

# PLACITAS *Community* LIBRARY



## NEWSLETTER JAN/FEB 2025



**PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY HOURS**  
SUN: 1 - 4  
TUES: 10 - 7  
WED/THURS/SAT: 10 - 5

### ADULT PROGRAMS

- **JAN 4 (2 PM):** *A Look Inside the Workings of New Mexico State Legislature From One Who Knows* with New Mexico State Senator Dede Feldman

- **JAN 18 (2 PM):** KUPR 10th Anniversary Celebrations
- **FEB 7 (5:30 PM):** Dance Out!
- **FEB 8 (2 PM):** *A Whirlwind History of the Universe and Mankind* with Tom Sanford
- **FEB 9 (2 PM):** Patron Appreciation Open House

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## ARTISTS RECEPTION & EXHIBIT

- **JAN 12 (1 PM):** Artists' Reception: *From Our Hearts* Legacy Artist Exhibition – Bunny and Leland Bowen (exhibit runs 1/4 – 1/30)
- **FEB 7 (5 PM):** Artists' Reception: *Wild – A Mosaic New Mexico Exhibition* (exhibit runs 2/1 – 3/6)

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## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

- **JAN (10 AM):** *Pre-K Story Time* – Join us for a walk in the winter woods through a reading of *Stranger in the Woods: A Photographic Essay* by Carl R. Sams
- **FEB 2 (2 PM):** *The Young Voices of the Santa Fe Opera* will present a special musical story time celebrating Groundhog Day
- **FEB 11 (10 AM):** *Pre-K Story Time* – topic to be announced. Check your email for information closer to the date. You can join our email list by sending a message to [Nora Timmons](#).

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## RECURRING EVENTS

- **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): Enjoy the opportunity to experience español with Diane Herrera Shepard and other guests. The Club is open to anyone who wants to learn, use, practice, or converse in Spanish.
- **Drumming Circle** (1st Sun of each month at 4 PM): Bring your own drum or use one of the many we have.
- **Landscape Committee Gardening Days** (Sat, Jan 18 and Sat, Feb 1 at 9 AM): Join us as we socialize, beautify the landscape around the library, help wildlife, and get our hands dirty!



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

# PATRON APPRECIATION OPEN HOUSE

Learn about library resources, services, and programs. There will be:

 Light snacks     Door prizes     Library tours

FEBRUARY 9, 2025    |    2 - 4 PM



## NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY BOARD

By Lynnette Fields, PCL Board Chair

It's hard to imagine that another year has come and gone, and it's now 2025! I would like to thank all our volunteers, donors, patrons, and community members for making 2024 another special year for the Placitas Community Library (PCL). For the next newsletter, I will have the 2024 statistics that shows the impact PCL has made on our community. It is a pleasure to be associated with such an incredible library.

As you may recall, in 2023 our State Representative, Matthew McQueen, appropriated \$100,000 to PCL to be used for programming, equipment, and materials. We used the funds for a new multifunctional printer/copier/fax/scanner, a website redesign, and an additional solar installation. PCL greatly benefited from all those projects.

Representative McQueen has again requested one-time state funding for PCL. A new program, Government Results and Opportunity Program (GRO) was implemented in 2024. Each House member was given funds to allocate to various organizations in their districts. Representative McQueen allocated \$53,333.33 to each of the three public libraries in his district: Eldorado, Edgewood, and PCL. We will receive the money over a two-year period: August 2024 – June 2026. The money can be used for personnel, professional services, equipment, operations, and software. We spent 25% (approximately \$13,250) of the \$53,333.33 in 2024, will spend 50% (approximately \$26,500) in 2025 and 25% (approximately \$13,250) in 2026.

This is an incredible gift to the library, and we want to express our deepest thanks to Representative McQueen for recognizing how important public libraries are to their communities.

### **Strategic Planning Update: A Collaborative Community Effort**

The Strategic Planning Committee is excited to share that we are progressing toward the final stages of the planning process, and it's all thanks to **you—our community**.

In **Phase 3**, we began brainstorming and crafting the strategic plan by exploring and applying the rich feedback we gathered from:

- Community survey responses (in both English and Spanish),
- Hour-long community-based interviews
- Community focus groups
- Emailed communications
- Informal library conversations

Your input was invaluable as ideas and potential applications were thoughtfully discussed and shaped into actionable strategies. The hallmark of any strategic planning process is taking a wealth of input, ideas, comments, and even constructive criticisms, and weaving them together to form a few potent goals and strategies that will serve as a roadmap for improvement. This is most effectively done with a committed, focused group.

Unlike many organizations where planning is limited to a small group of internal leaders, at PCL we are proud of the unique mix of perspectives we've incorporated. This process has brought together library leadership, dedicated volunteers, donors, and patrons—allowing us to pulse all

perspectives and ensure the plan reflects the broad needs and priorities of our diverse community.

Throughout Phase 3, we worked collaboratively—combining library expertise and patron-focused perspectives within the committee while engaging leaders and community voices for clarity and insight where needed.

The committee has been developing goals and strategies based on the feedback provided. The three goal areas are:

- **Patron Services:** Enhancing the library's programs, services, and resources to better meet community needs.
- **Leadership Initiatives:** Strengthening internal communication, leadership, and the long-term vision for the library.
- **Market Sustainability:** Building community partnerships and fundraising efforts to ensure the library's long-term health and stability.

Now, we are transitioning into **Phase 4**, the final phase of the process. At this stage, we are sharing the draft goals and strategies with stakeholders—encouraging collaborative feedback, fresh ideas, and thoughtful comments to ensure they reflect the community's vision. It's important to note that strategic planning is a dynamic and iterative process. The committee's role is to gather community feedback, propose goals and strategies, and then refine these ideas alongside the people who will bring them to life. Plans at this stage can shift, evolve, and improve as new insights are shared. While strategies outline high-level projects, those overseeing each area will define the day-to-day tasks needed to bring these projects to fruition. We are also developing a communication plan to ensure the finalized strategic plan is shared clearly and transparently with the entire community.

