

THE OPEN BOOK

Vol. XXXIV

October - December 2020

Published by the Friends of the Poway Library www.powayfriends.org

President's Message

Fall is upon us as we continue to wear face masks and social distance. The Friends Board of Directors meets monthly via Zoom. We are still unable to open the Friends Book Store but we continue to work on a plan that will permit us to open when allowed and maintain safety precautions for the protection of volunteers and customers.



We have recently established an email for you to reach out to us if you have a donation of books, powaylibrarydonations@gmail.com. We appreciate your donations.

Congratulations to Bob and Alison who have done an amazing job with our internet sales.

The Friends have opened a **Store on Amazon**. View over 450 titles online and available for purchase making it easier for you to support the Friends of the Poway Library.. The Amazon store may be found [here](#).

The Friends **are also selling on eBay**. Items selling on eBay may be found [here](#). This site also includes items being sold by Friends of the library who have designated all or part of the sale proceeds as a donation to the Friends.

At November's Board meeting, it was decided that the organization will temporarily forego soliciting donations, and instead, encourage members, friends and other supporters to donate to organizations providing food and other support to those hardest hit by the pandemic. While books and libraries remain a high priority, it was determined that food and shelter must come first.

As we reach the end of 2020 the Board of Directors wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

Thanks for your continued support.

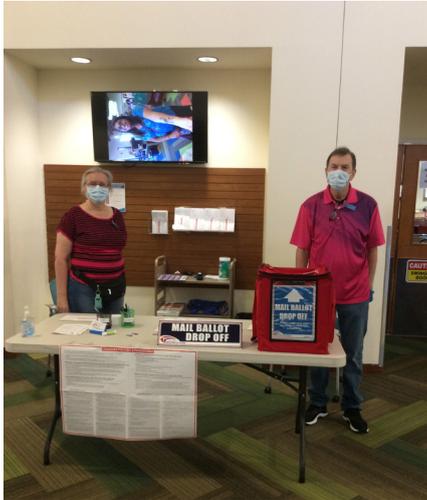
Joye Davisson

Librarian's Message

Dear Friends and Library Supporters,

I hope you are continuing to stay safe.

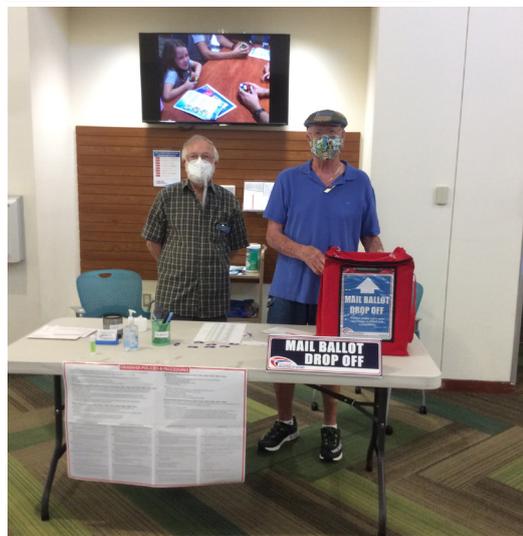
With 2020 ending, I'd like to express my gratitude for your continued support of the Poway Friends and the Poway library this past year – whether it be through checking out E-books, making a financial donation to the friends, or coming into the branch to check materials out!



I always try to look for the positive in every situation, and so this year I'm finding that one of the silver linings of staying in is that I'm reading a lot more and discovering some great titles. Several of our staff have also been doing the same – staying safe and reading up a storm. I'm excited that they have taken the time to share some of their new, favorite titles in this edition of the newsletter. Please look at those and maybe you'll find something you want to check out!

If you would like staff to order some book titles for you, please feel free to email branch staff at powaylibrary@sdcounty.ca.gov or call us at (858) 513-2900 Monday through Friday, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Depending on state and local health orders, our service model continues to change. Before stopping by, we encourage you to give us a call at (858) 513-2900 or visit www.sdcl.org/services for the latest updates on branch hours and current service options.

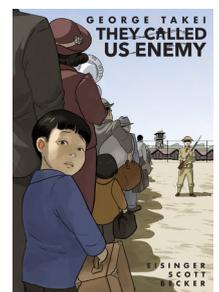


We **do** continue to accept returns and encourage customers to return them to our outside book drops. All materials have had their due dates extended to February 3. **Library storytimes and other programs have not resumed, and community rooms are unavailable until further notice.**

In case you hadn't heard, all San Diego County branches served as Mail Ballot Drop-Off (MBDO) locations for the 2020 Presidential General Election. Staff and volunteers helped collect the ballots on behalf of the ROV in addition to our normal library service. Thank you to several of the Friends who helped staff the Registrar of Voters mail ballot drop off table during this time.

