

PLACITAS *Community* LIBRARY



NEWSLETTER MAR/APR 2024

“
The highest result of education is tolerance.

HELEN KELLER



PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY HOURS

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

- **MAR 15 (6 PM):** Placitas Star Party and Star Talk with The Albuquerque Astronomical Society (TAAS)
 - **MAR 23 (10 AM–3 PM):** Let's Track the Sun! Vernal Equinox Gnomon Celebration with Tony Hull
 - **APR 6 (2 PM):** Raising Elk in Placitas with Dale Spencer
 - **APR 13 (2 PM):** The Witches of Abiquiu: The Governor, the Priest, the Genizaro Indians, and the Devil with Dr. Rick Hendricks
 - **APR 20 (10 AM–4 PM):** Placitas Community Library (PCL) Spring Fling Sale
-

ART RECEPTIONS & EXHIBITS

- **Through MAR 14:** Exhibit: Gifts of our Ancestors – Resilience of the Diaspora, a Celebration of Black History Month
 - **APR 5 (5–7 PM):** Artists Reception: Colores de México, featuring Jade Leyva, Armando Adrián-López, and Enrique Flores (exhibit will be displayed Mar 16–Apr 17)
 - **APR 20–MAY 12:** Exhibit: Placitas Studio Tour Preview
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CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

- **TUES, MAR 12 (10 AM):** *Pre-K Story Time* for ages infant – 5. The theme is "Everything Green." Stories and activities will be centered on the color green. A snack will be served.
 - **SAT, MAR 16 (1 PM):** A St. Patrick's Day Celebration with the *Young Voices of the Santa Fe Opera* for ages 0–11 and the entire family. Children will learn about the structure of an opera and its elements, such as the music, props, sets, and movement. The featured story will be "Pete the Cat and the Great Leprechaun Chase."
 - **TUES, APR 9 (10 AM):** *Pre-K Story Time* for ages infant – 5. The theme is to be determined. We will have stories, activities, and a snack for the children.
 - **SUN, APR 27 (1 PM):** *Celebrate the Earth* for ages infant –11 and the entire family. Activities are still being finalized, but will include butterflies, planting seeds, creating with recycled materials, and more.
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RECURRING EVENTS

- **Volunteer Coffee & Connect** (2nd Sat of every other 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 (*NOTE: next event is on April 13*).
- **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!
- **La Parranda: Club de Español** (Every Wed at 10 AM): Use and learn español with Diane Herrera Shepard and other guests. Open to anyone, especially beginners. No registration or regular attendance required!
- **Drumming Circle** (1st Sun of each month at 4 PM): Bring your own drum or use one of the many we have.
- **Dungeons & Dragons Group:** Email Anne Frost (annegrey3@gmail.com) for more information.



It is **SPRING** again.
The earth is like a child that
knows poems by heart.

Rainer Maria Rilke



NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY BOARD

By Lynnette Fields, PCL Board Chair

Doris Fields and Harriet Neal just completed their second Board terms in January. They have both served the Board with distinction. Doris served as Chair of the Board, and Chair of the Legislative Committee. She also served on several library committees and was always there to lend a hand when needed. Harriet served as Vice-Chair of the Board, and most recently as Treasurer. She also served on many library committees and has been instrumental in the growth of the library.

Doris and Harriet will be sorely missed on the Board, but fortunately both will be continuing their service to the library on various committees and as volunteers. On behalf of the Board, we thank them for their service and look forward to their continued involvement at PCL.

Nancy Southern has also left the Board, but her resignation is due to a relocation. She has decided to move back to California. She served as Vice-Chair of the Board, and Chair of the Nominating Committee. Like Doris and Harriet, Nancy also served on several library committees. We will miss Nancy, but she has promised to visit in the future.

The Board's new Executive Committee was installed at our January annual meeting. I will be continuing as Chair for another year. Jill Kennedy has agreed to serve as Vice-Chair. Jillian Gonzales will continue as Secretary for another year, and Maggie Huber will be our new Treasurer. Please join me in thanking our new and returning officers for their continued service to the Board and to the library.

Volunteers are the heart of PCL. The library couldn't function without the many volunteers that do a myriad of tasks. We have approximately 85 volunteers who do everything from staffing the Help Desk, to maintaining the stunning landscaping. Our volunteers worked a total of 13,304 hours for 2023. I believe this is a staggering number, and all our volunteers should be thanked for their dedication to PCL. In the next newsletter, we will begin a series of articles highlighting the work of

our volunteers.

In my last newsletter article, I wrote about the \$100,000 grant PCL received from the State, and the projects we would be beginning soon: solar panel expansion, a new printer/copier/fax/scanner, and a website redesign. The new printer has been installed, and work has begun on the website redesign.



On Friday, January 12, we had a groundbreaking ceremony for our solar expansion. Celebrating the event were (from left) Corey Boyd, PPC Solar; Mark Hatzenbuehler, Director, Public Works, Sandoval County; Lynne Hynes, PCL Director; State Representative Matthew McQueen, District 50; Sandoval County Commissioner Katherine A. Bruch, District 1; Sandoval County Commissioner Joshua A. Jones, District 5; Lynnette Fields, PCL Board Chair (yes, that's really me); Furman Kelley, PCL Administrator; and several PCL Board and community members. It is anticipated that construction will be completed by May.



