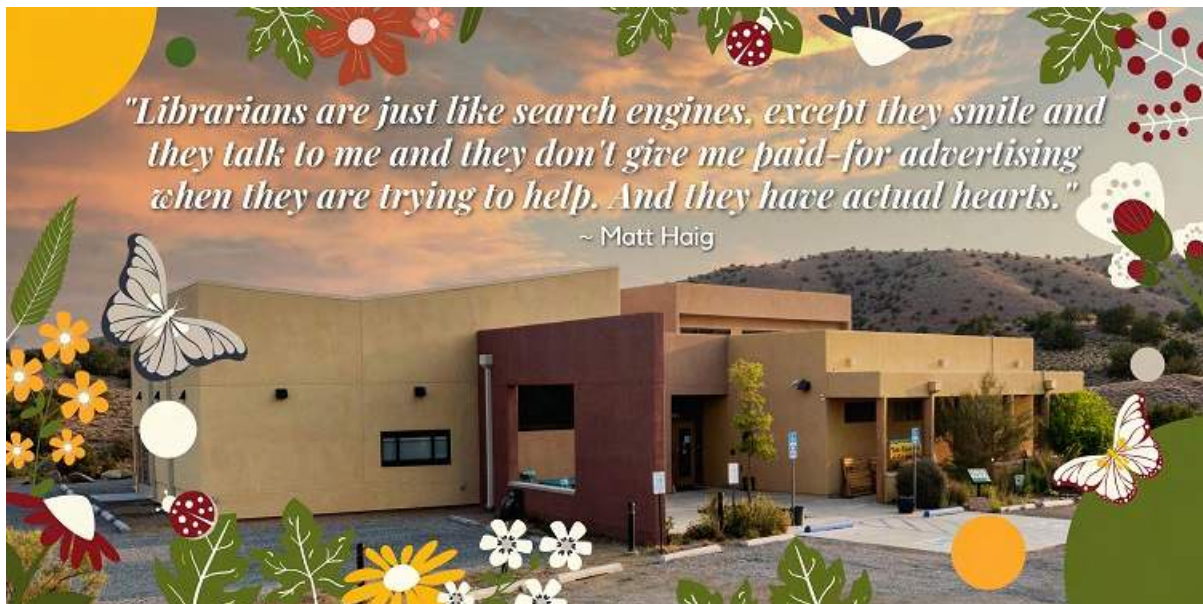


PLACITAS *Community* LIBRARY



NEWSLETTER MAR/APR 2023



"Librarians are just like search engines, except they smile and they talk to me and they don't give me paid-for advertising when they are trying to help. And they have actual hearts."

~ Matt Haig



PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY HOURS

SUN: 1 - 4
TUES: 10 - 7
WED/THURS/SAT: 10 - 5

ADULT PROGRAMS

- **MAR 4 (2 PM):** "Hiking This Spring? Be Prepared" with the New Mexico Search and Rescue Council
- **MAR 11 (2 PM):** "Deaf Row" Book Tour by Ron Franscell, bestselling Placitas crime author
- **MAR 19 (10 AM-4 PM):** "Equinox Gnomon and the James Webb Telescope: Take Two" with astronomers Tony Hull and Steve Snider
- **MAR 25 (2 PM):** "Navigating Facebook" by Pam Troutman, the library's Facebook Manager
- **APR 8 (2 PM):** "A Sense of Place: The Adventures of a Professional Wanderer" by Joan Fenicle
- **APR 22 (2 PM):** "Saving the Rhino in Africa" by Dr. Diana DeBlanc

ART RECEPTIONS & EXHIBITS

- **Through MAR 16:** Exhibit: "The Love of Calligraphy" by Escribiente, Albuquerque's Calligraphic Society
- **MAR 31 (5-6:30 PM):** Artist Reception: "New Mexico: Sense of Place" (exhibit will be displayed Mar 18-Apr 27)

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

- **MAR 18 (1-3 PM):** Meet Piki (rhymes with sneaky) and Piki's owner, Joan Hellquist, author and illustrator of the book, *Piki Goes to College*
- **APR 22 (1-3 PM):** Join us for an artist reception, "*Nuestros Niño's, Su Arte, y Sus Libros*" (*Our Children, Their Art, and Their Books*) by the students of Placitas Elementary

RECURRING EVENTS

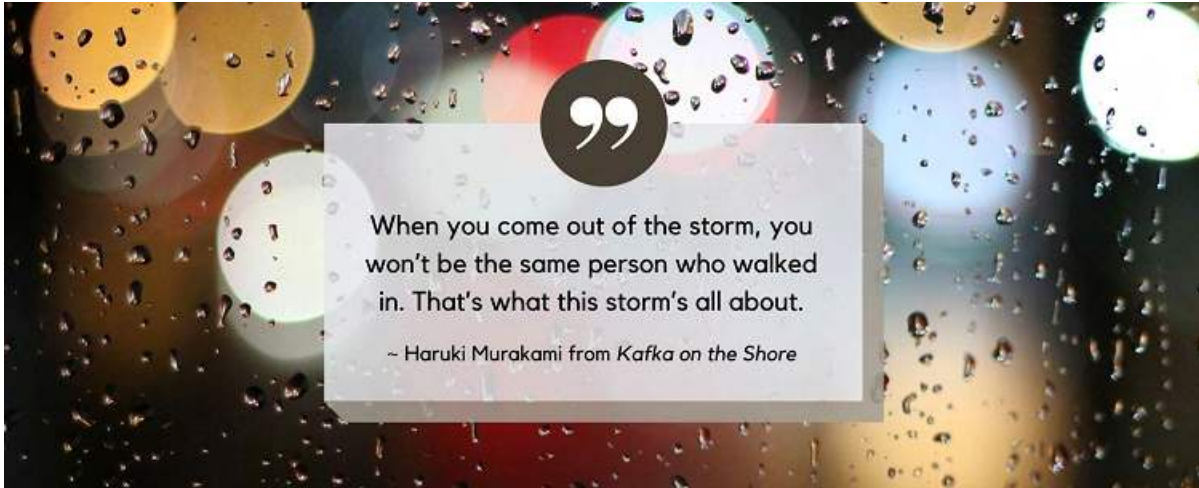
- **Drumming Circle** (1st Sunday of each month at 5 PM): Adults and children welcomed! Bring your own drum or use one of the many we have.
- **Volunteer Coffee & Connect** (2nd Sat of each month at 9 AM): Meet our volunteers, enjoy coffee and snacks, and learn about all the different ways you could be part of the library
- **Social Justice Discussion Group** (3rd Tues of each month at 1 PM): Meet to discuss issues of social justice and how we can make a difference in the world today!



