



# Friends of the Library Newsletter • Spring 2024



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

## Murder in the Garden Solved!!!!!!



Happy Basket Winner



Erin Christmas • Doris Weingart • Gayle Webb



Rory Dyer • Christine Gailey • Carole Nagengast  
Elisse Martinez • Kathy Wright • Gayle Webb



Audience participation

**Friends of the  
Riverside Library  
2024- 2025 Officers**

**President**

Gayle Webb

**Vice President**

Jim Supik

**Secretary**

Elizabeth Hall

**Treasurer**

Jan Fratt

**Past President**

Doris Weingart

**Board Members**

Sylvia Briskin

Marsha Loveridge

Elise Martinez

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.

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friendsofriversidelib-  
rary.com  
951-826-5398

Newsletter  
Winter • Spring • Fall

## President's Message by Gayle Webb

Many thanks to all who attended and assisted at the recent Friend's Annual Meeting - *Murder in the Garden*. This year, the program featured another wonderful performance by The Community Players actor extraordinaire, Rory Dyer. Remember the fabulous tea with Sherlock Holmes? This time Ms. Dyer portrayed the indomitable Miss Marple of Agatha Christie fame and set the stage for a murder in the library.

Several "suspects" were drawn by lottery tickets from the audience, and given props to indicate a butler, a maid, a retired colonel, a widow and her niece. Questions were directed to the suspects (some of whom may be looking at an acting career!) and the murderer was revealed after much laughter. A very enjoyable day, indeed.

Let me introduce myself briefly as the new President of the Board of the Friends of the Library. My career was as County Law Library Director here in Riverside, and previously, legal librarian in Chicago, IL. I was thrilled to start volunteering in the old Main Library book sales area and finally be surrounded by interesting and fun books for a change! Managing sales at the new Downtown Library Bookstore has also been great fun.

We have an excellent library system here in Riverside, but it can use all the support the Friends, and hopefully, you can give to its continuing success. I hope to see you at future programs, at our sales locations and even on our membership rolls. Together, we can promote, advocate and enjoy being part of it's success - Join us!

**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.**

**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.**

# News from our Library Director

*by Erin Christmas*

The Summer Reading Program at the Riverside Public Library kicked off Saturday (6/1)! All ages (children, teens, and adults) are joining in the fun by reading, attending performances, and participating in weekly activities at all eight library locations through Aug. 2.

Each week will feature exciting performances for families, such as: balloon storytellers, magicians, crafts, and animal shows. And don't forget to attend an array of exciting Teen and Adult programs, such as escape rooms, poetry programs, and painting parties, all summer long!

In addition to the reading program, the Main Library and the SPC Jesus S. Duran Eastside Library will host Lunch @ the Library June 3-Aug. 9, Tuesdays-Fridays from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Anyone 18 and under can stop by for a free, nutritious lunch! Additionally, both locations will have fun activities and performances throughout the week.

The Library will also have pop-up visits at City Parks from June 1-Aug. 2! The STREAM Mobile will provide opportunities for kids and families to check out books and participate in fun activities!

Whether it's at one of Riverside Public Library's eight locations, Lunch at the Library or with the STREAM Mobile at a park it's time to Read, Renew, Repeat—all summer long!

For more information visit one of the Riverside Public Library locations or visit [riversideca.gov/library](http://riversideca.gov/library).

Funding for Summer Reading is generously provided by the Friends of the Riverside Public Library! Thank you all for your generous contributions to help make this annual event happen!



## Foundation News

by Barbara Shackelton, President

The Riverside Public Library Foundation is hosting a fun event at the Main Library on July 4th. Funds raised from this event will support library programs and materials.

We would love to have Friends of the Library join us!

**FOOD, FUN AND  
FIREWORKS**

*Red, Wine, and Blue*

Riverside Public Library Foundation invites you to join us at the Main Library to celebrate the 4th of July in support of The Riverside Public Library.

★ ☆ ★

*Date: Thursday, July 4th, 2024*  
*Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.*  
*Main Library*  
*3900 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside, CA 92501*

You will experience an evening on the Main Library Terrace with stunning views of the 4th of July fireworks from Mt. Rubidoux at 9 PM, while enjoying delicious appetizers, wine, beer, and raffles for fine wine and special items.

**\$150 per person**

Please return the Reservation Card and payment in the enclosed envelope by Friday, June 21, 2024.

**Space is Limited!**

Website Payment: [www.riversidelibraryfoundation.org/](http://www.riversidelibraryfoundation.org/)  
 Go to "Donate", complete all boxes; Check box for Red, Wine and Blue Event; in "Special Instructions" write names of guests.

The foundation is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Tax I.D. number: 33-0780130.



## Book Sales Corner by Gayle Webb

Summertime...and the living is easy (or it should be!)

It's time to take a break from school or work and relax in a shady spot with a good book. Forget about the high prices of DVD's and books offered at online sellers and regular stores. Instead, visit any of the eight City libraries for great books at great prices. There's bound to be something for everyone!

