

Feb 2024

# Among Friends

Newsletter of *The Library Friends of Payson, Inc.*, P.O. Box 13, Payson AZ 85547

Email: [library\\_friends@hotmail.com](mailto:library_friends@hotmail.com) Website: [libraryfriendsofpayson.com](http://libraryfriendsofpayson.com)

Follow and 'Like' us on Facebook: [facebook.com/libraryfriendsofpayson/](https://facebook.com/libraryfriendsofpayson/)



## 2023 Year in Review

by Emily Linkey

I've just completed the state statistical report for the 2022/2023 fiscal year and thought that I'd share some encouraging numbers.

- Our door counter clocked 74,140 visits to the library (up from 55,465)
- We answered 10,389 questions at the reference desk (up from 8,591); this includes computer help/assistance with job applications & government forms, reference, and reader's advisory
- Members of the public logged onto our computers 8,125 times (up from 7,181)
- Our wireless was accessed by the public 27,650 times (up from 23,400)
- Total Circulation was 103,910 (up from 99,608)
- Use of eBooks and eAudio by Payson patrons was 10,179 (a number that has more than doubled over 2 years)
- We ran 436 programs with a total attendance/audience of 7,116! (Last year we ran 433 programs, but total attendance was only 3,121)

I think that the increased program attendance numbers can be chalked up to a few things...

1. We had a full-time & fully qualified children's librarian for the entire fiscal year (Sianee really is a dynamo).

(Continued on page 4)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Corner	2
Check it Out!	3
Online Book Sales	3
Fun at the Library	3
Bookstore Update	4
Bookstore Sales	4
Upcoming Meetings	5
Rim Readers	5

**The Library Friends of Payson, Inc.**, is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide financial and community support to the Payson Public Library. We believe that public libraries comprise an integral aspect of community identity and development, and we support endeavors that encourage literacy and free inquiry within the individual, the family, and society.

### Payson Public Library

328 N. McLane Road  
Payson, AZ 85541  
928-74-9260

Emily Linkey, Director

[www.paysonaz.gov/Departments/Library/](http://www.paysonaz.gov/Departments/Library/)

### Library Hours

M, Th 9am—6 pm

T, W 9am—7 pm

F, S 9am—3 pm

Closed Sunday



Shelly Sundra

## President's Corner

by Shelly Sundra

Dear Library Friends,  
Greetings to All!

Well, 2024 is here, whether we like it or not.

I hope you all had a great holiday season and are now implementing your New Year's resolutions.

We have already had some snow and temps went all the way down to 15 degrees at my house. Brrrr. That's a bit chilly for me. We need moisture but if the temperature could stay around 32 degrees, that would make me very happy. I know all the kiddos in town were happy with the snowfall. I'm sure they, like my grandson, were bummed that they didn't have a snow day when returning after winter break.

Did you know that January was named after the Roman god Janus who represented new beginnings? Janus was said to have two faces, one looking into the past and the other being able to see into the future.

We celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 15<sup>th</sup> and the inventor and scientist Benjamin Franklin's birthday is on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

Here are a couple of other "Just for Fun" days in January:

January 8<sup>th</sup> Elvis Presley's Birthday  
January 14<sup>th</sup> National Dress Up Your Pet Day  
January 20<sup>th</sup> National Penguin Day

2024 is a leap year, so February has 29 days - it's still the shortest month of the year. Did you know that the length of February has changed over time and at one point it was only 23 days?

In February we celebrate Valentines Day and Presidents Day.

If you were born in February, your birthstone is amethyst. I think amethyst is one of the prettiest purple stones! And Arizona has its very own amethyst mine. The Four Peaks mine has produced fine quality amethyst since the early 1900s and is still producing today.

Please remember to check out our monthly calendar. As always, feel free to stop in and enjoy our comfortable sitting area while taking in a good book, magazine, or the newspaper.

May you all have a happy and healthy 2024!

**Shelly**

*"Books are  
the plane,  
and the  
train, and  
the road.  
They are the  
destination,  
and the  
journey.  
They are  
home."*

— Anna  
Zuindlen



## Check it Out!

By Kathy Morgan

<https://www.paysonaz.gov/departments/library>



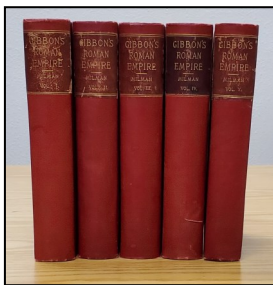
Kathy Morgan

*“The library card is a passport to wonders and miracles, glimpses into other lives, religions, experiences, the hopes and dreams and strivings of ALL human beings, and it is this passport that opens our eyes and hearts to the world beyond our front doors, that is one of our best hopes against tyranny, xenophobia, hopelessness, despair, anarchy, and ignorance.” Libba Bray*

As 2024 begins, let’s give thanks for the wonderful Payson Library and the hard-working staff members who put such effort into providing a place that everyone can enjoy. The library is so much more than books and computers: it is a wonderland of information and entertainment, self-improvement and magical journeys, with something for everyone, no matter their age. It is a place to meet up with friends, a place to quietly read the newspaper and ponder what’s happening in the world, a place for moms and dads and their little ones to spend time together, a place for learning how to line dance or how to play the ukulele. The library is all this and so much more. The library is the very heart and center of our community, and we appreciate everything it offers.

