

September-October 2001



# Pinal County Library District NEWSLETTER



## Director's Column

It is with mixed emotions that I contemplate the impending retirement of Mary Louise Eck. I am glad for her and the wonderful opportunities retirement will bring, but very sorry to see her go. We will miss her presence in the library and at our meetings, but are heartened to know she will be able to volunteer, stay active, and enjoy her retirement.

Over the years, we have all come to know Mary Louise and appreciate her unique gifts and down-to-earth philosophy. In honor of her contribution of nearly eleven years to the library, I would like to dedicate this column to her, and recount a few of the highlights of her tenure as Library Director in Kearny.

Mary Louise started as children's librarian in November of 1990, working with Susie Acton. When

Ms. Acton left in 1992, Mary Louise took the position as Director. She has served in that capacity since, and has been the motivating force behind many improvements in the library during that time. Mary Louise managed the remodeling project and supervised the addition of the literacy room in 1994. In that same year, she directed the installation of the library first online computer, and participated in the training and use of the new computerized circulation system, Follett, in September of 1994.

With remodeling done and automated circulation running smoothly, Mary Louise was able to turn her attention to other projects. She recognized the library's need for a reliable security system, and began a campaign to make that dream a reality. This venture took a lot of ingenuity on her part in order to seek out the funding and get the project off the ground. She was finally able to purchase

and install the security system, Checkpoint in 1996. Also in 1996, she attended the Paraprofessional Institute in Tucson to expand her library skills.

In addition to her library duties, Mary Louise has remained active in the community. She works on and rides the library float each year for the town's Pioneer Days celebration. She is dedicated to working with the school to bring reading programs to the area and reach more children, and has been nominated for citizen of the year for Kearny.

I think I speak for us all when I say, "Mary Louise, we will miss you."

*Denise Keller*

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# News Around the County

## Apache Junction

We did some rearranging and opened a new area for our teen-age patrons, which they named "Teen Compound". For those of you familiar with our facility, it is the area that formerly housed government documents. The area now has YA fiction, YA non-fiction and YA reference. There are three new computers with bright colorful chairs in the area as well as a low table surrounded by beanbag chairs. We have added a collection

of graphic novels to supplement our other YA holdings.

On the evening of August 17, we had a "Teen Night out at the Library", complete with live DJ, refreshments, contests and prizes. The night was an overwhelming success as 367 teens attended. (Overwhelming is an understatement in this instance!)

Over the Columbus Day holiday weekend, the original part of the library will receive a new coat of paint. That along with the recent thorough carpet

cleaning should really give us a fresh new appearance.

The fall storytimes commenced September 5 for toddlers and preschoolers. We are trying something new and not requiring registration this time. Babytime continues on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

We will be doing the Reading Odyssey 2001 program again in the fall as we did in the spring. It will once again be more limited than a summer reading program and geared primarily toward elementary school aged children.

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# Reference & Outreach

## Websites Spotlight

Government has truly embraced internet publishing. I'd like to highlight some government resources that are now available on the Internet.

Students and others are frequently looking for career information. One of the first sources librarians reach for is the Occupational Outlook. Published by the U.S. Department of Labor, the Occupational Outlook is available at <http://stats.bls.gov/ocohome.htm>. There are keyword and browse options and

the information is the same found in their print source. (And always up to date!)

Now even the smallest library with an internet connection can access state and federal laws. The searchable Arizona Revised Statutes are available at <http://www.azleg.state.az.us/ars/ars.htm>. For U.S. Law there is the Guide to Law Online available at <http://memory.loc.gov/glin/uscode.html> that includes the U.S. Code, Statutes and Public Laws.

Both Arizona and the United States have created portals to government information: FirstGov for the U.S. Government (<http://www.firstgov.gov/>) and Arizona @ Your Service (<http://www.az.gov/webapp/portal/>.)

For a comprehensive directory of Federal, State and Local government agencies, my favorite site is State and Local Government on the Net found at <http://www.statelocalgov.net/index.cfm>. I turn to this website whenever I'm searching

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On September 25 we will offer a virtual tour of the library's Gates computers for students.

Great things ahead for adults as well! Two new book clubs begin this month and run through May. "Potpourri" meets on Thursdays and "Dying for a Mystery" will meet on Tuesdays monthly.

September 13 at 2 p.m. - Dowsing: a combination of science and spiritualism. Speaker David Schultz.

October 11 at 2 p.m. - "Dr. Sky": The rich wonders of the Arizona sky. Speaker Steve Kates.

November 3 - Unbelievable

bead work! on display in the library lobby.

November 8 - "Lt. Flipper: buffalo soldier": First African American to graduate from West Point.

