

Pinal County Library District Newsletter

January/February 2000

Director's Column

During a review of the column I wrote this time last year, I was struck by how much things have changed since January 1999. We were beginning to feel the threat of Y2K, looking forward to direct internet access, having the gap tape edited, and completing formal training on the Innopac. The new library facility in Casa Grande was still a dream on paper. We have made great strides towards our goals in the past year.

We have a new staff member on board as of December 13, 1999. Delise Christensen joined the library staff as the new Library Technician. We were able to steal her away from the Stanfield Community Center Library, where she has been a volunteer for the last year. While there, Delise learned much about library procedures and how to use the online system. She has been busy with orientation and training in the interlibrary loan process, basic cataloging, and general clerical duties. Welcome, Delise!

LSTA

Last October, two LSTA grant applications were submitted for consideration. The first was for

Retrospective Conversion for \$123,201 and a second proposal for the McFarland Digitization Project for \$22,400. We have received notice that McFarland has been funded in full. Under Retrospective Conversion, the State Library will purchase a subscription to OCLC's CatExpress, which will enable us to begin adding and correcting records in the OCLC database. In this case, they will send the check directly to OCLC and we will have a credit of \$29,990. This is an excellent opportunity to begin correcting our OCLC holdings, which have not been updated for three years.

E-rate

Form 470 E-rate applications were filed in December for basic voice and fax lines for nine affiliate libraries. The tenth application will cover the Library District WAN for FY 2000-2001. All Form 471's must be filed before the application window closes January 19. So far, one library has received a reimbursement check. Others should begin to filter in over the next few months. This is a slow process with slow response times from the Schools and Libraries Division and US West. It is hoped that the program will improve in Year 3.

Strategic Planning

We will begin work on a Strategic Plan at our first meeting January 14 in Casa Grande. Jan Elliott will facilitate the meetings and guide us through the process. It is crucial that all library directors participate so that the resulting plan will be reflective of the varied interests from communities around the county. County Manager Stan Griffis has appointed Marcia Abbott Weeks, Pinal County Budget Analyst, as his representative at the meetings. GladysAnn Wells has confirmed that a mini-grant will be available to help cover travel expenses for those coming from remote areas.

Library Legislative Day is scheduled for January 25. This is an opportunity to make your voice heard with our local representatives. This year, pending legislation on State Grants-in-Aid makes the visit even more crucial. I have scheduled appointments to meet with our local legislators to let them know we appreciate their support, and to stress how important State Grants-in-Aid are to the libraries in Pinal County. Please consider attending if you possibly can. Take a library board member or a library supporter with you to let our legislators know how important library services are.

Denise Keller, Director

REFERENCE & OUTREACH SERVICES

The month of December saw the completion of the 15-week Reference Excellence Workshop which was held at the Apache Junction Public Library. Based on the "Ohio Reference Excellence" manual published by the Ohio Library Council, we tailored the program to fit Apache Junction's collection. We discussed general Reference practices and principles, then looked at print and electronic Reference sources in Dewey number sequence.

Overall response to the program was very positive. I will be taking this training workshop to the Florence and Coolidge Public Libraries in February, and would like the opportunity to provide this training to other affiliate libraries as well. Interested libraries, please call!

"Arthur" made his initial appearance in Pinal County in the month of November, as we visited WIC offices throughout the county to pass out bags filled with literacy-related materials for the WIC participants. Storytimes were provided at the WIC offices by local librarians during the month of December and will continue through January. Our "grand finale" comes in the last two weeks of January, when "Arthur" will return to Pinal County Libraries for fun-filled programs open to the entire community. "Arthur's" schedule is as follows:

January 18: Oracle, 10:00; Mammoth, 4:00.

January 19: Apache Junction, 10:00.

January 20: Superior, 4:00.

January 22: Coolidge, 10:00; Florence, 2:00.

January 25: Stanfield, 4:00.

January 26: Arizona City, 4:00.

January 27: San Manuel, 10:00; Kearny, 3:00.

January 29: Eloy, 11:00; Maricopa, 3:00.

New at PCLD Professional Reference:

The First Amendment and Cyberspace, by Robert S. Peck.

Highly recommended by PUBLIB librarians, this book discusses such controversial topics as "basic First Amendment principles and their application to libraries; the right to offend; religious motivations and library use; library confidentiality laws; and cyberspace and the First Amendment. A special chapter is also included on children, schools, and the First Amendment."

