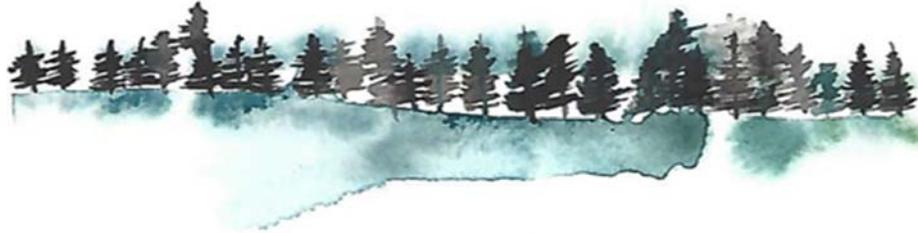


# Speaking Volumes

Marcia Krull, Editor

Fall 2021

John Mathys, President



## Upcoming Events Sponsored by Friends of the Idyllwild Library

**Note:** Unless otherwise specified, all events are in the Idyllwild Library Community Room

### Idyllwild Friends of the Library Board Meetings

Dates: Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6, at 9 a.m.

### Idyllwild Reads ~ Book Sale & Author Fair

Saturday, September 25 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

For more information on upcoming programs, check our branch calendar at [www.rivlib.net](http://www.rivlib.net) or the Friends' webpage at <http://www.friendsofityllwildlibrary.com> or go to the Library's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/IdyllwildLibrary/>

To find the most up to date activity information each month, visit the library and look for Colleen's monthly printed calendar and Susan's monthly children's calendar or check out Yumi's posts and events on Facebook.



## President's Message "At the Peak"

Hello Everyone,

The board members of the Friends of the Idyllwild Library look forward to resuming our work on behalf of the library in the months ahead. We are very excited to bring you smart, fun, and entertaining content for our sponsored events throughout the year. Our goal is to help the library reach our entire community and for it to be a central part of our town.

The Friends accomplish our work by raising funds through membership, book store sales, and special events throughout the year. We help the library get needed books and supplies. We help to fund the children's programs. We work alongside the library staff in whatever ways we can. It's a big job and it takes a big team to stay on top of all the goals we set for ourselves. As we re-group from the pandemic and look ahead to our upcoming work, we would very much like to invite you to consider becoming part of our board and volunteer staff.

Why volunteer? With busy lives, it can be hard to find time to volunteer. However, the benefits of volunteering can be enormous. Volunteering offers vital help to people in need, worthwhile causes, and the community, but the benefits can be even greater for you, the volunteer. The right match can help you to find friends, connect with the community, learn new skills, and even advance your career. Giving to others can also help protect your mental and physical health. It can reduce stress, combat depression, keep you mentally stimulated, and provide a sense of purpose. While it's true that the more you volunteer, the more benefits you'll experience, volunteering doesn't have to involve a long-term commitment or take a huge amount of time out of your busy day. Giving in even simple ways can help those in need while contributing to your own health and happiness. ([www.helpguide.org](http://www.helpguide.org))

**Idyllwild Library**

54401 Village Center Dr., P. O. Box 68  
(951) 659-2300

**Hours**

Monday and Wednesday  
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Tuesday  
12 – 8 p.m.  
Thursday and Friday  
12 – 5 p.m.  
Saturday  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Closed Sunday

Branch Manager: Shannon Houlihan Ng  
Library Assistants: Colleen Tell, Susan Righetti, and Yumi See

If you are interested in becoming a board member, or volunteering at the Library please call me, John Mathys, at (951) 306-4494. It is very fun and fulfilling to make new friends and to focus on a common goal, Our Library. And, with ongoing updates and new content always being added, you'll keep coming back to discover more. Popular and recently added collections include:

**U.S. collections** deliver hundreds of millions of names from sources such as federal and U.S. censuses; birth, death, and marriage records including the Social Security Death Index; and U.S. border crossing and trans-ocean ship records.

**Canadian collections** provide nearly 60 million records from the Census of Canada, and key vital records, such as the Drouin Collection (1621-1967), which includes nearly 30 million baptisms, marriage, and burial records from Quebec.

**U.K. collections** offer censuses for England, Wales, Isle of Man, Channel Islands, and Scotland, with nearly 200 million records: Births and Baptisms (1834-1906), Marriage Licenses (1521-1869), Deaths and Burials (1834-1934), and Poor Law Records (1840-1938) in London, and more.

**Other international collections** continue to grow with more than 46 million records from German censuses, vital records, emigration indexes, ship lists, phone directories, and more; Chinese surnames in the large and growing Jiapu Collection of Chinese lineage books; Jewish family history records from Eastern Europe and Russia; and more.

