

# FRIENDS

SAFFORD CITY GRAHAM COUNTY LIBRARY

Saffordlibraryfriends.org

March, 2025

## President's Message

Greetings, all! Life has been quite busy since you received our previous newsletter in November. We hosted some successful fundraisers prior to the holidays; See's Candies Drive and the Holiday Bake Sale. Friends Night Out and the Open Book Club are up and running after taking a December break. Through our annual meeting at the end of January, we were able to revisit and celebrate the accomplishments of 2024. (See the Annual Report on our website; [saffordlibraryfriends.org](http://saffordlibraryfriends.org).) That couldn't have happened without your involvement and support. Thank you!

And, now we are gearing up for the Spring Bling Fling, a GVAC afternoon performance, and some informative Friends Night Out sessions. To learn more about the past and future, simply read on.

Sending best wishes for a beautiful Spring.

*Paulette LeBlanc, SAGLIF President*



## Chocolate Turns to \$

Despite a late delivery of our inventory which resulted in limited Thanksgiving sales, we pulled in a profit of \$5375 from our annual See's Candies Holiday sales. Thanks to all who shopped at Geneveve's Market Place through November and December. And, thanks to John and Jenny Howard, who provided their perfect Main Street retail location and devoted staff. We can't overlook Cheryl Soto at Safford Valley Cotton Growers, who sold lollipops and candy bars to the truckers. We appreciate their sweet teeth. **It should be noted the entire profit from See's Candies sales has been deposited into the Friends' Endowment account.**

## More Sugar

Our annual Holiday Bake and Treat Sale was a tremendous success. Seventeen bakers (Lesley Talley, Debbie Linden, Mindy Wilson, Lou Ann Benzinger, Tonya Himelfarb, Gloria Short, Elizabeth Henley, Sue Rasmussen, Darlene Montierth, AnnJi Craig-Wooten, Paulette LeBlanc, Joyce Major, Donna Harrison, Donna McGaughey, Nancy Carpenter, Deborah Gibbs, and Nancy Schauman) contributed to a large and varied inventory of sweet treats. We received compliments from many of our customers. Even Santa gladly purchased goodies! The one-day sale rendered a profit of \$942. But, we have a Friend who really likes round numbers, so she donated



\$58, allowing us to brag on a profit of \$1000. Thanks to all bakers and buyers! You rock! A special shout-out to Retha Russell who showed up at the crack of dawn to plate the baked goods.

## Friends Night Out

The Friends are pleased to continue to sponsor their monthly programming for adults at the Library Annex. In January, we were treated to a presentation by author, Geneva Escobedo, *Dichos de mi Padre* (Sayings of My Father). Many were so relatable. "Cada chango en su columpio. Every monkey chooses his own swing." This conjured memories of folk wisdom handed down in our own families. Sue Rasmussen shared Geneva's book with her siblings and was reminded of "Nothing good ever comes from a balloon." How fun! Thank you, Geneva!

Danny Smith, Director of Marketing for MGRMC and Executive Director of the MGRMC Foundation (Wow! What a title!) visited us in February with his presentation of *The People of Mt. Graham Regional Medical Center*. Danny shared the history of our community hospital; its development and expansion in terms of employees, services and its plans for future growth. It is amazing to see the quality of care offered in our rural environment. Much appreciated, Danny!



And, to honor Women's History Month, Bonnie Briscoe and Paulette LeBlanc offered Part 2 of *A Women's Place is in the White House*. Attendees were treated to brief biographical sketches of First Ladies from Eleanor Roosevelt to Melania Trump. Now, you know the rest of the story!



Mark your calendars for **Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>** when Jarrod Riddle, from Spirit of Arizona Tours visits the Gila Valley with *Arizona Legends of the West: the people, places, events and objects that gave rise to legend of the Old West*.

All Friends Night Out presentations are hosted at the Library Annex at 5:30 p.m. Please join us.

## A Bit of Cultural Literacy

Mark your calendar for Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 in the Library Program Room for a special performance from MusiKaravan, a classical string trio; two violins and a cello. This multicultural program will feature works by Brahms, Vivaldi, Mozart, and more. The performance is often referred to as a fun, imaginative "musical picnic." What a splendid way to enjoy your afternoon! The Friends are pleased to bring these Gila Valley Arts Council performances to you free of charge. See you there!



## Readers Welcome!

The Open Book Club continues to meet at 5:30 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, unless pushed to the 4<sup>th</sup> for a holiday. All readers are welcome. *Remember, we don't assign a book.* Members can share any of their recent books, magazines articles, etc. Or, simply come to listen. It's a great way to expand your reading repertoire without the pressure of a homework assignment. It's fun!

