



Friends of the Library Newsletter • Spring 2023



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

FOL Annual Meeting - Fun for All!



**Friends of the
Riverside Library
2023- 2024 Officers**

President

Doris Weingart

Vice President

Jim Supik

Secretary

Gayle Webb

Treasurer

Jan Fratt

Board Members

Elisabeth Anghel

Judy Baumgartner

Elizabeth Hall

Marsha Loveridge

Carole Nagengast

Barbara Purvis

Linda Thomas

Penny Urbach

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.
asp](https://riversideca.gov/library/friends_about.asp)

Newsletter
Fall • Winter • Spring

President's Message by Doris Weingart

A wonderful time was had by all. At least that's what these photos taken at our Friends of the Library Annual Meeting, Sunday, May 21st in the beautiful garden of the SSgt Salvador J. Lara Casa Blanca library show. Kids and adults alike were entertained by brilliant local author and educator, James Luna, as he read from three of his wonderful bi-lingual children's books. And, as if that weren't enough, he was followed by awesome library storyteller, Brian Littlefield, aka Mr. Brian to his many story time devotees. Not only did Mr. Brian read a story about pirates, but he also helped the kids (and I think a few adults as well) fashion a pirate sword out of a balloon. The squeaks of the balloon battles, not to mention the sounds of popping balloon swords delightfully peppered the events of the rest of the afternoon. Aargh Matey!

And there was more, of course. Erin Christmas, Library Director, spoke about the very favorable state of the library. Library foot traffic is at an all-time high, and both staffing and library hours are soon to increase. And there is support on the part of funding agencies to substantially increase the library's woefully inadequate book budget. Beautiful opportunity baskets created by board member and bookstore manager, Gayle Webb, were raffled off to delighted winners. Susan Toscano, President of the Riverside Public Library Foundation spoke about the Foundation's inspiring Literacy Legacy Program and the Friends' recent contribution to it. A special thank you to Marsha Loveridge for all the great flyers and to Barbara Purvis for overseeing the election of Friends board members. And the fun afternoon ended with a free book giveaway to the children, organized by volunteers Anne Stalder and Sylvia Briskin.

This was my first time presiding over our Annual Meeting as president. I am so very proud of the event and thank the planning committee for all their hard work in making it a success. And a special thank you to Erin and Casa Blanca Library Supervisor Melina Velazquez for making the library and garden available to us. I know I'm preaching to the choir when I say that Friends members are so proud of our library and welcome the opportunity to support it and promote its invaluable contributions to the cultural and educational enrichment of our community. But I needed to say it. Thank you.

Doris

We need books, magazines, CDs & DVDs and even puzzles and games. Bring your treasures to the nearest branch. We will turn them into materials and programs for the library.

News from our Library Director

by Erin Christmas

New Library Hours!

2023 is on track to be a banner year for the Riverside Public Library. Customer visits, program attendance, book check-outs, and WiFi usage numbers are at an all-time high. Laptop checkout kiosks will be popping up soon at all Library locations to make computer access even easier for all our customers. Library hours will be expanding starting on August 4, giving customers even more opportunities to visit all eight locations. In addition, there will be 16 new part time employees joining the RPL Team to help with this hour expansion. Finally, the Library will be launching a new modern, user-friendly website over the next several weeks.

Though it is still technically Spring, the annual Summer Reading Program: *Find Your Voice*, is in full swing. Customers of all ages are turning out in record numbers for the performers and programs. To see what fun, you and your family can have at your local library please visit riversideca.gov/library and click on the Summer Reading link. We hope you join us soon to take advantage of all of the new and exciting services the Library provides.

New Library Hours effective August 4:

Main: Tuesday-Thursday 10am-8pm and Friday-Sunday 10am-6pm.

Branches: Tuesday-Sunday 10am-6pm.



Serving with a Purpose

The (mostly) women who started Friends of the Libraries in 1922 weren't thinking about what their groups would be doing more than 100 years later. But Friends, and now Trustees and Foundations, of libraries have proven to be built to last. Ten years ago, a group of library supporters in Southern California came together to establish an annual conference called Serving With a Purpose. On May 23 the 10th annual conference was held in Ontario, California. Over 60 libraries were represented. Among the attendees from the Friends of the Riverside Public Library were Doris Weingart, Gayle Webb and Jan Fratt. Other participants from Riverside included library staff and trustees. Our Director, Erin Christmas, was on the steering committee for this conference. The day was filled with great speakers, authors and informative breakout sessions. Doris, Gayle and Jan came home with new and fresh ideas to move our Friends organization forward.



Want to be a Friends Volunteer?

