

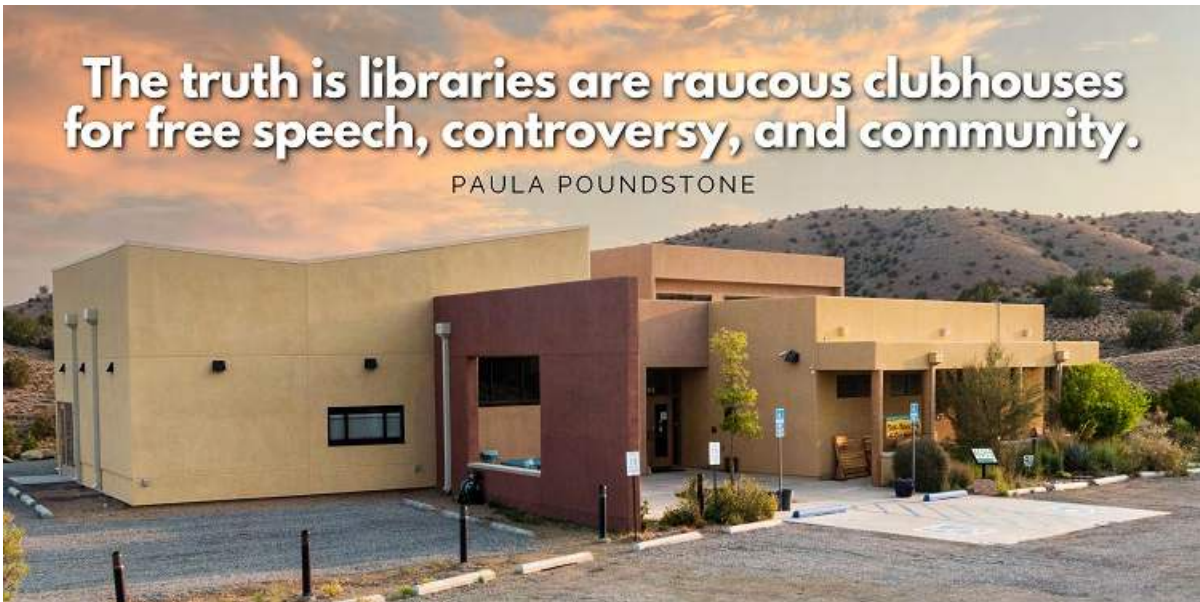
# PLACITAS *Community* LIBRARY



## NEWSLETTER MAY/JUNE 2025

The truth is libraries are raucous clubhouses  
for free speech, controversy, and community.

PAULA POUNDSTONE



### **PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY HOURS**

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

## ADULT PROGRAMS

- **MAY 2 (5:30 PM):** *Dance Out!*
  - **MAY 17 (2 PM):** *Talking With Family About Money is Hard: How Can We Make It Easier?* with Kelley and Ric Tredwin of Altalune
  - **MAY 17 (2 PM):** *Fun Recipes for Fitness, Aging, and Mental Wellness*, a panel discussion with Jim Delongchamp, Herb Koffler, M.D., Susan Harper, Jake Barkdoll, and Geo Wrenn
  - **MAY 24 (2 PM):** *Exploring Cannabis for Wellness* with Kelly Butterman
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## ARTISTS RECEPTIONS & EXHIBITS

- **Through MAY 11:** Placitas Studio Tour Preview Exhibition
  - **MAY 23 (5 PM):** Artists' Reception: *Operation Art – A Salute to Veteran Artists* (exhibit runs 5/13 –6/12)
  - **JUNE 27 (5 PM):** Artists' Reception: *Assemblage* (submissions accepted through 5/13; exhibit runs 6/14 –7/17)
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## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

### MAY

- **TUES, MAY 13 (10 AM):** *Pre-K Story Time* for ages infant – 5. Books we will read are *Birds* by Kevin Henkes and *A Home for Bird* by Phillip Stead. Children will make a nest from a small paper bag, twigs, grasses, and yarn.
- **SUN, MAY 18 (1 PM):** Summer Reading Party Kick-Off, *Color Our World*. This summer will be all about art with lots of creative projects. Learn all about these activities, register for the Summer Reading Challenge, and receive a new book of your choice. Special guest is Ziggy Prothro from the New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies, who will teach your children a Native American game called Ginebig: The Snake Game.

### JUNE: 2025 SUMMER READING PROGRAM, *COLOR OUR WORLD*

*All dates are on Saturdays from 1–3 PM*

- **JUNE 7 – Art Theft:** A dog comedy starring Joey and Kira, Denise Gard's famous border collies. When the Mona Lisa is stolen from the Louvre, Detective Joey must track down the famous painting. Will he save the painting from being destroyed or will he fall in love with the beautiful thief? Dog tricks, L'Amour, and art abound in this program for all ages.
- **JUNE 14 – Wet Felting Workshop:** Using fuzzy-colored wool pieces referred to as roving, along with soapy water, children will create individual art pieces to take home.
- **JUNE 21:** Make kaleidoscopes with Placitas mosaic artist, Laura Robbins. This is sure to be a fun and creative activity!
- **JUNE 28:** Join Daniel Vendever, storyteller, children's author, and Illustrator. Daniel is a high-energy, interactive, and super engaging award-winning Navajo author and illustrator.

Summer Reading Program continues in July!

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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!



### Vision and Mission

Placitas Community Library's (PCL's) motto is "Una Placita Para Todos – A Place for Everyone." In keeping with our motto, PCL continues to grow and blossom. As we were working on strategic planning, the Board felt that it was time to take a look at our Vision and Mission to see if it needed to be updated. On February 1, 2025, the Board along with Lynne and Furman held a Vision Retreat facilitated by Chris Montoya, our strategic planning facilitator, to take a look at our current Vision and Mission. The vision is why we exist. The mission is our core actions to fulfill the vision.

A revised Vision and Mission resulted from the retreat and was approved by the Board at our February Board meeting.

