

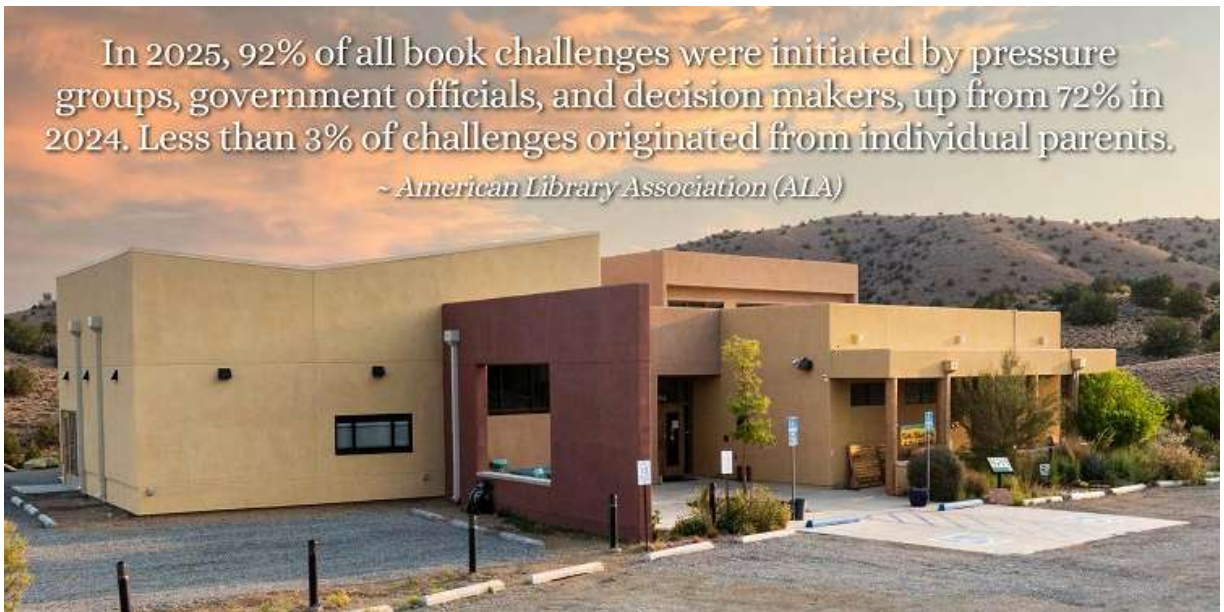
PLACITAS *Community* LIBRARY



NEWSLETTER SEPT/OCT 2026

In 2025, 92% of all book challenges were initiated by pressure groups, government officials, and decision makers, up from 72% in 2024. Less than 3% of challenges originated from individual parents.

~ American Library Association (ALA)





PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY HOURS

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

- **SEPT 12 (2 PM):** Screening and Discussion of Film, *The Librarians*
- **SEPT 23 (6:30 PM):** Financial Clutter, Scams, and Organizing Your Financial Life
- **SEPT 26 (2 PM):** Jules Poetry Playhouse at Placitas Community Library (PCL)
- **OCT 3 (2 PM):** *Chaco Canyon: Emergence of Puebloan Culture, Then and Now* with Jon Ghahate (encore event due to overflow crowd in August)
- **OCT 7 (6:30 PM):** From Saver to Investor: Understanding Ways to Invest
- **OCT 10 (2 PM):** Tree Health During Drought with Master Arborist Joran Viers

ARTISTS' RECEPTION & EXHIBITIONS

- **Through SEPT 20:** Placitas Garden Tour Artists Exhibition
- **OCT 2 (5:00 - 6:30 PM):** Artists' Reception: Vibrant Souls – A Dia de los Muertos Celebration (exhibition runs Sept 22 – Oct 12)

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

- **Sept 8 (10 AM):** Pre-K Story Time – Eat Well, Read Well! We will read *Eating the Alphabet and Growing Vegetable Soup* by Lois Ehler and *Lily's Garden* by Deborah Kogan Ray.
- **Sept 27 (1 - 3 PM):** Geology Fest – Rock out with geologist, Colleen Rust and her team! Bring (and add to!) your rock collection. Don't miss this opportunity to increase your knowledge of rocks and minerals and dig for fossils.
- **Oct 13 (10 AM):** Pre-K Story Time – Celebrate the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. Hear the story of *Pop Flop's Great Balloon Ride* and make your own balloon.
- **Oct 25 (1 PM):** Halloween Party – Celebrate Halloween with everyone's favorite pirates, Denise Gard and her dogs, Kira and Joey. There will be pirate activities and a heap o' candy booty, mateys!

RECURRING EVENTS

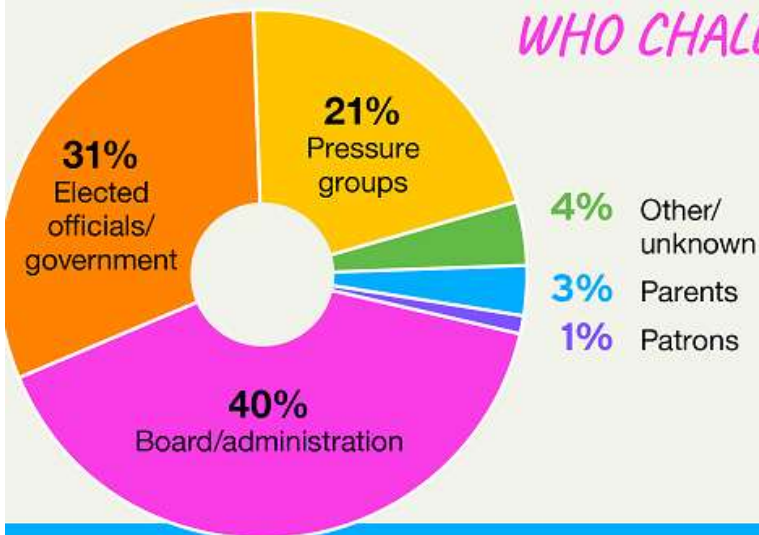
- **La Parranda: Club de Español** (Every Wed at 10 AM): Enjoy the opportunity to experience español with Diane Herrera Shepard and other guests. The Club is open to anyone who wants to learn, use, practice, or converse in Spanish.
- **Drumming Circle** (1st Sun of each month at 4 PM): Bring your own drum or use one of ours!