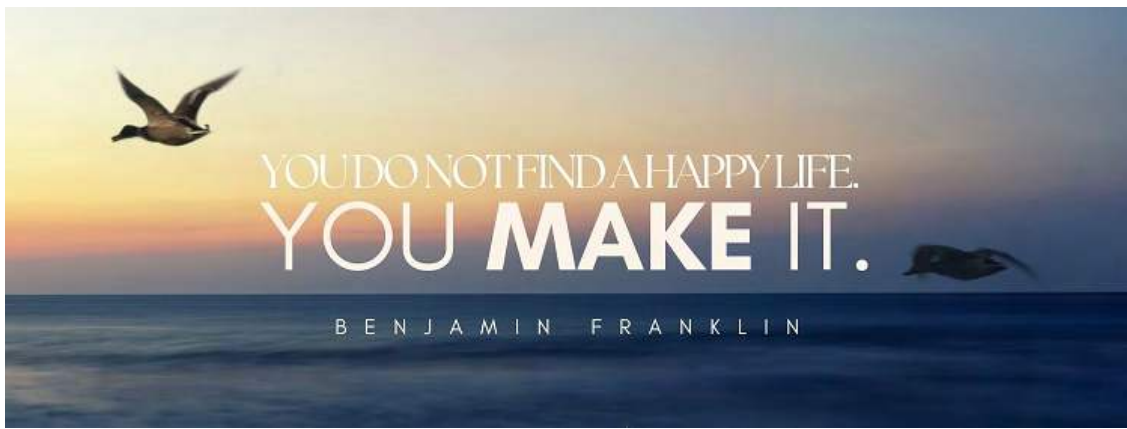
We anticipate beginning implementation of the plan in February 2025, and we're excited to see how this collaborative effort will make PCL an even stronger, more sustainable resource for everyone. Your continued involvement is critical. Again, we extend an invitation, not only to include your voice, ideas, and perspectives to finalize this plan, but guide us in the work ahead to implement it. If you have any thoughts, ideas, or feedback to share, please reach out to us at [responses@placitaslibrary.com](mailto:responses@placitaslibrary.com). The committee will review and consider all feedback offered.

Thank you for being an essential part of this process. **Together, we're building a stronger Placitas Community Library for today—and for the future.**

*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, JAN 16, 6:00 PM  
THURS, FEB 20, 6:00 PM**



## We Have PUZZLES!!!!

At your request, we have added **PUZZLES** to our collection that can be checked out and taken home.

**PUZZLES** are such a fun way to pass the time. You can take one home and finish it. Then return it to us for a new one.

- Our **PUZZLES** range from 300-500 pieces so they are easy to complete.
- They can be checked out like any other item in our collection.
- Here is a brief list of the current puzzles that we currently have available checkout: *Evening Watch*, *Japan Garden*, and *Bread and Butter Farms*, with more to come.

Enjoy!!!!  
Lynne

P.S. Check back as we add more to our collection.



# SOCIAL JUSTICE

## DISCUSSION GROUP

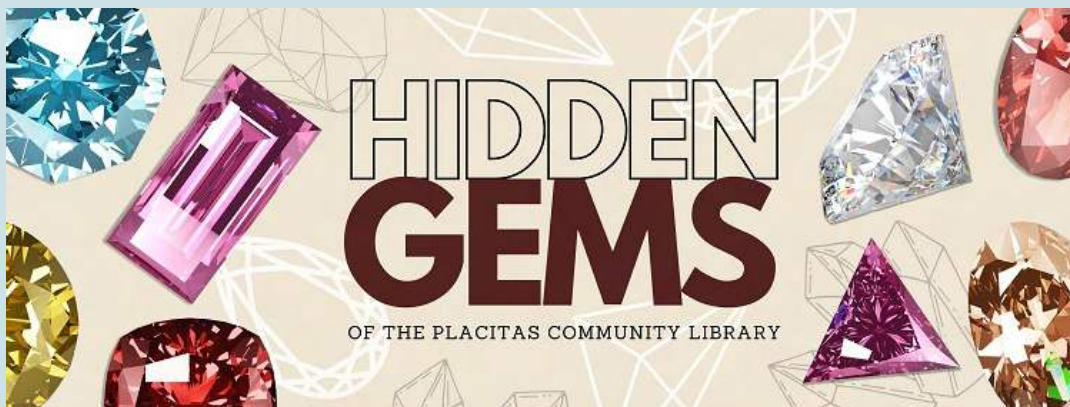
Artwork created by pikasupstar at www.freepik.com



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](mailto:annegrey3@gmail.com) for more information

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



PCL is held in high regard by the New Mexico State library as well as libraries around the state. Our programs and services are the envy of many other libraries. This is in large part because of the largesse of PCL's community of financial donors.

PCL is the beneficiary of the efforts of numerous benefactors, each making their contribution in their own manner. Those donations are variously made with time, talent, or treasure. This brief article will address the reasons for, and immeasurable benefits of, financial donations to PCL.

There are a number of ways that PCL is unique among libraries around the state of New Mexico (and likely the United States). Two of those unique features are:

1. Our volunteer program. While we have two invaluable part-time staff members, the bulk of the work done to sustain library programs and services is performed by volunteers, who contributed upwards of 15,000 hours of unpaid work on behalf of PCL in 2024.
2. Our funding formula is unlike that of the majority of other public libraries.

If it can be said that our volunteers are the lifeblood of the library, our donors are surely its beating heart. Without our financial donors, PCL simply would not exist. This is because our unique funding structure is, compared to most public libraries, disproportionately dependent upon private donations.

In 2023, 60% of our income came from the generosity of the library community. We receive this money in a variety of ways, including donations, fundraisers, book sales, and art sales.

