

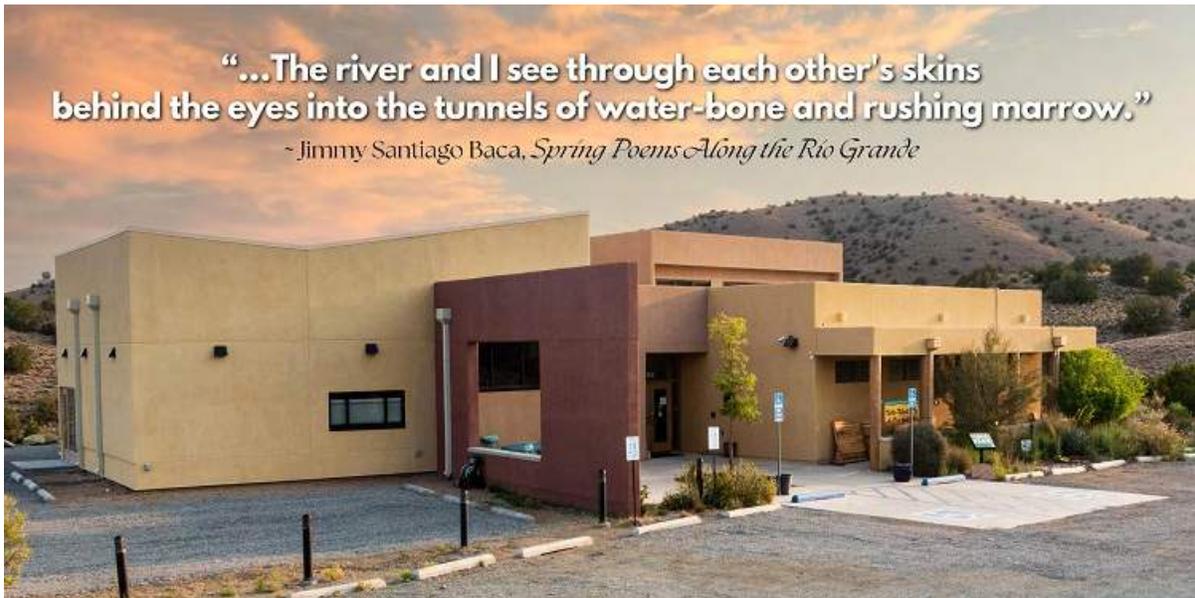
# PLACITAS *Community* LIBRARY



## NEWSLETTER MARCH/APRIL 2026

“...The river and I see through each other's skins  
behind the eyes into the tunnels of water-bone and rushing marrow.”

- Jimmy Santiago Baca, *Spring Poems Along the Rio Grande*



### **PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY HOURS**

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

## ADULT PROGRAMS

- **MARCH 21 (10 AM):** Bird Migration in New Mexico with Dr. Laura Banks, President of the Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico
  - **APRIL 4 (2 PM):** National Poetry Month Celebration with Larry Goodell
  - **APRIL 11 (9 AM – 3 PM):** Annual Spring Fling, with plant sale, baked goods, books, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, talavera, jewelry, home decor, and kitchen products
  - **APRIL 17 (5:30 PM):** Dance Out!
  - **APRIL 25 (10 AM – 5 PM):** Empowering Seniors: The Art & Practice of Living, Aging, & Dying Well With Jane Westbrook
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## ARTISTS' RECEPTION & EXHIBITIONS

- **Through MARCH 5:** Art Exhibition: The Eyes Have It
  - **MARCH 20 (5 PM):** Artists' Reception: Art of the Word (exhibit runs March 7 – April 8)
  - **APRIL 14 – MAY 10:** Art Exhibition: Placitas Studio Tour Preview
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## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

- **MARCH 1 (2 PM):** The very talented Young Voices of the Santa Fe Opera presents the book, *Octopus Stew*, written by Eric Velasquez and read by Amy Owens, director of the Young Voices of the Santa Fe Opera
- **MARCH 10 (10 AM):** Pre-K Story Time – 3rd Time's The Charm, featuring the book, *It's Not Easy Being Number Three* by Drew Dernavich
- **APRIL 14 (10 AM):** Pre-K Story Time featuring the book, *Grumpy Monkey Spring Fever* by Suzanne and Max Lang
- **APRIL 19 (2 PM):** Another musical program, Violin Wizardry, featuring violinist Carmelo de los Santos and hosted by Oliver Prezant

*Musical programs sponsored by the Placitas Artists Series. Please [RSVP](#) to tell us how many children and adult family members will attend.*

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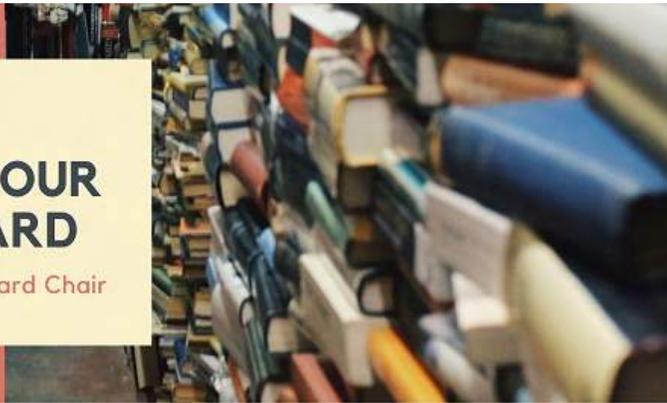
## RECURRING EVENTS

- **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 Dennis Bumgarner, PCL Board Chair



The new year brings new leadership to the Board of Directors. After three years of selfless and exemplary service as chair, Lynnette Fields is leaving the board. Her contributions to the Placitas Community Library (PCL) have been immeasurable. She continues to be a valued volunteer in several capacities. I assumed the chair in January as we welcomed three new board members: Clare Harwell, Shelley Koffler, and Ilia Rodriguez. These new members join a board marked by commitment to the ongoing success and flourishing of PCL.