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, SEPT 17, 6:00 PM
THURS, OCT 15, 6:00 PM

CENSORSHIP BY THE NUMBERS



Nearly **92% of censorship attempts** in 2025 were initiated by pressure groups and decision makers swayed by them. This marks a 20-point increase over 2024.

Statistics based on 8,596 total titles targeted for censorship.

ALA.ORG/BBOOKS

©ALA



Best Wishes to Furman Kelley

Furman Kelley, PCL's first Administrator, has made the decision to retire from PCL. Furman has given 5½ years to PCL, and we appreciate his service and commitment.

I have enjoyed working with Furman on many projects. These projects have ranged from painting, new shelving, carpeting, and even getting PCL's first Bay Pod. Furman always kept us on track as these projects were completed.

Furman was instrumental in getting our website updated and improving our technology offerings here at PCL. His knowledge of computers has been invaluable to us. Furman was always available to lend a hand and assist our patrons.



***From all of us at the [Placitas Community Library](#)
We wish Furman all the best and an enjoyable retirement!!!***

¡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**

PLACITAS Community LIBRARY

invites you to

"THE LIBRARIANS"

HOW BOOK BANS ARE EVERYONE'S CAUTIONARY TALE

a free screening and discussion

SEPTEMBER 12

2 PM

NOW SHOWING



Please join us for a special screening and discussion of *The Librarians*, an important film by Academy Award nominee and Peabody Award winner, Kim A. Snyder.

As book banning sweeps across the U.S. at an unprecedented rate, brave librarians emerge as first responders fighting for democracy and the First Amendment. Despite escalating tensions and facing harassment, threats, and laws aimed at criminalizing their work, librarians continue to connect the dots from heated school and library board meetings nationwide to lay bare the underpinnings of a large-scale coordinated extremist movement fueling censorship efforts.

453 hwy 165 | 505.867.3355 www.placitaslibrary.com

The Librarians Documentary: How Book Bans are Everyone's Cautionary Tale

September 12 (2 PM)

By Leslie Fox

As book banning sweeps across the U.S. at an unprecedented rate, brave librarians emerge as first responders in the fight for democracy and our First Amendment Rights. As they well know, controlling the flow of ideas means control over communities. In Texas, the Krause List targets 850 books focused

on race and LGBTQIA+ stories – triggering sweeping book bans across the U.S. at an unprecedented rate. As tensions escalate, librarians connect the dots from heated school and library board meetings nationwide to lay bare the underpinnings of a large-scale coordinated extremist movement fueling the censorship efforts. Despite facing harassment, threats, and laws aimed at criminalizing their work, the librarians' rallying cry for freedom to read is a chilling cautionary tale.

Every librarian has heard these chilling stories and when I saw this film, as a retired librarian in New Mexico, I knew I had to share it with as many others as I could. During my career, like most librarians, I would set up a display every October during Banned Books Week highlighting banned and challenged books, such as: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Catcher in the Rye*, *Beloved* and many others. But I began to hear about librarians in some states that were risking their jobs and receiving death threats for not complying with attempts at censorship. One of the first things I was taught in Library School was the importance of protecting intellectual freedom and the right to read, and to be on the lookout for censorship in any form. We were taught to be balanced in the books we ordered for the library and in what we displayed, no matter what our personal opinion was about the book. I have had complaints from patrons about certain books which I listened to and considered but I never imagined the attack on our freedom of expression that we are experiencing today in this country: an attack on education, universities, television, and public and school libraries. To quote *The Librarians'* director, Kim A. Snyder, "This is everyone's story now, it doesn't just belong to librarians."

Join PCL on September 12 at 2 PM for a free screening of the award-winning documentary, *The Librarians* by Academy Award nominee and Peabody winner Kim A. Snyder. This is **NOT** the TV show by the same name. Whether you're a librarian or not, this attack on libraries affects you and your community. If this is the first you've heard of the censorship of libraries, come and learn how you can support the Freedom to Read. If you've seen the film but would like to join the discussion afterward, please join us and bring someone along.

Resources to follow up and help libraries fight censorship will be available. For more information about the film, [here](#) is a PBS interview with the filmmaker and one of the librarians shown in the documentary. Discussion to follow screening.

A colorful poster for a 'Drumming Circle' event. The background is a light beige with various musical notes and symbols scattered across it. On the left, the words 'DRUMMING CIRCLE' are written vertically in large, bold, dark red capital letters. In the center, there is a large, stylized drum with a white head and a red and yellow striped body. To the right of the drum, there are several musical notes in yellow, red, and blue. In the top right corner, a dark red speech bubble contains the text 'JOIN US!' in white. Below this, the text 'FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 4 PM' is written in bold, dark red capital letters. Underneath that, the text 'Bring your own drum or use one of the many we have!' is written in a smaller, dark red font. At the bottom right, a small line of text reads '*Children are welcomed but parents should be aware this is an adult, meditation-like experience'.

PLACITAS Community LIBRARY

invites you to

Being FINANCIALLY SAVVY

A Financial Literacy Series

SEPT 23 | 6:30 PM

FINANCIAL CLUTTER, SCAMS & ORGANIZING YOUR FINANCIAL LIFE



Fear of financial scams, mistakes and lack of confidence can keep us in chaos. Organizing our financial lives around simple and effective plans sets us up for a confident financial future. It keeps us safe and sane!

NEXT UP IN SERIES:

OCT 7 | 6:30 - From Saver to Investor: Understanding Ways to Invest

NOV 18 | 6:30 - We All Die: How Do We Prepare?

DEC 9 | 6:30 - Life Gets Crazy: Find Financial Comfort When Life Happens

presented in partnership with



**TO REGISTER
or FOR MORE INFO:**



Scan the QR Code
Call Kate at 505-259-1522

*Hosted by Placitas Community Library, a 501c3 non-profit organization.
This program is for educational purposes only.*

453 hwy 165 | www.placitaslibrary.com | 505.867.3355

Coping with Financial Clutter and Scams

September 23 (6:30 PM)

By Kate Miller

In partnership with AltaLune's financial advisers Kelley and Ric Tredwin, PCL will be launching four monthly programs from September thru December designed to help attendees increase their knowledge and comfort with finances. All ages and both men and women are welcome to join us from

6:30 – 8:00 PM for all workshops.