The Librarian's Guide to Homeschooling Resources, by Susan G. Scheps. "Tips on serving homeschoolers...sources for legal information and educational standards homeschoolers often seek from libraries; a detailed directory of state, regional, and national homeschooling organizations in the U.S. and Canada; lists of correspondence schools, publishers and distributors of homeschooling materials, and resources on the Web."

Assessing Service Quality, by Peter Hernon and Ellen Altman. Among the topics: "Implementing a compliment and complaint tracking system; listening to customers through surveys and

focus groups; planning for continuous service quality improvement." Contains "numerous tracking forms and measurement tools that can be adapted to specific library situations."

Linda Shaw, Reference/Outreach Services

NEWS AROUND THE COUNTY

APACHE JUNCTION:

January 4 - "**Western Fiddle Tunes**" with Marie Rhines was a very successful program. Marie was booked thanks to a grant from the Arizona Humanities Council.

January 11 - "**The Story Behind the Mask**" will be presented by Ed Grobe, a docent from the Pueblo Grande Museum in Phoenix. This program will be held at 2:30 p.m. in the AJ Community Center.

January 19 - "**Arthur**" visits the library at 10:00 a.m. We are very confident the costume will be here in plenty of time!

January 26 - First book discussion group meeting. The book for this month is "**I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**," by Maya Angelou. This program is full.

February 5 - **Alex Maldonado, Native American flute maker and player** will be the main attraction for this outdoor afternoon event on the library lawn. This free presentation is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

February 7 - **Teen Book Discussion group:** 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. The book being discussed is "Dragonsong" by Anne McCaffrey.

February 8 - "**Copper Mining in Arizona : Its Past, Present, and Future,**" an Arizona Humanities Council program, will be presented by H. Mason Coggin. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, at 6:00 p.m. in the AJ Community Center.

February 9 - **Storytime registration** begins for the spring session. Storytime will be held Feb. 23 through April 12.

February 18 - The Teen Advisory Board is putting on a second **Teen Chat Cafe**, due to the resounding success of the first one they sponsored in October.

February 23 - Adult Book Discussion Group. This month's book is "**Sand County Almanac**," by Aldo Leopold.

ARIZONA CITY: The Arizona City Library has a new librarian! Her name is Mary Klukas, and she takes over on January 10. We will miss Kathleen, and wish her well as she moves on to other endeavors.

GED Classes Start on January 18 and run through May 9.

Arthur's Library Adventure Wed. Jan. 26th, 4:00 P.M.

Rummage, Book and Bake Sale & Lunch will be held at the end of February or the first part of March.

CASA GRANDE: The **Winter Series of Storytimes**

begins on Monday, January 3. **Tiempo de Cuentos en Espanol y Ingles**, for Spanish-speaking children ages 3 - 6, meets from 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. on Mondays; **Nursery Rhyme Time**, for toddlers ages 2 - 3 ½ and their adult meets from 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays; **PreSchool Stories**, for children ages 3 ½ to 6, meets on Wednesdays from 10:00 - 10:40 a.m.; and **Lapsit**, for babies ages newborn to 2 and their adult, meets on Thursdays through the week of February 22.

Girls in grades 2-6 are invited to try candle-making, dance a schottiche, and learn to dye, as well as taste some treats of the time as part of the ongoing "**American Girls at the Library**" on Wednesday, January 12 from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Registration by phone (421-8710) or in person begins on January 3.

Boys in grades 3-6 can join the **Living History** guys (from Casa Grande Union High School, with Dave Hasler, teacher, and Craig Ringer, avid local historian) to learn about boy soldiers, hot air balloons, the Civil War in Arizona, code-breaking and more. Part of the "You Were There" series, the "Civil War" will be held on Wednesday, January 26 from 3:30 - 5:15 p.m. Registration by phone (421-8710) or in person begins on January 17.

"**Wednesday Night Out,**" a series of programs of interest to adults, features players from the Arizona Renaissance Festival on January 5 at 7:00 p.m.; they will talk about what exactly goes on behind the scenes to

make this historical period come so vividly alive.