## The Beauty of Graham County

For a number of years, the Friends have been selling note cards featuring local photographers who have the talent to capture *The Beauty of Graham County*. These are offered in three locations: Ginaveve's Market Place, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Florist, and the Graham County Chamber of Commerce. Once you see them, you won't be able



to resist a purchase of our talented citizens: Sue Rasmussen, Ellen Schmidt, (photo by Cathy Konopnicki), Monika Ragland,

Talana Hooper, Mary Kincaid, Diane Hansen, Clara Page, Heath Brown, Chad Harris, Doug Holt, Bonnie Reed, Amy Pooler, Nancy Hawkins, and Nancy Schauman (who also devotedly assembles the cards for sale.) Check them out!

### Spring Bling Fling Returns

The Friends are pleased to bring back Spring Bling Fling after a 2-year hiatus.

#### Starting

**April 1<sup>st</sup>**, you will be able to shop to your heart's content in the Friends' Corner. We have a vast selection of used jewelry which will be reasonably priced. Who can pass up earrings and bracelets for \$3 and necklaces for \$5? We'll even feature a bargain table! Feel free to raid your jewelry boxes and drop donations to the circulation desk. It's never too late to add to the inventory. **Plan to shop between 10:00 a.m. – noon and 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday throughout the month.** Word to the wise! **Bring cash!** See you there.



### Congrats and Thank you!

It's a pleasure to congratulate Ted and Rene Prina as recipients of the Ed and Angie Sawyer Award which annually recognizes the Graham County Volunteer of the Year through the Arizona Community Foundation. What a well-deserved honor!! You may be asking, "What does this have to do with the Friends of the Library?"

Well, that special designation is accompanied by a check for \$1000 with a pay-it-forward caveat. Ted and Rene are fans of endowment funds and have chosen to forward those funds to the Friends' Endowment Fund. What a thoughtful gesture!



Thank you so much, Ted and Rene, for selecting our endowment account as the resting place for your award. Be assured it is in good hands. Dennis Sawyer presented President Paulette LeBlanc with the check.

### What is an Endowment Fund?

We have made reference to the Friends' Endowment Fund at various locations throughout this newsletter. You may be asking yourself, "What is the Endowment Fund"? Simply put, it is our investment account. In our case, it is with the Arizona Community Foundation. The purpose of the endowment account is to help to secure the future of our library.

Our fund has an interesting history. In 2016, it started with a \$5000 legacy gift from Janet Krupp, a former Safford resident and business owner. To establish the fund, we needed \$25,000. How did that happen? It was through donations from our charter members; all 30 of them! Since then, the account has grown to \$125,000+. How does it continue to grow? Through continued donations! You can do that when you renew your membership. You can write a check anytime and earmark it for the Friends' Endowment Fund. Larger donations have been received through legacy gifts and life insurance policies, noting the Safford Friends of the Library as a beneficiary.

Please keep the Friends' Endowment Fund in mind when you are considering any level of donation. We are all in this together.



**Charter Members**  
**Friends' Endowment Fund**

Janet Krupp  
Becky Johnson  
David and Tonya Himelfarb  
Jacque Attaway  
Roberta Bishop  
Anna Campbell  
Alta Peck  
Evelyn Stoxen  
Honey Marchetti  
Steve and Donna McGaughey  
American Legion Auxiliary #32  
Herminia Allensworth  
Sam Jones  
Deanna Moeller  
AnnJi Craig-Wooten  
Donna Harrison  
Arcadia Chapter 9 Order of the Eastern Star  
Ted Prina  
Clara Page  
Jan Elliott  
Toni Williams  
Paulette LeBlanc  
Carol Green  
Kempton Chevrolet-Buick  
Edres Barney  
Celia Knowlton  
Monika Ragland  
Judy Smith  
Maralyn Turney  
Ron Tolman

This newsletter goes out to our members and many others in our community. If you have a **number** (for example, 6/25) **after** your **name** on the address label, **you are a member**. The number indicates the month and year your membership needs to be renewed. The 6/25 means you would need to renew your dues June, 2025.

# Library News

## Upcoming Programs/Events

### Early Literacy Concert Series

The 4th Annual Early Literacy Concert Series featuring Jazzy Ash will be at the David M Player Center for Arts on **April 3rd** at 10 am. Inspired by the rich sounds of New Orleans, Jazzy Ash brings generations of African-American music, rhythms, and rhymes to life in a show full of fun and soulful energy! Doors open at 9:30 am for children ages 0-5 and their families.