The graphic features a blue and red border. On the left, the word "Library" is written in a blue, cursive font, with "BOARD OF DIRECTORS" in a bold, red, sans-serif font below it. On the right, the text reads: "Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM in the Collin Meeting Room. The public is invited and welcome to attend. Agendas are posted [here](#) and at the library."

**UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS:
THURS, MAR 16, 6:00 PM**

THURS, APR 20, 6:00 PM



When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in. That's what this storm's all about.

~ Haruki Murakami from *Kafka on the Shore*



*by Lynnette Fields,
Placitas Community Library (PCL) Board Chair*

It is with excitement and trepidation that I begin my tenure as Chair of the PCL Board. Excitement because we have an incredibly competent Board who will help me on my journey. I also have the good fortune of following Doris Fields, who led our Board for the last three years. Under her guidance, the Board has always looked forward and advocated sustaining the library's future. I will do my best to build on the strong foundation that is already in place.

Trepidation because we are losing our wonderful director, Mary Sue Houser. But Mary Sue has worked hard to put a structure in place that will continue to run smoothly after she is gone. The Library Administrator has taken on the back-office duties. The Volunteer/Help Desk Coordinator is recruiting new volunteers and managing the staffing of the Help Desk. The contracted bookkeeper is keeping the books and finances in great shape, and the contracted custodian is keeping the building clean and tidy. The Management Team is providing stellar programming and services to the community. Our multitude of incredible volunteers are keeping the library running efficiently and effectively.

A Search Committee to find a new director has been established and have begun their work. The committee consists of the Board Chair, the Library Administrator, the Volunteer/Help Desk Coordinator, a Board representative, and two representatives from the Management Team. I am confident that we will find a new Director and the library will continue to thrive.

PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Volunteer Coffee & Connect

SATURDAY, MAR 11 and APR 8 at 9:00 AM

Gather to learn more about volunteering at the library every 2nd Saturday of the month at 9:00 AM. Meet our volunteers, enjoy coffee and snacks, and learn about all the different ways you could be part of the library.



Artwork by studiogigstock on www.freepik.com



This is my last "Mary Sue's Musings" to share with the wonderful PCL community. I am excited to begin a new adventure in King County Washington and to be close to my daughter. It has been a great privilege and honor to be a part of this library. Please know all of you have enriched my life more than you can know. Your kindness, generosity, wisdom, and passion for service to your community is inspirational. I have learned a great deal from you, and been nurtured by you. I will carry you and Placitas with me always.



I have often used the metaphor of life as a good book. We keep turning pages to get to the next chapter. We turn the pages to get to the next part of the story and the adventures it may hold. Lately, as I have contemplated my next chapters, I have also thought of life is a relay race. Each of us carries a baton for a time and then we hand it off to others – our family, friends, colleagues, and community.



I am proud of the leg of the relay for which I carried the baton for PCL. However, to be clear, I was never holding it alone. As the library has grown and developed, many people have stepped in. This has been especially true in the last two years. Many people have taken on roles that keep the library operating optimally. The Board, the staff, the incredible library volunteers, and of course, the Placitas

community. Thank you for your support and participation in the library.

With all this great work by so many people, a director is only one part of the equation. I know as I hand off now I am only handing off a part of the baton that will continue to be carried swiftly and beautifully by all.



I want to thank everyone for their kind wishes and gifts. I cannot thank everyone individually here but I would be remiss not to thank Doris Fields for her service and guidance. Thank you to Lynnette Fields for taking the leadership going forward. I am confident and excited for the future. Thank you to all our volunteers for making the library all that it is. Thank you to Furman Kelley for his wisdom, kindness, generosity, skill, and dedicated hard work. Thank you to Linda Kelley for her kindness, patience, wisdom, and support.

Happy Reading and Thank You!

~ Mary Sue



SENATE BILL 214
and the
**PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

BY DORIS FIELDS, PhD
Chair, PCL Legislative Committee

In 2022, the New Mexico State Legislature passed a bill creating partial funding (\$13 million) to endow 50 rural and tribal libraries in New Mexico. The dream is for a total endowment of \$50 million to provide annual income to each of 50 qualifying little libraries to help cover basic expenses which are not covered by taxes from a municipality as in larger communities. This year, Senator Jerry Ortiz y Pino again introduced Senate Bill 214 (SB 214), requesting \$37 million to fund this endowment fully.

Along with people from other small, rural libraries, Placitas Community Library's Legislative Committee (PCLLC), Susan Brown, Doris Fields, Lynnette Fields, Jillian Gonzales, and Harriet Neal, went to Santa Fe to support this effort on New Mexico Library Legislative Day. After meeting with New Mexico Library Association (NMLA) and New Mexico State Library (NMSL) representatives, the group visited offices of several legislators, offering information about SB 214 and sharing information about our library. We were received positively by legislators and staff in each office we visited.

