

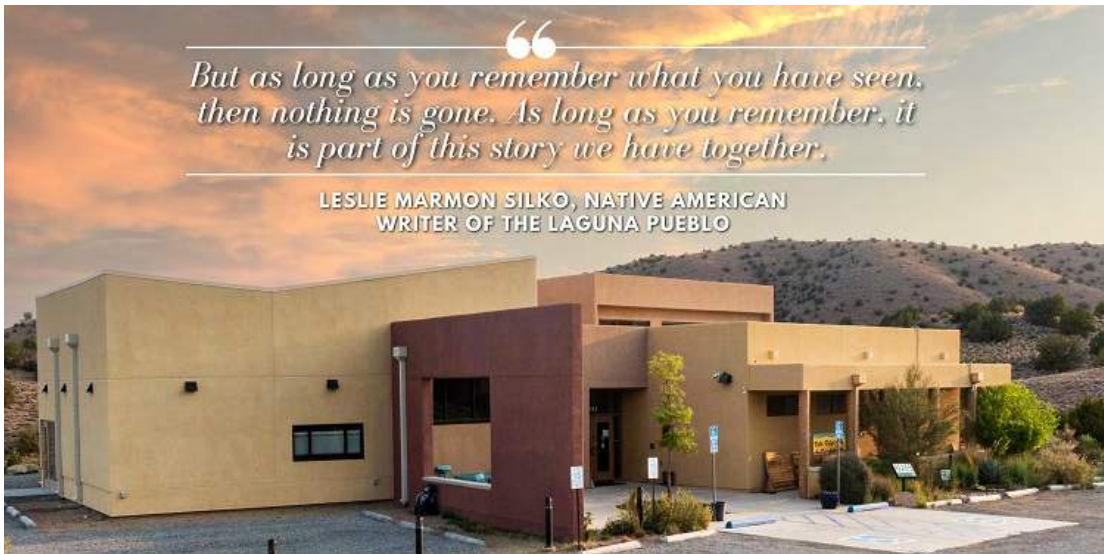
PLACITAS *Community* LIBRARY



NEWSLETTER NOV/DEC 2024

“
*But as long as you remember what you have seen,
then nothing is gone. As long as you remember, it
is part of this story we have together.*

LESLIE MARMON SILKO, NATIVE AMERICAN
WRITER OF THE LAGUNA PUEBLO



PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY HOURS

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

- **NOV 9 (2 PM):** A Word with the Author: *No More Empty Spaces* with D. J. Green
- **NOV 23 & 24 (10 AM-4 PM):** Placitas Holiday Market
- **NOV 30 (2 PM):** *Native Visions: Celebrating Native American Heritage Month* with guest artists

Claudia Mitchell (Acoma ceramist) and Gene Billie (Navajo sculptor and jeweler)

- **NOV 30 (6 PM):** Placitas Star Party
- **DEC 14 (3 PM):** *Native Visions: Celebrating Native American Heritage Month* with Althea Cajero (Acoma/Santa Domingo jeweler), Joe Cajero (Jemez sculptor), and Lyle Yazzie (Navajo jeweler)

ARTISTS RECEPTION & EXHIBIT

- **DEC 6 (5-7 PM):** Artists' Reception – *Native Visions: Celebrating Native American Artwork* (exhibit runs Nov 26–Jan 2)

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

- **SUN, NOV 10 (1 PM):** Make Christmas glass ornaments with glass artist, Karen Shatar! For ages 6–11. Materials will be provided. Please [RSVP](#) to ensure we have enough kits.
- **TUES, NOV 12 (10 AM):** Pre-K Story Hour – Placitas author and illustrator, Sadie Ann Nieto, will share her book, *The Tale of the Crockets and Mr. Firefox*. For ages infant–5.
- **TUES, DEC 10 (10 AM):** Pre-K Story Hour – Tales of Joy R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) Program will return for the holiday season! Dog handlers will read seasonal books to children while the dogs listen quietly and enjoy the company of the children. For ages infant–5.
- **SUN, DEC 15 (2 PM):** Annual Holiday Open House for Families with special guests, *The Young Voices of the Santa Fe Opera* and community members remembering special holiday memories from past celebrations of Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas in New Mexico. Santa will join us as well!

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.



NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY BOARD

By Lynnette Fields, PCL Board Chair

Thank you so much to everyone who completed our recent Patron Survey. The survey ran from June 22 – July 31 and we received 292 responses. We are truly grateful to all of you who took the time to share your thoughts about the Placitas Community Library (PCL).

We are sharing the feedback we received in two different ways. First, as a one-page high-level summary entitled, “[Snapshots](#).” This will give you basic information about the results. For those of you who would like to dig deeper, we have a [PowerPoint slide deck](#) that goes into much more detail.

We are halfway through the process and have entered Phase 3 of strategic planning. This is when the committee begins crafting the plan. We begin by defining our Principles of Design – the guiding principles for crafting the plan. We will then write goals and success measures. After the goals have

been defined, we will write strategies and the action plans to accomplish the goals. We hope to complete Phase 3 by the middle of November.

We write and finalize the draft plan during Phase 4. The draft plan will be reviewed with stakeholder groups and refined based on their input. The plan will be finalized and taken to the Board for their approval and adoption. A communication plan will also be developed to share the approved plan with patrons and community partners. Implementation of the plan is anticipated by the beginning of January 2025.

Again, on behalf of the Strategic Planning Community I want to thank everyone who has helped us so far.

PLACITAS Community LIBRARY

THE RESPONSES ARE IN!

THE Patron SURVEY Snapshots

The Placitas Community Library Strategic Planning Committee is pleased to share the following high-level responses from the Patron Survey. We will utilize the responses along with other collected data to produce the PCL Strategic Plan.

For more information, including full response data, please go to:
placitaslibrary.com/survey-results-2024/

Demographics
The survey ran from 6/22 - 7/31. The 292 respondents were mostly in the 65+ range, followed by 55-64, then 35-44. Respondents self-identified as 67% female, 25% male & 8% no response.

