

FRIENDS OF PATAGONIA LIBRARY

346 Duquesne Ave. Patagonia, AZ 85624 - 520-394-2010 - www.patagoniapubliclibrary.org

Our Patagonia Library

by President of Friends of Patagonia Library

As we reflect on this past year, I am reminded of how fortunate we are to have a library at the center of our community. The Patagonia Library is more than shelves of books—it's a gathering place, a resource hub, and a spark for lifelong learning. None of this would be possible without the steadfast support of our donors.

This is my first term as President of the Friends of the Library, and I am both honored and excited to be trusted with this important role. I look forward to working alongside so many supporters of the Patagonia Library, and I hope to earn your continued support as we move ahead together.

Your contributions make a real difference. Over the last year those donations paid for on-the-shelf and online products, such as books, magazines, audio books, and even movies, and supported many author events and other events that brought scores of residents to the library. Together, we are ensuring our library remains a vibrant cornerstone of community life.

With gratitude,
Kara Haas



The Spice Club

by Jade DeForest and Steve Finch

Every month, a new spice or herb is chosen and samples are offered for patrons to take and try during the month before the discussion.

So far, we've discussed cumin, turmeric, and oregano, and the upcoming discussion is about the autumnal spices of cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, and cloves that are frequently used in combination. We share the history and uses of each spice and participants share ways their families have used those spices.

At first, meetings addressed medicinal qualities of each spice. When our audience requested culinary uses be added, September's meeting was almost two hours of lively participation capped with a sampling of some of the dishes you could make with oregano. One participant who didn't like butternut squash reluctantly tried some, and came back for more. Now, we often hear patrons sharing their experiences with spice and new recipes.

Stars, Authors, and Local History

by Deb Robinson and Marilyn Miller

In addition to the weekly children's programs, for adults we've averaged two free library programs a month plus a six-week astronomy course. Starting in March, Ken Graun led a short lecture and discussion. He brought several of his own telescopes and showed everyone how star-gazing equipment worked and gave advice on purchasing beginner equipment.

Author presentations have been a hit for the past three years. This year's author events included local authors. Paul Hudson discussed his writings on body, mind, and spirit issues. Jane and Carl Bock discussed their mystery series set in Sonoita, AZ, and Phil Caputo, who's written both fiction and nonfiction about people affected by borders and their disputes, led an over-capacity Q&A session about his books.



This year, we've continued our talks on local history. One big hit was "Living Treasures," a lively interview with five local residents who shared episodes of when they were children and young adults in the 1950s. Other history talks were arranged by the Patagonia Museum, two of which were about the Buffalo Soldiers and Father Kino.

The Joy of Reading Starts Here

by Kara Hart



A bathtub full of stuffed toys, a stack of pillows, two soft chairs, and lots and lots of books create a welcoming home for young readers.

Reading to young children is one of the best ways to support their growth and learning. Early exposure to books builds vocabulary, sparks imagination, and strengthens listening skills, all of which are essential for school readiness.

The Patagonia Library plays a vital role in making reading accessible. Reading with Mrs. Deb and other library programs provide our families with free opportunities to explore books together. The reading programs often incorporate music, play, and interactive activities that make reading a fun activity while teaching critical pre-reading skills. Beyond fostering literacy, these reading events create welcoming spaces where families connect with resources and community.

Children and their parents are filling the Children's Room every day, and going home with stacks of books to read at home.

Thank you to our generous donors and program sponsors:

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In memory of:

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Friends of the Patagonia Library
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