

Friends ^{of} _{the} Idyllwild Library

Speaking Volumes

Marcia Krull, Editor

Spring 2017

Edwin Hansen, President

Upcoming Events Sponsored by the Friends of the Idyllwild Library

The Program Committee has scheduled a number of interesting and varied presentations coming up in the next three months. We hope you will attend those that interest you!

Home: Writing with Katya Williamson, MFA

This 4-part series includes discussion, interaction and writing to further clarify the legacy of Idyllwild in our lives and for posterity.

Dates: Friday/Saturday, March 10, 11, and April 7, 8
Time: 12:00 -- 2:00 p.m.

“Desert Bighorn Sheep”

Mark Jorgensen, retired superintendent of the Anza-Borrego State Park, will share information about the elusive bighorn sheep, iconic symbol of the deserts of the southwest United States and northern Mexico.

Date: Wednesday, March 15
Time: 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

“Amazing Grace”

Logan Creighton reprises his well-received program about John Newton, who wrote the famous song after undergoing a spiritual transformation.

Date: Wednesday, April 12
Time: 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

“Introduction to the Birds of the San Jacinto Mountains” with **Robin Roberts**, local birder and photographer

Date: Tuesday, April 18
Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. p.m.

Straight Guy's Journey to Acceptance with Tom Cosgrove, storyteller, writer, nearly normal Alaskan. Tom presents first person stories that challenge, entertain, and inspire.

Date: Monday, May 8
Time: 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Please note: Unless otherwise indicated, all events will be held in the Idyllwild Library Community Room.

Perry Dyke, Program Chair

A Note from the Librarian

Friends,
This is just a gentle reminder to support the presenters and the programs that are being generously funded by the Friends of the Idyllwild Library. Over the last year, we have had at least three events that had very, very low attendance. It is embarrassing for the presenters to have only one or two people come for their talks. All three presentations were well organized, well planned and a joy to participate in, but I fear the presenters aren't all that excited about sharing their time and topic with me and one or two other audience members.

The programming committee welcomes any comments on best days, best times, or best topics. Feel free to contact me with suggestions at Shannon.Ng@rivlib.net.





President's Message "At the Peak"

Libraries in Early Muslim Civilization

The religion of Islam has been forefront in our world news for the last two decades. After doing some research, I discovered some interesting facts about the history of the library in the world of Islam. Throughout history, the Muslim civilization has held libraries as centers of knowledge and personal growth. As we know, the book publishing industry in the Western World is vast and awesome. But did you know that an equally sophisticated and impressive industry first grew in the Eastern Muslim civilization, around the middle of the eighth century, almost a thousand years before books appeared in the West? The book publishing industry was still in existence when Europe began to occupy Muslim lands, but was gradually killed-off by colonial powers, the Muslim system of education, medicine, and other institutions.

Much has been written about Islamic libraries in the Middle Ages. Public book collections were widespread. It was virtually impossible to find a mosque or institution of learning that did not have some sort of book collection placed at the disposal of students. Baghdad had 36 public libraries and over 100 book dealers and publishers employing a corps of copyists. In Merw (Eastern Persia) there were 10 libraries - two were located in the chief mosque. In Marrakech, the Kutubya Mosque was named after 200 book sellers (KUTUBIYA) assembled their booths around the Mosque. There were also libraries in Cairo, Aleppo, and most of the larger cities of Iran, Central Asia, and Mesopotamia. In the words of al-Muqaddasi, the library in Shiraz was described as "a complex of buildings, surrounded by gardens with lakes and waterways. The buildings were topped with domes, and comprised an upper and a lower story with a total, according to the chief official, of 360 rooms...In each department, catalogues were placed on a shelf...the rooms were furnished with carpets..." Prestigious private collections attracted scholars from throughout the Muslim world. These institutions contributed significantly to public enlightenment and to the formation of national character. The libraries contained collections which were enriched with illuminations of wondrous beauty. "The more precious were bound in embossed leather and fragrant woods; some were inlaid with gold and silver. Here were to be found all the learning of the past and all the discoveries of the present age: the philosophy of Athens, the astronomy of Babylon, the science of Alexandria..."

