

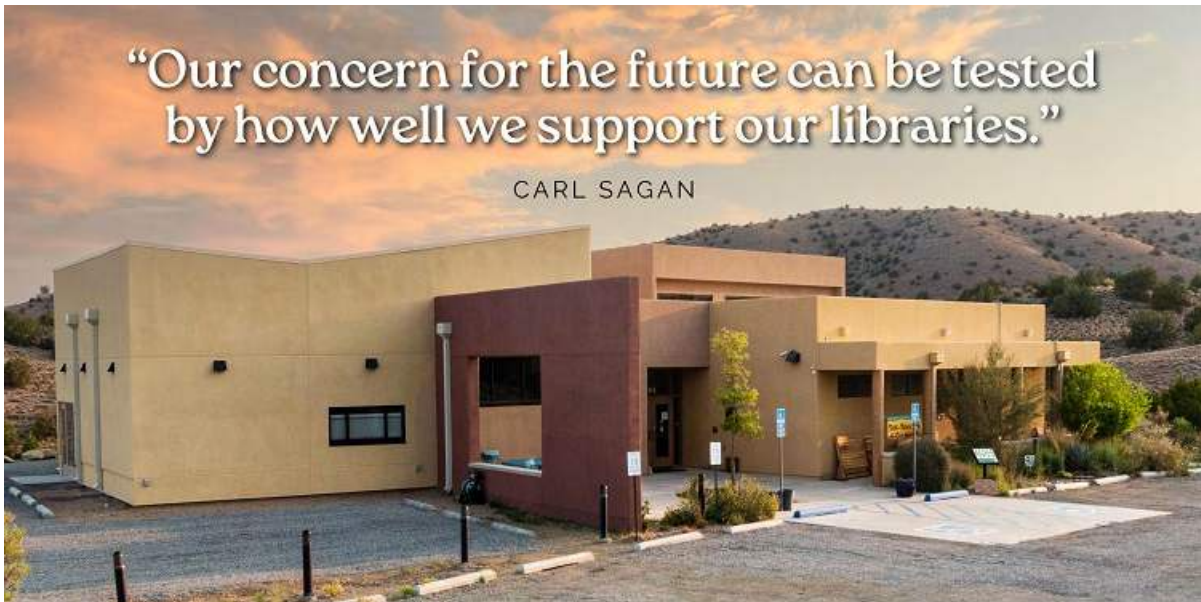
# PLACITAS *Community* LIBRARY



## NEWSLETTER MAR/APR 2025

“Our concern for the future can be tested  
by how well we support our libraries.”

CARL SAGAN



### **PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY HOURS**

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

## ADULT PROGRAMS

- **MAR 7 (5:30 PM):** *Dance Out!* featuring the PCL Playlist
  - **MAR 29 (2 PM):** *The Geographer's Eye: Sight and Insight* with Drs. Daniel and Susan Arreola
  - **APR 4 (5:30 PM):** *Dance Out!* featuring DJ Ken Grimes
  - **APR 5 (6 PM):** Placitas Star Party & Star Talk with The Albuquerque Astronomical Society (TAAS)
  - **APR 12 (10 AM-4 PM):** *Spring Fling Sale* supporting the library. Talavera, books, plants, jewelry, baked goods, select consignment, puzzles, and DVDs will be available.
  - **APR 26 (2 PM):** *Biking Across the USA* with Dennis Bumgarner
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## ARTISTS RECEPTION & EXHIBIT

- **Through MAR 6:** *Wild - A Mosaic New Mexico Exhibition*
  - **MAR 21 (5 PM):** Artists' Reception: *Abstract Expressions* (exhibit runs 3/8 - 4/9)
  - **APR 15 - MAY 11:** Placitas Studio Tour Preview Exhibition
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## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

- **SUN, MAR 9 & 16 (2 PM):** *Create to the Music* with two action-packed Sundays of percussion with Pam and Peter Colton, percussionists from the Placitas Drumming Group, and with Shelley Miller, visual artist/art teacher
  - **TUES, MAR 11 (10 AM):** Pre-K Story Time for ages infant - 5 with *Stories the Wind Tells Us*. Children will make their own windsock!
  - **SUN, MAR 23 (1 PM):** *Wildlife Program: Let's Make Tracks* with Elise Van Arsdale. Learn to identify various wildlife tracks with several fun activities, then design your own wildlife tracks on a t-shirt.
  - **TUES, APR 8 (10 AM):** Pre-K Story Time for ages infant - 5
  - **SUN, APR 27 (1 PM):** *Making a Sun Print* led by Ginnie Kirsch
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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!



## NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY BOARD

By Lynnette Fields, PCL Board Chair



Please join me in welcoming our newest Board member, Dennis Bumgarner. Dennis served on our Board from 2017–2023 and after a two-year hiatus has agreed to rejoin the Board.



### **Dennis Bumgarner**

My wife and I moved to Placitas from Indiana in 2014. I have been a psychotherapist in private practice since 1983, and I maintain a practice in Placitas as well as working as a clinical supervisor with The New Mexico Suicide Intervention Project. I served on the PCL board from 2017–2022. I also volunteer with the New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors, building and maintaining trails in the wilderness. I enjoy both road and mountain biking as well as backpacking, and I am a singer-songwriter who performs locally.

The Board's new Executive Committee was installed at the January 2025 annual meeting. I will be continuing as Chair for one more year. Dennis Bumgarner is our new Vice-Chair. Seth Betterly will serve as Secretary and Maggie Huber will continue as Treasurer. Our other Board members are Susan Brown, Jillian Gonzales, Linda Hughes, Jill Kennedy, Kendra Lucero-Matteucci, and Kate Miller. Please join me in thanking our new and returning officers and Board members for their continued service to the Board and to PCL.

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### **Strategic Planning**

The PCL Board of Directors approved the 2025–2027 Strategic Plan at our January board meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest thanks to the Strategic Planning Subcommittee for their hard work, and their many hours of deliberation that resulted in the plan outlined below. The Subcommittee members were Dennis Bumgarner, me, Jillian Gonzales, Lynne Hynes, Jim Neal, Jenny Trujillo, and Chris Montoya (our facilitator).

We could not have written this plan without your responses through personal interviews, focus groups, and the patron survey. Thank you so much for your thoughtful input.

### **Strategic Plan Summary 2025–2027**

#### **Introduction**

Placitas Community Library (PCL) has been a vital resource for our community since the 1960s. Over the years, it has grown from a small volunteer-led effort into a thriving library with expanded spaces,



programs, and resources. Strategic planning ensures we continue to evolve and meet the community's needs.

