

# FRIENDS

SAFFORD CITY GRAHAM COUNTY LIBRARY

Saffordlibraryfriends.org

September, 2025

## President's Message

When my husband and I left for our 5-week RV trip to the east coast, I had expected to return to a yard full of weeds. No weeds! That means no rain! Just another long, hot summer. That seems to be the western pattern of late. I do hope you found a way to keep comfortable through the heat. A visit to the library? An afternoon at the movies? The frozen food department at the grocery store? Or did you find a good book or two?

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 since June. I often ask these women when they find time to sleep.

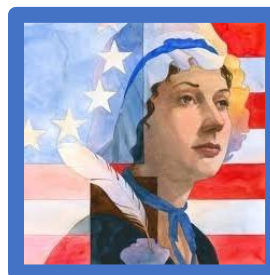
September brings the return of Friends' Night Out, which kicks off on the 18th with the observance of Constitution Day with the Daughters of the American Revolution. And, the Open Book Club returns with its first session on the 15th. Mark your calendars for Jerry's Dine Out on October 15th.

For more information on the above and much more, read on.

Wishing you a beautiful Fall!

*Paulette LeBlanc, SAGLIF President*

## DAR 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, not only on the U.S. Constitution and revolutionary patriots, but will also look ahead to America's 250th celebration.

This special event of historical interest will take place during DAR's Constitution Week on **Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:00 PM** at the **Safford Library Annex on 814 South Central Ave.** All are invited to attend; admission is free. Refreshments will be provided by a chapter of great cooks and The Rustic Barn Bakery.

DAR is gearing up for the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration of our country's birthday in 2026. Cindy Clonts, DAR chapter vice regent, will highlight DAR plans for this event and help create an awareness of this patriotic milestone.

Paula Price, a DAR member with a passion for history, will share well-known events that led up to the writing of the Declaration of Independence and heart-rendering stories of the sacrifices of the signers. This will be followed by an awareness of the numerous ups and downs of that document after it was signed in 1776.

Following this presentation, twenty books about the journey of the Declaration of Independence will be distributed for young people as well as

adults 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 share stories of two of the thirty revolutionary patriots who are in her family line. Those stories will demonstrate the sacrifices made by those who fought for the freedoms that have been passed down through the generations.

Ruth Hernandez, DAR chapter librarian and another passionate historian, will show that two or more cultures within a family line can have those who supported America's move toward independence. Seventeen of her patriots are in her mother's English line. Ruth will share one of those patriots who survived many tragedies in his lifetime.

Observing Constitution Week, which was initiated by DAR in 1955, is a way to remember the importance of the US Constitution. During this program, local high school students, who are winners of the DAR Chapter Patriotic Essay Contest, will be recognized by DAR scholarship chair, Helen Masten, as portions of their essays are read about how the Constitution protects their personal freedoms.

*Bonnie Briscoe - DAR and Friends' member*

## Friends Night Out Returns

We are always pleased to kick off our season of evening presentations with the observance of Constitution Day. Bonnie Briscoe has included coverage of this September 18<sup>th</sup> event for you.

October and November are taking an interesting twist. The library is hosting a 3-month interactive exhibit (September through November), *Discover Exoplanets!*. For those of you who are asking, "What is an exoplanet?", I am here to report they are planets outside our solar system. Our October and November FNO sessions are planned to complement this unique exhibit.

On **Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**, you will meet



David Baron author of *The Martians: The True Story of an Alien Craze That Captured Turn-of-the-Century America* that came out just this August. David is a former science correspondent for NPR and Chair in Astrobiology at the Library of Congress. Hmmm! Perhaps David will get to the bottom of what happened in Roswell, NM.

On **Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**, Matthew Goodwin will offer a presentation, *Why Arizona Dark Skies Matter*. The presentation will discuss what connections can be found between darkness and the night sky with our sense of morality, our sense of who we are as human beings, and our understanding of our place in the universe. Yes! We could use a little moral exploration.



All Friends Night Out sessions are held at the Library Annex at 5:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

## GVAC Mini-Concerts are Back!

Through our partnership with Gila Valley Arts Council, the Friends are pleased to sponsor four



afternoon concerts at the library between September and April. For you Bob Wills fans, GVAC

is kicking the season off in style with a little Western Swing. **Mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. for The Kristyn Harris Band.** The official music of Texas has a vintage sound that crosses between country and jazz. You will be tapping your toes!

The season will also include performances with **Quartetto Gelato**, a multi-instrument showpiece of romantic ballads and gypsy tunes; **Beo String Quartet**, a blend of classical tradition and contemporary expression; and, **Encore Saxophone Quartet**, a musical journey exploring the captivating sound spectrum of the saxophone. Not one, but four!

