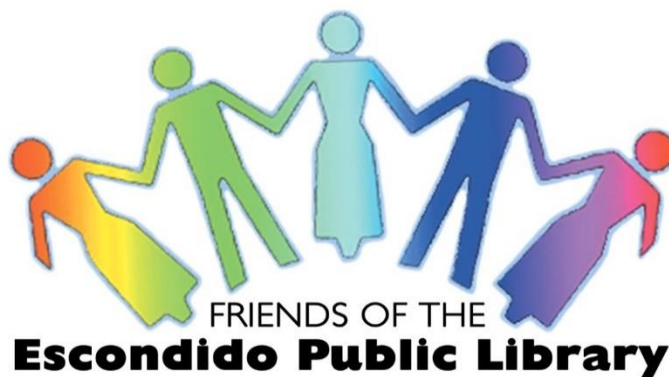


December 2023

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# The Friends News

## *President's Message, Wayne Brown*



Dear Members,

In October, we welcomed a new Library Director, Rino Landa. Please see his letter on the next page. The Friends are looking forward to working with him.

Our Book Shop's monthly half price sales, which are always an event that patrons look forward to, have been very successful and we are thankful to all the volunteers who stock the shelves and keep the area tidy, as during the sale it can get quite chaotic.

Recently, there has been a "glut" of donated books. Our volunteers have gone over and above, processing the materials through the system and keeping the sales area stocked. We daily get compliments on the appearance of the sales area and of course, the great prices offered.

I personally work upstairs in the workroom and don't have a chance to interact with the public. I truly enjoy substituting in the sales area, (not to mention how much I love to talk). I meet a cross section of this community and am surprised at the diversity of their interests and abilities.

Please note that the December Book Shop sale runs for a whole week. It's a good place to find some last-minute holiday gifts or stocking stuffers.

In closing, Elmer Cameron resigned as a member of the FOL board after 20 years. He will remain as a volunteer however, and he is irreplaceable as such.

*Wishing all of you Happy Holidays  
and best wishes for the New Year!*

## ***Library Administration Rino Landa, Director***

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### *A New Chapter Begins: Rino Landa, New Library Director*

Dear Friends of the Escondido Public Library,

Warm greetings to all of you! As the new Library Director, I'm deeply honored and thrilled to be embarking on this journey. Our library is not just a collection of books, but a hub of knowledge, community, and inspiration. And it's thanks to the support of the Friends that our amazing staff are able to breathe life into this institution, making it a beacon for those in pursuit of learning and growth.

Every one of you, and every volunteer, plays a unique role in our library's mission. Whether you're assisting staff with donations, running the book store, advocating on our behalf in the community, or donating to the library – you are an essential part of the Escondido Public Library.

As we turn this new page together, let's always remember that our collective strength and unity are what make us great. Our library is not just a space but a living entity that evolves, grows, and thrives because of the dedication and love you pour into it every day.

As for myself: I am proud of a career in public libraries with a focus on building new and innovative services. In the past, I have overseen the creation and implementation of makerspaces, art studios, learning labs, and a variety of unique services in libraries in Florida. I earned my Masters in Library Science and Information from the University of South Florida and my Bachelors degree from Yale University. I live in San Marcos with my partner and cat where we've slowly been exploring parks and hiking trails.

I look forward to collaborating with the Friends' Board to ensure that Escondido Public Library remains a cherished institution for our community. I thank you for your continued support of the library and look forward to our shared future.

Together, we write the next great chapter.

With warm regards,

Rino Landa  
Library Director

## Adult Services Programs

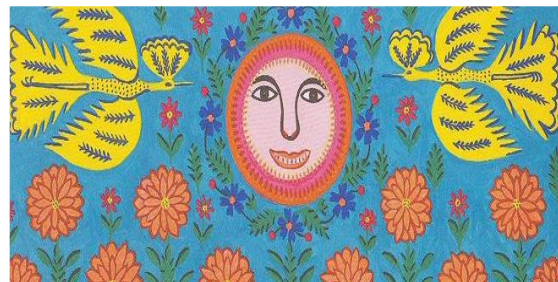
Adult Services is happy that it can offer **monthly educational and entertainment programs** and **implement new programs based on the Library's Strategic Plan and patrons' requests/needs** on the evaluation forms, with the Friends of the Library support. The monthly programs include:

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

## The highlights and well-attended programs in the fall of 2023 are as follows:

### ❖ **Cultural Fair Series: Ukraine Culture & Art,**

Saturday, September 16, 2023, 2:00–4:30 p.m. in the Turrentine Room. The First Session of the Cultural Fair Series program was funded by the California Humanities Grant. 118 audiences learned about Ukraine's history, geography, culture, and art, experienced the live soul-relaxing sound of Bandura, and enjoyed the Ukriananin dance performance, contemporary live music, and song, artwork exhibition, craft, and got familiar with Ukrainian cuisine.



