

PLACITAS *Community* LIBRARY



NEWSLETTER JAN/FEB 2026



PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY WISHES YOU A

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2026



PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY HOURS

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

- **JAN 9 (5 PM):** Dance Out!
- **JAN 24 (2 PM):** How Our Lifestyle May Undermine Our Well-Being with Dr. Wendy Johnson
- **FEB 21 (2 PM):** Route 66 New Mexico: A Visual Tour with Sondra Diepen

ARTISTS' RECEPTION & EXHIBIT

- **JAN 18 (1 PM):** Artists' Reception: Judith Roderick Retrospective (exhibit runs 1/3/26 – 2/5/26)

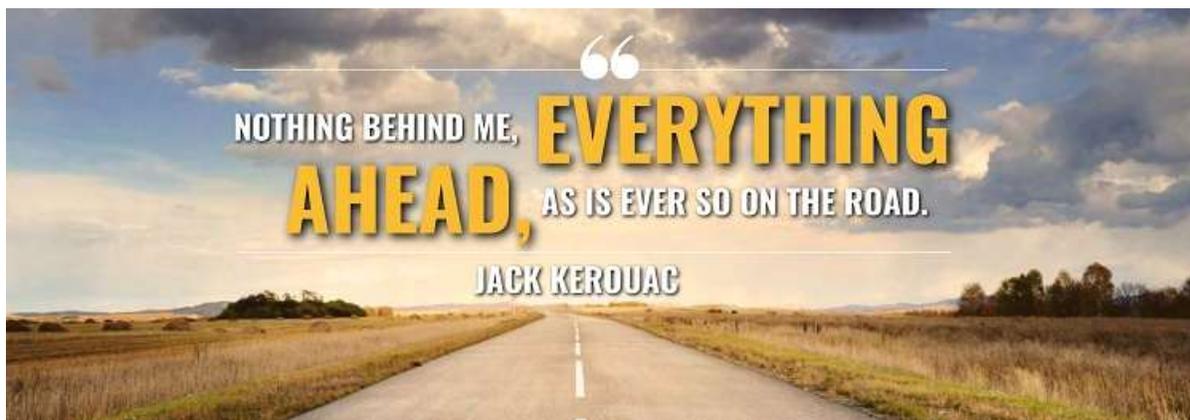
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

- **SUN, JAN 11 (2-3 PM):** Placitas author, Stephen Van Handel, will read from his newly-published book, *The Tale of Piper: The Spider Who Built Bridges*
- **TUES, JAN 13 (10 AM):** Pre-K Story Time for children through 5 years old*
- **TUES, FEB 10 (10 AM):** Pre-K Story Time for children through 5 years old*
- **SUN, FEB 8 (1-3 PM):** Placitas glass artist, Karen Melody Shatar, returns to help us celebrate Valentine's Day!

**Themes and activities to be determined and will be provided via email and the library website when finalized. If you wish to receive information about any children's program, please send your request to Nora at nntimmons@comcast.net.*

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

It's hard to believe that it's been three years since I began my tenure as Board Chair. At the January 15 Board meeting, I will be handing over the reins to the capable hands of Dennis Bumgarner. Dennis has served as Vice-Chair for the past year and previously served on the Board from 2017–2023. He has a wealth of experience and Placitas Community Library (PCL) is very fortunate to have him. He also served on the 2025–2027 Strategic Planning Committee and is eager to continue the work that has begun.

During my time as Chair, I have been blessed to have an amazing Board. They have been very supportive and have worked incredibly hard to keep PCL moving forward. It has been my pleasure to have the opportunity to serve on your Board and to be associated with such a special library. I would also like to thank all the library volunteers, staff, patrons, donors, and community members for making this a very rewarding experience for me.

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

In the May newsletter I reported that on March 14, 2025, President Trump issued an executive order eliminating IMLS and directing the Office of Management and Budget to reject any budget requests from IMLS other than the funds needed to shut down the agency. IMLS was created and funded by Congress in 1996 to support libraries and to report on important issues to Congress.

The American Library Association (ALA) immediately joined forces with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) in a lawsuit that challenged the Trump administration's gutting of IMLS.

On November 21, the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island struck down the attempt to dismantle IMLS. The decision was issued in response to a lawsuit filed by the Attorney Generals of 21 states.

On December 3, IMLS announced that it had reinstated all the agency's grants, including those to libraries and library organizations across the country. The grant reinstatements were a direct result of the November 21 federal court decision.

ALA President Sam Helmick said, "ALA welcomes the good news that IMLS is restoring all federal grants that had previously been terminated. This means that libraries across the country will be able to resume vital services for learning, imagination, and economic opportunity.

Restoration of these grants is a massive win for libraries of all kinds in all states. Every public, school, and academic library and their patrons benefit from the research findings and program outcomes from individual library and organization grantees.