Work continues apace on the Strategic Plan, the document that has guided and will continue to guide the work and direction of the library over the next two years. Steady progress has been made on the goals established by the Strategic Planning committee with an eye toward the sustainability of PCL.

We are especially enthused by two developments: the implementation of our Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, and our soon-to-be operating Resource Center. The CRM will revolutionize our fund-raising and volunteer management, greatly streamlining those processes, while the Resource Center will open up virtually limitless possibilities for library patrons. More detail on the benefits of the Resource Center will be provided once it is on-line and operational. Look to *Lynne's Letters* in future newsletters for more specific information on this terrific addition to PCL's already-abundant offerings to patrons.

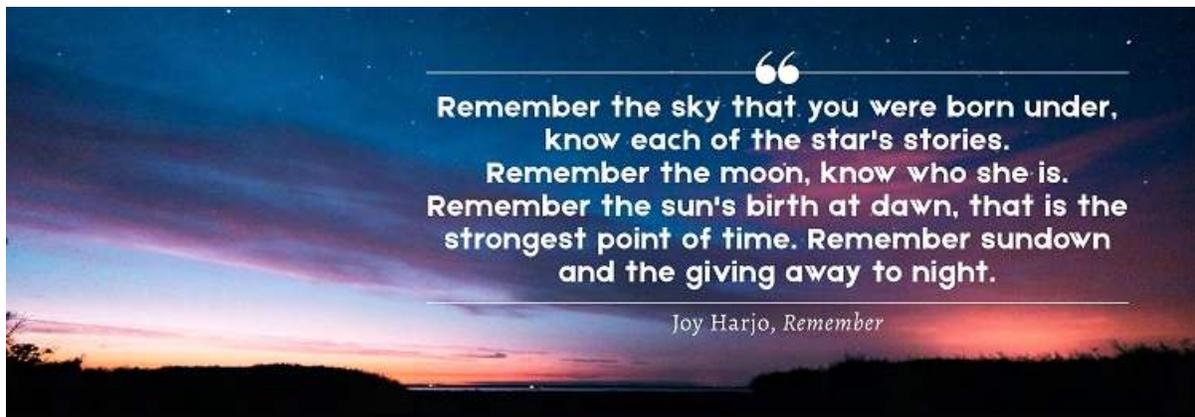
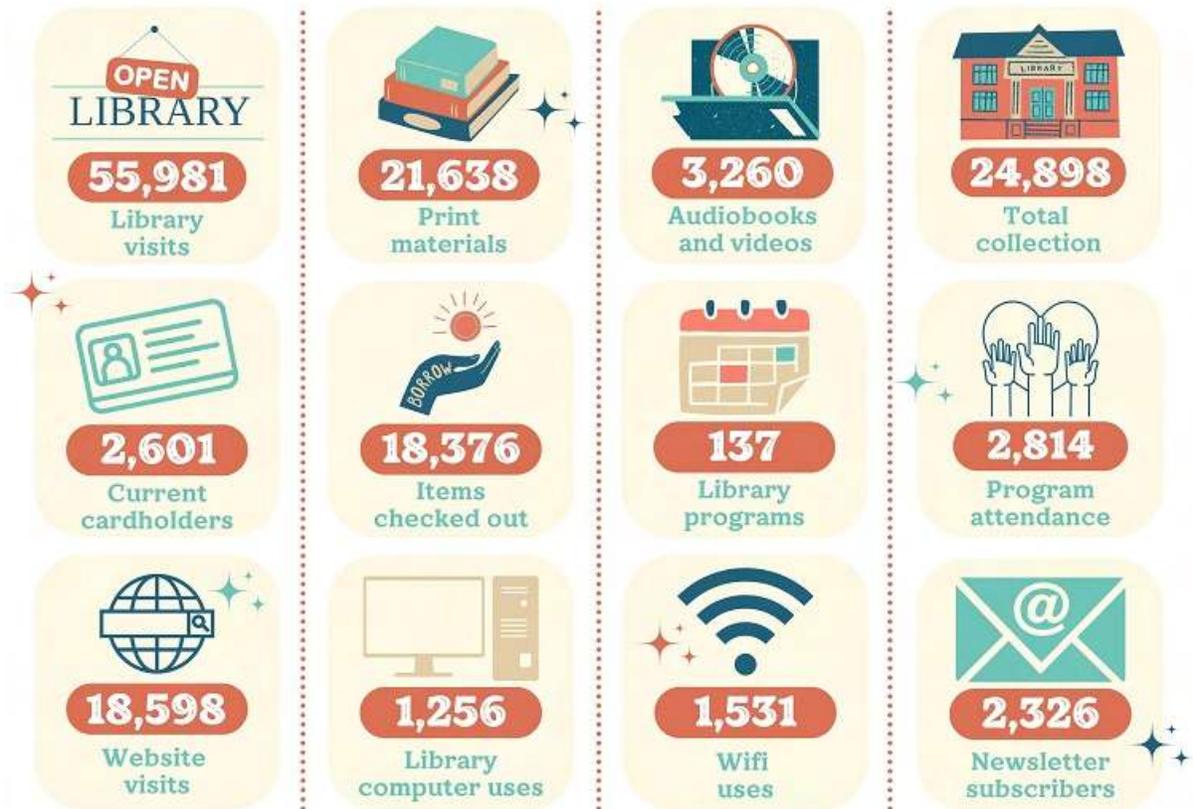
The Board welcomed a presentation from Ric and Kelley Tredwin of Altalune Advisors, the investment group that manages our finances. As a function of our fiduciary responsibilities, we receive regular reports from them as they manage our investments in keeping with our stated goals. It was encouraging to hear that our financial objectives have been exceeded by positive investment performance.

