



Scripps Ranch Library is Re-Opening August 24 for Curbside Delivery

Exciting news for Scripps Ranch residents is that our library is opening for curbside delivery. After ordering a book on the San Diego Public Library website, Scripps Ranch library patrons will receive an email notice that a book is available and will be directed to a curbside pick up at the Library. Once in the parking lot, patrons phone the library (858-538-8158) and supply their library card number. Staff then delivers the book or books to an outside table. This service is available 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Our bookdrop is now open Monday through Friday for all 24 hours. It closes Friday at 5:30 p.m. for the weekend and re-opens Mondays at 9 a.m.

Behind Closed Doors

Branch Manager Trevor Jones informs us of what goes on behind closed doors at the library. He says that while the Scripps Ranch Library has seen the retirement of a few staff members in recent months, we also have not had our full workforce rejoin us at capacity because of pandemic fears and for personal reasons. A small number of staff are available to answer questions or provide help Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., 858-538-8158.

That said, staff who are in our library typically process holds that are picked up at other branches, provide phone reference and are in the midst of several projects we've initiated during our closure. When the public returns to our library, they'll see some changes on the floor! We've changed some seating areas, expanded our Large Print selection and massively refreshed both our Fiction and Non-Fiction sections. Looking ahead to providing space for new books in the near future, staff are currently working on the Children's section. Finally, look out for announcements on our new 'Local History' section that will highlight the long history of the Scripps Ranch Library, the Meanley estate and the surrounding area that E.W. Scripps called *Miramar*.

In August we said goodbye to longtime employee Barbara Gregg, a 14-year employee with the San Diego Public Library. Throughout her service, she booked meeting rooms, performed storytimes and worked at our front desk. She was definitely a beloved employee as well as a Scripps Ranch local. We wish her well on her next chapter and hope to see her back at the library in due time. Thank you Barbara; the Scripps Ranch Library salutes you!

Contents

Opening Library	1
Activities	2
Marilyn Pelton	3
New Board Members..	4
Origin of Writing	5
Bookish Thoughts	6
Richard Lederer	7
Renewal/Application ...	8



Mira Mesa library staff member, Jerri Alexander delivering a book from that site.



Barbara Gregg on her retirement from our library.

From the SRFOL President, Jan McGinn



Who could have predicted the key role online communications plays in today's world? Even if we have to stay apart right now, we still want to communicate personally and effectively with each other. Our board still meets monthly—via Zoom—so we can continue supporting our library. We have enhanced our emails—through Constant Contact—so we can provide you with relevant, branded and linkable information. You can look forward to receiving monthly quick updates as to what's happening as well as the acclaimed *Folio* each quarter. We are enhancing our social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor in order to reach the larger library community. We have plans to add more information to our SRFOL website including a pictorial history of how our library started.

The Virtual Activity Page from the Scripps Ranch Library

at <https://www.facebook.com/ScrippsMiramarRanchLibrary/> (unless otherwise stated).

The Summer Reading Program ends Aug. 31. Prizes are now available for pick up at any of the contactless pickup service locations. (See page 1). Visit the pickup site and once you arrive, call the library and staff will prepare your prize bags. Prize bags will be available for pick up through September 30.

Storytime: Every Thurs., 10 am. tune in LIVE on our Facebook page with Ms Melissa.

New! Kids' Craft: Tuesday and Saturdays, 10 am. on Facebook. Simple and easy crafts to enjoy from home with Ms. Phetsamone. Children need to supply their own materials.

Teens! Stay connected and follow us on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/sdplteens/> and find out what other teens are up to!



The Bucketlist Bookclub! Mon., 4 pm. Read with our Librarian, Trevor Jones. There is still time to join the Bucketlist Bookclub's August-September selection, *Twelve Years A Slave*. Join us for a textual 'deep dive' into the material as we cross this invaluable first person narrative of the experience of American slavery off our 'bucketlists'! Also available at <https://www.youtube.com/user/sdpubliclibrary>

Read More! (With Trevor): Every Wed., at 3 pm. For the relentless reader there are book talks, reviews and occasional special guests! If you love books and book culture, this is a space for you!

Seed Library-By-Mail! Yes, that's right: order seeds from home and take advantage of San Diego's awesome climate! Instructions and guidelines here: <http://srfol.org/seed-library.htm>

The San Diego Public Library

SDPL has a wealth of activities daily for children, teens and adults. Go to the website to check out the possibilities. <https://www.sandiego.gov/public-library>



The Book Nook continues to be closed and we have been unable to receive donations of books. We are exploring some ideas for how the Book Nook operations might be able to adapt when the library reopens in this new era of social distancing.