### ❖ **2nd Saturday Concert Series:**

- ❖ Dos Amigos, Saturday, September 9, 2023, 3:00–4:00 p.m., Turrentine Room had 43 attendees
- ❖ Dmitry Kirichenko, Saturday, October 14, 2023, 3:00–4:00 p.m., Turrentine Room had 72 Attendees
- ❖ The Elements of Opera, Saturday, November 11, 2023, 3:00–4:00 p.m., Turrentine Room had 91 Attendees



### ❖ **Cultural Fair Series: Afghan Culture and Art**

November 18, 2023, in the Turrentine Room. The second session of the Cultural Fair Series program was funded by the California Humanities Grant. The program had 64 attendees who learned about Afghanistan's history, geography, culture, art and customs, and Afghan women's clothes, along with a clothing show. They browsed one of the Afghan artist's painting exhibitions, enjoyed the Afghan live music, traditional dance, and crafts and tasted the cuisine.

## Adult Services (continued)

### The Winter Programs:

#### ❖ Cultural Fair Series: Yalda: Persian Winter Solstice Celebration.

Thursday, December 7, 2023. 5:30 to 7:00 pm Turrentine Room. The last session of the Cultural Fair Series program, funded by the California Humanities Grant. The audience will learn about the Yalda: Persian Winter Solstice, enjoy Shahnameh Khani (Reading Shahnameh in Farsi and English) by Shahnameh Khanan Group, live Persian music performance by Delnavazan Daf Ensemble, and browse the Yalda display.



#### ❖ 2nd Saturday Concert Series:



- **Country Noyse**, Saturday, December 9, 2023, 3:00 – 4:30 Pm, Turrentine Room
- **Sunny Side Strings**, Saturday, January 13, 2024, 3:00 – 4:30 Pm, Turrentine Room
- **Kevin O'Brien**, Saturday, February 10, 2024, 3:00 – 4:30 Pm, Turrentine Room
- **Willowood Trio**, Saturday, March 9, 2024, 3:00 – 4:30 Pm, Turrentine Room

❖ **Artsy Adult: Spin Art**, Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Turrentine Room

❖ **Succulent Swap**: Saturday, January 27, 2024, 2:00-4:00 pm at Library Portico

❖ **A Historic Look of the Escondido: Love Your Library Month**, February 22, 2024, 5:00 – 6:00 pm Turrentine Room

❖ **Walking Tour of the Escondido: Historic Neighborhood Homes**, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 11: 00 – 12:30. Pioneer Room

Adult Services is planning for more programs during the winter and spring, such as a program for African Americans in February and a Cultural program in March for Nowruz: Persian new year.

Please note, the library will be closed the following days:

Monday, December 25, Christmas Day

Monday, January 1, New Year's Day

Monday, January 15, Martin Luther King Day

Monday, February 19, Presidents' Day

## Youth Services Highlights

The library wrapped up its annual Summer Reading Challenge in August. The Challenge encourages all ages to participate in lifelong learning and the enjoyment of reading. We had the following participation numbers:

- Babies: 204
- Kids: 614
- Tweens: 316
- Teens: 149
- Adults: 282
- Total: 1,565



### **Halloween – Not So Spooky Dance Party**

The "Halloween – Not So Spooky Dance Party" was a night of ghoulishly good fun! This was a program change from our regular Not-So-Spooky Storytime. This event featured a lively dance party that had everyone moving and grooving. We also gathered around for an enchanting

story time that added a touch of magic to the evening. However, the real highlight was the creative side of Halloween with three fantastic craft activities. Kids and parents alike enjoyed crafting their own trick-or-treat bags, crafting sock puppet pumpkins, and even creating bouncy spiders that hopped with excitement. With 150 eager participants in attendance, the event was a tremendous success, leaving us ready to host it again in the future.