**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, MARCH 19, 6:00 PM THURS, APRIL 16, 6:00 PM

## 2025 PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY BY THE NUMBERS





PLACITAS *Community* LIBRARY

## Has New Furniture

We are so excited to announce that our new furniture has finally arrived!



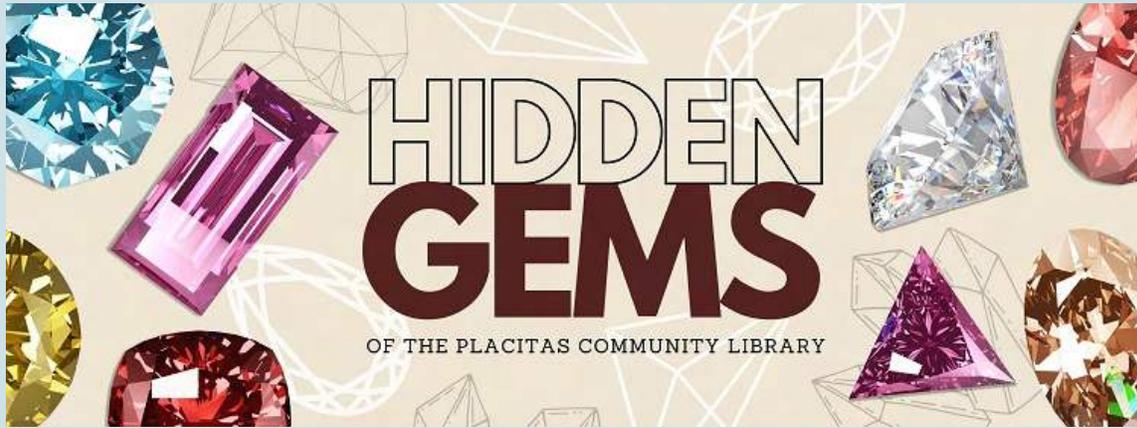
Our collection room now has a new table and (4) four chairs which makes a very nice study area.



And our Collin Meeting Room now has (12) twelve new chairs and (3) three new tables with (1) one more on the way.

Be sure to check out our new furniture the next time you are the library.

*All the best,  
Lynne*



**Sustainability Committee**  
*by Dennis Bumgarner*

Among the visible aspects of our splendid library are our volunteers, programs, services, and patrons. Less apparent are the behind-the-scenes efforts that financially support PCL and literally keep the doors open. These efforts are guided by the chair of the Sustainability Committee, Kate Miller, and aided by the committee members: Lynnette Fields, immediate past chair of PCL; Maggie Huber, treasurer; Linda Hughes, board member; and Dennis Bumgarner, current board chair.

This committee is charged with ensuring that there are sufficient financial resources to maintain all that is PCL. The focus is two-fold: securing sufficient funding to maintain current operations while looking to ensure future financial stability through the establishment of a Legacy Fund.

In keeping with one of the five major goals of the current strategic plan, we are emphasizing the development and maintenance of relationships with our donors and other community organizations that ensure their continued support, as well as our continuing collaborative work for the community.

Additionally, the Sustainability Committee, with the agreement of the Board of Directors, has established an excellent and strong working relationship with Altalune Wealth Advisors, a local investment group that manages our assets with the twin objectives of maximizing our returns while minimizing risk. They have developed a financial management plan built around our expressed goals. Stay tuned for opportunities to attend programs throughout the year with Ric and Kelley Tredwin, our financial advisors from Altalune. These educational programs are free of charge and address broad areas of interest regarding personal financial issues.

Therefore, sustainability is best understood as being built around two major concepts: the raising of money, together with the nurturance of relationships with community members and organizations that both enjoy and value the many benefits that PCL brings to Placitas. This combination will ensure the viability of our library for today and future generations of our larger community.



### **BIRD MIGRATION IN NEW MEXICO**

*March 21 (10 AM)*

Did you know that birds migrate in both the Spring and the Fall? Did you know that Albuquerque is right in the path of the Central Flyway? Birds use their instincts, natural cues, and unique flight styles to navigate between their winter and summer ranges. Join the Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico and the Jardineros Birding Buddies on Saturday, March 21 at 10 AM at PCL for this presentation on how birds accomplish this amazing feat, where you can visit to spot migrating birds, and how you can support and help these birds along their way.

On hand to share her knowledge will be Dr. Laura Banks, the President of the Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico. The Bird Alliance is a local non-profit organization and a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Their mission is to protect and conserve birds and wildlife habitats in our region, support responsible stewardship of land, promote environmental education, and welcome all communities to join in the love and appreciation of birds. Dr. Banks has degrees in veterinary medicine and public health, and conducts wildlife field studies and raptor rehabilitation and addresses human/animal conflicts on behalf of local government.

Join us on March 21 at 10 AM to learn how you can enjoy and support the birds that migrate through our area.

"If you have a garden and a library,  
you have everything you need." – Cicero

/ "To see  
things  
in the  
seed,  
that is  
genius." –

Lao Tzu

/ "We  
know we  
cannot  
plant  
seeds with  
closed  
fists. To  
sow, we  
must  
open our hands."

