

FRIENDS

SAFFORD CITY GRAHAM COUNTY LIBRARY

April, 2024

President's Message

Welcome to spring! The warmer temperatures and



the blaze of wildflowers are sure signs that we have arrived. I am also noticing more fair-weather

walkers out for daily exercise. That should inspire me to follow.

Since our last newsletter, the Friends have been busy. We hosted another successful See's Candy Drive in November-December. And, in the middle of it, pulled off a wonderful Holiday Bake and Treat Sale. After a holiday break we got back to business with Open Book Club meetings, Gila Valley Arts Council performances and Friends Night Out presentations.

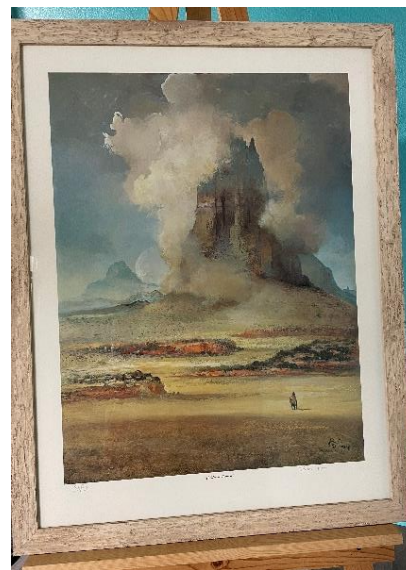
For a closer look at the above and for a glimpse of things to come, read on.

Wishing you a pleasant spring.

Paulette LeBlanc, SAGLIF President

Empie Raffle Coming Up

The Friends are always looking toward the next fundraiser. This May, we will be conducting a raffle



for a Hal Empie signed, numbered, framed limited edition lithograph, ***Ladder to Heaven.***

It will be on display at Friends Night Out and in the Friends Corner throughout the month of May.

Tickets are \$5 each. Don't be surprised if a board member

approaches you to entice a purchase. Hal Empie was an artist of local repute. He was a pharmacist in Solomon and Duncan while pursuing his passion for visual art. This print was donated by the Empie Gallery of Tubac, AZ. **The drawing will be at the Friends Board meeting on Wednesday, May 29th.**

For the Love of Chocolate

Our partnership with the Howards of Ginaveve's Market Place has, again, proven advantageous. Our entire inventory was sold by December 22nd and rendered a profit of \$6496 for the Friends. This is the fundraiser that



This newsletter goes out to our members and many others in our community.

If you have a **number** (for example, 8/24) **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 8/24 means you would need to renew your dues August, 2024.

finds its way into our Endowment Fund which helps to secure the future of our library. Many thanks to our shoppers! You are the critical element in our success. And, a special THANK YOU to John and Jenny for providing the retail space and the best staff on the planet. We are also grateful to Cheryl Soto of the Safford Cotton Gin for selling candy bars and lollypops to their crew during a busy time of year. It all added up!

Bake and Treat Sale



Our 8-hour holiday sale was a roaring success, rendering a \$1000 profit. How, you may ask, do you end up with such a round number? One anonymous Friend

couldn't deal with a profit of \$976, so she simply had to round it up. We had the largest and most diverse inventory on record. Thanks so much, wonderful cooks: Linda Morcomb, Denise Crockett, Tom Green, Donna McGaughey, Gloria Short, Joyce Major, Nancy Schauman, Mimi Loveridge, Lou Ann Benzinger, Mindy Wilson, Judy Johnson, Lesley Talley, Elizabeth Henley, Debbie Linden, Donna Harrison, Sue Rasmussen, Annji Craig-Wooten, and Paulette LeBlanc. And, special thanks to Retha Russell who showed up at the crack of dawn to plate all those goodies and prepare them for sale.

Calling All Readers

The **Open Book Club** continues to meet on the **third Monday of the month at 5:30 pm**. Feel free to join us to share or just listen. Remember, we don't assign a book. Members just report on what they've been reading over the past month,



whether it is a book, magazine article, blog, etc. We welcome all genre! In February, we did take a departure from the norm and hosted an author's visit to highlight the publication

of our snowbird writer/poet, **Joyce Benvenuto**.

Attendees were entertained with stories of Joyce's Michigan upbringing and tales of her travels along the St Lawrence River. Truly enjoyable! Thank you, Joyce!

Cultural Literacy at Its Best

The Friends are pleased to host afternoon Gila Valley Arts Council performances at the library. Attendees witnessed four unique groups during this performance season. We kicked off the year with Full Cord Bluegrass, moved on to the Mirari Brass Quintet, followed with Mariachi Garibaldi, and ended with Quarteto Nuevo, mixing western



classical, eastern European folk, Latin and jazz. Feedback following each performance was highly positive and most appreciative. We are pleased to bring this cultural experience to our community members. See you next year!