PCLLC used our networks to encourage friends to make phone calls and send email messages to senators serving on Senate Indian, Rural, and Cultural Affairs Committee (SIRCA) and on Senate Finance Committee (SFC) prior to each committee hearing. In both hearings, senators commented that they had received numerous calls and emails from constituents expressing support for SB 214. In addition, we had strong presence on the Zoom link to the hearings. The contact seems to have been effective; SIRCA passed SB 214 (the bill received DO PASS recommendation) unanimously. SFC voted to "Table" SB 214, noting that \$15 million is allocated in House Bill 2, which funds all of New Mexico State government and is likely to pass, indicating there would be no need for SB 214 at this time. While passage of \$15 million allocated in House Bill 2 does not meet the full request of SB 214, it would bring the total endowment to \$28 million. During the next regular legislative session (2024) we might see SB 214 (or a similar bill) introduced requesting approximately \$25 million, working to reach the goal of \$50 million.

At this point, we are in a wait-and-see moment to find out whether the Rural Library Endowment Fund will receive additional funding in the current legislative session and, if so, how much. Members of PCLLC are preparing to engage our networks again to contact legislators if and/or when SB 214 is heard on the House Floor and the Senate Floor. We would ask anyone wishing to support passage of legislation to provide sustainable funding for rural libraries to be prepared to help by making calls and sending emails to New Mexico State legislators, once we have specific guidance. We will share information with our networks, so they may contact the appropriate legislators at the appropriate time.

So far, this has been an exciting legislative session for our committee and we are looking forward to the results of our efforts and to including more members of our community. We encourage anyone interested in joining PCLLC to please send an email to dorisapoet@gmail.com.



(L-R): Jillian Gonzales, Lynnette Fields, Susan Brown, Shel Neymark, Doris Fields, and Harriet Neal

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Artwork created by pikisuperstar at towoy.freepik.com



DISCUSSION GROUP

Meet to discuss issues of social justice and how we can make a difference in the world today!

Please contact Anne at annegrey3@gmail.com for more information

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1 PM in the Collin Meeting Room



“

I like being present in spaces where I am not welcome because you do not deserve to feel comfortable just because you're racist or sexist or small-minded.

Scaachi Koul from *One Day We'll All Be Dead and None of This Will Matter*



HIKING THIS SPRING?

Be Prepared

BY BILL KENNEDY

MARCH 4 | 2 PM

Members of the New Mexico Search and Rescue (SAR) team will speak at library on March 4 at 2 PM on locating and rescuing people lost or injured while hiking mountainous areas of New Mexico. They will discuss the *10 Essentials* you need in your backpack, what the do's and don'ts are if you are lost in the wilderness, and how a search and rescue mission develops. They will also explain the resources, teams, and technologies used in search and rescue operations.

The state of New Mexico is filled with open space and high mountain terrain, which makes it ideal for hiking and exploration. However, one can easily become stranded or lost in these remote areas. New Mexico is fortunate to have a state-sponsored program, New Mexico SAR, which is on call 24/7 to respond to lost and/or injured people in such wilderness areas.

New Mexico SAR is a multi-faceted volunteer resource that is designated to respond to law enforcement calls. The organization then can search, locate, and rescue persons lost or injured in all areas of the state. Since its inception, SAR operations have conducted many missions in remote areas to save hundreds of lives.

Program presenters Bill Kennedy, Larry Zentner, Brad Berry, and Bill Dye are members of [New Mexico SAR Council](#). They receive calls from law enforcement about lost or hurt hikers and coordinate rescue efforts. They train search and rescue personnel. They also coordinate specialized teams and technologies used in search and rescue operations.



They will explain how SAR teams function, and how you can be better prepared to use wilderness areas. The presenters will give a brief history of SAR in New Mexico and the training of SAR volunteers. They will present how a SAR mission develops and then highlight other resources and specialized teams that are used in a search and rescue operation. These may include the use of technical rescue teams, tracking teams, 4x4 vehicles and ATV's, search dog teams, equestrian teams, the Civil Air Patrol, radio communication personnel, city and county fire and rescue, and open space police. They will also explain the technologies used, such as direction-finding equipment, cell phones, SAT phones, mobile and handheld radios, drones, PLB devices, and GPS units.

We hope this vital and valuable information will enhance your confidence about hiking safely in our beautiful state.

Please join us on Saturday, March 4 at 2 PM for this informative and possibly life-saving program.

“

I wonder what becomes of lost opportunities? Perhaps our guardian angel gathers them up as we drop them, and will give them back to us in the beautiful sometime when we have grown wiser, and learned how to use them rightly.

”

Helen Keller from
The Story of My Life





One of America's most popular crime writers will be talking about his newest book on March 11.

New York Times bestselling author Ron Franscell lives in Placitas and he's kicking off a regional book tour for his new mystery, *Deaf Row*, with a free book talk and signing event at his hometown library at 2–4 PM. All books sold will benefit the library.

"We're lucky to have this library," Franscell said recently, "and I'm lucky to be able to launch *Deaf Row* right here where I live."

Known for his extensive "boots-on-the-ground" research, Franscell has established himself as one of America's most popular narrative nonfiction authors, with an Edgar nomination and *New York Times* bestselling credits to prove it.

Deaf Row is Franscell's 19th book, but his first fiction in more than 20 years. Why the sudden shift from international true-crime bestsellers like *The Darkest Night* and *ShadowMan: An Elusive Psycho Killer and the Birth of FBI Profiling*?

COVID-19.

"Suddenly, we were locked down. I couldn't book a hotel room, dine out, pump gas casually, enter courthouses or libraries ... and I couldn't talk face-to-face with the dozens of people I typically interview for my true stories," the former senior writer at the *Denver Post* said. "So, I locked myself in my office alone with 40 years of experience telling true crime stories, and I imagined *Deaf Row*."

