

# folio

Newsletter of the  
Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library

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## Library Reopens in Stages

by Matt Beatty, Branch Librarian



The staff of the Scripps Ranch Library was thrilled to finally be allowed to open the library on July 6<sup>th</sup>. The library had seemed empty without the public. We were pleasantly surprised by how smoothly the opening went. Until we opened, we had been offering curbside service, bringing reserved books outside. On opening day our customers were more than happy to come in and get their books themselves. Children were especially happy to be able to pick out their own books. Because of our large size, social distancing was not a problem for those wishing to study—everyone seemed to be able to find a corner. Our newly improved wi-fi makes it possible for people to do their work outdoors in the courtyard or parking lot.

We are looking forward to restarting story hour and homework help and having our community partners meeting in our meeting rooms again. For me, a busy library is a happy library!

**Top:** Patrons were waiting to enter on the first day of the re-opening of the library. Little Kelsey was very excited to be able to pick out her own books.

**Above:** Library employees were ready on opening day: Marie Pilapil, Beth Surrell (volunteer), Matt Beatty, Matt Moreno and Ally Nguyen. **Below:** Patrons attended the first Yellow Bag Book Sale since the library's closure. The public rooms are now allowed to be open at 50% capacity. Photo by John Weigel.



### Library Hours

Mon.–Tues.: 11:30 am–8 pm

Wed.–Sat.: 9:30 am–6 pm

### Closed: Sundays

Sept. 6, Labor Day

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## Yellow Bag Book Sale—a Big Success!



Volunteers worked tirelessly to prepare, staff and take down the Yellow Bag Book Sale on August 21. Pictured is Chairperson Marcia Gwin (holding the yellow bag) and some—but definitely not all—of the many volunteers who contributed to the undertaking. Patrons were given a yellow bag and could fill it with books for \$10. The SRFOL benefited with a record breaking nearly \$2000. It was a win/win for all as prices were low and turn-out was high!

### Book Nook Remains Closed, but Wednesday's Book Sales Continue

"Wednesdays on the Patio" continues from 9:30 am–2 pm. Stock is rotated to highlight a different genre each week. For those seeking a specific author or book, volunteers will search all existing Book Nook stock.

Your tax-deductible donations of books and media are always welcome. Please bring contributions to the library desk.

### Courtyard Enhancement Project – Update from Jan McGinn



Now that our Library has reopened (!!!), we've installed the new patio furniture, each with a large umbrella. We now have four table sets to provide shade even on the sunniest of days, provide a place to work, exchange ideas, or simply enjoy a break.

A work party from the SRFOL Board assembled the furniture. Pictured below are Mike Yang, Ollie Smoot, Gary Letchinger, John Weigel and Janet Weigel.

Next on the list is purchasing the bistro sets (small table with two chairs) that will go under the loggia. Soon you'll have a quiet respite to relax in full shade. (Fun fact: A loggia is an indented porch, creating an open-air room within the confines of the library's outer walls.)

We are not done! Our Librarian, Matt, is scheduling a complete power wash of the library's exterior walls. Plans are in the works to repair and seal the broken and upraised tiles of the courtyard without eliminating any memorial tiles.

Other features of the enhancement are still in discussion with the city, but the SRFOL Board is happy to provide this refreshing new look thanks to your donations.



## Library Events for Children and Teens

**Storytime at the Library:** Sept. 8 and 22, Oct. 6 and 20, Nov. 3 and 17 all at 10 am. Storytime is back at the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library with a few small changes. Join us in the library's spacious community room where we can all safely space out. We'll be sitting on the floor, so bring your blankets and pillows if you like! We'll read a story, sing a song and YES, we'll play with egg shakers and/or scarves!

**Facebook Storytime:** Sept. 1, 15, 29; Oct. 13, 27; Nov. 10, 24 all at 10 am. Join Miss Melissa for a short and sweet Storytime. We will read a story and sing a song! <https://www.facebook.com/ScrippsMiramarRanchLibrary/>



**Virtual ToshWerks Craft for Kids and Teens:** Sept. 8 and 22, Oct. 13 and 27, Nov. 10 and 24 all at 3 pm. Join us and local artists for a fun, hands-on Do-It-Yourself crafty project recommended for ages 10 and up. ToshWerks is an Art and Design Studio focusing on many variations of styles of Crafts. Supplies for the workshop will be provided and available for pickup at the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library.

To register and see more details about individual projects, check out San Diego Public Library online calendar at <https://sandiego.librarymarket.com/>. This program is sponsored by SRFOL.