PLACITAS *Community* LIBRARY

**VISION** In an effort to contribute to a literate and vibrant Placitas regional community, the Placitas Community Library envisions itself as a learning and social hub with a technology-forward approach to services.

**MISSION** The Placitas Community Library Mission is to foster lifelong learning, human connection, cultural inclusivity, and sustainable stewardship of library resources through its programs and services.

**MOTTO** "Una Placita Para Todos – A Place for Everyone"

*Approved by Placitas Community Library Board of Directors on February 20, 2025*

We are excited to step into the future with our revised vision and mission and to have a positive impact on the lives of everyone in our community.

## Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

IMLS was created and funded by Congress in 1996. It was reauthorized under the Clinton, George W. Bush, Obama, and Trump administrations, and has always had bipartisan support. IMLS is bound by laws requiring that the agency conduct certain activities to support libraries and report on important issues to Congress. On March 14, 2025, President Trump issued an executive order stating that seven agencies, including IMLS, be eliminated to the maximum extent of the law, and the agencies were ordered to reduce their services and personnel to the minimum amount required to perform the functions required by law. The announcement also ordered the Office of Management and Budget to reject any budget requests from IMLS (and the other six named agencies) other than the funds needed to shut down the agency. On March 21, members of the Department of Government Efficiency arrived at IMLS headquarters and sent employees home, swore in a new acting director in the lobby, and proceeded to cancel contracts and grants.

IMLS funding is 0.003% of the annual federal budget but has an enormous impact on communities nationwide and is used by public, school, academic, and special libraries to provide a wide range of services. From technology classes for jobseekers to services for people with disabilities, from library delivery for older Americans to summer reading programs for families, IMLS funding makes a real, concrete difference in the lives of American's every day.

IMLS funds are usually given to state libraries to disperse as they deem appropriate. The New Mexico State Library receives about \$1.8 M from IMLS funding. Our State Library uses IMLS funding to administer programs such as Interlibrary Loan, the El Portal online databases, the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled and rural services that include bookmobiles, books by mail, and delivery to public libraries, services that benefit all New Mexico libraries. PCL and all our patrons directly benefit from these programs administered by the State Library and funded by IMLS.

The American Library Association (ALA) is fighting for IMLS to be preserved and to continue supporting our nations' 125,000 public, school, academic, and special libraries. ALA has joined forces with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) in a lawsuit that challenges the Trump administration's gutting of IMLS.

The lawsuit asks the court to immediately block the dismantling of IMLS as directed by President Trump's executive order issued on March 14. The lawsuit argues that cutting IMLS staff and cancelling grant contracts will violate the law by eliminating programs that Congress has funded and directed IMLS to undertake. Libraries play an important role in our democracy, from preserving history to providing access to government information, advancing literacy and civic engagement, and offering access to a variety of perspectives. These values are worth defending.

If you would like more information about the effect of IMLS cuts on libraries, [PBS News Hour](#) aired a segment on this on April 1.

## Strategic Planning

Implementation of our newly approved [Strategic Plan](#) has begun in earnest with the creation of the Strategic Plan Implementation Committee. The Committee consists of the goal owners (Goal 1 and 2 – Lynne Hynes, Goal 3 – Lynnette Fields, and Goal 4 and 5 – Dennis Bumgarner and Kate Miller) and our internal coordinator, Diane Gonano, who is keeping us on track. The Implementation Committee's purpose is to oversee and facilitate the implementation of the plan. We meet monthly to assess our progress, get input from each other and plan future actions.

Progress that has been made so far:

The [strategic plan](#) has been added to the PCL website.



Goal 1: Be a communication-based information hub

Goal 2: Create a patron technology needs assessment

- Planning has begun for the physical location of a library Resource Center
- Lynne has begun researching possible databases and electronic resources to be included in the resource center. She is also evaluating our current databases and electronic resources for use and cost effectiveness.
- Lynne is going through all the strategic planning survey results to see what resources our patrons have requested

Goal 3: Streamline operational processes to grow PCL's mission services

- An ad hoc Board subcommittee (Susan Brown, Lynnette Fields, and Jillian Gonzales) has been created to look at library committee structures and guidelines
- The organization chart for the library has been updated
- Volunteers are now receiving monthly updates after each board meeting
- Creating a uniform template to be used to develop job descriptions for all committee chairs and key volunteer positions
- Creating a spreadsheet of all current PCL policies and procedures

Goal 4: Deepen the value of our reciprocal partnerships with donors and community partners

Goal 5: Enhance marketing communications

- A revised vision and mission statement was approved by the Board at the February meeting
- Are working on a prospectus
- Are creating a working list of community partners



*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, MAY 15, 6:00 PM  
THURS, JUNE 19, 6:00 PM**



Lynne's  
Letters





MESSAGE FROM  
THE DIRECTOR



***It's that time again to get your gardens ready  
and plant your seeds.***



**Our Seed Library Program can help. We have a variety of seed packets available from herbs to vegetables. Just fill out the form and you can take them home.**