The New Mexico State Library requires all member libraries to have a strategic plan. Our latest planning process began in early 2024, using the Finding Your North Star™ strategic framework. With the guidance of consultant Chris Montoya, the PCL Strategic Planning Subcommittee gathered insights from community members, volunteers, patrons, donors, community partners, and staff through surveys, interviews, and focus groups.

### Key Community Priorities

Based on community input, three priority areas emerged:

- **Patron Services: Community Engagement and Enhanced Programs, Services, and Resources** – Expanding programs, improving accessibility, and strengthening personal connections.
- **Operational Leadership: Leadership, Staffing, Communications, Planning, and Infrastructure** – Enhancing communication, clarifying roles, and supporting staff and volunteers.
- **Market Sustainability: Funding, Donorship, and Marketing** – Diversifying funding sources and increasing community awareness of library services.

### Strategic Goals

To address these priorities, we have identified five key goals:

Patron Services Goals	1. <b>Be a Communication-based Information Hub</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen PCL as a hub for reliable local, state, and national resources.</li> <li>• Expand online and in-library information services to keep the community informed.</li> </ul>
	2. <b>Evaluate Patrons' Technology Needs for Prioritized Adoption</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess community needs for technology resources and digital content.</li> <li>• Ensure technology investments align with patron priorities.</li> </ul>
Operational Leadership Goal	3. <b>Streamline Operational Processes to Grow PCL's Mission Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve communication and role clarity for staff and volunteers.</li> <li>• Establish clear policies and training programs to enhance library services.</li> </ul>
Market Sustainability Goals	4. <b>Deepen the Value of our Reciprocal Partnerships with Donors and Community Partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster deeper engagement with donors and community partners.</li> <li>• Create systems for sustaining and growing financial support.</li> </ul>
	5. <b>Enhance Marketing Communications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand digital and print outreach to ensure community awareness of events, programs, and giving opportunities.</li> <li>• Use targeted communication to engage diverse audiences.</li> </ul>

### Plan Implementation & Progress Tracking

This plan will guide decision-making at every level of the organization. Progress updates will be shared through Board meetings, newsletters, and the PCL website. The Board will regularly assess and adjust strategies based on community feedback and evolving needs.

PCL remains committed to serving as a welcoming and resourceful space for all. We appreciate the community's input and ongoing support as we bring this plan to life.

2024  
**PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY**  
**BY THE NUMBERS**

**60,898**  
 Library visits

Approx.  
**22,000**  
 Print materials

Approx.  
**3,500**  
 Audiobooks and videos

Approx.  
**25,500**  
 Total collection

**2,593**  
 Current cardholders

**18,282**  
 Items checked out

**110**  
 Library programs

**3,377**  
 Program attendance

**16,906**  
 Website visits

**1,651**  
 Library computer uses

**1,729**  
 Wifi uses

**2,458**  
 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 20, 6:00 PM**  
**THURS, APR 17, 6:00 PM**



## Do You Know About Our...?

### Seed Library Program 2025

Our seed library program is available again for 2025. This year we have added a lot more seed packets for you to grow fruits, flowers, herbs, and vegetables. We also have a larger variety of donated seeds (some native to our area) this year!!!! Please visit our website at <https://placitaslibrary.com/> or stop by our library for your order form.



### Magazines

Yes, it is true we have magazines available for checkout in our New Items Section. We currently have Real Simple, Men's Health, People, Albuquerque THE MAGAZINE, Sunset, New Mexico Magazine, El Palacio, and LA CRÓNICA de Nuevo Mexico. These magazines can be checked out for three weeks with your library card and taken home. *I have my favorites and I hope you will too!!!*



All the best,  
Lynne



# SOCIAL JUSTICE

Artwork created by pikisupstar at www.freepik.com

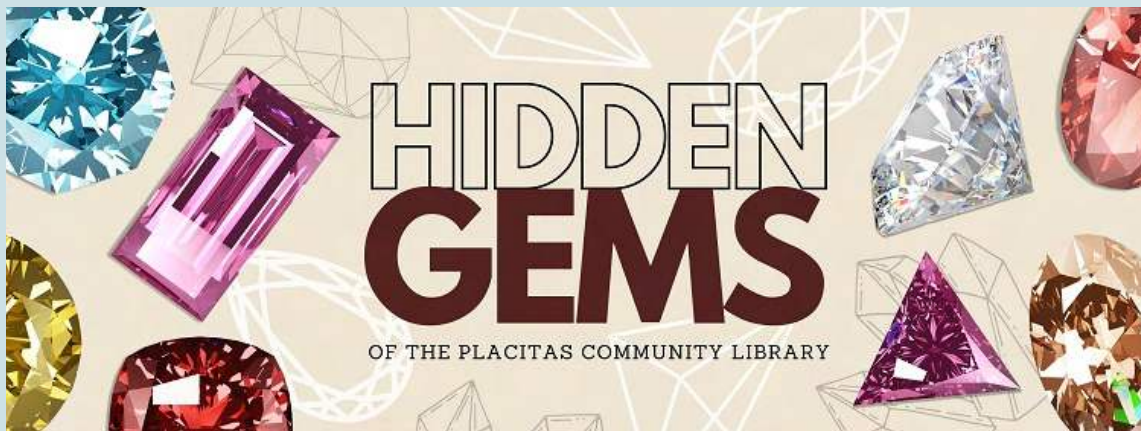


## DISCUSSION GROUP

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

Please contact Anne at [annegrey3@gmail.com](mailto:annegrey3@gmail.com) for more information

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



PCL is a vital hub for learning, literacy, and community engagement in the tranquil setting of Placitas, New Mexico. The Art Committee is an integral part of PCL. This committee enhances the library's offerings and fosters a sense of community through art.

The creative eight-member Art Committee's primary responsibility is to develop the annual calendar of rotating art exhibits displayed in the Gracie Lee Community Room. For 2025, the Art Committee has scheduled eleven exhibitions which greatly enhance the aesthetics of the Gracie Lee Community Room. For some of these, committee members create a 'Call for Artists,' inviting the countless artists of Placitas and environs to participate in the many exhibitions that comprise a half to a third of the year's schedule. Committee members organize, label, and install the work, create press releases, and help promote these exhibitions. They also host artists' receptions for each event which are open to the public.