While it is customary for libraries to enjoy an affiliation with some manner of municipality or other government entity, PCL enjoys no such association. There are no direct tax levies that are designated to support our physical property, operating expenses, utilities, or wages for our two outstanding and dedicated staff members. As a consequence, we find ourselves dependent on the generosity of those who value the programs and services of the PCL.

Those of you in the PCL community of a certain vintage may have traditionally thought of libraries as a place for books. While this remains the case—PCL has a wide and varied collection—it is useful to note the broad array of benefits that donors' generosity makes possible for community members and library patrons. A partial list includes:

- Innovative programs featuring a wide range of fascinating, educational, and entertaining topics of interest to patrons of all ages and backgrounds
- Services that extend beyond the physical environs of our library, such as the Inter-Library Loan program, which provides access to virtually any book available to the public
- Speakers who are experts in their fields of endeavor
- Free wi-fi access
- Meeting rooms available to the public at no charge
- Printing, faxing, and scanning services
- A seed library (!)

Maintaining an entity with PCL's breadth and depth requires significant monetary resources. As we remain committed to maintaining PCL as the vital hub of the Placitas community—"Una Placita Para Todos"—we will continue to value our financial donors, no matter the size of the gift. We, quite literally, could not do it without you.



¡BIENVENIDOS!

# LA PARRANDA

*Club de Español*

Enjoy the opportunity to experience español with Diane Herrera Shepard and other guests. The Club is open to anyone who wants to learn, use, practice, or converse in Spanish.

**Every Wednesday  
10 AM - Noon**



**A LOOK INSIDE THE  
WORKINGS OF NEW MEXICO  
STATE LEGISLATURE**

From One Who Knows

**JANUARY 4 | 2 PM**

New Mexico State Senator  
**DEDE FELDMAN**

**INSIDE THE  
NEW MEXICO SENATE**  
*Boots, Suits, and Citizens*



Dede Feldman is a former New Mexico state senator who focused on healthcare and democracy reforms. Before serving 16 years in the legislature, she was a freelance journalist, a teacher, and owned a small public relations company. **Feldman will join us at the library on January 4 at 2 PM.**



DEDE FELDMAN

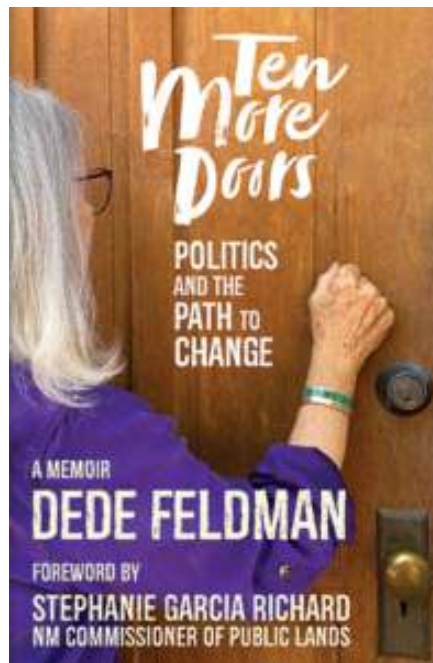
Always an inspiring speaker, Senator Feldman will talk about the upcoming session of the New Mexico legislature, including the issues it will tackle and the process it will follow to pass bills and a budget. The talk will draw upon her book, *Inside the New Mexico Senate: Boots, Suits, and Citizens*, which is now regarded as a classic. The book is a legislative history with a human face where maverick leaders, shameless special interests, and earnest advocates clash in the unique arena that is the New Mexico Roundhouse. Here the NM Senate comes alive, with stories of grit and grace, honor and disgrace. For students of government, advocates of change, and lovers of politics, this book is invaluable.

Feldman will review issues likely to come up in the 2025 session in the context of how the legislature works to kill or pass bills. She will give us an insider's look at how to effectively engage with our legislators and the legislative process.

Feldman is the author of several books. Her memoir, *Ten More Doors: Politics and the Path to Change* was the subject of a previous talk at the library. Feldman emphasizes the role of individual advocates and ordinary citizens in effecting change at the legislative, as well as all levels of government.

Feldman's personal journey – as a journalist, a candidate, a teacher, and activist – includes lessons in perseverance, tolerance, humility, and humor. “During these challenging times, it's hard to find the inspiration and hope we need to keep making phone calls, to keep knocking on doors, and working for change in whatever way we can, with the resources we have, starting from our own kitchen table,” she said. “I'm hoping to help.”

Senator Feldman's presentation will be on January 4 at 2 PM. Signed copies of her books will be available for sale.



“

*Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to.*

Bill Vaughan







On Saturday, January 18 at 2 PM, KUPR DJ, MC, and star of stage and screen Keith Allen West will lead us through KUPR's history and plans for 2025. (Rumors are he will come as The Phantom of the Opera). DJs and volunteers will also be present. Below are some teasers of what you will learn.

In 2013, the FCC opened a window for applications to operate a Low Power FM Radio Station. A group of Placitans met and found the idea interesting but challenging. Needs included a long-standing 501c3 applicant, understanding of technical requirements, money for equipment and software, a tower location for transmitter, and antenna and a studio within line of sight of the antenna. Learn how an application was completed that led to a construction permit in 2014. By Spring 2015, they had a little money, equipment, software, and a skeleton broadcast schedule. On May 4, 2015, KUPR went on the air.

Totally listener supported and volunteer powered, the station kept expanding. First, by adding broadcasting hours, then through streaming to the internet, moving into a larger space, and more. Scores of volunteers, thousands of programming hours, dozens of live music events, and countless hours of labor have gone into the story.