We are breathing a sigh of relief, but the fight is not finished. The administration can appeal court decisions. Congress can choose to not fund IMLS in future years. ALA calls on everyone who values libraries to remind their Congressmembers and elected officials at every level why America's libraries deserve more, not fewer resources."

Strategic Planning

The 2025–2027 Strategic Plan was approved by the Board on January 16, 2025. We have made tremendous strides in our first year of implementation. This is what we have accomplished so far:

Goal 1: Create a library resource center

- Quotes were gathered for the Resource Center
- Resources to be included in the Resource Center were evaluated
- Quotes have been received for a sound booth

Goal 2: Create a patron technology needs assessment

- Current databases and electronic resources were evaluated for use and cost effectiveness
- Evaluation of new databases and electronic resources to be included in the resource center
- Strategic planning survey results were consulted to see what resources our patrons have requested

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

- An ad hoc Board subcommittee was created to evaluate library committee structures and guidelines
- The organization chart for the library was updated
- Volunteers are now receiving monthly updates after each board meeting
- A uniform template was developed for job descriptions for all committee chairs and volunteer positions
- Job descriptions have been created for all committee chair positions and volunteer positions
- Have established procedures for maintaining job descriptions
- A spreadsheet of all current PCL policies and procedures has been created
- A volunteer exit survey with procedures has been created
- A volunteer satisfaction survey has been created. This will be sent via Survey Monkey to all volunteers in January 2026.

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

- The Sustainability Committee and Appreciation Committee are exploring ways to coordinate acknowledging donors
- They are also working on a prospectus for fundraising

Goal 5: Enhance marketing communications

- A revised vision and mission statement was approved by the Board at the 2025 February Board meeting
- Work continues on identifying community partners

I would again like to express my thanks to everyone who has helped me in my six years on the PCL Board and my three years as Chair. But don't think you are getting rid of me. I look forward to continuing to volunteer at the library.

Library BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

**UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS:
THURS, JAN 15, 6:00 PM
THURS, FEB 19, 6:00 PM**

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Artwork created by pibisuperstar 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 for more information

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

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*



Lynne's Letters

MESSAGE FROM
THE DIRECTOR



We are so pleased to announce some updates and new plans for 2026:

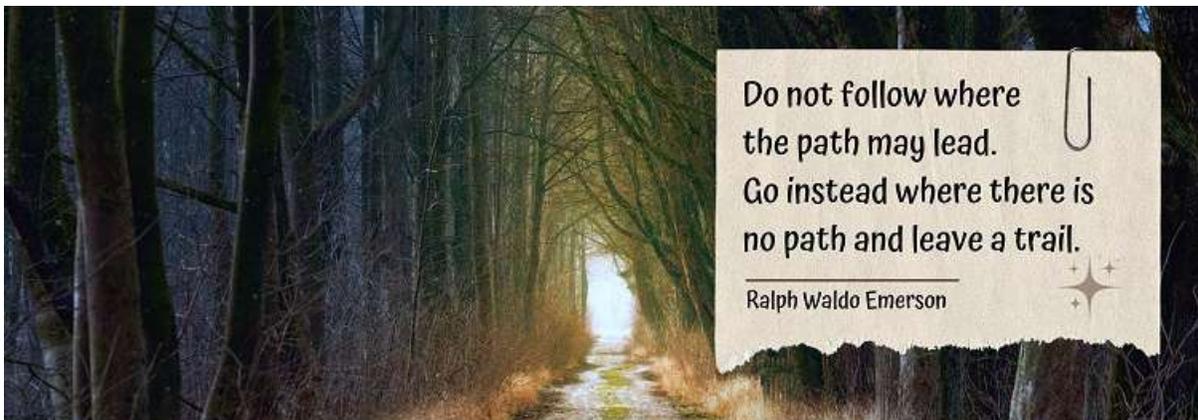
- Pearl Room children's area has a new reading rug, new shelving for our picture books, and colorful bins by subject for our board books.
- LARGE PRINT BOOKS have been moved back in the collection to make room for our Southwest/New Mexico collection and future additions to our Spanish language collection.

Coming Soon:

- New tables and chairs in the collection room and in the Collin Meeting Room.
- Sound booth in our collection room. This booth will provide a quiet work space that can be reserved for 2 hours a day. A computer will be provided or you can use your own laptop to take a class, attend a meeting via Zoom, or schedule a tele-health visit with our doctor, etc.



*Looking forward to seeing you in 2026,
Lynne*





YOU'RE INVITED TO BOOGIE AT

DANCE OUT!



FRIDAY, 1/9/26

Drop In 5:30 - 7:00 PM

CLUB GLCR

Gracie Lee Community Room
at Placitas Community Library

FEATURING:
*Music from the
PCL Playlist!*

ALL ARE WELCOME!