The mosque was the central focus of intellectual life. In the mosque were writers and scholars who taught young people. When a writer wished to publish a book, he made notes and wrote the original manuscript. Before the book was actually published, the author was required to present his book to the public in the mosque. Professional "warrags" copied and turned dictations into books. Even books that were especially commissioned were still published in this way.

The mosques themselves, also acted as libraries. It was considered a noble tradition for Muslims to bequeath their book collections (sometimes in the thousands) to mosques. From the beginning, mosques were not just devoted to worship. They were also schools and seats of learning. "Muslims regarded their places of worship as havens for the safekeeping of their valued books, and so in large numbers, they bequeathed their collections to the mosques." While most mosques had modest libraries, some contained rich collections including some very rare works. Even scientific works could be found in the mosques. These collections were contributed by scientists for being given free accommodations and material comforts. Mosques always tried to shelter and help Muslim travelling scholars. An impressive aspect of Islamic libraries was their sense of management and organization. The mosque libraries contained many rooms for the classification and arrangement of books. There were galleries with shelves in which the books were kept; rooms where people could study and read; rooms for making copies of manuscripts (no copy machines), and rooms for literary assemblies. People could also buy books. There were large rooms where buyers could examine books and manuscripts, enjoy refreshment and talk. The use of paper rather than papyrus and parchment made books much less expensive. The sophistication of their libraries and the large-scale manufacturing of paper show that the Muslims accomplished a feat of crucial significance, not only in the Islamic book world but in the whole world of books and literacy.

Source: <http://www.muslimheritage.com/article/knowledge-learning-institutions-and-libraries-islam-book-publishing-and-paper-making>

Edwin Hansen, President



Children's Program – Story Time

“Children must learn to read before they can read to learn.”

Unknown author

The children's library has a special responsibility to meet the needs of children. If children can be inspired at an early age by the excitement of finding knowledge, they will undoubtedly enrich themselves and most likely become positive contributors to society. If children are encouraged to use the library from an early age, this will make them more likely to remain users in future years. It is our goal at Idyllwild Library to equip children with lifelong learning and literacy skills by promoting not only books but other media as well through fun special activities and events at the library.

Besides our weekly story times, these are some of the past and upcoming children's special events here at the Idyllwild Library:

January - Children's Film Festival was a big success this year. Riverside County Transportation came to story time with a snow plow, which the children could sit in and enjoy.

February – Special Event “Take Your Child to Library Day”. Sandii Castleberry taught a musical spoon workshop and accompanied the children with her guitar and singing. Mayor Max also visited the library, and children's author Diana Diehl read her book “Misho of the Mountain” and led a discussion about writing. While the local children enjoyed President's Week break from school, the library sponsored STEAM Workshop Week (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). Special workshops included: Design & Print on a 3-D Printer, Make a Borax Crystal Snowflake, Learn to Edit Digital Photos, Folded Book Art, Coding Games, and Build Your Own Robot.



March – We will again participate in the In-n-Out Reading Challenge March 4 to April 15. For every five books read, the child receives a certificate for a free hamburger from In-n-Out.

April – For Earth Day, Patti Hudson, with the U.S. Forest Service Volunteers, will present the Earth Day program “Leave No Trace.” We will also celebrate *Día de los Libros y día de los Niños* (Day of the Book and Day of the Children).

May – We are hosting a “Mother and Teddy Bear Tea Party” for Mother's Day. We will also be adopting caterpillars again this year, and watching their life cycle, ending with a special release of our Painted Lady butterflies.

Of Course, many special events and activities are being planned for the summer reading program, including more STEAM programs. Watch for more information about “Reading by Design” in the next newsletter. These are just a few of the ways we are attempting to bring enriching programs to our local children, and hopefully developing a love of learning and reading.