**We also have a wonderful variety of gardening books that can be checked out. Here are just a few:**



**By Judith Phillips**



**By Baker H. Murrow**



**By Dave Owens**



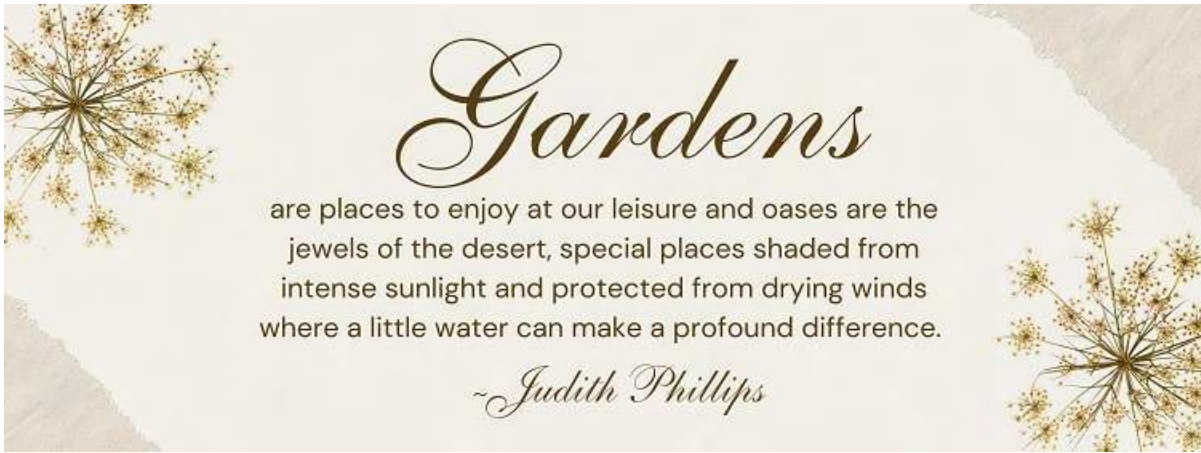
**By Judith Phillips**



Happy Gardening,

*Lynne*

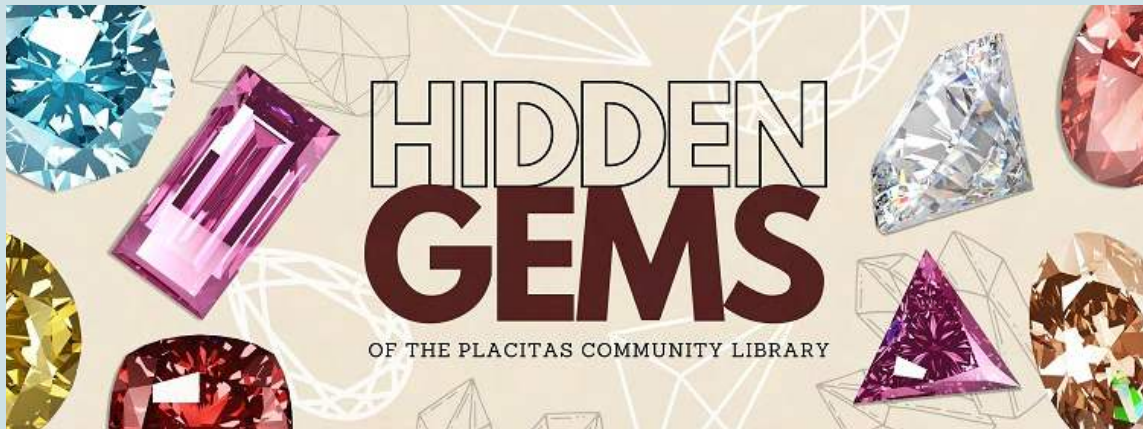




# Gardens

are places to enjoy at our leisure and oases are the jewels of the desert, special places shaded from intense sunlight and protected from drying winds where a little water can make a profound difference.

*~Judith Phillips*



## Children's Services Committee

*By Nora Timmons, Committee Coordinator*

The Children's Services Committee is responsible for developing the children's collection in the Pearl Room and for providing a variety of programs for your children. We provide a monthly pre-k program for infants and children up to 5 years on the second Tuesday of each month at 10 AM. The members read stories, create activities, and provide a snack. Every month, we have at least one—and sometimes more—family programs for primarily ages 6–11, although younger children are welcomed as well. They learn by being with the older children. During the summer, we have programs with special performers and storytellers, plus a reading challenge which provides children with an opportunity to read as many books as possible. This helps them to maintain and even increase their reading level in preparation for the next school year. We welcome public, private, and home-schooled children from any community. All programming is free thanks to many generous donors from our community and from organizations such as the Placitas Artists Series and Eastern New Mexico University.

Please consider joining us this summer for "Color Our World," a nationwide program designed by librarians from the 50 states and territories. This organization is called the Collaborative Summer Learning Program (CSLP). We will have a variety of artists and activities including a dog comedy show about the Mona Lisa, fabric arts, mosaic art, a Native American storyteller, collage art, and rock painting. Additionally, the Explora Children's Museum will visit with colorful experiments. On May 16, we will have a summer registration party with art activities. Fall programs include "All About Bees," a children's art show, and a glass art activity. We end the year with a fabulous Halloween Party and a multi-cultural holiday experience! Please visit our website for more information.

The hardworking group of volunteers who provide these excellent experiences are Ellie Blossom, Nancy Guist, Kristine Harriger, Linda Kelley, Debbie Webster, Stephanie Witkowski, and Dr. Walt Witkowski.

Each of these fabulous people bring a variety of talent and knowledge to our committee. Each is dedicated to creating interesting and educational library programs for our youngest patrons to encourage them to become lifelong readers. These volunteers are talented in the arts, music, math, and science. They are a group of “go getters” who seek out new ways of helping parents and children. Ellie Blossom is always looking for opportunities such as the Dolly Parton Foundation, which provides the opportunity for all families to receive a new book each month for their pre- school children. She has also written several grants for additional funding for our programs. Stephanie and Dr. Walt Witkowski are both chemical engineers and have created fantastic STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) activities for our summer program. Parents frequently ask for these disciplines to be highlighted in our activities. We are happy to oblige. By adding an A for art to create STEAM, we include many opportunities for children to develop artistic skills. We also have Debbie Webster who is an outstanding pre-k teacher, always creating wonderful story times, and Nancy Guist, who is a tremendous teacher. Nancy is responsible for starting this committee and developing the book collection in 2003 when the plans for a Placitas Community Library first began. She continues to handle this responsibility to this day, researching and ordering new books, writing monthly book reviews, and weeding the collection with the help of Janis Hirsh, another former elementary school teacher. Finally, every committee needs members like Linda Kelley, a former, pre-k teacher and Kristine Harriger, who are willing to do whatever is needed to carry out our programs, including setting up chairs, refreshments, and helping to clean up as well as encouraging the children. All our members enjoy working with your children, expanding their horizons, and encouraging them to read. Thank you for putting your trust in us. If any of you would like to volunteer, we would love to have you. It is not necessary to have a teaching background. If you enjoying working with children while giving them a chance to learn new ideas and have new experiences, then we welcome you.