**Military collections** deliver over 150 million records containing information often not found elsewhere and includes records from the colonial to the Vietnam era.

**Multimedia collections** deliver millions of files ranging from family and gravestone photos to postcards and newsreels.

All this, plus an intuitive search interface, detailed search indexes, and helpful Learning Center tools, makes Ancestry Library Edition an indispensable resource for any library serving genealogists and historians. Try Ancestry Library Edition in your library.

Information provided by:

<https://www.proquest.com/products-services/ale.html>

**John Mathys, President**

## Friends of the Library Social Media

Please visit us on social media! The Friends of the Idyllwild Library now have accounts on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

Instagram: @friendsofidyllwildlibrary

Twitter: FOLidyllwild

Facebook: Friends of the Idyllwild Library

Contact email: [publicity@friendsofidyllwildlibrary.com](mailto:publicity@friendsofidyllwildlibrary.com)

## Children's Programs

Imagine yourself sitting under a magnificent huge old black oak, known as the "Mother Tree," with stunning clear blue skies overhead and an occasional fluffy cloud floating by, and enjoying a mild cool breeze as children's stories are being read aloud. This was the experience at our outdoor, fresh-air story times at the Idyllwild Nature Center's amphitheater during spring and summer 2021, as well as last fall 2020.

All of the story times held at the Idyllwild Nature Center were based on various nature themes and were followed by nature walks conducted by trained docents who reinforced each story's theme during the walk. Some story time themes included: "Hiking Day," "Mountain Wildflowers," "Squirrels," "Pine Trees and Pine Cones of the San Jacinto Mountains," "I Love Bugs," and "All About Owls." Theme-related take-home craft kits were prepared for the children, and library books were available to check out. Thank you to Helen Hixon for a fun story time about bugs. Also, a big thank you to Dianne Franco for an informative presentation about owls and for her efforts in transporting a burrowing owl, named Gabby, and Luna the barn owl to story time from the Coachella Valley Wild Bird Center. We want to thank the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District and Steve Perez, Idyllwild Nature Center Park Ranger, for making outdoor story time possible. We are grateful to the Friends of the San Jacinto Mountain County Parks for their participation in story time, especially Denise Ohrazda and Mary Rider, for conducting the nature walks, and Pamela Mayfield for photographing many of the events.

An additional story time this summer was held at the newly remodeled Idyllwild Town Hall for the children attending day camp. Following each story time, the children made a themed-related STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) project, such as making thaumatropes, learning about the ocean zones, conducting a compass experiment, and performing

an experiment about how solar and lunar eclipses occur.



Of course, summer would not be complete without the summer reading program. This year's summer reading theme was "Reading Colors Your World." Summer reading was an eight-week program, June 14, 2021 to August 6, 2021. Each week's theme was a different color. There were on-line programs and events for pre-readers, children, teens, and adults. In addition to reading prizes awarded by the Riverside County Library System, the Idyllwild Library gave prizes to top readers in each age category, weekly gift boxes, a participation prize, and a Five-Book Challenge prize to those who read five books. The five-book challenge participants were awarded a \$5 Gift Certificate to one of the following local businesses: Alpaca Coffee and Tea, Amelia's Donuts, Atomic Cow Creamery, or El Buen Cacao. The Friends of the Idyllwild Library made it possible for Idyllwild Library to reward our summer readers with these wonderful prizes.

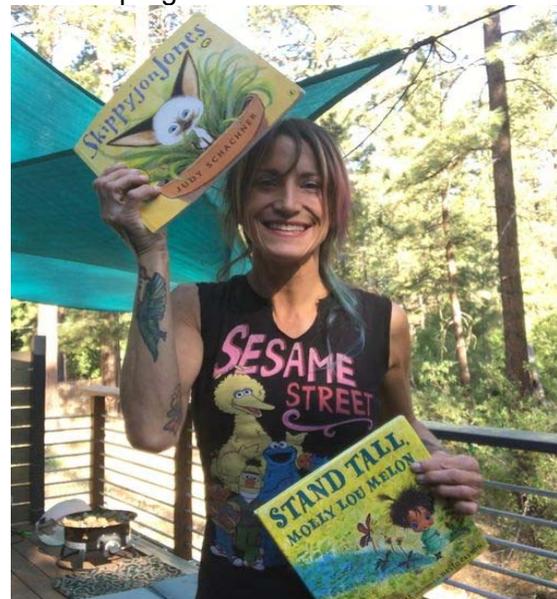
Friday ZOOM Story Times with Rachel Torrey was another fun and lively summer event. In addition to reading stories, singing, and lots of moving about, Ms. Rachel taught many ASL signs (American Sign Language); children learned the ASL signs for the colors of the rainbow. Ms. Rachel will be continuing Friday ZOOM story times at 10:30 a.m.