While an integral part of PCL, the Art Committee also plays an important role in the wider art community. Their goal is to support local New Mexico artists and provide opportunities for them to promote, display, and sell their works. In conjunction with the popular Placitas Studio Tour, the committee hosts a preview gallery for participating Studio Tour artists. Recognizing the rich history of artists and art in Placitas, the Art Committee also selects a "legacy artist" each year who is well-known in the community. This artist (or artist couple) is given a one-month retrospective exhibition and a reception in the Gracie Lee Community Room. The Art Committee also coordinates with the Placitas

Garden Tour by scheduling an annual exhibition of work by artists who work in the gardens during the Tour. The Art Committee was also critical in developing the popular Placitas Holiday Market. The first Holiday Market, conducted at Placitas Winery, was launched in 2021 and has grown into a multi-venue affair.

The Art Committee also engages with many other committees at PCL. Members actively work with the Children's Committee by supporting the children's art program in conjunction with the Placitas Elementary School's art program. Other collaborative efforts include working with the Adult Programs Committee by providing programs connected to the art exhibits in the Gracie Lee Community Room. Additionally, the Art Committee works with the Donated Books Committee who help provide art-related books for each art exhibit.

While being a collaborative committee, the Art Committee also helps generate operating income for PCL. When work from an exhibition is sold to the public, a percentage of that sale goes to the library. In 2024, the Art Committee generated \$5,324 in art sales that directly benefited library operations.

Through its support of local artists, the Art Committee enriches the cultural fabric of Placitas, making the library a vibrant center for artistic expression. As it continues to inspire and connect individuals through art, the committee plays a crucial role in promoting the idea that creativity is an essential part of a thriving community.



PLACITAS *Community* LIBRARY

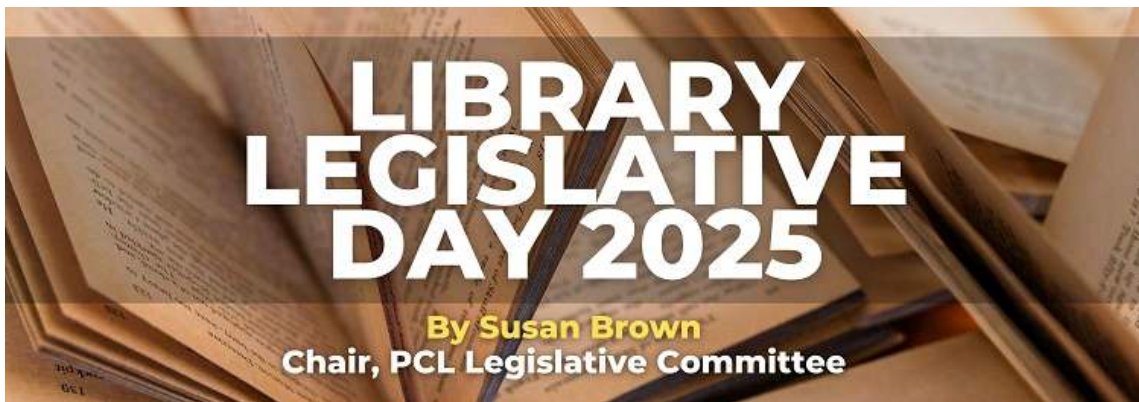
INVITES YOU TO THIS YEAR'S:

# Spring Fling SALE

**SATURDAY  
APRIL 12  
10 - 4**

Plants Baked  
Books Puzzles Goodies  
Jewelry Talavera

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



Library Legislative Day was held at the New Mexico State Capitol on Friday, January 31. Lynnette Fields, Jillian Gonzales, Wayne Gordon, Lynne Hynes, and Furman Kelley attended from PCL. The day began with an orientation by the New Mexico Library Association. More than fifty library supporters attended this session. Representative Kathleen Cates, from Corrales, welcomed the group and spoke about the Librarian Protection Act, HB 27. Several speakers briefed the group on what they should speak to the legislators about.

It was a very productive day. PCL attendees focused on SB 209 and HB 27. Senator Pete Campos submitted SB 209, requesting \$29.5 million to fully fund the Rural Library Endowment. The offices of all the Senators who have verbally agreed to co-sponsor the bill were visited to thank them for their support for SB 209 and rural libraries.

There is good news about the Rural Library Endowment. There is now \$30.5 million in the fund. In 2025, each library will receive about \$23,000. That is about an \$8,000 increase from what PCL received for 2024. If fully funded, each library would receive about \$45,000 annually from the Endowment.



HB 27, the Librarian Protection Act, aims to protect public libraries from book bans based on politics. The bill would require libraries to adopt policies that protect intellectual freedom and comply with the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights. HB 27 has been referred to the House Education Committee. PCL attendees visited the offices of all the members of the House Education Committee, asking for their support for the bill. A note of thanks was left for Representative McQueen for all he has done for PCL.

Senator Debbie O'Malley from Bernalillo County made remarks about the value of libraries during introductory ceremonies in the Senate and recognized the library supporters in the gallery. The House session was cancelled for Friday, but Senator O'Malley graciously added the librarians who were going to be introduced in the House to her guests in the Senate. Ten librarians from across the state and from many different library types were introduced on the Senate floor. Several senators gave accounts of their love for libraries and how important libraries are to the communities they serve. It was very heartwarming to hear their stories.

It was a very good day!



**PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY ADOPTS A MILE FOR HIGHWAY CLEANUP**

**Volunteers Needed!**

Sign-up sheets will be available at the library's Help Desk

**MARCH 15**

Let's work together to keep Placitas beautiful— one mile at a time!

PCL is taking an active role in keeping our community clean by adopting a mile of Highway 165 for regular cleanup efforts. As part of the New Mexico Department of Transportation's Adopt-a-Highway program, the library will be responsible for maintaining a section of the highway, helping to preserve the natural beauty of our community. The library has adopted highway mile three, which runs from west of Homestead Village to the eastern entrance of Forest Loop Road along Highway 165. The New Mexico Department of Transportation approved PCL's application in the fall and road signs were put up in December. We are now actively looking for volunteers to help with our cleanup program.

This initiative is a great opportunity for residents and library patrons to come together and make a



positive impact on the community. Whether you're looking to contribute to the community or simply want to enjoy the outdoors while helping to keep the highway pristine, your participation will be greatly appreciated. Our first highway cleanup is planned to take place on Saturday, March 15. The Jardineros de Placitas, as part of their 60th anniversary, are conducting a highway cleanup that day and they plan to try and clean the entire stretch of Highway 165. In the spirit of community, PCL plans to pitch in by conducting our inaugural cleanup that day.

If you're interested in volunteering, sign-up sheets will be available at the library's Help Desk. Stop by during library hours to add your name to the list. Additional information on the March 15 event will be provided as the date draws closer. We know every little bit helps, and your involvement can make a big difference in keeping Placitas looking its best!

Let's work together to keep Placitas beautiful—one mile at a time!



