

Among Friends

The Friends of the Arcadia Public Library Newsletter

Fall, 2026

President's Message by Elizabeth Renfrew

Greetings! Summer at the Library has been very busy, and we are so pleased to have made Oceans of Possibilities Summer Reading Program possible for so many children and adults this summer.

First, the Friends of the Arcadia Library Board would like to thank **Anne Joseph** for the nearly 10 years she has served as President of the Board. During that time, we have donated thousands of dollars to the Library, giving \$50,000 this past July to help the Library fund their children and adult programs. You will still be able to have an "Anne sighting" in the Bookstore or around the Library. She will continue to sort and price book donations. Thank you, Anne, for all you do for this wonderful Library!

I'd also like to take this opportunity to also thank **Helene Stepp** for her many years of service to our organization as our Treasurer. She has kept our financial records up to date and in order. We appreciate the time she has given to our Library. Thank you, Helene!

In the last few years, the Board has made many advancements in serving our community. Now when you make a purchase in our Friends' Bookstore, you can pay with cash (preferred) or make an electronic payment. This addition to our operation has been well received. No more looking under the car seats for loose change.

Our eBay efforts have added another means to shop and support our Library. Most weeks, books and collectables are added. Be sure to use the QR code to find out more about the wonderful choices we offer. Please share this information with your friends and family. Remember purchases in the Bookstore and on eBay, as well as your membership, make it possible for us to make a generous yearly donation to the Library.

Speaking of QR codes, watch for a supplemental letter in your water bill that you can use to renew your membership. It works well, and you don't have to find your checkbook or a stamp!

Second, I am proud to announce that I will be taking over the realm of presidency for the Friends. The Friends would like to continue offering a variety of programs for the community to enjoy. To accomplish this, I am looking for a Vice President who can help with programming. We have several concerts a year and try to have a fundraiser or two, like a paint night and dinners from a local restaurant that will donate

part of their proceeds to us. If this interests you or you have ideas, please contact me. I'd love to discuss your ideas! You can often find me in the Bookstore, so please come by and introduce yourself. We are looking forward to a very productive year and would like to have you be a part of it!

Membership Updates

by Karen Shepherd and Elizabeth Renfrew, Membership Co-Chairs

It's membership renewal time! Please watch for a notice in your water bill this Fall. You can now use the QR code included in the notice to make a quick and easy renewal. We are very excited to offer this option to you. Of course, you can still use a check or cash to renew. Membership dues and gifts are important to the Friends to help the Library offer many wonderful programs for young and old. One benefit of membership is receiving this Newsletter three times a year. Our Newsletter is available online at the Arcadia Public Library website - search Friends of the Library Newsletter.

Please start following us on Facebook and Instagram at Friends of the Arcadia Public Library.

Our members recognize the great value our Library has in its service to the community. Please encourage your friends and family to join you! If you haven't renewed your membership for 2026, do so soon. You can use the application on the last page of this Newsletter.

Would you like to access this copy instead of receiving a hard copy? Send us a note at friendsofarcadiapl@gmail.com and we will delete you from our Newsletter mailing list and add you to our email list. It will be the same great Newsletter just online. Thank you.



Doris & Jerry Selmer Bookstore News

What's by Jamie Tom, Bookstore Manager

Summer Updates and a New Opportunity at the Bookstore.

Hope everyone is keeping cool in this hot weather! We loved seeing so many of you take advantage of the Summer Reading Program supported by Friends of the Library. There were so many wonderful prizes for both kids and adults! Making reading more enjoyable for everyone is exactly what our bookstore is all about.

July was a busy month with our Sidewalk Fill-a-Bag Sale and a newly expanded Auditorium Sale. For the first time, the Auditorium Sale ran for a full week instead of just two days. Our incredible volunteers stepped up to support this week-long event. We were thrilled that so many of you could stop by and enjoy the more leisurely shopping pace. Finally, we are looking for a new leader to join our team. I am transitioning out to start a teaching career. While I will continue handling our data analysis, Margarita V. is serving as our interim manager. If you love the community and want to lead a great cause, please reach out to our chair, Elizabeth, at friendsofarcadiapl@gmail.com.

