

FRIENDS

SAFFORD CITY GRAHAM COUNTY LIBRARY

Visit: Saffordlibraryfriends.org

April, 2024

President's Message

It appears we have been experiencing a long, hot summer; some of it record breaking. I trust you found a way to keep comfortable throughout the triple digits. Curling up with a good book in air-conditioned comfort ranks on the top of my list.

The Friends, as usual, took a break from programming. It was a smart move. Who could possibly add anything to the aggressive season of summer library activities hosted by our incredible staff?! I think you will be amazed to see the participation numbers as well as the variety of quality programs offered over the past 3 months. I often wonder when those women find time to sleep.

This summer was dedicated to the development of our new website and to the planning of our Radio Auction which is scheduled for Friday, September 6th.

September also brings the return of Friends' Night Out, which kicks off on the 19th with the observance of Constitution Day with the Daughters of the American Revolution. And, the Open Book Club returns with its first session on the 16th. For more information on the above and much more, read on.

Wishing you a beautiful Fall!
Paulette LeBlanc, SAGLIF President

This newsletter goes out to our members and many others in our community. If you have a **number** (for example, 7/25) **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 7/25 means you would need to renew your dues July, 2025.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
RADIO AUCTION
FRIDAY, SEPT 6
8 am - 10:30 am
SaffordLibraryFriends.org
 Call-In Bids:
 928-428-4994
 or
 928-428-9494

The Friends of the Safford City-Graham County Library's 4th Annual Radio Auction will be simulcast on KATO and Kat Kountry Radio beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Friday September 6th. During this fast-paced and fun auction bidders in Southeastern Arizona can call in or text their offers. Brooks Knight, auctioneer, will be ably assisted by Reed Richins and David Bell.

This successful annual event is dependent on the continued generosity of Gila Valley business owners, corporations and artists who have thoughtfully donated over 30 bid items such as restaurant, automotive service and parts coupons, furniture, art, outdoor and sports gear, motel stays, sporting event tickets, plane & balloon rides, construction materials and the ever-popular Dessert of the Month for a year package.

An **online auction catalog** with pictures, descriptions & contributor information is **available beginning Monday, August 19th at saffordlibraryfriends.org (Events) and prior to the auction on KATO Radio's Facebook page.**

Last year's auction cleared over \$8300, all of which is used to support current and future library programs, supplies and equipment purchases.

The Friends of the Library board members truly appreciate those who donate or bid on items each year.

Our New Website

The Friends are thrilled to offer our new and improved website. Through the talents of Chip Cheney, we now have a spot dedicated to the Friends which will continually keep you updated about the work we do and, most importantly, our upcoming events. We plan to make this the go-to site for all things Friends. Simply go to

saffordlibraryfriends.org

to see what we are up to. Chip has made it very easy to navigate. The Events page, for example, will keep you informed of calendared activities and will include documents which support each event. The Radio Auction catalog is posted on that page. The Jerry's Dineout flyer is located there. We hope you will visit our website on a regular basis. Thanks, Chip, for the masterful job you did. We look forward to our continued work together.



Open Book Club

After a summer of independent reading, the Open Book Club will host its first 2024-25 meeting on **Monday, September 16th at 5:30**

This program is offered to any adult reader. We

do not assign a book. Instead, each member describes his/her latest find with the group; whether it's a book, audio, magazine article, poem, etc. This opens the door to some lively discussions. All are welcome to share and/or listen. Future meetings will be on the third Monday at 5:30.



Friends' Night Out is Back

Our monthly evening programming will kick off with our ever-popular Constitution Day Observance with the Daughters of the American Revolution. (See related article.) Mark your calendars for **Thursday, September 19th.**

Friends' Night Out is welcoming **Jay Cravath** from AZ Speaks/AZ Humanities for an informative and entertaining program, ***Rivers of Dreams: Songs and Stories of Arizona's Waterways***. We hope you will join us on **Thursday, October 17th**.



All FNO presentations are scheduled for **5:30 p.m.** in the Library Annex at 814 S. Central Ave, Safford.

DAR Presents Constitution Week Program!

