

folio

Newsletter of the
Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library

10301 Scripps Lake Drive, San Diego, CA 92131
www.srfol.org 858-538-8158 Instagram @srfolibrary

Volume 30, Issue 4 Winter 2020

The Membership Drive Is On!

Support the Scripps Ranch Library by joining or renewing your Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library membership today! Benefits include the quarterly *Folio* newsletter, monthly email updates, "Buzz Around the Pond" and access to the most recent news and events at the library. Yearly membership for 2021 includes those who renew or join in November and December. See page 8 for information on categories.

To renew or join online, just click this link <https://www.srfol.org/join.htm> or complete the application form on page 8 and send it with your check by mail.

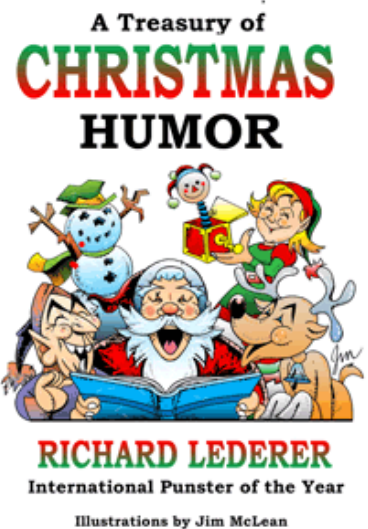
Your dues contribute to monthly children's programs, special library events, Grace's Book Nook and so much more. Thank you for your support!

Support Our Library As You Do Your Holiday Shopping!

A Treasury of Christmas Humor

Scripps Ranch author Richard Lederer, featured on the cover of the October SCRA newsletter, has just published *A Treasury of Christmas Humor*. He is offering signed and, if requested, personally inscribed copies for benefit of our Scripps Miramar Ranch Library. The cost is \$13 and Dr. Lederer will donate \$8 of that to the Library. Here's a great chance to do your holiday shopping and benefit your beloved library by clicking the following link: <https://www.srfol.org/special-book-sale.htm>.

A Treasury of Christmas Humor is chock-full of puns, jokes, riddles, games, poems, stories, history, lore, and more! Inside you'll find the story of Christmas and the biographies of Santa Claus and Frosty the Snowman and the history of Christmas words. A gallery of Jim McLean's sprightly drawings adds to the rollicking fun of *A Treasury of Christmas Humor*. For excerpts from this work and more information as to how to order, go to page 7.



Bookplates

For the person on your gift list who has everything, why not honor them with recognition?

By making a donation of \$25 or more to Bookplates, we will place a distinctive bookplate in a new book with the names of the donor and the person being honored. In addition, a note will be sent to the honoree advising of your kind gift. The City's Matching Book Fund will augment your donation.

The recipient will be recognized on a plaque within our library. To find out how to create this meaningful gift, click our website <https://www.srfol.org/bookplates.htm> or call the library at 858-538-8158.



Contents

Membership Drive	1
Holiday Shopping	1
Activities.....	2
Parking Lot	3
Teens.....	3
Book Review.....	3
New Board Member....	4
Bookish Thoughts.....	4
Iceland and Books ...	5,6
Reflections on Iceland	6
Richard Lederer	7
Renewal/Application ...	8

Our Library: What Is Happening?

As of now, Scripps Ranch library staff still do not have a re-opening date for the interior of the library. Consult our webpage www.srfol.org or <https://www.instagram.com/srfolibrary/> for the latest updates.

However, the book drop is now open 24 hours every day. our library is now open for pick-up of ordered materials six days a week (Mon.-Sat.) from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm except from 1-2 pm. Your library card can also be renewed at the outside table.

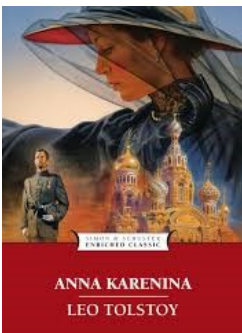
Here is a reminder of the procedure: Order your books (or materials) at sandiegolibrary.org. You will receive an email when your items are available. Come to our library with your cell phone and library card number. From the parking lot, call us (858-538-8158) and we will meet you at an outside table with your order. The phone number is conveniently posted in large numbers. It only takes a few minutes!

