

# Friends of the Library Newsletter • Fall 2022



Arlanza Library • Arlington Library • SPC Jesus S. Duran Eastside Library  
SSgt Salvador J. Lara Casa Blanca Library • La Sierra Library  
Main Library • Marcy Library • Orange Terrace Library

## Friends of the Library Annual Meeting



*Susan Straight*

*The Friends of the Riverside Library celebrated our return to an in-person Annual Meeting on May 21, 2022 in the Community Room of the new Main Library. Guests were invited to check out the inviting silent auction items, sample delicious cookies, purchase Susan's books from Inlandia and mingle with friends - old and new. Our speaker, Susan Straight, shared comments about her new book, Mecca, and read a bit to intrigue us as well as answering questions from the audience.*

*Thank you to all who made this event happen.*



*Thanks to our past president, Jim Supik, for his many years of leadership and to Gayle Webb our Book Store Chair.*

*Thanks to Doris Weingart for the creative silent auction items.*

*Thanks to Cati Porter, Executive Director of Inlandia Institute, for bringing Susan's books to our event and visiting with our guests.*



Be sure to read the review of *Mecca* on page 4.

**Friends of the  
Riverside Library  
2022 - 2023 Officers**

**President**

Doris Weingart

**Vice President**

Jim Supik

**Secretary**

Gayle Webb

**Treasurer**

Jan Fratt

**Board Members**

Elisabeth Anghel

Judy Baumgartner

Elizabeth Hall

Marsha Loveridge

Carol Nagengast

Barbara Purvis

Linda Thomas

**Purpose:** the Friends of the Riverside Library is a volunteer, non-profit organization advocating a strong public library system. It assists the library in expanding its resources.

**Affiliations:** Friends of California Libraries, whose purpose is working toward a nation of readers and knowledgeable citizens; California Library Association, and American Library Association.

**P.O. Box 468  
Riverside, CA 92502**

**friendsofrivlibrary@  
gmail.com**

**[https://riversideca.gov/  
library/friends\\_about.](https://riversideca.gov/library/friends_about.asp)**

**asp**

Newsletter

Fall • Winter • Spring

## President's Message by Doris Weingart

I'd like to introduce myself. I am the newly elected president of the Friends of the Riverside Public Library. I've been an active member of the Friends for many years, volunteering primarily in book sales at the main library. My family members are long-time residents of Riverside. Our kids went to Alcott, Gage and Poly and then UCLA (go Bruins).

I know my way around book sorting and book selling but now I have the whole organization in my purview. It's daunting but I'm not alone. I'd like to offer my thanks here and now to the Friends Board of Directors for their guidance and support; to all the branch and bookstore volunteers who give so tirelessly of themselves to raise the money that we give to the library; to library staff in the branches who come to the aid of Friends volunteers when needed; to Erin Christmas, Library Director, for being a beautiful Friend to us and supporting us in all our efforts. And to you- our wonderful Friends members. It is with your book and financial donations, and Friends memberships that we are able to raise funds each year to support a variety of library children's programs and other activities. This doesn't happen without you.

We are in the planning stage for Friends events for the coming year and there will be more information coming about that. Meantime I'd like to call your attention to an important annual nation-wide library event: **Banned Books Week**, which this year begins on September 18th. Again, thank you.. Public libraries and school libraries are seeing an increase in the number of book challenges, primarily with books dealing with race and racism and LGBTQ issues. Library collections exist to reflect the diverse world we live in and in books we have the chance to see and validate ourselves and to share the experiences of people who are different from us. Libraries are our windows to the world and I'm proud to be part of that community.

I'll get off my soapbox now. If I can help with any Friends of the Library concerns, please email me at: [dorisweingart1@gmail.com](mailto:dorisweingart1@gmail.com). Thank you.

Sheila O'Brien, a long-time member of the Friends, and the Friends Board of Directors, has resigned to pursue her love of ancient languages and cultures via a course of study with the University of Chicago. I've known and worked with Sheila for many years and admire her so much for her strong regard for the Friends, and for her deep and abiding love of and respect for books, and book people. She, Gayle Webb, and I began the adventure of managing the Friends of the Library bookstore a little over a year ago, and her calm advice (not to mention her snarky sense of humor) got us over many a sticky minute. I miss her but the three of us will continue to have lunch together and to talk about life and laugh a lot. Thank you, thank you for your dedication to the Friends and to the Library. Can you say "You're welcome in Sumerian?"