Friends Night Out



Our Friends Night Out (FNO) presentations continued to take on topics of local interest. In January, Justin Layton, 5th generation Thatcher farmer, spoke on *Agriculture and Water in the Gila Valley*.

This was followed by *FMI Copper Mining in Graham County*, presented by Vicki Seppala, General Manager of Safford Operations. March took a different twist with



recognition of Women's History Month. Bonnie Briscoe and Paulette LeBlanc recognized our nation's First Ladies with *A Woman's Place is in the White House*. All received rave reviews from very appreciative

audiences. Kudos to our presenters!





Our next FNO program until the fall, *Oral Histories*, is scheduled for

Thursday, May 2nd at 5:30 p.m. at the **Library Annex**. **Charles Maxwell from Pima** has been studying and recording oral history projects for 30 years. He will share guidelines and techniques for recording a good interview, talk about equipment, transcription, and storage of completed interviews. Refreshments will be served.

The Friends of Library newsletter is published 3-4 times a year. Friends, 808 7th Ave, Safford, AZ 85546. President- Paulette LeBlanc, Vice – President Sue Rasmussen, Secretary & Newsletter Editor-AnnJi Craig-Wooten, Treasurer-Donna Harrison



Library News

Upcoming Programs/Events

Summer Reading Program

Adventure is At Your Library with two months filled with activities for the whole family! **It starts June 3rd** with an All-Ages art program and the yearly pool party at the Safford Pool. There will be a finance class for tweens, as well as cooking classes. There will be programs for elementary ages including Goofy Golf. There will be the Magic the Gathering Program for adult audiences and a Trivia Night. Lastly, the library will host Magician Eric Gilliam at the David M Player Center for the Arts to finish the Summer Reading Program in July. The library will have the full calendar available in May, with copies available for pickup in person or on the **library's website at saffordlibrary.org**.



What Has been Happening

Fun with Math and Science



Elizabeth Henley and Jennifer Morris facilitated the spring session of Fun with Math and Science, which ended in March. Children ages 3-5 and their caregivers that registered for the six-

week program were able to practice inquiry based cognitive skills to prepare them for school. At the end of each session, families were given a book for their home library, along with tips to practice skill sets learned at home.

Outreach

The library attended the Gila Valley STEAM Festival on Friday, February 23rd and Saturday, February 24th. On Friday, in partnership with FMI, the library had an owl pellet lab where 244 individuals learned what owls eat and how they digest their meals by dissecting their own owl pellet. On Saturday, the library partnered with First Things First to provide early childhood activities and resources for the 248 that visited.



Trivia Night

The library hosted Disney Trivia Night on February 29th for those ages 10 and up. The 27 who attended participated through the Kahoot app and answered a series of 60



questions related to Disney movies and history. The top three scoring individuals or teams received 3D printed materials made in the library's Makerspace, which included Disney themed keys and a Mickey Connect Four. The next Trivia Night will be during the Summer Reading Program.

Community Baby Shower



The library hosted its annual Community Baby Shower on March 22nd. Organizations that provided information for expectant caregivers and children up to age one included: Graham County Health Department, Early HeadStart, Mt. Graham Safe

House, Child and Family Resources, First Things First, and many others. The 131 that attended received free gifts for their child and the opportunity to speak with providers for young children, while gaining valuable information and resources.

Teen Programs

Spring Teen Programs are the first three Thursdays of each month and will end in April. Teens



attended Anime Club the first Thursday of each month, with the second Thursdays an opportunity to learn about various careers, and the third Thursday Games, Art, or a Science Program. Teens have practiced interviewing skills and learned about Healthy Relationships this Spring. Programs for teens will be offered in the summer as well, both at the library and the Library Annex. Check the Summer Reading Calendar for details.

Tween Programs

The library also hosted Tween programs for 4th-6th grades since January. Programs are grouped into

art, cooking, and STEM activities. Participants have learned to prepare Sushi Bowls, chili beans and cornbread, and air fryer snacks. They have also learned about pixels and about how to create color with the Arizona Science Center. Programs for this age group will also end in April, with summer offerings beginning in June.



Elementary Programs

Spring programming for Tuesdays K-3 program began in January. For the past several months,



participants have learned about magnets, catapults, how to paint

landscapes and about solar eclipses, in preparation for the Solar Eclipse on April 8th. Spring programs for elementary audiences will finish in April, with summer reading programs starting in June.

Dining with Diabetes

The library hosted the UofA Cooperative Extension's Dining with Diabetes program. The four week program demonstrates and allows participants to try diabetes friendly recipes. The program also explains ways to lower blood sugar in a healthy way, while still having a good quality of life. The program had 12 participants.