What's Coming Up

Auditorium and Sidewalk Fill a Bag Sale:

- Semi-annual entire Bookstore inventory 50% off sale: Saturday, September 26 through Saturday, October 3, 2026.
- We are currently planning our next Fill-a-Bag Sidewalk Sale in the Fall. Dates and times are still TBD, so keep an eye out for any email updates.

Email List: To get sale notifications, email eblast.friends.arcadia@gmail.com with the subject line "Subscribe."

Shop Online: You can browse our rare and valuable finds on eBay by scanning our QR Code.



Library News

by Samantha Alba
Director of Library and Museum Services



The Arcadia Public Library experienced quite a few changes during fiscal year 2025-2026, particularly when it came to staffing and leadership. With change comes transition, new opportunities and, of course, a little bit of adjustment along the way!

In February, we began the recruitment process for a Library Services Manager following a vacancy in the position. We said farewell to Director Darlene Bradley, who retired on June 30 after an incredible 22 years of service with the City of Arcadia. We are grateful for her many years of

leadership and dedication to our Library and community.

At the same time, we welcomed Steven P. to the Library team as our new Library Services Manager on June 22. Steven oversees our Public Services Division, which includes Adult, Teen, and Children's Services. He is already getting to know his staff, the organization, and the many programs and services he will oversee, including our English Conversation Class (ECC).

This summer also brought another exciting transition. Following the recruitment of the Director of Library and Museum Services, I was honored to be selected for the position and officially stepped into the role in July. With my transition into the Director position, we now have an opening for a Library Services Manager to oversee our Operational Division.

There has certainly been a lot of movement and transition, but through it all, one thing has remained constant: our commitment to the Arcadia community. Our mission continues to guide us as we work to

provide excellent customer service and bring our community together through collections, services, programs, and opportunities to connect and learn.

Focusing on Our “Why” - As I begin this new chapter as Director, my priorities are staff development and innovation. I want us to take time to remember our “why.” Our “why” is the reason we do what we do. It is what motivates us, gives our work purpose, inspires us, and brings fulfillment to our jobs. When we understand and stay connected to our “why,” it helps us maintain perspective, take pride in our work and feel greater sense of ownership in the services we provide to our community. I look forward to working with our staff as we continue to learn, grow, try new things, and find innovative ways to serve our community.

English Conversation Class (ECC) -Speaking of ECC, we are excited to welcome new and returning students for the Fall term, which begins Monday, September 14, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. ECC continues to be a wonderful opportunity for members of our community to practice English, build confidence, and connect with others.

Arcadia Schools Back in Session - We are excited to welcome students back to the Library for another busy season of programs, storytimes, services, and activities. Our staff are already hard at work preparing an exciting lineup for the months ahead. There may be a lot of changes happening behind the scenes, but the heart of the Arcadia Public Library remains the same: serving our community, creating connections, and making the Library a place where everyone feels welcome. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together

Meet The Library’s Newest Staff Member, Steven Park, Library Services Manager, Public Services

Hello, I love libraries and am very grateful to be here at Arcadia Public Library. I look forward to getting to know the Library staff and volunteers and serving our community. Some fun facts about me:

1. My favorite genre is narrative nonfiction. I also like reading all the anecdotal bits inside cookbooks.
2. I enjoy bicycling, consuming media, and traveling with my wife, especially to libraries in new places.
3. I’ve worked in libraries since 2004, mostly in public libraries. My first professional librarian job though was six years working for a video game company. I still love video games!

Adult and Teen Services – Upcoming Events

Adult Programs:

English Conversation Class (ECC)
Mondays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
September 14 through June 7, 2027
Cay Mortenson Auditorium

Practice your spoken English with volunteer tutors in a supportive and friendly small group setting. A basic understanding of English is required to participate.

Seeds 101

Saturday, September 12, 10 -11a.m.
Cay Mortenson Auditorium

Join us for our upcoming seed workshop where you'll learn how to start growing your seeds and how to save them! Leave with a seed starter. All supplies provided while they last. Adults only. No registration required.