#### 2025: 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations!

- **February 14 (6 PM): Dinner with *Red Hot and Red***, renowned Native American jazz trio, at La Estrella Event Center. Tickets on sale now at [kupr.org](http://kupr.org).
- **March 1 (12:30 PM): Special screening of the film, *Convoy***, with Kris Kristofferson and Ali McGraw at The Guild Cinema in Nob Hill. Filmed in Placitas, Bernalillo, and Algodones and beyond, it's a classic western but with semi trucks.
- **March 16 (3-6 PM): St. Patrick's Day Eve at Placitas Winery** with traditional Irish music and food.
- **April 4 (4-7 PM): "Ten Years in the Bag"** – Free open house at KUPR Studios with live music by Sandia Swing and Woolworth-style frito pies.
- **May 4 (2-5 PM): Anniversary Party with *Felix y los Gatos* at Placitas Winery.** One of the best party bands in New Mexico and a Placitas favorite, this event is not to be missed.
- **October 31 (6 PM): 5th Annual Gathering of Spirits** at Placitas Winery.

Join us on January 18 at 2 PM to learn more about these events!

# 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*



**PLACITAS Community LIBRARY**

**YOU'RE INVITED TO BOOGIE AT**

# DANCE OUT!



**FIRST FRIDAYS**

**Drop In 5:30 - 6:30 PM**

**CLUB GLCR**

*Gracie Lee Community Room  
at Placitas Community Library*

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**JUST COME AND DANCE  
AND MOVE TO THE MUSIC!**

**FEATURING:**

**DJ Ken Grimes**

**February 7  
in the CMR**

**ALL AGES (ADULTS & CHILDREN). ALL STYLES.  
WITH PARTNERS. WITHOUT PARTNERS.  
NO COVER CHARGE. NO RESERVATIONS.**



453 hwy 165 • [www.placitaslibrary.com](http://www.placitaslibrary.com) • 505.867.3355

**DANCE OUT! is Back by Popular Demand**

Put on your dancing shoes!  
First Friday every month, beginning Feb 7, 2025  
5:30–6:30 PM  
Collin Meeting Room

Most months music will be played via a playlist created from music requested by participants—the “Dance Out playlist,” so let us know the music that makes you want to dance. Periodically, we will be honored to have the help of a DJ, perhaps for special occasions. Ken Grimes and Neal Solomon have agreed to serve as DJs from time to time. DJ Ken Grimes of KUPR fame will provide the tunes for February. If you know of other DJs who would like to participate, please let the Help Desk know their contact info.

**DANCE OUT!** is grateful for the continued support from public radio KUPR, Placitas Artists Series, and PCL. **See you on February 7 at 5:30 PM.**



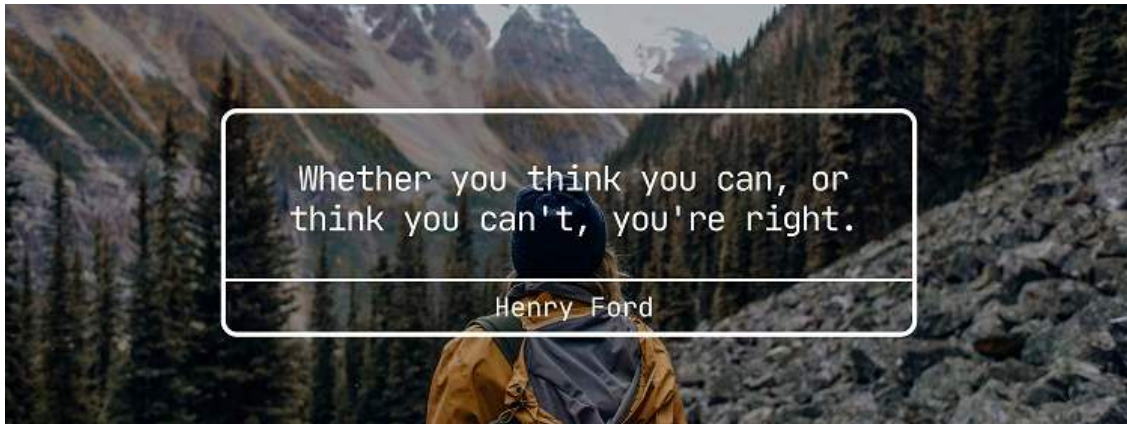
**PCL will feature a book talk by Dr. Tom Sanford on February 8 at 2 PM.** *A Whirlwind History of the Universe and Mankind: From the Big Bang to the Higgs Boson* is essential for everyone who is curious about how we humans came to exist and to understand the science and social evolution which now enables us to demonstrate that a Big Bang occurred 14.7 billion years ago!

Dr. Sanford’s book explains the transitions between the many evolutionary plateaus: from our universe’s beginning at the Big Bang, to the emergence of Homo Sapiens—highlighting the Mediterranean civilizations of Greece and Rome, the European Renaissance, the English industrial revolution and early European science discoveries. Of particular note are discoveries in physics, including the Manhattan Project (right here in New Mexico), and the subsequent development of the new field of high-energy particle physics. This entire history, which eventually culminated in the discovery of the mass-giving Higgs boson, is clearly articulated in this monumental but concise work, and in language for educated lay audiences.

Thomas Sanford received his Ph.D. in physics from Columbia University under Nobel Laureate Leon Lederman. After his graduation, he conducted high-energy physics experiments at the Rutherford

Appleton Laboratory in England, the CERN (European Council for Nuclear Research) Laboratory in Switzerland, and the Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York, participating in the discovery of the charm quark. He then joined Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, as a senior member of the technical staff, becoming a Distinguished Member in 1991. While at Sandia, he engineered a break-through in the physics of Z-pinch, opening wire arrays as possible drivers for inertial confinement fusion. In 2000, he became a fellow of the American Physical Society, and in 2005, was awarded the Hannes Alfvén Prize by the European Physical Society. Tom is now retired from Sandia and currently lives in Albuquerque.

Tom Sanford's presentation will highlight key elements of his book, allowing ample time for questions and refreshments.