### **Día de los Muertos**

The event began with a mesmerizing performance by the local indigenous Aztec dance group, Danza Xinaxtli. Attendees were captivated by the vibrant and rhythmic display. To ensure everyone understood the significance of Día de los Muertos, there was an enlightening explanation of the holiday's cultural importance and why it is celebrated. A significant aspect of the event was the community ofrenda, which allowed attendees to pay their respects and contribute to the communal altar. The celebration also featured four engaging craft activities, including decorating sugar skulls, building miniature ofrendas, designing colorful calavera masks, and crafting beautiful paper flower headbands. Pan Muerto and Atole were served as treats. With 160 enthusiastic individuals in attendance, the event created a strong sense of community and cultural appreciation, making it an unforgettable event that celebrated the rich heritage of Día de los Muertos.



As always, a big thank you to the Friends of the Library for all your support.

## ***Volunteer Highlights Georgia Chonko, Friends VP***

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**Amy Brown** has been a volunteer for the Friends since 2010.

She was pivotal in getting the Friends back to an operational status after the pandemic. She called every volunteer asking them to come back to volunteering.

Amy is an ace cashier. She is very active in her church and is married to Wayne, the Friends of the Library Board President.

All of our volunteers are "wow" and Amy is sure one of them.

## ***Friends Book Shop News Penny Boggeln, Shop Coordinator***

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Where did 2023 go?

Bookshop sales are steady and we continue to get compliments and positive feedback from our customers. Our Operation Book Support sales for the 3rd Quarter were huge: \$4626.26!

### **We are in need of a *Volunteer Coordinator!***

Since, Cookie, the library's Volunteer Coordinator retired, we have been getting by, but we need a Friends volunteer who can be in charge of interviewing and bringing on our new volunteers on a continuing basis. If you are interested in learning more about the Volunteer Coordinator position, text or call me, 760-703-0330

As always Thank You to all our wonderful volunteers!

To our volunteers working at the library:

If you need supplies please leave a note in my mailbox, I have 2, one in safe room and one in the workroom. Please include your name and work area: workroom, safe room or sorting. I will fill your request asap and leave it in your work area with your name on it.

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### **UPCOMING HALF-PRICE SALE DATES IN THE BOOK SHOP**

**December 18 - 23    January 26 - 27    February 23 - 24    March 29 - 30**

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### ***Friends of the Library Board of Directors***

#### Officers

Wayne Brown, *President*

Georgia Chonko, *Vice President*

Linda Parker, *Treasurer*

Lorna Underwood, *Secretary*

Shop Coordinator \* Penny Boggeln

\*appointed by the Board

#### Directors

Nancy Dartz

Sharon Fry

Joy Harper

Dottie Heller

Carol Pennington

Linda Roger

The Friends of the Library hosted an appreciation luncheon for its volunteers December 5th. Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Black Angus restaurant, interesting conversation, and door prizes for some lucky volunteers! It was nice to see many of our longtime past volunteers and, Cookie Allen, the retired Volunteer Coordinator for the library. Special thanks for the wonderful event go to the luncheon planning committee: Amy, Georgia, Sharon, Carol and Lorna.



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***2nd Reminder***  
***IT'S ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME***  
***FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-24***

*(If you are a lifetime member or have already paid your 2023-24 dues, please disregard this message)*

We hope you will renew your membership with the Friends of the Library. We count on your support in helping us provide many of the Community programs the Library offers for children, teens and adults.

We are happy to announce that you can now pay your membership dues with your credit card, online at the *Friends of the Escondido Library* membership webpage, <https://library.escondido.org/friend-mbsh>

We hope you will find this easy and convenient.

If you prefer to pay by mail, there is a link on the website page to download our membership form or you can use the renewal form on the following page. Mail it in or drop it off at the Friends Book Shop.

**Thank you for your continued support!**

***DO YOU SHOP AT MAJOR MARKET?***

*Please save your Major Market shopping receipts for the Friends of the Library.*

*They give us 1% of all receipts we collect!*

*Just give them to the Cashier in the Friends Book Shop.*

*Thank you!*

# Application for Membership

Individual - \$10.00  
Family - \$15.00  
Supporting - \$35.00  
Life Membership - \$125.00  
Business/Organization - \$30.00

*Payable to:*  
Friends of the Escondido Public Library  
c/o Escondido Public Library  
239 South Kalmia Street  
Escondido, CA 92025

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

*Special interests, talents and ideas:* \_\_\_\_\_ *New Member* \_\_\_\_\_ *Renewal*