Our committee would also like to acknowledge all the support we receive from the Board of Directors, our director Lynne Hynes, administrator Furman Kelley, Wayne Gordon, maintenance coordinator, and the library's talented Art Committee. A big thank you to all who help to publicize our programs including Pam Troutman, Kathy Kitts, Joanne Lim-Pousard, and Jenny Trujillo who makes fabulous flyers, and to Michael Wile, who makes beautiful posters from them.

We are thrilled to welcome 2 new members, Kathy Suydam, former pre-k teacher, and educator, Rose Davidson. Welcome! They have jumped right in to help make interesting and fun library programs for your children.

Thanks to all of our patrons for your support!

*Additional note from the Children's Services Committee:*

Besides recognizing the contributions of our committee members, Nora herself should be recognized for the outstanding leadership she has provided to us as volunteers and to our patrons' children and families. She has spearheaded all the fine programs that are offered for children – contacting and working with the presenters as well as organizing the events themselves, along with the committee members' support. Nora dedicates a great deal of her time to our exceptional Summer Reading Program which involves weekly programs, book give aways for children, the yearly Summer Reading Challenge, publicity and record keeping. Finally, Nora's enthusiasm along with her love for children is reflected throughout Children's Programming.



# SOCIAL JUSTICE

Artwork created by pilsupearstar 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

**¡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**

What students say about La Parranda Club de Español:

"I have been attending the meetings of the Spanish Club for several months. Typically, 15-20 students attend each Wednesday. Over the past several months, I have noticed considerable gains among them in terms of proper pronunciation, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and the ability to construct Spanish language sentences. This progress has been remarkable because most of the students had little or no knowledge of Spanish when they first started attending the classes. In my opinion, this improvement has been largely a function of Diane Shepard's exemplary teaching-related knowledge, skills, and abilities. She has well-conceived lesson plans, covers topics in a highly organized and interesting manner, and offers students constructive and non-threatening feedback on their ability to communicate in Spanish."

"I've always dreamt of becoming fluent and being able to converse in Spanish. Attending Spanish Club weekly with vocabulary, reading, conversation, and Spanish guest speakers is making all the difference in the world in my quest to become fluent! ~ Lynn Koch



**PLACITAS Community LIBRARY**

**Talking with family about money is hard**

HOW CAN WE MAKE IT EASIER?

PRESENTED BY:

**Kelley & Ric Tredwin**

It can be challenging to talk about finances with family members. This seminar provides some tools and framework for positively engaging in money conversations with your spouse, children (young or adult) or aging parents.

**MAY 17 | 2 PM**

**Join us for this PCL Board-sponsored program on May 17 from 2-4 PM.** It can be challenging to talk about finances with family members. Most of us don't have a lot of positive experiences talking about money so finding the right language, the right time and the right approach can often feel insurmountable. When we do talk about money, it can feel very uncomfortable. This seminar presented by Kelley and Ric Tredwin of Altalune provides some tools and framework for positively engaging in money conversations with your spouse, children (young or adult), or aging parents. We will address questions like:

- How do we build a shared vision and approach to money with our spouse?
- How much should we say about our financial lives to our young children?
- If we talk about our wealth, will it impact our children's motivation and drive to build their own lives?
- How do we approach our aging parents about how and where they want to live and make the best of their elder years? And do they have the money to do it?



- How do we talk to adult children about caring for parents, passing on wealth, or supporting parents as they age?
- Bring your questions and thoughts and we will dive into these necessary and sometimes challenging conversations.

**KUPR 99.9 FM**  
from the **Heart** of Placitas  
connecting communities

*The Placitas Artists Series*

**PLACITAS Community LIBRARY**

**YOU'RE INVITED TO BOOGIE AT**

**DANCE OUT!**

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

**CLUB GLCR**  
Gracie Lee Community Room  
at Placitas Community Library

**MAY 2**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**  
*JUST COME AND DANCE  
AND MOVE TO THE MUSIC!*

**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



PLACITAS *Community* LIBRARY

invites you to a panel discussion:

# Fun Recipes for Fitness, Aging, and Mental Wellness



**SAT | MAY 17 | 2 PM**

## THE PANELISTS

**JAKE BARKDOLL • JIM DELONGCHAMP • SUSAN HARPER • HERB KOFFLER • GEO WRENN**

Join this powerhouse panel that includes decorated fitness advocates and enthusiasts whose day jobs have included: educator, physician, therapeutic recreation therapist, FDA executive, and manager of personal trainers. All have been advanced professional educators in their respective fields at the collegiate level. Discussion will focus on those activities we all engage in that contribute to longevity and quality of life: all forms of exercise, diet, sleep, work, play.

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

PCL will feature a special Saturday afternoon program at 2 PM on May 17 entitled “Fun Recipes for Fitness, Aging, and Mental Wellness.” A panel discussion will include Jim Delongchamp, Herb Koffler, MD, Susan Harper, Jake Barkdoll, and Geo Wrenn, along with questions and participation by the audience. These Placitas residents call them “recipes” because, like food, not all have equal flavor and desirability! The discussion will focus on those activities in which we all engage: exercise (both physical, mental, and social), diet, sleep, work, play—all of which contribute to longevity and quality of life. Audience participation and questions are highly desirable and will include personal insights about this important topic.

The panel participants are especially noteworthy for their vitality and average age over 80! Jim

Delongchamp is a retired professional educator and lifelong fitness advocate. Herb Koffler, MD, is a retired pediatric neonatologist and regular bike rider. Susan Harper, PhD, is a retired therapeutic recreation therapist and outdoor exercise enthusiast. Jake Barkdoll, DPA, is a retired executive from the Food and Drug Administration—and a volleyball player for 70 years, holding more than 40 medals from national level competition. Geo Wrenn is an active manager of personal trainers at Defined Fitness in Enchanted Hills. All panelists have been advanced professional educators in their respective fields at college level.

