

Friends of the Library Newsletter • Winter 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



Tea and Sherlock a big success!



Rory Dyer (left) • AKA • Dr. Watson
Patricia Scarborough (right)
AKA • Sherlock Holmes



Linda Thomas • Gayle Webb • Sylvia Briskin



Enthusiastic young readers
David Meemken and Johani Vu,



Elegant table awaiting guests

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

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Doris Weingart

Vice President

Jim Supik

Secretary

Gayle Webb

Treasurer

Jan Fratt

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Marsha Loveridge

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Barbara Purvis

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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

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**friendsofrivlibrary@
gmail.com**

website

friendsofriversidelibrary.com

Newsletter

Fall • Winter • Spring

President's Message by Doris Weingart

"Elementary, my dear Watson"

Holmes and Watson, alias Riverside Community Theater's extraordinary actors, Patricia Scarborough and Rory Dyer, delighted an audience with their reenactments of the celebrated characters created by Arthur Conan Doyle. The occasion was a Friends of the Library Victorian Tea with Holmes and Watson on Jan. 28th in the Main Library Community Room. And judging from all the comments afterward, (and the number of new members we gained), a grand time was had by all.

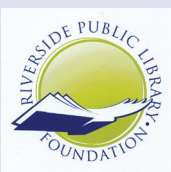
The impetus for the event was a large collection of Holmes books donated by Riverside resident Barbara Lewis. Her late husband, Hardy Lewis, a noted architectural designer in Riverside, was an avid collector of many things, among them Sherlock Holmes books.

Why just have a book sale, we thought. Why not have a tea and sell books? And while we're at it, why not ask Patricia and Rory to recreate their roles as Holmes and Watson?

And in the process, why not serve finger sandwiches, and lovely small desserts on fine china, as befitting a Victorian tea? And so, we did. As an added delight, we included a Holmes trivia quiz. And we sold books.

Thanks to the incredibly hard work of Friends volunteers and the unstinting, generous support of Library staff, the tea was a marvelous success. So successful in fact, that many guests asked us what we are going to do next. We are thinking about that.

Doris



Foundation News

by Barbara Shackelton, President

We hope you have seen the "Friends of the Riverside Library" name on the Gold List of the Donor Wall in the Main Library. We appreciate your support of our Literacy Legacy Naming (LLP) Program.

We are in the second full year of the LLP and continue to seek participants. All of the proceeds go directly to the Library to enhance the collections, the programs, and the services in all 8 libraries in the city. If you hear of any individual or group that would like to have their name listed in the Main Library for at least 20 years, please direct them to us or let us know and we'll contact them.

We are also looking to enlarge membership on the Foundation Board. If you – or someone you know – might be interested in joining us, please let us know the name of a person to contact. Or that person can contact us directly.

Thank you • Barbara Shackelton, President
barbara.shackelton@gmail.com

News from our Library Director

by Erin Christmas

Happy New Year from your Library Director!

Before we dive into what 2024 has in store for the Riverside Public Library, I wanted to share all the accomplishments we had in 2023.

Financial and Infrastructure Developments

1. **Funding for New Library:** Awarded \$14.5 million from the California State Library for the SPC Jesus S. Duran Eastside Library.
2. **Design of New Library:** Began the design phase for the SPC Jesus S. Duran Eastside Library.
3. **Grants and Donations:** Awarded \$207,898 in grants and received \$224,837 in donations.

Digital and Online Resources

Added multiple online resources including:

1. **Indie Author Project:** A platform that supports local, independent authors.
2. **Biblioboard:** Offers access to a diverse range of digital content.
3. **Alexander Street:** A database providing a variety of multimedia content.
4. **The Palace Project App:** An app for accessing digital books and library content.
5. **Press Books:** A tool for creating and publishing books in various formats.

Library Accessibility and Services

1. **Fine-Free Policy:** Went Fine Free in January to increase library access.
2. **Extended Library Hours:** Now includes Sundays from 10 AM to 6 PM at all locations, and Tuesday to Thursday from 6 PM to 8 PM at the Main library.
3. **Self-Checkout Enhancements:**
 0. Launched a self-checkout app for customers to use on their phones.
 0. Added a check-in option to the self-checkout machines.

Technology and Innovation

1. **Laptop Kiosks:** Installed laptop kiosks at six libraries, ensuring all locations have the latest technology.
2. **Website Launch:** Launched a new, more user-friendly website.
3. **New 3D Printers:** Added to all locations

Community and Cultural Engagement

1. **Social Workers in Libraries:** Added social workers to two locations through the Love Your Neighbor partnership with Path of Life Ministries.
2. **Arts and Culture Partnership:** Partnered to add new art to the Orange Terrace Library.
3. **Riverside Reads 2023:** Gave away over 800 copies of "Poppy in the Wild" by Teresa Rhyne.
4. **Expanded State Park Pass Program:** Provides increased access to state parks for library patrons.

Staffing and Personnel

1. **Library Assistants Hiring:** Hired 16 new part-time library assistants, which added 8 Full-Time Equivalents (FTE) to support new hours.