The programs begin September 23, 2026 at 6:30 PM with the topic *Financial Clutter, Scams, and Organizing Your Financial Life*. Financial literacy is an essential life skill that impacts every aspect of our community's wellbeing and allows individuals to feel more at ease and knowledgeable about their finances. It is the aim of this series to provide practical guidance in an open and welcoming environment where participants can build their knowledge and confidence about finances.

This program is free and open to all members of the public 17 and older. Sessions will take place in the Gracie Lee Community meeting room at the library. Please join us on Wednesday September 23 at 6:30 PM.

CENSORSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

WHERE CHALLENGES HAPPEN

Of the titles targeted in school library collections, 98% were in multi-title challenges. Public libraries continued to experience more overall censorship attempts than all other location types.



51%

Public libraries



37%

School libraries



8%

School curricula



3%

Higher education

Statistics based on 696 incidents with known locations and include challenges to all materials and services. About 1% of censorship attempts took place in other locations.

[ALA.ORG/BBOOKS](https://ala.org/bbooks)

©ALA

PLACITAS *Community* LIBRARY

invites you to

Being
FINANCIALLY SAVVY
A Financial Literacy Series

OCT 7 | 6:30 PM

**FROM SAVER TO INVESTOR:
UNDERSTANDING WAYS
TO INVEST**



Become a savvy investor. Get a practical understanding of savings, investing, and charitable giving, building your confidence to make informed decisions about your financial life.

NEXT UP IN SERIES:

NOV 18 | 6:30 - We All Die: How Do We Prepare?

DEC 9 | 6:30 - Life Gets Crazy: Find Financial Comfort When Life Happens

presented in partnership with



**TO REGISTER
or FOR MORE INFO:**



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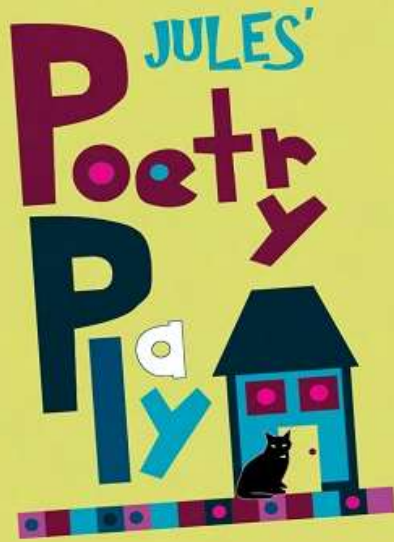
Call Kate at 505-259-1522

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PLACITAS *Community* LIBRARY

invites you to



@ PCL



with
Jules Nyquist
and **John Roche**

September 26

2 PM

Come meet and share in the delights of the spoken word with the folks behind Jules' Poetry Playhouse. Jules and John live in Placitas and are excited to share poems from their assortment of award-winning books, along with new work. Themes such as the New Mexico landscape, road ghosts, wildlife, nuclear history, fun with forms, and word-play may have you inspired to try your own!

BONUS: A portion of book sales will benefit the library!

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Jules Poetry Playhouse at PCL
September 26 (2 PM)

By Doris Fields

If you have driven on NM Highway 165, you may have seen the cutely decorated sign on the side of the road announcing "Jules Poetry Playhouse." Once each month, Jules and her partner in life, poet

John Roche, host the Playhouse in their creative garden. Poets from throughout New Mexico, neighboring states and, indeed, other countries come to create, play, write, and share in the delight of poetry in Jules Poetry Playhouse. On Saturday, September 26, at 2 PM, everyone will have an opportunity to hear Jules and John read poems. Some of their poems, no doubt, blossomed from the Playhouse!

Jules Nyquist holds an M.F.A. in Writing & Literature (Poetry) from Bennington College, and a B.A. in Creative Writing from Metropolitan State University. She experiments with sound and form, and writes poetry on the page and for performance. Jules' two books of poems, *Behind the Volcanoes* and *Appetites* (Beatlick Press), were finalists for the NM/AZ Book Awards in 2012 and 2014, respectively. Her poems have appeared in *5 AM*, *Salamander*, *Malpais Review*, *Adobe Walls*, *St. Paul Almanac*, *Long Islander News*, *Gray Sparrow*, *House Organ*, *Duke City Fix*, *Café Review* and others. She is co-editor of the Poets Speak anthology series with John Roche and edited the volume 2 *Hers* series in 2017.

After earning an M.A. at University College Dublin and a Ph.D. at SUNY Buffalo, John Roche taught Literature and Creative Writing classes for four decades at various colleges and universities, including Emory University and Michigan State, and is Emeritus Associate Professor from Rochester Institute of Technology.

Along with editing the five-volume *Poets Speak* series (Beatlick Press/Poetry Playhouse Publications 2017–2018), and other anthologies (including *Mo' Joe*, Beatlick Press 2014), his own poetry collections include *On Conesus* (FootHills 2005), *Topicalities* (FootHills 2008), *Road Ghosts* (theenk Books 2011), *The Joe Poems: The Continuing Saga of Joe the Poet* (FootHills 2012), *Joe Rides Again: Further Adventures of Joe the Poet* (FootHills 2005), and *Tubbables* (Poetry Playhouse Publications 2024).

Jules and John live in Placitas and are excited to share poems from their assortment of award-winning books, along with new work. Themes such as the New Mexico landscape, road ghosts, wildlife, nuclear history, fun with forms, and word-play may have you inspired to try your own. Join us at this free event on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 2 PM in the Gracie Lee Community Room. A portion of book sales will benefit the library.