**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!*

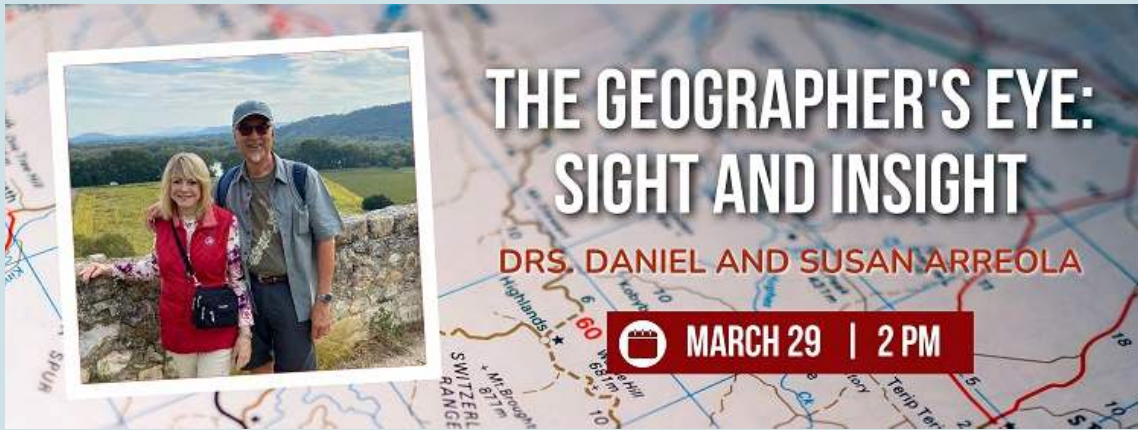
**FEATURING:**  
*March 7:  
PCL Playlist  
April 4:  
DJ Ken Grimes*

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





**Drs. Daniel and Susan Arreola will be speaking at the library at 2 PM on March 29 about *The Geographer's Eye: Sight and Insight*.** They will explain, along with audience participation, how geographers view place and landscape. The audience will be asked to share their responses to a slide exercise so that we all learn how our views of places and landscapes have at least two dimensions, a "Sight" and an "Insight."

Daniel Arreola is a cultural geographer who specializes in the study of the Mexican American borderlands and Hispanic/Latino/a populations in the United States. He is a Fellow of the American Association of Geographers (AAG), recipient of the Paul P. Vouras Medal from The American Geographical Society for his studies in regional geography, and the Carl O. Sauer Distinguished Scholarship Award and the Preston E. James Eminent Latin Americanist Career Award from the Conference of Latin American Geographers for his Mexican borderland studies. He is also the recipient of Ethnic Geography Distinguished Scholar from the Ethnic Geography Specialty Group of the AAG, and Distinguished Lecturer from the Historical Geography Specialty Group of the AAG. Daniel is the author of seven books including *Tejano South Texas* (2002) and *Postcards from the Baja California Border* (2021), both received awards from the American Association of Geographers. The latter book was selected by Smithsonian Magazine as one of the ten best books about travel in 2021.

Susan Arreola is a former research planner for the City of Phoenix who has a Ph.D. in urban geography from Arizona State University (2002). She taught for more than a decade as an adjunct faculty at ASU and Scottsdale Community College. Susan served as an officer and board member for *Jardineros de Placitas* and board member at PCL.

For the past decade, Dan and Susan have been living up to their retirement motto, "See this world before the next," traveling to places near and far courtesy of Viking Ocean and River Cruises and Road Scholar.



**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*

**APRIL 5** with The Albuquerque  
Astronomical Society (TAAS)

**PLACITAS STAR  
PARTY & STAR TALK**

*Event begins at 6 PM*

**PCL's Spring Star Party will be April 5, beginning at 6 PM with Solar viewing.** At 7 PM, The Albuquerque Astronomical Society's (TAAS) own Star Master will teach us about the multitude of celestial objects which will be in view that night: the First Quarter Moon, the planets Uranus, Jupiter, and Mars, the bright stars Sirius, Procyon, Rigel, Betelgeuse, Regulus, Capella, and Arcturus, and a number of open and globular star clusters. By then, the sky will be dark and the stars will have begun to show themselves. 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 between the ages of ages 1 day and 120 years, so bring your family, friends, and your 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. Please have only parking lights on as you come into the parking lot. PCL's magnificent "Parking Jedis" 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. 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.

For more information, see [www.taas.org](http://www.taas.org), [www.placitaslibrary.com](http://www.placitaslibrary.com), call (505) 867-3355 or email [taas@taas.org](mailto:taas@taas.org). We look forward to seeing you and the stars on Saturday, April 5 at 6 PM or later.



**PCL will host a talk about "the adventure of a lifetime" on April 26 at 2 PM.** In 1997, Dennis Bumgarner and his son, Jon, rode their bicycles 3,196 miles over the course of thirty-two days, from the Pacific Ocean at Dillon Beach, California to the Atlantic at Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Over the Sierra Nevada Mountains, across the Great Basin, traversing the Rockies, across the plains and over the Appalachians and on to the eastern seaboard, the ride taxed their stamina, both physical and emotional. During this informal program, Dennis will recount this adventure.

Dennis has been a resident of Placitas for eleven years, relocating here with his wife, Lee, from Indiana. He maintains a private psychotherapy practice in Placitas and is vice-chair of PCL. He continues to ride his road and mountain bikes through the splendor of the New Mexican landscape, although not typically 100 miles a day!



### **New Mexico's Wild, Native Bees**

Did you know that bees pollinate about 75% of all fruits and vegetables grown in the US? And with the issue of colony collapse with the semi-domesticated European honey bees, NM's mostly solitary, wild, native bees are more important than ever!

*"More than 4,000 species of native bees occur in the US, classified into 6 major families (although there are more elsewhere in the world). Representatives of most of the US families are found in New Mexico..."*

(1) NM's native bees tend to be solitary, and nest and brood alone or by forming small colonies in the ground. "New Mexico State University and the Natural Resources Conservation Service's NM Plant Materials Center [an Agency of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA)] are collaborating in testing more than 200 species of (mostly native) plants for their survival, ease of cultivation, and ability to attract and sustain pollinators and other beneficial insects."