We received so many compliments about our efforts throughout this process from regular customers, people who are new to the library, and county staff. You made a difference!

The other exciting news to share is the annual One Book, One San Diego program continued this year! The purpose of this literary program – now in its 14th year - is to bring the San Diego community closer together by having them read and discuss the same book. This year's selection was *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei and it was selected for adult readers, young adult readers and readers of Spanish. Takei is perhaps best known for playing Hikaru Sulu on Star Trek, but did you know that during WWII he spent his childhood imprisoned in a United States Japanese American internment camp? He recaptures that poignant experience in this year's moving One Book, One San Diego selection. The book's call number is: YA B Takei. For more information about the book, please visit sdcl.org/onebook



One last thing I wanted to share is that I will be heading out on maternity leave in the coming weeks. I'm excited to share that in my absence, our own caring and dedicated Poway librarian Farrah Mazhari will be stepping up to serve as the branch manager. If you have any questions, please feel free to email her at: Farzaneh.mazhari@sdcounty.ca.gov

Thanks for all your support! Keep reading, and we hope to see you at the library soon.

Warm regards,

Marisa Lowe

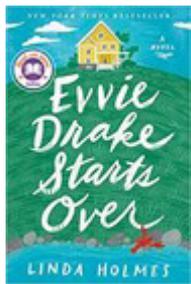
Poway Branch Library --San Diego County Library
(858) 513-2900

Staff and Friends Book Recommendations

Branch Manager Marisa Lowe recommends...

Evvie Drake Starts Over by Linda Holmes

Call no: F Holmes



In a sleepy small town in Maine, Evvie Drake has her car loaded up and suitcases packed. She's finally gotten up the courage to leave her unkind husband after years of unhappiness. But then, as she's driving away from their home, her phone rings. Her husband, who is a well-liked doctor in town, has been in an accident and it appears he's not going to make it.

Now, Evvie must figure out how to grieve for the small town's local hero, although she is a widow who doesn't feel much grief.

With that shocking start, *Evvie Drake Starts Over* gives way to highly human romance by new author Linda Holmes. The novel is full of imperfect characters, witty banter and lots of quirky baseball references. Holmes is a pop culture correspondent for National Public Radio.

One recommendation that Evvie's best friend, Andy, offers to help her move forward is that she get a new roommate. He's got just the right person in mind too: his own childhood friend, recently retired professional baseball player Dean Tenney. Tenney, is a down and out major league pitcher, who's had a series of professional setbacks – called 'the Yips' – and is looking to take a big break out of the limelight.

Tenney decides to move into an apartment at the back of Evvie's house, and the two make a deal: Dean won't ask about Evvie's late husband, and Evvie won't ask about Dean's baseball. But as every good romance lover knows... rules have a way of being broken.

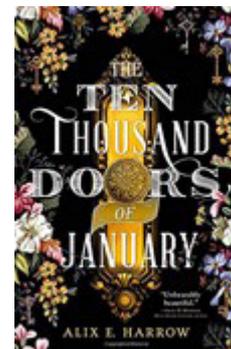
I enjoyed the human dynamic between these two characters, learning more about baseball and the fun, flirty banter. If you are looking for a light read, I'd recommend checking out *Evvie Drake Starts Over* by Linda Holmes. You can find this title in hardcover and eBook and eAudiobook format at sdcl.org.

Library Technician III Rene Gehr recommends...

The 10 Thousand Doors of January by Alix E. Harrow

Call Number: F Harrow

While growing up under the watchful eye of her wealthy guardian and collector of exotic artifacts, Mr. Locke, seven-year-old January Scaller finds a mysterious door. Then she finds an even more mysterious book. When she opens the book, we are introduced to multiple narratives from other worlds and timelines. January discovers that doors and books can lead to adventure, enlightenment, and secrets. Unfortunately for January, men like Locke would prefer that little girls not be so inquisitive. As January grows from a child into a woman, she begins to realize she is merely an exotic object in Mr. Locke's collection and Mr. Locke is not what he seems.



Fans of descriptive historical fiction, strong female characters and multiple narratives will devour this stunning portal fantasy set in 19th century Eastern United States. The main story is deftly interwoven with overlapping narratives from fantastical worlds. A mysterious scholar from one of these worlds interjects chapters throughout January's narrative reminding us that words both spoken and written are the real magic.

Harrow uses her extensive knowledge of American history and culture to thread a subtle commentary on sexism, racism and xenophobia throughout January's experiences. Those who want to keep the borders between worlds open and those who want to close them forever creates a constant tension between the characters. How January reflects on and reacts to this tension adds a layer of depth to an already compelling story.