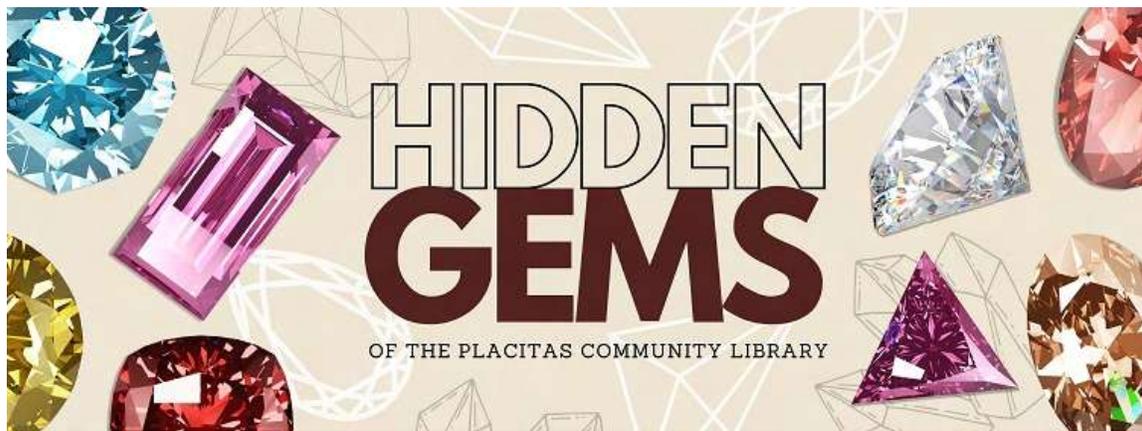
*JUST COME AND DANCE
AND MOVE TO THE MUSIC!*

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



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A Spotlight on Publicity at PCL

by Seth Betterly

PCL has always been more than a place to borrow books—it's a hub for learning, culture, and connection. Behind the scenes, the library's Publicity Team plays a vital role in making sure our community knows about the many art exhibits, programs, and events available to them. From crafting eye-catching flyers to curating social media updates, the Publicity Team works to ensure that every adult program, art exhibit, and children's program reaches the widest possible audience. Their efforts keep our patrons informed and engaged, helping the library serve as a vibrant center of community life in Placitas.

At PCL, clear and consistent communication is essential to keeping our community informed and engaged. An important tool we use to share news about programs, art exhibits, and events is the press release. A press release is an official announcement sent directly to journalists and media outlets in hopes that they will share the story with the broader public. Behind each release is a coordinated effort that helps ensure our library's activities reach as many residents as possible. Publicity at PCL is a collaborative process led by our Public Relations (PR) Coordinator, Pam Troutman, who oversees the distribution of press releases and advertising materials to regional media outlets. She also helps guide the overall "advertising" efforts for the library's events, ensuring that information is received and sent out in a timely manner, is accurate, and aligned with our mission at PCL.

The content itself is created by PR Focal Points—those within the library who are closest to the programs being promoted. These contributors typically include program coordinators from the Art, Children's, and Adult Programs Committees. Currently the PR Focal Points at PCL are Anne Frost for the Adult Programs Committee, Rebecca Cohen for the Art Committee and Nora Timmons for the Children's Committee. Each PR Focal Point provides the essential details, and the PR Coordinator ensures that these stories reach the right audiences. In addition to press releases, PCL uses "Advertising Media" to give the public a quick overview of the month's events. These materials are brief, visually appealing summaries designed for online posting or display in local businesses and community centers. They typically include key dates and titles for upcoming programs, and may incorporate photos or artwork. Examples include the monthly Sandoval Signpost ad, graphics for Facebook events, and promotional images used on the library website. Kathy Kitts and Linda Hughes maintain current and upcoming event postings on our website.

For individual events, the library creates flyers and posters that condense the main points of a press release into an easy-to-read format. These materials help communicate what the event is about, who it's for, and when it will take place. Unlike press releases, these items aren't sent to the media;

instead, they are posted in the library, shared on social media, or featured on the website. Their purpose is simple: to offer a clear, quick snapshot that encourages community participation. We are lucky at PCL to have Jenny Trujillo, who makes the beautiful flyers we see hanging in our lobby, posted around town, and online in social media.

Social media posts are another integral part of PCL's publicity strategy. These messages—shared on PCL's Facebook page, Nextdoor, and various Placitas community group Facebook pages—are built from the same information provided in press releases and flyers. Social media allows the library to reach audiences who prefer digital communication and encourages sharing within the broader Placitas community. Posts may contain text, images, graphics, or links, and they often extend the reach of our programming far beyond the library building. John Streicher is the social media coordinator for the Art Committee and Seth Betterly provides social media support for both the Children's and Adult Programs Committees.

In addition to press releases and social media posts, PCL generates a bi-monthly newsletter that is emailed to our patrons. Inside the newsletter are advertisements for upcoming events, exhibits and programs. We are grateful to have Joanne Lim-Pousard who creates the newsletter you are currently reading. The different committees also have members who distribute flyers to local businesses for message boards or who manage communications with the local elementary school. Ellie Blossom is the Children's Committee coordinator with the elementary school, and Jill Kennedy and Wanda Yazzie distribute flyers for the Adult Programs Committee throughout the community.

