

FRIENDS

SAFFORD CITY GRAHAM COUNTY LIBRARY

Saffordlibraryfriends.org

Fall, 2026

President's Message

Welcome to September and the beginning of a change in the weather. As I am writing this, it is 102 in Safford. We have certainly had a triple-digit summer. I learned years ago there is no use complaining about things that are beyond our control. Instead, do something about it. Find a cool place to hang out; like a public library. Keep daytime movements limited; like reading a good book. Get children involved in engaging activities in pleasant environments; like story time and summer reading programs. Am I describing the Safford City-Graham County Library? Absolutely!

In our summer RV travels, I took my own advice and found my way to libraries in St. Joseph, Missouri and Laramie, Wyoming. Both were hopping with activity. It was fun to watch an early childhood Zumba class, a planting session for elementary students, and a teen book talk and movie. It underscored the value of public libraries everywhere and made me proud of our own gem.

This newsletter kicks off the Friends' 2026-27 season of activities as we continue to partner with our library to best serve you. You will read about Friends Night Out, Open Book Club, Jerry's Dine Out, Gila Valley Arts Council mini concerts and a myriad of programs and opportunities that are conjured by our incredible staff. My favorite question about this ambitious crew is, "When do they sleep?"

Read on! Enjoy! And, start planning that social calendar around this happening place!!

Respectfully,

Paulette LeBlanc, President, SAGLIF

DAR Constitution Week Program!



This year the Friends of the Library and the Gila Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will co-host a program on the US Constitution on the very day, September 17th, that the

Constitution was signed 239 years ago in 1787.

This special event of historical interest will take place during DAR's Constitution Week on **"Constitution Day", Thursday, September 17th from 5:30 – 7:00 PM** at the **Safford Library Annex on 814 South Central Ave.** All are invited to attend; admission is free.

To set the stage for this program, a well-known local trio of singers (Jeff Skiba, Ethan McBride and Michael Shoaf) will raise the spirit of patriotism by providing patriotic songs that will be felt deeply by those attending.

Observing Constitution Week, which was initiated by DAR in 1955, is a way to remember the importance of the US Constitution. During this special program on Constitution Day, the **Honorable Michael D. Peterson, Graham County Superior Court Judge**, will give a presentation entitled **"Why The Constitution Matters Now More Than Ever Before"**.

Following Judge Peterson's presentation, there will be recognition of the local high school students, who are winners of the DAR chapter's Patriotic Essay Contest on the US Constitution. The DAR Scholarship Committee will announce the winners and share portions of their essays about what

would motivate someone to sign the Declaration of Independence or the US Constitution.

Following the program, refreshments will be provided by a chapter of great cooks and The Rustic Barn Bakery. There will also be an opportunity to visit with those involved in the program

Bonnie Briscoe - DAR and Friends' member

Friends Night Out '26 – '27

The Friends are always pleased to co-host the September DAR presentation to celebrate Constitution Day. Bonnie Briscoe has included an article in this publication which describes this wonderful event. These programs are always informative and engaging. And, who can pass up delicious goodies from Revolutionary cookbooks? Please join us!

The library is hosting a one-month national exhibit, **Americans and the Holocaust**, throughout the month of November. This is an incredible opportunity for the Friends to complement it with Friends Night Out activities. **On Thursday, October 15th**, we'll host a *Ken Burns abbreviated documentary, A History to be Reckoned With: The US and the Holocaust*, as an introduction to the exhibit. Victoria Silva will serve as narrator.

On **Wednesday, November 18th**, attendees will be treated to a very special presentation, **Bram's Violin**, the incredible and moving story of a cherished violin that belonged to a young man in



Holland before he was killed in Auschwitz. It will be told by the Bram's nephew, David Groen. This presentation will be accompanied by the violin which was returned to the family decades later. You don't want to miss this!

GVAC Mini Concerts are Back!

Through our partnership with Gila Valley Arts Council, the Friends are pleased to offer afternoon mini-concerts at no charge to our patrons. This year's roster is quite diverse.

We are *stepping* into the season with **Jacome Flamenco**. Chris Jacome will mesmerize and transport you to Spain with his Spanish guitar.

And, Lena Jacome will delight you with the beauty of Flamenco. **This first concert is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Monday, September 21st.**



For folk music fans, we will be showcasing the **Folk Legacy Trio** on **Tuesday, November 3rd at 2:00 p.m.** One member was formerly with the Kingston Trio and another was the lead singer of the Diamonds. These gentlemen have shared the stages with the best! There is no doubt you will enjoy a flash-back experience from the Great American Folksong Book!

Frisson Ensemble changes the pace as today's brightest stars of classical music. They have become the most popular chamber ensemble in America; all eight of them!! Their program will span an array of ensemble combinations; from winds to piano trios and quartets. Mark that calendar for **Monday, February 1st at 2:00 p.m.**

We'll wrap up the season with the return of **Spanish Brass** on **Monday, March 1st at 2:00 p.m.** This quintet, performing on trumpets, trombone, French horn and tuba will wow you with a wide variety of musical content at the highest level.