The Friends of the Library and the Gila Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will co-host this year's program entitled "**Honoring Our Constitution and Revolutionary Patriots**."



This lively event of historical interest will take place during Constitution Week on **Thursday, September 19th from 5:30 – 7:00 PM at the Safford Library Annex on 814 South Central Ave**, directly behind the train depot. All are invited to attend; admission is free. Refreshments will be provided by a chapter of great cooks and The Rustic Barn Bakery.

DAR's major mission is to remember the patriots who supported the cause for independence and gave us the freedom we experience today. DAR chapter librarian, **Ruth Hernandez**, with a passion for researching the truth behind our history, **will present an overview about the very risky business in being a spy during the American Revolutionary War.**

She will share stories about members of the notorious Culper Spy Ring, who were patriotic at times and not so much other times; smugglers, bandits, and privateers of Long Island Sound; and the horrific battles of New York and Long Island that almost caused total destruction of General George Washington's little army over a seven-year period. However, General Washington will be

noted as a tough guy and an exceptional master at using spy strategies to help win the war.

Following this presentation, 20 children's books about spies during the revolution will be distributed to young people in the audience. Families are encouraged to attend in order to receive a copy. **Talana Hooper**, DAR chapter historian and well-known local historian, **will demonstrate clever ways spies used invisible ink and hidden messages in communicating top-secret messages to fellow spies.**

Constitution Week observance was initiated by DAR in 1955 as a way to recognize the importance of the Constitution. In this chapter's Constitution Week program, local high school students, who are winners of the DAR Patriotic Essay Contest, will be recognized as portions of their essays are read about how their community or school has contributed to promoting a more perfect union.

This will be followed by the audience having an opportunity to answer questions about the US Constitution. Local Constitution historian, **Gary Burnett**, will be there to discuss and hand out Constitution booklets.

For further information about this patriotic program: contact the library (928) 432-4165; Chapter Regent Vicki Foote (vickifoote@dar.org); Ruth Hernandez (435) 668-5948; Bonnie Briscoe (928)428-5904; or any other member of the local DAR Gila Valley Chapter.

Bonnie Briscoe - DAR and Friends' member

GVAC Concerts Return



Through our partnership with Gila Valley Arts Council, the Friends are pleased to sponsor four **afternoon concerts** at the library

between September and April. Mark your calendars for **Monday, September 23rd at 2:00 pm**

for two unique cultural performances with Yihan Chen and Paul Galbraith. Their program is called East Meets West, with Chen playing the pipa, a Chinese plucked lute, and Paul playing the guitar with two extra strings to expand his repertoire of Bach and Brahms. Two performances in one concert? You can't beat that!

The season will also include performances with The **Swingles**, a Grammy-awarded vocal group, **Carion Wind Quintet**, a Danish-Latvian ensemble, and **MusiKaravan**, a string trio featuring violin and cello. This season is guaranteed to expand your musical horizons.

Jerry's Dineout



For the 7th consecutive year, the Friends will be partnering with Jerry's Restaurant to host their Fall Foodie Fest. **Mark your calendars for Wednesday, October 16th.** Jerry's Foundation supports local non-profits by offering 25% of the total sales of the day. In the past, this has translated to an income of \$400 - \$600. We are happy to add that to our bank account. Stop by for a beverage, a dessert, or a meal. **Feel free to dine in or take out. Everything counts. BUT, be sure to bring your Jerry's flyer with you. It MUST be attached to the sales receipt in order to count.** Simply go to the **Events page** of our website (saffordlibraryfriends.org) and **click on the Dineout link.** There are two flyers on the page. Feel free to give one to a friend. See you there!!!

And, the Winner Is.....

Our spring raffle was a wonderful success, adding \$1106.81 to our bank account. Thanks to all who purchased tickets for the Hal Empie framed, signed

print, "Ladder to Heaven". There is a thing about raffles. You can only have one winner. And, the lucky winner is Assistant Library Director, Lesley



Talley. Lesley kept telling everyone she had the perfect wall at home begging for that piece of art. It looks like the wall won out. Congratulations, Lesley!