### Just how deep do the roots of some of common New Mexico plants go?

Are you wondering which “volunteer” plants you should allow to grow over your septic leach field? I went looking for plant root depth information – a dearth of this relatively hard-to-find information. Below is what I was able to find. You may be surprised at some of these root depths – I certainly was! And remember, based on typical leach field design, the leach lines are typically 2-5 feet below the surface, determined by factors such as soil type, local regulations, and the design of the septic system.

Documented root depth for some common New Mexico natives and invasive, non-native trees/shrubs/perennials are below:



L-R: Juniper, chamisa/rabbitbrush, silverleaf nightshade

#### **TREES:**

- Desert willow - 5.25 ft (1)
- Netleaf hackberry - 15 ft (1)
- Mountain mahogany - 3-5 ft (4)
- Siberian elm (non-native, USDA-listed Class C noxious weed in NM) - 6-10 ft (6)
- Salt cedar/Tamarisk (non-native invasive) - >30 ft (1)
- Juniper - up to 12 ft (4)
- Piñon - up to 25 ft, highly dependent on soil/substrate conditions (5)

#### **SHRUBS/SUBSHRUBS:**

- Chamisa/Rabbitbrush - 5-13 ft (1)
- Creosote bush - 16.4 ft (1)
- Winterfat - 9-30 ft (4)
- Brooms (Scotch, Dalea) - 3-5 ft (6)
- Snakeweed - up to 6 ft (1)

#### **PERENNIALS:**

- Buffalo gourd - 3.9 ft (1)
- Silverleaf nightshade - 5.9 ft (1)
- Little bluestem - ~6 ft (2)
- White sweetclover - 5.5 ft (3)

#### Select bibliography:

1. *Root patterns and hydrogeomorphic niches of riparian plants in the American Southwest*, Journal of Arid Environments, Volume 94, July 2013, Pages 1-9, including Appendices A and B
2. Conservation Research Institute, *Root Systems of Prairie Plants* by Heidi Natura and Living Habitats, 1995
3. USDA Plants and other Databases
4. Fire Effects Information System (FEIS), USDA and USFS: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/database/feis/plants/shrub/>
5. [https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/misc/ag\\_654/volume\\_1/pinus/edulis.htm](https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/misc/ag_654/volume_1/pinus/edulis.htm)
6. <https://greg.app/>

**VOLUNTEER**  
with the Placitas Community Library Landscape Committee!

Want to learn more about gardening with xeric plants, drip irrigation, and pruning trees and shrubs in Placitas? Or just interested in gardening?

The next Placitas Community Library Gardening Days are:  
**Sat, Jan 18 and Sat, Feb 1 from 9 - 11 AM**  
*Weather-permitting*

**COME JOIN US!**  
Socialize with others, beautify the landscape, help wildlife, and get your hands dirty!




**From Our Hearts: Legacy Artist Exhibition – Bunny and Leland Bowen**

Exhibition: January 4–30

Artists' Reception: January 12 at 1–3 PM

*Inspired by the beauty in which we live, from the grand scale to the minute, through seasonal and temporal changes, we create "From Our Hearts."* ~ Bunny and Leland Bowen

For well over fifty years, Bunny and Leland Bowen have been collaborating to create art. It began in 1970 as they learned basic metal smithing, casting, and stone-setting in a family jewelry business. Bunny did most of the design while Leland did the engineering. Both engaged in the technical process.

Later, Bunny drew on her background as a painter and art historian to learn the ancient art of batik, while Leland used his engineering skills to supervise a casting workshop and learn welding. For years he fabricated steel sculptures which she designed.

When Bunny began to show her batik in galleries and art shows, Leland became a skilled framer. He set up many a booth as they traveled across the country, doing as many as ten shows each year. During the fourteen years Bunny taught fiber art at Ghost Ranch, Leland expertly assembled the studio and served as technical support.

On the gallery scene, he supported Bunny's involvement while she was part owner of The Piñon Tree Gallery and later a member of Amapola Artist Co-op, both in Old Town Albuquerque. Galleries in Texas, Arizona, Colorado, and the East Coast also featured their work. Locally they were in the Placitas Holiday Show and the Placitas Studio Tour for several decades, as well as Art in the Mountain and Placitas Artists Series exhibits.

Founding members of Wild Hearts Gallery in 2018, the Bowens continue to show there in a variety of media. Their exhibition, *From Our Hearts*, will be on display at the library from January 4–30.



**Wild! An Exhibition in Collaboration with Mosaic New Mexico**

Exhibition: February 1–March 6

Artists' Reception: February 7 from 5–6:30 PM

In the library's Gracie Lee Community Room, more than 20 local artists join together in February to explore a wild assortment of materials and imagery through the medium of mosaic. Laura Robbins, exhibition coordinator along with Caroline LeBlanc, says of the work, "some will be literal, some imaginative, some design oriented." All will feature a larger image made up of small regular or irregular pieces.

Expect wild animals as well as ambitious abstract compositions made of glass, ceramics and metal. "Some use material I'd not even thought of!" says Robbins, an early co-founder of Mosaic New Mexico which offers encouragement, inspiration and resources to its members. The exhibition includes both professional, experienced artists as well as beginners.

Join us on Friday, February 7 from 5–6:30 PM, for a reception for the artists. Works will be available for purchase with a percentage of sales benefiting the library.



January 2025



- **Jan 14 (10 AM):** *Pre-K Story Time* – Join us for a walk in the winter woods through a reading of *Stranger in the Woods: A Photographic Essay* by Carl R. Sams. Observe how the deer and birds live during cold weather. Be sure to wear your winter hat and coat and join us for a snack afterwards.