This is a good choice for readers who appreciate the craft of storytelling. You can find this title in hardcover and eBook format at sdcl.org.

More Staff and Friends Book Recommendations

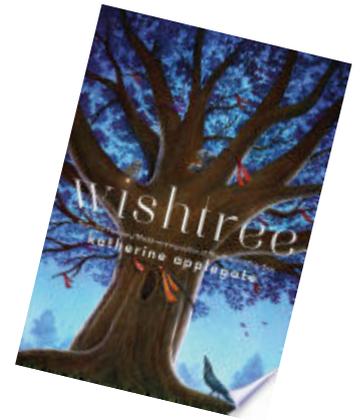
Youth Services Librarian Kelly Dunn recommends...

Wishtree by Katherine Applegate

Call Number: JF Applegate

If you are looking for a great family book to read, *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate may be the book for you. This is a great book for a child, an adult or for you both to read together. This book has a Lexile score of 590L and is geared towards grades 4th thru 8th. *Wishtree* is a children's book that addresses discrimination in an age appropriate and hopeful way. What really makes *Wishtree* memorable is its captivating characters. There is Red, the giant 200-year-old neighborhood tree that has wishes hung from his branches every year and has seen a lot in his years but feels he needs to start doing something more. Bongo, is Red's best friend who happens to be a crow with a penchant for mischief and loves Red dearly. Throughout the book we are introduced to the many friends that use Red for shelter, who both love each other and annoy each other.

This includes a family of skunks (named after wonderfully smelling things) and a family of opossums who are scared of everything. Red has seen many families live in the house next door but he is especially fascinated by his new neighbor, Samar, a 10 year-old girl. When something horrible happens to Samar and her family, Red decides to become active in making Samar's wish come true. This is a great book for children to read while focusing on their distance learning this year.



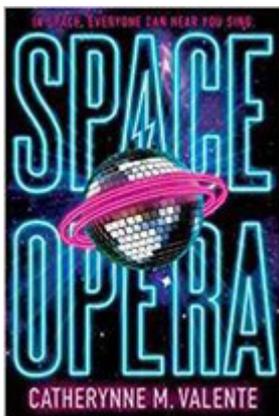
If you enjoy this book, the author has many other award winning titles. Katherine Applegate is the author of *The One and Only Ivan*, winner of the 2013 Newbery Medal. Her novel *Crenshaw* spent over twenty weeks on the New York Times children's best-seller list, and her first middle-grade stand-alone novel, the award-winning *Home of the Brave*, continues to be included on state reading lists, summer reading lists, and class [reading lists](#). You can find this title in hardcover and eBook format at [sdcl.org](#).

Kelly is a Youth Services Librarian at the Poway branch. She can be reached at kelly.dunn@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Youth Services Librarian Dani Ghio recommends...

Space Opera by Catherynne M. Valente.

Call Number: F Valente



More than a century ago, the Sentience Wars tore the galaxy apart and nearly ended intelligent space-faring life. In the aftermath a contest of hope was established to bring all the planets in the Universe together in the spirit of peace, unity and understanding so once every century, the great galactic civilizations gather for the Metagalactic Grand Prix—part gladiatorial contest, part beauty pageant, part remembrance and part concert extravaganza.

This year, Humankind has discovered the vast universe and so for the first time Earth and its inhabitants have been invited to participate but there is a little catch... any new species who is invited ... well, they will have to compete. And if they fail? Sudden extermination for their entire species. This isn't a battle that can be fought with weapons and strategy, mankind must sing for its survival.

Chosen by Metagalactic Grand Prix to represent Earth is a 70s one-hit-wonder glam rock band called Decibel Jones and the Absolute Zeros. Now the fate of the world rests on the shoulders of Decibel Jones and the Absolute Zeroes who haven't rocked in a long time. Can the Absolute Zeros rock the

greatest stage in the galaxy?

This was a fun, fast and light read that will leave you feeling optimistic and happy. Filled with a weird but hilarious cast of characters, far off places, adventure and of course glitter. This is an exciting trip through space that will leaving you laughing and cheering till the end. You can find this title in hardcover and eBook and eAudiobook format at [sdcl.org](#).

More Staff and Friends Book Recommendations

Library Technician III Sandi Gonzaga recommends...

Akin by Emma Donoghue

Call Number: F Donoghue

"He and the boy were quite alien to each other, he decided. Yet in an odd way, akin."

