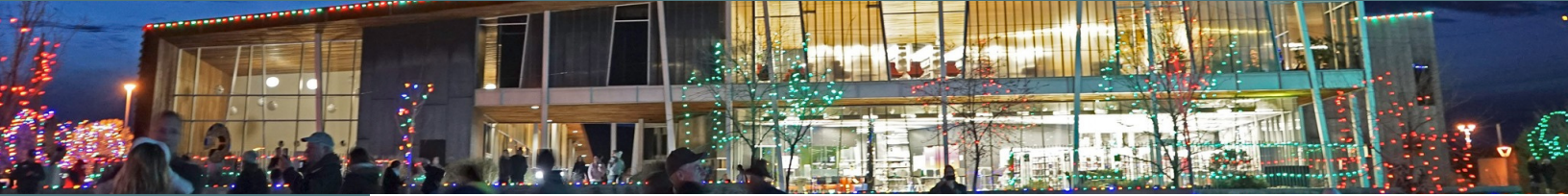


# BETWEEN THE LINES

Prescott Valley Public Library's Monthly Newsletter



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## DIRECTOR'S CUT by Casey Van Haren

The holiday season will soon be upon us and yet, I'm sad as I know that along with most people throughout the world, I won't be able to share holidays with my entire family due to COVID. This has certainly been a very tough year, and I know we all hoped that we would see the light at the end of the tunnel by this time.

As I was talking with a coworker, we began to discuss our holiday traditions. This brought a huge smile to my face as I remember my grandma making her famous rolls, and my mom making the BEST crust for the pies. My grandma taught me at an early age to cook and bake. She never measured anything and showed me by touch and taste how to make amazing food. I loved helping her and as I got older and after my grandma passed away, the rolls became my contribution to the holidays.

As my sisters got older, the three of us helped my mom and my aunts make tamales. We would all gather at my parents house and start the day long process of making Christmas tamales. My mom would put on a pot of beans and we would start the grueling process of making the masa, spreading the masa on the corn husks, adding the meat, folding up the husks and placing them in ziplock bags by the dozen. By the end of the day, our backs hurt and our hands were soft from the lard used to make the masa. We would sit down and taste our labor of love and leave with at least five dozen tamales each. My sisters and I would always have masa fights and we spent days finding it on the floor, cabinets, silverware drawer, on the dogs and well, it was everywhere.

As my sisters and I are all grown up now and scattered about Arizona, we have, except for a few times, always been together for Christmas. Some traditions have faded, but I always make the rolls. It reminds me of my grandma and her beautiful and kind face.

I may not be able to be with all my family, but remembering traditions and teaching them to my nieces and nephews will help ensure that they continue. Happy holidays!

## HIGHLIGHTS

## Children's

.....  
**First graders are  
special at PVPL!**

We are starting our second year of Building Bright Futures for our **first grade** students at Humboldt Unified School District and charter schools in Prescott Valley. Your first grade child can come to the Children's Department to get a special card designed for them. Having this card opens a future of reading and we have plenty of books to keep them satisfied.

On their first visit to the Library, they receive a safety release lanyard to attach to their new card. On their next two visits to the Library, they get two more prizes. We are ready to help them find their next favorite book. And they will be exposed to more vocabulary than they get in everyday conversation as well as learning new facts.

Sign your child up today for their Building Bright Futures Library card!

## Young Adult

.....  
"Reading is my [favorite] occupation, when I have leisure for it and books to read."

— Anne Brontë, Agnes Grey

**Meet Autumn: The New  
Young Adult Librarian**

Books are an amazing portal into the best adventures. And I love adventures, especially traveling to new places. Perhaps this fact is why I moved around a lot. While I grew up in Maine and Arizona, I eventually moved to Boston to earn my Librarian degree and accepted my first Teen Librarian job at the NYPL in NYC.

Now, I'm excited to be back in Arizona and get to know the teens and the Prescott Valley community!

Aside from reading and traveling, creative writing is a huge passion of mine. I even co-run my romantic themed website, The Silver Petticoat Review, with my identical twin sister, Amber. Together, we write novels (some YA) and screenplays. I also adore animals and have a black cat named Thackery Binx!



## Twins

.....  
**Meet Ruby:  
The New Tween Librarian**

I grew up in central Texas, just twenty-five miles north of Austin, where I spent most of my time hanging out with my friends and chasing after the family dog. And reading. I read **a lot**. Books offered an escape and an opportunity – I could see myself as other people in other places, all without leaving my room. I reread the same books over and over, comforted by the words I already knew and the characters I had already met.

My love of reading inspired me to work in libraries; I worked as a library assistant in Texas for four years before moving to New York for library school. I just graduated in May, and I am so excited to be here in Prescott Valley! I can't wait to get to know everyone here in the community and especially get to know my tweens!