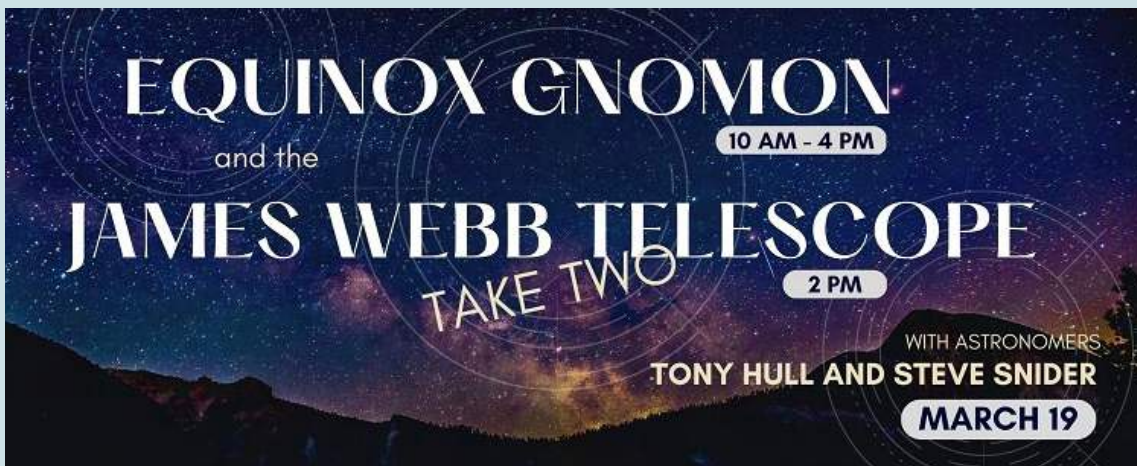
The novel has been hailed by suspense superstars such as C.J. Box, John Lescroart, and fellow New Mexican Anne Hillerman, who said, "*The tension builds to a chilling five-star climax ... It gave me goosebumps big time.*"

The story: Retired from a Denver homicide beat to a small Colorado mountain town, ex-detective Woodrow "Mountain" Bell yearns only to fade away. And when he stumbles across a long-forgotten, unsolved child murder, his first impulse is to let it lie...but he can't. Without help from ambivalent local cops, Bell must overcome the obstacles of time, age, a lack of police resources—and his own personal flaws—by calling upon the unique skills of the end-of-the-road codgers he meets for coffee every morning, a club of old guys who call themselves Deaf Row. Soon, this mottled crew finds itself on a collision course with a serial butcher.

But *Deaf Row* is more than an unnerving psychological thriller. It is also a moving, occasionally

humorous, novel of men pushing back against time and death, trying not to disappear entirely.

Three years ago, Franscell and his wife Mary moved to Placitas, where he's now working on a sequel to *Deaf Row*, based on a real-life Placitas murder case.



On March 19, PCL will celebrate the vernal equinox with astronomers Tony Hull and Steve Snider. Beginning around 10 AM, you are once again invited to place stones marking the path of the sun's shadow. Twice a year, on the equinoxes, the pattern created by the gnomon's shadow is special indeed and quite different from other days of the year. The placing of stones to create this pattern will continue every 15 minutes throughout the day.

In cooperation with The Albuquerque Astronomical Society (TAAS), there will be opportunities to safely view our sun's activity in the form of solar flares and sun spots.

At 2 PM, Tony Hull will again speak about the James Webb Space Telescope, this time with a focus on what we are seeing in the glorious images from the scope and what astronomy is learning about the universe.

Tony Hull left NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory to lead a key effort on Webb, going to the East Bay to be Director of the team of 60 experts that would polish all the mirrors over a five-year period. When starting this role, having sold his house in Southern California, Tony bought his present house in Placitas. He says this was his refuge and hope at times during ongoing, grueling 80-hour work weeks. Tony will also give us a glimpse of the next great telescope envisioned for 2050, a topic of his

present lectures in the U.S. and Europe.



On April 8 at 2 PM, in conjunction with the PCL art exhibit *New Mexico: Sense of Place* (March 18–April 27), Joan Fenicle will present her life's adventures off road.

She will share information on some of her favorite places and her experience finding hidden treasures.

Joan uses the word "professional" loosely. Her wandering days began as a very small child (five or six)

when she and her faithful dog, Pal, were allowed to explore the mountains adjacent to her home in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Her childlike curiosity and delight in discovery has made wandering a life-long activity.

She moved to New Mexico in the late 60s, finding a place mostly unspoiled by massive development with numerous caminos and callejones to check out. At one time, she knew every trail in the back country of Bandelier and the Rio Grande Gorge – most of our hot springs, petroglyph sites, and ghost towns. Those were the days of traveling light and sleeping under the stars. Now in her 80s, the hikes are much shorter but her 4WD truck has never met a dirt road it didn't want to explore.

Although she has indulged in what some would consider risky behavior over the years, she rarely felt unsafe and will leave you with some hints on how to stay welcomed off the beaten path, as well as what to do if you find yourself stranded.

You won't want to miss her talk and an opportunity to enjoy her adventures vicariously.



**DRUMMING
CIRCLE**

All welcomed -
adults and
children alike!

**FIRST SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH AT 5 PM**

Bring your own drum or use
one of the many we have!

The poster features a central illustration of a red and yellow striped drum with two drumsticks. Surrounding the drum are various musical notes and symbols in red, blue, and yellow. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout with a mix of bold and regular fonts.



**SAVING THE
RHINO
IN AFRICA**

BY DR. DIANA DEBLANC

**APRIL 22
2 PM**

The poster features a photograph of a rhinoceros in a natural, grassy habitat. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, sans-serif font. The date and time are prominently displayed in the bottom right corner.