Garden Design Seminar

Presented in Mandarin
Saturday, September 19,
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Cay Mortenson Auditorium

Join this FREE workshop to learn how to design a water-wise landscape! Participants will learn how to plan and size a rain garden and create a simple landscape layout. Register online at: upperwater.org/water-smart-workshops

3D Printing Workshop

Saturday, October 10, 11a.m. - 12 p.m.
Computer Lab

Learn all about 3D printing, including how to create your own design. No experience necessary and all ages are welcome.

International Film Festival

Cay Mortenson Auditorium
Doors open at 5:30 p.m. - Movie begins at 6:00 p.m.
Bring your dinner! Intended audience 18+.



Wednesday
September 16

LITTLE FOREST
(South Korea, 2018)



Wednesday
November 18

THE WOMEN ON
THE 6th FLOOR
(France, 2012)



Wednesday
October 21

RAMEN SHOP
(Singapore, Japan,
& France, 2018)

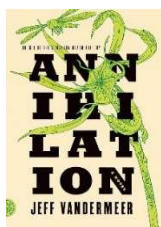


Wednesday
December 16

DELICIOUS
(France & Belgium, 2021)

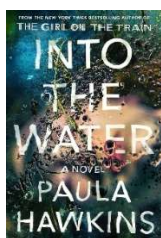
Bookish Book Club

Join fellow book lovers for conversation on a different book each month on the fourth Tuesdays of every month, 10 a.m. in the Arcadia Public Library Conference Room. (Note: We will not meet in November and December)



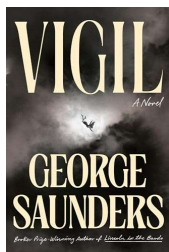
September 22 - **Annihilation: A Novel by Jeff VanderMeer**

Four female scientists venture into the mysterious, uninhabited Area X, where nature has reclaimed civilization and strange transformations challenge their sanity and perception of reality.



October 27 - **Into the Water** by Paula Hawkins

An estranged sister returns to her hometown to investigate the mysterious death of her sister, who drowned in the same river where a teenage girl died months earlier.



January 26 - **Vigil** by George Saunders

A wise, playful, electric novel taking place at the bedside of an oil company CEO, in the twilight hours of his life, as he is ferried from this world into the next.

Teen Programs

Teen Financial Literacy

Thursday, September 17, 4 – 5 p.m.
Cay Mortenson Auditorium

Learn about making healthy financial decisions in a teen-only program presented by Foothill Credit Union.

Teen Design Club

Thursday, September 24 & Thursday, October 8,
4 - 5 p.m.
Arcadia Public Library Memory Lab

Teens will learn how to create a design on Procreate digital drawing software that can be used as a sticker or even ironed on to a tote bag! No registration required, but spots are limited.

Teen Horror Movie Night

Monday, October 12, 4 - p.m.
Cay Mortenson Auditorium

Indulge in spooky snacks and settle into a horror film fit for the Halloween season. Film will be rated PG-13.

De-Stress Fest

Thursday, December 11, 3:30 - 5 p.m.
Cay Mortenson Auditorium

Calling all teens to take a well-deserved break from the books and join us at the Library for an evening of relaxation and huggable therapy dogs.

Children's Services



Summer at Arcadia Public Library Recap

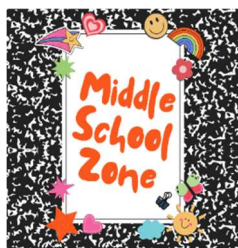
Children enjoyed a summer filled with special performances, storytimes, and engaging programs designed to help them discover an “Ocean of Possibilities.” The Summer at Arcadia Public Library program concluded on Saturday, July 25, with 1,523 children signing up for the reading program and collectively reading 1 million minutes.

Throughout the summer, readers had an exciting opportunity to use their earned virtual tickets to enter drawings for themed gift baskets and youth grand prizes. This year's program was made possible through the generous support of the Friends of the Arcadia Public Library.

Teen volunteers also played an essential role in making this summer a success. A total of 63 teens volunteered their time by assisting with programs, preparing art activities, decorating the Children's Room, and helping at the reward table. In addition to earning community service hours, they gained valuable experience and strengthened their leadership skills.