The important attributes the panel will discuss are enjoyment of activities, regularity and variety of participation, habit forming, and recognizing that change in activity with age is essential. The discussion should be of interest to virtually everyone, as the approach and benefits to be gained are unique to each person.



**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*

A promotional graphic for a drumming circle. It features a central illustration of a red and yellow striped drum with two drumsticks. Surrounding the drum are various musical notes and symbols in yellow, blue, and red. The text is arranged in a circular layout around the drum.



PLACITAS Community LIBRARY

invites you to

# EXPLORING CANNABIS FOR WELLNESS

WITH KELLY BUTTERMAN

MAY 24  
2:00



*Kelly is head of education and culture at Verdes Cannabis and has over six years of study and multiple certifications from the Medical Cannabis Institute of Medical Marijuana 411. She brings science-backed insights, and current info in order to equip you with the knowledge to make informed decisions.*

Whether new to cannabis or looking to deepen understanding, join us as we learn more about the science and potential benefits of how cannabis can be used as a tool for wellness and balance, as more people explore its use for stress relief, pain management, sleep support, and overall well-being.

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

Join Kelly Buttermann, Head of Education & Culture at Verdes Cannabis on May 24 at 2 PM, for an engaging and informative presentation on how cannabis can be used as a tool for wellness and balance. As more people explore cannabis for stress relief, pain management, sleep support, and overall well-being, understanding how it interacts with the body is essential for responsible and effective use.

With over six years of dedicated study and multiple certifications from the Medical Cannabis Institute and Medical Marijuana 411, Kelly brings science-backed insights to the conversation. She continuously expands her expertise through medical cannabis conferences and monthly webinars



with leading researchers and doctors, ensuring attendees receive the most up-to-date information.

In this session, Kelly will break down how THC and CBD interact with the body's Endocannabinoid System (ECS) to regulate key functions like mood, pain perception, and sleep. She'll also provide practical guidance on choosing the right products, dosages, and consumption methods to best fit individual needs.

Whether you're new to cannabis or looking to deepen your understanding, this presentation will equip you with the knowledge to make informed decisions and explore cannabis as a natural wellness option. Don't miss this opportunity to learn and gain valuable insights into the science and benefits of cannabis.

The lyrically beautiful oak woodlands of the southwestern New Mexico foothills are visible reminders of the state's proximity to Old Mexico. In the canyons and swales of this sun-swept ranching and mining country, cottonwoods, soapberries, ashes, hackberries, and the stark, giant Arizona sycamores mark the slow fall of the land to the Pacific Basin.

*Baker H. Morrow*

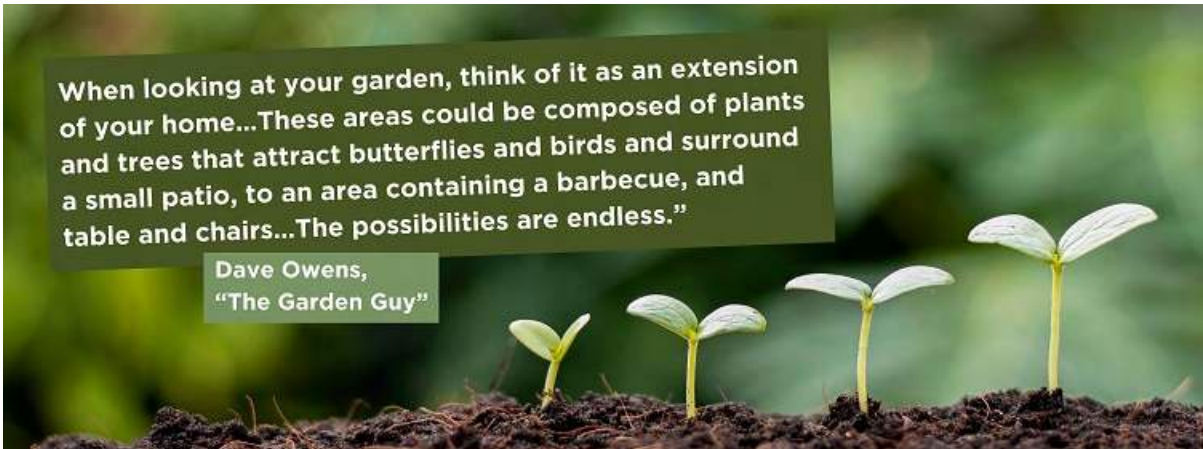


On March 15, PCL participated in a highway cleanup as part of the Jardineros de Placitas 60th anniversary celebration. A total of 60 individuals participated in the event, 21 of those participants were volunteers from the library. This was the library's first official cleanup event along its recently adopted mile of State Highway 165. The cleanup focused on eight miles of highway from mile marker one to mile marker nine. More than 800 pounds of trash were collected along the eight mile stretch of highway. A total of 99 pounds of trash were collected along the library's adopted mile alone! The cleanup was followed by a celebratory pizza party in the Gracie Lee Community Room. The library's next highway cleanup is scheduled for June. We would like to thank all the volunteers who participated in this great community event!



When looking at your garden, think of it as an extension of your home...These areas could be composed of plants and trees that attract butterflies and birds and surround a small patio, to an area containing a barbecue, and table and chairs...The possibilities are endless."

Dave Owens,  
"The Garden Guy"



FROM THE  
**LANDSCAPE & BUILDING  
MAINTENANCE COMMITTEES**

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



## What Does "Once Established" Mean in Gardening Lingo?

Have you, or will you plant some perennials, shrubs, or trees in your garden/landscape this Spring? Did you gloss over the nursery's or catalog's claim that the plant is "xeric, *once established*"? What exactly might that phrase mean, especially in Placitas? Below are some general guidelines.

