The Public Library Association Conference

Blizzards, Books & Best Practices

Thanks to a continuing education grant from the Arizona State Library, I was able to attend the Public Library Association Conference this March in Philadelphia. Despite the winter storm warnings and much chillier weather than that to which I’m accustomed, I found the trip to be a successful learning adventure.

Due to the weather, a number of attendees and exhibitors were shut out of Philadelphia or had to make alternative travel arrangements. Thankfully I arrived early enough to avoid any delays.

The snowfall in downtown Philly did little to dampen the spirits of our stalwart colleagues and the conference continued with minor adjustments to the schedule and more virtual participation whenever possible.

From the opening session with Sally Yates, who referred to public librarians as “thought leaders” and “doers,” to the very entertaining closing session with Hasan Minhaj, who tackled such topics as racism and immigration, this conference was inspiring.

Sally Yates spoke in the interest of justice, equality, and liberty. “Librarians are the keepers of the gateway to truth.” She encouraged each of us to continue our mission of providing the means of informing our communities so people with very diverse views can have a dialogue and find solutions to the issues we face right now.

I also learned more about how the library can be useful in tackling societal issues in our community such as homelessness, addiction, and illiteracy. As a panelist from Cleveland pointed out, “We’re not in the book business. We’re in the people business. It’s very hard for a hungry child to learn to read.”

The CHILTON Library is free to all Pinal County residents. Go to our website at http://bit.ly/pcazlib then click the RESEARCH tab. Look for it in the “Automotive” section.

Contact your local public library to get a FREE library card.
PLA Conference report continued

In addition, I came away with new ideas on reaching students and families and how we can empower parents to incorporate literacy activities into their homes. As a manager and a leader, I gained valuable tools for coaching a successful team.

Philadelphia’s rich American history provided the perfect backdrop for this motivating conference.

I’m grateful to the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records’ Continuing Education Scholarship, and the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS) for the opportunity to connect with passionate, like-minded professionals from all over the country and I look forward to the next PLA Conference in 2020.

Amber Kent
Casa Grande Public Library

APACHE JUNCTION
Family STEM Day

On April 28, robots, telescopes, and hissing cockroaches invaded the Apache Junction Public Library’s Family STEM Day.

Adults and kids alike visited with local guests showcasing hobbies and their work in STEM fields.

Staff provided games and hands-on activities that encouraged thinking around science, technology, engineering, and math.

We will be Rockin' and reading this summer with lots of fun programs for all ages. Teens will compete in a Lip Sync Battle, kids will have a "Minute to Win It" and preschoolers will have a wet blast at Preschool Splash among many other events this hot summer. All summer reading finishers will also get a free book of their choice from the Scholastic Book Fair the week of July 16.

For more information about our programs, visit the Apache Junction Public Library’s website at www.ajpl.org or call (480) 474-8555.

CASA GRANDE
Music to our Ears

Summer Reading is upon us at the Casa Grande Public Libraries and the Youth Librarians having been rocking out their school visits for the last six weeks! The kids and teachers love it! We have various activities lined up this year for the Libraries Rock program: Kick Off at the Pool (back by popular demand!), everyone’s favorite Wild man Phil Show, Taiko Drums, Sing-a-Long and Finale which will resemble a musical circus of activities! We’re ready to rock and roll all night!

Not to be outdone, the Teens also have an awesome line up with more Escape Rooms, Whip it Up (making healthy food), and Babysitter’s Courses in partnership with the City’s Fire Department which are already full!

Back in April the Literati Adult Book Club celebrated their 5th Anniversary at the Paramount Theater, as our theme was Road to the Oscars. We had a red
Around the County

News from the Libraries

carpet, paparazzi & a few “celebrities” even showed up!

The Oscar for Best Book of the Season (titles that were adapted to film) was All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque.

One of our new Adult offerings is a weekly Beginning Spanish Class every Tuesday from 1 pm – 2 pm. Word is getting out about this free class and attendance is growing!