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

## Summer Reading Program a Success

Melissa reports that we had over 900 people registered with more than 600 completions. Good reading, Scripps Ranch!

## Library Events for Adults

**Richard Lederer Invites You:** My holiday books will be available on site on the following dates: All profits benefit our library. I will happily sign any purchases.

*A Treasury of Halloween Humor.* Sat. Oct. 16, 11 am.

*A Treasury of Christmas Humor.* Sat. Dec. 4, 11 am.

**More Virtual Programs for All Ages:** There is a full weekly calendar on the SDPL Virtual Hub Facebook group and more programs available on San Diego Public Library's virtual calendar: <https://sandiego.librarymarket.com/>

## Have a bit of spare time? Interested in supporting our Library? Consider volunteering with the SRFOL!

We have a wide range of opportunities – from a few hours a month to coordinating projects to becoming a Board Member. Or, you may have an idea or a special skill / knowledge that would benefit our Library. Whatever your time availability or interests, contact Jan McGinn, SRFOL President at [president@srfol.org](mailto:president@srfol.org) to learn more about volunteering with our team.

In this edition we are highlighting two opportunities:

*Publicity* includes writing monthly articles for the SRCA Newsletter and other publications, creating posters and e-posters, promoting special events as well as SRFOL and Library news.

*Volunteer Coordinator* is a new position to help locate and connect residents interested in volunteering with opportunities that match their interests and availability. This person will also help coordinate the annual volunteer recognition event.



To learn more about these highlighted and other volunteer opportunities, visit <https://www.srfol.org/volunteer.htm>

We welcome and thank John Weigel who has recently volunteered to be the SRFOL photographer.

## A Note from Our Membership Director: Janet Weigel

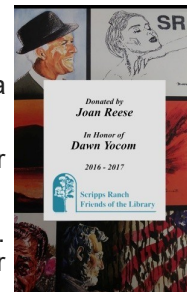
Step into the Scripps Ranch Library to reacquaint yourself with all of your favorite books, and pick up an application to join Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library at the same time! The Friends are looking for volunteers to help assist several library programs. You can list your interest in volunteering on the membership application. All volunteer positions are listed on the website. To join or renew your membership, visit <http://www.srfol.org> or pick up a membership form from the library's inside table near the entrance. Forms are also posted on page 8 of this *Folio*. Thanks for your support.

## A Note from Our New Bookplate Volunteer: JoAnn Sloan

Need a Unique Gift for that Someone Special?? How about making a donation/contribution for a distinctive Bookplate in their Honor or Memory!

What about a Special Occasion? The Holidays are just around the corner. This is a fun way to show your Bookworm how much they mean to you!

Our neighborhood branch of the library and many others will benefit from a new book for our collection. You can make a request for a \$25.00 or more donation (tax deductible). Please go to our Website <https://www.srfol.org/bookplates.htm> for forms and more details.



## New Bylaws Approved by the Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library Membership by Gary Letchinger

The Scripps Miramar Ranch Friends of the library (SRFOL) is a non-profit volunteer organization that is dedicated to supporting our local library branch. SRFOL is part of the greater Friends of the San Diego Public Library (FSDPL) which supports 33 affiliate chapters in the San Diego public libraries. During the past year, SRFOL has been working with the FSDPL to update our legal documents for our chapter to improve the operations and to ensure compliance with changes in applicable California laws.

This July at our annual meeting, the membership approved new bylaws based on a format provided by the FSDPL and customized for our specific organization in Scripps Ranch. The new bylaws include a number of improvements: The bylaws organization has been reorganized with a more logical structure and there are small changes in a number of details that will streamline Chapter management. Some confusing language in the old bylaws was removed and Board procedures have been streamlined to improve Chapter operations.

Your SRFOL Board will continue to work on improving our practices and procedures to best support the programs and activities for our library community.

You can view the new bylaws on the SRFOL Web site: <http://www.srfol.org/bylaws.htm>

## SRFOL Thanks VOSR for \$10,000 Donation to Support Our Library

SRFOL applied for and received a welcome donation from the Voice of Scripps Ranch (VOSR) to support the purchase of much needed equipment for our Library. Our Librarian Matt presented a list of items to the SRFOL, such as book carts, a cabinet for the Seed Library, DIY programs for kids/teens, MacBook for virtual engagement, lockers for the Homework Helpers and more. These and other items are not funded by the City and rely on donations to the SRFOL.

We are extremely appreciative of VOSR's generous give-back to our community. VOSR is a group of residents who filed a lawsuit against developing the former Innovations Charter School site (located on Scripps Poway Parkway). While they did not win their lawsuit, they did receive funds to donate back to our Scripps Ranch Community.