The Virtual Activity Page from the Scripps Ranch Library

Teens: Stay connected and follow us on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/sdplteens/> and find out what other teens are up to! (See page 3)

Storytime: Every Thurs., 10 am. Tune in LIVE with Ms Melissa. Enjoy Storytime with music, finger plays, rhymes and more. Some videos will be posted and available afterwards on a short-term basis.

Kids' Craft: Every Tues., 10 am. Simple and easy crafts to enjoy from home with Ms Phetsamone or Ms Ashu. Children supply their own materials. Each week will be different, so join us for creative fun!



The Bucketlist Book Club! Every Mon., 4 pm. Read with our Librarian, Trevor Jones. We are reading Leo Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*! You can secure the eBook at no cost at <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1399/1399-h/1399-h.htm>. To join in the conversation go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SDPLbucketlist>. It is necessary to send a request to join, but no one is turned away. It's not too late to join and discover why this novel has endured through the decades.

Read More! Every Wed., 3 pm. Wondering what you should read next? Join Trevor for suggestions, book talks, reviews and occasional special guests! If you love books and book culture, this is a space for you!

Know some children? The next time you stop by the library to pick up items, ask if we have any craft/activity kits available to take home!

San Diego Public Library has additional activities and programs: www.sandiego.gov/public-library.

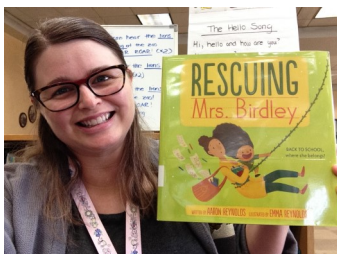
Book Sale and Grace's Book Nook

We have Saturday, January 23 reserved for a book sale. Chairperson, Marcia Gwin says, "All we can say is 'Mark your calendars!' If the library is open, we will do our best."

The Book Nook remains closed and donations cannot be accepted until further notice.



Trevor Jones, Branch Librarian



Melissa Giffen
Youth Services Librarian



Ashu Agarwal
Library Assistant



Phetsamone Bergersen
Library Assistant

Parking Lot News



The lower parking lot looks deserted in this November photo, but change is in the wind. The city has been working on the expansion of parking for Scripps Miramar Library for quite some time. The latest official update was in September 2020. The Project Managers and Engineers informed our library that we remain on track with "100% Plans, Specifications, Estimate by Jan. 2021 – Mar. 2021." After that phase, the project goes out to bid.

With the area under-utilized and on a trajectory to being torn up and reconfigured, our librarians were very excited to work with Scripps Ranch High School to sustain their yearly tradition of painting parking spaces! Students in 2020 missed their chance as SRHS campus remains closed, but after working with Department

leaders and other City officials, we are looking forward to decorated parking spaces in the lower lot by the end of this year! Scripps Ranch Library misses its after-school crowd and its teens, so by working together we are able to send a strong message of positivity and cooperation with the community.



Teen Council Celebrated Halloween by Melissa Giffen

One of the Teen Council's favorite and most popular annual events is the Haunted Library. The teens (with some help from staff and SRFOL) transform the library into a Haunted House for one evening in late October. Unfortunately, it just wasn't possible to host an event like that this year, but our Teen Council still found a way to create seasonal fun with a series of videos called "Haunted Library DIY"

which they created and released throughout the month of October, two per week. These seasonal videos were all planned and filmed by Teen Council members, with topics ranging from food to crafts to spooky stories—everything you might need to create seasonal fun at home this year! If you missed these videos, here's a quick recap: Leaf Coloring with Daniel, Paper Craft Monsters with Katherine, Jello Monsters with Rachel, Jack-o-Lantern Storytime with Benji, Paper Jack-o-Lanterns with Mehri, Pumpkin Pie with Frederick, Crayon Resistance Art with Mehri, and Pumpkin "Water Bombs" with Aditi. Many thanks to the Teen Council for this fun series and stay tuned for their next project!