As you can see 2023 was a banner year for the Library and we have a lot in the works already for 2024. Expect to see significant progress on the SPC Jesus S. Duran Eastside Library, library remote lockers deployed citywide to allow for checkouts off site, a new electric outreach van at activities throughout the community, new furniture at the Arlanza Library, and many new programs that help support the underserved in our community. Here is to a wonderful 2024!

Book Sales Corner by Gayle Webb

For those of you planning some Spring Cleaning, be sure to think of your local library for any unwanted or excess books, CD's and DVD's. All eight branches will be more than happy to accept up to 3 boxes or bags per week from you. Additionally, if you are part of a Book Club, you might encourage your members to pass along their copy to the Friends at their local branch – unless, of course, it's something they want to keep forever and ever. It's a win-win for all – you clear space for new material and the Friends are able to transform the donations into cash that will go directly to the library for more books and children's programs.

The Friends Bookstore at the base of the Main Downtown Library has started a Loyalty Program where a customer gets a ticket punched for every visit with a purchase of at least one dollar (\$1.00). After ten (10) visits with purchases, they will receive a five-dollar (\$5.00) coupon that may be used for any item in the bookstore. For now, the Loyalty Program is only available at the downtown bookstore and is proving to be successful, with many customers being able to select more expensive books or DVD sets, mugs, cold drink containers, bookmarks.

The Sherlock Holmes Tea held on Sunday, January 28 turned out to be lots of fun due to the Community Players' skit, a Trivia Contest and tasty sweets and savories. Talk is already beginning about repeating this format with another great mystery writer...can you guess who? Keep posted!



ARTS WALK • ARTS WALK

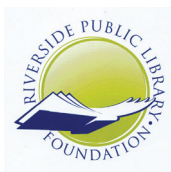
Thanks to continuing generous support from the Friends of the Library, the Inlandia Institute will again present engaging literary programming on First Thursday Nights at the Main Library.

INLANDIA
INSTITUTE



CELEBRATING OUR REGION IN WORD, IMAGE AND SOUND.

For information about Inlandia's exciting programs
please visit their website - inlandia institute.org



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 card
- 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 organization.

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



Books from the top shelf

review by Jim Supik

The Boys in the Boat

by Daniel James Brown

Penguin Books • 2014

Subtitled “Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Olympic Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics”

In team rowing, which once drew more spectators than the Kentucky Derby, hardship and endurance seldom lead directly to individual glory or popularity. A story about training, fitness and uncertain reward illustrates a young athlete’s sacrifices and commitment to patience and maturity. Patience is reflected in the coordination of eight rowers and a coxswain, acting as a single athlete, assuming risk of defeat by holding back maximum effort until the moment of an opponent’s exhaustion. Maturity is reflected in acceptance of necessary group coordination and “abandonment of the self.”

The author’s narrative takes place within a background of rivalries: east versus west; emerging authoritarianism vs western democracy; and always the weather: favoring no one, challenging everyone. The lessons of this story of rowing are the lessons of life: commitment to and respect for others - keeping one’s “mind on the boat” and hopes of being “immune to frustration.”

A recently released film of the same title has received critics’ attention and popularity in further conveying the personal stories of the young athletes and in re-creating period scenes of on-site competition.

Thoughts on books...

by Marsha Loveridge

Reading a book these days can take several forms: download to read on your device, download to listen to someone read to you, or actually hold a hard copy in your hands.

The first one has advantages: if you get the urge to read something you just heard reviewed, you click the right button and it arrives instantly. It is cheaper than the hardcover and when traveling you can enjoy several books without the extra weight. Listening to books is convenient when you are doing something else. Many commuters find this very enjoyable. Another advantage of these two formats is they don’t take up space on your bookshelves.

A major advantage of hardcover and paperback books is when you are through reading them you can pass them on to a friend and/or donate them to the Friends of the Library to sell and generate funds for library programs and materials.

So, there are plusses and minuses for each format. The important thing is to enhance your life by the written word.

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.

Eastside

Eastside staff have been busy filling winter days with programs focused on community connection, education, and fun. Our core programs have continued: every Tuesday at 4pm, Family Fun gives participating families time to bond and have fun. Wednesdays at 11am, Preschool Storytime entertains and educates little ones with the help of Mr. Fox, stories, music and dancing. Discovery Days invite children to explore the world around them with hands-on activities. On the fourth Thursday of the month, Teens unite to socialize and participate in entertaining activities. Along with these programs, special themed activities were added, adults were invited to join a holiday wrapping party and take a holiday craft-to-go. Families excitedly participated in Winter Wonderland activities and Hanukkah themed storytime.

As we continue to feel winter's chill, we look forward to warm days ahead, and celebrate the new year with the addition of new books and programs. Staff have been busy unloading boxes of new books and filling shelves for customers to enjoy. Chess fever has hit Eastside; we invite any interested person for weekend chess play on the second and fourth Saturday at 11am and Sunday at 3pm. Staff are preparing adult themed crafts to go for Valentine's Day and Spring. We invite customers to shop at our Friends of the Library book corner. If you're in the neighborhood, stop by and explore what Eastside has to offer.