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



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

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

Website – saffordlibraryfriends.org

Library News

Upcoming Programs/Events

Fall Programming

Programs for all ages begin in September! Calendars can be picked at the library front desk or found on the library's website, saffordlibrary.org. A wide range of activities will be available for all ages. New this year for the 4th-6th grade group will be a focus on traveling the world through food, with kids preparing a recipe from a different country each month.

Cooking with the Cooperative Extension

The library's popular cooking classes will continue this Fall at the Library Annex at 814 S. Central



Ave. These classes are led by Cindy Pearson from the Graham County Cooperative Extension and **happen the first Wednesday of each month at 10 am and 5 pm**. In September we will learn about sourdough and other starter-based breads. October will feature green chilies with a visit from Curry Seed and Chile Co.

Yuyi Morales Exhibit

The library is thrilled to be hosting a traveling exhibit from the National Center for Children's

Illustrated Literature of author/illustrator Yuyi Morales' original picture book art. Morales is a six-time recipient of the prestigious Pura Belpre award and the first Latina to earn a Caldecott



honor for her book *Viva Frida*. This exhibit, featuring sixty-one pieces of Morales' original art from sixteen of her books, is set to be on display in the main area of the library and the program room from late-September through early December. During that time, the library will offer gallery hours to view the art, programming opportunities for all ages, and school tours. The library will make more announcements as programming draws closer. In the meantime, check out her wonderful picture books from the library and visit <https://www.nccil.org/yuyi-morales> to learn more about the artist.

Past Programs/Events

Summer Reading Kickoff Event



The library hosted pop artist Michael Albert on June 3rd for all ages. He explained how he came to develop his own unique set of art using

recycled materials. Attendees were then able to create their own art using supplies provided by the artist and the library. The 36 participants were also able to take home a signed print of art for attending.

Summer Reading By the Numbers

The library would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's Summer Reading Program: Adventure Begins at Your Library! In addition to some of the highlighted programs and activities, we had Goofy Golf, Game Theory and Game Master camps for Elementary and Teen Audiences, Mystique's Mystery Mart Escape Room,

a series of Elementary Reading Programs, StoryTimes, Makerspace, Cooking Classes and Magician Eric Gilliam at the Center for the Arts! Library staff would also like to thank our many wonderful volunteers who made our programs possible. It was a very successful summer full of fun for all ages!

The Safford City-Graham County Library
2024 SUMMER READING PROGRAM
 BY THE NUMBERS

MINUTES READ
 332 people reported a total of 286,934 minutes read.



EVENTS
 100 activities attended by 4,574 people

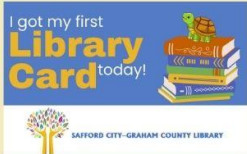


ITEMS CHECKED OUT
 27,417

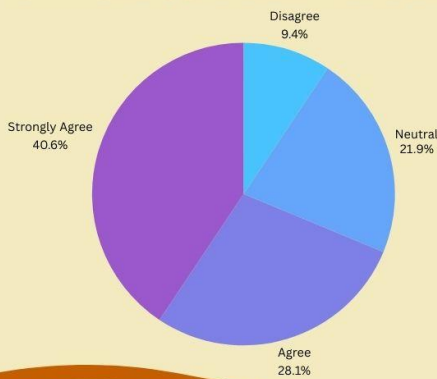


DOOR COUNT
 7,533

NEW LIBRARY CARDS MADE
 237



BECAUSE OF SUMMER READING YOUR CHILD IS A MORE CONFIDENT READER.



SAFFORD CITY-GRAHAM COUNTY LIBRARY

Cooperative Extension Camps

The library hosted two camps for the Cooperative Extension at the Library Annex in June: Money Masters and Food, Fun, and Fitness. Money Masters was for 4th-6th



graders for a 90 min block for a week. During the week they learned basic money concepts while participating in games and activities. Fun, Food, and Fitness was for two grade levels: 4th-6th grade, and teen audiences. The program was weekly for three weeks with attendees learning about nutrition and recipes while participating in physical activities. For all programs, 66 attended.

Oregon Trail Live

The library had an Oregon Trail Live Program for those in grades 4th-12th, based on the popular



computer game. All 34 participants in teams of four or more had to complete several tasks to make it to

Oregon. Tasks included hunting, building shelter, creating a boat that could float, and roping. Along the way the groups also had to avoid a "snakebite," cholera, and typhoid.