Usage
67% - at least once/month to once/quarter, 20% - once/week. Most-cited reasons for not using the library include: purchasing own resources, not being in the habit of library use, getting information elsewhere, and inconvenient hours.

Most Liked
- the existing resources,
- the programs/events,
- the volunteers/staff.
Secondarily, they cited the environment, central location, and the sense of community it creates.

Most Important Services
- community meeting spaces,
- computers/Wi-Fi access,
- online services.
Other comments were overwhelmingly positive about the programs.

Most Desired New Services
- book delivery,
- new programs/events,
- more books and magazines,
- more electronic media

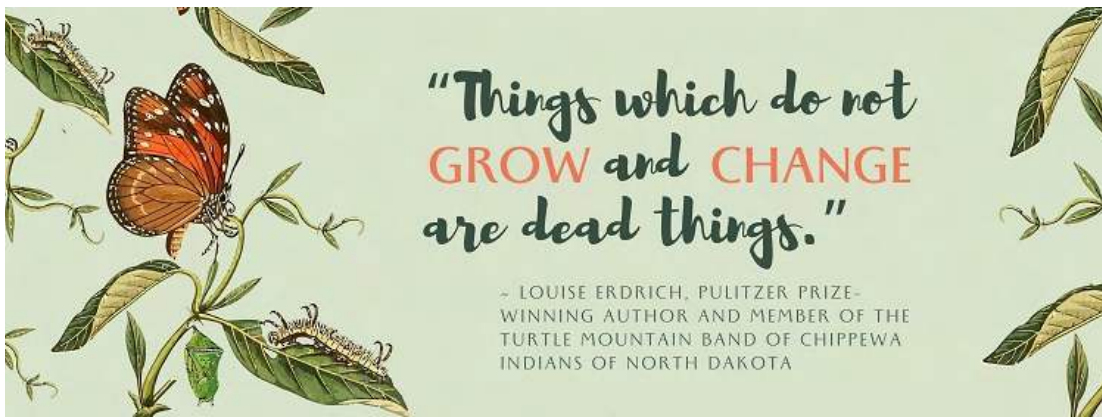
The Collection
The desire for new and expanded elements of the PCL's collection include: books, programs, magazines and DVDs.

Program Topics
Program topics of most interest include: adult education, author visits/book discussions, gardening/nature, local history, art/sculpture, science/natural history, and environment/conservation.

Reasons for Using
Most popular: browsing/borrowing from the collection, election voting, attending a program, perusing art gallery/exhibits and using community meeting spaces. Also: donating/buying used books and using copy/tax services.

Least Liked
- limited resources in the collections,
- hours of operation,
- some issues with the environment at the library.

Anything Else?
When asked to tell us anything we have not already asked, patrons spoke mostly about staff, the environment, their appreciation for the library, the collections, and the need for more broadcast communication.



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, NOV 21, 6:00 PM
THURS, DEC 19, 6:00 PM**



Lynne's Letters

MESSAGE FROM
THE DIRECTOR



IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE THE START OF THE 2024 HOLIDAY SEASON!!!

Mark your calendars to attend the **4th Annual Placitas Holiday Market** on Saturday, November 23rd, and Sunday, November 24th, from 10 AM to 4 PM.

There are 7 wonderful stops where **over 100 artists and artisans** have created very special items! Plus, **a portion of all sales will benefit local non-profits, community groups, and charities.**

Here is the list of stops:

1. Wild Hearts Gallery
2. Placitas Community Library
3. Placitas Winery
4. Las Placitas Presbyterian Church (Note: Sunday hours 12-4 PM)

- 5. San Antonio Catholic Mission
- 6. Placitas Elementary School
- 7. Placitas Community Senior Center

Please follow the **RED CANDY CANE** signs to the **7 wonderful locations!**



See you there,
Lynne

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Artwork created by plusuperstar at www.freegik.com



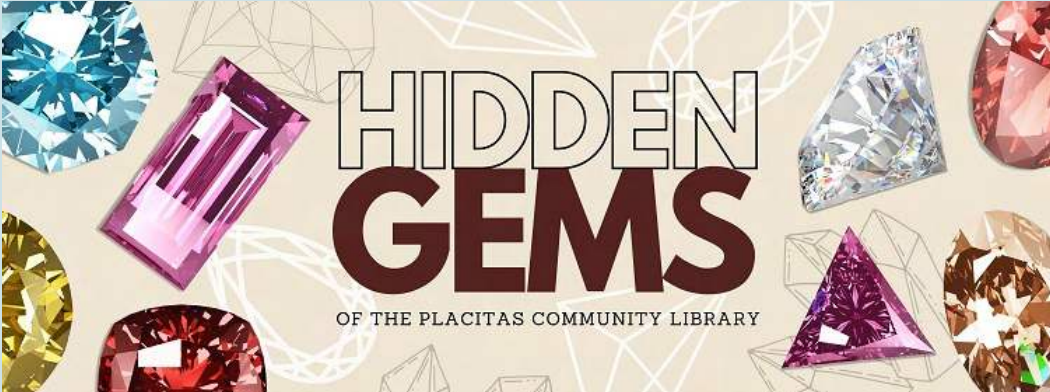
DISCUSSION GROUP

★

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



HIDDEN GEMS

OF THE PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Have you ever wondered how to reserve a PCL meeting room and who makes that happen? PCL has two meeting rooms that may be reserved by patrons: The Gracie Lee Community Room (GLCR) and the Collin Meeting Room (CMR).

Trish Bolton is our incredible Meeting Room Scheduler. She has been doing this so long, even she can't remember how long. To schedule a room, go to the link on the [PCL website](#), fill out the form with the reservation information, and submit it. Trish is notified by the meeting room software that a reservation has been submitted, goes into the internal website with the scheduling software, looks at the image of the calendar that contains the up-to-date reservations to ascertain availability, enters the reservation, and sends a confirmation if the room is available or a regret message if the room is not.