Two book discussions will be held in January. The joint Arizona Humanities Council and Casa Grande Public Library's series, "**The Second Opening of the West**" will discuss A Sand County Almanac, by Aldo Leopold, on Tuesday, January 11 from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Free copies of the book are available at the check out desk. "**Compass Points,**" which meets on January 27 from 11:00 - 12:30 p.m. will discuss Saving Grace, by Lee Smith. Paperback copies of the book are available to purchase at the check out desk.

A workshop sponsored jointly by the Greater Casa Grande Chamber of Commerce and the Casa Grande Public Library, "**TPT Forms — How to Report Correctly**" will be held on January 13 from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the APS Meeting Room of the library. It will be presented by Diane Sosinski from the Arizona Department of Revenue. To make reservations, call Stephanie Zaslav at 421-8710.

COOLIDGE: The Coolidge Public Library will present a series of programs of interest to adults in the Coolidge community. Check the Library Corner in the local paper for dates and times. Topics include:

What the Futurists Say About Life in the 21st Century
General Computer Topics
Publishing Your Poem or Short Story
Genealogy Workshop

The **3rd Annual Coolidge Children's Christmas Block Party** was held Thursday, Dec. 16. Over 700 people enjoyed an evening of fun, songs, crafts, games, a visit from Mr. & Mrs. Claus - and even received a picture and a toy! This event was sponsored by Sonoran Family Practice, the Coolidge Library, and the Police Department.

Read-To-Me: This fun-filled program for pre-school age children includes music, stories, songs, puppet shows, flannelboards, and activities based on children's literature. This program is offered every Wednesday morning beginning January 12 from 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. Children must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

Arthur is Back in Town, and He Wants to Meet You!

Join librarians from around the county as they put on a fun-filled storytime program including songs, puppet shows, flannelboards, and read some of Arthur's favorite stories. Afterwards meet "Arthur" the aardvark himself! **Sat. Jan. 22, 10:00 a.m.**

FLORENCE: The library applied for and received a grant from the Arizona Humanities Council for a series of **Community Book Discussions**. These will be held in February, March and April of 2000.

Jane Watson has resigned her position as Part-time Library Aide—we hope to be able to fill that position soon.

Storytime is now available for children 0-2 on Tuesday

mornings from 9:30 - 10:00 a.m. We still provide Storytime for those between the ages of 3-6 on Tuesdays from 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. These fun-filled programs for pre-school age children include music, stories, songs, puppet shows, flannel boards, and activities based on children's literature. A parent or caregiver must accompany children.

Library staff held a storytime and decorated cookies for the **Christmas on Main Street** program on December 3. The storytime sessions were filled to capacity and over 650 cookies were distributed to those attending this annual event.

Staff took part in the Florence 2000 celebration which was held on December 31. Manning the "photo" and "Florence 2000 sales" booths were among the duties assigned to Library staff.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

FCL Youth Advisory Group: Monday, January 10. Membership applications will be available at the library on an ongoing basis beginning January 10. The FCLYAG will hold meetings every month. The purpose and goals of the group will be to advise the library concerning young adult services and to participate in volunteer opportunities. These goals will be accomplished by:

Recommending collection acquisitions.

Suggesting youth activities for the library.

Participating in book discussions and book talks.

Writing book reviews.

Choosing incentives for youth programs.

Volunteering for different library projects and programs.

Sharing talents, such as storytelling or craft making.

Applicants must be between the ages of 12 and 17 years old to be a group member. Library staff will contact applicants with the date and time of the first meeting.

Game Day: Every Tuesday, beginning January 11, all day: Chess, Checkers, Scrabble, Card Games and others will be provided for all patrons to play. A special area will be set aside for those wishing to partake in fun competition. Patrons must provide staff with a library card in order to check out games.

Ease Into Email:

Saturday, January 15, 10:00

Saturday, February 19, 10:00

Saturday, March 18, 10:00

Saturday, April 15, 10:00

Library staff will introduce the basic elements and "how-to's" of accessing Hotmail, a free-of-charge Internet email server.

Arthur! Saturday, January 22, at 2:00 p.m.: "Arthur," Marc Brown's loveable and adventurous storybook aardvark, will be coming to the library bringing with him fun and excitement. Please join the library staff in the merriment of Arthur's visit; stories will be told, local students will perform a skit, prizes will be given out and refreshments will be served.