## OK, Readers! Time to Get Together!

Yes, the Open Book Club returns on **Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.** Do you enjoy reading? Do you enjoy hearing about new authors? Are you a fiction or non-fiction fan? Biographies, Sci-fi, mysteries, historical fiction, poetry, the latest novels? Or, do you prefer magazines? This is the place for you! The Open Book Club welcomes any adult who is interested in the printed page. We do not assign a monthly book, so the sky is the limit on what you will hear.



We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, September through June, unless a holiday bumps us to the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday. Feel free to join us to share your latest find or just to listen.

## Meet Up at Jerry's

For the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Friends will be partnering with **Jerry's Restaurant** to host their Fall Foodie Fest. **Mark your calendars for Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.** 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](http://saffordlibraryfriends.org)) and click on the Dineout link. There are two flyers on the page. Feel free to give one to a friend. Or, bring the one below. See you there!!!

## Friends' Fall Foodie Fest DINE-IN or TAKE-OUT!!



**Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**anytime** the restaurant is open



1612 Thatcher Blvd.  
Safford, AZ

will donate 25% of your meal receipt to

**Friends of the Safford City-Graham  
County Library (SAGLIF)**

**Bring the flyer with you to Jerry's!!**

**You must present this flyer for  
your receipt to be eligible for this  
program.**



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

If you have a **number** (for example, 10/25) **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 10/25 means you would need to renew your dues October, 2025.

The Friends of Library newsletter is published 3 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)

## Library News

### Upcoming Programs

**Discover Exoplanets Exhibit**  
**September 8<sup>th</sup> to November 20<sup>th</sup>**



Join us in exploring *Discover Exoplanets*! This exhibit brings the excitement of exoplanets (planets outside our solar system) and NASA's Universe of Learning to rural and underserved communities by providing local organizations with physical resources and an ongoing relationship with NASA. The national traveling exhibition explores space and astronomy, covering topics such as the search for habitable worlds, how NASA scientists are searching for these worlds, and how they may be like our own. It features hands-on, multimedia activities where visitors can build their own solar systems, see the most recent NASA discoveries, and learn whether popular TV and movies are fact or fiction.

This material is based upon work supported by NASA under cooperative agreement number NNX16AC65A to the Space Telescope Science Institute, working in partnership with Caltech/IPAC, Center for Astrophysics |Harvard & Smithsonian, and Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Any opinions,

findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

### Fall Programs

The library returned with its slate of Fall Programs began on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please go to the library website, [saffordlibrary.org](http://saffordlibrary.org), follow the library on Facebook and Instagram or subscribe to the Monthly Newsletter for updates about upcoming programs!



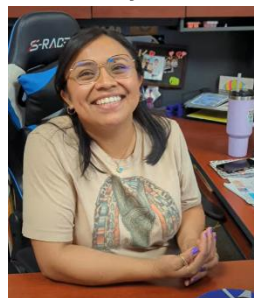
Some highlights include:

- \* StoryTime – see graphic for schedule
- \* K-3 Grade Programs: Tuesdays @ 4 pm
- \* 4-6 Grade Programs: Wednesdays @ 4 pm
- \* Teen Programs: Thursdays @ 4 pm

Thanks to the *Friends of the Safford Library* **Adult Language Classes** resumed on September 2<sup>nd</sup>! Classes are for those ages 18 and older who would like to learn conversational English or Spanish. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-7 pm. Please contact the library for more information at 928-432-4165.

### Staffing

The library staff would like to express our



deepest gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to our incredible colleague, **Araceli Moreno**. After nine years of dedicated service to the Safford City-Graham County Library, Araceli has embarked on a new journey

and while we will miss her dearly, we wish her nothing but the very best in her future endeavors.

She will be teaching the Adult Language Class two evenings a week. We didn't lose her completely!



The library was fortunate to have both **Hagan and Britni** serve as **Americorps** during the summer reading program, as well as throughout the past year for various programs and library

activities. The library staff is greatly appreciative of their hard work and dedication in helping the community and staff. The library would like to wish them luck in their future endeavors.

Join us in celebrating **Mysti Gilbert**, who has been promoted from Teen Program Coordinator to Senior Library Technician! Mysti's creativity, passion for literacy, and commitment to engaging with the community- especially youth- has resulted in a Teen Advisory Group (TAG) and teens being positively engaged with the library. We are excited to see her in her new role at the library!



## Local Artists

For the month of **May**, the library featured the work of local quilter **Marie Green**. Marie started quilting in 2008 and has made over 200 quilts, many of which she donated to the Senior Center, Haven, and the Safe House. As she is fond of saying "there's always another quilt to make!"