The library encourages residents to stay connected by reading our newsletter updates, following our social media channels, monitoring our website, and keeping an eye out for our announcements around town, in local publications, or on our PCL road sign along Highway 165. And for those interested in getting involved, the Publicity Team always welcomes volunteers who have skills—or an interest—in writing, graphic design, social media, photography, or community outreach. Publicity may happen behind the scenes, but its impact is felt throughout the library and beyond. Thanks to these dedicated volunteers, PCL continues to thrive as a space where information is shared, creativity is celebrated, and community grows stronger every day.





How Our Lifestyle May Undermine Our Well-Being

January 24 (2 PM)

On January 24 at 2 PM, Dr. Wendy Johnson will join us at PCL. Dr. Johnson is the author of *Kinship Medicine: Cultivating Interdependence to Heal the Earth and Ourselves*. Dr. Johnson will explore the premise of the book, which is that our well-being is rooted in relationship and connection—with each other and the natural world. Western medicine sees our bodies as machines to be repaired, but a more apt metaphor would be a garden; we are a part of nature. Your body itself is an ecosystem, existing inside progressively larger ecosystems, until we consider the whole earth itself. We cannot be truly healthy when those ecosystems are sick and dying.

Our modern way of living in most of the Western world is incompatible with maintaining the healthy ecosystems on which we depend. *Kinship Medicine* is aimed at raising awareness of the deep connection between our well-being and the health of the natural world. Our modern way of living is incompatible with our survival. Most of us intuitively know this truth, but most everything in our society encourages us to ignore it. Dr. Wendy Johnson confronts this undeniable fact and breaks down how we think and act every day in ways that undermine our individual and collective well-being.

Dr. Johnson is a family physician, writer, photographer, and community activist whose career includes stints scaling up HIV treatment in Mozambique, overseeing a large urban public health department, and most recently, directing a community clinic in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Her work has been published in *McSweeney's*, *The Nation*, and newspapers in Cleveland, Seattle, and Santa Fe. She spends most of her spare time cultivating and rewilding her acre and a half homestead, and writing about health justice and the intersection of human and environmental wellbeing.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Johnson on January 24 at 2 PM. Bookworks will be on hand with copies of *Kinship Medicine*.



ROUTE 66 NEW MEXICO: A Visual Tour
February 21 (2 PM)

Come celebrate this year's Route 66 Centennial with Author-Photographer Sondra Diepen who will take you on a tour of the Mother Road in the Land of Enchantment at PCL on February 21 at 2 PM.

For over ten years, Sondra followed the original maps that defined this historic highway that wound across New Mexico. Taking hundreds of color photographs, she documented locations, both those that have been abandoned and are disappearing, and those that are surviving and thriving. She captured it all—vintage trading posts and roadside attractions; diners, gas stations, and classic cars; and motor courts with neon signs that still beckon travelers to stop, rest, see the sights, and enjoy our Southwest scenery. Along the way, she interviewed old timers, collecting tall tales, true stories, and fond memories of the heydays of New Mexico's Route 66.

Culled from her treasure trove of images, stories, and adventures, Sondra will share her discoveries: where to find the snake pit near Moriarty; locate Budville, the site of an unsolved murder; drive the original Santa Fe loop; lunch at El Rancho Hotel in Gallup where Humphrey Bogart, Marilyn Monroe, and John Wayne, among 152 other famous actors stayed; and visit the original Chief Yellowhorse Trading Post in New Mexico's beautiful red rock country. Sondra's presentation offers a sampling of what you, too, can discover along the Mother Road in New Mexico.

Following her slide presentation and talk, Sondra will sign copies of her recently published book, *Route 66 New Mexico: A Visual Tour*. Featuring more than 200 color photographs and short narratives about 51 different sights and locations, the book includes simple maps to guide the adventurous off I-40 to experience still-thriving vintage businesses, charming sites, and historical remnants from the past. Whether you're an armchair traveler or a road warrior revving your engine to hit the road, *Route 66 New Mexico: A Visual Tour* can be your guide. Your adventure awaits!

About the Author-Photographer

Growing up in California, Sondra remembers her family's summer vacations, riding horses, hiking, and camping in Arizona and New Mexico. After earning her Master's in Fine Arts in painting from the University of California, Davis, she taught school and often visited New Mexico. She became a permanent Albuquerque resident in 1974.



Sondra purchased her first digital camera in 2008. Seeing the possibilities of this new technology prompted her to give up painting and became a photographer. "I wander around to see what catches my eye. I never know what I'll discover around the next bend."



Flammability of Various Garden Mulches

Mulches play an important role in NM gardens and building landscapes. Mulches help:

- Reduce evaporation, and as such plant water requirements
- Lower soil temperatures
- Reduce the occurrence of weeds
- Control soil erosion and dust
- Prevent soil compaction
- Visually enhance the garden/landscape (1)

But numerous mulches also are combustible. Which is best for our Wildfire–Urban Interface (WUI) gardens in Placitas?