February 2025



- **Feb 2 (2 PM):** *The Young Voices of the Santa Fe Opera* will present a special musical story time celebrating Groundhog Day. We are in the process of selecting a children's story book about Groundhog Day. The reading of this book will be interspersed with musical selections from the *Young Voices*. The idea behind this program is to introduce children to the opera to show them how creative, expressive, and entertaining it is. If you joined us last March for *Pete the Cat: How to Catch a Leprechaun*, you will remember how much fun the kids had. They are actual participants in the program. This performance is for ages 4-12 and their family members, and is sponsored by the Placitas Artists Series.
- **Feb 11 (10 AM):** *Pre-K Story Time* – topic to be announced. Check your email for information closer to the date. You can join our email list by sending a message to [Nora Timmons](mailto:Nora Timmons).

Request:



We have a request for local artists to join us for our kids' summer reading program for children ages 5-12. The theme is *Color Our World* and is an opportunity to expose our children to a variety of art forms. We know how lucky we are to live in a creative community such as Placitas. Would any of you be willing to provide a program to our patrons? If so, please contact our program coordinator, Nora Timmons at (505) 867-6926 or (505) 999-8474 or by [email](mailto:email), with questions or suggestions. Thank



you very much!

### Thank You From Placitas Elementary School!

Finally, here's a lovely note and pictures from Placitas Elementary School for our program with Explora. We loved seeing the kids having fun while learning!

#### Explora at PES!

Our students had an incredible time during Explora's visit to PES! They loved engaging with the hands-on STEM stations, exploring new concepts, and sparking their curiosity.

Thank you to Explora and Placitas Library for bringing this amazing opportunity to our school. What a fantastic way to inspire a love for learning and science!



## CHILDREN'S BOOK NEWS

By Nancy Guist  
Children's Collection Coordinator

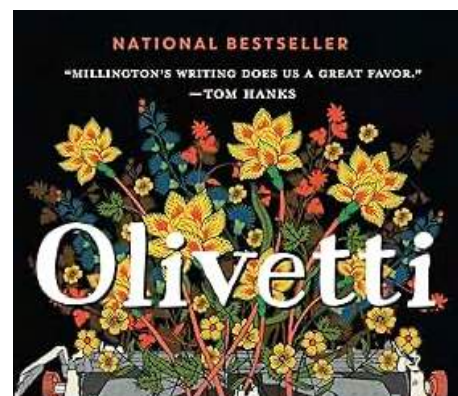


### *Olivetti*

by Allie Millington

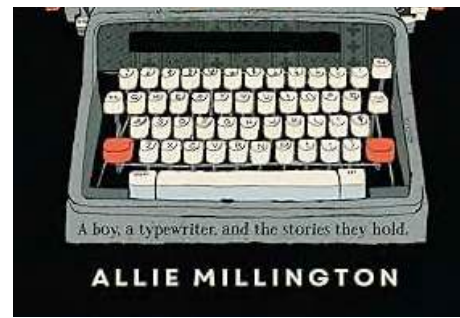
Suggested ages: 8-11 years

Olivetti is not a young girl or boy, but rather a typewriter – and an opinionated one at that! But wisdom and heart swirl amongst his words. Olivetti was once an integral part of the Brindle family's world, but a computer relegated him to an ignored spot on Beatrice's desk. Soon he finds himself packed in a case and dropped off at a pawn shop. An image of a typewriter will be

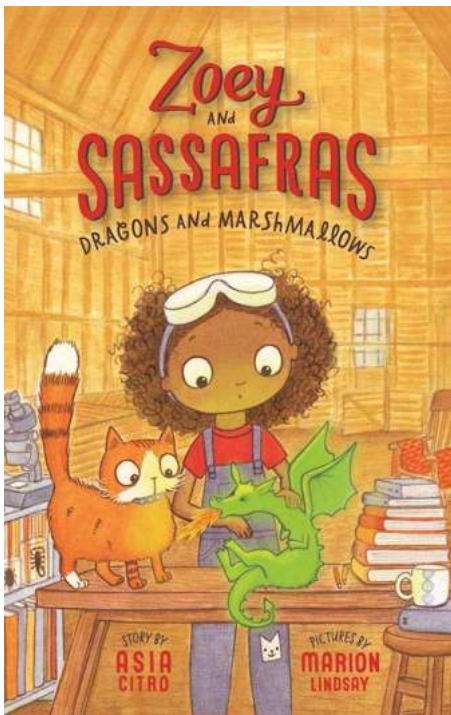


unfamiliar to most young readers, but as the story progresses, they will find themselves totally engaged with Olivetti and his words!

12-year-old Ernest Brindle is also captivated by words – words found in his collection of Oxford English Dictionaries. Shortly after Olivetti’s disappearance, Ernest and his siblings realize their mother, Beatrice, is also missing. She was the one most often at Olivetti’s keyboard. When the children discover the typewriter in the nearby pawn shop, they are determined to bring it home. Pondering over his mother’s disappearance, Ernest types, “I think it’s my fault you ran away.” Olivetti, who had been the recipient of Beatrice’s thoughts and words, senses he must break the typewriter code: “Never let what has been typed into a typewriter back out.” And so begins the search for Beatrice which leads the family across the country to San Francisco. And Olivetti, who Ernest has brought along, is there to share his thoughts and wisdom throughout their mission.



The book’s tale is told in alternating chapters – through the voices of Ernest and Olivetti. Ernest’s words reflect the anxieties and hopes and sometimes misconceptions of a shy, precocious 12-year-old. Olivetti worms his way into the reader’s heart with his wry sense of humor and his pithy observations. The young reader will leave *Olivetti* with reflections on family, memories and the world of words. And of course, with an introduction to a marvelous contraption – a typewriter!



## ***Zoey and Sassafras: Dragons and Marshmallows***

**story by Asia Citro, pictures by Marion Lindsay**

**Suggested ages: 5-8 years**

*Zoey and Sassafras: Dragons and Marshmallows* is the first book in the *Zoey and Sassafras* early chapter book series. Each of the books cleverly integrates the scientific method in its plots, introducing a new magical animal along with a puzzling situation in need of a solution. Zoey approaches each problem as a scientist, carefully investigating and experimenting to reach a conclusion. Her constant companion, Sassafras, a fluffy cat, provides amusement to each episode!