As a young child, I was always fascinated by the rhino. I was born in New Mexico and raised in Gallup. Around the age of eight, I expressed an interest in animals and told my father that I wanted to run a pet store. He took my curiosity to a new level by introducing me to the local veterinarian, who educated me about what his job entailed. I was enthralled from that moment on, and have never wanted to do anything else.

I attended New Mexico State University for my undergraduate degree. After three years, I was

granted early acceptance to the Colorado State University Veterinary Program. Becoming a large animal vet only intensified my interest in these beautiful African animals. When I was a senior in veterinary school, I had the opportunity to work with a baby rhino from the Denver Zoo who had a fatal disease. This was the beginning of my undying passion for rhinoceroses.

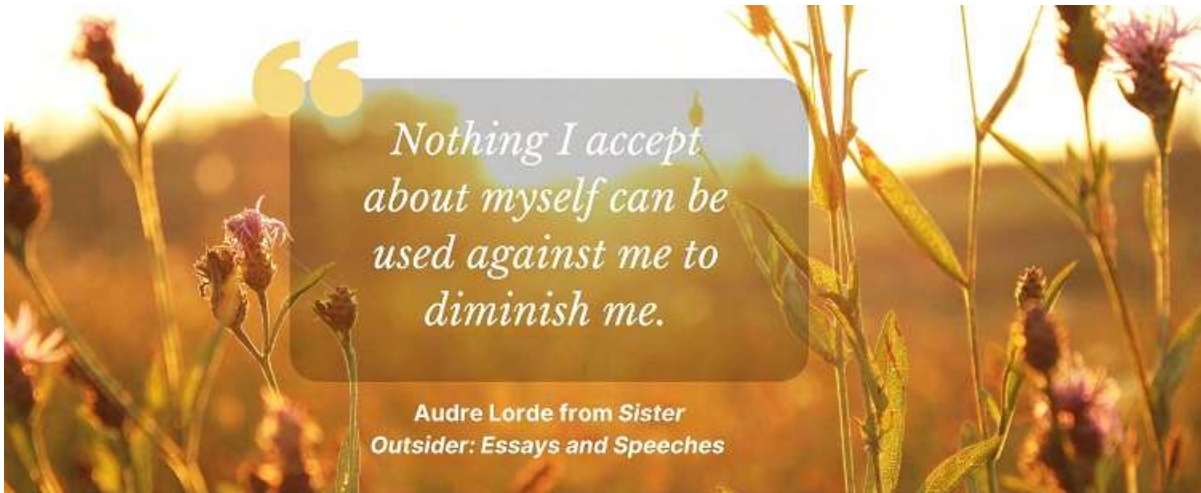


In 2017, I decided to travel to South Africa to fulfill a lifelong dream of seeing rhino in the wild. Little did I know that this would change the trajectory of my world. I have never looked back.

For the past seven years, I have been traveling to South Africa working on the front lines of the poaching crisis. Rhino are being killed in unprecedented numbers so that their horns, believed by some cultures to possess potent medicinal properties, can be sold for huge sums on the black market. Also endangered are young rhino left orphans by the poachers' guns.

In 2017, there were 18,000 white rhino and 2,500 black rhino at Kruger National Park in South Africa. In 2022, there were 3,500 white rhino at Kruger and 250 black rhino. If we don't stand to action, we are facing the extinction of rhino in less than five years. We have lost already over 90% of our wild rhino, killed to supply horn for unproven "magical" cures.

Please join us at 2 PM on Saturday, April 22, to learn about what is happening to our precious rhino and what you can do to help us save this iconic species.



*Nothing I accept
about myself can be
used against me to
diminish me.*

Audre Lorde from *Sister
Outsider: Essays and Speeches*



FROM THE

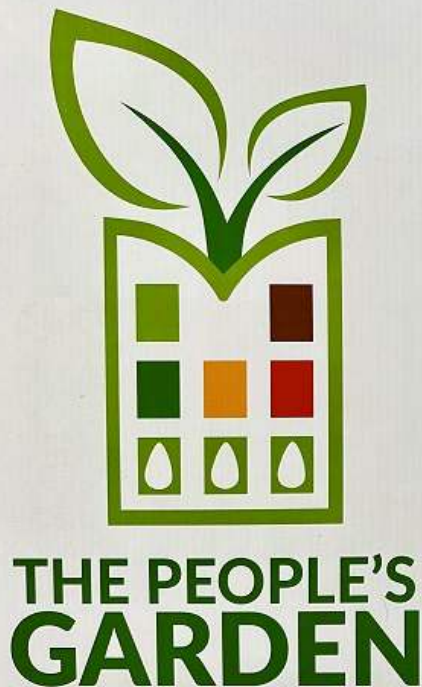
LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

BY DAWN FOSTER, SEMG 2017,
LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

USDA People's Garden Initiative

The PCL gardens have a new designation! In addition to being a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation, our gardens are now registered with the United States Agricultural Department (USDA) under the People's Garden Initiative.

"The People's Garden Initiative is part of USDA's broader efforts to advance equity, support local and regional food systems and access to food, and encourage use of conservation and climate-smart practices." ⁽¹⁾



THIS GARDEN CAN MAKE A **BIG IMPACT** IN YOUR COMMUNITY BY:

Growing fresh, healthy food and supporting a resilient, local food system.

Teaching people how to garden using sustainable practices.

Nurturing a habitat for pollinators and wildlife, and greenspace for neighbors to gather, reflect and enjoy.