When I'm not reading, I'm playing Dungeons & Dragons with my friends, watching The Mandalorian (or something equally nerdy), taking care of my plants, or searching for a new vegetarian recipe to try!





## HIGHLIGHTS

### Adults

#### Arizona Humanities Program (Virtual) AZ Speaks is Back at PVPL!

One of our most popular programs is coming back to PVPL. The new live virtual AZ Speaks will span a total of 60 minutes. Speakers for AZ Speaks "represent a diverse range of expertise, from a variety of professional backgrounds including history, gender studies, cultural studies, and more. Speakers are selected based on their expertise and ability to offer content and insight that inspires discussion with audiences of all ages and backgrounds."

**Nevertheless She Persisted! Women Who Made a Difference on the Arizona Frontier.**  
**Friday, December 18th from 3pm-4pm.**

Presented by award-winning author, historian, and lecturer, Jan Cleere writes extensively about the desert southwest, particularly the people who first settled the territory. She is a magna cum laude graduate of ASU West with a degree in American Studies, and the author of five historical nonfiction books about the people who first ventured west. She lectures around the state on early pioneers who were instrumental in colonizing and civilizing Arizona Territory. Jan writes a monthly column for Tucson's Arizona Daily Star, "Western Women," detailing the lives of some of Arizona's early amazing women. Her freelance work appears in national and regional publications.

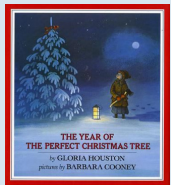
#### Save the Date for These Upcoming Virtual AZ Speaks Programs!

- **Chiles & Chocolate: Sweet and Spicy Foods in the American West.** Presented by Sandy Sunseri & Chris Glen - Friday, January 15th, 2021 @ 3:00 pm.
- **The Navajo Long Walk (1863 through 1868): Through the Eyes of Navajo Women.** Presented by Evangeline Parsons Yazzie - Friday, February 19th, 2021 @ 3:00 pm
- **The Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPS) of WWII.** Presented by Natalie J. Stewart-Smith – Friday, March 19th, 2021 @ 3:00 pm
- **From "Chief" to Code Talker: Four Profiles of the Navajo Code Talkers.** Presented by Laura Tohe - Friday, April 16th, 2021 @ 3:00 pm.

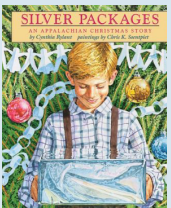
# STAFF SUGGESTIONS

## Children's

This holiday season is going to be difficult for many families because of COVID and not being able to get together.



Gloria Houston has written picture book stories about children in Appalachia, in hard times as well, which are good for all ages. **Littlejim's Gift**, is a story about a young boy who hopes to convince his stern father that he will soon be a man, so almost-11 year old Littlejim uses his hard-earned savings for his sister's gift.



Another picture book, **Silver Packages**, by Cynthia Rylant, is also set in Appalachia. Every year at Christmas, a rich man rides a train through Appalachia and throws gifts to the poor children who are waiting, in order to repay a debt he owes the people who live there. His gifts to the children inspire one of them to give back when he becomes an adult.



You may be familiar with the older TV special based on the juvenile chapter book, **The Best Christmas Pageant Ever** by Barbara Robinson. If you haven't read the book, you should! It's a funny but poignant story of the six horrible Herdmans, the worst children in the history of the world, who take over the annual Christmas pageant.

## Tweens



Snapdragon, by Kat Leyh

**Snapdragon** is a beautifully unique graphic novel about the different paths that people take in order to fully live their truths. Plus there are ghost stories. And some animal skeletons. And some really cute opossum babies.

**Snapdragon** (the story) is about Snapdragon (the girl), who becomes friends with the witch who lives in her town. Snap slowly gets to know this witch -- named Jacks -- and also discovers some secrets about her own family along the way.

It's a truly cool and creepy story that will inspire any reader to be their most authentic self.

Kat Leyh also worked as a writer and cover artist for the BOOM! Comics series **Lumberjanes**. **Snapdragon** is her first graphic novel.



# STAFF SUGGESTIONS

## Young Adult

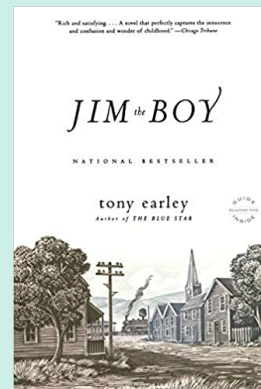


**Magic. Danger. Brooding Romance.**

***Sorcery of Thorns*** has it all in this bewitching fantasy. Elisabeth, an orphan apprentice of one of the Great Libraries, loves her work as a would-be sword-wielding warden librarian. In this alternate history novel, librarians battle the Maleficts, damaged grimoires that transform into monsters. But when the most dangerous grimoire is released, Elisabeth is implicated in a crime.