When Trish began as the scheduler, the CMR was the only meeting room. This made scheduling pretty straightforward. With the expansion of the library, the number of meetings that can be scheduled on a given day is also expanded, depending on the size of the time slot requested for each of the two rooms. The requester indicates which room they prefer. If that room is available for the time slot requested,

Trish puts that on the calendar. If it isn't, Trish lets the requester know, which may be as simple as putting in the other room instead and calling that to the requester's attention, or asking the requester to look at the calendar, select a different (available) time slot, and request that. A request for a one-time meeting typically is simple and quick to enter in the calendar. Meeting requests that are to repeat with a specific but regular occurrence are easily accommodated by the software but necessitate checking the calendar for weeks or months out, so in the confirmation Trish can alert the requester to unavailable dates in the reserved sequence. Requests for a repeating but not regular interval can take considerable time and calendar checking.

Even though regular library services are limited to specific days and hours, the meeting rooms are set up so they can be accessed during hours when the library is closed. Meeting rooms are available from 9 AM to 10 PM, seven days a week. Once the request has been approved, the requestor receives another email message with the room confirmation. It's important that this email is kept in case the reservation needs to be changed or cancelled.

The scheduling function is critically linked to many other aspects of the library.

1. The meeting room users. Accolades must be given to the users for their willingness to use the form, follow the guidelines, and to check the calendar to see the times they want are available. This makes the job of the scheduler much easier.
2. The Placitas Library Director (Lynne Hynes) and Board. Trish does not set room use policy; she puts reservations on the calendar. If there is an issue, she refers this to the Director or Board, for a ruling. The current [Meeting Room policy](#) was approved by the Board on March 23, 2023.
3. Library Administrator (Furman Kelley). The information on the reservation calendar is of critical use to the administrator, giving cues about what meeting room accessories are needed. He provides critical information to Trish that must go on the schedule calendar to indicate that meeting room(s) are not available, due to uses by the county, public, and volunteers. Trish often relays information to him that she guesses might be relevant to his responsibilities.
4. The Help Desk. If you have a problem locating the link or using the software, you can contact the Help Desk at 505-867-3355. They are also the go-to place when Trish must instruct a meeting room user how to access and secure a room when it is reserved for hours when the library is not open.
5. Computer System Knowledge. Kathy Kitts is instrumental in the use and application of the meeting room reservation software. She understands the intricacies of the system and is always available when a problem arises.

Many thanks to Trish and everyone at PCL who helps with scheduling our meeting rooms. Your volunteer time, energy, and talent is very much appreciated.

Currently, Trish does all the scheduling by herself. She would love to have some help. If you think you might be interested in helping Trish out with her Meeting Room scheduling responsibilities or would like more information about volunteering at PCL, please contact Diane Gonano, our Volunteer Coordinator at coordinator@placitaslibrary.com.

¡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**

“ I release you, my beautiful and terrible fear. I release you. You were my beloved and hated twin, but now, I don't know you as myself. ”

- JOY HARJO, THREE-TIME POET LAUREATE, AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR AND CITIZEN OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION

SAVE THE DATE!

Placitas Holiday Market

Sat Nov 23 | Sun Nov 24 | 10am to 4pm

AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

1. Wild Hearts Gallery	5. San Antonio Catholic Mission
2. Placitas Community Library	6. Placitas Elementary School
3. Placitas Winery	7. Placitas Senior Center
4. Las Placitas Presbyterian Church	

Learn more at [PlacitasHolidayMarket.com](https://www.placitasholidaymarket.com)

Fourth Annual Placitas Holiday Market
Saturday, November 23 and Sunday November 24, 2024, 10 AM – 4 PM

The fourth annual Placitas Holiday Market will return to the traditional weekend before Thanksgiving with events at seven sites located on or near Highway 165. Pick up a map and follow the Candy Cane signage to the market sites. You will find art, crafts, food, and drink to benefit the good works of local community groups and charities as well. Maps will be available at all venue sites and online. Admission is free. For more information, go to <https://www.placitasholidaymarket.com>.

Site #1 – Wild Hearts Gallery, Homestead Village Shopping Center, 220-B NM-165: An art collective of 16 members that features painters, sculptors, potters, photographers, print makers, jewelers, woodworkers, glass, fiber, and mosaic artists. A portion of sales will benefit "Rebuilding Together Sandoval County."

Site #2 – Placitas Community Library, 453 NM-165: A nonprofit providing children and adult programs, an art gallery, and meeting space for community use. With a Holiday Fiesta theme, the library will feature 14 artists, a raffle benefiting library programs, and a bake and book sale.

Site #3 – Placitas Winery, 26 Camino de los Pueblitos: A micro-winery producing fruit wines and a community event center. It will feature 26 artists, a raffle, wine, beer, cocktails, and food to warm the spirits. Raffle sales benefit the Placitas Elementary School art program.

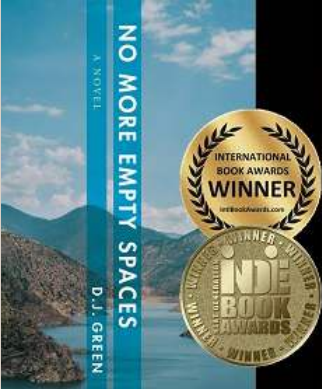
Site #4 – Historic Las Placitas Presbyterian Church, 7 Paseo de San Antonio: This 19th century Spanish village church will feature the artwork of 17 artists and hand-selected crafters. Sales will benefit Placitas Artists Series, a nonprofit that produces annual music performances and art exhibitions in the church.

Site #5 – Historic San Antonio Mission, 43 Paseo San Antonio: Established in 1840, serving the Catholic community in Placitas. It will feature 15 local artisans, a raffle and an array of New Mexican foods. Sales will benefit their ongoing philanthropic projects.

Site #6 – Placitas Elementary School, 5 Camino del Carbon: PES ranks among the top 25% of public and charter schools in the state. It will feature over 25 artists, and a raffle and bake sale benefiting the school's educational programs.