The next set of classes will be held at the Library Annex in May. Please contact the Cooperative Extension Office at 928-985-9885 if you are interested in registering.

StoryTime Guests

The library had special visitors to its weekly StoryTime on January 24th. The City of Safford Sanitation Department visited and answered questions about what they do for the city. They showed how the sanitation trucks work and allowed participants to ride a short lift with caregiver assistance.



StoryTime hosted Morgan Seale from the City of Safford Water Department on February 29th. He read the book, *Water*, and answered questions about water within the Gila Valley.



STEAM Equity Exhibit

The library finished hosting the final exhibit as part of the STEAM Equity Grant. The theme, *We Are Creative*, focused on engineering activities. The wind tunnel challenged participants to experiment with items such as scarves, small parachutes, and paper, to learn how size, shape, and materials can affect flight. Another activity, using Legos and a green screen, let participants create their own stop animation feature. Due to the success of this exhibit, the library was awarded an additional grant focused on Exoplanets. **The Exoplanets exhibit will be hosted by the library in Fall 2025.**



Holiday Open House

The library hosted its annual Open House on Thursday, December 7th. The Open House featured a visit by Santa, as well holiday themed activities on the main floor of the library. The Friends of the Library also hosted their annual bake sale to raise funds for future library programs and services. The event had 370 participants.



Dinosaur Day

The library hosted Dinosaur Day, in partnership with Eastern Arizona College, on November 8th. Those ages 3-5 and their caregivers participated in Dinosaur themed activities in the Library Program Room, the main floor, and outside the front area of the building. Activities included digging for dinosaurs, creating their own dinosaur using various pre-cut shapes, and practicing their balance while walking with dinosaur "feet." For the three-hour program, 283 attended.



Dia de Los Muertos

The library hosted Arizona Humanities Speaker Zarco Guerrero on November 2nd to present about Dia de los Muertos. He dressed as characters representing viewpoints of Dia de Los Muertos, including La Comadre and El Abuelito. Each character brought a perspective on life and death and how they chose



to honor those who have passed. For the program, 35 attended.

Ongoing Programs

Library Annex



Makerspace Open Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 5 – 7 pm. Training is required before being able to use the Makerspace equipment.

Additionally, the **second Saturday of each month is a tabletop/game day from 12-6 pm.** The public can bring their own games to play or play games the library provides. Those under age 16 must be accompanied by a parent.

Library Of Things



The library continues to grow its “Library of Things” offerings. In addition to animal anatomy, circuits, and robotics, Memory Maker kits and quilting rulers have been added. **Library of Things kits can be checked out for one week with a library card.**

Memory Maker Kit



50s, 60s, and 70s Menus and Memories



has 50s, 60s, and 70s Menus and Memories.

Memory Maker kits are designed help families and caregivers interact in meaningful ways with those who have memory loss. The library currently

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.



Library Podcast



The library continues to record 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

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.



Free online courses! Universal Class

The library is partnered with Universal Class to offer you a treasure trove of free online courses to ignite your passions and fuel your ambitions. Universal Class offers a vast library of courses on a wide range of topics, so you're sure to find something that piques your interest. The best part? You can learn at your own pace, with self-paced modules and flexible schedules, all for free with your library card.



Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve and contribute to improving our quality of life.

Sidney Sheldon

Early Literacy Concert Series (ELCS)

The library was fortunate to host Bilingual artist Nathalia for a 3-day residency from April 2-4 th. She is the third artist in the concert series the library began in 2022. Each year the library works in partnership with several organizations to bring an early childhood performing artist to the Gila Valley for concerts for children pre-K to 2nd grade.

Nathalia entertained, inspired and engaged 2418 children with her fun-filled musical interactive performances at five concerts over three days between Graham and Greenlee Counties. In addition, she conducted a teacher workshop for pre-K to K-2 educators emphasizing the importance of music in the development of early literacy skills sets. Lastly, 200 copies of Nathalia's book, *Los Mas Pequenos* was distributed to local area classrooms and families!

The library would like to thank the Friends of the Safford Library, First Things First, Gila Valley Arts Council, United Way of Graham and Greenlee Counties, Graham County Superintendent's Office and the Greenlee County Superintendent's Office for their continued support, as well as the David Player Center for the Arts for hosting Nathalia! This series would not be possible without you!

The library would also like to thank Nathalia and Brian for making the experience a memorable one!



Nathalia interacts with the kids.



Nathalia and Bryan on stage at start of a concert.



A concert at Duncan Elementary School



What a Crowd of engaged children!



Show for the smaller kids

Next year's ELCS is being planned. You may donate to ELCS on the mailing page form.