WITH **FREEDOM, BOOKS,**
FLOWERS AND THE **MOON,**
WHO COULD NOT BE **HAPPY?**

OSCAR WILDE

2023
PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY
BY THE NUMBERS

OPEN LIBRARY
51,972
 Library visits

Approx.
20,000
 Print materials

Approx.
4,000
 Audiobooks and videos

Approx.
24,000
 Total collection

4,263
 Current cardholders

14,321
 Items checked out

117
 Library programs

4,205
 Program attendance

20,852
 Website visits

1,263
 Library computer uses

2,309
 Wifi uses

2,026
 Newsletter subscribers

Library BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM in the Gracie Lee Community Room. The public is invited and welcome to attend. Agendas are posted [here](#) and at the library.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS:
THURS, MAR 21, 6:00 PM
THURS, APR 25, 6:00 PM

(NOTE: April meeting is on the 4th Thursday of the month)

PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

☕ Volunteer Coffee & Connect ☕

APRIL 13 at 9:00 AM

Gather to learn more about volunteering at the library every 2nd Saturday of every other 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 studiogstock at www.freepik.com



Lynne's Letters

MESSAGE FROM
THE DIRECTOR



PCL is Proud to Announce the Launch of our new Seed Library coming in March!



A form for ordering seed packets to take home and plant will be on our website and at the library. Planting instructions will be attached to each seed package.

We would like to thank our wonderful volunteers for helping us get seed donations and getting our seed packages ready for pickup.

Come get your seeds this March!

Lynne

The poster features the text 'SOCIAL JUSTICE' in large orange letters at the top left. Below it is an illustration of five raised fists of different skin tones. On the right, a dark orange speech bubble contains the text 'DISCUSSION GROUP' with a star. Below this, the text reads 'Meet to discuss issues of social justice and how we can make a difference in the world today!'. At the bottom, it says 'Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1 PM in the Collin Meeting Room'. A vertical watermark on the left reads 'Artwork created by plusuperstar at www.freepik.com'. The background is dark brown with orange accents.



The first bud of spring
sings
the other seeds into joining her
uprising.

Amanda Gorman

MARCH 15 with The Albuquerque Astronomical Society (TAAS)
PLACITAS STAR PARTY & STAR TALK
Event begins at 6 PM

Spring is coming, and that means the Placitas Star Party isn't far off. **This year's event will take place at PCL on Friday, March 15.** The star party BEGINS AT 6 PM WITH solar viewing. At 7 PM, The Albuquerque Astronomical Society's (TAAS) own Star Master, Tom Grzybowski will offer a presentation of the important stars and planets that will be visible – Jupiter, Uranus, double stars, and star clusters. By then, the sky will be dark and viewing will continue into the night. There will be a variety of types and sizes of telescopes to guide you to the wonders of our dark skies.

The Placitas Star Party is free and open to all people between the ages of 1 day and 120 years, so bring your family, friends, and curiosity. The enthusiastic members of TAAS will be on hand to share their knowledge of the heavens, as well as the different telescopes on hand. Star Parties are a fun and informal way to learn, meet other sky watchers, and inspire lifelong learning about our universe.

It is highly recommended that you arrive well before dark for ease of parking and for watching the setup of the various types of telescopes. Dress warmly and only use red flashlights or headlamps in the observing area in order to preserve night vision. This event is co-sponsored by TAAS and PCL. Please have only parking lights on as you come into the parking lot. PCL's magnificent "Parking Jedi" will be on hand with their light sabers to direct you. If you bring a flashlight, please cover it with red which is the only light which does not affect night vision.

For more information, visit www.taas.org, www.placitaslibrary.com, contact (505) 867-3355 or email taas@taas.org. We look forward to seeing you and the stars at dusk on Friday, March 15.





PLACITAS *Community* LIBRARY

invites you to

LA PARRANDA

Club de Español

¡BIENVENIDOS!

PCL is excited to welcome you to our Spanish club:

La Parranda Club de Español

We will use and learn *español* with *Diane Herrera Shepard* and other guests who will help moderate as YOU participate and design the experience! Let's participate, learn, and enjoy this beautiful language.

This club is open to anyone, especially beginners, and no registration is required and no regular attendance is required, either! Just come whenever you choose. The goal is to improve or learn Spanish skills and have FUN, too!

¡VÁMONOS!

Beginning January 3, 2024
Every Wednesday
10 - Noon

453 hwy 165 | www.placitaslibrary.com | 505.867.3355





MARCH 23 | 10 AM - 3 PM

Let's Track the Sun!

Vernal Equinox Gnomon
Celebration with Tony Hull



On Saturday, March 23, from 10 AM-3 PM, PCL will observe the Vernal Equinox (just a few days after the Equinox) with astronomer Tony Hull. Beginning around 10 AM, you are, once again, invited to place stones marking the path of the sun's shadow from the tip of a pole (called a Gnomon).

Twice a year, on the Equinoxes, seeing the straight line of stones created to mark 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 approximately every 20 minutes throughout the day. Join us at any time. You are encouraged to bring a few special small stones (2"-3" in diameter) to place to mark the progress of the sun's shadow.

Tony Hull left NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory to lead a team of 60 in shaping of all the James Webb Space Telescope mirrors, over a five-year effort. Having then

sold his house in Southern California, Tony bought his present house in Placitas. He says this was his refuge and hope during ongoing, grueling 80-hour work weeks. Tony is an Adjunct Professor of Physics and Astronomy at UNM.

Image above: Gnomon of The Cuyamungue Institute (above Santa Fe) built to Tony's design. The shadow of the Sun near the June Solstice is seen. The straight line is the locus of the Sun's shadow at Equinox.



RAISING *Elk* IN PLACITAS

APRIL 6 AT 2 PM

By Dale Spencer,
Placitas Elk Rancher



Who knew you could do such a thing. Local food has become a priority for many in this community and elsewhere. Placitas' own elk rancher, Dale Spencer, will inform you about the needs and considerations in raising large, powerful livestock such as elk and bison, responsibly, in this high desert country. **Join us at the library to learn more about the possibilities on April 6 at 2 PM.**

DRUMMING CIRCLE



JOIN US!

FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 4 PM

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

**Children are welcomed but parents should be aware this is an adult, meditation-like experience*



On Saturday, April 13 at 2 PM, we welcome Dr. Rick Hendricks in the Gracie Lee Room to discuss his book, *The Witches of Abiquiu: The Governor, the Priest, the Genizaro Indians, and the Devil*. Co-written with Malcom Ebright, this book is based on a little-known event that took place in northern New Mexico in the eighteenth century. Between 1756 and 1766 – five decades after the Salem witchcraft trials – there was an outbreak of witchcraft in Abiquiu, New Mexico. The event developed into three distinct phases.

The first phase of the witchcraft activity in Abiquiu began in the summer of 1760. The governor of New Mexico, Francisco Antonio Marin del Valle, received word from the Franciscan friar, Juan Jose Toledo, that devil worshipers were preventing attempts to convert the Native people in Abiquiu to Christianity. They were sticking pins in dolls, using the evil eye, poisoning people, and forming pacts with the devil. There was a School of the Devil operating in Abiquiu run by a man known as “El Cojo” (the cripple).

The second phase began in the spring of 1763. A young Native by the name of Joaquinillo had bewitched a woman and made her ill. The civil authorities, including the governor, Tomas Velez Cachupin, started to take an interest in the goings on in Abiquiu and began to study how each and every bewitching was accomplished. A witch hunt, very similar to what happened in Salem, took place in Abiquiu. Informants, including Joaquinillo, also known as the “El Descubridor” (the discoverer) began to point the finger at each other. Authorities began to create lists of victims associated with each purported witch. In the documents, the witch’s name appeared in one column and the list of his or her victims in a second column. The list of witches described dozens of local witches and an extensive network extending into central Mexico.

The third and final phase began in the summer of 1764 when the Inquisition became involved. But by that date, the Inquisition was not very interested in witchcraft and that feared institution had no authority over Natives in any event. The Inquisition disputed the Devil’s involvement and suspected something might be wrong with the priest.

Join us on Saturday, April 13, to learn more! This presentation is co-sponsored by Historical Society of New Mexico.

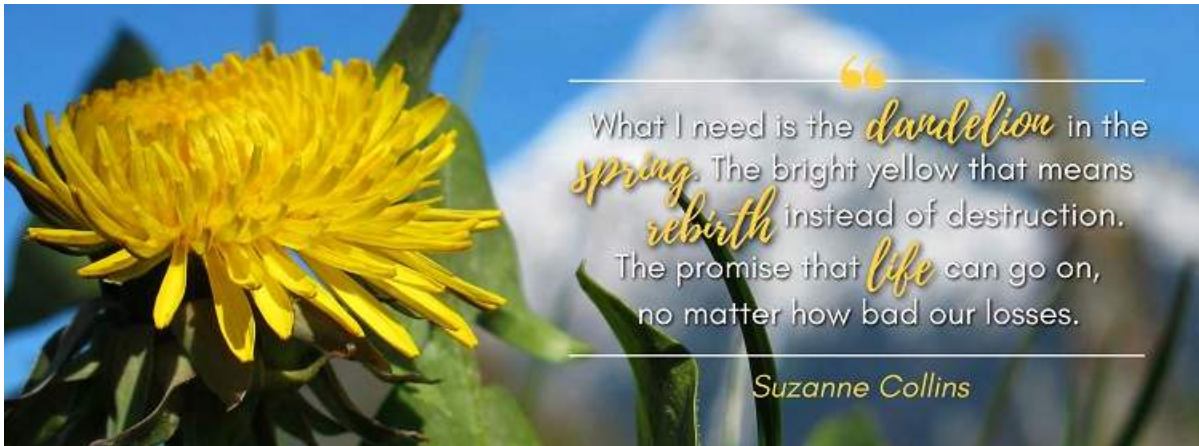


On Saturday, April 20 from 10 AM - 4 PM, PCL invites you to join us at our Spring Fling. This is a community outreach and fundraising event to support the library which is a non-profit 501(c) 3. At this year's Spring Fling, we will be offering:

- **Plants** of a wide variety
- **Talavera pottery** from Mexico
- **Books** of fiction, non-fiction, and more
- **DVDs** of movies and TV series
- **Puzzles** of different kinds
- **Homemade baked goods**

- **Selected consignment** of household décor, art work, furniture, dishes, and more

We hope to see you there!



Landscaping Committee Winter Work Day

Many thanks to the hardy gardener volunteers that come out on a lovely January “winter” day to spruce up the library gardens: Tracy Bogard, Wayne Gordon, Susan Harrelson, Rebecca Pulford, Betty Vreeke, Carol Warren, and our Sandoval Extension Master Gardener Advisory Council Chair, Meg Buerkel-Hunn! As usual we accomplished a lot, namely spreading mulch on the west end and flagpole gardens, cutting back various perennial plants, and dispersing the seeds on the leach field. Thank you all!

Since then, Wayne Gordon and I have continued working on our Landscaping “To-Do” list – cleaning out the east side water feature, pruning the shrubs in the High Country Garden in front, and other miscellaneous tasks. Thanks much, Wayne!

Pics below (from left to right): Meg B-H.; Carol W.; Susan H. and Tracy B.; and Betty V.



COLORES DE MÉXICO
MARCH 16 THROUGH APRIL 17
Reception – Friday, April 5, 5:00-7:00 pm

The art committee of the Placitas Community Library is proud to present *Colores de México* as its spring exhibit in the Gracie Lee Community Room. These beautiful figurative, magical, and mystical works by Jade Leyva, Armando Adrián López and Enrique Flores offer narratives that are both unique to the artists' Mexican roots and universal in their appeal.



PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY
453 HWY 165 , PLACITAS, NM 87043
WWW.PLACITASLIBRARY.COM • 505.867.3355

Artists' Reception for Colores de México



PCL's Art Committee is proud to present *Colores de México* as its spring exhibit in the Gracie Lee Community Room. These beautiful figurative, magical, and mystical works by Jade Leyva, Armando Adrián-López, and Enrique Flores offer narratives that are both unique to the artists' Mexican roots and universal in their appeal.

Originally from Mexico City, Jade Leyva has called Placitas her home since 2006. According to the artist, her ethereal works express multiculturalism, unity, and environmental consciousness. The annual Santa Fe Contemporary Hispanic Market (CHM) awarded Leyva Best in the Oil/Acrylic Painting Category in 2017, 2019, and 2022 and Best of Show in 2021. Leyva has participated in countless exhibitions locally, nationally, and internationally, and her work has been collected by people around the globe. Working with library art committee coordinator Geri Verble, Leyva invited Lopez and Flores to join her for this very special exhibition.

Armando Adrián-López, a Tarascan (Purepecha) Indian from the Mexican village of Santa Maria in Michoacan now lives in Abiquiu.



Without formal training, he credits the hours he spent as a child watching his grandfather, a master craftsman, weave baskets and dolls employing traditional tools and working methods handed down through generations. Adrián-López aspires to make creations with the same magical qualities, employing his own mixture of egg tempura with a technique he has developed over the last 15 years. His sculptures are made of natural materials including corn husks, river willow, native grasses, ceramic clay, and 24-karat gold leaf, most of which he grows organically and gathers on the farm in northern New Mexico where he settled in 1994. He has exhibited in New Mexico and throughout the United States including Good Hands Gallery in Santa Fe, the Santa Fe Spanish Market, the Abiquiu Studio Tour, and the Lucero Hacinda Gallery.

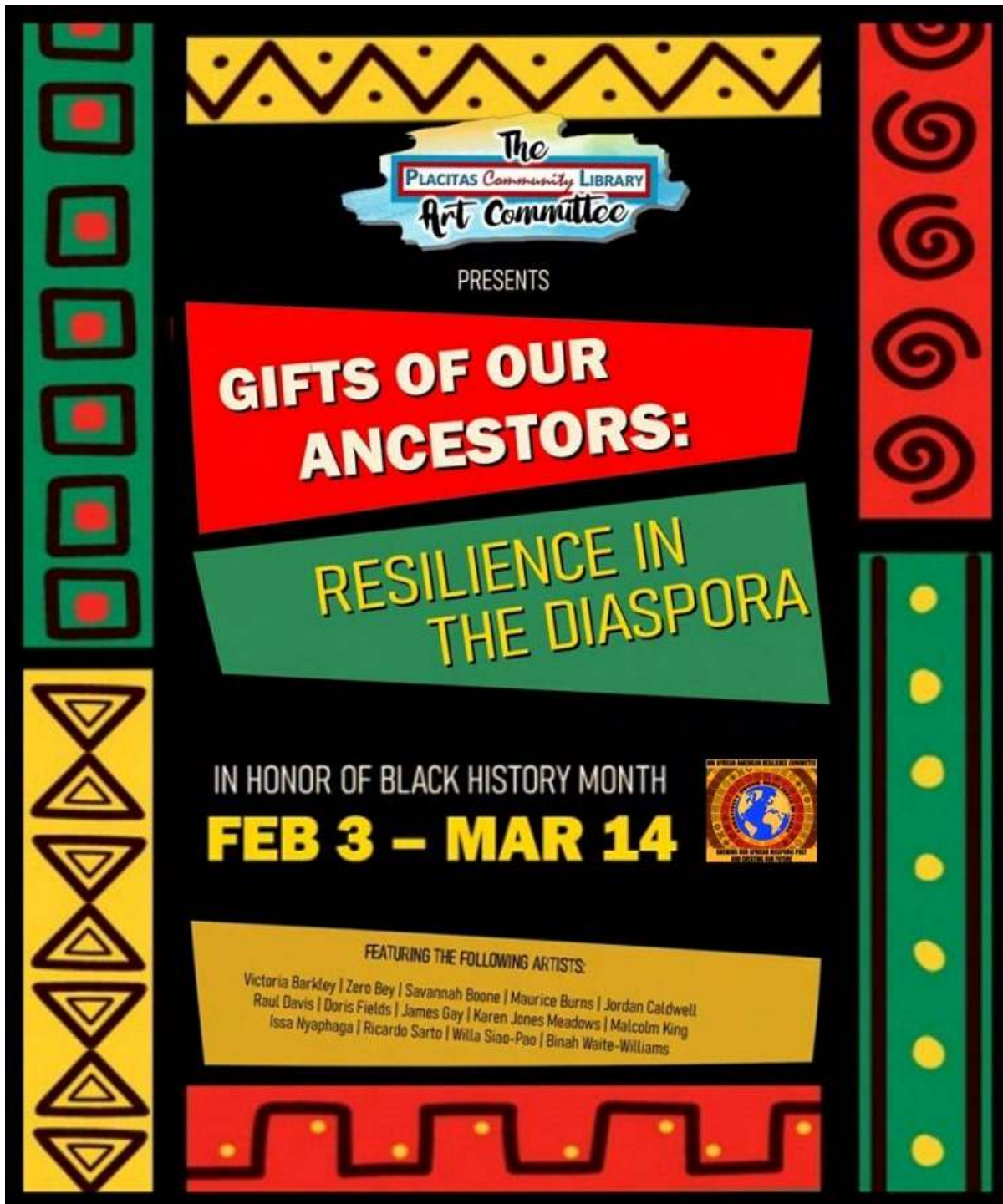


Enrique Flores was born in San Pablo Huitzo, a community in the Mixtec region of the state of Oaxaca and continues to reside in Mexico. Both as a painter and as a graphic artist, he employs different media to capture daily life, always using the image of a woman as a symbol of the importance of women in the development of cultures. Other recurring themes are the harvest, birds, and constellations. An early member of the Rufino Tamayo Art Workshop, in 1995 he founded the Taller de Grafica Enrique Fores in San Pablo Huitzo where he teaches, produces his own prints, and works as

a master printmaker with a growing group of artists including Jade Leyva. He has participated in many group and individual exhibitions in Mexico and abroad and his work appears in a number of significant international art collections.

