

# folio

Newsletter of the  
Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library

10301 Scripps Lake Drive, San Diego, CA 92131

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[www.srfol.org](http://www.srfol.org) 858-538-8158 Instagram @srfolibrary

## Purchases by SRFOL to Make Our Library Even Better

Recently Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library has been busy selecting and purchasing items for the library. Whenever possible, we utilize the city's matching funds to make your donations go further. In addition, the Tower Room (left) has been renovated and reopened after a closure of many years, thanks to funding from SRFOL. Pictured below are some of the results of the expenditures.



The Tower Room was designed to mirror the style of the original Meanley home.



Much needed upholstery refreshes the comfy chairs in the children's reading room.



YSL Librarian, Melissa Giffen loves her MacBook Pro that she uses for meetings and programs.



Here is where your returned book lands. Even drop box bins need replacing from time to time.



An additional RFID reader will expedite processing for staff or patron self-check-out as demonstrated by Jeff Nash.



SRFOL's donations provide many new books and the leased "express" books for our community.



Ashu Agarwal utilizes a shiny new red book cart.



Boxes of outdoor lights for the courtyard and entrance await installation by the city.

## Events for Children and Youths

Supported by SRFOL

Events are held in the Library unless otherwise stated

**Storytime the Library:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. of the month, 10 am. Join us for Storytime 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:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wed. of the month, 10 am. Join Miss Melissa for a Virtual Storytime on the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library's **Facebook ScrippsMiramarRanchLibrary**. This virtual Storytime is short and sweet: we'll read a story and sing a song and call it a day.

**StoryBox Theatre:** Tues., March 8, April 12, and May 10, 3:00 pm. Presented by Write Out Loud San Diego, StoryBox (also known as kamishibai) combines dramatic storytelling with a wooden theatre to showcase illustrations in an engaging family-friendly Storytime experience.

**Craft Program with ToshWerks,** Wed., March 2 and 16, April 6 and 20, May 4 and 18, 3:30 pm. Join us and local artists Toshwerks for a fun, hands-on DIY crafty project recommended for ages 8 and up. Supplies for the workshop will be provided. Must pre-register online.\*

**Spring into STEAM: Branch Out Academy:** Thurs., April 21, 3:30 pm. The Branch Out Academy program introduces youth tree stewards to the benefits of trees. These one-hour trainings teach students how to plant and care for trees in our urban environment. Finish a training and take home a tree sapling of your own!

**DYH@L Presents: KinderCamp:** March 28 – 30, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. For children 4-5 years old who are entering Kindergarten in the Fall of 2022 and their guardians. Must pre-register online.\*

**DYH@L Presents: Camp Chef:** April 4 – 8, 3 - 5 pm. For hands-on cooking camps that will teach you how to make your own meals, snacks, and desserts—all while using healthy ingredients. Must pre-register online.\*

\*online registration: <https://sandiego.librarymarket.com/>

Left: Shanaya participated in the My 1st Library Card Event.



*Following Storytime, the line of tots was very long for a chance to hug and pet Hershey Kiss, the miniature therapy horse.*

## Programs for Adults

**Bird Walk:** Sat., March 19, 10 am. Join us for our last-of-the-season bird walk at Evans Pond in front of the Scripps Ranch Library. Avid birdwatcher Mary Cairns, who is president of the Friends of the Ocean Beach Library, and Scripps Ranch Library Branch Manager Matt Beatty will lead a talk on the native and migratory birds who live in the pond.

**Scripps Ranch Library Tour:** Sat. April 16, 11 am. Branch Manager Matt Beatty conducts a tour of the library, discussing features preserved from the Meanley House, and sharing the history of the Scripps Mansion, the Meanley House, and Evans Pond.

**Traditional Dance:** Sat., May 7, 2 pm. In honor of Asian-American History Month, we will have Monali Varaiya performing traditional dance of Bali, and two local ensembles performing folk dance of India.

**Mindful Meditation:** Mondays, 2 pm. Join us in the Community Room for guided meditation. This class includes guided imagery, a contract/relax exercise, and guided imagery. Presented by the Healthy Adventures Foundation.

**Library Book Discussion Group:** 4th Wednesdays of the month, on Zoom, 6:45 pm. March 23, *Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles; April 27, *The Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison; May 25, *Beloved* by Toni Morrison.