For those who want to enhance their gardens for our NM native bee pollinators, consider:

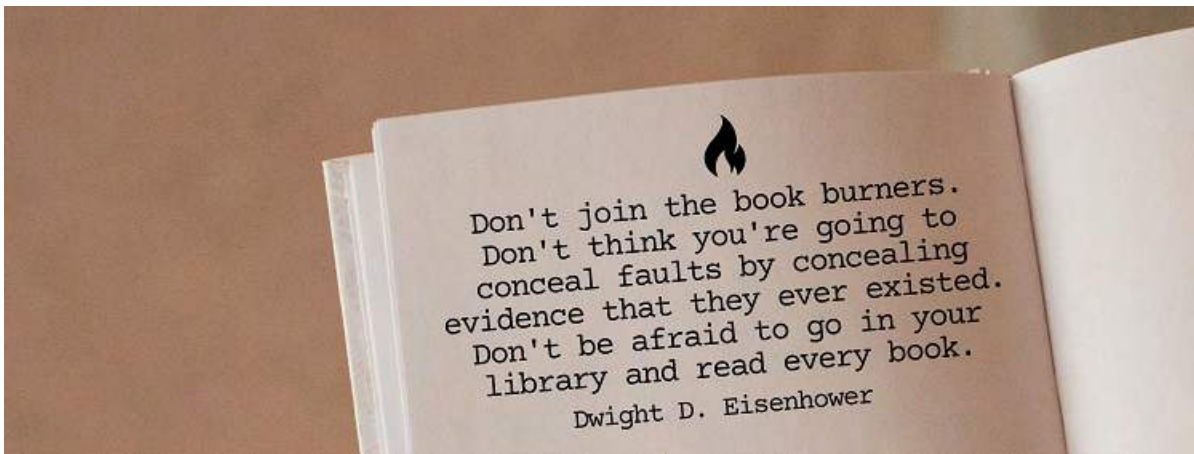
1. Adding a water source – a shallow dish filled with small pebbles (for safe landing) to access water
2. Leaving bare soil that remains undisturbed all year, and making "bee houses" (commercially available or homemade) with hollow stems and holes available to the bees [details can be found in reference (1) below]
3. Mulching with composted materials, rather than wood chips – the bees can access the soil with composted materials, and you add nutrients to the soil at the same time
4. Planting native NM shrubs, perennials, and annuals recommended for pollinators by [USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) (2)
5. Practicing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles and not spraying flowering plants when pollinators are active

Happy gardening!

(1) *Pocket Guide to the Native Bees of New Mexico* by Tessa R. Grasswitz, New Mexico State University, Agricultural Science Center, Los Lunas, NM, David R. Dreesen, Natural Resources Conservation Service Plant Materials Center, Los Lunas, NM [accessed 1/20/25]

(2) *PLANT MATERIALS TECHNICAL NOTE NO. 71 (Final Revision), Pollinator Plant Recommendations for New Mexico* by David R. Dreesen, Agronomist/Horticulturist Los Lunas Plant Materials Center, Tessa R. Grasswitz, Assistant Professor, Urban/Small Farms IPM Specialist New Mexico State University, March 2015 [accessed 1/20/25]





### **Abstract Expressions**

Exhibition: March 8 - April 9

Artists' Reception: March 21 at 5 PM

Dive into a realm where boundaries blur, and colors, lines, and shapes speak louder than words. Thirty New Mexico artistic visionaries working in a variety of media provide PCL visitors an opportunity to experience their raw, unfiltered thoughts and emotions.

This unique, vibrant exhibit in the library's Gracie Lee Community Room and the Ross Reading Room offers a journey into the depths of abstraction. Expect the unexpected, and let art awaken your imagination. The public is also invited to a reception on Friday, March 21 from 5-6:30 PM where the artists will be present and available to answer questions about their work.

All works will be available for sale and a portion of sales will, as always, benefit the library.

*Images: "Outburst" by Janet Bothene, "Square Peg" by Gail Sacharczuk, and "Ignition" by Kyle Hollingsworth*



Stairway To Heaven © Mary Lou Skelton

28th ANNUAL

# Placitas STUDIO TOUR

Mother's Day Weekend

May 9-11, 2025

10am - 5pm

[PlacitasStudioTour.org](http://PlacitasStudioTour.org)

### **Placitas Studio Tour Preview Exhibition**

Exhibition: April 15 – May 11

28th Annual Placitas Studio Tour: May 9, 10 & 11

Due to the overwhelming success of the 28th Annual Placitas Studio Tour, the tour is now a three-day event, starting on Friday, May 9, through Mother's Day Sunday, May 11. In collaboration with PCL, the Placitas Studio Tour Preview Exhibit will be on display in the Gracie Lee Community Room from April 15–May 11. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

The exhibit will feature a piece of art from each of the 78 artists in a wide variety of mediums. Art pieces in glass, mixed-medium, steel, photography, ceramics, jewelry, collage, wood, fiber, paintings, and sculpture will be for on display and for sale.

For more information on the Placitas Studio Tour visit the tour's Facebook page or its website at [www.placitasstudiotour.org](http://www.placitasstudiotour.org).



**Sunday, March 9 & 16 (2 PM)**

*Create to the Music*

Join us for two action-packed Sundays of percussion with Pam and Peter Colton, percussionists from the Placitas Drumming Group, and with Shelley Miller, visual artist/art teacher. Children will learn to listen to percussion instruments, explore movement to the music, practice rhythms, and discover their own rhythm. They will also create their own percussion instrument and play it in a concert to conclude the session. All materials are provided by the library. The Placitas Artists Series is once again sponsoring this program. Many thanks to this extraordinary organization!

**Tuesday, March 11 (10 AM)**

*Pre-K Story Time for infants - 5: Stories the Wind Tells Us*

Children will make their own windsock! Be sure to pick up your copy of March reading tips to help your children while they are learning to learn to read. Also pick up an application to receive a free children's book from the Dolly Parton Foundation monthly.

**Sunday, March 23 (1 PM)**

*Wildlife Program: Let's Make Tracks* with Elise Van Arsdale

Elise has presented many programs to 4th graders at Placitas Elementary. Learn to identify various wildlife tracks with several fun activities, then design your own wildlife tracks on a t-shirt. In order to do this, parents need to RSVP [nntimmons@comcast.net](mailto:nntimmons@comcast.net) to let us know how many children are attending, and the size of the t-shirts you need: *small, medium, or large*. Please respond by March 15. All materials will be provided by Elise and the library.

**Tuesday, April 8 (10 AM)**

*Pre-K Story Time for ages infant - 5:* We are still working on the theme. Watch your email for information.\*

**Sunday, April 27 (1 PM)**

*Making a Sun Print:* This activity will be led by Ginnie Kirsch. Again, check your email in March for information.\*

*\*If you wish to be added to our email list, please send your info to [nntimmons@comcast.net](mailto:nntimmons@comcast.net). We are also making big plans for our Summer Reading Program, Color Our World. There will be visiting artists with fun and creative art programs, a children's author, and a comedy show to start off your summer plus a reading challenge with prizes. Don't miss out on future announcements!*



The  
PLACITAS Community LIBRARY

Children's Committee

invites you to



Create  
to the MUSIC

Two Sundays at 2 PM  
March 9 and 16

Create to the Music with TWO  
action-packed Sundays of percussion with:

Pam & Peter Colton, percussionists and founders  
of the Placitas Drumming Group, and Shelley  
Miller, visual artist/art teacher.

