Dear Members,

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter. We are happy to again be bringing you our quarterly news of the Friends and the library. We are converting to an email format for the newsletter which will save us both in manpower and expense. If you are not on our email list, be sure and update your information with us at Escondidofriends@gmail.com. There will also be some hard copies of the newsletter available in the Book Shop.

All of our volunteers have been hard at work this year and we are so grateful for their participation through these challenging times. (I have been in this position for less than a year and I marvel at the amount of sweat shed by you who volunteer).

Judi Tisdale, Jim Tisdale, Elmer Cameron and I attended an Escondido City Council tribute to city volunteers in May. It sure is nice to be appreciated.

Our contributions to the Escondido Library suffered somewhat during the covid period but it seems we are back to near the previous level.

We have recently lost two of our longtime FOL volunteers. Sadly, Mary Roy who has been a volunteer for 18 years, is moving to Temecula (she promises to return for the get togethers) and John Porowski, who has been with us for four years, is retiring and moving to Ohio. Hopefully, Eula Stephens, who has been a volunteer for 20 years, will return when her health improves. We miss you all.

Cookie Allen, the library's longstanding Volunteer Coordinator, retired in January. She had been with the library for 30 years! We wish her the best in her retirement, but we miss her and the wonderful support she provided to the Friends of the Library over the years.

In closing, I am proud to represent this organization as president and hope I can continue down the path started by my mentors Linda Parker, Elmer Cameron and Linda Faulkner.
2023 is off to a great start! For the second year in a row, Escondido Public Library has been awarded a $5,000 Innovation Lab Grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities to bring library events and services to the San Diego immigrant population. The 2022 grant paid for four large events, mainly focused on Latin American cultures including dancing, storytelling, and even a Chinese Moon Festival with a story reading by local author Virginia Loh-Hagan. The 2023 grant will focus on serving immigrant groups from Ukraine, Iran, and Afghanistan.

In 2022, Literacy Services was awarded a $53,000 grant to offer English as a Second Language classes. Literacy has hired three staff members to teach and assist with assessments. Enrollment is through the roof and Literacy staff are welcoming two interns from St. John Paul the Great University to help out.

We are gearing up for the annual Summer Reading Challenge for all ages! This year’s theme is All Together Now and runs from June 12- July 30, 2023.

We are so grateful to the Friends of the Library for their support to make our amazing programs happen!

Adult Services  Azar Katouzian, Senior Principal Librarian

Adult Services Programs

Adult Services is happy to offer monthly educational and entertainment programs and implement new programs based on the Library’s Strategic Plan and patrons’ requests/needs on the evaluation forms with the Friends of the Library support. The monthly programs include:

- **Book Clubs:** 2nd Tuesday Book Club, Rincon Literario (Bilingual Spanish and English Book Club), and 2 Graphic Novel Book Clubs and Between the Covers which are centered around reading.
- **2nd Saturday Concert Series** brings music and culture to the library to entertain the library community.
- **The Escondido Writers Group** program focuses on writing techniques, the steps of success in publishing the writing, and sharing the writing experiences through author guests. This program is twice a month on the first and third Tuesday of the month.
- **Read Local, Shop Local** is a community and partnership-based program, which tries to make a strong bond with the local businesses to provide more services for the library patrons and the community.

This department was able to plan and implement successful new programs based on the library’s Strategic Plan, in 2023 and the Spring activities which were a big success are as follows:
Adult Services, (continued)

- **Escondido Writers Group 4th Annual Writing Competition**: this program was planned and run with the Escondido Writers Group facilitator Tanya Ross’s help in January. This program brings the writers a chance to write and participate in a competition. The time frame for submitting the contest was from January 2nd to 31st, and three winners were announced on February 21st.

- **Healthy You Series: The meditation and Mindfulness** program is one of the programs that focus on wellness program at the library, and after two pilot sessions in 2022, started officially in January 2023 with two sessions and will be continuing monthly on the first Wednesday of each month. It is a very popular program with an average of 15-20 attendees.

- **Artsy Adults**: brought a lot of fun and joy with crafting and making cards to our patron. This is a quarterly planned craft program for adults from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.
  - Paper Craft Valentine: January 24, 2023
  - Flower Power Paint Pouring: April 27, 2023

- **Succulent Swap** is a semiannual popular program and in January brought 150 people of our community members together to enjoy their time swapping their succulents and gardening experiences in this program. The Escondido Community Garden was our partner in this program.

- **A Historic Look of the Escondido** and the **Walking Tour of the Escondido** is the new historic program with the goal of introducing Escondido’s history and the Pioneer Room’s historical resources to our community. These two programs have been implemented and started in February and the 38 attendants in the first Walking Tour of Escondido show our communities interest in learning more about Escondido’s history. The program will be quarterly with a focus on the different historic locations in the city.

- **Nowruz: Persian New Year**: In order to provide the program for our diverse community members and introduce different cultures and arts to the library community, Adult Services was able to plan an educational and cultural program in partnering with the Persian Cultural Center and set a traditional Persian New Year table at the library. This successful program provided educational information about Persian culture, music, dance, and food. The program got 180 attendees and the surveys show that they want this program to be annual.

- **Law Library**: In partnering with the San Diego Law Library, starting on April 6th, the library is hosting the Law Library Reference Librarian on the first and third Thursday of the month from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm to provide legal information from their websites and refer the patrons to the other legal resources.

**Adult Services other Events in the next few months:**

**June**:

- The library Summer Reading Challenge will start from June 12th to July 30 and the Adult Services program will be part of this challenge. The community members who will register for the Adult Challenge and participate in the programs during this time will receive points and will be rewarded if win the weekly challenge drawing.