## The Pleasure of Your Company

Patrons react enthusiastically to be returning to the Sunday afternoon concert series at our library. All concerts begin at 2:30 pm.

There is no charge for the concerts, which are sponsored by Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library although donations are greatly appreciated to help us continue to bring fine music to our community.

Donations of \$35 or more will be acknowledged in the printed program.



March 13, 2022

The Pleasure of Your Company welcomes back the **Westwind Brass**. This brass quintet provides a virtuosic ensemble performance, interesting music, unique stories, and an engaging interaction with the audience. Each concert offers a variety of styles and composers.



April 10, 2022

Based on the acoustic innovations of Dr. Carleen Hutchins, the **Hutchins Consort** creates beautiful and unique sounds. Their music bridges the gap between classical music and pop culture. The performances are virtuosic, uninhibited and always entertaining.



May 8, 2022

**Me Kolme Trio** means "We Three" in Finnish. This virtuoso ensemble consists of Päivikki Nykter, violin, Robert Zelickman, clarinet, and Kyle Adam Blair, piano. The program will feature works by Mozart, Schumann, and Arutiunian. The members of the trio are thrilled to be once again sharing their music with a live audience.

## Grace's Book Nook and Book Sales Are Back in Business



The Semi-annual Mega Special Book Sale on Feb. 5 was a big success. It not only netted revenue for the benefit of the library, but it reduced inventory to make room for more! Also “winners” were the patrons who were able to purchase books at a very low cost. In fact, the yellow bags that you see could be filled to bursting—all for the price of \$10.

The Book Nook has again expanded its hours and has a wonderful collection of newly arrived donations in excellent condition.

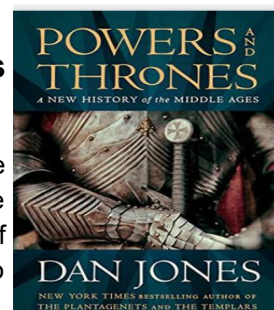
### Book Nook Hours as of March 1

Monday	12—7:30 pm
Tuesday	12—5 pm
Wednesday—Saturday	10 am—5:30 pm
Expanded shopping in the Seminar Room	
Wednesday	10am—2pm
Friday	All day

## I'm Glad I Read This Book

### ***Power and Thrones: A New History of the Middle Ages* by Dan Jones (2021), reviewed by John Weigel**

I always enjoyed this author and his latest book didn't disappoint. It's a new take on the Middle Ages and looks at not only the how's but the why's. It uses current thinking on the impact that climate change, technology and disease had on the times. It starts with the fall of Rome and ends in the 1500s, looking across interconnected cultures: Africa to China to Europe. It's very detailed but an entertaining read.



### ***Empty Mansions* by Bill Dedman and Paul Clark Newell (2013), reviewed by Shari Pagnotta**



*Empty Mansions* is a fascinating biography of idiosyncratic Huguette Clark (1906 – 2011), an American painter, heiress, and philanthropist. She inherited a fortune from her father, a copper mining magnate. A very private person, she spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on her collections such as dollhouses and dolls that no one ever saw. She owned fully staffed mansions—some of which were never lived in by her. The author covers the span of nearly all of American history in three generations from log cabins, to the gold rush, to the Gilded Age, ending in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Self portrait by Huguette Clark

## Prasanna Madabushi Introduces Her Book

Author Anna Bushi (the pen name of Prasanna Madabushi) gave a reading and book signing of her latest book, *War of the Three Kings*. It is the second book of the *Land of Magadha Trilogy*. The event was well attended and patrons enjoyed asking questions after the reading. Prasanna is a member of the SRFOL Board.





## From Webster to Website by Diane Rider

“While in prison, I received a dictionary (that) proved of endless use.” This opening sentence from Louise Erdrich’s latest novel would have pleased Noah Webster. He believed the fate of our new nation rested on education and a common language. He wrote *An American Dictionary of the English Language* with the fervent desire to develop a distinctive American lexicon with its own vocabulary, pronunciation and style.