## Arizona City

**GED Classes:** Every Tuesday and Thursday 6:00-9:00 pm.

**Children's Saturday Reading Program:** Sept. 8th with finger puppets and a story.

**New Library Hours:** Oct. 2nd. Considering opening 2 hours earlier each day except Saturday.

Mary will be on vacation

from Sept. 14- Oct. 16.

## Casa Grande

The Technology Learning Center's September and October Class Schedule is here. The following courses are just a glimpse of what is offered: Word for Businesses, Basic E-Mail for Business, Reference USA, Do I Really Have to Do a Research Paper, Teen Teachers, Health Search for Seniors, and Creative Writing for Kids. Registration is required for all courses. For more information contact Heather Gillespie at 421-8710.

The Casa Grande teen TAB group will be storytelling and reading children's stories at the Casa Grande Val-

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### *A Note From Delise to the Affiliates*

I'm putting up a bulletin board for County Employee Appreciation Day on October 27 and would like to give the libraries a chance to promote their libraries. Anything you'd like to contribute is welcome. I'll have a display table also for "freebies." If you have flyers send me one and I'll make copies. Lots of potential patrons work for the County. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Oracle Library for the wonderful pictures they have already submitted to my cause. Thanks.



*Delise gathered the PCLD staff for this picture. Send yours now for our County Employee Appreciation Day display.*

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ley Historical Museum on September 15<sup>th</sup> for 1-4 pm. All are invited to attend.

As many of you know, Stephanie Zaslav has left Casa Grande and Pinal County to be the Children's Services Coordinator in the Escondido (CA) Public Library system. She will be greatly missed: she clearly left our youth programs in significantly better condition (and added immeasurably to their scope) than when she arrived. However, we have mounted a national search for a successor and hope to have someone on board as soon as possible. In the meantime, former Principle Library Assistant Cheney Leal has been called out of retirement (much to her relief!) to help us out with the basic story hour events during the interim.

The Friends of the CG Library are planning a fundraising dinner for October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn. Local authors Jere Cook (a cowboy poet) and Ygenio Aguirre (author of 2 books focusing on local history as seen through the eyes of his family) will be the featured speakers. A silent auction of baskets of literary-related goodies and some of our autographed catalog cards will precede the dinner. Ticket prices have been set

at \$40/person.

The Library's two-phase art project has also been finally completed. The Friends matched two LTAF grants (through the City's Arts & Humanities Commission) and commissioned local artist Campbell Auer to create the art. The first phase resulted in the large mobile – entitled *Millennium Eve 1999* – which hangs in the Periodical Reading area. The second phase resulted in the creation of a variety of decorative plates for all of the Library's light switches and electrical outlets – as well as totally unique pieces of art, which serve as frames for our stack-end signage. Everyone is very pleased with the results – they must be seen to be believed, so drop by and take a peek!

Rhyme Time Story Hour for 2-3 ½ year olds has been scheduled every Tuesday from 10:00 am to 10:40 am through the end of November. Preschool Story Hour for 3 ½ -6 year olds will be held on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 10:40, also through the end of November. Bilingual Story Hour for 3 ½ -6 year olds is scheduled the first and third Fridays of every month through November.

## Coolidge

**Read-To-Me** This fun filled program for preschool age children includes music, stories, songs, puppet shows, flannel boards, and activities based on children's literature. Every Wednesday mornings from 10:00a.m. - 10:40a.m. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Library Dollars** Hey kids library dollars are now available. The Coolidge Public Library now has Library Dollars you can collect. Ways to receive them are:

Checking Books Out  
Returning Books on time  
Being Quiet In The Library  
Get Caught Reading  
Collect 10 Library Dollars and you can choose a prize!  
(Dollars will be given out sporadically)

**Pen Pal Program** If you are age 9-18, (grades 4-12). This is your chance to get into a "writeful relationship" and make a new friend from far away. Registration forms are available at the

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circulation desk, so pick yours up today and begin making new friends.

**Friday Afternoon At The Movies** The library shows free movies each Friday at 3:15 in the Children's Room. The movies are suitable for all ages. So come on out and enjoy a movie at the library.

**Homework Help!** Do you need homework help this school year? If so a Library Staff member is available Monday & Wednesday from 3:30p.m. – 4:30p.m. Call 723-6030 to register.

**New Saturday Library Hours** The Coolidge Public Library will be changing its Saturday hours from 9:00am – 1:00pm to 10:00am - 2:00pm. The new library hours will take effect September 1, 2001.