### Summer Reading Program



Color Our World at the library this summer with programs and activities

during the library's Summer Reading Program! From **June 2nd to July 17th** come and participate in camps, cooking, tiny art, movies, crafts and much more! Please be on the lookout for a calendar of events.

### Gardening Classes

The library will be hosting a series of gardening classes provided by the Graham County



Cooperative Extension. The six-week class will begin in early summer and be located at the Library Annex. More information about days and times will be available by the end of May.

*We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.*

**Walt Disney**

The Friends of Library newsletter is published 3-4 times a



year. Friends, 808 S 7<sup>th</sup> Ave,  
Safford, AZ 85546 - 2944.  
President-Paulette LeBlanc,  
Vice-President – Sue Rasmussen,

Secretary & Newsletter Editor-AnnJi Craig-Wooten,  
Treasurer- Donna Harrison.

Website – [saffordlibraryfriends.org](http://saffordlibraryfriends.org)

## Happening Now & Ongoing

### Artist of the Month

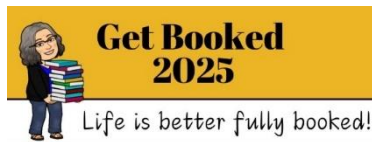
The library has their first featured local artist for 2025 with Monika Ragland. Monika is a former educator in the Safford Unified School District including the School Librarian for 15 years. Upon retirement, her many interests include painting, stained glass, photography, writing, traveling, and hiking. The artwork on display throughout March includes stained glass, photography and watercolor. Community members can come view the artwork during library operating hours, Monday-Thursday 10 am-7 pm.



For those interested in displaying their artwork stop by the library for a proposal form or email [ltalley@saffordaz.gov](mailto:ltalley@saffordaz.gov) for more details.

### Get Booked Reading Challenge

Those ages 18+ can participate in the year round Get Booked Reading Challenge! The Challenge is to



Year long reading challenge for adults.

- 12 months
- 12 books
- 24 categories



read or listen to 12 books in 12 categories in 12 months. The library is using the Beanstack app to track progress through the program. If you

need assistance with accessing the app and Get Booked program, come to the library for assistance.

Those that complete 12 books will be entered into a prize drawing in early 2026, while those that complete all 24 books will be entered into the grand prize drawing, provided by the Friends of the Library.

**"There is no substitute for books in the life of a child." — May Ellen Chase**

### GED Preparation Classes and Testing

The library is happy to announce that in-person GED Preparation Classes are available for Graham and Greenlee Counties thanks to a grant from the United Way! Whether you are brushing up on your skills to prepare for the test or taking the first steps toward your future, this program is designed for you to succeed! Currently, hours are **Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 am – 6 pm**. If you would like more information, please email the Adult Education Instructor, Kristi Apodaca, at [kapodaca@saffordaz.gov](mailto:kapodaca@saffordaz.gov). Please expect a response within a week.



Additionally, the library is an official GED testing site, with *in-person testing available* **Mondays and Wednesdays from 3-7 pm**. Testing can be scheduled through **myGED.com** with tests costing \$41 (Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies) and \$9 (Civics). Please contact the library with any questions at 928-432-4165.

### Online Learning

The library offers a myriad of resources on its website,



**MANGO**

**Start the conversation.**

[saffordlibrary.org](http://saffordlibrary.org). **Mango Languages**, to learn a second language and **Universal Class**, for continuing education credits, are **both supported through funding from the Friends of the Safford Library**. Additionally, the *City of Safford* and the *Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records*, supports *Gale*, which consists of several research databases that can be used for research for elementary through high school audiences. Topics available include Science, World History, Britannica, and Peterson's Test and Career Prep.

### Library Annex



The Library Annex also hosts Cooking Classes provided by the Graham County Cooperative Extension, and Friends Night Out events hosted by the Friends of the Library. This summer will also

include Gardening 101 through the Graham County Cooperative Extension as well as weeklong camps for Elementary and Teen audiences. Class information and registration for the weeklong camps will be available soon. Check the library website, Facebook or Instagram for more information.

Makerspace Open Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 5 – 7 pm. The Makerspace includes 3D printing, a Cricut machine, recording equipment and a Glowforge. Training is required before being able to use the Makerspace equipment.

### Monthly Library Newsletter

The library sends out a monthly newsletter via email highlighting programs for the upcoming month, along with other library services. If you would like to subscribe to the newsletter, please go to <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/puA4l8h/MONTHLYNEWSLETTER> and signup or scan the QR code.



### Library Podcast



The library's podcast, titled *Safford Library Book Jockeys*, is available on Apple Podcasts, Amazon Music, Spotify, and iHeart Radio. It can also be listened to by going to the library's website

<https://open.spotify.com/show/7gYziRtd96u8BBvYjYv6j3>, or scanning the QR code. The podcast features information about library programs and services, book recommendations, and the opportunity to learn more about library staff. Episodes are recorded monthly.