CHACO CANYON:

Emergence of Puebloan Culture, Then and Now

OCTOBER 3 | 2 PM



ENCORE EVENT

Chaco Canyon: Emergence of Puebloan Culture, Then and Now with Jon Ghahate

October 3 (2 PM)

Throughout the Western Hemisphere, specifically what is now referred to as the US Southwest, diverse disciplines of science have uncovered, studied, and theorized over the empirical evidence of humankind. In particular, in New Mexico, recent revelations have contributed to the scientific community's redefining of our understanding of the duration and progression of humankind in the Western Hemisphere. However, even with a tremendous amount of evidence, what is known of the humans who built and resided at what is now referred as Chaco Culture National Historical Park remains an enigma.

Despite the massive 14 impressive Great Houses, expansive 50,000 square mile architectural and agrarian influence, and the known amount of time that Chaco was inhabited, a majority of the scientific community will admit little is known of the people themselves.

Join PCL in welcoming back our own scholar of Native American history, Jon Ghahate, Pueblo cultural historian, on Saturday, October 3 at 2 PM. Jon is from the Pueblos of Laguna and Zuni, and a member of the Turkey and Badger Clans. As a public speaker, he is recognized for providing more accurate, credible, and respectful histories, legacies, and cultures of the Southwest civilizations, specifically New Mexico's contemporary Pueblo communities.

His diverse professional background includes: a health care practitioner, a public middle school and high school math and science educator, an athletic coach for the public school system, a journalist for a national radio talk program, and a community volunteer for a variety of community conscious organizations. Most recently, Jon served as the Museum Cultural Educator at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, NM. A Vietnam era veteran, Jon received a number of community, military service related, and professional commendations. He was also a fellow of the Kellogg National Leadership Foundation Program. He is a lifelong resident of New Mexico and his tribal nations and a father to two children. He is currently an educator at Crow Canyon Archeological Center in Colorado and lives in Placitas, NM.

This presentation is for those who have yet to experience Chaco as well as for those who know Chaco Canyon well. It is an opportunity to learn what is now known and more importantly, the connections NM's contemporary Pueblo communities have with the humans who called Chaco 'HOME' 1,300 years ago. We look forward to welcoming back Jon Ghahate on Saturday, October 3 at 2 PM.

KEEPING YOUR TREES HAPPY IN THIS DROUGHT

with arborist Joran Viers



OCT 10 | 2 PM



Keeping Your Trees Healthy in this Drought

October 10 (2 PM)

By Phyllis Knight

Arborist Joran Viers will speak at PCL on Saturday October 10 at 2 PM. In his presentation, *Tree Health During Drought*, Joran will talk about several related topics, such as understanding the resources trees need and how the trees use those resources; the effects of drought on trees; and strategies to offset those effects while maximizing water use efficiency.

Viers has spent over two decades looking at trees in the Albuquerque area and trying to diagnose what their problems. Often, the root cause is, pun intended, in the soil. We live in a desert environment, and trees are naturally limited to the few ecosystems with sufficient soil moisture – high mountains and riverbanks. Many of our trees are experiencing chronic drought stress, which then leads to a host of other problems – insects, diseases, and general failure to thrive.

Joran Viers is a senior arborist working with Legacy Tree Company. Legacy is a full-range tree care company, offering services from planting through pruning and removal. They pride themselves on knowledge and skill; three of the arborists on staff hold the coveted Board-Certified Master Arborist credential, and all of the sales arborists and crew leads hold the Certified Arborist credential. Legacy Tree Company supports public education on trees and tree care and is happy to have Viers speak on those issues.

He was born in Albuquerque but grew up in the woods of coastal California, the cloud forest of Costa Rica, and the Ozark National Forest of rural northwest Arkansas. This led to a life-long love of plants and the natural sciences. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of New Mexico, and a master's degree in Botany from the University of Florida. His prior work includes self-employment as a Consulting Arborist, City Forester for the City of Albuquerque, County Horticulture Agent and County Director for the Bernalillo County Cooperative Extension Service of New Mexico State University.

Joran has been very involved in urban tree care issues since his time with the Cooperative Extension Service, where a major job duty was performing diagnostics based on site visits and samples sent to the lab. As part of that involvement, he has been a member of Think Trees NM since 2003, an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist since 2016, and holds Tree Risk Assessment Qualification from ISA.

We look forward to welcoming Joran Viers and seeing you on October 10 at 2 PM.



CENSORSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL TITLES TARGETED BY ORGANIZED CAMPAIGNS, 2001-2025

Pressure groups and the decision makers they influenced targeted **7,884 total titles** in 2025. From 2001-2020, this constituency tried to remove an average of 46 titles per year. From 2021-2025, they targeted an average of 5,238 total titles annually.



ALA.ORG/BBBOOKS

©ALA



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
The PLACITAS GARDEN TOUR is coming soon
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

The Placitas Garden Tour (PGT) is a charitable nonprofit 501(c)3 entity that organizes and oversees the annual PGT. This year's **10th Annual PGT is on Sunday, September 13, 2026 from 9 AM - 4 PM.** Proceeds from the PGT benefit the volunteer organizations that participate in the annual event, and include Jardineros de Placitas (Jardineros), PCL (yes, us!), and the Sandoval Extension Master Gardeners (SEMG).

Since you're receiving this newsletter, you likely know about the Community's Jardineros and the library, but how much do you know about the SEMG? The following information is taken from the SEMG Homeowner Brochure. The entire brochure (and more) can be found at [Sandovalmastergardeners.org](https://sandovalmastergardeners.org).

Who are the Sandoval Extension Master Gardens (SEMG)?

We are gardening enthusiasts trained and certified by New Mexico State University College of Agriculture, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences and operate under sponsorship of the Sandoval County Extension Agriculture Agent.

What Do We Do?

- Assist residential gardeners with their horticulture and landscape questions
- Provide information tables at community events
- Organize and volunteer in demonstration and food-growing gardens in the community
- Educate the community on the latest New Mexico State University research-based gardening methods
- Help gardeners conserve precious resources in an arid climate
- Help gardeners select the right plant for the right place
- Inform gardeners on how to build healthy soils for their plants
- With the exception of soil testing, provide all services at no charge
- Staff a year-round Email Helpline: emailhelpline@sandovalmastergardeners.org

Happy Gardening!