POYC Concert Program Report by Gary Letchinger

The Pleasure Of Your Company concert program remains suspended due to the COVID-19 emergency. We will resume as soon as it is safe to do so. Since we regularly have an audience of well over 50 people in an indoor setting, we do not expect to be able to have any in-person programs until the beginning of 2021 at the earliest. Here is a photo of the Orvieto Piano Trio from our last concert in February as a reminder of what we used to do and what we will be doing again in the not too distant future. In the meantime, we are exploring options to bring our concert experience to you in a virtual concert. "



Honoring Marilyn Pelton

SRFOL joins the Scripps Ranch Library staff in honoring the retirement of long-time volunteer and employee, Marilyn Pelton. Marilyn played a big part in creating the library that we have today. Nancy Assaf, former branch librarian, provided information from those exciting days beginning more than 30 years ago.

Marilyn began as a volunteer in 1986 when the city moved to establish a temporary storefront library to replace the bookmobile service. With the encouragement of the District 5 Council Office, Marilyn and others established the Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library. One of their first jobs was to go to the old Central Library headquarters to process books for the new storefront. They collected books from other branches as well as new editions. When the storefront opened, the librarian was Nancy Assaf.



It wasn't long before Nancy, Marilyn and other SRFOL members began preparing for the establishment of the new library which was part of an arrangement with developers to obtain the historic Meanley House site. These volunteers then toured the area visiting libraries and getting ideas of what to include and what to avoid.

The result is the beautiful building we have today—with its spacious community room and stage, catering kitchen, courtyard and the landscaping designed to take advantage of the setting near Evans Pond. This area was used for library and community events and became a source of income for the library at that time. Marilyn coordinated the schedule of the events and initially set up a telephone line at her house to handle requests and became a monitor for many events.

In 1995, the Scripps Ranch Branch was able to hire Marilyn as a library aide. After Librarian Nancy Assaf retired in 2008, Scripps Ranch Library has had a series of nine librarians up to the present day. From her vantage point as an employee, Marilyn kept an eye on the documents of those early planning years that were contained in the library. Our present Librarian, Trevor Jones,

appreciates the unique history of Scripps Ranch Library and is now helping SRFOL to preserve all the documents both digitally and in hard copy.

Marilyn was awarded a service award by the City of San Diego; however, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ceremony was greatly abbreviated. Nevertheless, Marilyn leaves an incredible legacy of faithful service. Thank you, Marilyn, for all that you have done and enjoy your retirement!



Librarian Emeritus, Nancy Assaf (left), congratulates Marilyn (right) who arrived on her motorcycle.

Introducing Two New SRFOL Board Members

Prasanna Madabushi

Prasanna has joined the board and has taken on the role of Social Media. Thanks to her, Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library is now on Instagram. She brings to the board her expertise from an engineering degree and a job in the technology sector as well as her talents as an author. She is a long time resident of Scripps Ranch where she lives with her husband and two teenage daughters.

Prasanna tells us “I love to read and one of the first things I did when I moved to San Diego was get a library card. About five years ago, I decided to write, inspired by the stories I read growing up. I use a pen name Anna Bushi and my debut novel *Heir to Malla* is now available. I am interested in historical fantasy and within that society, examining the human heart in conflict. I like to place my female characters in difficult situations and see how they learn to survive with no actual power, and watch my male characters fall in love while fighting for king and land. I love exploring the struggle between love and duty.”

Prasanna is already at work on a second book which will continue from *Heir to Malla* as a series. At the same time, she continues to expand the SRFOL presence in social media in order to establish contact with the younger people in our community. She is well qualified for this undertaking as she has her teen-age daughters to advise her! Thank you, Prasanna, for joining the board and establishing this new platform of communication.



Editor's Note: Instagram is an entirely visual platform. Unlike Facebook, which relies on both text and pictures, or Twitter, which relies on text alone, Instagram's sole purpose is to enable users to share images or videos with their audience. Anyone 13 and older can create an account by registering an email address and selecting a username—67% of the participants are in the 18 to 29 age group. It is accessed through a free app available on Apple iOS, Android and Windows Phone. Check it out: @srfolibrary

Mike Yang In his own words

My educational background is in engineering (B.S. Chemical Engineering) and science (Ph.D. Materials Science) and I spent my early career years in research laboratories (Republic Steel Research Center in Cleveland, and Texas Instruments Semiconductor R & D Lab in Dallas).

