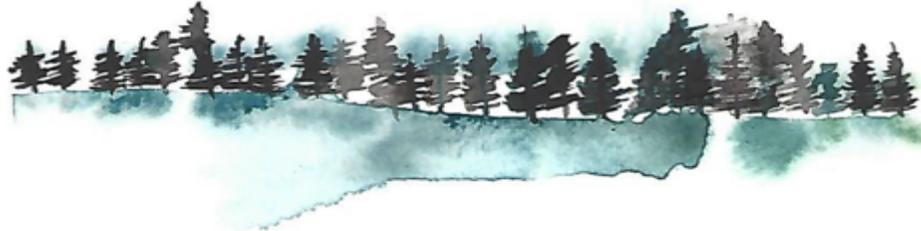


Speaking Volumes

Desirée Zimmerman, Guest Editor

Winter 2023

John Mathys, President



Upcoming Events Sponsored by Friends of the Idyllwild Library

Idyllwild Friends of the Library Board Meetings

Dates: Feb. 6, March 6, Apr. 3, at 9:30 a.m.

For more information on upcoming programs, check our branch calendar at 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/>

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: @friendsofityllwildlibrary

Twitter: FOLidyllwild

Facebook: Friends of the Idyllwild Library

Contact email: publicity@friendsofityllwildlibrary.com

Idyllwild Library

54401 Village Center Drive
PO Box 68
(951) 659-2300

HOURS

Monday and Wednesday

10 am - 6 pm

Tuesday

12 - 8 pm

Thursday and Friday

12 - 5 pm

Saturday

10 am - 4 pm

Closed Sunday

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

President's Message "At the Peak"



John Mathys

Hello everyone and Happy New Year!

We look forward to all of the great things that will be happening at the library. As friends of the Library we will be there to support any and all needs of the library and library staff.

The Friends of the Idyllwild Library is a 501(c)(3) public charitable organization that supports our community and library through accepting membership dues and other tax deductible donations. With your support, we

- operate the Friends Bookstore
- sponsor the Children's Summer Reading Program
- sponsor book and author events and programs of cultural and civic interest
- raise funds for the library's collections and programs
- purchase copying, computing and other equipment for the library

Your membership will help the Library meet important community needs for information and education. It will support the city's most essential resource for literacy, research, and lifelong learning, including

- invitations to special events and programs
- regularly published newsletter emailed to you
- tax deduction for your membership and donations

Support the Friends with your Amazon purchases!



AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. Start your Amazon shopping by going to smile.amazon.com, and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the Friends of the Idyllwild Library Inc., If this is the first time you are going to this page, it will ask you to pick a charity. (You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages).

Another way to donate to the Friends of the Idyllwild Library, is to donate any new or used books to the books store. There is a box just inside the second set of front doors of the library.

Also check out our website for more information at www.friendsofityllwildlibrary.com

Thank you!
John Mathys

Children's Programs

"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 (1917 – 2007)
American writer and producer

It's no secret that we are all big fans of the library. The above quote reminds us that the library is an amazing resource for our community in general, but it is especially an amazing place for preschoolers and children. The goal of our various children's programs at the library is to make a lasting impression on a child's life, and to energize a desire to develop their literacy skills.

Early literacy is NOT necessarily the teaching of reading, but it is about laying a strong foundation to build upon so that when children are taught to read, they are ready to open that window to explore and



Story Time "Snowplow Days" with RIVCO Transportation



achieve. During story time the reading of books and incorporating various activities, such as songs, flannel stories, fingerplays, movements, crafts, puppets, and music are actually tools used to support the retention of early literacy. All aspects of language and early literacy skills (reading, writing, singing/rhyming, talking, listening, and playing) can be stimulated and strengthened during story time.

When implementing various story time activities, children are using all their faculties to develop their listening, speaking, and communication skills. While singing songs, children are developing their phonological awareness by using their ability to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words. When children are using shapes and letters, perhaps in a craft project, they are developing their letter recognition and knowledge. As children are listening to a story, they are learning that words have meaning. Children also learn how to handle a book as well as how to follow words on a page. During story time discussions and interactive reading, children are building their knowledge of the

world and stimulating their imagination of what can lay beyond the boundaries of their experience. Story time is more than just reading books to children, it intentionally uses various strategies to prepare children to enjoy learning and to lay a foundation for their future growth.

Libraries instill a love of reading books to learn and provide many resources. A family trip to the library can have many other positive outcomes, i.e. parents and children spending quality time together, helping children to become independent and how to socialize with others, and building their love for reading and learning.

This past year we have provided many programs to help instill a love of reading in our children, i.e. the various story times, which often times included the Town Hall and the Nature Center, the summer reading program, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) programs. A new STEAM program the library is now offering is a weekly after school **LEGO Robotics Club**.