Doris

# News from our Library Director

by Erin Christmas

*Sign-up for a Library card this September!*

August marked the beginning of the school year for many local K-12 students. Riverside Public Library provides several excellent online resources for our students to use to be successful during the school year. These resources are available via the “online resources” icon at [www.riversideca.gov/library](http://www.riversideca.gov/library).

BrainFuse HelpNow allows students to interact with live tutors in math, science, reading/writing, and social studies. Skills building is available on many topics for students to receive real-time help. Students can also submit essays and other forms of writing to the 24-hour Writing Lab for feedback. Live tutoring is available every day from 1:00 pm-10:00 pm local time.

MAS Ultra School Edition, Middle Search and Primary Search are grade appropriate research databases providing full text articles covering wide-ranging subject areas and topics, including history, art, science, current events, and more. These databases provide primary source materials for students to use in school assignments.

Britannica School is the go-to site for K-12 research. There are thousands of up to date, curated, and curriculum-relevant articles, images, videos, audio clips, primary sources, maps, research tools, and recommended Web sites. There are three separate databases based on grade level—Elementary, Middle, or High.

**These resources are available for free with a Riverside Public Library Card.** As September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month, I encourage you to ask all students to sign-up for a Riverside Public Library card to access these online resources and much more. To register visit any of our eight library locations or sign-up online at [www.riversideca.gov/library](http://www.riversideca.gov/library).



Information helps you to see that you're not alone. That there's somebody in Mississippi and somebody in Tokyo who all have wept, who've all longed and lost, who've all been happy. So the library helps you to see, not only that you are not alone, but that you're not really any different from everyone else.

Maya Angelou

## Book Sales Corner by Gayle Webb



Where are you? We really miss you! Not as many of you are returning to your branch libraries' Friend's Sales Areas nor are they receiving as many of your generous donations as they used to in the past.

Right after Covid we had to limit donations for safety and staffing reasons but now we are ready to again receive and sell the best priced books in town. You can't go anywhere - thrift stores, big box stores and certainly not the online book sale outlets - for a better price on a variety of classics, mysteries, art books and non-fiction to own. Besides, all the branch libraries are really cool places to hang out, participate in activities or use computers.

Remember, your donations and purchases directly help the library...so please clear off those shelves, cabinets and nightstands and **bring us your used books**. As always, we greatly appreciate your participation - thank you!

Just a reminder that hours of operation for Friends Book Sales areas at all branches (except Main) are the same hours that the libraries are open: **Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-6 pm**

At Main, the separate Bookstore is open fewer hours:

**Tuesday-Friday 11 am-2 pm and Saturday 11 am-4 pm**

## *Books from the top shelf*

review by Carol Nagengast



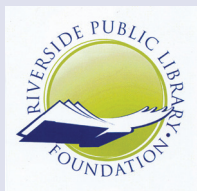
**Mecca**

by Susan Straight

Farrar, Straus & Giroux

Mecca draws its title from the eponymous town in eastern Riverside County as well as from a mecca as a place that attracts a wide variety of people. The novel does not have a central plot or storyline, but rather is a series of "slice of life" episodes in the lives of ordinary, but not typical denizens in and around the county. Each episode could stand on its own but in fact, Susan Straight employs a group of young men - indigenous, Black, Latino - who ride motorcycles and who decide to try out for the California Highway Patrol as the core around which the stories are told. While only one, Johnny Frias who is as close to a main character as there is, becomes an officer, the others and their extended families, some of whom are citizens and some of whom are not, are the protagonists in this amazing account of life for people who live on the margins in SoCal.

Among the many "slices of life" to be found: 1) The Santa Ana winds blow and fires burn in western canyons of the county. Johnny Frias, descended from the earliest indigenous and Mexican inhabitants of California, is the target of racial harassment by fellow officers and those whom he stops for violations. During a fire, he (justifiably), kills and buries a man in the canyon without telling anyone. He spends his spare time for years thereafter both worrying about whether the body will be found and searching for the woman whose life he believes he has saved by committing the crime. 2) A young Black boy sees two white men who are trying to illegally harvest copper from electrical towers near his house burn to death when high winds hit the towers. His father, one of the motorcycle buddies who did not make it to the highway patrol, tries to ensure that Johnny Frias rather than a white cop is the first on the scene, because who is going to believe that a Black man and his boy had nothing to do with the death of two white men? 3) The Santa Ana winds blow on an undocumented indigenous woman from southern Mexico who works as a hotel maid near Palm Desert. Even though she lives carefully to avoid detection and deportation, she suddenly finds an abandoned newborn and has to break the rules. She turns out to be linked to the woman whose life had been saved by Frias years earlier. 4) A young Black athlete is shot to death by a white cop and his grieving father punches out his friend Johnny Frias. There are many more stories, all lived by people of color who face daily threats: ICE, rapacious and racist growers, and other employers, being in the wrong place with the wrong skin color. Everyone has to watch their back. Yet and this is a huge yet, Mecca is a novel filled with family, comradeship, romance, and joy. Straight knows Riverside County well and this is a novel of place as much as of people. I highly recommend it. Just do not look for a traditional plot, with a beginning, a middle, and an end.