– Adolfo Pérez

Esquivel / "A

seed hidden in the heart of  
an apple is an orchard in-  
visible." – Welsh proverb

/ "When the world wearies and  
society fails to satisfy, there is  
always the garden." – Minnie

Aumonier / "I like garden-  
ing—it's a place where I find  
myself when I need to lose my-  
self." – Alice Sebold / "A gar-  
den is always a series of losses

set against a few triumphs,  
like life itself." – May Sarton

/ "A person who is growing  
a garden... is improving a piece  
of the world." – Wendell Berry

Placitas Community Library



# Seed Library Program



/ "I thank you for the seeds.  
Too old to plant trees for my own  
gratification, I shall do it for my  
posterity." – Thomas Jefferson

/ "Nature's first green is gold... –

Robert Frost / "Aside from the

garden of Eden, man's great tempta-  
tion took place when he first received  
his seed catalog." – Henry Wadsworth

Longfellow / "The creation of a

thousand forests is in one acorn." –

Ralph Waldo Emerson / "Don't judge

each day by the harvest you reap, but

by the seeds you plant." – Robert Louis

Stevenson / "Flowers and fruit are

only the beginning. In the seed lies

the life and the fu-  
ture." – Marion

Zimmer Bradley

/ "Gardeners, I

think, dream bigger

than em-  
perors." –

Mary

Cantwell

/ "To

create a

garden is

to search

for a

better

world." –

Marina

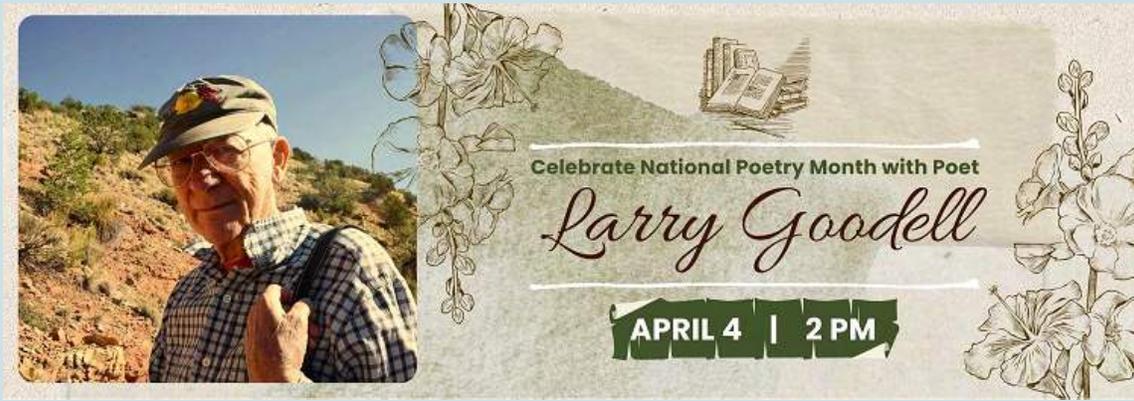
Schinz

/ "Gardening

is not a rational  
act." – Margaret Atwood

## PLC's 2026 Seed Library Program is Up and Running!

To request seed packets, circle the seeds you want on a Seed Library Program Order Form, which can be obtained from the Help Desk at the library or on our [website](#). Bring the Seed Library Program Order Form to the library, and a volunteer will assist you in filling your order. This program is open to everyone. You don't need to have a library card to request seed packets. Many thanks to Lowe's on Paseo in Albuquerque for their generous support of our Seed Library Program!



### **National Poetry Month Celebration with Larry Goodell**

*April 4 (2 PM)*

In celebration of April as National Poetry Month, PCL is delighted to bring Placitas poet Larry Goodell. Larry will read/perform in the Gracie Lee Community Room at 2 PM on Saturday, April 4.

Larry Goodell was born in Roswell, New Mexico, in 1935, and got his B.A. from the University of Southern California in '57. He did graduate work at the University of New Mexico, spent over two years in the U.S. Army, and taught at the Albuquerque Academy. Larry moved to Placitas in 1963. Since 1968 he has been married to the photographer and artist Lenore Goodell. He met poet Robert Creeley and studied with him at the University of New Mexico, getting to know him well in Placitas. Through his friendship with the Creeley family, Larry met many vital American poets.

After attending the Vancouver Poetry Conference, where he studied with Charles Olson and Allen Ginsberg, Larry was inspired to found Duende Press in 1964. Larry published a variety of poets and organized poetry events, first at the Living Batch Bookstore in Albuquerque, and then at Silva's Bar and Zocalo Theater in Bernalillo. For over 12 years, he worked with the Duende Poetry Series in Placitas with the help of Jim Fish, Gary Brower, Jeff Bryan, and Cirrelda Snyder Bryan. He recorded most of the poets involved and their readings are available online.

Larry's creativity includes poetry, improvised keyboard pieces, plays, songs, and active literary archiving, as well as keeping the stream of performance poetry going. His life project now is editing and digitally publishing his work as well as reading his poems at events. His poetry evolves from his native New Mexico roots, his improvisational nature, and our natural world. His newest book is *Clouds*, poems 2020–2025.

We look forward to sharing this Placitas treasure with you on Saturday, April 4 at 2 PM.