Having come from an entrepreneurial family, I soon abandoned employment to go on my own. With my wife's strong support, I founded or co-founded and ran (sequentially) an overseas manufacturing company, a communications sales and marketing company, a real estate development company, and finally a computer services company. The latter I operated from 1995 through 2015 when I finally sold it and retired.

My wife and I travel extensively and prefer to self guide rather than join tours. Some of the most memorable trips we've taken include a self-driven canal boat cruise on the Loire canal in France, a 100 kilometer pilgrimage hike on the Camino de Santiago in Spain, and an adventure trip to Tibet.

My volunteer activities of late include serving as a docent since 2007 with the Torrey Pines Docent Society (nature interpretation and leading public hikes at Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve), and coordinating Gardening Ministry activities at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church for approximately the last 10 years. I do love to read, keeping my nose buried in my e-book from two to four hours a day, enjoying primarily historical fiction and suspense books. The attached photo shows me in an activity that, when available, beats out all other options: spending time with my grandson, exploring!

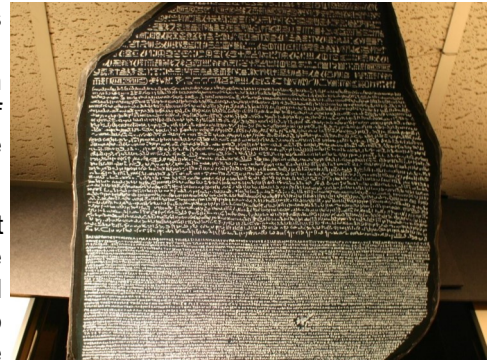


Editor's Note: Thank you, Mike, for joining us with your talents, knowledge and enthusiasm. Read an article authored by Mike on page 6.

The Origin of Writing by Gary Letchinger

When we walk into a library we are greeted with an amazing assortment of books and publications. There are books in a wide variety of languages discussing virtually all areas of human inquiry. We can learn about science, society, practical crafts, and more. We can enjoy the literature and learn about the music, drawings and paintings and other activities that are a part of our human artistic heritage. But for most of the time that human beings have inhabited the Earth, there were no books and no writing systems.

We do not have an exact date for when modern humans (*Homo sapiens*) first appeared on Earth. However we do have a variety of archeological evidence that offer some insight into human evolution. Modern humans first appeared at least 500,000 years ago. The earliest examples of writing discovered so far are at least 5,000 old. So for at least 99.9% of the time that humans have existed, language was limited to verbal and visual communication that could not be recorded.



What triggered the development of writing? Again we need to look at the archeological evidence to understand what happened. For most of human existence, humans gathered their food from their environment and occasionally hunted animals and fish. Most human groups were nomadic and migrated to seasonal food sources. However, about 12,000 years ago there was a remarkable technological revolution: rather than migrating to food sources, some humans collected plant seeds to grow their own plant food, and learned to herd animals for food and motive power. This development of “tilling” and “herding” agriculture greatly increased the human food supply thus allowing human populations to expand in size. This paved the way to the development of contemporary society with permanently populated cities, a political and economic system and the ability to accumulate and store wealth.

Some of the earliest agricultural societies were located in the Fertile Crescent. In the area known as Mesopotamia between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, the Sumerian civilization developed and thrived. Agriculture produced surplus wealth, and this was typically the property of the king or other wealthy person. In order to protect this wealth, the bag of grain or jar of olives was marked with a clay seal. While the clay was wet, a drawing that was a symbol for owner was impressed on the clay and the symbol was preserved when the clay dried and hardened. This seal showed who owned that property. Eventually, the messages on the goods in storage became more elaborate, and the language of these symbols became more complex. This symbol system was later used on small tablets of clay (that fit in the palm of a human hand). The use of a clay (or stone) tablet to record symbols is now called cuneiform, and the oldest tablets written on cuneiform in the Sumerian symbol language are the oldest writings that we have.

The earliest Egyptian pictograph writing, hieroglyphs, emerged shortly after cuneiform. It was mostly reserved for kings and priests, and it became a forgotten language centuries later. The discovery of the Rosetta Stone in the 19th Century gave modern scholars a guide to translating hieroglyphs. The Rosetta Stone (now located in the British Museum) contains the same text in three languages: two forms of Egyptian hieroglyphs and ancient Greek.

One of the difficulties with the written Sumerian language is that the reader needed to learn an entirely new language of written symbols for each idea. As a result, only a handful of Sumerians were literate. However there was a development a few hundred years later that solved this problem. A writing system for the Semitic language (the precursor to Hebrew) used a system where the symbols of the written language represented the phonetic sounds of the spoken language. The spoken and written languages were merged, so a person only needed to learn the alphabet of the phonetic sounds and then could read anything. The phonetic alphabet was widely adopted and there are numerous cuneiform tablets written in other languages using this system.