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## Scripps Ranch Library Book Discussion

The Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library Book Discussion Group is designed for all readers who want to talk about books, and it provides an informal forum for the discussion of one selected book each month. Participants have been meeting on Zoom. For more information, visit the SRFOL website or contact the library.



## The He/She Conundrum

By Diane Rider

The English language contains between 1,022,000 and 1,200,000 words, but despite this large and ever-changing number—there are still important words that are missing! The biggest omission is the singular neutral third person pronouns. This lack has plagued writers and speakers for decades—if not centuries. “It” is for animals and things, “she” is for females and ships, and “he” is for males. Traditionally “he” could be considered gender neutral, but suffice it to say, that is no longer popular.

A common way around the problem is to use “she or he,” “him or her,” or “his or hers.” However, after a few sentences of this awkward solution, the writing begins to sound clunky. “She/he” might work in writing, but in speaking it comes out or “sheesh or heesh.” Mary Norris, in her entertaining book, *Between You and Me*, had this to say:

*The search has been on for a gender-neutral pronoun in America since about 1850, when someone thought “ni, nis, nim” would do the job. Alternatives come from all over the alphabet. Gathered together, they look a little like the periodic table of elements.*

*Where there are too many choices, there is often no single good one. There is “hse,” which is splendid and economical—a minimalist acronym—but unpronounceable. There are also “ip, ips” (1884) and “ha, hez, hem” (1927) and “shi, shis, shim” (1934) and “himorher” (which threatens to develop into hemorrhoid) (1935). “Shem” and “herm” sound like Noah’s offspring, “ho hom hos,” if they ever had a chance, would have succumbed to the “ho” problem and “Ghach” is Klingon.... Mostly, people have already thrown in their his-and-hers towels and turned to the plurals of “they, them and their.”*

This solution is not new. The technique has been documented in the writings of Chaucer, Shakespeare, Jane Austen and Emily Dickinson. For example, William Thackeray’s character in *Vanity Fair* stated, “A person can’t help their birth.”

Some relief for this conundrum came in 2017 when the *Associated Press* announced that *The AP Stylebook* will accept the plural “they, them and their” to refer to a singular antecedent. Many other writing style guides followed suit such as MLA and APA.

The American Dialect Society had chosen “they” as the Word of the Year for 2015. The contest’s purpose is not to induct words into the English language, but for fun and to highlight emerging vocabulary. This 127-year-old organization of language aficionados recognizes that change is normal, ongoing, and entertaining.

Not everyone agrees. For a prescriptivist who abhors inconsistency in subjects and antecedents, we can only pat her or him gently on his or her hand and say, “Their, there, they’re.”

### Works Cited

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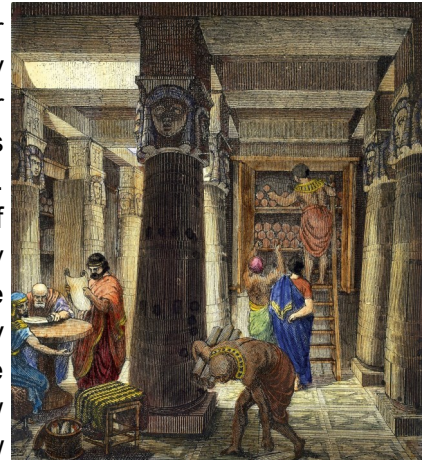
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Excerpted from *Between You and Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen* (c) 2015 by Mary Norris. Used with permission of the publisher, W. W. Norton and Company, Inc. All rights reserved.

## Libraries of The Past: The Library of Alexandria, Egypt

by Gary Letchinger

Libraries are special places: their large selection of books and other publications contain a vast storehouse of human knowledge on every conceivable topic, plus a large selection of art, literature, music and similar artistic achievements. Following the invention of writing systems, books written on clay tablets, scrolls, and other media were collected in libraries. The most famous of the libraries of the ancient world was the Library of Alexandria, Egypt, also known as the Mouseion. It was founded by Alexander the Great around 300 BCE as a universal library, a place where people could read and research past human discoveries as well as literary and artistic creations. The Library was intended to contain all of the knowledge and literature from the golden age of ancient Greece plus new discoveries from other areas in Alexander's growing empire including new scientific, geographical, and cultural writings. Among the most important



works collected in the Library included the complete works of Aristotle (considered to be the foremost authority on science and philosophy at the time) as well as all of the works from the great poets, playwrights and historians of ancient Greece.