# Foundation News

by Susan Toscano, President

The 2022 Annual Campaign has begun for the Foundation. This is the time of year when we ask the library supporters to give an annual donation to the library system. This year's campaign is "Preparing for Today, Tomorrow, and Beyond." This drive will provide funding support for library programs and resources for all ages including children, teens, families, and adults. Programs will include school readiness programs, a parenting resource section, financial literacy section and programs for teens and adults. For older adults, information on estate planning, trusts and wills and more will be part of this year's programs.

If you are interested in supporting the 2022 Annual Campaign you can donate at <http://www.RiversideLibraryFoundation.org/donate.html>

We are making good progress on our 5-year Literacy Legacy Program to raise funds for the library by putting donor names in the New Riverside Main Library on the Donor Wall or on prominent spaces. As of this writing we have two prominent spaces spoken for and an additional prominent space donation in the process of completion. Two people have paid \$5,000 or more to have their name on one of the stacks and sixteen people have donated to have their name (or the name of a loved one) on the donor wall already. We are off to a great start towards our ten million dollar goal.

Do you know a business or organization that would like their name on the wall or a prominent space? Please mention our program to them or let us know who to contact. Also, there are many spaces to name so if you are interested in your name on the donor wall or to name a space, contact a Foundation member for information or go to our website at Riverside Public Library Foundation (see above website address) and send us a message.

Again, thank you for your continuing interest in and support of the Riverside Public Library Foundation as we work together to make the Riverside Public Library the learning center for the community.

I wish you good health and a great fall as we continue our work in support of our Riverside Library system.

## *The Passing of a Friend*

Chris Carpenter was a dear friend to the library and to us in every sense of the word. He recently passed away from cancer and he is missed by all who knew him. Chris was a partner with Best Best & Krieger, specializing in the area of trusts and estates. He served on the boards of several charities including United Way, YMCA, Riverside Community Hospital, Riverside Library Foundation and was an accomplished athlete.

But a few of us who worked in book sales in our former library knew him as an incredible lover of books, whose fondness for the library included volunteering on Friday mornings sorting donated books. We worked in dreadful room on the lower level that we fondly called the dungeon. Chris's enthusiasm for finding books that were vintage or unique in any other way was contagious and we laughed and rejoiced with him. Sometimes the books turned out to be not special enough but that never dampened his joy, or ours, in finding them.

Chris, indeed the Carpenter family, have been most generous with their time and financial support of the Library, the Foundation, and the Friends and we thank them. Even now, when I pick up a vintage book, I think how delighted Chris would have been to uncover it. We miss him still but we are grateful for the time he spent with us.

**ARTS WALK • ARTS WALK**

Thanks to continuing generous support from the Friends of the Library, the Inlandia Institute will again present engaging literary programming on First Thursday Nights at the Main Library.

**INLANDIA**  
INSTITUTE



**CELEBRATING OUR REGION IN WORD, IMAGE AND SOUND.**

For information about Inlandia's exciting programs please visit their website - [inlandia institute.org](http://inlandia institute.org)

**First Thursdays • 7:00 p.m. • Main Library**

**September 1, 2022 Not So Elementary: The Nuts and Bolts of Writing for Children**

How many times have you read a children's book and thought, I could have written that? So many of us have thought about writing for children, but it's not as easy as it might seem. Hear from a panel of experienced children's book authors on their road to writing and publication.

**October 6, 2022 Say Yes to the Small Press**

The gatekeepers of "traditional" publishing let comparatively few new authors in. What are the other ways a writer can bring a book into print? Hear from authors who have published with micro, small, and independent presses who are changing the face of publishing today.