Another avenue of improving and developing literacy skills is through a new reading program we plan to offer at our library called **Tales to Tails**. Children will have an opportunity to read to a certified therapy dog. Studies have shown that therapy pets allow children to focus on the animal instead of feeling self-conscious about their reading. This is a therapeutic distraction technique that relieves children of their worries, which helps their performance when reading. Hopefully, this long wished-for reading program will soon be a reality.

Again, we wish to say, “thank you” to the Friends of the Idyllwild Library for all of their support, without which these library programs would not be possible.

Susan Righetti, Children’s Programs

Membership

“May your coming year be filled with magic and dreams and good madness. I hope you read some fine books and kiss someone who thinks you’re wonderful, and don’t forget to make some art—write or draw or build or sing or live as only you can. And I hope, somewhere in the next year, you surprise yourself.” Neil Gaiman

Dear library friends, we need your help! Please renew your membership. We rely on your membership renewals to keep our programs and unique services going strong. This year we purchased upholstered stacking chairs and computer equipment for the community room, bought extra copies of book club books, renewed magazine subscriptions, provided \$500 monthly for library books, funded adult and children summer reading activities and contests, providing craft supplies, special performers and STEAM workshops. Those are some highlights.

You can mail your membership fee/donation, or you can do it at www.friendsofityllwildlibrary.com and click on membership. Or when you stop by the library, drop it off there. Thank you!

Jeri John, Membership Chair

What happens next...

Shannon Houlihan Ng, Librarian & Branch Manager

A library patron, a long-standing member of the community and supporter of the library, comes into the library to browse picture books with her grandchild. They find a board book called **And Tango Makes Three** by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell. They take it home to read together. A few days later, Grandma returns and is angry that this book is on the library’s shelves. It leads young children to believe that homosexuality is an acceptable lifestyle. She feels strongly that it isn’t.

A phone call arrives from a local library patron. She wants to complain about a book that is not appropriate for the library. She hasn’t read it but she received a notice in the mail from a minister informing her that **Gender Queer** by Maia Kobabe is obscene. He is asking people to send a request

to the FBI Chief, Steven J. Groki, of the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section within the U.S. Dept of Justice, Criminal Div., to call the book obscene and make putting it on school shelves a federal offense. She requests that we remove it from our library shelves. She is concerned for her children and grandchildren.

It's Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss' Birthday. We plan to read several books by Dr. Seuss and have local celebrities visit the library to read to children. A parent lets us know that she and her children will not be participating. She reports that Dr. Seuss is racist and that several of his books are no longer being published because of racist imagery. She's surprised that we still have his books on the shelves and that we were having an event to celebrate him.

And lastly, we aren't able to locate several of our books on the shelf in the **50 Shades of Gray** series. They aren't checked out. They are simply missing. All of them.

What do these scenarios have in common? Each is a concerned, concerted attempt to ban books. Though not a new issue, there has been an unrepresented rise in book challenges in the United States. I was asked by a local book club to share how the Riverside County Library System (RCLS) responds.

When someone challenges a book and wants to remove it from the library, they are asked to complete a *Patron Request for Review of Library Materials* form. It asks very specific questions about their concerns and what action they are requesting. When received in the branch, the form is sent to the Library Director/County Librarian for consideration. They review the request, consult with the Collection Management Team and other library staff. A decision is made in response to the patron's request and a letter is sent to the concerned patron. The staff is also informed of the decision.

Selecting books for RCLS is the responsibility of the Library Systems & Services Collection Management Team. There are several professional librarians on the team who select what should be added to the library's shelves based on their knowledge of genre, authors, and subjects. They seek out reviews, award lists and recommendations on books available for purchase.

They share information and their professional opinions regularly. They keep informed of issues relevant to selection. Books that are added at the branch library are also vetted before they are cataloged.

We as library staff are committed to the American Library Association's published [The Freedom to Read Statement](#). The policies and procedures in place are based on both the Freedom to Read and the need to serve our communities. Because of these processes, removing a book doesn't happen often. Reconsidering a book happens all the time.

There are many available sources for information on these topics. I receive printed articles from our community all the time. Here are a few that have been shared with me. I welcome more that you find and want to share.

[The reckoning with Dr. Seuss' racist imagery has been years in the making](#). NBC News, 2021.

[Battling over Books](#), The Week, October 21, 2022

[Ten Points to Consider Before Banning a Book](#). Star-Tribune, September 8, 2022

Shannon Houlihan Ng, Librarian & Branch Mgr.

Editor's End Notes

Guest Editor Desirée Zimmermann has served on the Friends of Idyllwild Library Board for more than five years. Her three children have grown up in the Library, starting as toddlers with Story Hour. Desirée has helped cultivate awareness of Library resources among Idyllwild's home-schooling community and broaden representation on the Friends' Board.



Homeschoolers create salt snowflakes at January tea.

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- Ruby..... \$250.00

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Please send your tax-deductible check to:

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

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**



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