LEARN MORE AT:
[USDA.GOV/PEOPLES-GARDEN](https://www.usda.gov/peoples-garden)



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

“USDA originally launched the People’s Garden Initiative in 2009. It’s named for the ‘People’s Department,’ former President Abraham Lincoln’s nickname for USDA, which was established during his presidency in 1862.” ⁽²⁾ You may be hearing more about this renewed program, since Albuquerque, through the City’s Parks and Recreation and Aviation Departments, is one of USDA’s flagship gardens located in one the their 17 “urban hubs”. ⁽³⁾

“People’s Gardens grow fresh, healthy food and support a resilient, local food system; teach people how to garden using sustainable practices; and nurture habitat for pollinators and wildlife, and greenspace for neighbors to gather and enjoy. People’s Gardens all:

- **Benefit the community** by providing food, beautification, arts, wildlife habitat, education, green space, tree canopy, recreation, volunteer opportunities;
- **Are a collaborative effort** involving neighbors, co-workers, food pantries, master gardeners, conservation districts, USDA agencies, veterans, youth organizations, seniors, faith-based groups, or others;
- **Incorporate sustainable practices** such as rain barrels or micro-irrigation, composting, cover crops, pest management, bat houses or insect hotels, and/or native plants; and/or
- **Educate the public** about sustainable practices and the benefit of local food systems through signage, classes, events, outreach materials, websites, and youth field trips.” ⁽⁴⁾

To learn more about The People’s Garden Initiative, visit <https://www.usda.gov/>.

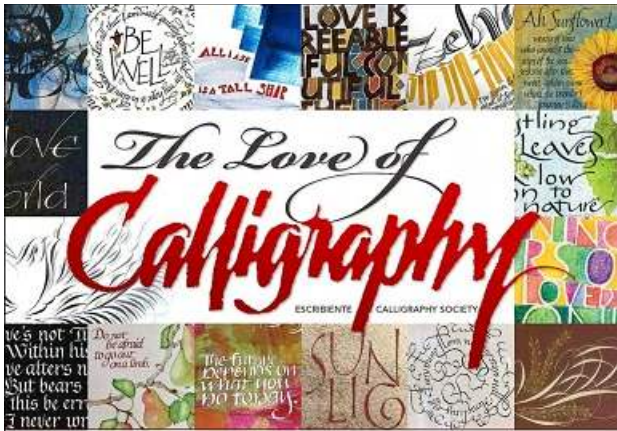


Exhibit on display through March 16

Escribiente, Albuquerque's Calligraphy Society, celebrates its 45th anniversary with a member exhibition of calligraphic art. "The Love of Calligraphy" showcases a diversity of styles and techniques from delicate ornate flourishing to abstract mixed media art.

Escribiente is open to anyone interested in the fine art of beautiful lettering and offers online programs, monthly meetups, as well as workshops with local and national instructors. Learn more about *Escribiente* at <https://www.escribiente.org/>



NEW MEXICO: SENSE OF PLACE

GRACIE LEE COMMUNITY ROOM
FRIDAY, MARCH 18 – THURSDAY, APRIL 27

RECEPTION: FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 5:00–6:30 PM

Jeri Burzin | Lori Colt | Roberta Delgado | John DeSpain
Donna Dowell | Dinah Dozier | Connie Falk | Colleen Z Gregoire
Linda Heath | Katrina Lasko | Caroline LeBlanc | Mark Lavon Maestas
Meredith McPherson | Mike Neas | Pam Neas | Linda Nystrom
Judith Roderick | Alfons Schuster | Tálos | Pam Troutman
PK Williams | Tom Wise | Lisa Zawadzki



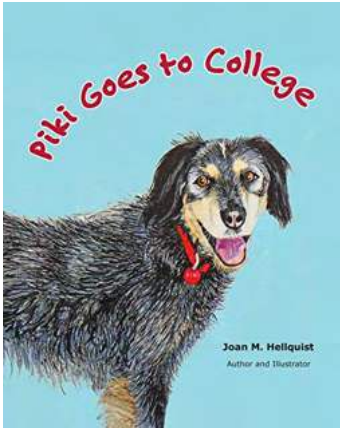
New Mexico, rightfully known as the Land of Enchantment, is a truly magical, complex, and at times tragic place whose history, cultural influences, and geography are as diverse as its inhabitants.

For their March 18 through April 27 exhibition, PCL's Art Committee challenged artists to capture the state's essence for an exhibition in the library's Gracie Lee Community Room. Whether the state bird (the roadrunner), state tree (pinon), state gem (turquoise), state question (red or green?), state aircraft (hot air balloon), the state tie (bolo), or the landscape itself from Taos in winter to the dune-field of White Sands National Park, the possibilities were endless.

The public is invited to experience New Mexico through participating artists' eyes during regular library hours or during the artists' reception, Friday, March 31.



"A Pawsome Afternoon" with Piki
 Saturday, March 18, 1-3 PM



Join us for "A Pawsome Afternoon" with Piki, the service dog and his human, Joan Hellquist. Joan will read her book, *Piki Goes to College*, in which Piki tells the story of his life after being adopted by Joan at the Rio Rancho Animal Shelter. It is a very touching and entertaining story of their lives together.

Additionally, Joan will read an excerpt from her newest book, *Piki Goes Flying*. There is a lot of good information for children and adults about adopting and training animals and flying with service dogs.

There will be a raffle of a hardback copy of both books. We will also have refreshments and a selection of give-away books!

Children's Art Reception: "Nuestros Niño's, Su Arte, y Sus Libros"
 Saturday, April 22, 1-3 PM

Please join PCL's Art and Children's Committees for a spectacular afternoon in the Collin Meeting Room, where we will be hosting an artist reception for the students of Placitas Elementary. The name of the exhibit is *"Nuestros Niño's, Su Arte, y Sus Libros"* (Our Children, Their Art, and Their Books).