Mar 9: learn about percussion instruments with  
a focus on drums. Learn how to listen to  
percussion instruments and explore movement  
to the music. Practice rhythms,  
as well as discover your own rhythm.

Mar 16: create a percussion instrument! Class  
will conclude by participating in a concert  
using your newly created instruments!

All materials will be  
provided by the library,  
with special thanks to the  
Placitas Artists Series  
for their continued  
and generous support.

This program is  
provided by

The  
Placitas  
Artists  
Series

*Come march to the  
beat of your own drum!*

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The  
PLACITAS Community LIBRARY  
Children's Committee

PREK ages infant-five  
STORY HOUR

invites you to attend

# Stories the Wind Tells Us

TUES / MAR 11 / 10 AM

S T O R Y

**ACTIVITY:**  
Make your own windsock!

**FEATURED BOOKS:**



**SNACKS, TOO!**

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The  
PLACITAS Community LIBRARY  
Children's Committee

invites you to

# LET'S MAKE TRACKS:

## Identifying Animals by Their Footprints

with Elise Van Arsdale  
Sun, Mar 23 at 1:00

Follow the tracks to the library  
as Elise leads you through several fun and creative  
activities to help identify wildlife footprints!

**\*\*\*VERY IMPORTANT\*\*\***

After learning about various mammals,  
kids will decorate a T-shirt with animal tracks.

RSVP by **MAR 15** to [nntimmons@comcast.net](mailto:nntimmons@comcast.net)

Include your child's full name and t-shirt size (S/M/L).  
Shirts will be white and we'll use fabric markers to color.  
All materials will be provided by Elise and PCL.

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# CHILDREN'S BOOK NEWS

By Nancy Guist  
Children's Collection Coordinator



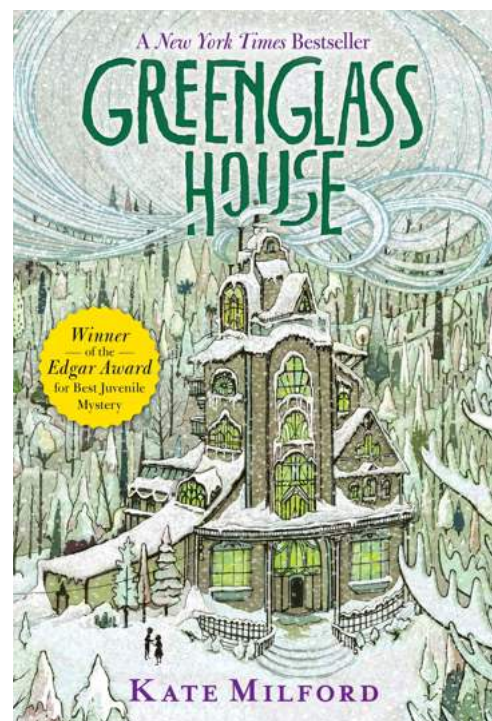
## ***Greenglass House***

by Kate Milford

Suggested ages: 10–12 years

*Greenglass House* was a winner of the Edgar Award for Best Juvenile Mystery in 2015. Since then, four more *Greenglass House* books have been published, each welcomed by *Greenglass House* fans.

The mystery tucked into the first *Greenglass House* book is entwined with the house's history. It is an inn in the days of smugglers set in the imaginary town of Nagspeake. Milo, the innkeepers' adopted son, is looking forward to sharing a leisurely Christmas vacation with his parents at the inn. However, soon after he arrives, five mysterious guests check into the inn and suddenly questions and puzzlements abound. What is the reason for each of their stays which appear to be connected to the history of *Greenglass House*? The mystery deepens when items belonging to each of the guests begin to go missing.



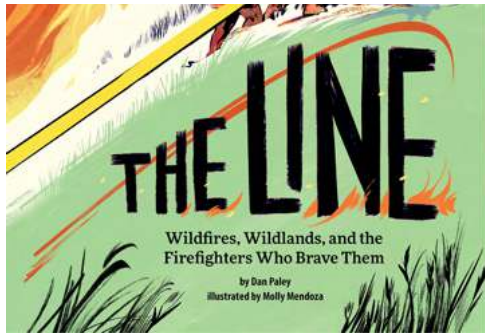
Milo, along with the cook's daughter, Meddy, immerse themselves in the "game" as they take on imaginary roles, attempting to uncover the background of each guest along with the location of the disappearing objects. Misleading clues keep the reader guessing as to the true nature of each visitor. Besides searching for the answers to the mysteries, Milo gradually discovers a confidence and contentment that had earlier escaped him. Finally, the book's end, with an unexpected reveal, will motivate young readers to read *Ghosts of Greenglass House*, the next in the series.



## ***They Hold the Line: Wildfires, Wildlands, and the Firefighters Who Brave Them***

by Dan Paley, illustrated by Molly Mendoza

Suggested ages: 8–12 years



This is a timely book for young people, as fires have raged in California recently. Wildfires are very much a threat in our own New Mexico as well. *They Hold the Line*, a well-researched and detailed book, is a valuable tool for understanding how firefighters today approach fighting the wildfires that seem to have become more prevalent in the west.

Highlighted are the numerous roles that those that fight fires play – the dispatcher, smokejumpers, pilots, swamper, handcrews, sawyers, and the burn boss. Illustrated are the varied tools used in attempting to control fires – a rhino, shovel, McLeod, Pulaski, combi-tool, chain saw, and more. The various proven methods for controlling wildfires are detailed through words and pictures. Throughout, scientific principles and explanations are provided which support the firefighters' actions.

The book's powerful and detailed illustrations in reds, oranges, and yellows provide invaluable support to the text. The book's final pages include information on fire ecology, history of fire management, and the new approach now taken. Finally, the book closes with "10 Standard Firefighting Orders" and "18 Watch Out Situations," illustrated pictorially and verbally.

In the author's note, Paley relates how he and his sons in Southern California stood on their home's front step watching the Holy Fire in 2018 on a distant ridge. He recalls his sons asking, "Who protects us from those fires?" Paley states, "This book is an answer to that complicated question."