Susan Righetti, Children's Program Coordinator & Mary Zimmerman, FOL Children's Program Liaison

Membership Report

SUPPORT THE FRIENDS! If you enjoy the library and wish to expand the presence of the library for the benefit of the community, consider becoming a Life member or Patron, and ask your friends to join.

We are so pleased to have some new members: Joye and Don Schmiedt, Monet Ragsdale, Priscilla Schultz, and new Life Member Shannon Ng, our Head Librarian. Generous donors are Diann Coate, Arthur Connor, Stephanie Nomura-Henley, Monet Ragsdale, and Judith and Ronald Shenkman. Thanks also to our renewing members Susan Anderson, Charlotte Anthony and Bill Sperling, Darlene and Jerry Beebe, Nancy Borchers, Michael Boyer, Jeanne and Jerry Buchanan, Summer and Eddie Brown, Dore Capitani and Trish Tuley, Richard Collins, Arthur Connor, the Jayne Davis family, Janice and John Dawson, Daniel Dever, Anne Huffstutlar, Dick Dorisse and Morry Copeland, Jennifer Gee, Pam Goldwasser and Tim Wurtz, Elaine Hoggan, Nanci and Ben Killingsworth, Judith and Russell Lawler, the Warren Monroe family, Susan Moore. Sue and Nick Novosad, Anne and Don Polkingharn, Puri Escudero Ruiz and Juan Ruiz-Anchia, Jo Shinkle, Colette and Pascal Simon, and Colleen and William Tell. We are grateful!

Roz Tilson, Membership Chair

Book Store Report

We are looking for a number of volunteers to work in the Friends' Bookstore. We are hoping to find several people who will be trained to restock and tidy up the bookstore. It could be as little as an hour a week or more if you can spare the time. If you are interested, please let the library staff know! We need YOU!!

As you start to do your spring cleaning, please keep the library in mind. We can make good use of books of all kinds (including especially nice books for our silent auction), audiobooks, VHS videos, CDs, and DVDs. If you have a large donation, please call the library first so that we can prepare a storage area.

Gay Reeves, Book Sale Chair

Silent Auctions

Our Silent Auction runs every two weeks, from the 1st Tuesday to the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The books are carefully selected, and sometimes we have real treasures! Come in and place your bid!

Perry Dyke, Silent Auction Chair

Treasurer's Report

Account Balances, Income & Expenditures YTD as of Jan 31, 2017

- Membership income is down \$15 from where it was in January of last year.
- Bookstore sales are up \$248.66 from where they were in January of last year.
- Unrestricted income was \$1,184.21 which is \$70.77 less than this month last year.
- Unrestricted expenditures were \$468.16 which is \$24.74 more than this month last year.
- The total balance in the checking and money market accounts is up \$2,461.93 since November, bringing the total to \$70,868.53
- Income exceeded Expenditures by \$716.05

Year to date expenditures as of Jan 31st, 2017

Nook subscriptions, Living Color (December Program), Illinois Library Association (SRP), children's supplies, books.



Tricia Mathys, Treasurer

What's Your Elevator Speech?

Shannon Houlihan Ng, Librarian & Branch Manager

I suspect you, as a member of the Friends of the Idyllwild Library, probably receive almost as many questions as I do about the value of libraries in general and the Idyllwild Library in particular. I imagine you are at the Post Office or the Transfer Station or the Coffee Shop and you might hear the often-asked question, "What do we need libraries for now that we have the internet?" I thought I would share several of the points I make when presenting my "elevator speech." An elevator speech is a short, less than two minute, summary of the important points and interesting ideas you want someone to know when you chance to meet them. You may have only have a brief time, the length of an elevator ride, to catch their attention or answer their question. If the conversation is successful, you may be able to encourage them to join you in visiting and supporting their library.



The American Library Association has created a public campaign designed to increase awareness of the value, impact and services provided by libraries and library professionals. They focus on the five E's of Libraries: Education, Employment, Entrepreneurship, Empowerment, and Engagement. The E's help us to explain how public libraries transform communities. I use them to share my passion for the opportunities libraries provide.