Adam Sauers, the art teacher at Placitas Elementary has been working with, and encouraging his students to create art projects reflecting the culture, history, and landscapes of New Mexico. We will be honoring their efforts with a reception on April 22 at 1 PM. In addition, we will be giving away a new book to each child who participates in the show, and all children who come to see the exhibit. We are celebrating the unique New Mexican holiday of *Dia de Los Niño's y de Los Libros* (Day of Children and of Books).

This exhibit will run from April 2 – May 14. You may view the exhibit during regular library hours: Sundays 1–4 PM, Tuesdays 10 AM–7 PM, and Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays 10 AM–5 PM. The Placitas Elementary spring break runs from April 6–14, so why not visit the library during that time and again on April 22? You will see a variety of media including landscape paintings, sugar skull paintings representing the día de los muertos, clay sculptures, and much more!

We hope to see at this family event honoring our children and their talent.



In the last Children's Book News, various sections of the children's collection were highlighted. One area which was not discussed was the books along the salmon-colored wall where juvenile non-fiction, juvenile biographies, and graphic novels are shelved. Juvenile non-fiction contains a variety of treasures depending on a young person's interests.

Next time you are in the library with your young companion, point out the section that might mirror her/his passions. Perhaps it's astronauts and space exploration, or sharks, or arts and crafts, to name only a few. Look for the non-fiction picture labels which children can more easily use as guides. We are in the process of weeding and updating juvenile non-fiction. Please let us know if there is an area in which you would like to see more current selections.

Since the graphic novel collection is also along this wall, I thought I would focus on non-fiction by pointing out the quality graphic novels that examine a variety of non-fiction topics.



Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina & New Orleans **written and illustrated by Don Brown**

Suggested ages: 10 years and up

Drowned City is an artistically powerful retelling of the tragedy that was Hurricane Katrina. With pen and ink illustrations rendered in solemn colors, along with limited text, the tale of this natural disaster unfolds. It not only highlights the human error, ignorance, and incompetence which contributed to this catastrophe but also the unselfish, heroic



deeds of ordinary people. *Drowned City* is a book to share and think on. A detailed list of *Source Notes* and *Bibliography* can be found at the book's end.

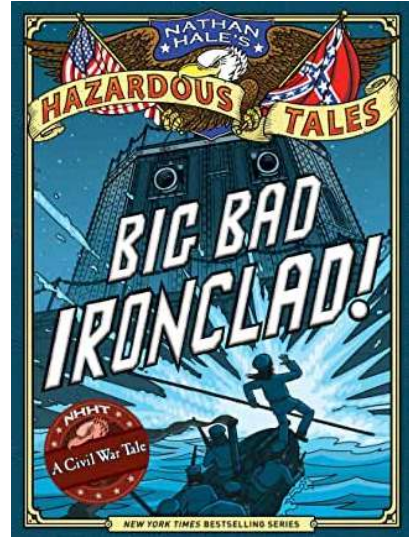
In the Shadow of the Fallen Towers, also by Don Brown, is a moving retelling of the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. It is also in our collection.

Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales: Big Bad Ironclad!

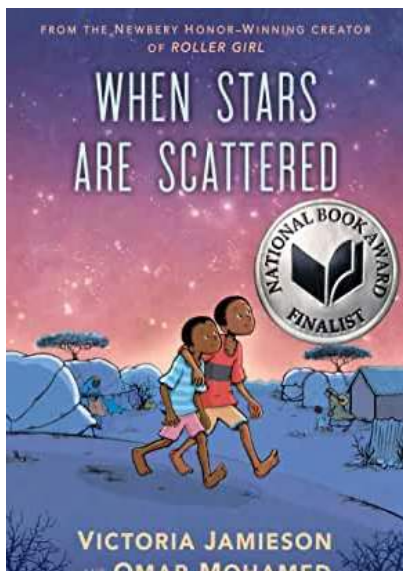
written and illustrated by Nathan Hale (no relation to Nathan Hale, the spy!)

Suggested ages: 8–12 years

The series, *Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales*, relates true stories which are part of American history. They are said to be thoroughly researched and center on fascinating and unusual events of our past. Hale interjects humor and liveliness along with analysis through his three fictional narrators: the spy, Nathan Hale, the hangman who provides comic relief, and the British provost who lends veracity by demanding explanations and proof. Nathan Hale, the spy, relates these historical stories to put off his execution as set up in the first book of this series, *One Dead Spy*, also part of our collection.



Big Bad Ironclad! is the story of the *Monitor* and the *Merrimack* during the Civil War. Hale relates the novel idea, at the time, of building ships covered with iron in order to withstand cannon fire. In the telling of this unique experiment, the reader gains a broader knowledge of the Civil War and is introduced to such historical figures as Abraham Lincoln, General Winfield Scott, and Gideon Welles, Lincoln's Secretary of the Navy. The book concludes with a time line, brief biographical notes, along with photos of the tale's major players as well as a bibliography. This is only one of eleven *Hazardous Tales*. If you are interested in having additional volumes beyond those in our collection, please fill out a request form at the front desk.



When Stars Are Scattered


by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed

Suggested ages: 9–11 years

In this award-winning graphic novel, Omar Mohamed has shared his memories of life in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya. His memoir is catalogued as a juvenile biography in the children's collection.

At age 4, Omar, and his younger, non-verbal brother, Hassan, fled their native country of war-torn Somalia, and in so doing became separated from their mother. Fortunately, upon arrival in Dadaab, they connect with Fatuma, also a refugee, who acts as a foster mother to them. *When Stars Are Scattered* relates the story of life in a refugee camp – the boredom, the hopelessness, and the struggles, such as the days with

little food. When Omar at last is persuaded to attend school, his hopes and dreams for the future gradually change with the slim chance that he and his brother might eventually be selected for resettlement in America or elsewhere. Omar's story is inspiring along with being a realistic picture of the millions who are refugees around the world. Today, Omar, who now lives in the United States, operates *Refugee Strong*, a project he founded which supports refugees through education.