Placitas Garden Tour Artists Exhibition
Exhibition: Through Sept 20



Visit the Gracie Lee Community Room for more works created by the artists working in the gardens of the homes on the tour.

Vibrant Souls: A Dia de los Muertos Celebration

Exhibition: Sept 22 – Oct 12

Reception: Oct 2, 5:00 – 6:30 PM

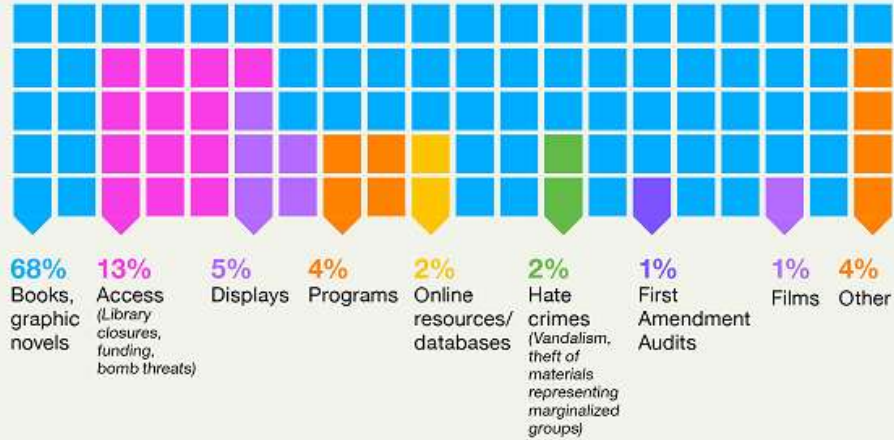


This exhibition offers art in many forms – lively skeletons, colorful flowers, patterned skulls and ofrendas are among the bold imagery that reflects the occasion's rich symbolism.

CENSORSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

BOOKS AND BEYOND

ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked **713 distinct censorship incidents** in 2025. Here's the breakdown.



ALA.ORG/BBOOKS

©ALA



by Nora Timmons, Children's Program Coordinator

Sept 8 (10 AM): Pre-K Story Time

Eat Well, Read Well! We will read *Eating the Alphabet* and *Growing Vegetable Soup* by Lois Ehler and *Lily's Garden* by Deborah Kogan Ray. Then we will make art prints with apples and celery. Guess what fruit and veggie snacks will be served?

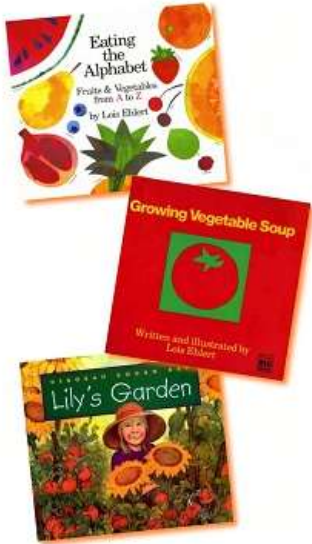
The
PLACITAS Community LIBRARY
Children's Committee
 invites you to attend our

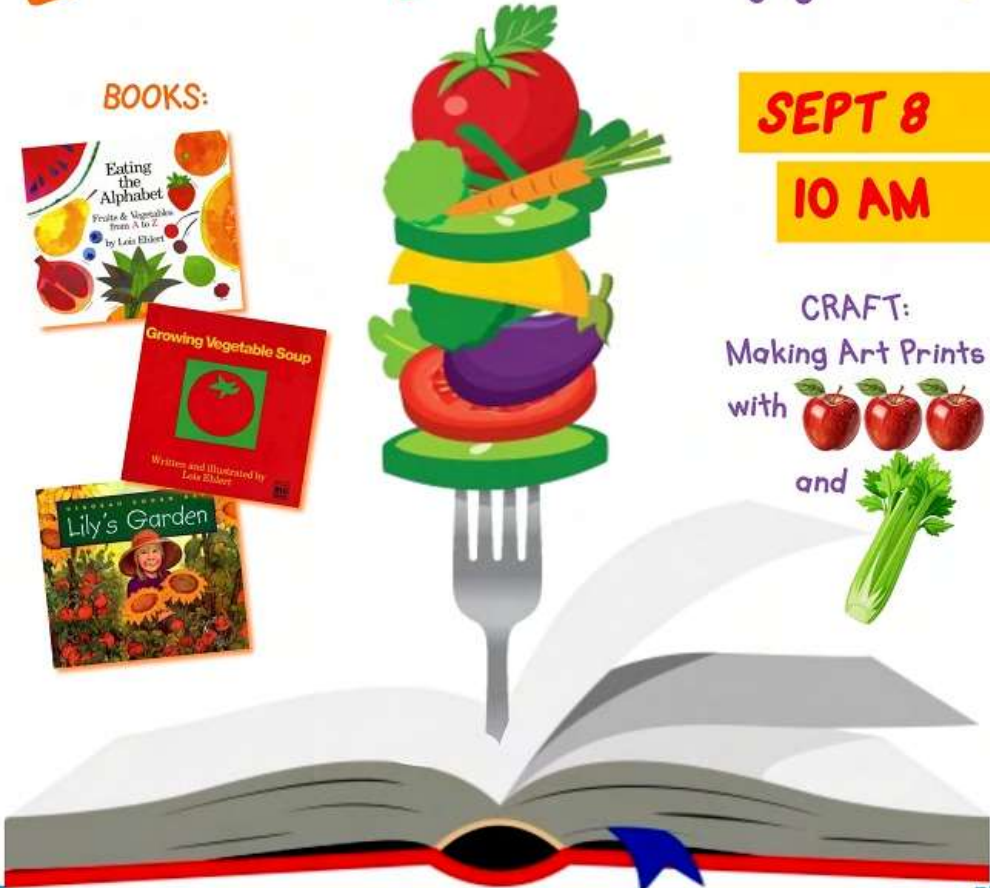
Fruit &
 Veggie
 Snacks, too!

PREK Ages infant-five
STORY HOUR

Eat Well, Read Well!