I'm Glad I Read This Book: *Slacks and Callouses*

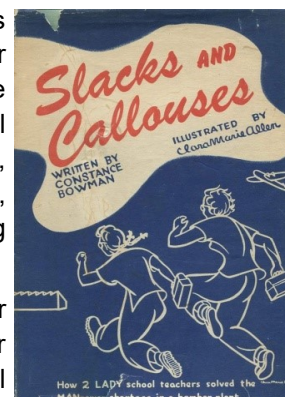
By Constance Bowman Reid (Reviewed by Richard Busch)

In the early 1940s, the Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Company (Consolidated) of San Diego was tasked to build B-24 Liberator bomber aircraft for use against the Axis Powers during World War II. Since it was difficult for Consolidated to find workers to build the planes during wartime, the company relied heavily upon the use of unskilled labor. Enter two San Diego High School teachers, Constance Bowman (an English teacher) and Clara Marie Allen (an Art teacher), whose total knowledge of aircraft consisted of knowing that airplanes were large metal objects, with wings, which flew. Bowman and Allen decided to perform their patriotic duty by spending their summer vacation building B-24 Liberator bombers.

This book, *Slacks and Callouses*, written by Bowman and illustrated by Allen, chronicles their work at Consolidated and covers the period from their applying for work, naively bringing their own tools (consisting only of one pair of pliers and a screwdriver) with them, through their final day as experienced aircraft builders when they returned to teaching school.

The book strikes a perfect balance among tongue-in-cheek humor (directed mostly at the highly bureaucratic and idiosyncratic operation of Consolidated, their own initial cluelessness in performing the work, and company management), serious descriptions of the technical work performed in building aircraft on an assembly line, and a straight description of civilian life both in wartime San Diego and inside an aircraft manufacturing plant. An enjoyable, informative, non-technical, and enlightening read.

Although this book was written in 1944, it represents one of the few chronicles of everyday life in the United States during the Second World War. As such, this book was regarded of such historical significance that it was reprinted in 1999 by Smithsonian Institution Press with the slightly altered title *Slacks and Calluses*, [note the alternate spelling of "Callouses"]. Both the original 1944 book and the 1999 reprint are available at the San Diego Public Library, separately cataloged under the old and new spellings of "Callouses."





Introducing New Board Member, Oliver (Ollie) Smoot in his own words

My first recollection of going to the library is when my Mother allowed me to take the bus from home to the Holyoke, Massachusetts library at age 7 (5¢ each way). Imagine that today. As an Air Force Brat, we lived in many different places, but I always found the base or town library. Our family were heavy users of the Fairfax County VA Library for three+ decades. When we moved to Rancho Bernardo in 2007, Sandy and I joined both the City and County libraries.

I first became aware of "The Friends" when asked if I would step in and maintain the Rancho Bernardo Friends website in 2017 when the webmaster died suddenly. This turned into an adventure in two ways: I had never worked with a home-grown website, and I had never worked with such a cohesive, dedicated, and interesting group of volunteers.

Naturally, when we moved to The Glen at Scripps Ranch in June, I wanted to get involved in the library, and what better way than through the Friends? Now, I just must find the best way to contribute as we reopen our libraries.

Currently, I read mostly either socio-economic books, trying to understand the major issues facing us like "Good Economics for Bad Times," or I read classic mysteries, currently focused on Allingham, Marsh and Moyes.

It's been quite a change to The Glen from the world of international voluntary standards management but participating in the evolution of our libraries from repositories of books to community locations that transfer information of all kinds for all uses fascinates me.

Bookish Thoughts: Part II By Mike Yang

In the last issue of the *Folio*, we explored the concept of "book." We explored the essential properties of a book, and the article ended with this challenge: *Write a sentence or paragraph which captures the essence of "book" and filters out all non-books masquerading as real books.*

Well, I want to propose a definition of "book" and hold up a few examples of what we traditionally thought of as books, as well as some more current versions, to see how well they might or might not fit the proposed definition. Here's my proposal:

Books are a substantial product of the human mind created for the purpose of sharing with other people and delivered in any form accessible by them.