--Yesenia Littlefield, Library Supervisor



Casa Blanca

The Ssgt Salvador. J. Lara Casa Blanca Library had an eventful holiday season and staff continue to work hard serving the community and providing excellent customer service.

This past holiday season, our resident youth programmer, Yen Thai, offered high quality programs to the children in our community with a stuffed animal workshop. This was one of our highest attended events with 144 attendees! Yen worked hard to execute this program successfully! Towards the end of December, we had a passive make-it and take-it mystery craft. In addition to special programs, Yen oversees two weekly programs, Family Storytime every Wednesday, and STREAM club every Friday. We continue to offer additional family programs, including Family Coloring every Friday. We also started offering regular adult programs, including demonstrations with the Cricut in the Innovation lab every first Tuesday of the month, a crochet & knitting program two Fridays a month, and Dungeons and Dragons two Saturdays a month. And finally, we received many new books for the collection! We are thrilled to see the newly added books get checked out.

Other points of interest at the Casa Blanca Library include the waterwise garden with a walking path and the Innovation Lab. The Lab is a makerspace that has a sewing machine, Oculus Quest virtual reality headsets, 3D printing, coding robots, a video editing station, yarn and crochet hooks for practice, and a tool station with a drafting table. The Innovation Lab is the venue for many of our programs, but it is open to the public Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-6pm and weekends as a dedicated space for innovation and experimentation.

--Melina Velazquez, Ssgt. Salvador J. Lara Casa Blanca Library Supervisor



Marcy

It's been a busy year at Marcy with many programs already completed and many more on the horizon. There is always something to do at our neighborhood library. We made snowflakes, holiday cards, and had an in-house grinch hide and seek over the holidays. In January, Marcy had a teen book club, made black-out poetry, celebrated the Year of the Dragon, and made marbled art. In February, Marcy will celebrate Black History all month long with programs, crafts, movies, and displays. We continue to host weekly Family Storytimes on Tuesday

mornings and our Magic Storytime featuring our puppet tree on Friday afternoons. There are monthly games days for families and movies for all ages each month as well.

There are also new toys in our children's area to play with, new displays around the building, and new books in English and Spanish. There are new books for children, teens, and adults, both fiction and non-fiction, on many subjects including health, art, and nature.

As Winter turns to Spring, don't miss our upcoming programs including the annual In n' Out Cover to Cover Reading program in March, adult programming including music and henna, Lego programs for families, and crafts for teens. We have State Park passes and backpacks to explore the outdoors too!

--Megan Bond, Marcy Library Supervisor

Arlanza

We have exciting updates to share at Arlanza Library!

Thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, Arlanza has already received hundreds of new books (with more the way), which has expanded several of our collections including: Adult and Children's Spanish, Young Adult Fiction, Adult Non-Fiction, and Children's Fiction. Also due to ARPA funding, the Library has installed a brand new laptop kiosk and 3D printer, bringing a higher level of convenience and innovation to our customers. Customers can enjoy the convenience of using a laptop anywhere in the Library with a simple scan of their library card!

In addition to new books and technology, Arlanza is continuing to increase our programming and events at the Library. Last fall, we started our popular Toddler Play Program, increased teen programming with a weekly Teen Lounge, and continued the ever-popular Bilingual Storytime and Family Storytime. In February, we will begin offering Tech Question Hour on Wednesdays at 11am, where customers will be able to receive one-on-one technology assistance with a Library Technician on topics from setting up an email to checking out Library ebooks.

Lastly, Arlanza has some exciting partnerships coming up to offer our community even more fun and educational events. This will include, Family STEAM Day with Riverside Public Utilities, Family Literacy Day hosted by our Adult Literacy Program, and World Snake Day (including live animals!) with the Museum of Riverside in July. Be on the lookout for more fun events this summer during the Summer Reading Program!

--Alexis Davidson, Arlanza Supervisor



on

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

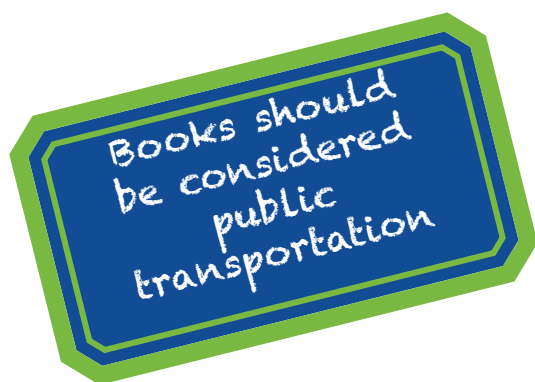


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Become a Friend to the Library

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

March
3First Sunday
7 Arts Walk
April
4 Arts Walk
7First Sunday
27Walk with the Animals
May .
2Arts Walk
5First Sunday
June
2 First Sunday
6 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.