Leyva and Adrián-López will be present at a reception for the artists on Friday, April 5 from 5-7 PM. Work from the exhibition may be purchased with a portion of the sale price benefiting the library.

Images (from top): "Maicito de mis amores" (Love of my Little Corn), acrylic/canvas, by Jade Leyva; "Día de Abril" (A Day in April), mixed media/paper, by Enrique Flores; and artwork by Armando Adrián-López



Artists Reception for Gifts of Our Ancestors: Resilience in the Diaspora

Attendance in the room was at capacity and the air was, indeed, electrifying. Great art, welcoming gifted artists, and delicious, nutritious food were enjoyed by attendees who hailed from various parts of New Mexico, including Gallup, Santa Fe, and Taos, as well as Placitas. Among those attending were legacy and noted Placitas artists Bunny and Leland Bowen, Joan Fenicle, Mary and Karl Hofmann, Jade Leyva, Dana Roth, Dianna Shomaker, and others who came to see *Gifts of Our Ancestors: Resilience in the Diaspora*. Curated by the New Mexico African American Resilience Committee (NMAARC) in coordination with PCL's Art Committee, the exhibit, a gift to Placitas, features 14 artists from the African Diaspora, including Antigua, Cameroon, Haiti, Mescalero, Trinidad, and various areas of the USA. They are Victoria Barkley, Zero Bey, Savannah Boone, Maurice Burns, Jordan Caldwell, Raul Davis, Doris Fields, James Gay, Karen Jones Meadows, Malcolm King, Issa Nyaphaga, Ricardo Sarto, Willa Siao-Pao, Binah Waite-Williams

Doris Fields, James Gay, Karen Jones Meadows, Malcolm King, Issa Nyaphaga, Roberto Sarto, Willa Siao Pao, and Binah Waite Williams.

NMAARC, founded by Dr. Doris Fields and Karen Jones Meadows, is honored to be in the space and extremely grateful for the guidance and support from Linda Lucero Hughes who was critical, throughout the months of preparation, in bringing the exhibit to fruition. We offer a big THANK YOU to Linda and also to Rebecca Cohen, a former gallery owner, who lent her expertise in installing the art, with particular assistance from Colleen Gregoire and John Streicher. Wayne Gordon was ever present helping throughout. Sue Ortiz used African artifacts to create a prideful buffet table, and Maggie Huber, Sandy Johnson, and Geri Verble were very supportive in managing the Soul Food dishes prepared by the artists.

Moving through the capacity crowd and documenting the electric resilience, Placitas photographer Michael Wile captured the electric vibe and African resilience of the reception in still and video form. A scrapbook of Michael Wile's photographs will be made available and archived in the Placitas section of the library website. The artists and the collaborative team make this exhibit grand. We urge anyone who has not had an opportunity to see the exhibit to please visit and witness a phenomenon.

Visitors will be able to view the exhibit during library hours through March 14, 2024, in the Gracie Lee Community Room and Gallery.

Following are a couple of reviews of the exhibit:

“Despite the unusual sizes and configurations of the incoming art, the works transformed into a bold expression of African-inspired art seen thru the lens of the Diaspora...this exhibit is about bringing to the community a visual art experience of African-American artists' work that they may not seek on their own. I hope this exhibition enlightens the viewer's expectation of what art can symbolize...not just lovely landscapes or broad strokes of acrylic paint, but an acute expression of one's personal life experience from deep within. It is magic!”

“WOW! As soon as I entered the space I was struck by the extremely high level of work I was seeing. It was clear that this was not a usual show for this space. This work elevates the space into a whole other realm of art exhibit. It is beyond gorgeous and so many of the pieces are clearly very special. Thank you for bringing this work to us in the community of Placitas.”

Enjoy!



Karen Jones Meadows and Dr. Doris Fields, Founders of New Mexico African American Resilience Committee (photo by Michael Wile)



Artists offering Libation to their ancestors, from whom their artistic gifts came (photo by Michael Wile)



Guests partaking in the Soul Food reception (photo by Michael Wile)

*What a strange thing!
to be alive
beneath cherry blossoms.
~ Kobayashi Issa*





Tuesday, March 12

Join us for our *Pre-K Story Time* at 10 AM for ages infant – 5. The theme is "Everything Green." Stories and activities will be centered on the color green. A snack will be served.

Saturday, March 16

Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the *Young Voices of the Santa Fe Opera*. This activity is for ages 0-11 and the entire family. Children will learn about the structure of an opera and its elements, such as the music, props, sets, and movement. The featured story will be "Pete the Cat and the Great Leprechaun Chase." Special thanks to the Placitas Artists Series for providing this program. Please note this program is on **Saturday**, not Sunday and starts at 1 PM.