Site #7 – Placitas Community Senior Center, 41 Camino de Las Huertas: This heartbeat in our community provides classes, exercise, field trips and more, plus services for seniors including congregate meals, meal delivery, and transportation. The center will display a variety of artwork and crafts from 20 artisans.





A WORD WITH THE AUTHOR

No More Empty Spaces

D. J. Green

**NOV 9, 2024
2:00 PM**

D. J. Green presents her debut novel, *No More Empty Spaces* on Saturday, November 9, 2024 at 2 PM



If you like reading or writing or rocks, this is the event for you!

As *No More Empty Spaces* opens, it's the summer of 1973 and Will Ross (a divorced American geologist) has signed on to work on a troubled dam in a remote, rugged part of Turkey. He decides to take his children with him, but they think they're only going for their usual two-week stint of shared custody, not to live there. Once in Turkey, Will struggles for control—of his family, his work, the landscape, and ultimately, himself.

Winner of the 2024 International Book Award for Best New Fiction and the Next Generation Indie Book Award for General Fiction, this gripping story will make you think about how you relate to yourself, your family, and the Earth.

Praise for *No More Empty Spaces*:

"Love is never simple. If we do it right, it costs everything. This sensitive, probing novel made me rethink what it means to have mastery: in a discipline; in a relationship; ultimately over our own flawed selves. These characters battle it out and emerge transformed, learning to trust one another to fill the cracks and empty spaces life doles out."

~ Summer Wood, author of *Arroyo* and *Raising Wrecker*

"*No More Empty Spaces* takes us on a surprising twist-filled journey into not only a remote area of Turkey, but the remote places of the human heart. The protagonist, a geologist hired to work on a dangerous dam, must also confront his own dangerous behaviors. Redemption lies in mindful care of self, family, and planet. Indeed, that is the hard work all the characters confront, leading them—and the reader—to fresh ideas about how to fill the empty spaces within us all."

~ Laura Pritchett, winner of the PEN USA Award for Fiction

"In Green's poignant debut novel, the drama of rocks beautifully parallels the unfolding emotional drama, and the dam is both a fully rendered physical entity and a powerful metaphor. The story of the Ross family feels so real, and so engaging, I rooted for all of them until the deeply satisfying ending. *No More Empty Spaces* is a riveting and thought-provoking page-turner about love, commitment, growth, and adapting to change. I loved it."

~ Kate Christensen, author of *Welcome Home, Stranger*

"Green's prose is tender and keenly observant . . . A fascinating and frequently moving novel of family and geology."

~ *Kirkus Reviews*

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

invites you to attend

NOV 30

with The Albuquerque
Astronomical Society (TAAS)

PLACITAS STAR PARTY



**Come join us for the
Placitas Star Party
from 6:00 – 9:00 PM.**

Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, and Uranus will be visible.

Dress warmly and only use red flashlights or headlamps to preserve night vision. Please have only parking lights on as you come into the parking lot. If you bring a flashlight, please cover it with red which is the only light which does not affect night vision.

*This event is free and open to all! Members
of TAAS will be on hand to share their
knowledge of the heavens, as well as the
different telescopes on hand.*

*NOTE: Event may be cancelled due to heavy
cloud cover and/or inclement weather.*



We Only Have One Earth.
Let's take care of it.

- DEB HAALAND, FIRST NATIVE AMERICAN
CABINET SECRETARY, MEMBER OF THE PUEBLO OF
LAGUNA, AND A 35TH GENERATION NEW MEXICAN

PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY ART COMMITTEE
presents

NATIVE VISIONS

CELEBRATING
NATIVE
AMERICAN
HERITAGE

FEATURING NEW MEXICAN
NATIVE AMERICAN ARTISTS

WHO WILL BE PRESENTING
THEIR CULTURAL ARTWORK
AND ITS SIGNIFICANT SYMBOLISM

SAT | NOV 30 | 2 PM

Claudia Mitchell, an Acoma potter, will speak about her unique pottery style and method.

Photo: Kate Russell

Gene Billie, a Navajo sculptor and jeweler, will be speaking about designing a piece of jewelry in collaboration with James Goodman, a Navajo sculptor.

SAT | DEC 14 | 3 PM

Featuring works by accomplished Placitas artists **Althea Cajero** (Acoma/Santa Domingo jeweler), **Joe Cajero** (Jemez sculptor), and **Lyle Yazzie** (Navajo jeweler). They will be discussing the creative process and cultural significance of their work.

453 hwy 165 / placitaslibrary.com / 505.867.3355

Native Visions: Celebrating Native American Heritage Month

Throughout November and December, PCL will feature the following New Mexico Native American artists:

Saturday, November 30, at 2 PM: Claudia Mitchell, an Acoma potter, will speak about her unique pottery style and method. Gene Billie, a Navajo sculptor and jeweler, will be speaking about designing a piece of jewelry in collaboration with James Goodman, a Navajo sculptor.

Saturday, December 14 at 3 PM: Althea Cajero (Acoma/Santa Domingo jeweler), Joe Cajero (Jemez sculptor), and Lyle Yazzie (Navajo jeweler) will be discussing the creative process and cultural significance of their works.

Additionally, there will be a *Native Visions* art exhibit featuring works by 16 native artists, including Joe and Althea Cajero, Lyle Yazzie, Bobbi Emerson Kitsman, Claudia Mitchell, Delores Lewis, Nocona Burgess, Michael Billie, Cliff Fragua, James Goodman in the Gracie Lee Community Room from **November 26 through January 2.**

On **Friday, December 6 from 5-7 PM**, the committee will host a reception celebrating the artists. As always, works in the exhibition will be available for purchase with a portion of sales benefiting the library.

