



Friends of the Idyllwild Library Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Library hosted its first (in several years) Membership Appreciation Open House. We held our Annual Meeting to elect our new slate of Board Officers. Although turnout was light (in part due to the wet, wet, wet weather), those who braved the elements had a nice time, with food prepared by one of Idyllwild's finest restaurants, La Casita. It was delicious! Dessert was also served - three flavors of cake from Nothing Bundt Cake. We also were lucky enough to have music provided by Keith McCabe on his guitar.



It was a great kick-off to an exciting new year of Friends of the Library events. Thank you to all who joined us, and please continue your much-appreciated support of the Friends of the Idyllwild Library.



Lorie De Marco
President



**President's message
"At the Peak"**

Here we are, the year 2024. How did *that* happen? So much has happened in our town and in our library during the last 12 months! We have a brand new Library Manager, James Wyatt. We're very excited to welcome him to the Idyllwild branch, and he will be serving both Idyllwild and Anza. Be sure to stop by and meet him at the library. We also welcomed another new library employee, Miles Hill, who has been doing a great job as well.

During this past year, we have had numerous programs presented to us, with varying numbers in attendance. Most were well attended, and very well received. There is such a variety of talented people here in Idyllwild, and I'm looking forward to many more interesting and thought-provoking programs to come. We hosted a very successful Author Fair in the center of town, featuring many local authors presenting their books to us. You may also have attended the Book Sale where hundreds of books are available for purchase at amazing prices. Many thanks to our hard-working volunteers who make these events possible! We appreciate our community members and Friends of the Library members who turn out to support these wonderful events. Stay tuned to the Library calendar for upcoming programs and events. The big change in my life, of course, is being elected to serve as the president of the Friends of the Idyllwild Library. I truly appreciate your confidence in me, and I hope I can come somewhere close to filling

the shoes of our out-going president, John Mathys. Thank you, John, for your guidance already, and for the assurance that you'll help me to fit into this position adequately. I'm looking forward to seeing what exciting things we can accomplish!

For 2024, we have several people serving who have changed positions within the board. Our incoming Executive Board members are:

Lorie De Marco, President; Mary Zimmerman, Vice President; John Mathys, Treasurer; Marilyn Kemple, Recording Secretary; and Joye Schmiedt, Corresponding Sectary

Standing Committee Chairs:

Jeri John, Membership Chair; Luanne Galizio, Hospitality Chair; Art Connor, who writes about our events in the newspaper; Carol Mendoza, Member-at-Large; and Chris Perrault who graciously does our quarterly Newsletter as well as keeping up with our programs for her weekly e-mail "Good Morning Idyllwild". We are looking forward to welcoming a couple of new board members in the coming weeks as well!

Lori De Marco, President



Children's Programs

*We will open the book.
Its pages are blank.*

*We are going to put words on them
ourselves.*

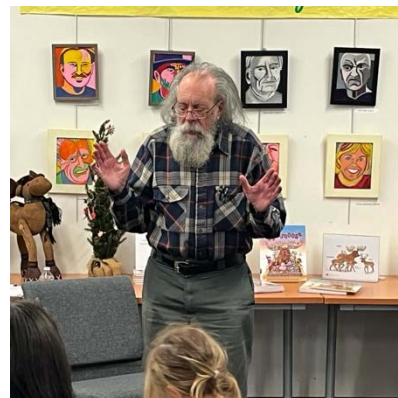
*The book is called Opportunity,
and its first chapter is New Year's Day.*
~ Edith Lovejoy Pierce, Poet (1904-1983)

We have so much to look forward to in the new year. The quote above aptly expresses the possibilities and opportunities entrusted to each of us to reach out to our community and its children through the various programs offered at our library.

Before we look ahead to what the new year holds, let's do a quick review of some of the end of the year children's programs. To kick off the holiday season, children were treated to a special story time with local author **Helle Brisson**, who enthusiastically read her charming book *Rasmoose the Christmas Moose*. We appreciate Helle taking time from her busy schedule to read her book.



Children and parents were also treated to a perfect recitation by **Art Connor** of the much beloved and iconic poem *Twas' the Night Before Christmas*, which was written in 1823, marking its 200th anniversary in 2023.



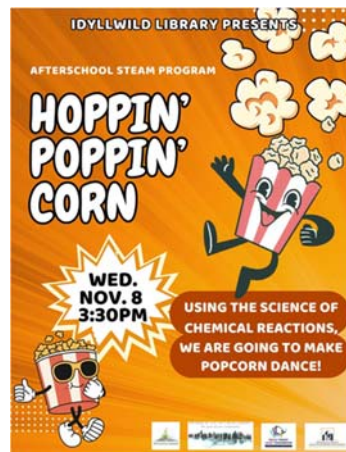
Also, in December, **Mrs. Claus** made an enjoyable appearance at the library and delighted everyone with a lively and humorous magic show. As a special treat, Mrs. Claus applied temporary holiday-themed glitter tattoos for those who wanted them. Children also decorated Christmas cookies.





Some of the children's programs we are looking forward to in the new year include the introductory bi-lingual story time on the first Wednesday of each month with Pat McComas. We are also pleased to resume the *Tales to Tails* early literacy program in collaboration with **Animal Samaritans** of Thousand Palms and its volunteer representatives **Rakeara**, AKC therapy dog, CGC and her handler **Claire Spence**. This special program is designed to help children improve their reading skills as well as develop their emotional and social skills.