The
PLACITAS Community LIBRARY
Children's Committee

&

The
Placitas
Artists
Series

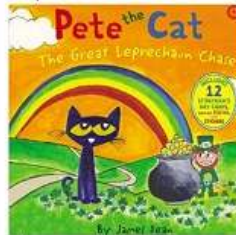
present

A Celebration of St. Patrick's Day for Children and Their Families

SATURDAY / MARCH 16 / 1:00

We are proud to present a musical program featuring the *Young Voices of the Santa Fe Opera*.

Children ages 2 -10 and their families will learn about the structure of an opera, how it tells a story, and its important elements- including props, sets, and movement.



The featured storybook will be *Pete the Cat: The Great Leprechaun Chase* by James Dean.

This program is free and open to the public. Special thanks to the *Placitas Artists Series* for making this program possible by assuming the costs associated with this musical presentation.

THE
SANTA FE
OPERA

THE
YOUNG
VOICES



453 hwy 165 | www.placitaslibrary.com | 505.867.3355

Tuesday, April 9

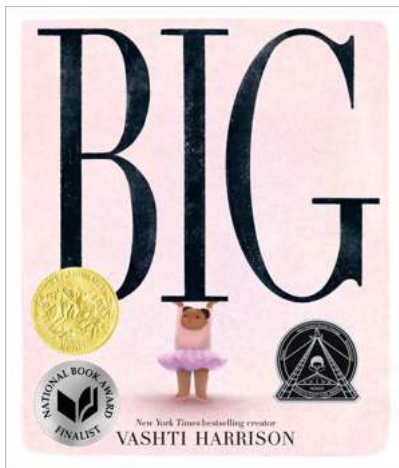
Join us for our *Pre-K Story Time* at 10 AM for ages infant – 5. The theme is to be determined. We will have stories, activities, and a snack for the children.

Sunday, April 27

Celebrate the Earth at 1 PM for ages infant –11 and the entire family. Activities are still being finalized, but will include butterflies, planting seeds, creating with recycled materials, and more.

CHILDREN'S BOOK NEWS

By Nancy Guist
Children's Collection Coordinator



Caldecott Award Winner – 2024

Awarded to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children

Big
by Vashti Harrison

Suggested ages: 4–7 years

Sensing that one is not accepted by all is not always readily perceived by a young child. When one does, it can be devastating. The young girl in *Big* is a happy child – growing, learning, dreaming. But with the advent of school, she comes to realize that she does not fit in due to her size.

Unsupportive adults, along with the mocking and teasing of classmates, illustrate the “body shaming” the girl endures.

Harrison skillfully employs a limited text along with expressive illustrations to convey the girl's puzzlements and reactions to her abandonment by others. Double spread pictures in tones of gray and brown dramatize the immensity of her emotions. They convey her isolation and despair. *Big* is a powerful portrayal of a child's rejection by others which in the end culminates in her tender belief in herself.

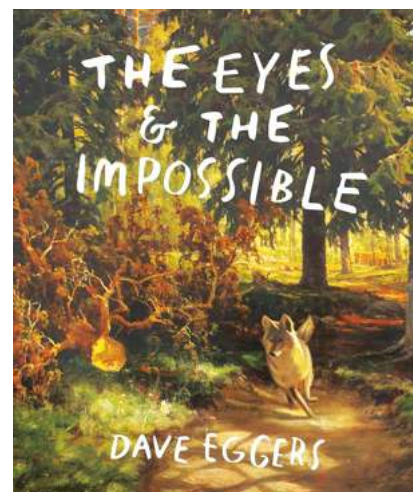
Newbery Medal Winner – 2024

Given to the most outstanding contribution to children's literature

The Eyes and the Impossible
by Dave Eggers

Suggested ages: 8–12 years

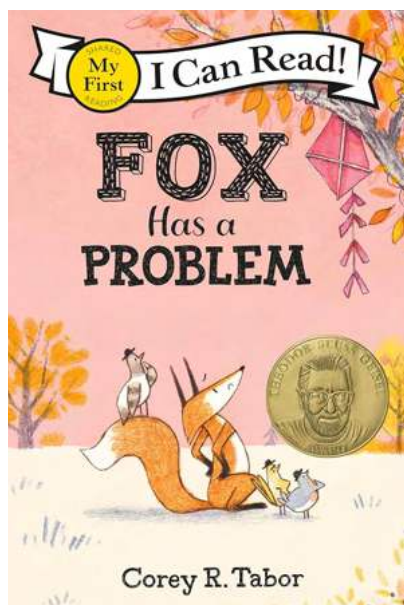
Literature enables us to see life through others' eyes. In the *Eyes and the Impossible*, we find ourselves observing life's surroundings and phenomenon through the eyes of Johannes, a dog/coyote, whose exhilarating voice is marked by wry humor and fanciful thoughts. He



lives his life in a park where humans come to enjoy its forests, its open spaces, and its beaches. The park is populated by other animals besides Johannes – the bison, the park’s Keepers of the Equilibrium, along with squirrels, ducks, raccoons, gulls, and pelicans. Because of Johannes’s speed, the three bison solicit him to be the Eyes of the park, for they are fenced-in and cannot be aware of all that happens in their kingdom. When the “Equilibrium” is disturbed, generally by the humans, the animals work together to set things aright.

The Impossible comes in to play, when Johannes finds himself in situations that endanger not only his role but the daily lives of his animal companions. The Assistant Eyes – Bertrand, a humble gull and Johannes’s closest friend, Sonja, a shy squirrel, Angus, a busy raccoon, and Yolanda, a clumsy gull who has the valuable talent of being able to read human print – along with the bison, sense that the Equilibrium is threatened. Plans are made, difficult realities are perceived, and new perspectives are realized. *The Eyes and the Impossible* is a beautifully unique celebration of life: friendships, hopes, and dreams: “To be alive, is to go forth.”