The Placitas Community Library Art Committee presents

NATIVE VISIONS

CELEBRATING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE

EXHIBIT
NOV 27 - JAN 2, 2025

RECEPTION
FRI | DEC 6 | 5 - 7 PM

Featuring:
Placitan Native American Artists:
Althea Cajero, Joe Cajero, and Lyle Yazzie
and Artisan Friends

453 hwy 165 / placitaslibrary.com / 505.867.3355

Artworks featured in the exhibit include:

- Nocona Burgess: A blue and red abstract sculpture.
- Cliff Fragua: A white heart-shaped sculpture with a blue dot.
- Michael Billie: A blue and white geometric patterned artwork.
- James Goodman: A white sculpture of a person.
- Althea Cajero: A red necklace with a white pendant.
- Delores Lewis: A white woven basket.
- Joe Cajero: A blue and purple abstract sculpture.
- Claudia Mitchell: An orange and black patterned pottery vessel.
- Lyle Yazzie: A white necklace with a circular pendant.
- Bobbi Emerson Kitsman: A landscape painting of a mountain range.



“If anything at all, *perfection* is not when there is nothing to *add*, but when there is nothing left to *take away*.”

- MARIA TALLCHIEF, AMERICA'S FIRST MAJOR PRIMA BALLERINA AND A MEMBER OF THE OSAGE TRIBE

FROM THE
**LANDSCAPE &
BUILDING
MAINTENANCE
COMMITTEES**

by Dawn Foster, SEMG 2017,
Landscape Committee Co-Chair

ANOTHER PLACITAS GARDEN
TOUR SUCCESS FOR THE PCL
LANDSCAPE AND GARDENS!

**PLACITAS
GARDEN TOUR**

SUNDAY, SEPT 8, 2024
9AM-4PM
PLACITASGARDENTOUR.COM

Another Placitas Garden Tour Success for the PCL Landscape and Gardens!

Many Garden Tour visitors were impressed, and remarked on the beauty, richness, and diversity of native/xeric plants, and the wealth of educational garden plant information provided by the new PCL Garden Plant database (available on the [PCL website](#)) and Seed Library. Sincere thanks for early insightful landscape consultations and designs by volunteer/donor efforts, regarding the overall PCL landscape plan, including:

- Past and current PCL Landscape Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs, Bill Dunmire, Lolly Jones, Suzanne Maxwell, Rebecca Pulford, Dawn Foster, and Wayne Gordon;
- Expert guidance, advice and efforts by renowned, local gardening designers, Judith Phillips and the recently deceased David Salman; and
- Labyrinth “movers and shakers,” Karen Cox, Michael DeLongchamp, Doris Fields, Anne Frost, Lolly Jones, Suzanne Maxwell, Reta Price, Lilith Ren, and Judith Roderick, and the entire community for bringing rocks and placing them on International Labyrinth Day 2014, especially Maya.

And we couldn't plant new gardens and keep up with yearly maintenance of the existing gardens without our dedicated Landscape Committee volunteers! Many thanks to all!

NOTE: The PCL Landscape Committee is **ALWAYS** looking for additional help from gardeners and gardener wannabes! Please come join us, get your hands dirty, and maybe even learn something! Please contact one of the current Co-Chairs: Dawn Foster (dawnfoster84@comcast.net or 505.220.1827), or Wayne Gordon (wayneigordon@gmail.com or 505.389.8510), with volunteering interest. Happy gardening!



“Don’t live up to your stereotypes.”

~ SHERMAN ALEXIE, AWARD-WINNING POET, NOVELIST AND SHORT STORY WRITER; CITIZEN OF THE SPOKANE TRIBE OF THE SPOKANE RESERVATION AND GREW UP ON THE SPOKANE INDIAN RESERVATION



NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 10 at 1 PM: Karen Shatar, glass artist, will provide a box kit of 4-5 stocking and tree ornaments plus all you need to decorate each one. For ages 6-11. Younger children may need assistance so families may work together. We would appreciate an RSVP to make sure we have enough kits, to Nora at nntimmons@comcast.net. Last minute changes are, of course, understood. Begin your holiday celebration with us!

The
PLACITAS Community LIBRARY
Children's Committee

knows

All You Want for
Christmas are...

Glass Ornaments

with artist

Karen Shatar

Sun | Nov 10 | 1 - 3

Karen will provide participants with a box kit of 4-5 stocking and tree ornaments, PLUS all you need to decorate!

For ages 6 - 11. Younger children may need assistance from a caregiver, but we'll have enough for the grown-ups to decorate, too!

We'd appreciate an **RSVP ASAP** to Nora at ntimmons@comcast.net. We want to be sure we have enough kits. Last minute changes are, of course, understood.


453 hwy 165 | 505.867.3355 | placitaslibrary.com

Tuesday, November 12 at 10 AM: Sadie Ann Nieto is our special guest for the Pre-K Story Time. Sadie, Placitas author and illustrator, wrote a book for her grandchildren called *The Tale of the Crockets and Mr. Firefox*, that she would love to share with your children and grandchildren ages infant - 5. We hope to see you at this special celebration.

The
PLACITAS Community LIBRARY
Children's Committee
 invites you to attend our

PRE-K
STORY HOUR Ages infant-five

Activity & Snacks, too!



THE TALE OF THE CROCKETS AND MR. FIREFOX

WITH **SADIE ANN NIETO**
Placitas Author & Illustrator

TUES | NOV 12 | 10 AM

Many years ago, sitting at her office job during a particularly slow day, Sadie Ann's boss instructed her to "do what you want." She took the dare and started writing and drawing, as she always enjoyed doing that with her kids. That afternoon, she finished this story. Then, tucked it away in a folder.



Sadie Ann Nieto lives in Placitas, but grew up in a small town with seven brothers and sisters, one horse, two pigs named Coconut and Blueberry, goats, sheep, chickens, ducks, and two cats named Tigre and Maria. They also had rabbits they had to name, in order to protect them from a real wolf they named Mr. Firefox! This is their story.

Eighteen years later, with more free time, she dug it out. After some fine tuning, she is happy to be able to share it with her growing family, friends, and neighbors, as well as her new friends at the library!