BOOKS:





SEPT 8
10 AM

CRAFT:
 Making Art Prints
 with 
 and 

453 hwy 165 / 505.867.3355 / placitaslibrary.com

Sept 27 (1 – 3 PM): Geology Fest

Rock out with geologist, Colleen Rust, one of our patrons and her assembled group of talented and dedicated geologists as they help you increase your knowledge of rocks and minerals! Bring your rock collection so they can help you identify the rocks and minerals in your collection. They are also donating some items for you to add to your collection. Don't miss this opportunity! You will be able to dig for fossils, and for the younger rock hounds, there will be geology-themed coloring activities. This event is always fun and educational. Adults are welcome too!

The
PLACITAS *Community* **LIBRARY**
Children's Committee

INVITES YOU TO ROCK OUT AT

**GEOLOGY
FEST**

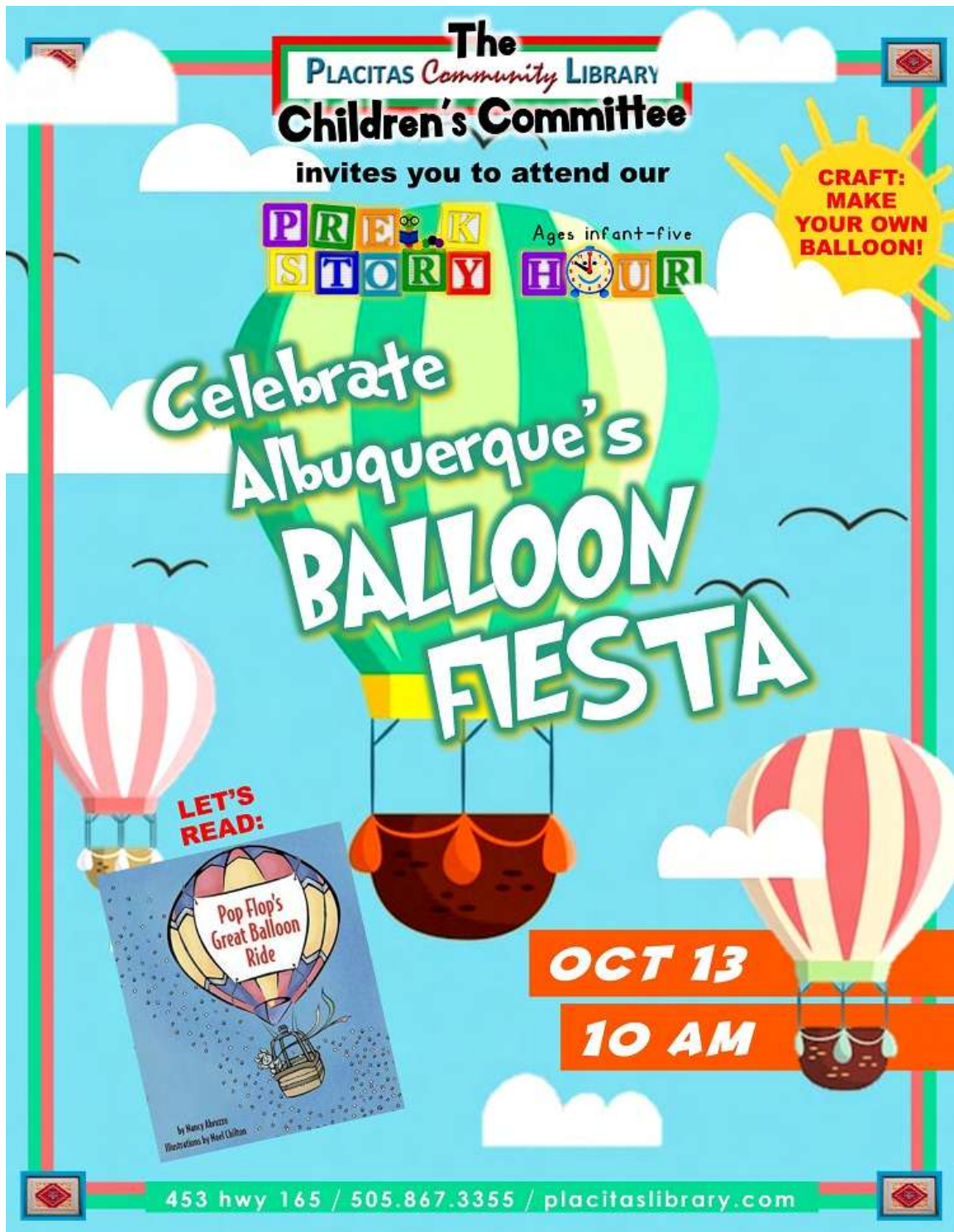
**SEPT 27
1:00-3:00**

Join geologist, patron, and Placitas parent COLLEEN RUST and her assembled group of talented and dedicated geologists as they help you increase your knowledge of rocks and minerals! They will help you identify unknown rocks in your collection and let you select rocks from theirs. So be sure to bring your collection! You'll also be able to dig for fossils! And, for the younger rock hounds, we'll have fun geology-themed coloring activities!

453 hwy 165 | www.placitaslibrary.com | 505.867.3355

Oct 13 (10 AM): Pre-K Story Time

Celebrate the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. Hear the story of *Pop Flop's Great Balloon Ride* and make your own balloon.



Oct 25 (1 PM): Halloween Party

Join everyone's favorite pirates, Denise Gard and her dogs, Kira and Joey. There will be pirate activities and a heap o' candy booty, mateys! Wear yer costume or pirate attire or just come as ye be – yo ho ho!

The
PLACITAS Community LIBRARY
Children's Committee

INVITES ALL YE MATEYS TO OUR

HALLOWEEN PARTY

WITH MS DENISE
KIRA
AND
JOEY

OCT 25
1 PM

Come
Shiver Me
Timbers and
celebrate Halloween
with Pirate Denise Gard
and her seadogs, Joey & Kira!
We'll be havin' pirate activities
and a heap o' candy booty, mateys!
Wear yer costume or pirate attire,
or just come as ye be — yo ho ho!