The **STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics)



program continues to be a lot of fun. During the past few months, we learned about solar eclipses, why popcorn pops and made popcorn dance through a chemistry experiment called

Hoppin' Poppin Corn.



The end of year celebration was a Family Fun Day, which included a library scavenger hunt. Children received a clip board with a scavenger hunt form. The children learned how the library is arranged by locating items in various sections of the library. In addition, there were many activities for the children to play, such as a corn hole, a ring toss, a floor jigsaw puzzle, a baseball toss, and a spin art painting project as well as making gingerbread houses. It was a good way to end the year.

We also learned how crystals form and made beautiful borax snowflake crystals. In January, Do-it-yourself scratchers were a fun project.



We look forward to discovering the science that goes into making slime in February. Our goal with this effort is to have fun and learn some science in the process.

Youth Book Club, also known as “**Idyllwild’s Best Book Club,**” continues to be well-attended and a lot of fun. For the month of December, we read and discussed *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. The book club members were able to consider how fortunate we are to have good potable water and what those who live in other countries, such as the Sudan where the book takes place, go through to search for clean and drinkable water. *Greenglass House*, a mystery by Kate Milford, was the reading selection for January. We will be reading about English orphans during World War II for February’s choice, which is the book *A Place to Hang the Moon* by Kate Albus. **Tate Donovan** continues to do a fantastic job in helping to facilitate this popular program. To add to the fun, we

always enjoy a craft related to the selected book as well snacks connected to the story.

Thank you to the many volunteers who make our children’s programs possible, and who continue to make the library’s children’s programs a success: **Pat McComas, Kim Hudson, Wendy and Shawn McDevitt, Karrie Morlan, Luanne Galizio, Donna Barber, and Carol Mendoza.** We are also so grateful to balloon artist and face painter **Jennifer Rago**, who contributes her amazing talents to a number of story times.



Thank you to the **Friends of the Idyllwild Library** for their continued support in reaching out to the future generation in order to develop an appreciation for the library as well as a love of reading. Without the Friends of the Library these programs would not be possible.

Wishing you a happy New Year! May it be filled with new adventures, good fortunes, and many good reads!

Susan Righetti
Idyllwild Library Children’s Program Coordinator



New Librarian

By Art Connor



Together with changes in Idyllwild Library's scheduling, we now have as our newly appointed Library Manager James Wyatt. As a prospective Hill resident in the future (still living in Temecula at present) please join us in welcoming him to the staff; he is also the new joint manager in Anza's Public Library (as former LM Shannon Ng was).

Mr. Wyatt's background includes his former position as Library Associate for 6 months in 2023 in Wildomar Public Library. With a B.S. degree from the University of Phoenix, and a major in business management, he comes fully equipped with past experiences at various Southern California locations, including managerial positions at Home Depot in Perris and Coca-Cola's plant in San Diego.

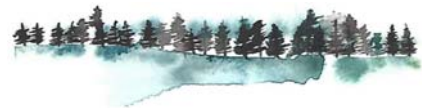
In a short interview, he outlined his commitment to Idyllwild's library patrons

as "welcoming and advising for the community", in a restorative mode, with an emphasis on library relevance and community development in necessary areas as needed; the same also applies to his post in Anza. Mr. Wyatt also indicated a personal goal of becoming more Spanish-language effective for a further outreach to both communities.

Prospectively, his positive outlook and pleasant demeanor indicate a further uplift for our growing and changing Idyllwild Public Library. We would encourage all library patrons to take advantage of any opportunity to meet, greet and communicate with him in the coming months.

Coming Events

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](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofityllwildlibrary)

Twitter: FOLidyllwild

Facebook: Friends of the Idyllwild Library

Contact email:

publicity@friendsofityllwildlibrary.com



Membership

"I cannot remember the books I've read any more than the meals I have eaten; even so, they have made me." -Ralph Waldo Emerson

Please give your support to our library by renewing your membership. This link www.friendsofnywildlibrary.com allows you to click on membership. I choose to do a monthly recurring donation through the PayPal link. Or pick up a membership envelope in the Friends Shop in the library and mail it in.

Thank you, Jeri John - Membership Chair

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"There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all."
— JACQUELINE KENNEDY ONASSIS



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Fireside Book Club Book in February

FRIENDS OF THE IDYLLWILD LIBRARY
the gem of our community



BOOKSTORE



Welcome!

Our book shelves are stocked with mysteries, children's books, cookbooks and so much more; discover our bookbags, notepads travel mugs and Idyllwild Library "National Park" keychains.

The sale of books and merchandise helps provide financial support to the Idyllwild Library for programs, new books, events and services to help meet the needs of our community.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

EMMA STRAUB

THIS TIME TOMORROW

"This Time Tomorrow" by Emma Straub

"#1 National Bestseller"

Meeting in Community Room (with Zoom option)

IDYLLWILD LIBRARY

Fireside Book Club

WITH COLLEEN

Alice Stern, faced with the imminent death of her beloved 73-year-old father, confronts her own status, stuck for years in the same tiny studio apartment and the same job in the admissions department of the Upper West Side Manhattan private school she attended decades earlier. With her celebrated humor, insight, and heart, beloved New York Times bestseller Emma Straub offers her own twist on traditional time travel tropes and a different kind of love story.

WEDNESDAY Feb21 at 2PM

- 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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