Clay has been replaced by scrolls, parchment, paper, typewriters, computer data files and a variety of other media. But the purpose of all these methods of writing is to create a durable external object with the simple but powerful concept of preserving and sharing the spoken word.

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Bookish Thoughts

By Michael Yang

For the next few minutes, join me exploring the concept of books. What do you see in your head when you think “book”? What goes into books? What are they made of? How old is the most ancient book we know about? Do books have to have words?

When we hear the word “book”, most of us immediately conjure up a mental image of a sheaf of paper, each page filled with words, and bound between two thick pieces of cardboard called covers, front and back. So, is that the essence of “book”? Pages filled with words bound between cardboard end covers? Well, I guess that would be one form of book, one of many.

But, how else might books look? If we lived in Egypt around 1500 BCE, our library would have been filled with books written on scrolls of papyrus. Earlier still, around 2000 BCE in Mesopotamia (modern Iran and part of Syria), books were written on wet clay tablets, then dried, creating a permanent if fragile “page.” Chinese people, from as early as 1600 BCE and for the following two millennia wrote on bamboo sticks, known as “slips,” which were bound together edge to edge to tell a long story. This is probably a reasonable explanation of why Chinese writing goes from top to bottom! They also wrote poems and stories on paper made of bamboo fibers, as well as on silk.



But, think about it, all these examples are of “portable” books, albeit with a wide range of portability. A typical paperback novel is about 5 inches by 7 inches by an inch thick, while a typical older edition Torah is about 25 to 30 inches tall and weighs up to 20 pounds. Try putting one of those in your back pocket. But, OK, you can still haul them around. But what if some old Pharaoh had his life story chiseled on the walls of his burial chamber, etched into 4 inch thick 8 by 20 foot slabs of marble? Does that qualify as a book? Moving into the 21st century, is your Kindle Reader a book or an entire library? Is the audio “book” on DVD you borrowed from Scripps Ranch library a book? I don’t see any cardboard end covers!

What, dear reader, is the essence of “book”?

Let’s think about content. We all agree stories are definitely acceptable, so they qualify as “book” content. And of course, one of the earliest European printed books was the Christian bible, so religious ideas, history and instruction are definitely book material. But how about comic “books,” drawn images with speech contained in bubbles? Should we consider them books as well? What about “photo books”? A stack of blank pages between two end covers is or is not a book? Instructions or information must certainly qualify as book content: cookbooks, manuals, scholarly material. Hmmm.

Dictionary.com defines book content as “a work of fiction or non-fiction.” Merriam-Webster includes the following content in the definition of “book”: (1) a literary composition; (2) blank pages; (3) something that yields knowledge or understanding. We’re getting closer!

What about purpose? Whether you realize it or not, each time you pick up and read (or load, or listen to) a book you are attempting to fulfill some need or desire. You might be reading to be informed, persuaded, entertained, surprised or even inspired. An author may have written the very book you are reading for the same, or perhaps some *other*, purpose! But a more intriguing question is: if it doesn’t have a purpose, is it still a book? Chew on that for a bit.

Well, it’s been fun skipping off the beaten path mentally doodling on the idea of “book” and I hope you enjoyed it as well. *Here’s your homework:* write a sentence or paragraph which captures the essence of “book” and filters out all non-books masquerading as real books. (Can you think of some non-books? How about a book of matches, or the book a judge throws at you?) Send your entry to folio@srfol.org. We will include as many entries in the next issue as space allows.

References

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Stop, Look, and Listen to the Sounds of Our Language

By Richard Lederer, well-known verbivore and Scripps Ranch resident

What do these words have in common: *bash, clash, crash, dash, gash, gnash, hash, lash, mash, slash, smash, thrash, and trash*?

"The words all rhyme," you answer.

Right. But can you spot what it is that the thirteen words share in their content?

Faces are *bashed*, *gashed*, *slashed* and *smashed*. Cars *crash*. Hopes are *dashed*. Rivals *clash*. Teeth *gnash*. Beef is *hashed*. Potatoes are *mashed*. Rooms are *trashed*. And some captives are *lashed* and *thrashed*.



Now the pattern becomes clearer. All of these *-ash* words are verbs that express actions of great violence. Why, over the more-than-1500-year history of the English language, have speakers seized on *-ash* sounds to create words that describe mutilation?