So, let's check a few examples with accompanying photographs

- 1425 BCE. Pharaoh Thutmose III's life story, painted inside his mausoleum. Substantial, yes. Product of human mind, yes. Delivery format, hieroglyphics in paint and carvings, yes. Created to be shared with other people, hmmm, perhaps not?
- 1455 CE. The Gutenberg Bible. Definitely qualifies on all counts.
- 1903 CE. *Recherches sur les Substances Radioactives*, Marie Curie's Ph.D. thesis, a big resounding yes. Her laboratory notebooks, though, do not qualify as they were private documents.
- 2007 CE. The 90,000 e-books offered at Kindle launching. Yes!

The form of books may change, but the desire to share, learn and enjoy remains.

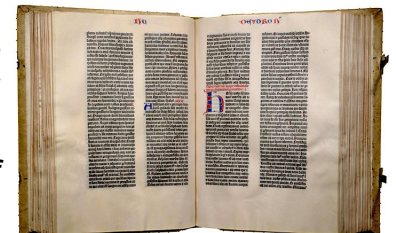
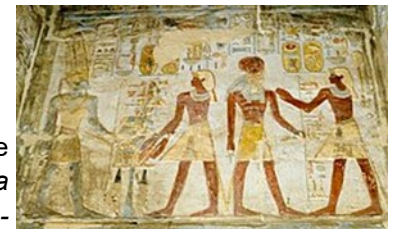
Works Cited Including Photographs

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amada>

<https://www.liberty.edu/news/2019/08/15/page-from-original-gutenberg-bible-on-display-at-liberty-university-museum/>

<https://www.nobelprize.org/womenwhochangedscience/stories/marie-curie>

<https://www.amazon.com/Kindle-eReader-eBook-Reader-e-Reader-Special-Offers/dp/B0051QVESA>



Iceland: A Country That Loves Books

by Diane Rider

As the holidays approach, we in Scripps Ranch may turn our thoughts to colder climates and gift giving. What would be more appropriate therefore than a discussion of Iceland. In Iceland, the Holiday Season is kicked off with a free catalogue delivered to every Icelandic home containing every new book published in Iceland that year. Thus begins the holiday shopping that results in *jólabókaflóð*, or “Yule Book Flood.” The Christmas Eve tradition in Iceland is to exchange gifts of books on Christmas Eve and then spend the rest of the evening reading!



Fallenstarstories.blogspot.com

Historically, things have not been easy for Iceland. It has suffered from invasion, disease, famine and volcanic eruptions and at one time was one of the poorest countries in Europe. In an article in the *Wall Street Journal*, A. Kendra Greene informs us that despite these calamities, it is a country that long ago invested in language and literature. “Poetry was sung across valleys from one shepherd to another. The island’s famed sagas, and much more, were written out as early as the 12th century. Manuscripts were copied at a prodigious rate.” She continues, “By the 17th century, every Icelander was guaranteed the right to an education, with a tutor sent to each farm for a month every year.”

Because the winters were long, dark, and harsh, folks had to spend many hours indoors in a communal living area doing “winter work” such as spinning wool or making tools. Alda Sigmundsdóttir tells us that “Someone would read from a book, people would tell stories, or recite poetry. Sometimes verses would be made up on the spot, with someone making up one line, someone else having to contribute the next line, and so on. During those long winter evenings, it was an essential part of keeping people spiritually alive.



“It was also where the education of children took place. They were taught to read and write, and they learned about history and geography through the telling and re-telling of the Sagas and other stories. It is considered incredibly unique, for example, that even though the nation was so alarmingly poor, almost everyone could read and write.”