Summer at the Arcadia Public Library offered programs for all ages, keeping the community reading, learning, and engaged. The Summer Kickoff welcomed 220 attendees and featured Kona Shaved Ice, sensory activities, water rocket demonstrations, and a juggling show. Weekly programs included Reading Buddies, storytimes, Ocean Art Lab, and Ocean STEM Lab. Saturday special performances provided children with hands-on learning experiences, from exploring the science of bubbles to learning about and interacting with live reptiles.

Middle school students also had opportunities to connect through a book club, an UNO challenge, and ocean-themed art programs. Together, these activities encouraged a love of reading while providing meaningful learning experiences for children throughout the summer.



The Children's Room welcomed back AUSD students on Thursday, August 20, with the launch of a new Middle School Zone in the Imagination Theater for students in grades 6 - 8. Open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. and Wednesdays at 2:30 - 5:00 p.m., the Middle School Zone provides a welcoming and supervised space for students to gather after school, wait for rides, spend time with friends, complete homework, and enjoy Library resources. The Middle School Zone has quickly become a popular gathering spot, with as many as 40 middle school students attending during a single session. Students have embraced the space as a place where they can relax, connect with friends, and simply be themselves in a safe and supportive library environment.

New E-Resources at Arcadia Public Library

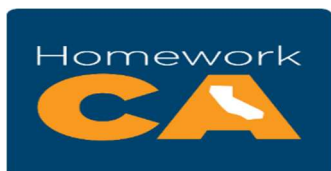
SCHOLASTIC

Watch & Learn
LIBRARY

Scholastic Watch & Learn is an educational video library designed for early learners in grades Pre - 3. It features a collection of real-world videos that support literacy development and enhance understanding of various subjects.



LOTE4Kids is an online database of children's picture books in various world languages to help libraries and schools engage culturally and linguistically with diverse families in their communities!



Free online 24/7 one-to-one tutoring in English or Spanish. Sessions are available without prior appointments. A wide range of subjects are covered, including English, math, science, social studies, and writing to name a few. For students ranging from kindergarten through college.

Read to Me Program

Mondays on September 14, October 5, November 9, & December 7, 4 – 5 p.m.

Meet Ruby, the newest member of our Read to Me program! This monthly program gives children ages 6–11 the opportunity to build reading confidence and practice their skills by reading aloud to a friendly therapy dog.



Get to Know Ruby!

- Breed: Labrador Retriever
- Birthday: July 27, 2017
- Favorite Activities: Swimming, playing catch & camping
- Favorite Food: Peanut butter
- Favorite Toy: Balls

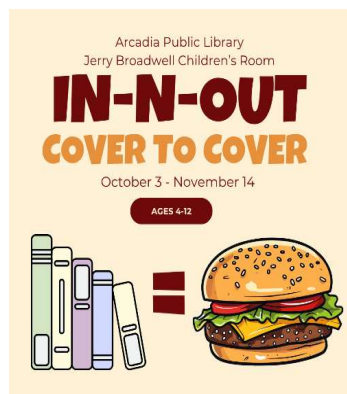
Ruby comes from a family of therapy dogs. Her mom, Jade, was a pet therapy dog, and her sister, Pearl, is also a therapy dog at Huntington Memorial Hospital. All three pups have something special in common, their gem-inspired names! Ruby loves giving cuddles, belly rubs, and enthusiastic tail wags. And, like any good reader's companion, she's always happy to stick around for a treat! We're delighted to welcome Ruby to the Library and look forward to seeing her help young readers gain confidence, one book at a time.



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is a year-round early literacy program that encourages families to read together and helps children build important language and literacy skills before starting school.

On August 22, the Children's Section celebrated our first 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten graduates! After reading "If You Give a Pig a Party", each graduate received a commemorative scroll, mini graduation hat, and a 1,000 Books tote filled with books and prizes.

Children who have not yet entered kindergarten can sign up at the Jerry Broadwell Children's Room. Families receive a reading log to track books read, with repeated readings counting toward the goal. Children earn small rewards along the way and receive a special certificate and prize when they reach 1,000 books. We are excited to celebrate with many more young readers in the years ahead.