This endeavor took 19 years and for this purpose, Webster learned 26 languages including Sanskrit, Old English, Greek, Hebrew, and Latin. The walls of his study were packed with sand to blot out the distractions of his family and outside clamor. Because he considered sitting an “indolent habit,” he worked standing up from dawn to dusk.

Benjamin Franklin urged him to simplify British spellings—such as *musick*, *centre* and *colour*. Webster also included many strictly American words such as *skunk* and *chowder*. In fact, he included 12,000 words that had never appeared in a dictionary before.

When *An American Dictionary of the English Language* was published in 1828, even his detractors admitted the work was “wonderous.” The two thick volumes contained 70,000 words. The entries contained succinct definitions, the word’s origin, and often an example from literature.

Meanwhile, George and Charles Merriam, who operated a printing and bookselling establishment, bought unsold copies and secured the rights to create revised editions of the dictionary. Thus began a publishing tradition that has continued uninterrupted to this day. When the copyright expired, many unrelated dictionaries incorporated the name “Webster” to their titles—much to the consternation of Merriam-Webster.

Enter the World Wide Web. In 1996, Merriam-Webster launched its first website which provided free access to an online dictionary and thesaurus. Soon followed apps for iOS and Android.



Kory Stamper is a lexicographer at Merriam-Webster. She acknowledges all the obvious convenience of an electronic dictionary including instant availability and yearly revisions. In addition, she relates unexpected bonuses. “In print, you jam everything together so that it will all fit in a book. When we write definitions now, we try to think carefully about where we can put explanatory hyperlinks. The definitions are more spread out to allow for cutting and pasting. Editors know which words are looked up most and which ones are not looked up at all. It is a link between the dictionary and its users.”

Stamper acknowledges that “For my own part, books take up more space in my house than my children do. And yet, when I am reading and need to look up a word, I pull up my computer or my smartphone.”

Would Noah Webster have found a dictionary on smartphone wonderous and of endless use?

### Sources

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“Noah Webster and America’s First Dictionary.” <https://www.merriam-webster.com/about-us/americas-first-dictionary>.

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Stamper, Kory. “How Going Electronic Changed Dictionaries.” *Slate*. 04 Nov 2014. <https://slate.com/human-interest/2014/11/electronic-dictionaries-what-changed-because-of-the-move-from-print-to-online-and-apps.html>

## Results of the Survey of Our Library Users

By Matt Beatty

This winter we decided to find out a bit about Scripps Library users and gauge their interests and reasons for coming to the library. We did an online survey which was sent to people on the SRFOL mailing list, posted on Facebook, and included it in the SRCA newsletter. We also placed a bulletin board at the entrance to the library so that people could enter their program ideas.

In the online survey, customers were asked "How do you use the library?" 94% of respondents said they came to borrow books. The two next most popular responses were to attend programs at 23% and to borrow videos and music at 20%. "To work on homework and reports" and "To spend time with family" both were selected by 17% of respondents. The majority of those selecting "other" mentioned buying the books sold by SRFOL.

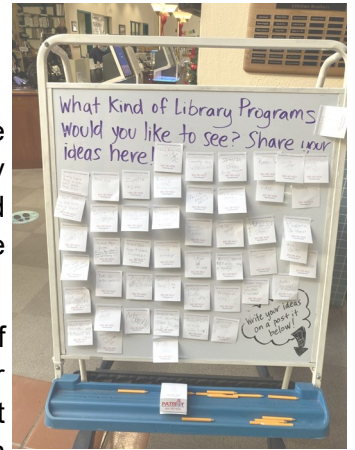
We asked what programs people would like to attend. The most popular response was crafts, listed by 56% of respondents. Following that was cooking (44%), music (38%), while gardening and book talks both rated 33%. "Other" mostly mentioned children's activities and adult exercise.

We asked people when they would like to attend a program, and the majority preferred Saturday afternoon. Weekday afternoons were the least popular time.

Of the 66 respondents, 64 listed 92131 as their zip code. One listed 92126, the zip code for Mira Mesa. One listed other. This was likely the person who commented they now lived in Ramona but had strong ties to Scripps Ranch. I knew that most of our users come from Scripps Ranch, but I was still surprised that the number was as high as 97 percent.