**November 3, 2022 Writing Culture: Appropriate or Appropriation?**

When is it okay to write about a culture that is not your own? Can it be done, or should you avoid it entirely? Why or why not? Hear from leading voices on multiculturalism, literature, and community, and learn how to avoid pitfalls to write with sensitivity and respect.

Starting September 6, Inlandia will be offering more writing workshops than ever before! Explore poetry, prose, nonfiction, and memoir. Learn to appreciate Black art or discover the deliciousness of writing about food. Classes will be offered in writing for children and young adults, and workshops for seniors will also be available. Make THIS the season you commit to a regular writing practice. Grow as an author and become part of the Inlandia community of writers. Register today! All workshops are free and open to the public. Most workshops will continue to be held remotely or offered hybrid. Registration is required: Register today: <https://tinyurl.com/Fall2022CWW>

**The Friends of the Library is a totally volunteer organization, depending on willing workers to raise money for library needs and programs by selling used books and other related items.**

**Contact us at [friendsofrivlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofrivlibrary@gmail.com)  
Follow [friendsofrivlibrary](#) on Instagram and Facebook!  
[https://riversideca.gov/library/friends\\_about.asp](https://riversideca.gov/library/friends_about.asp).**

# Thoughts on books...

by Marsha Loveridge

Cookbooks find a place in almost everyone's home. One of the wedding gifts we received in 1961 was the Betty Crocker loose-leaf binder—a popular source of information which still sits on my pantry shelf bearing signs of age and use. The book is quaint beyond belief with its instructions to the mid-century housewife. For example: *Eat proper food for health and vitality. Every morning before breakfast, comb hair, apply make-up, a dash of cologne, and perhaps some simple earrings. Does wonders for the morale.*

Nevertheless, several times a year those battered pages come to life: the Easter bunny cake needs the 7-Minute Icing as does the Christmas birthday angel food cake. Thanksgiving requires a traditional pumpkin or pecan pie. And who doesn't love her pineapple upside-down cake? Betty comes through.

Over the years other cookbooks have been added, and more recently, discarded because unlimited recipes are available on the internet, ready for printing. Of course there is still the trusty card file of shared and valued recipes gathered from friends and relatives.

Are there some cookbooks you just can't part with—even to the Friends of the Library?

*PS: Cookbooks are good sellers at our Friends Bookstores*

Books are the carriers of civilization.  
 Without books, history is silent, literature dumb,  
 science crippled, thought and speculation at a standstill.  
 Without books, the development of civilization would have  
 been impossible. They are the engines of change, windows  
 on the world, and (as a poet has said)  
 "Lighthouses erected in the sea of time."  
 They are companions, teachers, magicians,  
 bankers of the treasures of the mind.  
 Books are humanity in print.

Barbara Tuchman, Library of Congress, 1979

## Casa Blanca

The Ssgt Salvador J. Lara Casa Blanca Library had a fun summer full of reading, crafts, and performers! The reading program theme for this summer was *Read Beyond the Beaten Path*. With this theme, library staff brought the outdoors in the library. From mini-camp site displays to an interactive *Guess the National Park* display, the Casa Blanca Library was ready for summer! This Summer Reading Program was particularly special in that it was the first time in 2 years we held in-person events and performers! Throughout the summer, our facility hosted nature-themed programs for all ages, including a scavenger hunt in the Waterwise Garden, virtual tours of national parks, and postcard making. The library hosted events for all age groups and everyone had a fantastic time participating!

As we concluded our Summer, our library recently added additional programs, including the return of *STREAM* club, *Make It & Take It* activities, and art crafts for teens and adults! We will also continue to offer our regular programs such as *Family Storytimes*, *Veterans Connect*, and *Family Coloring*. Be sure to ask us about our *Innovation Lab*, too!

*Guess the National Park*-an interactive display where customers would guess the park based on the picture provided (above). The answer was located underneath the image.

Melina Velazquez • Library Supervisor



## Marcy

Wow! This summer was a hot one! Marcy became *Camp Marcy* for the Summer Reading Program. We had special weekly events with performers, crafts, and meet-ups for children, teens, and adults all based on this year's theme-*Read Around the Beaten Path*. We even had some woodland creatures for kids to read, not feed!