All concerts are held in the library's Program Room. See you there!

Spring Raffle Winners!

Thanks to all who supported the Friends' Spring Raffle. We realized a profit of \$1500!



Congratulations to Laura David, winner of Dessert of the Month; to Walker Harrison, winner of the Corn Hole game; and to Tri-County Materials, who garnered two prizes, the patriotic quilt

and Nathaniel Wright's prints. We wish you ALL could have won but, then, it wouldn't have been called a raffle.

Readers! Come forth!

The **Open Book Club**, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, will kick off its 2026-27 season on **September 21st**. We meet on the **third Monday of the month from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.**



ALL readers are welcome. **We do not assign a book.** Members share what they've been reading over the past month, whether it's a book, poem, magazine article, a favorite recipe, etc. The variety often conjures some lively conversation. Please join us!

Act One! Such a deal!

If you haven't heard about **Act One Culture Passes** or haven't taken advantage of them, listen up. This program offers free passes to some incredible cultural institutions throughout the state. They are available in our library. Simply select a destination from an array of choices, bring your request to the circulation desk and arrange a visit at your convenience. A pass gives you two free entries.



In May, my niece visited from Massachusetts. We decided to take advantage of some Act One experiences. The Western Spirit Museum in Scottsdale was incredible! The museum boasts the finest of western art through paintings, photographs, bronze sculptures, and artifacts (saddles, bridles, and a stagecoach). We joined a docent-led tour of the Eddie Basha collection. Oh, my goodness! It was bar-none!



Mr. Basha left so many pieces to the museum, they had to build a storage building to house it. The collection is continually changed to encourage return visitors. The following week, we returned to Phoenix to visit the Desert Botanical Garden. This was quite a treat for a New Englander. We chose to visit in the evening to see the expansive garden under lights. What a treat!

Christina and I cannot say enough about these visits and the wonderful opportunity of Act One! And, here's the best part! We saved \$100 on entry fees. Check out Act One! There is something for everyone!

Paulette LeBlanc, Friends member



Calling All Foodies!

The Friends are hosting their 9th Annual Jerry's Dine Out on **Wednesday, October 21st**. Community members are asked to stop by Jerry's to support this fundraiser. Through Jerry's Foundation, we will receive 25% of the income from sales during the 21st. Any purchase counts!

The **flyer is the key to 25% of that sale!** It is included in this newsletter. Flyers will also be available at the library circulation desk and distributed at Fall Friends' events. We look forward to seeing you there!

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



Wednesday, October 21st
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, 10/26) **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 10/26 means you would need to renew your dues
October, 2026.

The Friends of Library newsletter is published 3-4 times a
year. Friends, 808 S 7th Ave, Safford, AZ 85546 - 2944.

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Vice-President - Sue Rasmussen,
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Annji Craig-Wooten, Treasurer-
Donna Harrison.



Website – saffordlibraryfriends.org

Library News

Summer Reading Program

The library would like to thank all who participated in the Summer Reading Program this year. The seven-week program included reading challenges for all ages, as well as activities such as StoryTime, the Heist for the Hidden Relic Escape Room in July, Lego and Dungeons and Dragons Camps, cooking classes, a Puzzle Race and much more. Patrons also read plenty during the summer months, with over 17,000 items checked out and over 300,000 minutes read.



New Programs/Services

Americans and Holocaust Exhibit



The library is one of 100 institutions in the United States hosting the *Americans and the Holocaust*, a

traveling exhibition from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The exhibit will be available from late October until December 2nd for view during the libraries open hours.

This powerful exhibit examines the challenges faced by the United States in responding to the rise of Nazism and the Holocaust. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore historical documents, photographs, and personal stories while considering important questions about immigration, public opinion, government policy, and the experiences of individuals affected by these events.

If you are interested in being a docent for the exhibit, please contact the library. All docents will be provided training, including a script to follow as they assist visitors in viewing the exhibit.

Magic Pages

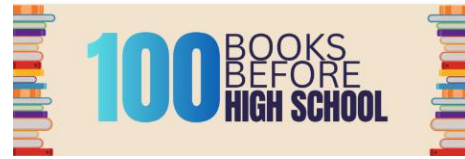
The library is launching a new book club for K-3 audiences in September. The club is not meant to teach children to read, but to introduce emerging readers to new books, get them excited about books and reading, and help them develop social skills to interact with their peers. The program will be held on the first Tuesday of each month, with children who attend able to keep the book presented each month, to build their home library. For any questions, please contact the library 928-432-4165.

Epic Reads

The library will be continuing its Tween Book Club program this fall, renamed Epic Reads on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The first meeting of the group was in August where participants selected the books that would be read in the Fall

session. The book for October will be given at the end of the Book Club in September. Participants in the program are also able to keep their books this year, further adding to their home library. For any questions, please contact the library 928-432-4165.