453 hwy 165 / 505.867.3355 / placitaslibrary.com

DECEMBER

Tuesday, December 10 at 10 AM: This Pre-K Story Hour will be a very special holiday celebration for children ages infant-5 and their families. Tales of Joy R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) will return for the holiday season. The dogs, including Comet, will be decked out in their festive attire. The dog handlers will read seasonal books to the children, while the dogs listen quietly and enjoy the company of the children. Please join us and spread the word. Children who love to read and reluctant readers will both enjoy this activity. The Tale of Joy owners visited us in July during the summer reading program. This was one of the biggest hits! See you December 10.

The
PLACITAS Community LIBRARY
Children's Committee

invites you to attend our
PRE-K STORY HOUR Ages infant-five

TALES OF JOY

**TUES
 DEC 10
 10 AM**

Tales of Joy R.E.A.D. Program
(Reading Education Assistance Dogs),
 will return for the holiday season.
 The dogs, including Comet, will be decked
 out in their festive attire. The dog handlers
 will read seasonal books to the children
 and the dogs will listen quietly and enjoy
 the company of the children.

453 hwy 165 / 505.867.3355 / placitaslibrary.com

STORIES!
ACTIVITIES!
SNACKS!

DOGS!
DOGS!
DOGS!!

Sunday, December 15 at 2 PM: Please join us for holiday memories, music, and lights during our Annual Holiday Open House for Families. Our special guests are The Young Voices of the Santa Fe Opera and community members remembering special holiday memories from past celebrations of Hanukah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas in New Mexico. Santa will join us as well! This special program is made possible by the Placitas Artist Series. In addition, children will receive a new book for Christmas, courtesy of the Davis Foundation. Refreshments will be served. We hope to see you on December 15.

The
PLACITAS Community LIBRARY
Children's Committee

invites you and yours to our annual

Holiday Open House



SUN • DEC 15 • 2:00 PM

Please join us for Holiday Memories, Music, and Lights with very special guests:



Also, community members will share special holiday memories from past celebrations of Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas in New Mexico.

And if Santa doesn't get lost in all the great music, he'll be there, too!

In addition, children will receive a NEW BOOK for the holidays! Thank you:

Davis Foundation
PVBPS

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CHILDREN'S BOOK NEWS

By Nancy Guist
Children's Collection Coordinator



Cloud and Wallfish

by Anne Nesbet

Suggested ages: 10-14 years

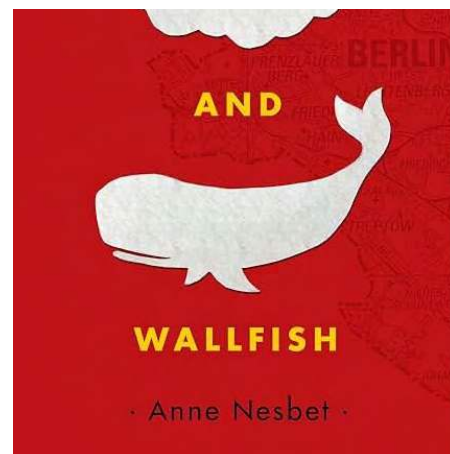
One day, Noah suddenly has his world turned upside down. His

CLOUD



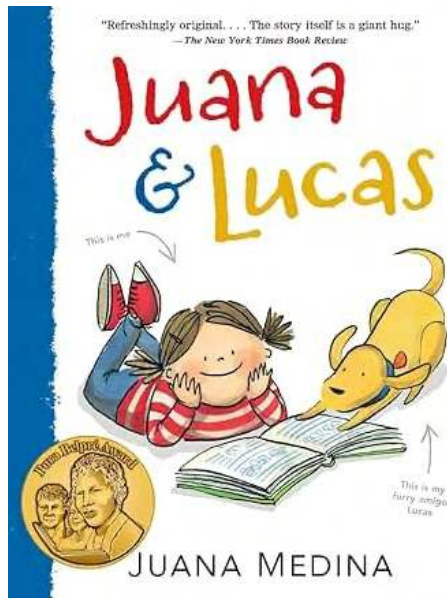
parents inform him they will be temporarily moving to East Germany, as his mother has permission to do dissertation research there for 6 months. Along with the family's relocation, Noah is informed that his name will be Jonah Brown, rather than Noah Keller. His parents share a photo book with him which illustrates a new background for him – age, school, neighborhood. New rules to live by are carefully explained to Noah, emphasizing that “they will always be listening and watching.”

Noah with his “Astonishing Stutter” has had enough to cope with in 5th grade. Completely baffled, he is full of questions which don't receive satisfactory answers. Nevertheless, his certainty that his parents love him as they ask for his trust, strengthen his resolve and faith, as he begins this new chapter in his life. Thus opens this historical novel located in East Germany in 1989, mere six months before the Berlin Wall falls.



Perhaps one of the most difficult changes for Noah in his new home is the lack of contemporary friends. His savior comes in the form of a girl in his own apartment building, Claudia (“Cloud”), who has endured a life-changing tragedy. Together they see themselves as “changelings.” They are beings from one world who are compelled to live in another. Each, in their own way, emotionally supports the other.

The author, Anne Nesbet, spent the summer of 1987 in East Berlin as well as several months in 1989 and 1990. Her experiences give an authenticity to the historical setting. She augments this fascinating and moving story with “Secret File” notes at the end of each chapter, providing historical context to the book's narrative. Along with mystery and suspense, are the themes of friendship and family. In *Cloud and Wallfish*, Nesbet movingly illustrates that “Home is not mostly a place. Home is someone putting her arms around you and saying the words your heart longs to hear, always and everywhere.”



Juana & Lucas

written and illustrated by Juana Medina

Suggested ages: 5-8 years

Juana & Lucas is a three-book series starring Juana and her amigo Lucas, a lovable dog. Set in Bogotá, Columbia, the local culture as well as Spanish vocabulary are an integral part of the story. Juana's emotions and desires are universal along with the humor sprinkled throughout.

The young reader meets Juana as she tackles new school experiences, whether it's puzzling math problems or learning the strange English language. Her best friend, Juli, along with her Mami, and her loving family, are all a part of Juana's days. The colored ink and watercolor artwork, enhancing the book's pages, is energetic and expressive. With the introduction of each character, comes a fascinating full-page illustration with

detailed descriptors encircling their portraits. They immediately come to life as they are integrated into Juana's story.