There are two major studies looking at the combustibility of various types of mulches—the first was performed in 2008 by the University of California Cooperative Extension, the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, and the Carson City Fire Department (2). The second is a 2023 Mulch Flammability Study by Lin, Shaorun, et al. (3). Both these studies provide detailed information and robust recommendations for mulch use in wildfire hazard areas. Partial recommendations are as follows:

- In the 5–ft zone immediately adjacent to your home, the best mulch to use is an inorganic one (rock, brick, pavers)
- In the 5 to 30–ft zone, composted wood chips are the best mulch choice (in small “batches”) as they tend to smolder, rather than burn hot and spread rapidly
- Outside the 30–ft zone, pine needles and shredded redwood or cedar bark could be used, but not within 30 ft of any structure or combustible accessories, like fences or outdoor furniture

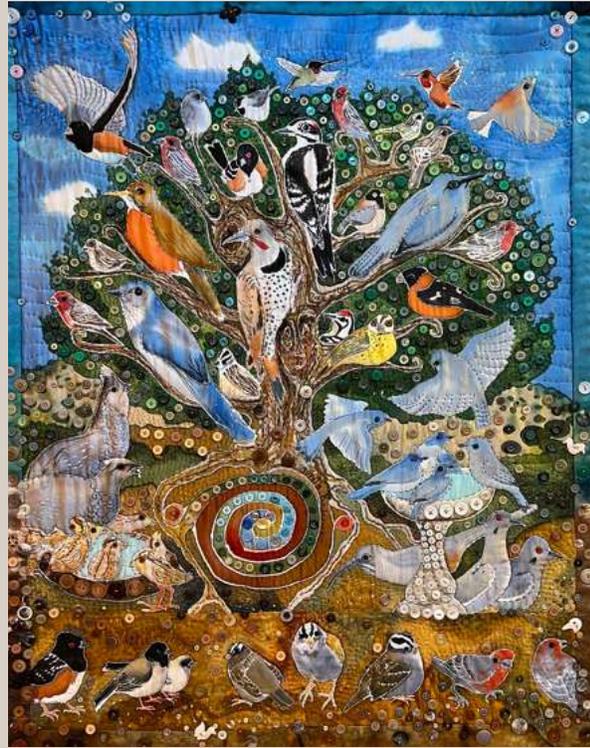
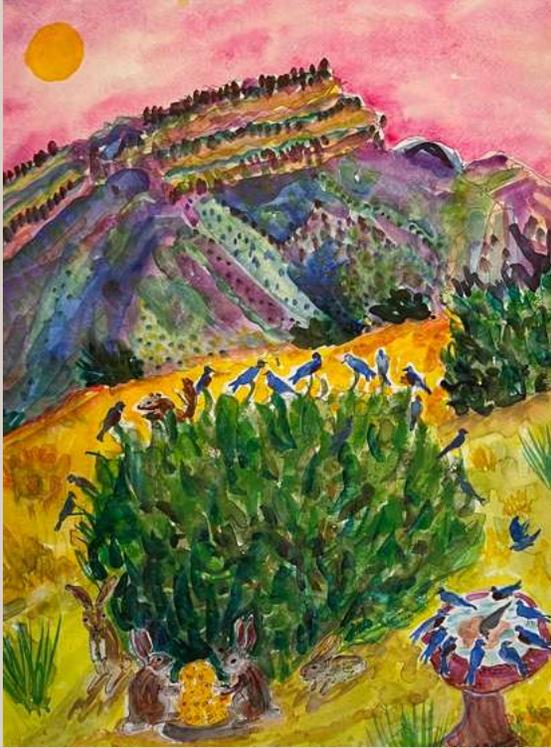
There is a great deal of additional information/recommendations on the subject of mulch combustibility/use in the WUI landscape. For those that want to research further, please see the resources below.

AND lastly, a HUGE thank you to the following for their awesome efforts during the 2–day, 30 person–hours extravaganza to install the brick edging in the West end garden—Wayne Gordon, Tim Knight, Cathy Langfeldt, Betty Vreeke, Cheryl Winter, and Walt Witkowski!

Happy gardening!