PLACITAS *Community* LIBRARY

INVITES YOU TO THIS YEAR'S

# Spring Fling

*Saturday*

**APRIL 11 | 9 - 3**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

## **PLANT SALE**

*Donated by local nurseries and the Jardineros Plant Whisperers. A master gardener will be here to answer questions, too!*

**BAKED GOODS | BOOKS | DVDS**

**CDS | AUDIOBOOKS | TALAVERA**

**JEWELRY | HOME DÉCOR & KITCHEN**

453 hwy 165 | 505.867.3355

[www.placitaslibrary.com](http://www.placitaslibrary.com)



**YOU'RE INVITED TO BOOGIE AT**

# DANCE OUT!



**April 17, 2026**

**Drop In 5:30 - 7:00 PM**

**CLUB GLCR**

Grace Lee Community Room  
at Placitas Community Library

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

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

**FEATURING:**  
**Tunes for  
Moving  
and  
Grooving!**

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



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# FREE WORKSHOP

Open to individuals, social workers  
eldercare staff, and YOU!



Presented by Jane Westbrook, "The Art & Practice of Living, Aging & Dying Well"

# Empowering Seniors

## Including:

- Aging In Place
- Navigating Health Care
- Advance Health Care Planning & End of Life Care Choices
- Advance Directives
- Estate Plans and Not Just Wills!
- After Death Plans and Options

## Thank you!

Generously sponsored by:



800-432-2080 · [aging.nm.gov](http://aging.nm.gov)

## Details:

### WHEN:

Saturday, April 25, 2026  
Full Day! 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

### WHERE:

Placitas Community Library  
Gracie Lee Meeting Room  
453 NM-165, Placitas, NM 87043

### MORE:

FREE Admission! Seating limited, and registration is required. Participants receive guidebook, helpful information, forms and other materials. Snacks & lunch provided. All attendees entered in a FREE Raffle with the drawing at the end of the workshop.

## Register:

CALL:  
505-393-1321

WEBSITE:  
[Endoflifeoptionsnm.org/programs](http://Endoflifeoptionsnm.org/programs)

Seating is limited and registration is required!



For more, call: 505-393-1321 or visit: [endoflifeoptionsnm.org/programs](http://endoflifeoptionsnm.org/programs)

## Empowering Seniors: The Art & Practice of Living, Aging, & Dying Well with Jane Westbrook April 25 (10 AM - 5 PM)

PCL is delighted to offer the full day *Empowering Seniors Workshop: The Art & Practice of Living, Dying & Aging Well* with celebrated educator, Jane Westbrook on April 25. Sponsored by the New Mexico Department of Aging and Long-Term Services, this workshop will provide valuable information and education for folks of all ages!

The workshop will provide folks with a range of helpful resources and materials and encourage them

to take the time to reflect on their values and wishes. Planning sooner than later can ensure more peace of mind for oneself and loved ones. One participant shared this: *“This workshop is an important reminder to assemble all of one’s end of life documents in one place, and have the conversation about one’s wishes with one’s people, now.”*

The workshop will cover six major topics including: Aging in Place, Navigating Health Care, Advance Health Care Planning and End of Life Care Choices, Advance Directives, Estate Planning (it’s not just Wills), and After Death Plans and Options. Participants will receive a guidebook, helpful information, forms, and other materials. Snacks and lunch will be provided, and all attendees will be entered in a raffle drawing for the end of the workshop.

Jane Westbrook brings decades of construction, real estate, and coaching experience to this workshop. She is a fierce advocate for Life and End of Life choices and conversations, and a Certified Aging in Place Specialist.

Advance registration is required by calling (505) 393-1321, or on their [website](#). The workshop is limited to 35 participants. If there is enough interest, we will offer this again on June 13. Please register for the waiting list if the workshop is full. This workshop is free and includes lunch. Join us on April 25 from 10 AM – 5 PM at PCL. (If you were lucky enough to attend the February 13 offering, this is the same workshop.)



**¡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**



### Gardening Safety and Proper Use of Tools

As we look to Spring and our gardens, pruning, and gardening cleanup activities come to mind. *“Information available from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission indicates more than 26,000 people were treated in hospitals during 2006 for injuries sustained while using garden hand tools. Typical injuries were strains/sprains to the lower back, shoulder, neck, and wrist. Many of these injuries could have been prevented by properly using garden hand tools, knowing your physical capabilities, and keeping garden activities to within your limitations.”* (1) Below are some tips to reduce the potential for injuries or illnesses.

- Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriate for the gardening task and weather conditions, including items such as a hat with brim, long-sleeved shirt, long pants, gloves to prevent scrapes, punctures and biting insects, sunglasses, closed-toed shoes, and sunscreen
- Wear protective eyewear when using garden hand tools that produce flying, crumbling, chipping, sparking, or splintering debris
- Save your hands by using the right tool in the right situation
- Avoid prolonged repetitive motions by changing tasks frequently
- Check your posture, especially when lifting heavy objects, and using long-handled garden tools
- Be cognizant of heat and cold exposure, and drink plenty of water
- Read (and follow!) chemical product labels/instruction/exposure information before use, and wear appropriate PPE (gloves, safety glasses, face coverings, respiration protection, etc.)

Happy *safe* gardening!