In-N-Out Reading Program. The In-N-Out Cover to Cover Reading Program is returning to Arcadia Public Library. From October 3 to November 14, children ages four to twelve can earn a free hamburger or cheeseburger reward card by reading. Participants can log their reading online through Beanstack and, for every five books completed, they will receive a reward card redeemable at In-N-Out Burger. Each child may earn up to three reward cards during the program. Children must be present to receive their reward card. All reading must be logged and earned reward cards claimed by Saturday, November 14, at 5:30 p.m. This program provides a fun and engaging way to encourage a lifelong love of reading.

Special Children's Programs

Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration

Saturday, September 12, 2:30 - 4 p.m.
Ages 5 - 14 years

Join us in celebrating the Moon Festival with stories, lantern making, and mooncake making! Kids and families will have the opportunity to take photos with their freshly made lanterns and mooncakes at our photo booth.

Star Wars Reads

Saturday, October 3, 2:30 - 4 p.m.
Ages 6 - 10 years

Budding padawans and droidsmiths are invited to join us for a celebration of all things Star Wars! Test your Jedi skills, build your own droid, and enjoy stories from galaxy far, far away. Registration is not required

Pokémon Party

Saturday, November 14, 2:30 - 4 p.m.
Ages 5 - 12 years

Come to the Library to share your enthusiasm for all things Pokémon! We will test your knowledge with trivia and make Pokémon arts and crafts with some of your favorite Pokémon.

Storytime with Santa

Saturday, December 12, 2:30 - 4 p.m.

Santa is visiting the Arcadia Public Library! Join us for stories, crafts, and photos! All ages welcome

GILB MUSEUM OF ARCADIA HERITAGE



Visit the new exhibit Milestones in Arcadia at the Gilb Museum. Discover the rich history and heritage of Arcadia through its key milestones and our Nation's anniversaries. Experience a journey through time and celebrate the legacy of our community. Exhibition is open until January 2027.

Educational kits

Each kit comes with a short history lesson and materials necessary to complete some fun crafts! Stop by to pick up your **FREE** kit until supplies last!



A New Chapter: Arcadia Woman's Club

August 4- September 29

Arcadia in the Spotlight

October 6- November 24

Arcadia Today and Tomorrow

December 5- December 30

Gilb Museum of Arcadia Heritage

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

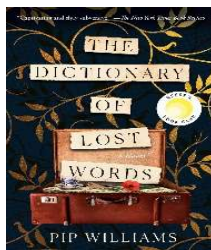
Every Friday
10:00 am - 11:00 am
September 11 - November 6

PRESERVATION WORKSHOP Series

Learn preservation methods used by museum professionals and see examples from the Museum collections.
All workshops begin at 10 am. RSVP Required.

DISASTER PREVENTION 101 SEPTEMBER 19	GENEALOGY NOVEMBER 14
BOOK & PAPER OCTOBER 17	ADVANCED GENEALOGY DECEMBER 12

Book Reviews



The Dictionary of Lost Words
By Pip Williams
Ballantine Books, 2021, 402 pages

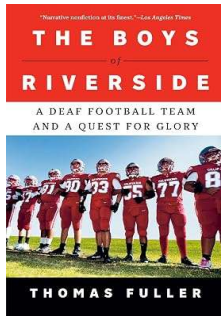
Review by Jeanne Roy

Who decides which words matter enough to be defined and recorded for posterity? Today, any word you can think of (and some you can't) can be found in one dictionary or another, especially online where anyone can give their opinion on words, dictionary or not. It wasn't always this way.

Once upon a time, although not really that long ago, there was no definitive, or any other kind really, source for words and their meanings until a group of men took it upon themselves to create the first Oxford English Dictionary. It is here that Williams begins her tale of how Esme, even as a child, learns that there are many words that live and breathe in places where men never set foot; words considered inappropriate or unworthy to be included in such an esteemed tome; words from the marketplace spoken by the poor, the illiterate, the servants, the street walkers, the women, who in essence, make the lives of the men possible.