During the fall and winter months there were numerous STEAM and virtual children's programs recorded by Yumi and Susan. Some of our STEAM projects were "Hopping, Popping Corn," "Ice

Fishing," "Strong Paper," "Fizzy Rainbow Easter Eggs," and "Straw Challenge – Building with Straws."

We were pleased to take part in a virtual LENA Start (Language Environmental Analysis) program earlier this year. LENA Start is a program designed for families with children from birth to three-years with the goal of helping parents learn how to increase talk and encourage reading with their babies in those early years. Interactive talk has been proven to be a key factor in healthy early brain development. During LENA Start, families use LENA's "talk device" to measure their child's language environment. Over the course of ten-weekly sessions, families are given feedback reports, and learn techniques and strategies on how to increase the quality and quantity of talk at home. Organizations all over the world use LENA programs to enrich the language environments of children. LENA's aim is to build early literacy skills, stronger families, and school readiness.

During this past year story time could not be held at the library due to the pandemic restrictions. However, all of these programs continued with Zoom and with lots of help, and we truly appreciate collaborating with these many agencies and organizations in order to bring story time and other programs to our local children. Check with the library for upcoming fall story times and afterschool STEAM programs.



It's so good to see our patrons returning. There's no place like the being back home at the library!

**Susan Righetti, Children's Program Coordinator**

## Treasurer's Report

A hearty "Welcome Back" seems to be in order! After declaring 2020 to be a "non-year" (to say the least 😊), we're glad to be resuming our usual activities and grateful for the financial support of our community. Without you, we would be unable to help fund the Idyllwild Library. As it is though, we continue to invest heavily in the library's reading programs, community events, book collection, and children's activities. Did you know that every year the Friends of the Library provides:

- **\$6,000** to purchase new books to be added to our catalog
- **\$8,000** to provide for cultural enrichment (speakers, authors, performances) and reading programs for kids and adults.
- **\$3,000** to cover the costs of advertisement, administration, and supplies like earbuds, flash drives, and a 3D printer.
- We also steward a building fund to cover additions and improvements to the library itself.

Not bad for a small mountain community! So, where do we get the money to do all this?

From YOU... your Friends Memberships, your purchases at the Friends Bookstore, your silent auction bids, your support at our bi-annual book sales, and your generous donations. But wait, there's more, you also help financially support the library by choosing the "Friends of the Idyllwild Library Inc." as your charitable organization through Amazon. If you are an Amazon shopper, you can designate a portion of your sales to go to the library. Just visit <https://smile.amazon.com> and choose us as your charitable organization. A percentage of everything you buy will go to supporting the Friends of the Idyllwild Library!

Now, as you can imagine, the past 20 months have been financially slim for us. We chose not to contact members regarding their renewals, the bookstore was inaccessible until fairly recently, we've not had our annual book sales, and donations all but dropped off. All that to say, as our community begins to return to its full function, we would love to receive your full financial support once more. There are so many win-win ways to help us fund the library and ensure our community continues to receive all the benefits we are known for providing. Thank you again for your years and years of support!

**Tricia Mathys, Treasurer**

*"In the nonstop tsunami of global information, librarians provide us with floaties and teach us to swim." Linton Weeks*

Dear friends of our Idyllwild Library, After a year of isolation, The Friends of the Idyllwild Library has enthusiastically begun meeting again. We declared 2020 a nonyear for our organization, and we did not contact our members regarding renewals. This gave us time to rethink our membership procedures. We will now send everyone renewal reminders each October by email. This will save money on stamps and simplify our process. You can mail in your membership fee, make a donation, or activate the monthly recurring donation by going to our website [www.friendsofidyllwildlibrary.com](http://www.friendsofidyllwildlibrary.com), clicking on membership, and choosing your membership category. Best regards,

**Jeri John, Membership Chair**

### **Holiday Closures**

**CLOSED Monday**

October 11, 2021

Columbus Day

**CLOSED Thursday**

November 11, 2021

Veteran's Day

**CLOSED Thursday**

November 25 & 26, 2021

Thanksgiving

**CLOSED Friday & Saturday**

December 24 & 25, 2021

Christmas

**CLOSED Friday & Saturday**

December 31, 2021

January 1, 2022

New Year's



## Lessons Learned in a Pandemic

*Libraries kept Americans connected in ways that brought our communities closer. Buildings may not have been open, but libraries were never closed.* **Julius C. Jefferson, Jr., ALA President**

I'm sure you have seen many lists and heard hundreds of stories on how the closures during the COVID-19 pandemic affected everything we do. Much of it has not been pleasant or easy but I found that there is a bright side to even the most difficult of situations. Here is a list of library lessons learned by our staff during the pandemic closure from March 17, 2020 through February 8, 2021 when we opened fully-staffed with normal hours.