1. Master Gardener Program, Thinking Safe and Green, #5 GARDENING HAND-TOOL SAFETY, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California [<https://ucanr.edu/sites/safety/files/3108.pdf>] (accessed 1/19/26)
2. *Gardening Safely* article by American Society for Surgery of the Hand, <https://www.assh.org/handcare/safety/gardening> (accessed 1/19/26)
3. Heat Stress – Signs and Prevention by Sonja Koukel, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, New Mexico State University [[https://pubs.nmsu.edu/\\_i/1115/index.html](https://pubs.nmsu.edu/_i/1115/index.html)] (accessed 1/19/26)
4. UC Master Gardener Program Safety Training Manual, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California, Nov 5, 2015 [<https://ucanr.edu/sites/safety/files/3341.pdf>] (accessed 1/19/26)

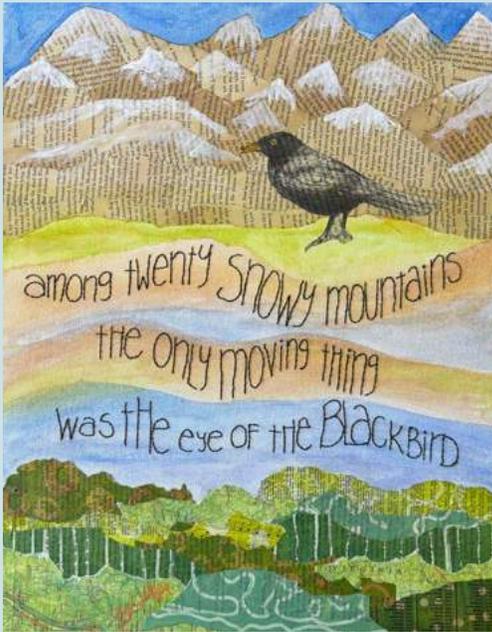
**DRUMMING  
CIRCLE**

**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*



**Art of the Word**

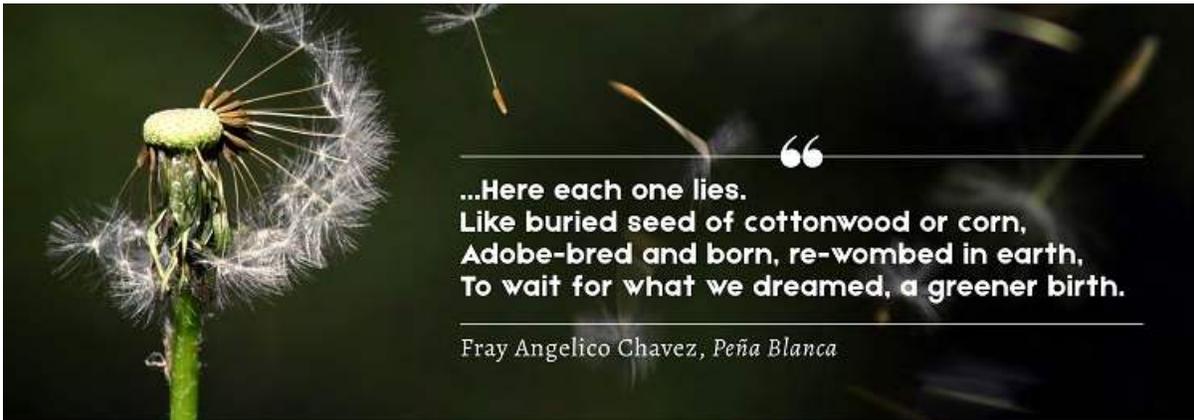
*Exhibition: March 7 – April 8*

*Reception: Friday, March 20, 5 – 6:30 PM*

For this exhibition, artists were challenged to channel their inner Jenny Holzer, Ed Ruscha, Barbara Kruger, or Glen Ligon, all of whom incorporate words as a significant component of their art. Twenty participating artists have merged text with visual imagery, whether to convey a message, evoke emotion, or use letters as graphic elements within the composition.

Coordinators: Rebecca Cohen and Sandy Johnson

Images: A. Atkinson (L); P.K. Williams (R)



### Placitas Studio Tour Preview Exhibition

*Exhibition: March 7 – April 8*

*(No public reception)*

Join us for a special preview of the 29th Annual Placitas Studio Tour, featuring the work of over 75 Placitas artists who create right here in our own community. The Preview Exhibit opens April 14 – May 10 and is organized by studio number and neighborhood — the perfect way to plan your tour before Mother's Day weekend!

Studio Tour dates/times:

*Friday, May 8 – Sunday, May 10*

*10 AM to 5 PM daily*

For more information, visit: <https://placitasstudiotour.org/>



“

Last night, behind the caves of burning wood in the beehive-shaped fireplace, I could see into the cracked mud, past the honeycomb lath of chicken wire—to the adobe bricks of its construction. How quickly fire turns one thing into another—nothing's ever destroyed—ashes to soil to wood and back to flame.

Elizabeth Jacobson, *From Landscape with Ordinary Things*



# KIDS' COLUMN

by Nora Timmons, Children's Program Coordinator

The Children's Committee is pleased to have these activities for your children in March and April.

The  
PLACITAS Community LIBRARY  
Children's Committee &

The  
Placitas  
Artists  
Series

present

# A Musical Story Time

featuring



*What do you do when an octopus captures Grandma?!?*

Find out with **Amy Owen**,  
Director of **The Young Voices**,  
who will read **Octopus Stew**  
by award-winning author  
& artist **Erik Velasquez**.  
**The Young Voices** will  
sing throughout!

The program is for children  
ages 4 - 12 and their families.

Seating and parking are limited,  
so get here early!