What's even worse is having nowhere to turn except into the untrustworthy arms of the "evil" sorcerer, Nathaniel Torn, and his demonic servant Silas (who can turn into a cat). Soon, dangerous conspiracies emerge while the chemistry smolders. Overall, ***Sorcery of Thorns*** is a love letter to anyone who likes books, especially with a little magic and romance.

## Adults



**Jim the Boy, by Tony Earley**

***Jim the Boy*** is considered one of the few books with the ability to capture the reader no matter what the age. This novel tells a story of a boy growing up in a small town during the Great Depression. Jim and his family will touch your core.

"Exquisitely wrought...Earley delivers Jim's bittersweet coming-of-adolescence story with the pared-down, earthy lyricism of a classic fold ballad."

- Mark Rozzo, Los Angeles Times Book Review

If this book sounds interesting to you, please join our new class: 'Diving Deeper ***Jim the Boy***'. Keep your eyes open on PVPL's website for dates & registration in the new year.



## DECEMBER PROGRAMS

### Online Chair Yoga

#### **Registration Required for all Yoga Classes**

Mondays 10-11am

Tuesdays 10-11am

Wednesdays 10-11am

Thursdays 10-11am

Fridays 10-11am



**Online Morning Stretch** - Wednesdays 8:30-9:30 am

**Online Yoga Nidra** - Thursdays 12-1pm

**Arizona Treasure Hunter Holiday Idea: Metal Detecting**

Thursday, December 3rd, 4pm. [Registration Required](#)

**Checkin' Out the Neighborhood - PVPL's Podcast:**

**Who is: Tattooist Tony Carey**

Tuesday, December 8th, <https://anchor.fm/pvpl>, on the library website, or your favorite podcast source.

**Master Gardener Talk: Container Gardening - Online Pre-recorded Program.**

Tuesday, December 8th, 4pm [Registration Required](#)

**Safety First Privacy & Safety Online - Virtual Live Class**

Tuesday, December 15th, 12 - 2 pm [Registration Required](#)

**AZ Speaks - Nevertheless She Persisted! Women Who Made a Difference on the Arizona Frontier. Virtual Live Program.**

Friday, December 18th, 3 - 4 pm [Registration Required](#)

**[Click here to view the library calendar and registration information.](#)**



## IN OTHER NEWS...



### CHROMEBOOKS ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO CHECK OUT!

Stop by the Library's Information desk for more information.

### Mobile WIFI Hotspot Devices for Grandparents

Are you a grandparent who is a caregiver for your grandchild? Do you need WIFI access or additional WIFI devices? Thanks to grant funds, Prescott Valley Public Library now has 5 dedicated WIFI hotspot devices reserved for grandparents who are caregivers for their grandchildren. If you or someone you know is interested in checking out one of the WIFI hotspots from the Library, or would like additional information, please contact Michele at [mhjorting@pvaz.net](mailto:mhjorting@pvaz.net) or 928-759-6196.

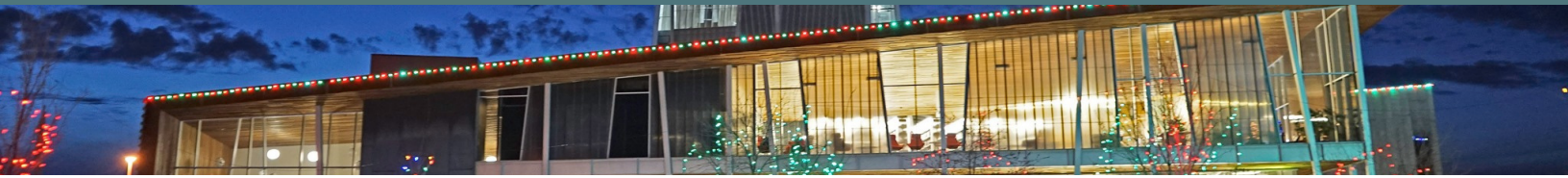
### Coming Soon!

### PVPL's Library of Things and Stay Connected Kits

**PVPL's Library of Things** - Items to check out like a GoPro camera, Atari, Slides to Digital Photo Converter, Guitars, Ukelele's, 3-D Pen, and much more! Stop by the Library's Information Desk for more information.

**Stay Connected Kits** - These kits will contain a Chromebook and a mobile hotspot. Look for the Stay Connected kits to be available for checkout in the new year.

These projects are supported by the Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records, a division of the Secretary of State, with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



## IN OTHER NEWS...

### Friends of the Library

In the month of October, the Friends of the Library held a membership drive as part of National Friends of the Library week. Everyone who joined or renewed their Friends of the Library membership were entered in a drawing for a \$50 Amazon card. The winner of the drawing was 96 years young Jack Brecka. Jack is a World War II veteran and enjoys borrowing books and movies from the library. Congratulations, Jack!