Marcy continues to host *Family Storytime* on Tuesday mornings at 11am where you can hear monkeys jumping on the bed and everyone knows where their head, shoulders, knees, and toes are! Thursday afternoons are *Crafternoons* where families gather to play games, build with Legos, and make crafts. Saturday mornings we host our family *STREAM* club. Each month we have a theme where we explore science, art, and technology. We played with *Osmos*, made slime, and created sculptures with strawbees. In the fall we hope to make origami and build catapults. We had presentations about ovarian cancer from the *Future Physician Leaders* at the *UCR School of Medicine* and a community presentation from the *Girl Scouts of America*. We have a great *Friends of the Library* book sale currently selling classic literature, great for visiting familiar stories or for those required reading school lists. We have had a great summer and are looking forward to autumn!

Megan Bond \* Library Supervisor



## Arlanza

Arlanza had an amazing summer this year! Our main event was the **Summer Reading Program** and the theme this year was **Read Beyond the Beaten Path**. This year was special for us. We were able to bring back in-person programming! This also meant we got to bring back our presenters! The community got to enjoy programs for all ages such as adult **Quite Paint Session**, teen **Smores Campfire Stories**, and a **Bug's Life** program for children. It was truly a fun summer for us, and we look forward to the next Sumer Reading Program.

As the summer comes to an end, the Arlanza Library is extremely excited that schools are back in session, and we get to see many returning students, families, and even new customers! Arlanza Library is looking forward to the many school visits that we have planned this year. We look forward to sharing with the students and other community members some of the amazing online resources that we offer like **Coursera**, **Skillshare**, **Brainfuse HelpNow**, and many other online resources. We also offer in-person programs like a very popular **Bilingual Storytime**, an **Adult Tech Help hour**, and **Walk-in Game Day**.

It's been a great year so far and we look forward to continuing the progress we have made.

Joseph Garcia • Library Supervisor

## Eastside

What will you discover off the beaten path? That was this year's Summer Reading theme, but we have adopted it as Eastside's anthem. Our corner library is a hidden gem that many customers have reacquainted themselves with over the last year. Here, people discover a welcoming, open, friendly staff for a diverse community to use our library resources.

Eastside staff have worked hard to find ways to connect and engage our community. Staff create monthly displays for children, teen's and adults that showcase our library collection. Provided Cricut inspired crafts-to-go for adults. We host a weekly **Preschool Storytime** and build digital literacy by hosting bi-weekly tech help programs. We participated in the Summer Reading Program and partnered with RUSD to offer a lunch at the library—a safe and cool space for children to enjoy a free meal and a fun activity.

In the upcoming months, staff will continue to develop library programs that build skills, are engaging, fun, and build a sense of community. Staff will work on developing relationships with nearby organizations, businesses, and schools to inform them about library services. We are ready to serve those who find themselves discovering what Eastside has to offer.

### Adult and Family Literacy

Literacy is impacting lives one student at a time. Literacy staff work hard to resume the program and build it again after Covid, welcoming back existing tutors and students and recruiting new students and tutors. Family Literacy book clubs were added that encouraged families to read selected titles, such as **Charlotte's Web**, and **Matilda**, as a family and return to have open discussions as a group. We offered a **Read Aloud** workshop for parents and caregivers and partnered with RUSD teachers to host a **Literacy Day** for families at Main Library. We are excited to continue work that gets more students in the door and families to develop a love of reading.

If you know anyone who can benefit from our services or would like to become a tutor, please call the Literacy office at 951.826.2238.

Yesenia Littlefield • Library Supervisor



Friends of the Riverside Library  
P.O. Box 468  
Riverside, CA 92502



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*If you are not a  
Friend - consider  
becoming one.*

## Become a Friend to the Library

Memberships/Donations are tax deductible

This is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization EIN 33-0025736

As Friends of the Library we:

- Conduct an ongoing book sale in each of our city libraries
- Provide funds for library programs, materials and services
- Maintain a membership dedicated to library excellence

Students, Seniors & Staff .....	\$15	Patrons .....	\$75
Individual .....	\$20	Super Friend .....	\$150
Family .....	\$30	Life Membership .....	\$500

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to receive my newsletter by email.**

Please make checks payable to Friends of the Riverside Library.

Mailing address: P. O. Box 468, Riverside, CA 92502 – Attn: Membership

## Coming Events

September	
1 .....	Arts Walk
October	
6 .....	Arts Walk
November	
3 .....	Arts Walk
December	
1 .....	Arts Walk
January	
5 .....	Arts Walk

The Library Board of Trustees meets the 4th Monday of the month at 5 p.m.. Consult the library [website www.riversideca.gov/library](http://www.riversideca.gov/library) or call 826-5213 to find out the location of each meeting.

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