### **The library isn't ever really closed.**

Riverside County Library System has always offered virtual library cards, eBooks, videos, databases and more to our patrons. Many people didn't realize how much was available but as the closure continued, we were able to encourage them to use those services online through the RCLS website at [rivlib.net](http://rivlib.net). Our patrons visited the page and found reading resources and so much more. RCLS expanded those resources to include new versions that were easily available from home. Check out the [eResources](#) page and try not being surprised at all that is available with your library card.

### **Digital services can be amazing.**

Some of the available digital services are much more than we are able offer physically in the library. Using your library card you are able to search for your family history through Ancestry.com Library Edition or watch classic ballet, opera or concerts using Medici. Looking for a free movie? Have you tried out Kanopy yet? You are able to ask questions of library staff every day from 9am to 6pm five days a week. They can answer every question you ask inside the library and still provide the personalized service to hold books or answer a complicated research question through the LiveChat and Ask a Librarian services. Need a book right this minute? Search for eBooks and audiobooks on CloudLibrary.

### **Virtual programming can be fun, too.**

Our staff, Yumi and Susan, learned some new skills during the closure. There were story time videos and craft videos for children to see at home when it was convenient for them. These amazing ladies created fun, collaborative programs with the Idyllwild Nature Center and the Idyllwild Community Garden to have story times and crafts outside. Our book clubs and Miss Rachel's Storytimes for the Summer Reading Program went on Zoom. Though we missed being in the same space, these activities were the next best thing to being there. We even had author talks with three favorite local authors.

### **Personally, I like working from home sometimes.**

I was actually surprised at how much of my daily responsibilities were already being done online. With help from the IT Department, I was able to continue to communicate with colleagues and work friends, keep up with committee work on the eResources, Homelessness Resource and Summer Reading committees from my newly created home office. We managed the entire 2020 "Dig Deeper: Read, Investigate & Discover" Summer Reading Program on BookPoints, an online summer reading management system. The team created videos, used social media to encourage participation and gave amazing incentives for our top readers. I was able to interact with people in real time by taking shifts on the new Live Chat service offered through the RCLS website.

I've learned the value of Zoom and several other online platforms for face-to-face conversations. Some of those conversations were Statewide meetings on how to continue to provide for our patrons during the closure. As much as I appreciate seeing everyone in person, I was amazed at how much I was able to do from home.

### **Spring cleaning is better when you have an entire year to do it.**

One of the best surprises for us was the ability to clear up the backlog of to-do's we often don't have time for. Colleen did a very thorough cleanup of the collection removing books that aren't read and making more space and, ultimately, more new books available when we reopened. The entire staff cleared workspaces and emptied storage cabinets of material we hadn't used in years. The purpose of this hectic cleaning was to be sure we could provide a safe and sanitized library when we all returned.

It's been a tough time but we are glad that we could still be there. We are especially grateful to be working in a library where we were able to continue being of service during the closure when many things weren't available. Maybe we had to do things a bit differently, but our Idyllwild Library was and will be there for you.

**Shannon Houlihan Ng, Librarian & Branch Mgr.**

## **Editor's End Notes**

Wow! What a year we have been through! Our (un)eventful centennial year has come and gone, but our library is alive and well and providing outstanding service to our community. With all the news we wanted to share, there is not much space for my Editor's End Notes! I was going to write my column on the subject of gratitude, but that will keep until the spring edition of the newsletter! We are all grateful to be here and for now, that is enough! Best to all of you!

**Marcia Krull, Editor**

- Individual ..... \$15.00
- Family ..... \$25.00
- Business or Organization ..... \$50.00
- Sapphire ..... \$100.00
- Ruby ..... \$250.00
  
- Emerald ..... \$500.00
- Diamond ..... \$1000.00

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The Friends of the Idyllwild Library is a 501(c)3 organization.

Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

**Please send your tax-deductible check to:**

**Friends of the Idyllwild Library, Attn: Jeri John, PO Box 2183, Idyllwild CA 92549-2183**

**ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE IDYLLWILD LIBRARY  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**



Friends of the Library  
P. O. Box 2183  
Idyllwild CA 92549