For more information on volunteering, call the Friends at 951-826-5398 and leave a message or send an email - friendsofrivlibrary@gmail.com . A Friend will contact you, answer your questions, and personally help you through the volunteer processing. Friends and library staff will provide training and assistance, and you will be able to enjoy the social aspects of working with other volunteers and library staff. Do you know someone who might like to volunteer? Please pass on this information and phone number- 951-826-5398.

Book Sales Corner by Gayle Webb

We are pleased to announce that all 8 FOL Sales Areas are now posting the latest revised Price List which is uniform across all locations. Patrons will no longer have to wonder which branch may have a cheaper or higher price for a newer or bargain book. Of course, there will always be special sales at each branch, due to an overload of a particular genre, author, or holiday collection. A very popular “Buck a Bag” sale is held on every last Saturday of the month at the Marcy Library and the downtown Bookstore.

A few branches have already reorganized their sale shelves to make the newer books more distinguishable from the older, bargain books - kudos to Orange Terrace, Marcy and Eastside. Eastside even has a new end-of-stack shelving to showcase their newer books:

More sharing of donations between branches, weeding material that hasn't sold in 2-3 months and your continued support will make new items available at all locations so please stop by soon!

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. (This will change on August 4 - see new hours in Erin's article.)

At Main, the separate Bookstore is open fewer hours:

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



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



**Provident Bank's
Community Partnership Program
can benefit the Friends of the Library**

**If you have an account with Provident
Bank sign up to support our organization.
Thanks to those who have already done this.**



Foundation News

by Susan Toscano, President

The Riverside Public Library Foundation continues to focus on raising money for our city libraries through the Literacy Legacy Program. A big thank you to the Friends of the Library for their generous donation of \$2,500 to this program. The Friends of the Library name will be on the donor wall in recognition of this donation. The design for the donor wall is in the final stages and the first 30 donor names should be up on the wall by this fall.

When you visit the new Main library, you may notice the Molly Carpenter Innovation Center name is now up as you walk into the main floor to the right.

If you go up to the fourth floor you may notice the Maxine Tate Carnegie Reading Room signage. In total, seven prominent spaces are spoken for including the Early Learning Center (the Foundation's space) and 4 Adult or Children's Stacks.

Why are we raising money?

Because the Riverside Public Library system is in 45th position in funding compared to other city libraries in California which makes us in the bottom third of cities in California. Our library needs our support.

Two ways to donate, name a prominent space or add your name on the donor wall.

If you know a business we should contact, please let us know.

If you know someone personally that would like to have their name on the donor wall or name a space, please speak to them, or let us know.

To donate contact a Foundation Board member or go to our website at <https://www.riversidelibraryfoundation.org/donate>

Thoughts on books...

by Marsha Loveridge

Books - especially fiction- seem to have personalities. Some grab you from the first sentence and keep you turning from chapter to chapter seeking resolution. (My husband stayed up all night reading *Shogun*.) These tend to be mysteries or plot-driven stories. Some are funny and make you smile or laugh out loud. Others speak to you quietly, encouraging you to savor the words, the sentences, the descriptions. I have been visiting *A Gentleman in Moscow* for a while. Reading it is like connecting with an old friend every week or so. Amor Towle is such a rewarding writer. Last year I treasured my time with his *The Lincoln Highway* which carried me on a journey of time and place and people. *A Gentleman in Moscow* is doing the same. I will be sorry to turn the last page.

What books have affected you this way?

Marcy

The Marcy Library had a full couple of months filled with programming and various events for children, teens, and families. The Month of April was extra special with systemwide Día events celebrating children and reading with families. Marcy was particularly busy due to the in-person programs that were available to the public. We had Kay Tinker and African Soul, which were both received. Customers also made buttons and children and families decorated tiles for a future art installation to be created at the Marcy library. For our STREAM programming it was definitely a rainy April as we simulated rain clouds and the whole water cycle in a cup, and made a rain cloud mobile, it was surely a fun time for all.

For May the library was filled with joy and excitement welcoming summer and saying goodbye to spring. Customers came in to make May flowers during our STREAM program. They created several designs using an assortment of materials such as yarn and our paper blossom kit. We also had a movie, *The Book Thief*, commemorating Jewish-American Heritage along with a book display to highlight authors and stories regarding the Jewish American community. As part of our Happy Mother's Day craft we were able to make paper plate baskets with petite flowers made out of crepe paper, a sight to see. And finally, we had a Dungeons and Dragons gathering with a role playing theme to help navigate through the wizarding world of this enchanting adventure, by finding treasures, battling foes, uncovering secrets and of course encountering dragons!!

