for Students**, **Computer Research Skills for Adults**, **Basic Microsoft Word**, **Basic Internet**, **How to use Email**, and **Basic Internet with Safety Tips**. Please call for times.

In addition to regular programs, we will have **Master the Art of Videography with Nathan Woodbury** on March 21 and **Night Shift Owls with Vera Walters** on March 28.

### **FLORENCE**

The Florence Community Library has undergone some changes in the past month. Library staff have moved the computers and Reference Collection to the area at the top of the ramp. The Easy and Juvenile collections have been moved to where the Young Adult area used to be, and the Young Adult, Spanish and Literacy collections have been relocated to the old Reference area.

New furniture and shelving has been ordered, delivered and installed in the new Computer/Reference area. We received and installed 4 new Gates computers, which gives us a total of 14 computers for public use.

Upcoming programs at the library include the **4th Annual Bookmark Contest**, February 12 - March 9. Children are invited to show off their creativity and design a bookmark to help us celebrate National Library Week.

This contest is open to those in grades Preschool-12th. Deadline for entries is Friday, March 9. The 4th Annual National Library Week Bookmark Contest Reception will be Saturday, March 31, 11am. Join the library staff in congratulating the winners of the Bookmark Design Contest.

Our Annual Poetry Challenge is planned for April's **National Poetry Month**. Entries are due April 6. There are two categories Adult and Young Adult ages 12-18. Enter your original poem that has never been published. Winners will be announced at the **Coffee House**, scheduled for Thursday, April 12. There will be atmosphere and friendly faces at this "Coffee House". Poetry readings, enter-tainment and of course coffee on the patio...just like in the days of the Beatniks. If you are interested in sharing your talents at this event please contact the library at 868-9471.

### **KEARNY**

On Friday, February 23 we had author Mary Ellen Lee give a review of her book *Danny and Life on Bluff Point*. This was followed with refreshments furnished by the Friends of the Library. Ms. Lee signed copies of her book.

On March 14-15, we will have a computer class for beginners on Family History. We hope this will help make our patrons more comfortable with finding online information. On March 27, we will host a craft class on making ink-stamp decorated boxes.

Our Friends have helped us by providing volunteers that can respond to some of our needs. While Joyce and Mary Louise are

gone on the March 9 and 16, volunteers will conduct the Friday morning story hour and take over decorating the bulletin board.

The Friends have decided to sponsor a float in the Pioneer Days Parade. We didn't have one last year due to lack of help. In the past, we have won trophies each year. We are hoping we can do that again and let the folks know we are here and an active part of the community.

### **ORACLE**

So much of what we do is daily routine, just keeping up with demand. We have an event tentatively planned, but no date has been set. This idea is from our children's story hour person, who wants to have a "Reading Marathon" with people sponsoring someone to read. Sounds unusual, but we hope it will draw some interest.

### **MARICOPA**

January was very busy getting ready for the new Gateway computers. Maricopa Library hosted the Gates training joined by Stanfield Public Library - a delightful experience. All volunteers were very pleased with what they learned and with the Gates Representatives.

February 5th the "Wild Thing" program was held at the Maricopa Elementary School. Many of the teachers later stated that it was the best assembly they had attended in years! February 22 Head Start visited the library for a round of stories and the local kindergarten came on their yearly field trip. One little girl was disappointed to find Sandra from the Coolidge Library was not here. She said

she liked the “lady that dressed funny the best.”

During the month of January all the volunteers got busy adding a bit of color to the library through new area rugs, plants and window dressings.

### ***SAN MANUEL***

The San Manuel Library Board of Directors recently held an election. Re-elected were Eva Wilson and Arlene Roberts. Resignation was accepted from Dennis Duffy, and Myrtle Trainor was appointed in his place. The board voted to remodel the bathroom in the library. As anyone who has visited us knows, this was much needed.

A story hour for preschool children has been underway in January and February. Denise Fisher and Brandy Lopez are hosts for a story time on Monday and Tuesday of each week. For personal reasons, Denise has had to drop the Monday period. Brandy will continue with the Tuesday story hour.

We are presently working with both elementary schools in town, First Avenue with grades K-3 and

Avenue B with grades 4-6. Both schools are using an Accelerated Reading program. Each school has a special shelf area for the books on their reading list. We have marked the books with stickers as the school does. Some parents are bringing children to find books that will help them to succeed at an even higher level at school. We do not give the tests. That must be done at school!

Mrs. Jamie Cole, Den leader for a Cub Scout group, arranged to bring her cubs to the library for a private tour. Mozelle Truman took the boys on a tour of the library, and each boy was given the opportunity to get a library card and check out some books.

In January and February our weekly hours have averaged 24 hours per week. As a result, our average number of patrons has gone up to 96 a week. This will drop when one volunteer goes on vacation in March. Since all our personnel are volunteers we are proud of what we are able to do!

### ***SUPERIOR***

Superior Public Library will resume regular hours on Monday, March 19th. Josie is back to work and believe me there is lots to do to catch up. Hours were shortened due to lack of staff during my absence. Lucy, library aide, has been working from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. in order to keep the library open at least for a few hours. I had surgery on Jan. 15th as most of you know and Margaret, library aide, has family medical problems and has been out since December. She has notified me that she will not be able to return to work. I will surely miss her and all the work she did. She has volunteered to come in and finish out our Preschool Program. The children were thrilled, but I think I was more thrilled than they were and most of all grateful. I wish to thank all those who sent cards and called me while I was recovering from surgery. I really appreciate it! Back to work and hope to get all caught up as soon as possible. Work never ends!!

## **Calendar of Events**

March 23 – *Soaring to Excellence: Agents! 'Bots and Intelligent Dots: The Technology Behind Electronic Documents*, with D. Scott Brandt (teleconference), Casa Grande Public Library, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

March 30 – Pinal Cty. Library Federation Mtg., Maricopa Community Library, 9:30 a.m.

April 7 – Arizona Book Festival, Hance Deck Park, Phoenix, 10 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

April 27 - AzLA Regional Forum, Globe

May 20- May 25 – Paraprofessional Institute, Tucson