### Establishment Period (1)-(3):

Perennials & Grasses 1-2 years (1 year = Fall to Fall)

Shrubs & Trees 2-3 years (longer for larger trees)

Which means, of course, that we must "baby" our newly-planted young specimens by providing more frequent water for a fairly long time before our natives/low-water plants have fully acclimated themselves to their new home. During the establishment period, consider that "...most plants, even low-water use and native plants, will benefit from a deep watering once per week, applying 1" of water each time. Establishing plants that are being hand watered should receive 3-5 gallons of water per plant once per week." (1)

Additionally though, gardening language often includes another hard to define set of instructions, that of "*water during drought periods*". This too, is difficult to put into practice. Generally, one should look for signs that the plant is stressed - wilted or scorched leaves, stunted growth, yellowing leaves, or early leaf drop. Be on the lookout for these symptoms all year long, but especially during our hot, dry Summers.

Happy gardening!

1. *Establishment: A Critically Important Concept for Keeping Your Young Plants Healthy*, <https://waterwisegardenplanner.org/blog/irrigation-for-plant-establishment/> (accessed 4/10/25)
2. *Recommended Woody Plants for Santa Fe*, City of Santa Fe Parks & Open Space, [https://santafenm.gov/media/files/public\\_works/Trees\\_Shrubs\\_and\\_Vines\\_for\\_Santa\\_Fe.pdf](https://santafenm.gov/media/files/public_works/Trees_Shrubs_and_Vines_for_Santa_Fe.pdf) (accessed 4/10/25)
3. *Recommended Trees for Santa Fe*, City of Santa Fe Parks & Open Space, [https://santafenm.gov/media/files/public\\_works/Recommended\\_Trees\\_for\\_Santa\\_Fe\\_2024.pdf](https://santafenm.gov/media/files/public_works/Recommended_Trees_for_Santa_Fe_2024.pdf) (accessed 4/10/25)



# PREVIEW EXHIBITION

APRIL 15 – MAY 11, 10AM – 5PM DAILY  
Gracie Lee Community Room



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

The 28th Annual Placitas Studio Tour features 78 artisans displaying their work in 61 studios located throughout the Placitas area. The preview exhibition will include a sample of each artist on the tour, and displayed by neighborhoods – a great way to plan your studio visits on the weekend of the event scheduled for Mother's Day weekend on Friday, May 9, Saturday, May 10 and Sunday May 11, 10 AM to 5 PM each day.

Studio Tour brochures with maps will be available at the Library, Homestead Village Merchants (The Merc, SOMA Coffee House, Wild Hearts Gallery), La Puerta Real Estate and La Estrella Event Center.



### Operation Art: A Salute to Veteran Artists

Exhibition: May 13 – June 12  
 Artists' Reception: May 23 at 5 PM

*Operation Art* highlights inspirational works by active-duty service members, Veterans, National Guard and Reserves, their spouses, and Gold Star Families. The collection spans a variety of mediums, reflecting a broad spectrum of themes and artistic expressions – shaped by the artist's unique life experiences. All 30 featured artists are members of New Mexico Veterans Art, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to supporting and showcasing the creative talents of military personnel—past and present—and their families.

The artist reception will begin with a Presentation of Colors by the Women Veteran Warriors Color Honor Guard of Albuquerque. Guests can enjoy refreshments and browse a selection of books available for purchase.

All artwork on display will be available for sale.



### Assemblage

Submissions accepted: March 14 – May 13  
 Exhibition: June 14 – July 17  
 Artists' Reception: June 27 at 5 PM

Assemblage is a technique used by artists to contribute to the overall texture and visual interest of their art and to give it a new context and aesthetic value. Unlike collage, a two-dimensional art form that combines flat images to suggest depth and explore spatial relationships, assemblage combines



actual multidimensional objects into an artistic whole, whether free standing or projecting into space from the wall.

Using everyday items, discarded materials, or natural objects, this exhibition will present work from artists that incorporate their own life experiences into a unique mixed media constructions.



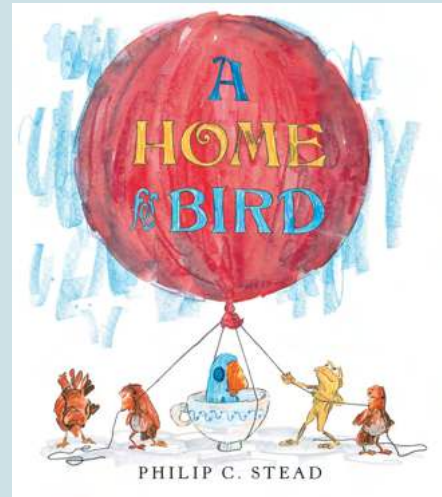
## MAY

### **TUES, MAY 13 (10 AM): Pre-K Story Time - Birds, Eggs, and Nests**

Books we will read are *Birds* by Kevin Henkes and *A Home for Bird* by Phillip Stead. Children will make a nest from a small paper bag, twigs, grasses, and yarn.

### **SUN, MAY 18 (1 PM): Summer Reading Party Kick-Off, "Color Our World"**

This summer will be all about art with lots of creative projects. Learn all about these activities, register for the Summer Reading Challenge, and receive a new book of your choice. Special guest is Ziggy Prothro from the New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies, who will teach your children a Native American game called Ginebig: The Snake Game.



## **JUNE: 2025 Summer Reading Program, "Color Our World"**

All dates are on Saturdays from 1-3 PM



**June 7 – Art Theft:** A dog comedy starring Joey and Kira, Denise Gard’s famous border collies. When the Mona Lisa is stolen from the Louvre, Detective Joey must track down the famous painting. Will he save the painting from being destroyed or will he fall in love with the beautiful thief? Dog tricks, L’Amour, and art abound in this program for all ages.

**June 14 – Wet Felting Workshop:** Using fuzzy-colored wool pieces referred to as roving, along with soapy water, children will create individual art pieces to take home.

**June 21:** Make kaleidoscopes with Placitas mosaic artist, Laura Robbins. This is sure to be a fun and creative activity!

**June 28:** Join Daniel Vendever, storyteller, children’s author, and Illustrator. Daniel is a high-energy, interactive, and super engaging award-winning Navajo author and illustrator.

Summer Reading Program continues in July!