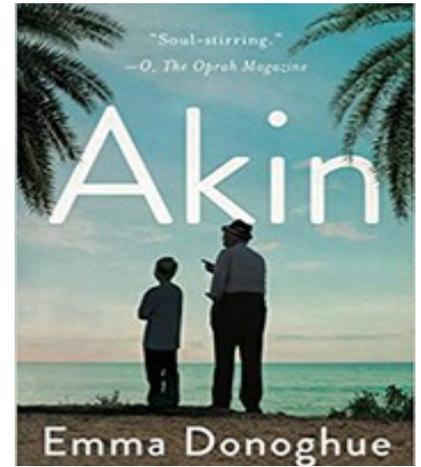
This title draws you in with a delightfully thought-provoking, multi-layered, family drama! The characters are unfiltered and raw and writer Ms. Donoghue has a talent for delving into the nitty gritty of relationships and what it really means to be family.

Seventy-nine-year-old widowed chemistry teacher Noah is about to embark on a journey to Nice; a place he hasn't seen since his childhood, and where he is hoping to find answers to a family secret held in a handful of old photos passed down from his mother. Two days before his departure, he receives an unexpected call requesting help to care for his 11-year-old great nephew, Michael. Instead of cancelling the trip, Noah begrudgingly agrees to temporarily assume responsibility for Michael and brings him along to France.

Michael has endured more adversity and misfortune than any 11-year-old should; his father is dead and his mother is in prison and Michael can, in turn, be defiant, endearing, foul mouthed, and downright exhausting. Noah's attempts to bridge the communication gap and try to earn a bit of the boy's respects are also touching, but it is difficult as they are both skeptical of one another. Their banter, disagreements, and various insecurities make the story alternately hilarious and heart wrenching.

An added bonus? Noah's deceased wife's thoughts speak to Noah in his mind. He could hear his late wife's 'reactions' and 'thoughts' to several situations which I found hilarious and touching. It added a layer of emotion and feeling that strengthened Noah's character; showing him as being strong yet vulnerable.

The icing on the cake is the French city of Nice. The Carnival, the museums, the food, the back history – all of it adds another dimension to this already absorbing tale. I literally couldn't put this book down because I was invested in Noah and Michael's ongoing relationship and where it was headed, as well as the mystery of Noah's past. Both story lines have the potential to change the course of both Noah and Michael's future and you'll find yourself rooting for the unlikely pair as they grudgingly get to know one another and realize that, in the end, they are "akin." You can find this title in hardcover and eBook and eAudiobook format at sdcl.org.



Introducing...

Hello to the Poway community!

My name is Sandi Gonzaga and I am the new Library Technician III at the Poway Branch Library. I am delighted to join the team here at Poway and get to know you all and assist you in all your library needs. I have a bachelor's degree in Social Sciences and an associate degree in Electronic Systems. Originally from San Diego, I returned three years ago to the area to start work with the San Diego County Library after travelling the world-first as a "Navy brat," then serving in the Air Force, and finally working as a prison librarian in Northern California.

I have an adventurous soul and there is nothing I enjoy more than travelling and seeing sites I have only read about. I've travelled the world and am lucky to have climbed the Eiffel Tower, travelled down the Nile, toured through Greece, visited Berlin seven months after the Wall fell, skied the Alps, and seen many historical and natural landmarks in the United States.

I am a self-admitted book addict and enjoy all genres, but my favorites are historical fiction and nonfiction adventures! When I am not reading, I enjoy finding quirky places to visit, cross-stitching, exploring antique stores, riding my new e-bike, and finding new vegetarian restaurants around San Diego. I am also what you would call a "puzzle" aficionado: sudoku, crossword puzzles, actual puzzles... I love them all. Fun fact about me: I went sky diving for my 50th birthday!

Working in a library has always been my passion and I'm blessed to be here. As the saying goes: "Find something you love to do, and you'll never work a day in your life." I look forward to my new adventure here in Poway. Feel free to say hello and tell me what you are reading and about your favorite travel site! My email address is: sandra.gonzaga@sdcounty.ca.gov





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Friends of the Poway Library Membership Application

Membership year is September 1 to August 31.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Email: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family \$10/year <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$25/year <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor/Business \$50/year <input type="checkbox"/> Associate \$100/year <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$250/year <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime \$1000/one time only	Additional Donation for "Matching Funds" \$ <input type="text"/>
	Total Enclosed \$ <input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check

Please make checks payable to: *Friends of the Poway Library*, P. O. Box 1333, Poway, CA 92074-1333

I would like to volunteer some of my time to help the *Friends*: On a Committee In the Library
 In the Book Store In the Book Store Workroom Book Sales Special Events
 Please do not mention my membership/donation in the Friends newsletter.

**The *Friends of the Poway Library* is a non-profit, volunteer organization.
Memberships and contribution are tax deductible as allowed by law.**

Poway Library

13137 Poway Road, Poway CA 92064

Hours

Due to COVID Changing Frequently.

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Phone: 858-513-2900

Friends Bookstore

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Important Dates 2021

Book Sale Dates 2021

TBD