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## **Little Shrew**

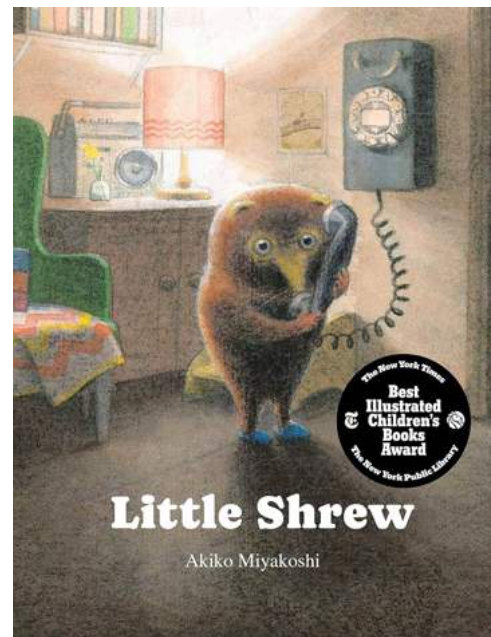
**words and illustrations by Akiko Miyakoshi**

**Suggested ages: 4-8 years**

From the first pages, the young reader is immediately drawn into the quiet, calm life of Little Shrew. In "Little Shrew's Day," one shares in his daily routines as he prepares for work, followed by glimpses of his day at the office, and ending with his weekly chores once home. With a splash of color among the many gray penciled illustrations, a happy surprise is revealed as Little Shrew solves his Rubik's Cube for the first time!

The second story, "Little Shrew's Dream," tells of Little Shrew's magical discoveries as he becomes engrossed in his newly obtained TV from a garage sale. Finally, in "Little Shrew's Friends," one sees his joyful preparations for his two friends' visit followed by the endearing companionship which the three enjoy.

This is a charming book which highlights the small precious moments in life which we all experience. Routines can bring comfort and contentment but within these patterns one also can discover joy in the unexpected. *Little Shrew* is one of our many Early Chapter Books.



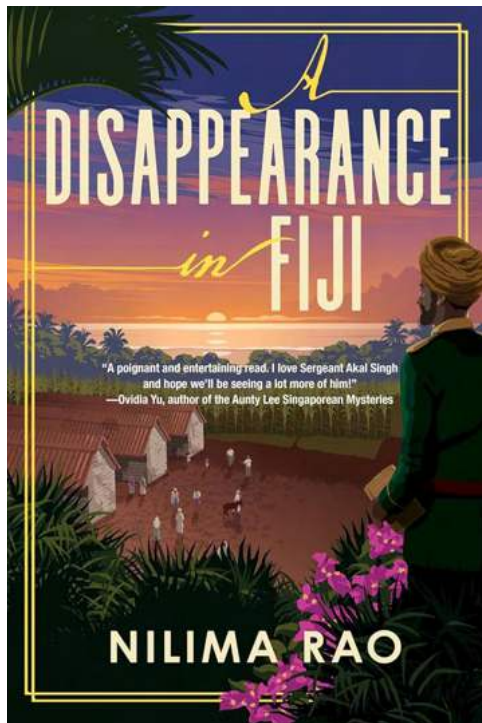
# Susanne's Selections

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).



## *A Disappearance in Fiji* by Nilima Rao

It's 1914 and 25-year-old Akal Singh has been reassigned to Fiji from his respected position as a police sergeant with a promising career in Hong Kong for committing a mistake in carrying out his duties. He hopes to rectify this by quickly and successfully solving future cases. He hopes he can return to Hong Kong with his reputation restored. Unfortunately, unlike his previous boss, his new boss is unhelpful and patronizing. Singh is assigned a minor case (deemed minor by his commanding British officer), which turns out to be both alarming and complex. Kunti, a young woman who is an indentured plantation worker, has disappeared. Curiously, at the same time of her disappearance, the white Australian overseer of the sugar cane plantation also disappeared.

Singh is hindered in his investigation by his boss and other police officials, who are prejudiced by the effects created by colonialism's deep-rooted distrust and patronizing attitudes

towards non-whites, which includes indentured workers, Indians like himself, and native Fijians. Being a Sikh and Indian is a double whammy! An engaging historical mystery, it candidly delves into the exploitation of labor by the British in their colonies and illuminates the results of cultural ignorance and indifference. *"The Indian indentured servitude program has been established under British rule and came into its own after slavery was abolished in the British Empire. Under this program, Indians were sent all over the world, to places like Trinidad, Jamaica and Mauritius."* It was a popular way to import cheap labor. From 1879 to 1916, over sixty thousand Indians went to Fiji as indentured servants. Half of them returned to India after their contracts ended. The author's great-grandparents were part of the thirty thousand who stayed.

An immensely enjoyable read, I look forward to reading the next book in the series Rao has planned.



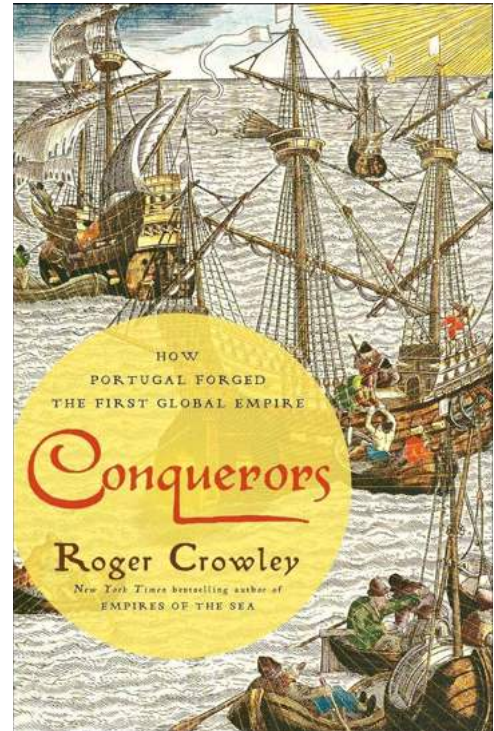
Nilima Rao is a Fijian Indian Australian. She states in the "Author's Note" section of her book she was born in Fiji, is of Indian heritage, and grew up in Australia.

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## Conquerors: How Portugal Forged the First Global Empire

by Roger Crowley

A riveting and enlightening narrative, *Conquerors* describes the incredible accomplishments of the Portuguese beginning with their expansion in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans between 1415 to 1520, and the global trading monopoly they created stretching from Brazil to China, which lasted into the 17th century. Portugal was a small, impoverished nation who through determination, ingenuity, might, and a combination of technology in ship faring and weaponry which exceeded anything the Muslim, European, or Indian world possessed, transformed this backwater country into a powerful commercial dominance by land and by sea. Crowley chronicles how Portugal gained control of the maritime trade routes that brought the highly sought after riches of Asia and Africa, specifically spices, silks, and gold, to Europe. The Portuguese also extended their reach to Japan, China, and the Philippines.