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Permanent Record by Edward Snowden

"Arguing that you don't care about the right to privacy because you have nothing to hide is no different than saying you don't care about free speech because you have nothing to say."

Hero, whistleblower, or traitor?

Permanent Record is a compelling account of why and how former computer intelligence consultant Edward Snowden was motivated to become a whistleblower, both leaking secrets of highly classified documents from the National Security Agency (NSA) in 2013, when he was a highly-regarded employee and subcontractor, and disclosing the extent of the U.S. surveillance system. Because of his security clearance, he had access most of his colleagues did not possess. Among the secrets he leaked were classified NSA programs including PRISM, an undercover

data-mining operation that collected private data of users from companies such as Apple, Facebook, Google, Verizon, and AOL.

A thoughtful read, it made me consider today's dominance of surveillance capitalism in our digital age, and what the limitations should be on the government's access.

An inquisitive person, while still in high school, Snowden hacked into the website of the Los Alamos Nuclear Research Laboratory. He discovered a huge lack of security. Shocked, he contacted the laboratory. He ended up leaving a telephone message which eventually was responded to by someone at the lab. He offered Snowden a job but realizing that Snowden was just a teenager, he said, "Well, kid, you've got my contact number. Be sure and get in touch when you turn 18."

At times witty and shocking, his memoir is enlightening and extremely well-written. Make your own decision regarding Snowden's actions. What would you do? Become a whistleblower and be harassed and maligned, or remain silent? What are the consequences for both actions?

Note:

I recently read in the media that the U.S. Justice Department (DOJ) thinks Edward Snowden shouldn't get to keep the profits from his new memoir. Instead, the agency argued in a lawsuit filed Tuesday, that money should go back to the government.

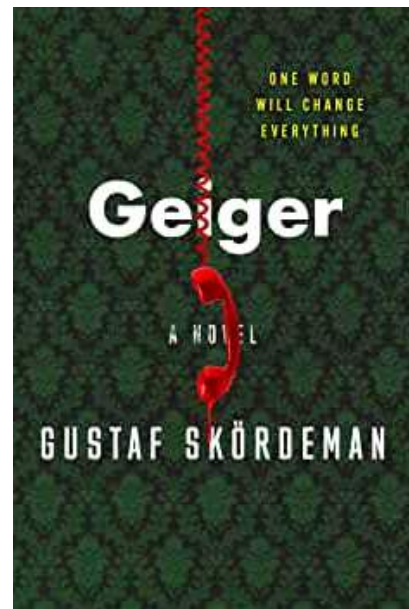
The DOJ suit alleges that Snowden violated nondisclosure agreements he signed while working at the NSA and CIA by releasing his new book without first submitting it to the intelligence agencies for review. In a press release, the agency said it is not looking to halt sales of Snowden's memoir, but merely wants to recoup all proceeds from the book, which is billed as Snowden's personal account of the "story of his life, including how he helped to build that system [of mass surveillance] and what motivated him to try to bring it down."

Geiger

by Gustav Skördeman

I abhor spoilers so don't want to divulge too much about this electrifying murder mystery. It's a splendid debut novel for Skördeman, who happens to be a successful Swedish screenwriter, director, and producer. It is a translation, and I wish I could read the original in Swedish!

The story opens with an elderly couple waving goodbye to their adult children and grandchildren after the end of a delightful family visit. 85-year-old Stellan Broman is a retired, beloved Swedish television personality. His wife, Agneta, answers the telephone as the guests leave. What ensues is a gripping thriller filled with action and suspense. It delves into compelling Russian and German history, politics, and espionage. The primary protagonist is Sara, a family friend and police detective, who investigates the crime. Nothing is as it seems, as in most first-rate mysteries!



NATIONAL BESTSELLER

"An absorbing story of a world in transition, brought to life through characters who love and suffer with equal intensity."—J. M. Coetzee

The Glass Palace

AMITAV GHOSH

A NOVEL



The Glass Palace

by Amitav Ghosh

Oh my gosh, I am always thrilled when I occasionally discover an especially enriching, superbly-written book. The prose is masterful, with well-developed characters—undeniably a gem. The meticulously researched Asian history will interest all of you history buffs.



The Glass Palace is a breathtaking epic novel, which begins in 19th century Burma, spanning over 100 years, originating in India, Malaya (Malaysia), and Burma (Myanmar). It chronicles the ordeals of the last Burmese king, Thebaw, and his Queen Supayalat, who were deposed by the British, and exiled along with the royal family to India, two World Wars, and the struggle for independence from the British. Illuminating and entertaining, it deftly addresses not just the impact of colonialism in the region, cultures, philosophy, and politics from varying

perspectives, but also love and loss.

11-year-old Rajkumar, an orphan from India, becomes stranded in Mandalay, Burma, but manages to escape to King Thibaw's Glass Palace during the chaotic British invasion of the city. Rajkumar meets Dolly, one of the princess's attendants and is immediately smitten. And so the saga continues, intertwining the stories of three generations of families.

According to the Author's Notes section in the book, Ghosh took five years to research and write this book. His historical research is impeccable and impressive:

"I read hundreds of books, memoirs, travelogues, gazetteers, articles, and notebooks, published and unpublished; I traveled thousands of miles, visiting and revisiting, so far as possible, all the settings that figure in this novel; I sought out scores of people in India, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Thailand."

Ghosh was born in Calcutta of Burmese parents and spent his childhood in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and northern India. He studied in Delhi, Egypt, and Oxford. He currently lives in New York.

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