- **Career Fair: the last session of the Career Fair and Job Readiness Workshop Series** which has been planned to be held on June 6th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and will bring the hiring opportunity by the local employers to all the community members and the registrar in the Resume Writing Workshop.

- **Shortcuts to Writing & Publishing Short Stories: a 4 sessions Hybrid Writing Workshop that gives the participants the tips and information** to write and publish their Short Stories and will be facilitated by Mr. Richard (Pete) Peterson the former Escondido Writers Group. The program has been planned for all Mondays of June from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm.
Adult Services, (continued)

- **A Historic Look of Escondido: Grand & Broadway** on June 22nd from 6:00 to 7:00 pm and **A Walking Tour of Escondido: Grand & Broadway on June 24th** are the second sessions of this quarterly program that will focus on Grand and Broadway and will be a part of Adult Summer Reading Challenge programs as well.

- **Beginning Genealogy Workshop:** this program will be on June 29th from 6:30 to 7:30, and Pioneer Room be running this program with the Adult Services teamwork. The community will learn how to search about their ancestry, get more information about their family tree, and join the Adult Summer

**July**

- **Succulent Swap:** July first from 2:00 to 4:00 pm is the second time that Adult Services will host the community members to swap their succulents and learn more from Escondido Community Garden instructions, and get more points in the Summer Reading Challenge program.

- **Introduction to Dungeons & Dragons Workshop:** This workshop is a response to requests for Dungeons & Dragons programming and would like to promote the library tabletop game collection. Dungeons & Dragons is an outlet for creativity, which encourages social interaction between people of diverse backgrounds and fosters reading comprehension and critical thinking skills. The workshop will be run with our partnership with Knowhere Games & Comics, and they will provide the lecture and instruction. It will host the community members on July 15th from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

- **Artsy Adults: Friendship Bracelets:** this event will be on July 25th and based on the Summer Reading Challenge theme “All Together Now” the participants will make the friendship bracelet.

Literacy and Youth Services  Dan Wood, Principal Librarian

Exciting Events and Reading Adventures Await at the Library!

I am thrilled to share some incredible highlights from recent and upcoming events at our library. From the thrilling Star Wars Week to the highly anticipated Summer Reading Challenge, there’s something for everyone to enjoy. Read on to discover the exciting details!

**Star Wars Week 2023: A Galactic Celebration!**

From May 1st to May 6th, our library was transformed into a galaxy far, far away during Star Wars Week 2023. This extraordinary event captivated the hearts of nearly 1000 attendees of all ages. The week-long festivities featured an array of engaging programs and activities.
One of the highlights was the celebration of Star Wars Day on May the Fourth, where fans gathered to pay homage to the iconic franchise. Attendees were treated to a series of special events and enjoyed the opportunity to unleash their inner Jedi. Additionally, Star Wars Week coincided with Free Comic Book Day, delighting comic enthusiasts with a fantastic selection of free comics.

We were honored to welcome the renowned 501st Legion, also known as "Vader's Fist." These dedicated costumed volunteers, representing characters from the Star Wars universe, made appearances at several events throughout the week. Their presence added an extra layer of excitement and authenticity to the celebration.

**Summer Reading Challenge 2023: All Together Now!**

The Summer Reading Challenge 2023, themed "All Together Now" runs from Monday, June 12th, until Sunday, July 30th. This program promises a summer filled with literary exploration and fun for readers of all ages.

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to everyone, from little bookworms to adults seeking captivating tales. Our library has curated a diverse selection of books and activities, ensuring a rewarding experience for every participant.

Throughout the program, we have planned an array of engaging events, including visits from fascinating animals, a mesmerizing magician, and an inspirational ventriloquist. These special guests will infuse each event with wonder and laughter.

By participating in the Summer Reading Challenge, readers will not only dive into thrilling stories but also unlock the boundless power of their imagination. Together, we will foster a love for reading, encourage lifelong learning, and create lasting memories within our community. Star Wars Week was an incredible success, captivating enthusiasts of all ages with its galactic charm. Don't miss out on the Summer Reading Challenge!

My heartfelt thanks to the Friends of the Library for continuing to support everything we do at the Escondido Public Library.
Friends Book Shop News  Penny Boggeln, Shop Coordinator

We have all undergone many changes with Covid-19. The Book Shop was closed from March 2020 until July 2021. When we reopened it was with modified hours. As of January 2023, we are back to our pre-Covid hours, Monday-Saturday, 10:00am-4:00 pm.

Our relationship with Operation Book Support (OBS) is going strong. We are consistently the top earner at OBS each quarter. A special shout-out goes to our volunteers who sort, scan and sometimes manually research each donated book, checking for those books that OBS wants.

The Book Shop sales are back to pre-Covid levels. Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers. Whether you work in the shop or in the background, we couldn't do it without you!

Coming soon, our Summer Reading display in the Book Shop.

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UPCOMING HALF-PRICE SALE DATES IN THE BOOK SHOP

June 23 – 24  July 28 – 29  August 25 - 26

The next time you are in our shop stop by the Children’s/Teens’ section located in the rear of the store. The area has a variety of categories for the different age groups including:

- Classics
- Graphic
- Foreign Language
- Vintage
- Well-Known Authors (such as Horowitz, Grisham, Patterson), etc.

Since everything is donated, we do not know what we will have at a given time. Right now, we have a nice selection of hardback Teen books. We hope to see you soon!

Georgia Chonko, Friends VP

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Friends of the Library Board of Directors

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Linda Roger, Friends News editor

Friends of the Escondido Public Library Board of Directors will have its Annual Meeting upstairs in the Board Room at the library on September 13 at 9:30 AM. This meeting is required by Board Rules, at which time members will hear and vote on the current Board’s recommended slate of officers and directors for the 2023-2024 year. Members and guests are welcome to attend. The regularly scheduled monthly Board Meeting will follow.