A final note: The beautiful artwork throughout the book is a collection of classical landscapes created by artists of the past, all credited at the book’s end. Shawn Harris, a frequent collaborator of Eggers, added Johannes to each painting.



Geisel Award Winner – 2024

Recognizes the author and illustrator of the most distinguished book for beginning reader

Fox Has a Problem

by Corey R. Tabor

Suggested ages: 3–6 years

Children will be immediately engaged as fox attempts to figure out how to retrieve his kite stuck in a tree – a problem that is not new as the page is turned and a myriad of kites are shown dangling from nearby trees. Each solution leads to a new and hilarious problem as fox’s friends pitch in to come up with clever ideas. This book is labeled as “My First – Shared Reading” in the “I Can Read!” series with minimum text using word repetition along with supportive illustrations. It is catalogued as a Reader 1 within our Children’s Collection.

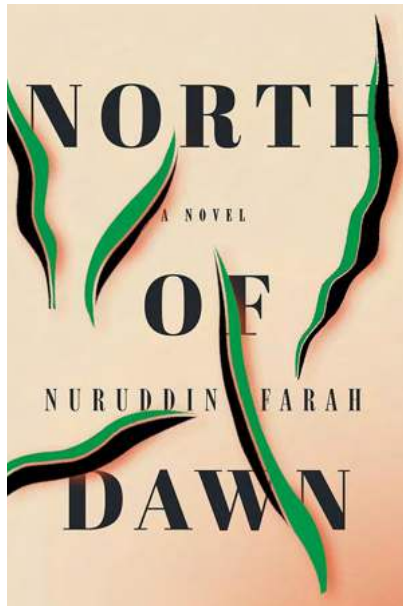
***Susanne's
Selections***

***Reading Recommendations
By Susanne Domínguez***



Available for e-Checkout!

The titles in *Susanne's Selections* have been added to our [Online Catalog](#) (which you can access with your library card).



North of Dawn by Nuruddin Farah

A character driven novel, it opens in Norway when a middle-class couple, originally from Somalia, discover their estranged and radicalized son has killed himself in a suicide terrorist attack. Their son was a member of the terrorist group al-Shabaab in Somalia. Mugdi, a retired diplomat, and his wife, Gacalo, have led peaceful, secular lives since immigrating to Oslo years ago, where they raised their daughter, Timiro, and their son, Dhaqaneh.

Mugdi refuses to mourn his son's death and says, "How can I mourn a son who caused the death of so many people?" However, Gacalo secretly maintained contact with Dhaqaneh, unable to ostracize him, despite his beliefs and actions. Before his death, she promised Dhaqaneh she'd take care of his wife and children if they ever needed anything. Grief-

stricken and conflicted by loyalty, Mugdi and Gacalo grapple with how to manage their lives and the lives of their son's family.

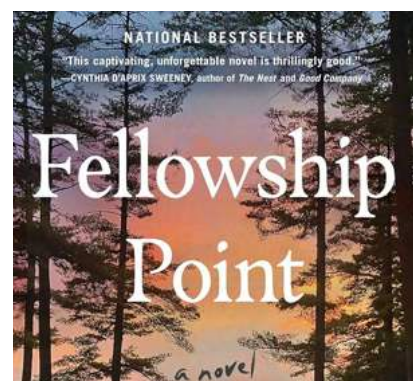
Eventually, Waliya, Dhaqaneh's widow, and her children, Naciim and Saafi, arrive in Norway. With their different ideologies, the clash between Waliya and Mugdi is inevitable. Mugdi spent an incredible amount of money and worked tirelessly with Norway's immigration system to arrange the family's relocation to Oslo, despite his fears that Waliya could be a terrorist or sympathizer. This is especially concerning to him when he meets Waliya at the airport. She confronts him with a hostile attitude, completely covered, wearing her wearing her burqua and veil.

Ideologies in both Muslim radical groups and Norwegian native-born extremist groups are explored in this thought-provoking story, along with the Somali diaspora, family loyalties, and xenophobia.

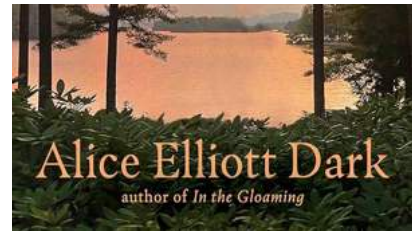
North of Dawn is partially based on Farah's life. Tragically, in 2014, Nuruddin Farah's younger sister, Basra Farah Hassan, was murdered along with 20 other people in a terrorist attack by the Taliban in Kabul. She was a nutritionist working for UNICEF.

Fellowship Point by Alice Elliott Dark

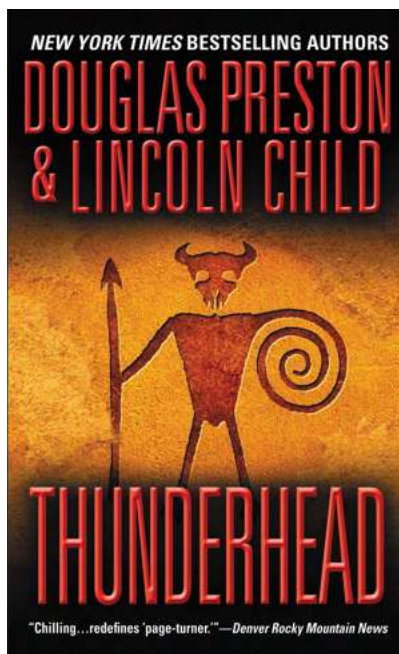
An eloquently written novel, it's about a decades-long friendship between two unique women, Agnes and Polly, now octogenarians. They've lived in Fellowship Point, Maine, all their lives and are passionate about being stewards of the glorious unspoiled 145-acre wildlife sanctuary on the Maine coast, affectionately known as "The Point."