The Dictionary of Lost Words is fascinating on different levels. How were dictionaries created, the process of choosing and defining every word in the lexicon? Think about all the words you use every day, an

insurmountable task. Then there is Esme, her life as a privileged girl and then woman, not only in a material sense, but by having a father who values knowledge for both men and women. Esme is presented as a woman of her time but with a desire to know more and to try to understand those who are not like her. Williams allows Esme to know love and grief and the eternal quest to give meaning to one's life. How the Dictionary of Lost Words comes to be is an integral part of the love story, and I understand why Williams wrote it that way, but I couldn't help but hope that Esme could have taken control of her own lost words as we should never have to depend on another to give us the freedom to say what we want to say.



The Boys of Riverside
By Thomas Fuller
Vintage, 2024, 253 pages

Review by Jeanne Roy

Having spent my professional days in Riverside County, anything with “Riverside” gets my attention. So, imagine my surprise when I saw *The Boys of Riverside*, and further surprise when I saw it was about the football team for the California School for the Deaf, Riverside (CSDR). During my 30 years in Riverside, I had occasional contact with students and faculty at the school, but never knew they had a football team. Had I still been in Riverside in 2021, if I had known nothing else, I would have known about the Riverside Cubs.

The California School for the Deaf was founded shortly after WWII, but none of their sports teams had ever made it to a championship, let alone win one. When The New York Times San Francisco Bureau Chief, Thomas Fuller, received a routine email from the California Department of Education, that history was about to change. In the prologue, Fuller says, “Something about the Riverside Cubs pulled me in like metal to a magnet.” Thank goodness it did.

Fuller does a fantastic job of telling the story of this football team and their absolute mastery of “eight-man ball” which is, as described by former president of the Southern Section of the California Interscholastic Federation, John Dahlem*, “It’s pure football.” Fuller takes us to practice and to games with the team, we get to know their families, but more than that, Fuller lets us into the deaf community, their struggles and triumphs. We gain a historical perspective of how deaf people have been treated, the evolution of schooling for children and the rise of American Sign Language. We are introduced to families where everyone is deaf as well as families with both hearing and non-hearing members. Fuller also introduces us to the opposing teams, most of whom are hearing, who had to acclimate to a world of silence, and to a team that was so in sync it was almost magical.

Even if you’ve never had any interest in Riverside, football, or the deaf community, this is a book for you, because, at its heart, it is a story of hope, hard work, and the triumph of the human spirit.

*John Dalem, since deceased, was a football coach at my high school back in the late 1970s. It is, indeed, a small world.

Friends Board of Directors

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Vice President - vacant
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Publicity - Mary Cheng

Our Mission since 1956:

To benefit the public by providing financial and volunteer support to the Arcadia Public Library

Library Information

20 West Duarte Road, Arcadia, CA 91006
Tel: (626) 821-4364 Fax: (626) 447-8050
<http://ArcadiaCA.gov/library>
Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
(Closed Sundays & Holidays)

Among Friends Newsletter

Among Friends is distributed to all members of the Friends of the Arcadia Public Library. We encourage submissions of library-related material. Please contact Carla Witt, Editor, for deadlines at carla8010@att.net. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject material. Each article is the opinion of its author and does not necessarily represent the opinion or endorsement of the Friends of the Library or the editor.

**Join the Friends of the Arcadia Public Library
to support your community Library!**

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

☐ NEW ☐ RENEWAL ☐ Check (Payable to FOAPL)

INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

☐ Individual \$25/year

☐ Family \$50/year

☐ Patron \$100/year

☐ Elite \$250/year

☐ Sponsor \$500/year

☐ Life \$1,000+

and recognition on our Life Member Plaque



BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS

☐ Business Partner I \$250/year

☐ Business Partner II \$500/year

☐ Business Partner III \$1,000/year

☐ Donation: \$ _____

(Let us know if this is a tribute donation
so it may be appropriately acknowledged)

YES, CONTACT ME TO VOLUNTEER

☐ Book Sale

☐ Fundraising

☐ Membership

☐ Publicity

☐ Special Events

PLEASE MAIL TO:

**Friends of the Arcadia Public Library
20 West Duarte Road, Arcadia, CA 91006**

For Office Use Only

Date: _____ Amount: _____

Cash/Check _____ Initials: _____

Date Sent: _____ Initials: _____

Date Recorded: _____ Initials: _____