Children will find Juana very easy to relate to and will be eager to join her on her further adventures. *Juana & Lucas: Big Problemas* is also in our collection, while *Muchos Changes* is on order.

We Found a Hat

written and illustrated by Jon Klassen

WE FOUND A HAT

JON KLASSEN

Suggested ages: 4-8 years

A hat is again the focus of a Jon Klassen picture book. (See his earlier books – *This is Not My Hat* and *I Want My Hat Back*.) With his signature bold pictures done in various shades of neutral colors and his sparse text, Klassen shares with children a nuanced tale.

Two turtle companions come across a lone hat. But with only one hat and two turtles, we have a conundrum! The more thoughtful turtle declares they must forget about the hat since there is only one, but the second turtle has doubts. What ensues is an unsurprising step by the doubting turtle followed by a resolution that is satisfying in its imaginative and “dreamy” conclusion.



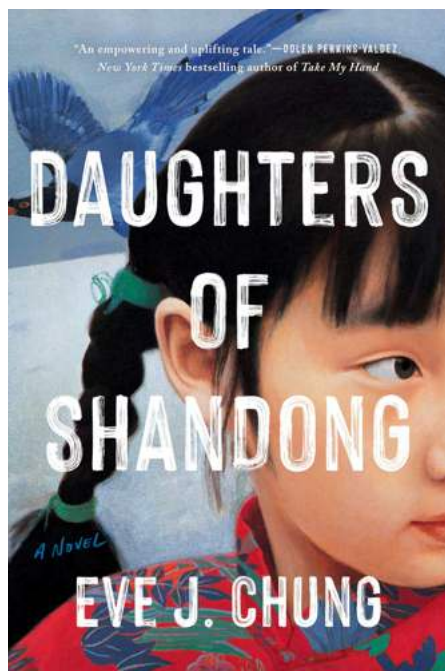
Susanne's Selections

Reading Recommendations
By Susanne Domínguez

A stack of various books.

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).



Daughters of Shandong

by Eve J. Chung

"Education, while only in one facet, creates a foundation for working toward other goals. It can lift people out of poverty, and break harmful cycles that have endured for centuries."

"Chinese people have a saying: Zhong nan qing nu, which means "Value men; belittle women."

Based on the author's family history, beginning in 1948 during the Chinese Communist Revolution, and specifically her grandmother's, Chung describes in her gripping novel how a mother and her three daughters escape to Taiwan despite all odds – being destitute, enduring starvation, and severe illness. The family is part of a prosperous landowning family whose parents are more concerned with not having a male heir, than helping their entire family escape the war. The family abandons the young daughters, Di, Lan, and Hai, and their mother to fend for themselves because they are considered "useless" females and just "more mouths to feed."

and just "more mouths to feed."

The daughters and their mother eventually embark on a 1,000-mile journey to locate the rest of the family who planned to relocate to Taiwan. It's a riveting account about their incredible resilience and loyalty to each other. Their determination to help future generations of their family experience a better life is extraordinary. A moving testament, readers who aren't familiar with the history regarding the devastating Communist Chinese Revolution will read about it, along with what can be achieved by hope and resolve. I look forward to reading Chung's future books. She is an international women's human rights attorney.

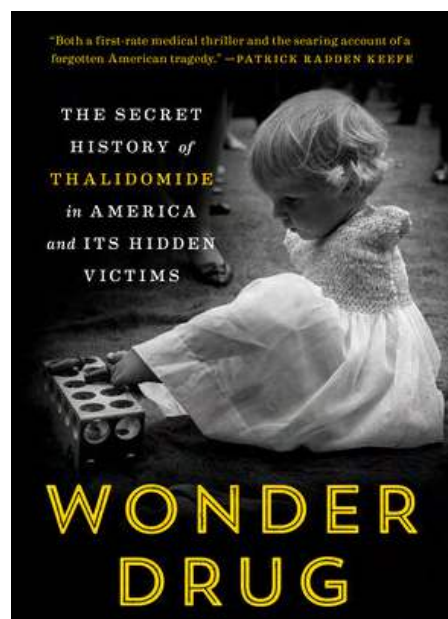
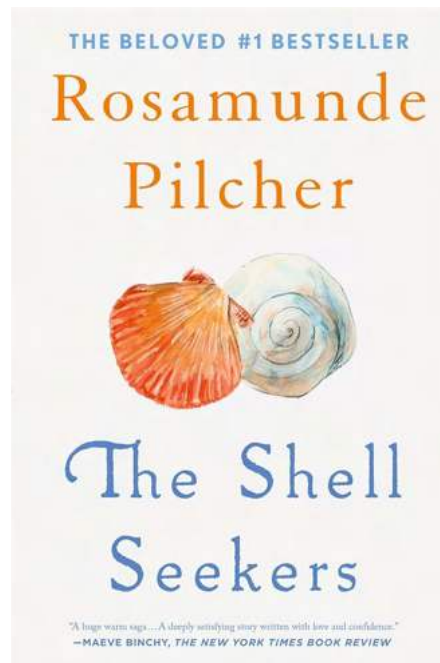
The Shell Seekers by Rosamunde Pilcher

The joyful and enchanting novel, *The Shell Seekers*, was on my "to read" list for ages but newer books always became my priority. Well, I finally read it and absolutely love it and understand why it has been immensely popular since it was published in 1987. It's about 64-year-old Penelope's life – her charming Cotswold cottage with its splendid garden, her passions, tragedies and secrets, her self-centered adult children, her optimistic Bohemian life style, and the beauty of life's simple pleasures. Her father was a Victorian painter. His breathtaking painting "The Shell Seekers," epitomizes to Penelope her early carefree childhood in Cornwall during the 1900's. It's her most cherished possession.

The story opens with Penelope recovering from a heart attack. A strong woman, she checks herself out of the hospital and proceeds to carry on with her life. Her adult children are appalled and urge her to let them control her life and affairs, while all Penelope wants is to enjoy the rest of her life, independently as always.