Kindly **RSVP** to **Nora Timmons**  
[nntimmons@comcast.net](mailto:nntimmons@comcast.net)

**March 1**  
**2 - 3:00**

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

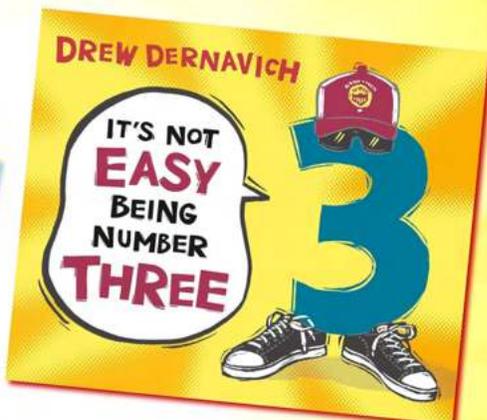
**March 1 (2 PM):** Another fantastic musical program sponsored by the Placitas Artists Series and featuring the very talented Young Voices of the Santa Fe Opera. What do you do when an octopus captures grandma? Put on your superhero cape and rescue her! Come hear the lively book, *Octopus Stew*, written by Eric Velasquez. The story will be read by Amy Owens, director of the Young Voices of the Santa Fe Opera. Throughout the story, the Young Voices will perform songs adding to the excitement of the book. Parking and seating at our library are limited so get here early. Join us for a fun family program!

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

**PRE-K**  
**STORY**

Ages infant-five  
**HOUR**

**3<sup>RD</sup> TIME'S  
 THE CHARM!**  
 FEATURING  
 THE BOOK:



**MARCH 10 AT 10:00**

Find out what happens when *Number 3* gets bored and decides to quit being a number. He goes out into the world to explore other things he can do being shaped like a 3.

The story provides the opportunity for children to identify the number 3 in lots of different situations.

We hope you and your child can join us for this fun exploration!

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

**March 10 (10 AM):** Pre-K Story Time. The theme is 3rd Time's The Charm featuring the book, *It's Not Easy Being Number Three* by Drew Dervavich. Find out what happens when Number 3 gets bored and decides to quit being a number. He goes exploring out into the world trying to find other things he can do being shaped like a 3. This will be a fun exploration!



**April 14 (10 AM):** Pre-K Story Time featuring the book, *Grumpy Monkey Spring Fever* by Suzanne and Max Lang. Activities include an egg hunt and making a flower crown.



**April 19 (2 PM):** Another musical program, Violin Wizardry, featuring violinist Carmelo de los Santos and hosted by Oliver Prezant. Violin virtuoso, Carmelo de los Santos will make violin magic for us as he shows us the daredevil acrobatics in the wild and crazy music of composer Niccolò Paganini – one of the greatest violinists who ever lived! During the program, we'll also listen for sounds of nature, animals, and emotions, and we'll use our imaginations to try to figure out what the music is all about. Carmelo is also a real magician, and in addition to playing the violin, he might just do a magic trick or two for us! Join us for a fun and friendly program for the whole family. This program is sponsored by the Placitas Artists Series.

An RSVP to [childrens@placitaslibrary.com](mailto:childrens@placitaslibrary.com) would be appreciated telling us how many children and adult family members will attend. Thank you!

# 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).

## Life Undercover



Amaryllis  
Fox

### *Life Undercover: Coming of Age in the CIA* by Amaryllis Fox

*"I've come to advocate for recruiting adversaries to our side rather than stealing information or material without the target's knowledge." ~ Amaryllis Fox*

*"Danny's been a writing hero of mine for a couple of years now. I scarcely know him, but we've crossed paths a few times — in D.C., while I was in high school and he was just starting out at The Wall Street Journal, and later in Southeast Asia, as I began to cut my teeth and he offered gentle advice on my stories."*

*~ Regarding Fox's writing mentor Daniel Pearl who was captured and beheaded in 2002, from author's book*

In Fox's compelling memoir of her ten-year stint in the CIA as a non-official cover (NOC) agent, she describes her extraordinary role in attempting to keep the USA safe, and how she chose to join the CIA. NOC agents do not travel on diplomatic passports or enjoy the protection or cover of embassies.

She relates how, as a child traveling with her father to Moscow, while he conducted business as an economist and advisor to governments, she was exposed to different cultures and people. During her gap year prior to entering Oxford University, she spent a year volunteering at a refugee camp along the Thai-Burmese border and became acquainted with Burmese activists who escaped to Thailand during the 1980s. Fox secretly went to Burma in 1999 to interview Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, who at the time was under house arrest. (Aung, now 80 years old, has tragically been imprisoned over 20 years in a high security jail.\*) Fox eventually smuggled the film of the interview out of Burma.

Fox's undercover persona was as a dealer in Asian, Middle Eastern, and African art. One of her harrowing

missions was to infiltrate an Al-Qaida-linked group responsible for the 2002 Bali bombings.

Reading about her grueling CIA training is absolutely fascinating. The challenges she encountered during her tenure as an agent were not only work-related. She openly discusses how difficult it is to maintain a marriage and be a parent in this type of career. Fox is an insightful, determined, and courageous person who truly believes in the sacrifices she and her colleagues perform to make our nation a safer place. She firmly believes in promoting peace, not destabilizing governments. I learned so much about the espionage trade and about this incredibly talented and exceptional woman! I also have immense respect for these unsung heroes who put their lives on the line for us.