**Computer Classes**  
Computer Research Skills For Students Every Monday at 6:00pm  
Computer Research Skills For Adults Every Wednesday at 6:00pm  
Basic Microsoft Word Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 6:30pm  
Basic Internet Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 6:30pm  
How To Use Email Every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 6:30pm  
Basic Internet with Safety Tips Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday

10:00am  
(Parent/Child participant a MUST!!!)  
REDISTRATION IS REQUIRED! CALL 723-6030

### **The Art of Storytelling Program**

Do you want to learn how to make a story come alive? Well if you do on October 3, 2001 at 6:30 pm the Coolidge Public Library will be having a program on how to do so. Michael Cohen from Central Arizona College will be here to tell us how to make a story come alive, get your audience's attention, what props to use, and other storytelling techniques. Call 723-6030 to register.

### **Second Annual Children's Book Week Bookmark Design Contest**

Get ready to use your imagination and design a bookmark. This contest will be held October 8<sup>th</sup> – October 26<sup>th</sup>. The contest is open to all K- 12<sup>th</sup> graders. One entry per person please. The first place bookmark will be reproduced and distributed during Children's Book Week, November 12 – 16.

### **New Staff At The Coolidge Public Library**

We would like to welcome our new Library Assistant Karen Walker aboard. Last but not least we would also like to welcome out new Library Clerk aboard Regina A La Torre. Welcome aboard girls!!

### **Volunteers**

We welcome all ideas for programming suggestions. If you would like to Volunteer your time, or skills in the library come on in and sign up.

### **Homebound Services**

If you are a shut-in and enjoy reading but are without someone to bring you books, the Coolidge Public Library offers homebound services to citizens restricted due to medical reasons. We have over 1500 large print books, including fiction, mystery, western, and nonfiction. As with all services from CPL the Homebound Service is available to Coolidge residents at no charge. Call 723-6030 for more information.

### **Upcoming Programs**

For a list of upcoming programs read "Library Corner" in the Coolidge Examiner, call us at 723-



# Free and Cheap Adult Programming Opportunities

The Arizona Humanities Council has much to offer. Through its Speakers Bureau, Arizona Reads, AHC Initiatives and General Grants programs, the AHC offers plenty of opportunities for rural and small budget libraries to provide quality adult programming.

## Speakers Bureau

Thirty speakers on history and humanities topics are available to come to your library. You can have one free speaker per year. All they ask is that you work to attract an audience of 20 or more, and that the event be open and publicized to the general public.

The AHC also has what they call Chautauquas: living history presenters who assume the role of a historical person to speak and answer questions.

There are five Chautau-

qua's available including Carl Hayden and Teresa Urrea, a spiritual healer and political leader who was deported to Arizona from Mexico by Porfirio Díaz for inciting rebellion.

## Arizona Reads

You may know about the Arizona Summer Reading Program which is a component of Arizona Reads, but did you know you can get a Community Book Discussion with facilitator? The first series of three titles is free and they lend twenty copies of each title. To make it even easier the AHC has grouped the books around themes.

Arizona Reads also has Motherhead, a part of a "national family literacy program that uses children's literature to increase literacy and strengthen family relationships. Motherheads

requires two staff members undergo comprehensive training in order to run Motherhead, so this program may not be for the smaller library.

## AHC Initiatives

Through it's initiatives AHC partners with other organizations to implement programs.

Of special interest to small libraries is the Museums on Main Street project which brings Smithsonian Traveling Exhibits to small, rural communities. Six libraries will host the exhibit "Yesterday's Tomorrows: Past Visions of the American Future" for 4-6 weeks in 2003. There are space requirements and a letter of intent is due by November 30, 2001.

Working with museums across the state, the AHC has created the Arizona History Traveler website.

It's a great way

to find museums. Check it out at <http://www.azhistorytraveler.org/>.

The annual Arizona Book Festival, another AHC initiative, is scheduled for April 6, 2002.

## General Grants

What if you have a great idea for a program which isn't covered here? The AHC offers general grants with several application deadlines a year. They offer grant workshops prospective applicants and a Proposal Development Grant for first-time, rural applicants to pay for a scholar to help design a humanities program

You can find out about all of these programs at the Arizona Humanities Council website (<http://www.azhumanities.org/>) You can even apply online.

Cheryl Conrad

# CONGRATULATIONS

and Thanks to the Casa Grande Public Library, the costume group's new name is: PC Characters, Unlimited. Look for us in January!

## Upcoming Events

Sept. 28, 2001	Arizona Reading Program Workshop	Tucson
Nov. 16, 2001	AzLA Orientation	Phoenix
Dec. 4-7, 2001	AzLA-MPLA Joint Conference	Phoenix
March 12-16, 2002	Public Library Association Conference	Phoenix