In 1503, command of the Indian Ocean was given to Afonso de Albuquerque, who was primarily responsible for creating the Portuguese supremacy. Albuquerque was eminently experienced having “*fought the Ottoman Turks in Italy, the Arabs in North Africa, and the Castilians in Portugal.*” The gripping account details how he was shipwrecked, imprisoned, and poisoned during his exploits. He spent nine years in the Indian Ocean, then was recalled by his enemies at court. Devastated, he died in 1515. Albuquerque’s legacy was a Portuguese Empire that predated British, Dutch, and French colonial plans in Africa and Asia, and outlasted the British Raj in India and Africa.

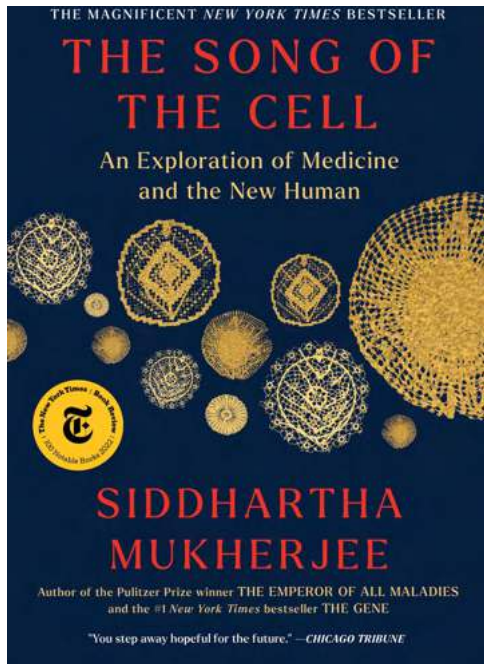
While Christopher Columbus garnered notoriety for exploration of the Americas in the West, Crowley describes how Portugal’s success was achieved by traveling to the East. A fascinating story, Crowley vividly recounts the diverse cultures the Portuguese encountered and dealt with, such as the Hindus, Mamluks, and Muslims, how trading posts were established to secure control of local regions, and the political climate at the time.

According to Smithsonian Journeys website, "Roger Crowley is a UK-based writer and historian and a graduate of Cambridge University. As the child of a naval family, his fascination with the Mediterranean world and its surrounding area started early, on the island of Malta. He has lived in Istanbul, walked across much of western Turkey, and travelled throughout the region over many years – from Spain and Portugal to the Black Sea. His particular interests are the Portuguese, Byzantine, Venetian, and Ottoman empires, seafaring, and eyewitness history. He is the author of five much acclaimed books: *1453: The Holy War for Constantinople*, *Empires of the Sea*, *City of Fortune: How Venice Ruled the Seas*, *Conquerors: How Portugal Forged the First Global Empire*, and most recently, *The Accursed Tower: The Fall of Acre and the End of the Crusades.*"

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"Audacious . . . mesmerizing . . . reliably engaging . . . Mukherjee enthusiastically instructs and delights." —THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

*The Song of the Cell: An Exploration of*




## Medicine and the New Human by Siddhartha Mukherjee

Mukherjee, the celebrated author, oncologist, cell biologist, immunologist, and hematologist has done it again. His latest book is a brilliant, engaging, illuminating, and easy to read, accessible book for a wide audience including readers not well versed in science or medicine, scientists, and physicians. It's about the emerging field of cell therapy and cellular science, and the immune system. By using a narrative full of analogies, metaphors, and personal stories from discussing his father's illness and subsequent death, to real patients' experiences, readers can relate and appreciate the content.

In addition, he chronicles how historically our understanding of medicine has evolved and how past discoveries have proven to be gateways to current discoveries and concepts. For instance, he discusses how the microscope, invented in the 16th century made possible the discovery of the cell decades later, and how cellular science in the future can use that knowledge to create new humans. By creating new humans, he means by using cellular engineering and cell therapy to create treatments for people with devastating diseases such as cancer and diabetes. Bone marrow transplantation, already in use, is an example.

This is the third book in what Mukherjee now calls his trilogy, the other two notable books being the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Emperor of All Maladies* and *The Gene*. As with his other books, I could not put down this phenomenal book.




**Sandoval  
County  
Historical  
Society  
& Museum**

160 Edmund Road, Bernalillo, NM 87004  
[www.sc-hsm.org](http://www.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.


505.867.2755  
[info@sc-hsm.org](mailto:info@sc-hsm.org)


**SUNDAY MAR. 9, 2025 @ 2 PM**



**THE PROCESS OF PAINTING RETABLOS**  
*Presented by Andrew Montoya*

Andrew Montoya is an award-winning artist born and raised in Santa Fe. He was mentored by his aunt, world-renowned artist Arlene Cisneros Sena. Montoya spent his summers painting and learning about saints and devotional art. At age 14, Andrew entered his first piece in youth Spanish Market, earning the Bienvenidos Award for first-time showing artists.





Montoya has won numerous awards in the Adult category of Spanish Market since age 19, and believes in giving back to the community by donating his art for worthy causes.

Learn more about Andrew:  
[www.sagradoartco.com](http://www.sagradoartco.com)

**FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**





# Sandoval County Historical Society & Museum

160 Edmund Road, Bernalillo, NM 87004  
[www.sc-hsm.org](http://www.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.

505.867.2755  
[info@sc-hsm.org](mailto:info@sc-hsm.org)

SUNDAY APR. 13, 2025 @ 2 PM

## DISCOVER YOUR ANCESTORS

**PLEASE NOTE: Open ONLY to SCHS&M Members\*\***  
**\*\*To join SCHS&M, go to our website: [www.sc-hsm.org](http://www.sc-hsm.org)**

**D**o you need help getting started with discovering your ancestors? If yes, please join us for a special **members only** event at Sandoval County Historical Society & Museum, where April is Family Research Month!\*

**This is how we will help you start your journey—Please bring whatever info you have (photos, maps, documents) to help get you organized:**

- Navigating Genealogy Websites
- Learning How to Scan Records with Your Mobile Phone or Tablet
- Understanding DNA information
- Assistance in Organizing Your information Already Collected
- Accessing Census Records
- Researching Family Members in the Military

\*There will be a follow-up session every Tuesday throughout the month of April at 9:30 depending on need.



For more events and details, visit <https://sc-hsm.org>

### HOURS

Tuesday	10 – 7
Wednesday	10 – 5
Thursday	10 – 5
Saturday	10 – 5
Sunday	1 – 4

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