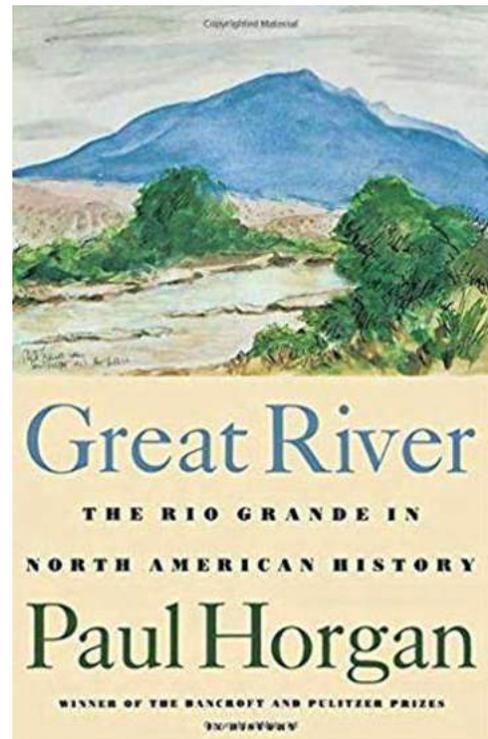
\* If you are interested in reading about Aung San Suu Kyi, I highly recommend *The Burma Spring*, which I reviewed in the May 2016 PCL newsletter. It describes her life and her role in fighting for democracy in the former Burma, now known as Myanmar.

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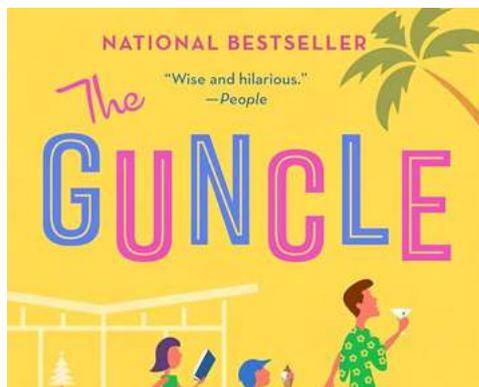
## **Great River: The Rio Grande in North American History**

by Paul Horgan

I have never before included a book review that I presented in a previous PCL Book Review Selections, but being that this non-fiction, unrivaled, quintessential classic on the Southwest and Rio Grande Valley may be unfamiliar to new PCL readers I believe new readers and/or newcomers to New Mexico would thoroughly enjoy reading it. A 1955 Pulitzer Prize winner, *Great River* is a brilliant saga beginning with the early Anasazi Pueblo people continuing on thru the centuries to the 20th Century. It explores the four primary cultures in the Southwest: Native American, Anglo, Mexican, and Spanish. Keep in mind the cultural and historical context at the time it was written. *Great River* is reminiscent of the outstanding *Blood and Thunder* by Hampton Sides, but it presents a more detailed account of the early history of the Southwest and focuses on the Rio Grande and its environs. It originally appeared in the February 2016 PCL newsletter.



A New Mexico resident, the author and historian was a former Chairman of the Santa Fe Opera and alumni of the New Mexico Military Institute. He won a second Pulitzer, also for history, for his book *Lamy of Santa Fe* 20 years after receiving his first Pulitzer.

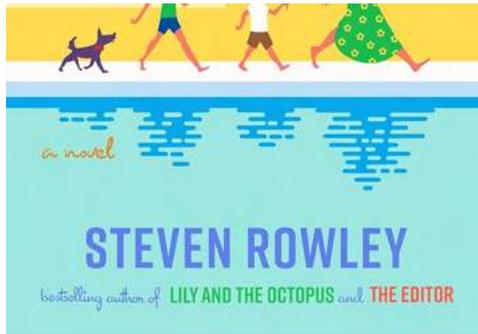


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## **The Guncle**

by Steven Rowley

Patrick, or Gay Uncle Patrick (GUP, for short), or Guncle, is a successful TV celebrity now living a secluded life in his Palm Springs home after the loss of the "love of his life" in an automobile accident. After the loss of his mother and the death of his beloved sister-in-law, Sarah, his brother Greg, experiences a health crisis and cannot cope with raising his two small



children, nine-year-old Maisie and six-year-old Grant. His brother asks Patrick to take care of his children for the summer while he stays in a rehab facility.

Since Patrick has no clue how to parent his niece and nephew, he panics but eventually proceeds with aplomb. The antics that ensue with the children are hilarious as Patrick gains a new sense of responsibility. Through seriousness and humor, he expounds on life lessons we can all appreciate.

I found how Patrick evolves with all the challenges he faces utterly endearing and touching. This delightful book is literally brimming with wit and love, and has great depth, navigating through both grief and hope.



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**SUNDAY, MAR. 8, 2026 @ 2 PM**

***Five and 1/2 Railroads of Sandoval  
County and Three Interesting Neighbors***  
*Presented by Rick McGahie*

**A**ll aboard! We are at the station platform and ready to learn about the 5 1/2 railroads that are a big part of the history of Sandoval County. Our Presenter, Rick McGahie, will lead us on a journey that begins with the Santa Fe Railroad, which enabled two coal lines to branch out, along with a lumber railroad that followed the Jemez River. The three Santa Fe County RR's are the Chili Line, the Santa Fe Central and the first mining RR in the Land of Enchantment. Can you guess what the 1/2 railroad is?



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**SUNDAY, APR. 12, 2026 @ 2 PM**

## ***Santo Domingo Jewelers- Tufa Cast Jewelry Technique***

***Presented by Anthony Lovato & Joel Pajarito***



**W**e are very honored to have as our presenter this month Mr. Anthony Lovato, esteemed jewelry artist from the Santo Domingo Pueblo, who will explain the Tufa Cast technique of creating and carving Tufa sandstone from the Hopi Reservation as a mould for silver casting. Considered one of the great masters of contemporary Tufa Cast jewelry, Anthony will bring some samples of his stunning work. He has passed along his skills to his three very talented sons: Joel Pajarito, who will be joining us at this event, and his brothers Cordell and Noah Pajarito, who are forging their own careers in Tufa Cast Jewelry with their own distinctive carving and contemporary designs.

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

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