After Alexander's death, the library collection continued to grow. Some of the books were purchased by subsequent kings of Egypt (e.g., Ptolemy III). Others were reportedly copied from ships visiting Alexandria: arriving ships were searched for books, anything of interest was copied, and the owner was compensated for the inconvenience. The Library was expanded with additional storage in a royal library (the "Serapeum") built by Ptolemy III. Greek was the most common language in the library, followed by Egyptian, and with texts in Babylonian, Hebrew, and even some Buddhist texts. Estimates of the total number of titles in the Library at its height vary greatly from 200,000 to 700,000.

The date of the destruction of the Mouseion was sometime around 48 BCE. The most common theory is that Julius Caesar became involved in a civil war in Egypt (supporting Cleopatra against her brother Ptolemy XIII). The Roman historian Plutarch reports that Caesar started a fire to destroy the enemy fleet in its docks and the fire spread from the docks to the Mouseion. The Serapeum was located in a temple, and it survived until the 4<sup>th</sup> Century CE when Emperor Theodosius I (who was a Christian) ordered the pagan temples (including the library) destroyed as part of a purge of relics of pagan culture.

The destruction of the Great Library resulted in the loss of countless books from ancient times. Aeschylus' famous play *Prometheus Bound* has survived to our era. It is based on the story of Prometheus' punishment for giving humans fire (and hope). But *Prometheus Bound* was part of a trilogy, and the other two books in the trilogy are lost forever. The second book in the trilogy was titled *Prometheus Unbound*. I have always wondered what Aeschylus had in store for Prometheus after he was released from his punishment. Regrettably, we shall never know.

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Bauer, Susan Wise. *The History of the Ancient World, From the Earliest Accounts to the Fall of Rome*. New York. W.W. Norton, 2007.

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**AN EXCERPT FROM *A TREASURY OF HALLOWEEN HUMOR***  
**By Richard Lederer, well-known verbivore and Scripps Ranch resident**

Halloween is the year's spookiest holiday. On October 31, we carve glowering faces on pumpkins, put on scary costumes, take our children trick-or-treating, and devour mouth-watering, calorie-laden goodies, which always go to waist.

Only on Halloween do parents encourage their kids to trespass on someone's property, make a nonnegotiable demand, and take candy from strangers. One quarter of all the candy sold annually in the United States is purchased for Halloween. Chocolate, which in itself is a major food group, is by far the most popular confection, followed by candy corn.



Americans fork out nine billion dollars, second only to Christmas in consumer spending. One indication of that spending is that twenty percent of American dog owners buy costumes for their pets. In fact, I have a friend who dressed up his dog as a cat for Halloween. Now my friend can't get his dog to come when he calls her.



One of our oldest holidays, Halloween finds its roots in ancient Ireland in the fifth century BCE. The observance signaled the end of the Celtic year and the beginning of the dark, cold winter. The Celts were farmers who worshipped nature. On this day, they observed Samhain, a festival that celebrated the final harvest and the storing of food for the winter ahead. People lit huge bonfires and donned costumes to ward off ghosts.

In time, the Roman Empire conquered the Celts and took over some of their beliefs as well. This included Samhain, which the Romans combined with their own festivals.

Over the centuries, the holiday evolved from its pagan Irish origins, but the people did not forget the early customs. In the eighth century CE, Pope Gregory III introduced All Saints' Day to replace the older festivals honoring the dead. The holiday, celebrated on November 1, was also known as All Hallows' Day, a hallow being a saint or holy person. The preceding night was named All Hallows' Eve, which has been shortened to Hallowe'en, and then to Halloween.

In the second half of the nineteenth century, America was flooded with new immigrants, "huddled masses yearning to breathe free." These fresh arrivals, especially the millions fleeing the Irish potato famine, helped popularize the celebration of Halloween nationally.

In 1920, Anoka, Minnesota, celebrated the first city-wide Halloween with a costumed parade followed by treats for the revelers. The celebration was innovated by several civic organizations in an effort to divert the local youth from Halloween pranks, such as turning cows loose, soaping windows, and toppling outhouses. After that, it didn't take long for Halloween to go nationwide. New York started observing Halloween in 1923 and Los Angeles in 1925.



[www.srfol.org](http://www.srfol.org)

Facebook: @ScrippsMiramarRanchLibrary, @SDPLVirtualHub, @GracesBookNook

Instagram: @srfolibrary, @sdpubliclibrary, and @sdplteens.

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*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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### 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](mailto:membership@srfol.org) or call 858-538-8158.)

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

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