In *Dragons and Marshmallows*, Zoey discovers a miniature dragon in distress. She is determined to find what ails the dragon with hopes of saving it. Through careful research and experimentation, Zoey endeavors to bring about a happy ending!

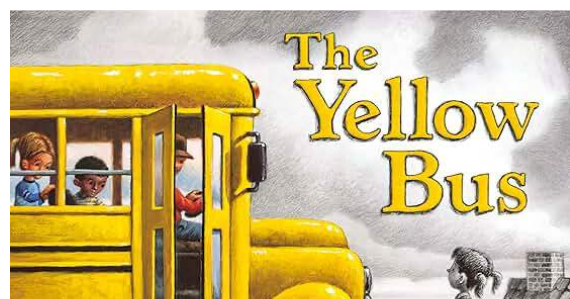
Lindsay’s pictures are found on most every page, adding humor and action along with supporting the plot. The *Zoey and Sassafras* series is an engaging selection for beginning readers. It can be found in the Early Chapter Books section of our library.

## ***The Yellow Bus***

**by Loren Long**

**Suggested ages: 3-7 years**

The pages of *The Yellow Bus* are graced with the softly intricate black and white penciled drawings of Loren Long with one exception. The bright yellow bus stands



out on each page along with the varying colors of all those who encounter it, whether children peering through the windows on the way to school or homeless individuals huddled inside on a chilly winter night. This endearing picture book quietly evokes the life journey of the yellow school bus – an image we are all familiar with, young and old alike. The book begins with the bus in its familiar role, shepherding children to school. But as time moves on, so does the role of the yellow bus. Days are spent transporting elderly citizens to the library. Later it is abandoned in a field where it is explored by curious goats. But no matter how its days evolve, the yellow bus is filled with joy. Its life journey is a tender depiction that summons the joy of new beginnings when they lead to spreading happiness and comfort to others.



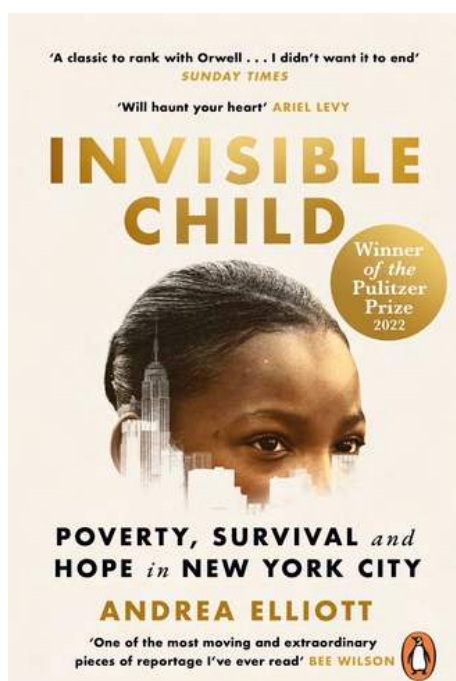
*The Yellow Bus* concludes with a fascinating two page spread detailing how Loren Long developed the idea for the book. He also shares his technique for bringing to life the town and the surroundings the yellow bus becomes a part of.

*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).



### *Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival and Hope in New York City*

by Andrea Elliott

In the shelter's Brooklyn neighborhood, “the top 5 percent of residents earn 76 times the income of the bottom quintile, making this one of the most unequal pockets in the city.”

Investigative reporter Andrea Elliott wrote a scathing and enlightening series for the New York Times in 2013 concerning the appalling conditions of a Brooklyn homeless shelter for families. After her series was published, she began following an 11-year-old girl who lived with her family in the shelter. At the conclusion of eight years, Elliott published “Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival and Hope in an American City,” a devastating expose of impoverished people's struggles, how difficult it is for them to transcend their hardships, and the inadequate, unsafe, and disgusting homeless shelters.

The non-fiction narrative is focused on Dasani Coates, the child Elliot followed. Dasani, the eldest of seven children, is named after the popular bottled drinking water. An extraordinarily gifted and precocious child, she takes charge of her siblings and the household when her parents are unable to due to various reasons – primarily their drug addiction.

*"Every morning when she wakes up, she empties the bucket they all use as a lavatory, changes the baby's nappy and then trots down to the cafeteria to use one of the two microwaves, shared by more than 100 families."* The family of 10 live in a rat infested one room, government subsidized apartment. Dasani demonstrates the epitome of resilience and family loyalty in this poignant book.

Elliot, who received a 2022 Pulitzer Prize for her book, chronicles Dasani's life and challenges, but unfortunately does not provide solutions. It is unbelievable that in the 21st century such poverty exists. Heartbreaking and shocking, this story illuminates the broken social welfare system in this country and the people who suffer as a result.

According to the [Coalition for the Homeless](#):

- In recent years, homelessness in New York City has reached the **highest level since the Great Depression of the 1930s**.
- In September 2024, **131,487** people slept each night in NYC shelters. **Thousands more** (there is no reliable number as the annual HOPE estimate is deeply flawed) slept unsheltered in public spaces, and more than **200,000** people slept temporarily doubled-up in the homes of others. Thus, it can be estimated that **more than 350,000** people were without homes in NYC in September 2024.
- In September 2024, **71 percent of those in shelters were members of homeless families**, including **45,665 children**. That month, **37,517** single adults slept in shelters. 45 percent of those in shelters, or **48,305** individuals, were "New Arrivals."
- "New Arrivals" are defined as those from other nations who are arrived in NYC after March 15, 2022.