### Poet and Writer Jorge Luis Borges:

*"I have always imagined that paradise will be a kind of library."*

### Actress Katharine Hepburn:

*"What in the world would we do without our libraries?"*

## Past Programs/Events

### Winter Reading Challenge

The library offered a Bundle Up with Books Reading Challenge for the month of January. The



program was intended to help children get back into the habit of reading 20 minutes per day after the holiday season. The goal of the program was to read 600 minutes throughout the month. At 200 point intervals, participants could earn small prizes. Of the 58 that participated in the program, 36 completed the challenge.

### Light Parade

The library participated in the annual Light Parade on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Staff and volunteers were part of the



Library Precision Drill Cart team. The Light Parade allows the library to advertise its programs and services to a larger audience each year.

### Holiday Open House

The library hosted its annual Holiday Open House on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Those that attended could participate in two crafts, the Exploration Space, and take a photo with Santa. The Friends of the Library also hosted their annual bake sale with all proceeds going towards future library programs and services. Throughout the event, 150 came to take photos with Santa and participate in activities. Library staff greatly appreciate the Friends of the Library and local bakers for their assistance in making the Holiday Open House a success!





## Library Weekly Programming

The library completed its weekly fall programming session for elementary and teen audiences in



November. The K-3 grade program had four weeks of programming, including celebrating Dinovember with a fossil class day. They learned how different

types of fossils are formed, sorted the fossils, and made their own trace fossils to take home. The 4-6<sup>th</sup> grade program toured Italy through an art project, learning about volcanoes, and making pizza. In one of the teen programs, participants learned how to bake mini pumpkin pies in preparation for Thanksgiving.

The library is currently in its Spring Session of programs. Weekly Storytimes for ages 0-5 and their caregivers, elementary, and teen programs will continue until the end of April. For more information about specific programs please visit the library, call 928-432-4165 or follow the library on Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok.

## Yuyi Morales Exhibit

The library hosted 10 classrooms totaling 468 students for the Yuyi Morales Art Exhibit in



November and December 2024. Classroom grade levels ranged from 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade, with six schools in the county sending at least one classroom to attend. Students learned art etiquette,

alliteration, and how to look for patterns within the work of one artist. Additionally, the library had programs for K-3, 4-6<sup>th</sup> grade as well as Storytimes, that visited the exhibits and learned more about Yuyi Morales and how her artwork reflects her life

experiences. The library also hosted an adult age program that delved deeper into the artists' use of color, iconography and symbolism.

Library staff would like to thank all of our docents that volunteered their time throughout the exhibits' stay. The library hopes to bring another exhibit from the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature in the future.

## Cooking Classes

The library has hosted several classes on behalf of the Cooperative



Extension. Classes are the first Wednesday of the month at 10 am and 5 pm with the same class presented during each session. Previous classes have included Green Chili

Tamales, buttercream and cream cheese frosting recipes, shepards pie, candy and Meat 101. All programs consist of a demonstration and tasting of what was prepared, as well as a spice of the month sample that can be taken home, along with recipes using the spice.

## Author Joan Aiken:

*"Children read to learn -- even when they are reading fantasy, nonsense, light verse, comics or the copy on cereal packets, they are expanding their minds all the time, enlarging their vocabulary, making discoveries: it is all new to them."*



## SAGLIF

FRIENDS OF THE SAFFORD CITY-GRAHAM COUNTY LIBRARY  
808 S 7TH AVE  
SAFFORD AZ 85546-2944

***Return Service Requested***

US POSTAGE  
PAID  
SAFFORD AZ  
PERMIT # 5  
NONPROFIT ORG  
USPS MARKETING  
MAIL

Spring Bling Fling  
Starts Tuesday April 1  
10-12 and 4-6  
Mon – Thurs  
Safford Library

Safford Graham Library Friends (SAGLIF)  
808 S. 7th Ave.  
Safford, AZ 85546 - 2944

**Please use this Membership & Donation Form.**

*Support your library. Become a member of the Safford Graham Library Friends!*

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10 Annual membership per person

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 Annual Family membership

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Donation - Donations are tax deductible.

Make your check to **SAGLIF**.

**Please mail to the address above or put in an envelope and drop off at the library's circulation desk.**

I would like this donation to be used for one choice or split among the choices:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Use as needed for the library

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Support Friends' Endowment Fund

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Support Early Literary Concert Series (ELCS)

**Please print neatly.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing** Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_