Dolly Parton Celebration

The library celebrated the 15th year of the Dolly Parton Imagination Program in Graham and Greenlee Counties the week of July 8th. Activities included Dolly themed StoryTimes and the opportunity to write letters to Dolly, thanking her



for the impact she has made in creating home libraries. From July 2009 to June 2024, 11,376 children in Graham and Greenlee Counties have received a total of 358,973 books.

Trivia Night



The library hosted its third trivia night, based on the Harry Potter novels, on July 11th. The 28 adults who attended participated individually or in teams through the Kahoot app. After answering 65 questions, the top three scorers selected Harry Potter themed items from the library's Makerspace. The next trivia night will be in Fall 2024 or Spring 2025.

Before the summer program: Reading Under the Stars



The library attended Jack Daley School's "Reading Under the Stars" event on May 6th. The event is held yearly to encourage families to read together. The library

was one of 6 local organizations selected to participate.

Once participants heard one story from each organization, they were able to receive a free book. For the event, the library saw 394 participants.

Teen Lock-In

The library's Teen Advisory Group organized and hosted their first program on May 24th, the Teen Lock-In. The 20 that attended were able to play laser tag, board games, cards, watch Anime and go on a ghost tour of the library

The Teen Advisory Group was started in February to help the library with creating programs and services for teen audiences.

The group meets monthly through the school year, with library staff attending meetings to provide guidance. Meetings will resume in August with the new school year.



Ongoing Programs/Services

Library Annex



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 the library's website, saffordlibrary.org, and sign up or scan the QR code.



Act One Culture Passes

The library Culture Pass program includes 19 cultural institutions around Arizona. Passes are available for checkout

to adults with a library card in good standing, with one pass per household. Passes are usable for one week after checkout on a first come first serve basis.



*Please note that some locations are only available certain times of the year. For an updated list of institutions, please visit the library or check the library's website.

Library Podcast



The library records a monthly podcast, titled Safford Library Book Jockeys. The podcast features information about library programs and services, book recommendations, and the

opportunity to learn more about library staff. A new podcast is available after the 15th of each month.

The podcast can be listened to with the PodBean app or with a link on the library's website, along with Apple Podcasts, Amazon Music, Spotify, and iHeart Radio. It can also be listened to by scanning the QR code to the right.



The Friends - Who & What

The Friends of Safford City – Graham County Library is an association of members (individuals, families and entities) who are in agreement with the Friends of the Safford City – Graham County Library's mission. **The mission is "To advocate and fundraise for the Safford Library"**. The Friends has a non-profit status and operates within the scope of the Internal Revenue Code Section 501c3.

Friends of Safford City – Graham County Library uses SAGLIF for public and business purposes. SAGLIF is formed: **S**afford **G**raham **L**ibrary **F**riends and pronounced sag'lif. We are also known as Safford Friends of the Library, Safford Library Friends, Library Friends or just Friends.

Our objectives are:

- A. To maintain an association of persons interested in the library and its services.
- B. To gain support for library improvement.
- C. To create public awareness of the role of the library in the community.
- D. To provide financial support to complement the library's budget.
- E. To encourage gifts and endowments for the library.
- F. To promote and direct individual talent into projects benefiting the library.
- G. To participate in activities which support library programming.

Many wonder what our relationship is to the library. This is spelled out in our constitution.

The Friends of the Safford City - Graham County Library

- A. Is an independent organization working with the library.
- B. Does not exist to operate the library.
- C. Will consult with the library on the use of space, equipment and services.
- D. Does its fundraising independently of the Safford City - Graham County Library.

We greatly appreciate the dedication of our members supporting the organization by paying dues, giving donations to "use as needed", to the Endowment Fund, or the Early Literacy Concert Series (ELCS). Members support events, serve on the board, volunteer for special activities and advocate in the community for our library.

Become a member or make a donation to help us support the library in many different ways. Use the membership & donation form on the mailing page of the newsletter, pick up a form at the library, or go to saffordlibraryfriends.org to print a form.