1. How to Use Fire–Resistant Mulch, <https://firesafemarin.org/create-a-fire-smart-yard/mulch/>, (accessed 9/7/25)

2. <https://www.nfpa.org/news-blogs-and-articles/blogs/2013/04/11/which-mulch-is-the-right-mulch-research-on-mulch-and-fire-helps-you-decide>, (accessed 9/7/25)
3. Lin, Shaorun, et al. "Smoldering ignition and transition to flaming in wooden mulch beds exposed to firebrands under wind." *Fire Safety Journal* 148 (2024): 104226.
4. *Landscape Water Conservation: Principles of Xeriscape, Guide H-707*, revised by Bernd Leinauer Feb 2017, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, New Mexico State University



Judith Roderick Retrospective

Exhibition: Jan 3 – Feb 5

Reception: Sun, Jan 18, 1 – 3 PM

Judith Roderick began her creative journey as a Painting and Design major at Carnegie Tech in the 1960s and has been joyfully immersed in art ever since. This retrospective exhibition showcases the breadth of her work — from early paintings in oil, acrylic, watercolor, and on silk, to linocuts, woodblocks, and lithographs from the 1960s through the 1980s. It also highlights her exquisite art quilts, which have been her primary focus since 2008.

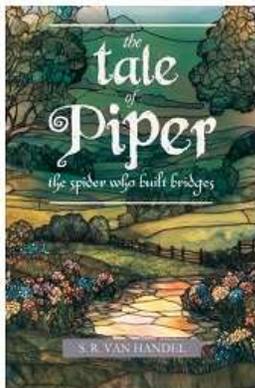
Grateful for a lifetime spent as an artist, Judith celebrates the chance to interpret the world through color, texture, and imagination — a creative journey spanning decades of discovery and delight.

SOMETIMES THE MOST **SCENIC ROADS**
IN **LIFE** ARE THE **DETOURS** YOU
DIDN'T MEAN TO TAKE.

ANGELA N. BLOUNT



by Nora Timmons, Children's Program Coordinator



The Tale of Piper:

The Spider Who Built Bridges

Join Placitas author, Stephen Van Handel, as he shares a tale of friendship, good deeds, laughter, tears, close calls, and cliffhangers, where impossible things are made possible with heart and courage.

SUN, JAN 11 2 PM



SUN, JAN 11 (2-3 PM): Placitas author, Stephen Van Handel, will read from his newly-published book, *The Tale of Piper: The Spider Who Built Bridges*. It is a story of the friendship of six major characters who are all animals, including Piper the spider, who spins gold. The others include Sputter, a near-sighted bee; Slugger, a snail with a tough shell and even tougher attitude; Blink, a socially awkward firefly; Willoughby, a wise turtle; Rufus, the hardworking ant; and several more fascinating characters. The story is a tale of good deeds, laughter, tears, close calls, and cliffhangers, where impossible things are made possible with heart and courage.

Stephen, the author, is a man of many talents. He is a graphic designer, illustrator, and painter whose work draws inspiration from the rugged beauty of the high desert in the American Southwest. Beyond his visual art, Stephen is a composer and musician, with original music available on all major streaming platforms.

We would like to invite all ages to experience this wonderful book. Stephen has assured us that adults enjoy his book as well. So children and adults, please join us for a delightful hour of reading and discussing Piper's tale.



TUES, JAN 13 (10 AM): Pre-K Story Time for children through 5 years old*

TUES, FEB 10 (10 AM): Pre-K Story Time for children through 5 years old*



SUN, FEB 8 (1-3 PM): Placitas glass artist, Karen Melody Shatar, returns to help us celebrate Valentine's Day! You will be able to decorate glass hearts and feathers. This is a great chance to make a Valentine gift for someone you love. Karen will provide all the materials needed to complete this project. Adult family members are welcome to participate as well.

**Themes and activities to be determined and will be provided via email and the library website when finalized. If you wish to receive information about any children's program, please send your request to Nora at nntimmons@comcast.net.*

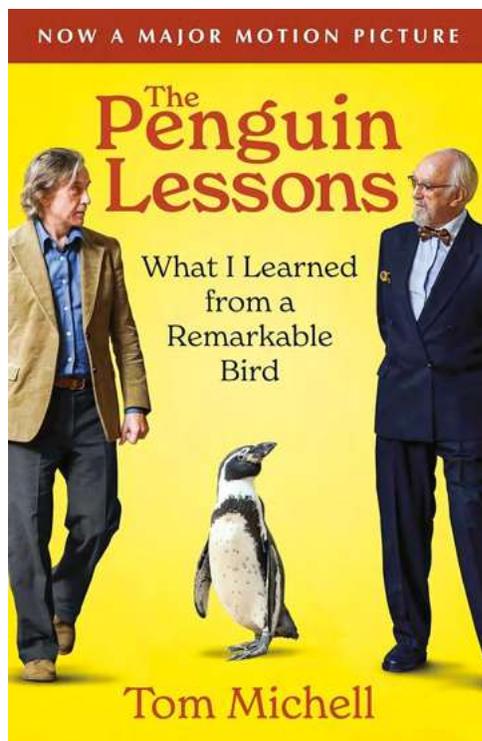
Susanne's Selections

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).



The Penguin Lessons: What I Learned from a Remarkable Bird

by Tom Michell

This absolutely enchanting true story is about a lovable penguin, Juan Salvado (John Saved) and Tom Michell, the author, who in his early twenties, rescued the "tuxedo like" plumaged bird from certain death, and the astonishing relationship that developed between them.