Agnes is the never-married author of a successful children's book series, *When Nan*. Unknown to anyone except her editor, she also writes a series of adult novels called *Franklin Square*, written under a pseudonym. Even her best friend Polly is unaware of these books. Polly, a sweet, loyal woman with three children, has been married and devoted her life for 60 years to an overbearing, demanding professor, whom Agnes dislikes. Both women take turns narrating this poignant, indelible story, sometimes in the form of letters.



In 2000, after Agnes is blindsided by a cancer diagnosis, she resolves to ensure the "Point" is protected into perpetuity and never affected by any future development. Motivated by the actions of a developer in the process of purchasing and developing the land, Agnes hopes to place the land into a protective Trust. However, the other shareholders must be convinced to side with Agnes. One of the shareholders is Polly, whose son heartily approves of the development. Then there is Maud, a New York editor. A huge fan of the *When Nan* series, Maud goes to Maine to ask Agnes to write her memoirs, which Agnes agrees to do. Unfortunately for Agnes, her secret identity as the *Franklin Square* series author may be disclosed, which is something she is adamantly opposed to, since so many dark secrets would be revealed and create fateful results. A joy to read, I thoroughly enjoyed *Fellowship Point* with its singular characters and themes.



Thunderhead

by Douglas Preston & Lincoln Child

Suspenseful, enlightening, and entertaining, *Thunderhead* is the second in the Nora Kelly series. I chose to review this particular novel in the series of five because it was the first one I read and my favorite. Readers can read the series in any order but as always in a series, there is more continuity when reading the books in order.

Nora, an archaeologist living in Santa Fe, receives a letter by her father written 16 years earlier but curiously, was mailed recently. Her father disappeared years ago and was believed killed in an accident while exploring ancient ruins in Utah. Mysteriously, his body was never found. His enigmatic letter indicates he discovered an ancient civilization in southwest Utah, possibly Quivira, a mythical Anasazi city of gold. Nora becomes the leader of an expedition to explore this area in Utah's rugged canyon country. However, in her quest she encounters frightening obstacles, including murder, as if some person or supernatural power is attempting to terrorize her into abandoning the expedition. An engrossing mystery filled with authentic Southwestern culture and history, primarily in Utah and New Mexico, I especially appreciated the stunning description of the natural landscape and the details concerning artifacts. It's evident Preston has a deep admiration for the area and its culture by his writing and extensive knowledge.

From Preston's website: "Douglas Preston has published thirty-six books of both nonfiction and fiction. He is the co-author, with Lincoln Child, of the Pendergast series of thrillers. He writes about archaeology and anthropology for the *New Yorker Magazine*, and he worked as an editor at the American Museum of Natural History in New York and taught nonfiction writing at Princeton University. He currently serves as President of the Authors Guild, the nation's oldest and largest association of authors and journalists. He has also written for *National Geographic*, *Natural History*, *Smithsonian*, *Harper's*, and *Travel & Leisure*, among others on the history of the American Southwest. In the course of his journalistic profession Preston has explored lost temples in the jungles of Cambodia,

been the first to enter a tomb in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt, and ridden on horseback across thousands of miles of the American Southwest."

His non-fiction book, *The Lost City of the Monkey God*, "tells the true story of the discovery of an ancient, Pre-Columbian city in an unexplored valley deep in the Mosquitia Mountains of Honduras." Readers may be interested in reading *The Monster of Florence* and the Amanda Knox case, *Trial by Fury*, both gripping true mysteries Preston authored. I highly recommend these [books](#).

The September 1, 2023, article in the Pasatiempo Magazine, published by the Santa Fe New Mexican newspaper states, "Preston left his job at the American Museum of Natural History and moved in 1986 to Santa Fe to chase his dream. "I came to New Mexico to be a writer," he says. "And for years and years, I could hardly make a living as a writer. But finally, it started to work, and I had some successful books. And it just went on from there."



Sandoval County Historical Society & Museum

161 Homestead Lane, Bernalillo, NM 87004 505.867.2755
www.sandovalhistory.org SCHSandMuseum@gmail.com

(Just West of the Rio Grande River on the North side of US 550
between the Coronado State Historic Site and the Santa Ana Star Casino.)

MARCH 2024 PROGRAMS

It's Spring, Let's Go Outside!

SUNDAY MARCH 10, 2 PM **SUNDAY MARCH 17, 2 PM**

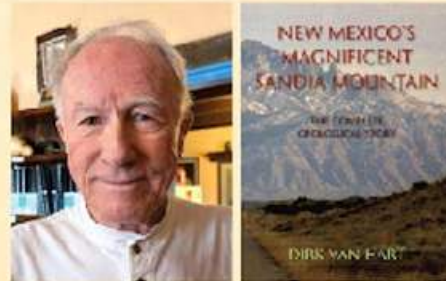
**The Do's & Don'ts of
Transplanting Bedding Plants,
House Plants and Trees**



Raymond Sisneros, owner of Vallecitos Garden Greenhouse, is a retired History and Horticulture educator from the Cuba school system. He will be sharing his expertise of growing produce, fruit trees and natural herbs that empower one's health naturally.

Best practices regarding seeds, plants and watering will be discussed, followed by a question-and-answer session. Raymond will also have a table with some of his plants for viewing.

**Sandia Mountain
Workshop Event with
Dirk Van Hart**



Dirk will entertain us with a fun digital slide presentation of his new book *New Mexico's Magnificent Sandia Mountain, The Complete Geological Story*, followed by a question-and-answer session. Attendees will be encouraged to share their personal experiences and connection to our beautiful mountain.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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