Taxes: Tempest or Teapot -- Tuesday, February 1, 6:30 p.m.: Nedra Quick, EA, MS, ABA, ATA, of Quick's Tax and Accounting, will provide

current and updated tax information for program participants.

Birds in Your Backyard - Tuesday, February 8, 6:30 p.m.: Vera Walters, professor at Central Arizona College, owner of "Raven Song," and a local authority on birds, presents a program on identifying, feeding and accommodating a variety of birds in our own backyards.

Berenstain Bears: Saturday, February 12, 2:00 p.m.: The Berenstain Bears, those delightful storybook characters, will be stopping by the library for a "beary" good time. There will be stories, fun and goodies.

Book Discussion Group:
The Milagro Beanfield War -- Wednesday, February 16, at 6:00 p.m.

The Virginian -- Wednesday, March 15, at 6:00 p.m.

Filaree -- Wednesday, April 19, at 6:00 p.m.

The Arizona Humanities Council is generously underwriting this southwestern themed series of book discussions at the Florence Community Library. Space and materials are limited. Registration is required. Please call the library at 868-9471 for more information.

Bookmark Contest Kick Off: Tuesday, February 22: Show off your creativity and design a bookmark to help us celebrate National Library Week. Come into the library for an entry form and return it to the library by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 10.

Bookmark Awards Ceremony: Saturday, April 8, 11:00 a.m.: Join the library staff in congratulating the winner of the Bookmark Design Contest.

What's New at NAU? -- Tuesday, February 22, 6:30 p.m.: Brenda Sutton, area coordinator for Northern Arizona University, will update participants on various NAU programs being offered in this area.

ORACLE: The volunteer staff at the Oracle Public Library took some time off to celebrate the holidays with family and friends, so we didn't get much barcoding done! We have about 6 girls trained to barcode. The Adult Fiction area is done, and we are working on the Adult Nonfiction area.

Money earned from the last three book sales enabled us to buy a new front desk area for the library, which was desperately needed. We ordered and received our new front desk from Arizona State Industries. We have some work to do to get the desk set up and in the right order; it seems they thought a "pencil drawer" meant two file drawers! Everyone is grateful to get rid of the old desks, but we have to have patience and wait to get the new desk fixed.

SUPERIOR: We are getting geared up to start the New Year ordering and processing new books and material, and preparing for fun activities, etc. in the new millennium.

On January 3 and 5 we presented a story time at the local WIC Office at 10:00 a.m. Preparations are underway for our big **Arthur's Library Adventure** party at the library. WIC participants as well as other

children are invited to come visit with Arthur. We will have stories, fingerplays, games and other fun activities, plus refreshments donated by Friends of the Library.

On January 21 at 3:00 p.m. we will feature "**Adobe Dreams/Suenos del Adobe:**" a bilingual program of famous American authors and their writings about the Southwest (using the writings of Robert Frost, Barbara Kingsolver, Willa Cather, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Gertrude Stein and others). This program is presented by actress and historian Betty Jean Steinhauer, and is part of the "Great Women Authors 2000" series. Superior Public Library is one of ten rural libraries who were awarded this programming opportunity, which is sponsored by the Arizona Dept. of Libraries, Archives, and Public Record's Library Extension Division.

The Friends of the Superior Public Library are holding their annual **Book Sale**, starting January 10 and continuing throughout the month of January. Library hours are Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., and Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Spread the word about our Book Sale. Come early for best selection.

Calendar of Events

January - National Book Month: www.nationalbook.org

January 14 - Pinal County Library Federation Meeting,
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Casa Grande Public Library, 449 N. Dry Lake

January 14 – Strategic Planning Meeting,
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., Casa Grande Public Library, 449 N. Dry Lake

January 18-29 - "Arthur's Library Adventure" comes to
Pinal County Libraries!

January 21 – AzLA Executive Board Meeting, Phoenix

January 25 – Library Legislative Day, Phoenix

March 5-6 – Arizona Convocation 2000, Crown Plaza Hotel, Peoria

March 7 – County Librarians Meeting, Phoenix

March 28-April 1 – Public Library Association National Conference,
Charlotte, North Carolina

April 10 – Arizona Book Festival, Deck Park, Phoenix

April 13 – AzLA Regional Forum, Lake Havasu City

April 14 – AzLA Executive Board Meeting, Lake Havasu City