She was born in 1938 and moved to the Gila Valley in 1960 and raised a family. She went back to school as a grandmother and graduated from Eastern Arizona College and Northern Arizona University.

For the months of **June and July**, the library featured the work of **eight local teen artists** as part of the Color Our World Summer Reading Program. The artwork ranged from canvas to acrylic to digital, pen and ink art and an illustrated book.



For the month of **August**, the library featured **Bonnie Douglas**. She was born and raised in the Bisbee and Douglas areas. Throughout her life, she raised five children, worked as a realtor in



the Bisbee area, and served as an escrow officer. Later, she spent a decade at Bank of America. She explored art during grade school but didn't return to it until she took lessons at EAC in her 70s. She is thoroughly enjoying art and has discovered watercolor is her favorite medium

## GED Community Graduation



The library hosted a GED Community Graduation on Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. Sixteen GED graduates

and their families, totaling 167, celebrated their accomplishment. To attain a GED in Arizona, participants must take and pass five tests: Civics, Math, Science, Social Studies and Language Arts. Tests cover a wide range of concepts, including writing an essay, geometry, chemistry and other topics. Several speakers shared their own GED journey and how difficult it could be at times to juggle family, work, and



school responsibilities. The library would like to thank the City of Safford, United Way of Graham and Greenlee Counties and Safeway for contributing to the program. The library hopes to have a GED graduation each year.

## Summer Reading Program

The library celebrated summer reading this year with the theme Color Our World. There were many ways to participate during the seven-week program. Activities included StoryTimes, a Family Art Night, Yarn Art, Elementary and Teen Programs, a Puzzle Race, Mini-Golf, Cooking classes, an Escape Room, A Duckoration Art Show and Reading!



## School Field Trips

For the Spring semester, the library had 12 school visits from **Pima, Thatcher, Fort Thomas and Safford** school districts, with a total of 600 attending. School visits will resume in the fall with the Exoplanets Exhibit.

Most visits in the months of March and April were engineering field trips. Roller Coaster Engineering class. The 36 participants learned about the physics behind roller coaster design

and worked in teams to build their own coasters using pipe insulation and marbles.

All of Jack Daley's 1st grade classrooms came over two days in April for engineering, as well as Lafe Nelson's 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms. For the visit, all students rotated between 5 stations, with one including creating a blueprint of their dream home.



## Early Childhood Concert Series

The fourth annual Library of Congress Emerging Strategy Honoree Early Childhood Concert



Series was held April 1-3<sup>rd</sup>. Jazzy Ash was the artist chosen for this year's residency, with two additional outreaches to

local preschools added to the itinerary. The residency also included three performances at the Center for the Arts, one performance each at Metcalf Elementary (Morenci) and Duncan Elementary, as well as a teacher workshop. Classrooms and families attending a performance each received a free companion title, *I Got the Rhythm* by Connie Schofield-Morrison to add to their classroom and home libraries. In total, 2590 children and their families, and educators were able to participate in events between Graham and Greenlee Counties.

The library would like to thank the City of Safford, Library of Congress, 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 support, as well as the Safford Unified School District for hosting Jazzy Ash at the Center for the Arts for three concerts.

## Reading Under the Stars



Library staff attended Reading Under the Stars at Jack Daley Elementary School on May 5th. The library was one of six organizations invited to the annual activity. Staff alternated reading stories to students and their families.

After students listened to all organizations, they were able to take a book home to add to their home library. The library saw 281 individuals during the event.

## Ongoing Programs/Services

### GED Preparation Classes and Testing

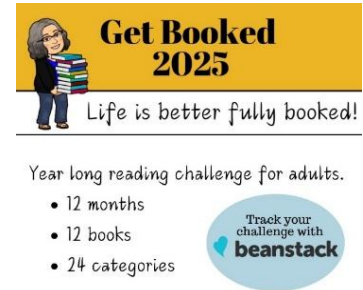
The library continues to have in-person GED Preparation Classes are available for Graham and Greenlee Counties thanks to a grant from the United Way and generous funding through the Friends of the Library! Whether you are brushing up on your skills to prepare for the test or taking the first steps toward your future, this program is designed for you to succeed! Assistance is available Tuesdays through Thursdays. 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](https://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.

### Get Booked Reading Challenge

There is still time to participate in Get Booked 2025! Those ages 18+ can participate in the year-round challenge! The Challenge is to 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, simply come to the library.



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

### Online Learning

The library offers a myriad of resources on its website, [saffordlibrary.org](https://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



Start the conversation.

### 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. Check the library website, Facebook or Instagram for more information.



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

## SAGLIF

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**DAR Constitution  
Week Program  
Thursday, Sept. 18  
5:30 – 7:00 pm  
Library Annex  
in Safford**

**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.**

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