This tradition continues and Iceland refers to itself as a *bokathjod*, a book nation. And no wonder as it boasts a 100% literacy and reports that 10% of its citizens will not just write but publish a book in their lifetimes. So if books are on your shopping list for the holidays, you are participating in *jólabókaflóð*, a long tradition shared by Iceland.

Works Cited (including pictures)

de la Mare, Guinevere. “Jolabokafloð: Meet Your Favorite New Holiday Tradition.” *Read It Forward*. 2017. <https://www.readitforward.com/essay/article/jolabokafloð-meet-favorite-new-holiday-tradition/>. Accessed 20 October 2020.

Greene, A. Kendra. “For Eons, Iceland Has Endured Calamity Through Books.” *Wall Street Journal*. 16 July 2020. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/for-eons-iceland-has-endured-calamity-through-books-11594915710>. Accessed 25 October 2020.

Sigmundsdóttir, Alda. “The Icelanders and Their Big Love of Books.” *Guide to Iceland*. <https://guidetoiceland.is/connect-with-locals/aldasigmunds/the-icelanders-and-their-big-love-of-books>. Accessed 20 October 2020.

Memories of Iceland

by Janet Weigel

In my dreams, images of Iceland in winter appear. I stroll the streets of Reykjavik as soft snowflakes float down leaving wet kisses on the ground. A gate of lost gloves waves hello, graphic street art echoes the city's flair and cinnamon buns from a bakery draw hungry appetites to the crammed counter.

Along the side of the Ring Road, Icelandic ponies, a spice rack of colors—ginger, nutmeg and chocolate, congregate in clusters munching on snow-dusted hay under slate-grey skies. When I stop to visit, they meander toward me and nuzzle their noses against me.

Trekking a trail along the coast, I see a thousand sea birds squawk and cavort above an enormous rock arch and raging seas while majestic white mountains stretch along the distant shore. Grey basalt pillars rise from the sea. Their sheer size and cubism forms amaze me.

The blues of Iceland are incredible as they play off one another. The scalloped curved ceiling of an ice cave, formed by a river of ice, sparkles blue hues like precious jewels—topaz, sapphire and aquamarine. The immense size of the cave and cold temperature are startling. I am in awe! Donning crampons, I hike on a glacier and see blue icebergs float in the Jokulsarlon Lagoon. Finally, I soak in the Blue Lagoon at sunset and watch the sun's reflected rays on the aqua water against a backdrop of royal blue sky.

But, truly one of the most spectacular sites in winter is the Aurora Borealis. Racing into the darkness, I see green undulating rivers of light waver and dance across the horizon under a blanket of millions of stars. I am mesmerized for hours.

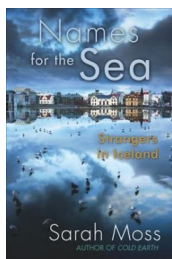
To transport yourself to Iceland also, check out these Icelandic authors available at our library. Listed are 3 thrillers by Ragnar Jonasson, a memoir by Sarah Moss and two novels by Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir.



Janet and John Weigel on the glacier.



Ragnar Jonasson is a bestselling Icelandic author of crime fiction. His translated Hulda Series consists of *The Darkness*, *The Island* and most recent, *The Mist*. The series revolves around a female detective Hulda Harmanndóttir and is set in the icy streets of Reykjavik, the Icelandic highlands and the isolated fjords. It is an atmospheric thriller, and Jonasson is considered one of the most exciting names in Nordic Noir.



Names for the Sea is a memoir of a year in Iceland. Sarah Moss and her family lived in Iceland while she taught British Literature in a college in Reykjavik. The book offers insightful comments about everyday life and people's attitudes toward children, food, recreation and education. The author was drawn to the strangeness of Icelandic landscape, and explored hillsides of boiling mud, volcanic craters and fissures and the unsurfaced roads that link remote farms and fishing villages. Sarah Moss is a novelist as well as professor and the result is a book that is both informative and well-written.