We hope you will also make room for your new books by weeding your own bookshelves at home or at work. By donating to the Friends of the Library, it insures a new supply for others of similar taste and interest. You can receive a receipt for donations if you itemize your taxes. **HELLO BOOK CLUBS!** We especially welcome one or even multiple copies of what you have been reading and discussing at your club. They are usually diverse, interesting and current but you might not really want to keep every book. We would love to have you think of us!

The money raised by the sale of your books goes primarily towards children's craft activities, the children's book and toy collection, the Summer Reading Program and where needed elsewhere. It's a win-win for everyone



### ARTS WALK • ARTS WALK

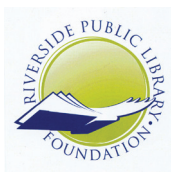
INLANDIA  
INSTITUTE



CELEBRATING OUR REGION IN WORD, IMAGE AND SOUND.

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.

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



### Riverside Public Library Foundation (RPLF) Planned Giving

Planned Giving is easy and you don't have to be wealthy to do it. Whether naming the Riverside Public Library Foundation in your will/trust for a modest amount or by gifting your house or property, there is an easy option that is right for you.

#### You can donate to the Foundation by

- Setting up payments from your checking account/credit ca
- Including the Library Foundation in your estate plans
- Making a gift through stocks or securities

Please contact: Susan Toscano, Chair, Planned Giving  
(951) 951-826-5846

Or - write to P.O. Box 349, Riverside, CA 92502

The Riverside Public Library Foundation is a 501(c)3 organiza-

For future generations, the library and the entire community will benefit from your generosity.



## Books from the top shelf

review by Jim Supik

### *Book Bonding*

by Megan Dowd Lambert

Imagine Books/Clarksbridge, 2023

This parent-oriented selection highlights the positive social and emotional impact of shared reading in homes, classrooms and libraries. The author emphasizes a belief that “reading with children, as opposed to reading to them” establishes a special bond and broadens one’s outlook on life and growing up: reading together helps us to better understand each other.

Twenty-one pieces are loosely based on themes of parenting, adoption, race and healing conversations. The author’s values are revealed in references to her own mixed race adopted children and prompt insights into social acceptance, equity and bonding: “reading together has helped us understand each other...and helped me become a better parent.”

Several authors of children’s works are referred to or quoted: one author “paints her (flawed) characters with such subtlety that the lesson doesn’t overwhelm the story.” Another maintains that “shared reading enables us to slow down and enjoy one another’s company.” Rounding out literary references, the author recalls themes from *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Little House on the Prairie*. “If the main task of childhood is to leave it, then children’s books can help support empowered leave-taking and resist the nostalgia society often attaches to childhood.”



There are three organizations that support the library. They function in different ways, but are not in competition. Maybe these descriptions will help clear up some of the confusion. They all need our support.

The Board of Trustees members are appointed by the City Council and offer guidance regarding decisions affecting the library.

The Riverside Public Library Foundation is a volunteer Board of Directors who raise money for the library through their Annual Campaign and grant proposals. They also promote the library in the community and encourage planned giving.

The Friends of the Riverside Library is a volunteer organization which supports the library through memberships and book sales. The Friends of the Library sponsor cultural programs for children and adults, and provide funds for materials and equipment.



## Thoughts on books...

by Marsha Loveridge

In 2004 I began a “love affair” with Alexander McCall Smith when I read the first book of his No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency series. Since then I have eagerly awaited each new book - number 25 will be out in the fall.

McCall-Smith is one of the most prolific and popular authors. And if you read his biography you will see that he is a very busy and talented man.

As I discovered his other series books I have been faithful to 44 Scotland Street and Isabel Dalhousie, as well as some stand alone stories.

What I find most appealing about his writing is the discussions his characters have about life, philosophy, ethics and observations of society. There is always food for thought and humor from the pages whether it is a lady detective in Botswana, a seven year old boy and a woman philosopher in Edinburgh or an investigator of sensitive crimes in Sweden.

His books are a good bedtime choice - sending you off to dreamland with a smile on your face.

## Arlington

During the Spring, Arlington Library was brimming with events, programming, and activities. Always a popular season starter is Riverside Reads, which focused on our Native American heritage here in Riverside, and in Oakland, where the featured Pulitzer Prize nominated book *There There*, by Tommy Orange, is centered. Staff throughout the library system, our City and community partners, including the Riverside Museum, the Sherman Indian High School, and UCR, participated in making this year's efforts successful.

Based on customer request, staff inspiration, and feedback, additional programs have been added to the Arlington Library line-up. We now offer programming for seniors; including an opportunity for socialization during the Crochet and Knitting corner; and Senior-centric Tech Time, where folks can bring in their mystifying, misbehaving, hand-held devices for one-on-one assistance. An already popular Book Club has been added, taking place on the second Saturday of each month. New to our lineup for young adults is Open Mic Night and a weekly STEAM Team activity. There is also a beginning to intermediate level Chess Club for all ages! As we move into June, the Summer Reading Program (SRP) brings with it performers, such as Abbit the Average and several in-house offerings, such as the adult Mini Flower bouquet creation activity. Be sure to check the library calendar of events each month for these activities, and others, throughout the library system!