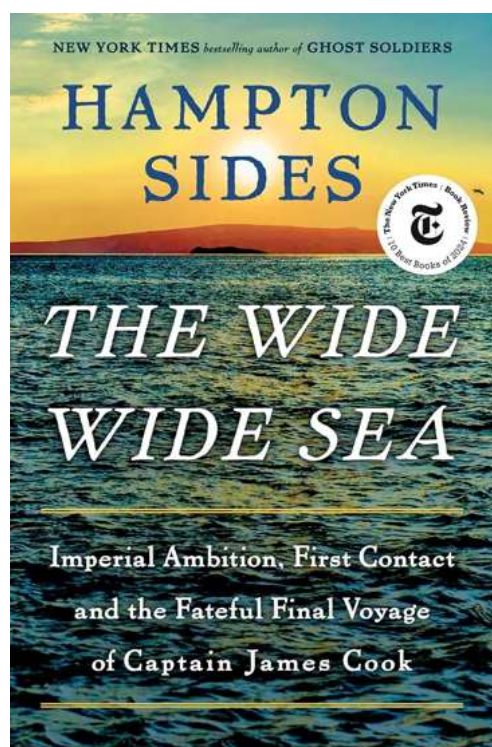
Susanne's Selections

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 Wide Wide Sea: Imperial Ambition, First Contact and the Fateful Final Voyage of Captain James Cook

by Hampton Sides

He wanted to go not only "farther than any man has been before me, but as far as I think it possible for an to go." ~ James Cook, a man of his time

Captain James Cook sailed a total of 200,000 miles, during his three voyages. As an outstanding surveyor, hydrographer, and cartographer, he provided documentation of the maps he created that navigators used for centuries. In this meticulously researched chronicle, Sides studied numerous primary sources to write a phenomenal *tour de force*. Among the primary sources are journals penned by the crews on Cook's ships.

Sides's masterful narrative is focused on Cook's final and third expedition, which led to his death in February 13, 1779, at Kealahakua Bay on the Big Island of Hawaii. Cook's "official"

mission was to return Mai, a Tahitian man who became admired and famous in London, after arriving as a guest from Cook's second voyage. Cook's instructions were to return Mai, at Mai's request, to his home in Tahiti. However, Cook was also secretly commanded to both chart and claim land for the British Empire and to discover the fabled Northwest Passage. This was his primary mission.

By 1775, 48-year-old Captain James Cook had completed two successful voyages of exploration and had earned a rewarding retirement. However, he apparently became bored in retirement and in 1776, he departed on a third voyage, on the HMS Resolution. Over three years, he sailed from England to Cape Town, South Africa, Tasmania, New Zealand, Tahiti, and other tropical islands. On his way to Alaska, he discovered Hawaii,

which no one in England knew existed. He sailed along the coastline of the Oregon Territory and Alaska, journeyed as far as he could before being stopped by solid ice fields in the Bering Strait and the Arctic Circle, and he then returned to Hawaii via the Bering Sea, where he died.

Despite the controversy and aspersions cast nowadays on Cook, he attempted to understand the cultures he encountered, instead of considering them inferior. He refused to physically punish his crew and the indigenous people of infractions initially, until his crew vehemently protested. Admired for his humane leadership and respect for indigenous peoples at that point in time, especially compared to other explorers, he displayed a violent temper on his final voyage. Perhaps his irrational behavior was due to his age and frustration with the expedition's challenges, such as constant the inclement weather and violent hurricanes, ice fields, health issues suffered by the crew such as tuberculosis, accidents, and several violent interactions with indigenous peoples. His ships were the only ones unaffected by scurvy (a dreaded maritime disease), because Cook believed the crew needed to eat fresh produce. He didn't understand why, but it worked! (The disease is cured by eating citrus fruits.) Unfortunately, *"nearly two million European sailors perished from scurvy between 1600 and 1800."*

His initial curiosity and goodwill could sometimes descend into violent attacks in the heat of the moment, perhaps caused by miscommunication. Cultural values between the indigenous people and the British were very different, as you can imagine. Then there was the language barrier they had to contend with. Sides provides significant historical context to the 18th century era (colonialism, moral values, religious beliefs, traditions, etc.)

Captain Cook believed that a group of indigenous people he met *"were happier than Europeans because they enjoyed social equality in a warm climate and were provided with all the necessities of life, and therefore had no need of trade with Britain, contrary to the popular belief in Britain and among Cook's crew members that indigenous people were savages living in societies inferior to British civilisation."*

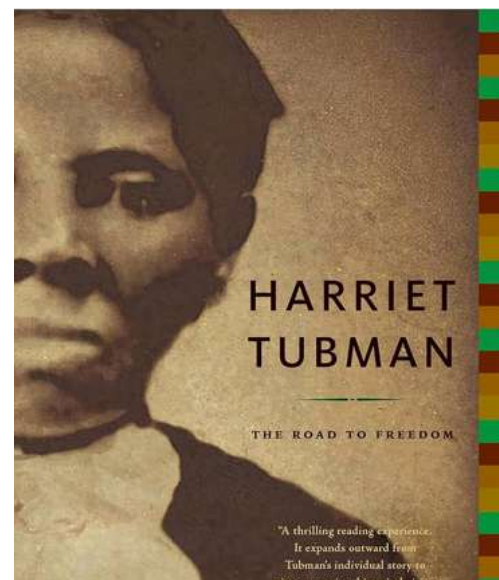
A riveting and informative historical account of Cook's journeys, *Wide Wide Sea* provides a spellbinding read. I always look forward to reading books authored by Sides.

Another very rewarding and entertaining book readers may wish to read also about Captain Cook, is *Blue Latitudes: Boldly Going Where Captain Cook Has Gone Before* by Tony Horowitz. Horowitz writes about his experiences physically retracing Cook's voyages. I found it delightful with a unique perspective. Sides includes it in his bibliography.

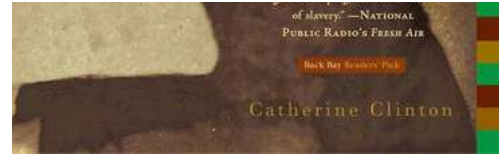
Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom by Catherine Clinton

Harriet Tubman was one of the most extraordinary and courageous persons in United States history, especially during the time leading up to and during the Civil War era. She was called both "Moses" and "the prophet" by enslaved people she rescued. Tubman spirited them north to Canada and U.S. states where slavery was illegal.