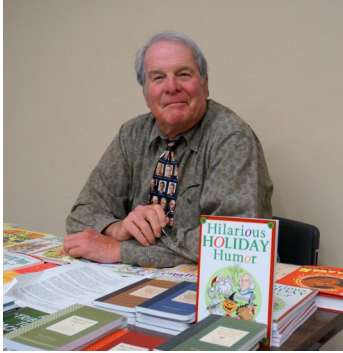
Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir is an Icelandic professor of art history, a novelist, playwright and poet. In her recently published *Miss Iceland*, she explores the difficulties of a young girl, Hekla, who aspires to be a writer and Jon who longs for a life in theatre, but each is thwarted by the society of the 1960's in Iceland.

Butterflies in November is a zany novel that includes a road trip across Iceland, a loving encounter with a small boy and the many travails of romance.



Excerpts from *A Treasury of Christmas Humor*

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



In the United States, Christmas is a joyous occasion illuminated by candles and graced by decorations, ornamented Christmas trees, poinsettias, traditional songs and carols, church services, family feasts, the exchange of gifts and greeting cards, the wait for Santa Claus to arrive, and the donning of ugly sweaters. December 25, Christmas Day, has been a federal holiday in America since 1870.

The Christmas traditions of trimming pine trees with ornaments, decking halls with boughs of holly, hanging mistletoe, and festooning homes with red, green, and silver decorations have become ingrained in Western culture. As with Chanukah, the Jewish festival of lights that occurs in the same season, human beings yearn for stories of light shining down on them during the dead of winter,

the darkest time of the year. That's when people look for hope that brightness and warmth will return and life will go on.

All I Need to Know I Learned from Santa

- It's as much fun to give as it is to receive.
- Make children happy.
- Make your presents known.
- Be joyful and reliable, and people will believe in you.
- It's better to be nice than naughty.
- You better not cry, better not pout.
- It's okay if Santa's kids see Mommy kissing Santa Claus.
- Real estate is cheap in the North Pole.
- Provide honest employment to others, including elves and reindeer.
- Treat your reindeer well and they will work hard for you.
- Honor diversity in your staff, like Rudolph's red nose, which led the way.
- Feel free to ask for what you want.
- Chubby is okay.
- Beards and moustaches are in.
- Bright red can make anyone look good.
- Wearing a wide, black belt will make you look slimmer.
- If you come to town only once a year, everyone will think you're very important.
- Be thankful for kindness, especially when people leave you cookies and milk.
- Organize your data by making lists and checking them twice.



SRFOL President, Jan McGinn

Laughing, "Ho, Ho, Ho!" will spread joy to the world.

This book is intended for older readers; children under 12 may not understand the jokes and puns.

For more information and to order, go to <https://www.srfol.org/special-book-sale.htm>

Questions? Email at richardhleder@ gmail.com

Remember: For every \$13 purchase of a book, \$8 goes to our library.

How do cats greet each other in December?

A furry meowy Christmas and a happy Mew Year.



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

President:	Jan McGinn	Pleasure of Your Company:	Gary Letchinger
Vice-President:	Barbara Thunder-Barnes	Grace's Book Nook/Publicity:	Joan Reese
Secretary:	Laurie Wright	Courtyard Project:	Jan McGinn
Treasurer:	Barbara Thunder-Barnes	Folio Editor:	Diane Rider
FSDPL Liaison:	Sandra Hoyt	Member at Large:	Ollie Smoot
Bookplates:	Sandra Hoyt	Member at Large:	Mike Yang
Social Media:	Prasanna Madabushi	Past President:	Delane Pickel
Membership:	Janet Weigel		

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 _____

____ Individual Student/Senior \$5 ____ Individual Adult \$10 ____ Family (Dual Adult) \$20
____ Dual Student/Senior \$10 ____ Individual Sponsor \$50 ____ Contributor/Business \$100
____ Individual Lifetime \$250 ____ Individual Patron Lifetime \$1000
____ Any additional amount you may wish to contribute (amount of donation: _____)

____ **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.**

Membership is tax deductible. The Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library is a California Tax Exempt Non-Profit Corporation under IRS 501(c)(3).