Contact the Casa Grande Libraries for more information about all of their programs: (520) 421-8710

COOLIDGE

Spring at the Library

We had a great turnout for Saskia Tepe’s presentation and discussion of her book Surviving Brigitte’s Secrets: A Holocaust Survivor, Her Daughter, Two Traumatic Journeys. It is an illuminating story about the life of refugees after World War II ended. Miss Dani held a number of special story times this spring as well including our annual Stuffed Animal Sleep Over.

Pinal County Animal Care and Control, the City of Coolidge Finance Department, Police Department, and Public Works all stopped by to teach little ones about the services they provide the county and city every day.

This event was held on March 8th, which marked the 53rd anniversary of the first combat troops arriving in Vietnam.

Dr. Kathy Nakagawa of Arizona State University facilitated the FRANK Talk “Is This Racist? Racial Literacy and Social Media.” This discussion focused on race and racism young people encountered on a daily basis, through Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and blogs. Many students from Coolidge High School participated and learned how to engage in such a sensitive topic in a constructive way. FRANK Talks are made possible by Arizona Humanities and the Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records.

Additionally, our most recent American Red Cross Blood Drive saw the highest number of donations in two years! Thank you to all of our donors! Patrons will have another chance to donate on July 20.

Summer in Coolidge

We are looking forward to the “Libraries Rock” theme for our Summer Reading Program this year!

It all starts with our Kick-Off Party on Wednesday, May 30 at 2:00 p.m. at the Coolidge Youth Center (660 S. Main ST). We will have face painting, games, local organization participation, and of course, a chance to register for the Summer Reading Program. Throughout the summer we will provide school supplies weekly thanks to funds from our Friends of the Library and Dreamline Motors in Coolidge.

The Summer Reading Program runs from Wednesday, May 30 until July 13 and is for all ages. Simply stop by the library to register (parents/guardians register for children) and pick up a reading log.

For children in grades K-7, each time they complete 5 tasks on the log they can come in for a prize. For grades 8-12 and adults, after they complete a BINGO on their log, they can claim a prize (one BINGO per person). Completed reading logs are due by July 13 to be eligible for a raffle during our End of Summer Reading Program Party on Thursday, July 19 which will also feature a concert by local band Southern Scratch! This event will also be held at the Coolidge Youth Center.

Our regularly scheduled programs will continue to meet throughout the summer.

(Continued on page 4)
Here are a few of Coolidge library’s planned programs:
- Mini Book Sale on June 1 from 9-2
- Adult and Teen Vinyl Record Listening Party on June 8
- Rock Painting on June 15
- Pasta Car Races on June 23
- Frankenstein Week June 25 – 29 includes: an escape room, It’s Alive Frankenstein Construction program, and a science program by Dr. T-Rex!
- Community Baby Shower on July 14
- End of Summer Reading Party July 19 at 2 pm at the Coolidge Youth Center featuring Southern Scratch

For more information about these and other programs, contact the Coolidge Public Library at: (520) 723-6030

**ELOY**

**Bookmark Contest**

April was a busy month for the Eloy Santa Cruz Library. Along with our normal monthly programming, we had a few special events for the month of April.

In the beginning of April, we finished up our Library Moonlight Cinema season as the warmer weather approaches. In the cooler months the library hosts a monthly Library Moonlight Cinema. We sent up our large portable projector screen on the library lawn, along with our projector, chairs, and our sound system in the evening time after normal library hours. We usually show the newest family friendly release on Blu-ray. This program has been a huge success. Our library patrons seem to really enjoy it. We will resume our Library Moonlight Cinema once the cool weather returns.