Miriam Perez • Marcy Librarian • Megan Bond • Supervisor



Thursdays at 4pm, Teen Night is offered. On Fridays, starting in July, adults can zen out with Mindful Corner.

Staff provide guests with a great customer experience. Customers are greeted with a Hello, Welcome and a smile. Many guests enjoy the use of our free technology and printing services. New books are set out frequently for customers to browse and enjoy. Book lovers can shop in our Friends of the Library corner which is growing with the addition of a new book display shelf.

Staff creatively use their talents to thoughtfully bring attention to resources and book collections. Displays have promoted the In-N-Out reading program, celebrated a month long Día de los Niños program series, tumor awareness month, grant funded collections and currently working on showcasing this year's summer reading theme: Find your Voice.

Yesenia Littlefield • Supervisor

Eastside

Eastside Library has a fabulous staff who work hard to connect with our diverse community through programs, customer service and displays. On Wednesdays at 11am, Preschool Storytime is thriving, and families look forward to dancing the Monkey Mambo each week. New programs were added: Tuesdays at 4pm, we invite all to join Family Nights; Wednesdays at 4pm, elementary aged participants are welcomed to Discovery Days;

Thursdays at 4pm, Teen Night is offered. On Fridays, starting in July, adults can zen out with Mindful Corner.

Staff provide guests with a great customer experience. Customers are greeted with a Hello, Welcome and a smile. Many guests enjoy the use of our free technology and printing services. New books are set out frequently for customers to browse and enjoy. Book lovers can shop in our Friends of the Library corner which is growing with the addition of a new book display shelf.

Staff creatively use their talents to thoughtfully bring attention to resources and book collections. Displays have promoted the In-N-Out reading program, celebrated a month long Día de los Niños program series, tumor awareness month, grant funded collections and currently working on showcasing this year's summer reading theme: Find your Voice.

Casa Blanca

The Ssgt Salvador J. Lara Casa Blanca Library had an eventful spring season! The Casa Blanca Library continues to work hard in serving its community and the City of Riverside as a whole.

Library Associate, Tina Zdilor, oversees the Veterans Resource Center and keeps it current with all resources available to Veterans. Additionally, Tina will be kicking off Casa Blanca's Veterans Meetup on June 10 - an event where Veterans can gather and socialize with one another. Yen Thai, Library Assistant and our resident youth programmer has been hard at work on planning and implementing quality programming at Casa Blanca. Some recent highlights were free play with Keva planks, flower bouquets for Mother's Day, and Graduation leis during graduation season. Rocio Orozco, library assistant, continues to plan and oversee our family coloring program every Friday. We have a couple of families that look forward to Family coloring every week.

April was a busy month at Casa Blanca, too. Tax season was coming to an end, and we were kicking off celebrating Día de los Niños (Día) all month long! Throughout April, we held 3 performances, had 2 passive programs, and weekly craft programs. In May, our library hosted several events, including a Meet and Greet with Councilwoman Plascencia May 20 and the Annual Friends of the Library Meeting on May 21.

We have enjoyed all the excitement here at Casa Blanca this Spring and are looking forward to a very delightful summer! We will be holding weekly events every Friday during Summer Reading program, which kicks off May 31.

Melina Velazquez • Supervisor



Arlanza

Arlanza had a busy spring full of storytimes, programs, take-it and make-it crafts, and class visits. This spring we welcomed 136 Arlanza Elementary students for special visits to the Library before opening hours. Students received library cards, a tour of the library, participated in scavenger hunts, and had fun with STEAM (Science, Technology, Art, and Math) activities. Parents also received presentations on the Library's many digital resources, including eBooks, live tutoring through Brainfuse, and databases available for homework help.

Bilingual Storytime has continued to be incredibly popular on Thursday mornings at Arlanza. Tech Help continues to provide one-on-one technology assistance to adults every other Friday. In addition, we began offering Family Storytime every other Friday and began an Adult Book Club every other month. Families can also drop-in for Finish the Comic on Tuesdays and Game on! Checkers on Wednesdays.

We are excited about more upcoming Summer Reading programs, including magic shows, puppet shows and storytelling! In addition, we can't wait to introduce more programming in the fall, including Teen Tuesdays every week for teens and Toddler Play Hour for families. Lastly, with the recent installation of a new fence, be on the lookout for outdoor programs at Arlanza!

Alexis Davidson • Supervisor



Friends of the Riverside Library

P.O. Box 468

Riverside, CA 92502



Return Service Requested



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 _____

Name _____

Address _____

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

July
6 Arts Walk

August
3 Arts Walk

September
7 Arts Walk

October
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.

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**
See new hours on page 3 - effective August 4.

At Main, the separate Bookstore is open fewer hours:

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