Meanwhile her children discover their grandfather's art is again back in vogue and demanding astronomical prices. Since Penelope owns some of her late father's artwork, including the magnificent "The Shell Seekers," her children urge her to sell all of it. Family turmoil ensues with disturbing ramifications.

Moving between Penelope's early life and current time, it's an uncomplicated, yet captivating read. Readers will thoroughly enjoy the realistic characters, and this timeless, superbly written, and moving saga.



Wonder Drug: The Secret History of Thalidomide in America and its Hidden Victims

by Jennifer Vanderbes

"No government agency or health authority had done what this loosely knit group of concerned citizens had: expose and stop the largest pharmaceutical scandal of the twentieth century."

"As a sleep-inducing agent, Kevadon is at least as potent as the most effective barbiturate, and so safe that it has never harmed a living thing (animal or plant) regardless of dosage level." ~ William S. Merrell Company, Kevadon brochure, 1960

Thalidomide, "the wonder drug," killed about 10,000 children in Europe and caused thousands more to be born with devastating birth defects. The inventor of Thalidomide, the Chemie

Grünenthal company, conducted shoddy testing and both it and its distributors lied about the drug's safety. This is a devastating and momentous story, 60 years after the fact, about corporate corruption and greed, scientific/medical incompetence, and betrayal. Vanderbes's research and interviews with hundreds of survivors along with scientists, attorneys, physicians, surviving victims, and their families expose the intentional deception by the international scientific community and the pharmaceutical companies. The corporate efforts to generate positive medical articles about thalidomide's safety and to suppress information about negative effects in order to win approval from the FDA to sell the drug in the U.S. is appalling. The companies willfully minimized evidence that the drug had serious side effects, and continued to push it into new global markets. *"It was touted as a sedative with no hangover. It was hailed as non-addictive. It was rumored to present no side effects. It was trumpeted in medical journal ads as 'astonishingly safe and 'completely non-poisonous.'"*

Thalidomide was given to uninformed, trusting patients, causing a medical disaster. Sold and distributed under various names and derivatives as a sedative and cure for morning sickness in pregnant women in the late 1950s and early 1960s, it caused phocomelia (a shortening of the *"limb/s being reduced or missing and leaving distal elements (handplate) in place"*) and other terrible defects, along with damage to internal organs in infants, and often death. *"It was invented in Germany in 1954 by Chemie Grünenthal, a pharmaceutical company which employed Nazis – one of thalidomide's developers experimented on prisoners in Auschwitz and Buchenwald, killing hundreds...Thousands of dead or deformed babies resulted in a German criminal case against Grünenthal, which ended without a conclusion in 1970. Nearly 40 years later, the company apologized to the approximately 5,000 surviving German victims."*

"Chemie Grünenthal partnered with the Cincinnati-based William S. Merrell Company in 1959 to distribute millions of samples of the drug in so-called experimental trials in the United States." Later, the Merrell Company, the U.S. pharmaceutical distributor, released a press release that *"affirmed that thalidomide was never sold in the United States."* Vanderbes states however, "sold" did not mean not "distributed."

In 1960, Merrell sent out drug "detail men," now known as pharmaceutical sales representatives who call directly on doctors and advise them about specific drugs. Because thalidomide had not yet been approved, their goal was to ask doctors to provide samples of the medication and try it out on patients. The more the sales representatives convinced and pressured the doctors to participate, the bigger their bonuses would be. This was a marketing ploy to create demand for the new drug. These sales people recruited more than 1,200 doctors, who gave thalidomide to more than 20,000 innocent Americans assuring them it was safe.

Vanderbes's illuminating book chronicles how only a handful of people in the world recognized the drug's dangerous toxicity and tried to stop it from being sold in the U.S. and abroad, and how they attempted to alert the medical world and the general public. Harassed and ignored, they continued to pursue evidence to determine whether or not it was safe, since they believed there was a dearth of scientific data to prove it was safe for humans.

Trial transcripts reveal how the Merrell Company withheld the toxic data from the FDA. Other drug companies also buried evidence of the drug's nightmarish side effects and were duplicitous in promoting it.

In 1961, Germany's Ministry of Health asked Grünenthal to withdraw the drug but were told by Grünenthal *"they are unable to do so for financial reasons"!*

Thankfully, Frances Kelsey, an FDA medical reviewer, scientist, and physician, *"single-handedly kept thalidomide off the American market."* As a result of her heroic efforts, in preventing U.S. approval of thalidomide, she received a presidential medal from John F. Kennedy.

At present, as a repurposed drug, Thalidomide now is used as a cancer drug and despite there being no Research & Development costs incurred, it costs a cancer patient approximately \$60,000 per year or \$5,000 per month to use it. Insurances may possibly cover some of the costs.

FYI regarding 2023 revenue for the top producing pharmaceutical companies: Johnson & Johnson \$85.16 billion, Roche \$65.32 billion, Merck \$60.1 billion, Pfizer \$58.5 billion, Novartis \$45.44 billion (From the Fierce Pharma website: <http://www.fiercepharma.com>)



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SUNDAY NOV. 10, 2024 @ 2 PM

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These events can change due to circumstances beyond our control. Please check our website or contact us for the latest schedule.

SUNDAY NOV. 17, 2024, Noon - 4PM

**Community Indoor Arts & Crafts Fair
and SCHS Book Sale**

Please join us for our First Annual Community Indoor Arts & Crafts Fair at SCHS! We will have a wide array of artists and craftspeople selling their wares, just in time for holiday gift-giving!

Vendors: Table spaces are \$15; this includes one 6' table and 2 chairs. Space is limited, and reservations will be taken on a first come, first served basis. To reserve a spot, please contact Gail Sacharzuk at gailzdesign@gmail.com or (267) 934-0336.

Also, please stop by the SCHS Welcome Table, where you can learn about all the wonderful information and historical data that we preserve and provide free of charge to our community, including genealogical research for all participating members.

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