Listen closely to the broad *a*, and you will hear that it sounds like a drawn-out human scream. Now listen to the hissing sound of *sh*, and note that it too takes a long time to expel. Poet Alexander Pope once wrote, "The sound must seem an echo of the sense." It appears that the agonizing, hissy, protracted sound of *-ash* is particularly well suited to the sense of unfolding violent actions.

Now stop, look and listen to the consonants that begin certain words.

The word for *mother* (and *mama* and *mom*) in many languages begins with the letter *m*: *mater* (Latin), *mámmē*, (Greek), *mere* (French), *madre* (Spanish), *Mutter* (German), *mam* (Welsh), *muimme* (Old Irish), *momà* (Lithuanian), *máma* (Russian), and *masake* (Crow Indian). Could it be more than mere coincidence that this pervasive *m* sound for words maternal, including *mammal*, from the Latin *mamma*, meaning "breast," is formed by the pursing of lips in the manner of the suckling babe?

Think of all the words you know that begin with *fl*-. Your list will probably include the likes of *flicker, flutter, flurry, flip, flap, fly, flow, flash, flee, flare, fling, flight, flush, flame, flail, and flounce*. Could the fact that the tongue darts forward whenever we form *fl*- in our mouths account for the sense of movement, usually rapid movement, in all of these words?

Why do so many words beginning with *sn*- pertain to the nose: *snot, sneeze, snort, snarl, snore, sniff, sniffle, snuff, snuffle, snarl, snivel, snoot, snout, sneer* and *snicker*? And why are so many other *sn*- words distasteful and unpleasant: *sneak, snide, snob, snitch, snit, snippy, snub, snafu, snoop, snipe, snake, and snaggletooth*? To appreciate the nasal aggression inherent in *sn*-, form the sound and note how your nose begins to wrinkle, your nostrils flare and your lips draw back to expose your threatening canine teeth.

Think for a moment of how forcibly the sound of an initial *b* is expelled as it flies from the lips like a watermelon seed. Then observe how many words beginning with that letter denote the expulsion of breath — *breathe, blow, blab, blather, bluster, babble, burp, bloviate* and *blubber* — or the application of force — *beat, batter, blast, bang, bust, bruise, bludgeon, bump, break, butt, beat, bash, bounce, and bomb*.

Listen now to the sounds of vowels in the middle of words.

What happens to the pattern of internal vowels in such verbs as *sing, sang, sung* and *ring, rang, rung*? Place your thumb and forefinger on the front of your throat as you say these words aloud and you will notice that, as the verbs move backwards in time (today I sing, yesterday I sang, I have often sung), the vowels themselves echo the process by traveling back in your throat.



Consider the short *i* vowel in words like *little, kid, slim, thin, skinny, imp, shrimp, midget, pygmy* and *piddling*. What do these words have in common? They all denote smallness or slowness. Why? Perhaps because, when we pronounce the short *i*, we tighten our lips together and make our mouths small.

As a final example, why do so many words ending in *-ump* suggest a round mass — *hump, clump, rump, lump, bump, mumps, plump, hump, stump* and *chump* (originally a short, thick piece of wood)?

No wonder the great wordsmith and creator of children's stories, Lewis Carroll, named his rotund egghead *Humpty Dumpty*. Now there's a writer who could really hear and feel the sounds of English words.



Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library
10301 Scripps Lake Drive
San Diego, CA 92131

www.srfol.org

The Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library (SRFOL) exists to support the operation of the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library Center. The SRFOL provides volunteer services, assists library patrons, hosts special events, operates a used book store (Grace's Book Nook), and provides financial support for acquisitions and community activities.

Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library Board of Directors

To contact a board member, consult the webpage for a list of e-mail addresses or call 858-538-8158

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Parking Reminder

For library events, please allow extra time to park on Meanley Drive and walk up the paved, lighted walkway to the library.

Join or renew on line at www.srfol.org
or mail

SRFOL Membership

10301 Scripps Lake Drive, San Diego, CA 92131

Our Library needs Friends like you!

Membership and Renewal Form for Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library

Membership year is January 1 to December 31

Name _____ Phone _____ Date _____

Email _____ Address _____

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Student/Senior \$5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Adult \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (Dual Adult) \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dual Student/Senior \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Sponsor \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor/Business \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Lifetime \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Patron Lifetime \$1000 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Any additional amount you may wish to contribute (amount of donation: _____) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to volunteer. (email membership@srfol.org or call 858-538-8158.) | | |

Please make checks out to: **Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library.**

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