Let's talk about **Education**. We at the library put a priority on providing educational opportunities for the whole community. Our early literacy programs include 1000 Books Before Kindergarten and weekly Storytimes. Along with early reading practice, these activities emphasize spatial (location), temporal (time),

quantity (number), quality (description), and social-emotional (feelings) concepts. Our preschoolers also learn letter recognition and sounds through stories and games. Our staff and volunteer readers often include common core connections to help young children be school-ready. We also provide language learning for anyone who has a need or interest. There's a new Italian Conversation class happening weekly and English Language Learners are supported several times throughout the year. Include homework help, Quick Answers for Quick Questions and other educational opportunities, and you'll have lots to choose from when talking about education at the library.

How about **Employment**? Job searching is not what it used to be. Today, job announcements and applications are primarily online. A completely new skill set is required to find and apply for employment. Our library doesn't only provide public computers for those who may not have their own, we provide assistance in navigating the often-complicated online process. We have even been known to help with inquiry or cover letters. Exploring possibilities for a change of career is best accomplished with library resources. Where else could you find a wealth of free information on what is required to become a doctor, teacher or any other career?

Entrepreneurship has taken on a new focus with the popularity of social media. Those who are interested in starting or improving their business have always used the library to research their ideas, investigate competition, understand laws and regulations and apply for patents or trademarks. Now, they are also able to market their business online through social media on the public access computers. We have several regular visitors who use Facebook, Twitter, SnapChat, YouTube and several other social media tools to advertise their services. Check out some of Idyllwild's own online business enterprises at [Idyllwild Market Place](#) or [Idyllwild CVB](#). It's much easier to take the leap into owning your own business with the free resources at the library.

Libraries provide opportunities for **empowerment** to their communities. "Our nation's libraries serve all community members, including people of color, immigrants, people with disabilities, and the most vulnerable in our communities, offering services and educational resources that transform communities, open minds and promote inclusion and diversity," said ALA President Julie Todaro in a recent statement following the election. "ALA believes that the struggle against racism, prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination is central to our mission."

Today's libraries are all about **engagement**. One of my favorite quotes when I'm giving an elevator speech is "Bad Libraries build collections. Good libraries build services (of which a collection is only one). Great libraries build Communities." Prof. R. David Lankes's quote easily summarizes our goal here at the Idyllwild Library. We focus on building the community we serve. We do this with services, but we also do this with programs to entertain, to teach, and to engage our patrons. Last year there were over fifteen per month at the library for a total of over 180 programs. Feel free to share the events listed in the library's monthly calendars or the list of programs supported by the Friends of the Idyllwild Library as part of your own elevator speech. As a strong advocate for the library, your voice can help everyone in our community use the valuable free resources available to them here in Idyllwild.

For more information, hold the CTRL key and click on the links below.

[The E's of Libraries](#)

[Idyllwild Library Facebook page](#)

[Riverside County Library - Idyllwild Library Event page](#)

[Friends of the Idyllwild Library webpage](#)

Editor's End Notes

My theme for this issue is volunteerism. Our library depends greatly on the volunteers who do many of the tasks that the paid staff just does not have time to do (and they do a LOT!) The Friends of the Idyllwild Library Board members are all volunteers who share a common commitment to making our library one that reflects our community's interests, values, and needs.

On March 23rd from 10 a.m. to 12 there will be a meeting for new prospective volunteers at the library. If you have even a small amount of time and would like to join our outstanding cadre of volunteers, please plan to attend! For more information, contact Warren Monroe, Volunteer Coordinator, at wwmonroe@earthlink.net.



Marcia Krull, Editor

ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE IDYLLWILD LIBRARY!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Individual Annual..... \$10.00
- Family Annual \$15.00
- Organization or Business Annual \$25.00
- Individual Life \$100.00
- Patron \$250.00
- Benefactor..... \$1000.00

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Friends of the Idyllwild Library, Attn: Roz Tilson, PO Box 2183, Idyllwild CA 92549-2183



Friends of the Library
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Idyllwild CA 92549