Nancy Walker, Library Supervisor



## Orange Terrace

This Spring Orange Terrace Library has been buzzing with fun activities, from hundreds of signups for In-N-Out's Cover-to-Cover program, to a fun family Fairyhouse craft, to interactive Poetry and black History Month displays, to our ever popular Chess Club! We have been leaning into adult programming with Tech Help for Seniors, adult DIY programs, Introduction to Genealogy workshops, and Bring Your Own Book Bookclub! Staff have busy shifting our collection to make way for brand new Spanish and Adult books for adults, teens, and children, funded by the American Rescue Relief Plan Act, offering a more diverse and cohesive selection

for our customers. In January, our Storytime attendance began to climb when Miss

Michelle became our Storytimer, going from approximately 15 customers a week to over 70 per week! We continue to offer Storytime every Thursday at 11am and look forward to connecting with families in our community.

In April, Orange Terrace participated in Riverside Public Library's Día (Day of the Book/Day of the Child) program, offering 8 Storywalks throughout the month highlighting multiple languages and cultures, a take home Bowl Weaving Yarn craft, and a STEM focused program! We also welcomed a Laptop Kiosk to our location recently, offering customers mobility throughout the library and ease of printing through our WiFi Printing. We also added more State Park Passes to our collection, brand new County Park Passes, and are working on cataloging new, exciting Park themed items for the public to check out for their park visits!

This Summer we have a wonderful Summer Reading Program lined up, including Wild Wonders Animal Show on June 18 at 2pm (All Ages, space is limited), Altered Books on June 25 at 2pm (Adults), and Vision Board on July 9th at 2pm (Teen)! There is always something fun happening at Orange Terrace, and we invite you to come check us out this summer and beyond.

Hayden Birkett, Library Supervisor



## Main



Main had a wonderful spring and is gearing up for a fantastic and busy summer. Main has received new materials thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which has greatly increased our non-fiction collections for both children and adults, as well as our Spanish language materials both fiction and non-fiction for all ages. Come browse our new selections-you can check out materials with staff, on our self-check machines or even via the library's check out app on your phone!

We have had some great programs this spring. In March Main celebrated Read

Across America Day with stories and crafts, Mario day, hosted a CPR class for adults and hosted the Riverside Reads kickoff event for *There There* by Tommy Orange. In April the library saw the Insect Fair return! There were insects everywhere you looked. We hosted storytime, Virtual Reality sessions, and had a mask craft. Outdoors there were many booths about butterflies, bees, and ladybugs from UCR's entomology department, RPU, Arts and Culture and other city departments. And of course, Mr. Brian did a great routine on stage with songs and balloons! There were over 1,700 people at Main on April 20! Main also hosted a series of Local History programs featuring recipe preservation, railway history, and Riverside County Parks history. The library also had the In-N-Out Cover to Cover reading program where children ages 4 to 12 read books and received coupons for free hamburgers. We also wrapped up this year's First Sunday programs in May with a performance by the Taiko Drummers and a fun drum craft. We can't wait to see what will be here when First Sundays resume in the Fall!

Summer is always a busy time, and this year will be no exception. Our Summer Reading program kicks off on June 1. Children, teens, and adults will be able to read books and earn prizes and attend fun summer programs with performances featuring balloons, magic, puppets, and juggling. Main library will also host Lunch at the Library where children up to 18 can receive a free lunch, make activities, and receive free books to start their own Home Libraries every Tuesday to Friday until August 2.

Main will also be starting new programs including a new Family Storytime starting June 12 on Wednesday nights at 5pm and in August a Senior Tech Help Lab to answer questions and help with computers and library devices.

There is always something going on at Main and we can't wait to see you!

Megan Bond, Library Supervisor

## La Sierra

The La Sierra Library has been very busy this Spring! We continue to provide a weekly Bilingual Storytime and our very popular Preschool Storytime. Our wonderful staff member, Sarah Simpson, has provided additional exciting programs such as an Earth Day celebration, Family Movie Sundays, and May Day crafts! We also provide a Teen Zone program for teens to hang out, watch a movie, or play board games. We have also started a monthly Pokémon club for children and families to trade, do crafts, and talk all things Pokémon. It has been a big hit for the La Sierra Community. The Library also hosted a program for adults about the history and cultural significance of henna tattoos, which also included demonstrations for participants.



Summer Reading has started! Don't miss out on great performers such as Brettso the Great, Doodlebugs Animal Adventures, Christopher Yates, and the Party Puppet Show!

Fredi Morales, Library Associate

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



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## 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  
4.....RPLF- Fireworks Event

August  
1 ..... Arts Walk

September  
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-Thursday 10am-8pm and Friday-Sunday 10am-6pm.**

**At Main, the separate Bookstore is open fewer hours:**

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