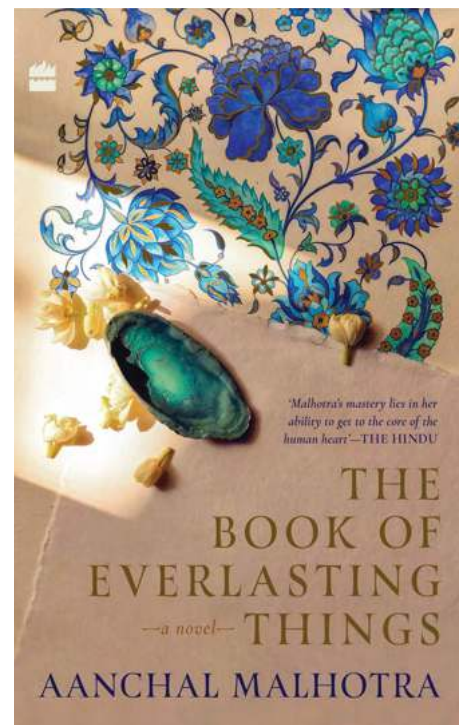
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## *The Book of Everlasting Things* by Aanchal Malhotra

Love at first sight! This enchanting, atmospheric story captures your imagination about a young couple, Firdaus, a young Muslim apprentice calligrapher, whose father translates Persian and Arabic prose and poetry into dazzling, magical images, and Samir, a gifted Hindu perfumer who masterly creates exotic, heady perfumes.

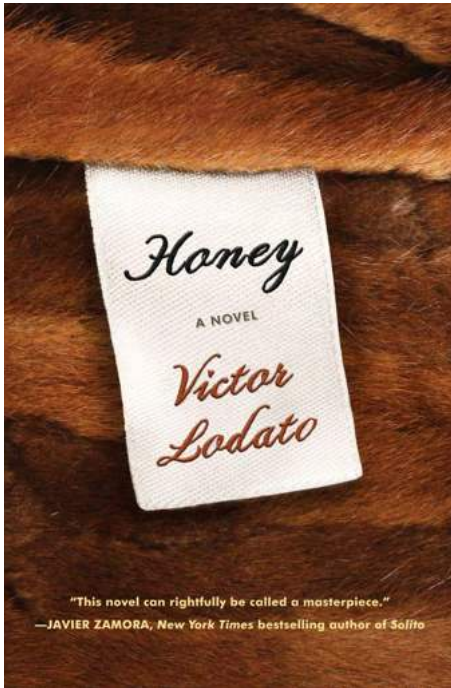
It initially takes place in Lahore, India, beginning in 1938. Partition is on the horizon and everyone is frightened about what to expect. (Under Partition, the British divided India into two separate countries: Pakistan for the Muslims to live, while India was reserved for Hindus). The story continues on for 70 years, spanning several generations and several countries, including France. I hesitate to provide more information regarding Samir and Firdaus because I dislike spoilers. I can say that I appreciated learning about the cultural aspects prior to and after of Partition, and the traditional art forms of perfumery and calligraphy. Sadly, prior to Partition under British colonialism, friction among the previously peaceful coexisting Muslims, Hindus, Mughals, Persians, Afghans, Christians, and Sikhs was generated and powerful political blocs resulted. After Partition in 1947, when India became an independent country no longer under British rule, the already growing tensions escalated into brutal violence and tragedy.

Readers will enjoy this poignant love story and historical account. It's not just a love story, it's also about the ancient esoteric art and heritage of perfumery and the visual splendor of calligraphy, both of which I found



absolutely fascinating.

From New Delhi, India, Aanchal Malhotra is a writer and oral historian of the 1947 Partition. She's researched the history of the Partition over a decade and spent five years writing this immersive novel.



## Honey by Victor Lodato

After 60 plus years of living in New York City and Los Angeles while working in the art world at a successful art auction house, 82-year-old Honey returns to visit her estranged, toxic family in New Jersey where she escaped her family's turbulent life after attending college. Her father was a mob boss in organized crime and traumatized her and their family with his violent behavior.

An independent spirit, sophisticated and glamorous, she reassesses her life and the choices she made, her mortality, her regrets, and her complicated family relationships. Readers accompany Honey as she poignantly and humorously examines her life's journey, and contemplates her future.

Not intending to develop relationships at this point in her life, she nevertheless meets a young neighbor, Jocelyn, an insecure woman involved with an abusive boyfriend. Honey also becomes involved with her grandnephew, Michael, whom she discovers has been disowned by his family for being transsexual. And then she meets a much younger man, Nathan, to whom she becomes romantically involved.

A perceptive and captivating story about life, love, barbarity, formidable secrets, and familial bonds, it will keep you thinking about it long after finishing it.



### Sandoval County Historical Society and Museum

160 Edmund Road, Bernalillo, NM 87004  
www.sc-hsm.org

(505) 867-2755  
info@sc-hsm.org

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.

**SUNDAY, FEB. 9, 2025 @ 11:30 AM**

#### INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL CENTER *PRIVATE TOUR*

Please join the Sandoval County Historical Society & Museum for a private tour at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center at 11:30 AM on Sunday, February 9, 2025. The Native American dancers will perform at 12 PM and the tour of the center will follow. The fee for seniors is \$7 and \$11 for the general public. This opportunity is open to all SCHS&M members and to the public interested in joining us.

PLEASE NOTE: We will need a head count two weeks in advance. Please reserve your spot and head count to (505) 910-3030 or (719) 330-1332. The Cultural Center also has a restaurant if you are interested in arriving earlier. They will also have vendors on site. The address is 2401 12th Street NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104.

**SUNDAY, JAN. 12, 2025 @ 2 PM**

#### AZTEC DANCE & MUSIC



For more events and details, visit [Events at SCHS&M](#)

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Thursday	10 – 5	505.867.3355
Saturday	10 – 5	placitaslibrary.com
Sunday	1 – 4	



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