*Children are invited to participate in a summer reading challenge as well. There will be prizes, raffles, and new books given away each week, as well as lots of reading, entertainment, and projects to keep your child engaged in learning. Summer reading helps children to maintain their reading level and INCREASE it as well. Whether your child is home-schooled or attends a public or private school, summer reading is essential. Join us this summer!*



The  
PLACITAS Community LIBRARY  
Children's Committee

PREK ages infant-five  
STORY HOUR

# BIRDS Eggs Nests



Tues | May 13 | 10 AM

## ACTIVITY

Make a bird's nest using a small paper bag, twigs, grasses, and yarn.



## BOOKS

Birds by Kevin Henkes  
A Home for Bird by Phillip Stead

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The  
PLACITAS Community LIBRARY  
Children's Committee

You're invited!

SUMMER  
READING  
PARTY!

Sun • May 18 • 1:00 PM



**LEARN** all about the upcoming summer activities.

**REGISTER** for the Summer Reading Challenge.

**RECEIVE** a **NEW BOOK** just for registering!

**REFRESHMENTS!**



**SPECIAL GUEST**

**ZIGGY PROTHRO**

*New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies*

Come and play "Ginebig: The Snake Game." Many Native American communities have their own versions of hand and stick games. Ginebig is a modern, re-imagined game, Ojibwe Snake Game. This game is played by rolling or tossing your wooden snakes, made of tree roots or twigs. Participants will learn about Native American games, play the snake game, make their own snake, and will color their own copy of the game to take home. Ziggy will also bring a selection of child friendly artifacts that kids can hold such as animal pelts, horseshoes, and arrowheads. Ziggy's son, Vincent will



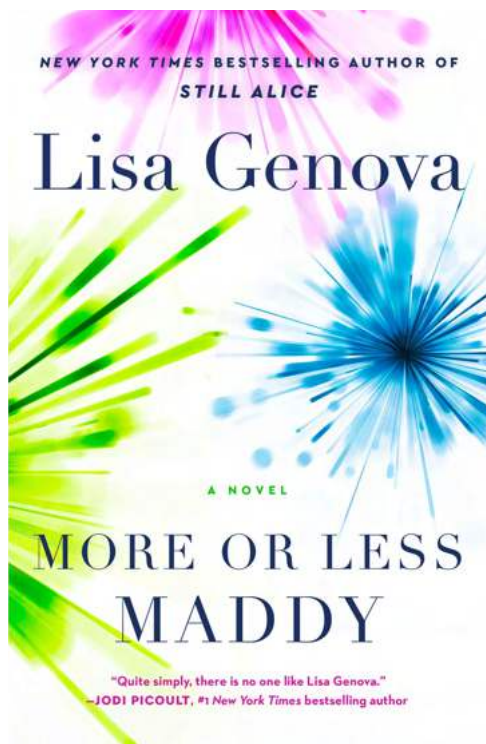
# Susanne's Selections

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).



## *More or Less Maddy* by Lisa Genova

Being a student at NYU, Maddy is overwhelmed with all of the demands of college and the unfortunate ending of her relationship with her boyfriend. When she starts taking anti-depressants to alleviate her depression, she begins to experience bouts of severe mania, goes on extravagant shopping binges and racking up credit card bills, drinking too much and thinking she is invincible. But then she experiences the inevitable crashes!

A compassionate novel about being bipolar (a mental health illness), this illuminating book discusses the challenges of managing and living with it. Genova writes with sensitivity as always, about both Maddy's struggles and strengths, and the people who learn to support and understand those struggles. All of Genova's singular novels examine diverse health issues with humanity and exceptional insight. Another outstanding novel by Genova, this is not a depressing read. On the contrary, it's encouraging, sincere, and often funny. I was completely invested in reading it.

Lisa Genova graduated as valedictorian, summa cum laude from Bates College with a degree in Biopsychology. She has a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Harvard University. Books she's authored include *Still Alice* and *Every Note Played*.

**What Does it Feel Like?**  
by Sophie Kinsella

The unforgettable novella from the No. 1 bestseller

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"What Does It Feel Like? is fiction, but it is my most autobiographical work to date. Eve's story is my story."  
~ Sophie Kinsella

Kinsella is the successful author of the very popular *Shopaholic* book series. Her new book, consisting of a mere 219 pages on LIBBY, is very different from her usual novels, although it's still humorous and filled with lots of heart. When I selected it to read, I knew nothing about it, which is often the best way to read some books. I may not have chosen it had I been aware of what it was about. As it turned out, I absolutely loved it.

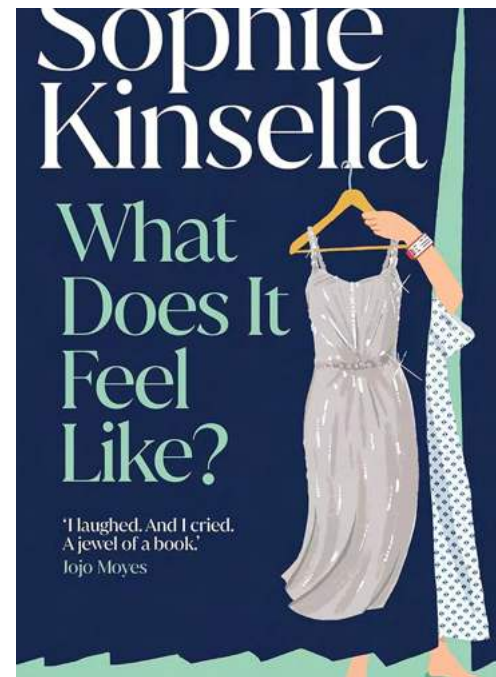
As the story opens, Eve, the protagonist, is experiencing writer's block and is bored with the usual novels she writes. However, after some soul searching, she experiences an epiphany: "Write the book you would like to read yourself. Write about the truth of life, whatever genre you're in." The new novel eventually becomes a film and Eve is overwhelmed with all the glamorous publicity and excitement surrounding it. She can hardly believe this is actually happening to her. "It feels surreal, the whole thing is just amazing and surreal." Her family is driven to a red-carpet event in a luxurious limousine, and she looks fabulous wearing a gorgeous, "magical, silvery goddess of a dress made of taupe silk and silver sequins...An Oscar winning dress." And then there are the diamond earrings and bracelet she's wearing loaned to her for the event by Boodles, a British luxury brand jewelry store!