During National Library Week, April 8th – 14th the Eloy Santa Cruz Library announced the winners of our Annual Bookmark Design Contest. This year was the first year we opened the contest to high school students, the prior years it was only open to grade levels K-8th. This year we had two winners. Each winner received a certificate and a gift card. These were the winning bookmark designs:

The winners’ bookmark designs were reprinted, and distributed during National Library Week. They will continue to be handed out for the rest of the year. Congratulations to our Winners!!

We ended April with a Super Hero Training Camp on Super Hero Day, April 27th. Each participant was given a mask and a cape. They trained by completing different activity stations that were set up in our large meeting room. Once they completed all stations they were awarded a Superhero Certificate.

On May the 4th the Eloy Santa Cruz Library hosted a Jedi training camp, where participants were able to train in the ways of the Jedi with Rey and a fellow Jedi. Each participant was given a robe and a light saber.

At the end of the camp each participant that completed the training was given a Jedi certificate.
The Eloy Santa Cruz Library is currently finishing up plans for our Summer Reading Program. We have a few special guests who will be visiting us during our program in June.

Please stop by the library and grab a Calendar of Events for June, or visit the library’s webpage on the City of Eloy’s website. We also have a Facebook page that will list all the library events for this summer.

For more information about these and other programs, contact the Eloy Santa Cruz Library at: (520) 466-3814

**Florence**

Summer Reading

The Florence Community Library’s 2018 Summer Reading Program’s theme is Libraries Rock! The program will kick off Saturday, June 2 and run through July 7.

During the program, patrons of all ages will have the opportunity to read for fun and prizes. The library will also host regular activities, including storytimes, crafts, guest programs, and more!

The fun will kick off on Saturday, June 2nd at 2:00 pm with *The Science of Sound*, a family-friendly program about the science and evolution of sound. The program will end with an activity in which participants will create their own vinyl record!

Other program highlights include: *Didgeridoo Down Under* on June 8th at 6:00 pm, in which presenters will show off Australian musical instruments in an interactive, educational program; the *Home Depot Building Clinic* on June 16th at 9:00 am. The second Florence Community Library ComiCon will be June 23rd from noon - 4 pm.

For more information about this and other programs, contact the Florence Community Library: (520) 868-8311

**San Manuel**

Earth Day Celebration

The San Manuel Library recently celebrated Earth Day with garden-themed programming and will continue throughout the summer.

Children and their families learned the importance of natural resources and how practicing conservation helps mother Earth.

Participants designed and took home their own projects by painting vibrant colors onto miniature flower pots provided by the library. They worked with potting soil and transplanted golden, copper, and brass marigolds into their new one-of-a-kind flower pot.

Earth Day participants also learned the essentials of caring for their plant including providing sunlight, adequate water, and basic maintenance.

Registration for our Summer Reading Program begins June 4th and continues through June 9th. This year’s theme is Libraries Rock. Programming will include craft times, movie matinees, and a visit from the “King of Rock n’ Roll.” Snacks and all craft supplies are provided by the library. For a schedule of activities and special events, pick up a calendar at the library.

Contact the San Manuel Library for more information about these and other programs at: (520) 385-4470

**Pinal County Library District**

Summer is almost upon us and that means it’s time for the Summer Reading Program at your local library. Visit our Calendar of Events for start dates: [https://bit.ly/pcldevents](https://bit.ly/pcldevents)

The Pinal County Library District offers a variety of digital products for use on your computer and your mobile devices - all free with your library card.

To learn more about the Pinal County Library District’s services, and the public libraries in Pinal County, visit us online:
- Website: [pinalcountyaz.gov/library](http://pinalcountyaz.gov/library)
- Facebook: [facebook.com/pcldaz/](http://facebook.com/pcldaz/)

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PCLD Newsletter : May - Jul 2018 : 5
Calendar of Events

American Library Association  
Annual Conference  
New Orleans, LA  
Jun 21-26

Pinal County Federation Meeting  
Coolidge, AZ  
Aug 24

Association for Rural & Small Libraries  
Annual Conference  
Springfield, IL  
Sept 13-15