We felt that many regular library users would not respond to an online survey, so we put up a white board inviting library customers to share their program ideas. We received a very wide variety of responses. People asked for classes on photography, art, tai chi, robotics, genealogy, poetry, meditation and gardening. There were requests for multicultural events, a riddle club, a puppet show and an LGBTQ story time. Children especially seemed to enjoy putting something up on the board.

We plan to utilize the results of these two surveys in planning future programming. It is my goal to again make The Scripps Ranch Library a community hub full of activity as it was before the pandemic.



### National Reading Month



To celebrate

**Join Scripps Ranch Friends  
of the Library**

Annual Membership

January 1 — December 31, 2022

See page 8 to become a member.



Janet Weigel, SRFOL Membership Director, displays the newest plaque recognizing our Lifetime members.

### BOOKPLATES

Spring is in the Air!



Special Celebrations are to be had!

Scripps Miramar Ranch Library is Celebrating a Birthday in the Month of March! Why not join the fun and donate a special gift to someone who is celebrating too?

Your donation of \$25.00 for a Unique Bookplate will not only Honor them but will also benefit our neighborhood library with a new book for our collection and for future Bookworms to enjoy!

For more information and Order Forms please visit our website:

<https://www.srfol.org/bookplates.htm>

JoAnn Sloan  
SRFOL volunteer

## Vincent van Gogh: Painter with Words

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



I recently attended the Beyond Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience at our Del Mar Fairgrounds. Cutting-edge technology and projection (more than four trillion pixels) and an original score, infused new life into three hundred works by the Dutch expressionist.

Vincent van Gogh's paintings, including *The Potato Eaters*, *Starry Night*, and *Self-Portrait with Pipe and Bandaged Ear*, may be the best known in the world, yet, as depicted in the 2019 film *At Eternity's*



*Gate*, van Gogh, during his tortured and outcast lifetime, sold just one of his canvases and couldn't get a job painting a fence. Yet today his works are among the world's most expensive ever sold at auction.

Vincent planted seeds for glorious, blazing sunflowers that he never lived to see bloom in his garden and created incandescent stars that never shone on him. As the artist himself expressed it, "One may have a

blazing hearth in one's soul, and yet no one ever came to sit by it. Passers-by see only a wisp of smoke from the chimney and continue on their way." Yet for more than a century those who lived after him have learned to see the world through the eyes of Vincent van Gogh, who speaks to us across time and powerfully influences the vector of modern art.

Born on March 30, 1853, van Gogh, between 1872 and 1890, wrote hundreds of letters to his younger brother, Theo, his only constant ally and support during a lifetime of struggle. This exchange between two affectionate brothers reveals Vincent as a keen intellectual fully connected to 19th-century thought.

"Mysteries remain, and sorrow or melancholy, but that eternal negative is balanced by the positive work which is thus achieved after all. If life were as simple, and things as little complicated by a goody-goody's story or the hackneyed sermon of the average clergyman, it wouldn't be so very difficult to make one's way. But it isn't, and things are infinitely more complicated, and right and wrong do not exist separately, any more than black and white do in nature." Van Gogh was an avid reader, and the authentic literary style of his letters reflects his love of books. In those letters, the artist exhibits a remarkable ability to paint with words and to marshal words to illuminate his painting:

I dream of painting and then I paint my dream.

Paintings have a life of their own that derives from the painter's soul.

I am always doing what I can't do yet in order to learn how to do it.

There is nothing more truly artistic than to love others.

Art is life seeking itself. It is our intractable expression of love for the beauties, ideas, and epiphanies we regularly find.

When I have a terrible need for religion, I go out and paint the stars.

Near the end of his life, Vincent was admitted to the hospital at Saint-Remy, in the south of France, where he was smitten by terrible seizures. On July 29, 1890, at the age of 37, the artist died of an infection from a self-inflicted bullet wound to his chest. Just a few weeks before, he was able to write, "I still love art and life very much indeed." Theo was broken by the loss. Six months later, he followed his brother. They rest side by side in a churchyard at Auvers-sur-Oise.





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

<https://www.facebook.com/srfolibrary/>

Instagram @srfolibrary

858-538-8158

*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	Grace's Book Nook/Publicity:	Joan Reese
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Join or renew on line at [www.srfol.org](http://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](mailto: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).