Blessed with a devoted husband, Nick, and their five children she can't believe her luck. She says, "I've been so incredibly fortunate; it almost seems like too much luck for one person...Now I'm just waiting for my luck to run out!"

Later, waking up in the hospital, she can't recall why she is there. Nick tells her she underwent brain surgery for a malignant tumor and is diagnosed with an incurable, rare cancer, Stage 4 Glioblastoma. The rest of the story describes how Eve courageously struggles to regain mobility, speech, and memory, as she fights for survival.

Among the many reasons I admire this bittersweet book is how Eve maintains a positive outlook and demonstrates enormous strength, despite her life altering circumstances. Throughout her devastating ordeal she keeps her eye on what really matters in life, namely the simple joys in daily life such as playing Scrabble with her children and beloved, supportive husband. Heartbreaking and poignant at times, and so inspiring, you will cheer her on throughout the book. I am so glad I read this extraordinary novel.

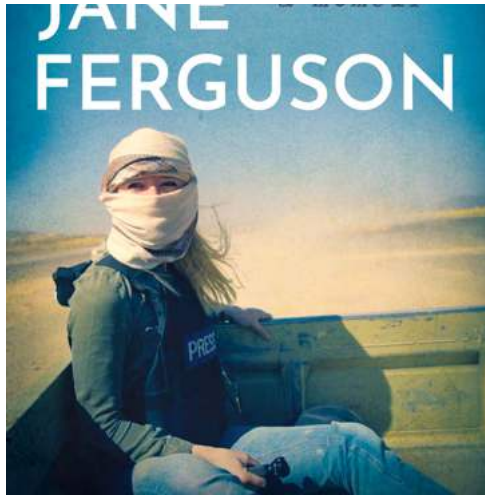
*Note:* In the autumn of 2022, Kinsella was diagnosed with a Stage 4 Glioblastoma, an aggressive and incurable form of brain cancer. The average survival time post-diagnosis is 12-18 months. She underwent an eight-hour surgery to remove the mass followed by radiation and chemotherapy, and currently is in remission. Her journey continues...



## **No Ordinary Assignment: A Memoir** by Jane Ferguson

The Irish Republican Army of Northern Ireland (IRA) fought British rule for over 400 years. The Protestant community





largely identified with British identity, while the Catholic community sought Irish nationalism. Ferguson's family, British Protestants, lived on a pig and sheep farm close to the IRA stronghold in the town of Armagh, a heavily militarized zone. Violence, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), gunfire, check points, and diverse terrorist attacks were common occurrences, along with the retaliation of the Protestant Irish inhabitants. Her parents refused to discuss the war with their family and referred to it as the "*Troubles*." Armagh was informally segregated, with the Catholics in one neighborhood and the Protestants in another.

Probably traumatized by the violence in their life, Ferguson's mother was angry, depressed, and verbally abusive. Eventually Ferguson, an outstanding student, received a full scholarship to an elite boarding school in New Jersey in the U.S. Other scholarship students attended but, "*many more came from enormous wealth and privilege, often some of the richest families in the country and wider world.*" It was a new world to Ferguson, and she tried to adapt. Meanwhile, after leaving the U.S., she worked at a chicken factory to save money for college in England. Afterwards, she went to Yemen to learn Arabic. And from there, she eventually was hired in Dubai as a journalist and her journey as a journalist/foreign correspondent began.

The intrepid Ferguson achieved her lifelong dream of becoming a journalist and making a difference. Her riveting chronicle continues with her wartime experiences. A courageous and candid account, it gave me greater understanding of what a dedicated and courageous foreign correspondent can accomplish.

From Ireland to Yemen, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Syria, there are rare war zones she hasn't covered during her fifteen years of reporting. "*Many of her reports are never in the front pages of U.S. media. She won the OPC's Peter Jennings Award in 2021 for her coverage on PBS News Hour of the fall of Afghanistan and earned an Emmy for her reporting on Yemen, in addition to a George Polk Award and an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award. When the Taliban claimed Kabul in 2021, she was one of the last Western journalists to remain at the airport as thousands of Afghans, including some of her colleagues, struggled to evacuate during that debacle, and also during Russia's 2022 Ukraine invasion.*"

This remarkable memoir is both eye-opening and informative. Above all, she sees the humanity in people – civilians and military alike. Hopefully Ferguson will write additional books.



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**SUNDAY MAY 18, 2025 @ 2 PM**

## **NATIVE AMERICAN FLUTE DEMONSTRATION & PERFORMANCE**

*by Marlon Magdalena*



Flutes found in the Americas, and more specifically the flutes of North America, have been in use for thousands of years. There are many types of flutes that were developed by the indigenous people of America. In his presentation, Marlon Magdalena will discuss the history, construction methods and different varieties of flutes that were made and used by many Native American tribes and nations. Marlon will also enlighten us on the history and different playing techniques of several types of Native American flutes.

Learn more about Marlon Magdalena @ [www.marlonmagdalena.com](http://www.marlonmagdalena.com)



**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



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**SUNDAY JUNE 22, 2025 @ 2 PM**

## **The Legacy of Anacleto Bernardo Miera y Pacheco-Patriot & Mayor**

Presented by Henrietta Christmas,  
SCHS & M Member, New Mexico Genealogical Society

Celebrate the life of Anacleto Bernardo Miera y Pacheco and his two-peso contribution to the American Revolution. Cleto Miera later became the Alcalde Mayor of the Sandia Jurisdiction. He was born in Chihuahua in 1742 and died in Las Huertas in 1813. Miera not only served his sovereign country but was a husband and father of twelve children. The Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution honor him as a patriot.

Henrietta Martinez Christmas, a native New Mexican, is a well-known genealogical and historical researcher who descends from eleven of the soldiers that came with Oñate in 1598.

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



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

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



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