She was the only woman, the only Black person, and an escaped fugitive slave to work as a conductor on the Underground Railroad. A huge bounty was placed on her head by angry slave owners because she rescued so many slaves. According to historyfacts.com, Tubman emancipated over 700 people.

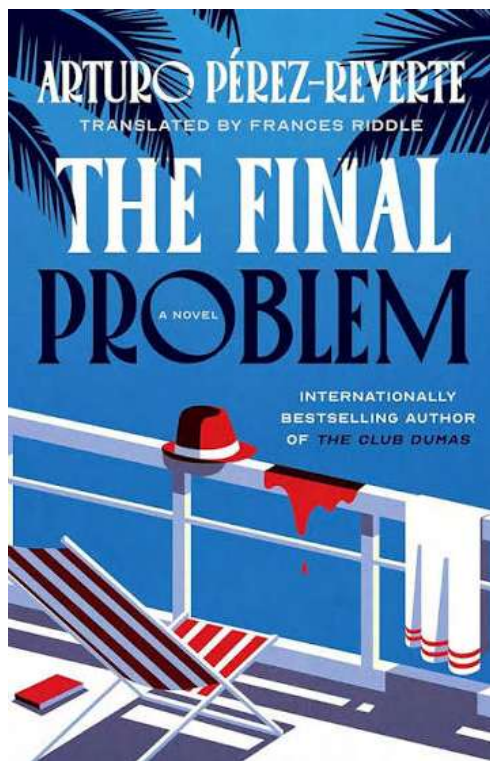


During the Civil War, she was the only woman to officially lead men into battle. Incredibly, she acted as a spy and a scout during the Civil War while serving with the Union Army in South Carolina. To John Brown the well-known abolitionist, she was "General Tubman. To slave owners, she was "the enemy."



Raised on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in the 1820s, not far from where Frederick Douglass was born, her birth name was Araminta Ross. She later changed it to Harriet Tubman after marrying. Her early life was heartbreaking. As an enslaved child, she was horribly abused by her owners. Although she was illiterate (slaves were not allowed to be educated), Tubman achieved astonishing, almost miraculous accomplishments. Her contributions throughout her life were so remarkable that Susan B. Anthony introduced her as a "living legend" at a New England Women's Suffrage Association conference in 1897. After retiring from government service, she received a small pension which she used to establish her own charitable organization. In 1908, she opened The Harriet Tubman Home, which housed and sheltered African-American people in need. Harriet Tubman died on March 10, 1913 and was buried with military honors.

Clinton's well researched biography of this brilliant, incomparable, and selfless woman is both compelling and enlightening. Harriet Tubman is truly a hero for the ages and a champion for the rights of Black people and women's suffrage. I highly recommend this rewarding book.



The Final Problem

by Arturo Pérez-Reverte

A witty, tongue-in-cheek mystery inspired by Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes novels, the story occurs in June of 1960 during a fierce, unexpected storm which forces a luxury yacht's occupants, including our protagonist, Basil Ormand (think Basil Rathbone, the celebrated actor whose portrayal of Sherlock Holmes is legendary) to evacuate to the only available accommodation, the Ausländer, a picturesque small 19th century villa, on the nearby island of Utakos, near Corfu. They end up being stranded for much longer than they anticipated. Other tourists find themselves also stranded and join the yacht's former occupants, for a total of nine tourists at the hotel.

When one of the tourists is murdered, everyone urges Ormand, an actor past his prime, to investigate since they think he must know how because he portrayed Sherlock Holmes in numerous movies. Of course, Ormand demurs, but eventually is talked into it because there is no police presence on the island and it will be

many days before any authority can arrive.

A playful novel, it incorporates the glamour of Old Hollywood and name drops celebrities such as Errol Flynn and David Niven, and renown authors of the era, Graham Green and Patrick Leigh Fermor. As with Pérez-Reverte's engaging previous novels, which are quite different, this is an entertaining read sure to keep you focused to discover the unanticipated denouement. The novel is a translation from the original Spanish.

From Wikipedia:

Arturo Pérez-Reverte Gutiérrez is a Spanish novelist and journalist. He worked as a war correspondent for RTVE for 21 years (1973–1994). His first novel, *El húsar*, set in the Napoleonic Wars, was published in 1986. He is well known outside Spain for his *Captain Alatriste* series of adventure novels, which have been translated into multiple languages. Since 2003 he has been a member of the Royal Spanish Academy.



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SUNDAY, SEPT. 13, 2026 @ 2 PM

Colcha Embroidery: A New Mexican Spanish Heritage Art

Presented by *Teresa M. Hernandez*



Please join us for a colorful visual presentation about Colcha Embroidery given by Teresa M. Hernandez, who will give a brief history of Colcha in New Mexico, some of the different unique styles and explain the process and the materials used in this art form.

Please note that Teresa will be also conducting a 1-day Colcha Embroidery Workshop at the Corrales Community Library on Wednesday, September 30 at 3pm, with registration opening on September 1st. For more info, please contact:

sandra@corraleslibrary.org

For inquiries about her art, please contact Teresa: teresacolcha1@gmail.com



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SUNDAY, OCT. 11, 2026 @ 2 PM

Jemez Mountains: A Cultural & Natural History

Presented by *Thomas Swetnam*

Rocks, trees, and people of the Jemez Mountains all tell stories. Pueblo, Spanish, and Anglo cultures have mixed and melded here across the mesas and in the canyons below Valles Caldera, the crater of a giant, slumbering volcano. The landscape records eruptions and lava flows, droughts and floods, forest fires and hot springs.

In this talk, Dr. Tom Swetnam will weave these stories together with photographs, maps, and voices from the past, drawing on his recent book, *The Jemez Mountains: A Cultural and Natural History*. Dr. Swetnam is Regents Professor and Director Emeritus at the University of Arizona who has studied human land use, climate history, and forest fire ecology around the world. He served on the first Board of Trustees of the Valles Caldera National Preserve, and is also a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



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

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Saturday 10 – 5	placitaslibrary.com
Sunday 1 – 4	



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