While walking along the beach in Punta del Este, Uruguay, during a short vacation, Michell discovered a horrible sight: thousands of corpses of oil-coated penguins scattered all over the sand. He spotted one lone survivor among them, a Magellanic penguin barely moving, covered in oil and tar like the other birds, but thankfully still alive. He decided he must save the bird so he took it to his fancy vacation apartment. He hilariously recounts how he laboriously cleaned up the penguin but inadvertently removed the waterproofing on its feathers. The descriptions of his ensuing adventures with the now named penguin, Juan Salvado include how he unsuccessfully attempted to locate a

suitable home for him, and his decision to smuggle him into Argentina where Michell had a new teaching position awaiting him at a prestigious boys boarding school.

Incredibly, Juan Salvado formed unique relationships with the students and staff, affecting their lives in heartfelt, uplifting ways. The beloved penguin even became the school mascot and a sought-after celebrity.

Michell briefly relates the economic and political turmoil in Argentina during the mid-1970's when he lived there. Inflation was 100 % a month, while the local markets doubled their prices every couple of weeks, which meant that the best use of a paycheck was to spend it immediately, then trade for whatever you might

actually need. "I bought jeans that wouldn't fit and shirts I'd never wear," Michell recalls, "and I had no trouble bartering my goods later on."

I hope you enjoy this stellar book as much as I did. It definitely is a rewarding read.

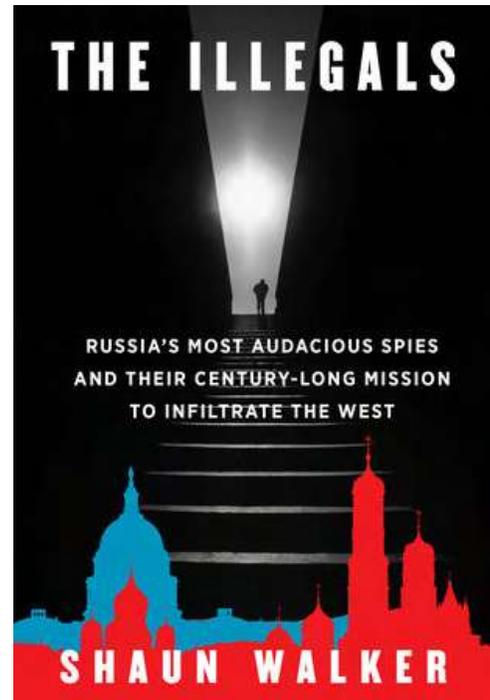
The Illegals: Russia's Most Audacious Spies and Their Century-Long Mission to Infiltrate the West

by Shaun Walker

"All of us on this earth get just one life. But not illegals. They can live several lives, all full of adventures."

~ *Legendary illegal master spy Yuri Shevchenko (who operated undercover as a French street artist for many years)*

If you ever watched the gripping television series "The Americans," its creation was inspired by true events: Don Heathfield, Anne Foley, and their two children who appeared to be an ordinary Canadian family living in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Their real names are Andrei Bezrukov and Elena Vavilova. They were Russian sleeper agents who lived in the U.S. for over twenty years. Originally, they were assigned to live and conduct their spy craft in Canada by the KGB during the 1980's. However, Putin, a former KGB operative, later relocated them to the U.S. They both were returned to Russia in a prisoner exchange in 2010, the same year they were arrested by U.S. intelligence.



Soviet and Russian spies underwent /undergo rigorous training, especially focusing on the language and culture of the country they would be assigned to infiltrate. They were known as illegals. Their espionage activities could include cultivating contacts to spy for the Russians using financial incentives or blackmail. Russian diplomats living abroad would search records and even cemeteries across the globe to locate people who had died in childhood and who had no living relatives. The operatives would then assume their identities and be "resurrected" and were known as "dead doubles."