100 Books Before High School



The library will be launching a new reading

challenge for Elementary Audiences in September. Children from Kindergarten to 8th grade can join the challenge. Using the Beanstack app, participants can register for the program and read any book that is of interest. Each book can be logged in the Beanstack app with the goal of reading 100 books before they begin high school. Small rewards are given when certain milestones are reached. For any questions, please contact the library.

Upcoming Programs/Services

The library will begin its fall programming in September. Additional programs will include Teen programs on Thursdays, Fall Break (October 12th – 15th) Programs, as well as a Hunger Games Trivia Night for ages 13 and up on October 22nd.

Please visit the library calendar at <https://www.cityofsafford.us/886/Monthly-Calendar-of-Events> or pick up a copy at the front desk.

Past Programs/Events

2nd Annual GED Community Graduation

The library hosted the 2nd Annual GED Graduation on June 25th. The twelve graduates were recognized for completing one, several, or all tests required for their GED. This year's presentation was attended by 100+ community members. Two graduates



spoke about their challenges in obtaining their GED and how it has been an important step in their educational journey. The program was made possible through funding from the United Way of Graham and Greenlee Counties, the Friends of the Library, Safeway, and the City of Safford.

Retrograde Trivia Night

Retrograde Brew and BBQ hosted Trivia Night for the Library as part of the Summer Reading Program on June 18th. Trivia games were

played using the Kahoot app with topics focusing on books, movies, and library themes. At the event, the 40+ participants could also win library-themed prizes, such as a book bag and books, along with prizes provided by Retrograde.

Cardboard Party

The library had a Cardboard Party for all ages on June 11th as the first all-ages event for the Summer Reading Program.

The 55 participants were able to create forts, robots, swords and shields and anything else with their imagination. The Library provided cardboard and tools, as well as markers and crayons to decorate creations, with participants able to take their creations home.



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StoryTime Promotion



During the May 21st Storytime, six (6) children moving into kindergarten next year were promoted from 0-5 to elementary programming. Many of these children have been attending Storytime since they were infants. Many Storytime families cannot afford preschool education, so library Storytimes are their

preparation for kindergarten. Each graduate was given a certificate, cap, a bookmark and finger

puppets to encourage literacy throughout the summer before the school year starts. For the program, 32 attended.

Reading Under the Stars

The library attended Jack Daley School's Reading Under the Stars event on May 5th. The event is held yearly to encourage families to read together.

The library was one of six (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 324 participants.

Spring Festival

The library participated in the Spring Festival on April 24th and 25th. Activities for families included bubble making, chalk art, a beanbag toss, and an archaeology dig. The library also advertised upcoming programs, including Summer Reading, and ongoing programs, such as the GED Prep program. Over the two days, 592 visited the library at the Safford Spring Festival. The library is planning to attend the upcoming Salsa Fest at the end of September 2026, with activities for all ages.



Senior Center Drive

The library partnered with SEACUS to host a supply drive from March to April. The drive was to collect needed items for seniors in the community that they may be unable to purchase. For the drive, the library collected just under 100 items including a



wheelchair, walkers, laundry supplies, papergoods and hygiene items

Early Literacy Concert Series

The fifth annual Library of Congress Emerging Strategy Honoree Early Childhood Concert Series



was held April 7-9th. Red Yarn was the artist chosen for this year's residency, which 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. There were also two outreaches to local preschools. Classrooms and families who attended a performance received a free companion title, *The Fox Went Out on a Chilly Night* by Peter Spier to add to their classroom and home libraries. In total, 2574 children and their families and educators were able to participate in events between Graham and Greenlee Counties.

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 support, as well as the Safford Unified School District for hosting Red Yarn at the Center for the Arts.

Community Baby Shower



The library hosted the annual Community Baby Shower on March 6th for expectant parents and caregivers of children up to age 1. A total of 190 attended the event, which provided local resources for families with young children and allowed them the opportunity to speak in-person with local providers.

Ongoing Programs/Services

Library Annex Programs

The Library Annex hosts Educational Classes provided by the Graham County Cooperative Extension. Future offerings will include *Spooky Appetizers and Mocktails* and *Holiday Recipes*. Classes are on the first Wednesday of each month at 10 am and 5 pm. For information about upcoming classes contact Cindy Pearson cpearson@arizona.edu.



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.

Additionally, the Library Annex is hosting Game Days on Thursday evenings from 5 – 10pm for ages 16 and up. Participants are encouraged to bring their own games.

GED Preparation Classes and Testing

The library has in-person GED Preparation Classes



available for Graham and Greenlee County residents thanks to a grant from the United Way and the City of

Safford. 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. Please expect a response within a week.

Additionally, the library is an official GED testing site, with in-person testing available *Mondays from 3 - 7 pm and Thursdays from 10 am – 2 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.

SAGLIF
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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

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

\$_____ Use as needed for the library \$_____ SAGLIF Investment Fund

\$_____ Early Literacy Concert Series (ELCS) \$_____ Other: _____

Total payment: _____ Please make your check to SAGLIF.

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

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