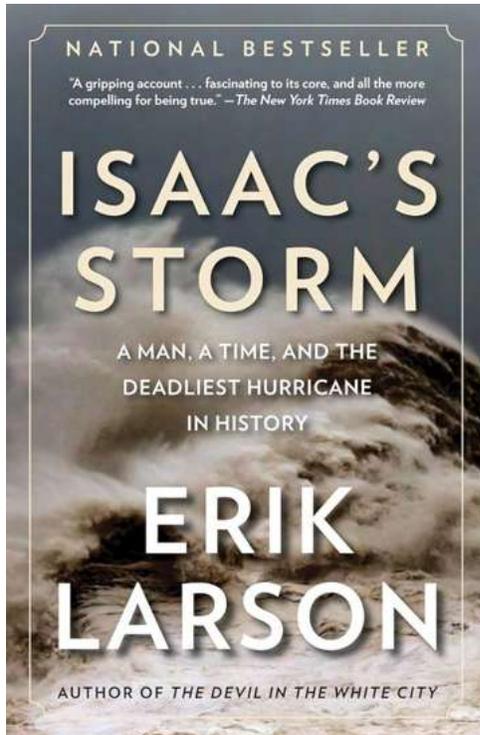
Walker adroitly discusses Russia's 100-year-old program, initiated by Vladimir Lenin sending deep cover Soviet spies into other countries. Walker conducted hundreds of interviews including interviews with former spies and meticulous research for this enlightening book. A compelling narrative, Walker relates fascinating incidents and anecdotes about individual spies and the Soviet/Russian government. His narrative starts in the 1920s, when Bolsheviks excelled in espionage via their past experience. Among that period's most ingenious "illegals" was Dmitri Bystrolyotov, who took on roles as varied as a Hungarian count, a Canadian timber merchant, a Greek businessman, the Dutch artist Hans Galleni, and the British aristocrat, Robert Grenville! According to the author, after the recent Ukraine invasion by Russia, an enormous "...wave of arrests in the two years after the invasion of Ukraine represented the round up of the last illegals at large. Or perhaps there are hundreds more out there, living undetected as foreigners and changing the world in Moscow's favor, one piece of intelligence at a time."

From Penguin Random House Books' website: Shaun Walker is an international correspondent for *The Guardian*. He reported from Moscow for more than a decade and is the author of *The Long Hangover: Putin's New Russia and the Ghosts of the Past*. His coverage of Russia's war in Ukraine was shortlisted for the Foreign Reporter of the Year category at the British 2023 Press Awards. He has appeared as a commentator on Russia

and Ukraine for various television and radio programs, including NPR's *Fresh Air*. He currently divides his time between Warsaw, Kyiv, and London.

NOTE: The difference between Russia and the Soviet Union

Russia, in contemporary contexts, pertains to the country that emerged post the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, navigating through the complexities of its newfound identity and the geopolitical and economic realities of the post-Cold War era. Today's Russia, led from the city of Moscow, encompasses a wide array of federal subjects and maintains a form of governance and international policy distinct from its Soviet predecessor. As a nation, it straddles continents, histories, and ideologies, reflecting an amalgam of its storied past.



Isaac's Storm: A Man, A Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History

by Erik Larson

Isaac's Storm is a riveting account of the catastrophic Galveston, Texas hurricane in 1900 that killed an estimated 6,000 to 8,000 people, including Isaac Cline's wife. In addition, it chronicles the history of meteorology and profiles Isaac Cline's life, who was the Weather Service's agent in charge of the Galveston Bureau at the time of the hurricane. Cline lived in Galveston for years and never believed a hurricane of such force could occur there. Tragically, he completely miscalculated the situation.

Larson relates how unprepared everyone was, and how survivors had to struggle in the aftermath. The U.S. Weather Bureau issued warnings urging people to move to higher ground. Tragically, the advisories were ignored. A massive 15-foot storm surge flooded Galveston, which was then situated at less than 9 feet above sea level, and completely destroyed the town. The hurricane remains the worst weather-related disaster in U.S. history in terms of loss

of life. As always, gifted author, Eric Larson, has written another well researched and superb book that reads like a thriller.



**Sandoval
County
Historical
Society
& Museum**

160 Edmund Road, Bernalillo, NM 87004
505.867.2755 www.sc-hsm.org
events@sc-hsm.org

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

SUNDAY, JAN. 11, 2026 @ 2 PM

Steps of Our Ancestors *Presented by Yvette Cohn Stoor*



Yvette Cohn Stoor will discuss the importance of preserving family history and stories using examples from her experience documenting for the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. Utilizing samples from her Library of Congress Collection: Sustaining and Reclaiming cultural danzas, Los Matachines and Los Comanchitos (passing down traditions in small New Mexico villages), she will share useful tools to use in the preservation of our family histories and stories.

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SUNDAY, JAN. 18, 2026 @ 2 PM

Oral Histories Workshop

Presented by
Dr. Aaron Taylor & Ms. Cathy Ulrich



Join the Sandoval County Historical Society and Museum for a hands-on workshop designed to equip participants with the skills and norms of conducting oral histories. This workshop will introduce best practices in interviewing, recording, and preserving the stories of individuals from Sandoval County or those with deep roots in the area. Attendees will learn how to set up an interview, focus the questions, and follow ethical guidelines to ensure respectful and accurate documentation. Whether you're a community member, student, or history enthusiast, this workshop offers the tools needed to help preserve the rich heritage and personal narratives of Sandoval County. Note that we welcome participants of all languages represented in our county.



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SUNDAY, FEB. 8, 2026 @ 2 PM

Education in New Mexico During the Spanish & Mexican Eras

Presented by **Robert Tórréz**

Please join us for a very interesting and informative presentation by Robert Tórréz, who will educate us in his review of New Mexico's extraordinary but often futile efforts to provide a system of public schools for the education of its youth during both the Spanish and Mexican Eras. And no need to worry, there won't be a quiz!



FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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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