If you are interested in what’s going on and would like to join in with some of the activities, check out the library’s monthly calendar at [gclidaz.org/payson-calendar/](http://gclidaz.org/payson-calendar/). There is always something new and fun happening at the library, so stop by soon and see all the amazing things the Payson library offers. Check it out!

## Online Book Sales



This month, we are highlighting a 5-volume set of hardcover books: Edward Gibbon’s classic ***Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire***, edited by the legendary English poet and historian H.H. Milman in 1838. This set is complete and in good condition, with gilded top edges, and was published around 1890 by Porter and Coates of Philadelphia. We have priced it competitively at \$80, and it would make a perfect gift for the history lover in your family.

Our online book sales are an important part of our annual income. We ended 2023 with a \$3820 profit, which helps us support the Library. Our inventory changes often, and our volunteers work very hard to insure we offer the best prices. If you would like to peruse our inventory, or are interested in this set, please contact our Internet Sales Coordinator, Pete Rothenbach at 928-978-7338, or email him at [prothenb@yahoo.com](mailto:prothenb@yahoo.com). **LFOP members get a 20% discount on purchases.**

## Fun at the Library

Bring your needlecraft projects and join us on **Mondays for Sit & Stitch, 2p-5p**

**Learn to Play Chess on the 2nd Friday of each month 12p-2p**

**Beginning in February, Toddler Storytime will change from Tuesdays to Thursdays at 10am.**

**Every Wednesday is Storytime with Babies at 10:30am and Practice Spanish at 11:30am**

**Line Dancing-Beginners Tuesdays 1:15-2:15p, Intermediate Tues, Thurs 2:15-4:00p**

**Fridays and Saturdays are special project days with emphasis on STEM learning. All programs are free, but sign-up is required.**

**SEE YOU THERE!**



## Bookstore Update



Our **Used Bookstore** in the Library has an ever-changing inventory of Hardcover and Softcover books, DVDs, Audio books and music, Magazines, Coffee table books, jigsaw puzzles and more! We have the best prices in town for gently used materials. Come in and see us often! Our friendly volunteers can help you find what you need. Prices range from just \$.25 to \$5. Check us out!

### **Bookstore Sales Report** by Stephanie Collins

Total sales for the Bookstore were \$649.45 for the month. That was a little better than last month but less than last December.

Revenue for the year was \$8878.42, which was about 10% better than last year. That was very good especially since we are still down to one shift a day.

The Internet group was closed for shipping in December due to vacations. The revenue for the year was \$3820.00.

The combined total for 2023 was \$12698.42.

Thank you to all our volunteers for your time and dedication and for keeping us going!

---

## 2023 Library Review (con't)

*(Continued from page 1)*

2. We've partnered with local groups to offer additional adult programs to the public (Line Dancing, for instance) and find that some of our most heavily attended programs are those that welcome seniors.

1. As COVID fears ebb, people are no longer as concerned about congregating in larger groups.

It is pretty clear that the Payson Public Library (along with most public libraries in the country) is continuing to evolve from traditional book & reference based services towards a more vibrant community hub where people meet, interact, enrich their lives through varied educational and/or entertaining programs, and make use of our connectivity. I think the days of quiet & studious public libraries are behind us.

*Editor's Note: We believe that the most important reason of all for the excellent record of the Payson Public Library is the dedication and creativity of the Library's Staff, beginning with our Director, Emily! Next time you visit the Library, be sure and thank them all for a job well done!*



## Upcoming LFOP Programs

by Denise Blanchette

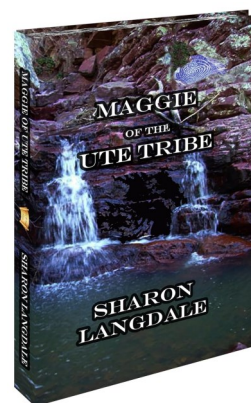
The Library Friends meet on the third Monday of each month in the Mogollon (expanded) meeting room of the Payson Public Library at 10:00am. The meetings are always open to the public, and attendance is FREE. JOIN US!

**February 26, 2024: Linda Gibson**, Superintendent of Payson Unified School District, will be talking about issues facing the school district and high school's recently receiving an A Rating. *NOTE: The February meeting is on the fourth Monday of the month, instead of the third Monday.*

**March 18, 2024: Chris Jones**, U of A Natural Resources Extension, Arborist **David Mikulak** and Payson Fuels Manager **Kevin McCully** will present a program on **Firewise** and general tree care, including mitigating damage by mislltoe.

**April 15, 2024:** Author and artist **Sharon Langsdale** will talk about her new novel, a mystery that takes place in Colorado and Gila County, Arizona. In *Maggie of the Ute Tribe*, a Native American deputy sheriff is called on to solve murders.

**May 20, 2024: Paul Brocker** will be presenting a program about **Aspire**, which supports a dual-credit program for PHS student, whereby they can earn both high school and college credit.



## Rim Country Readers

We constantly redefine the meaning of **family** as times change and people grow. But, even the closest families conceal untold secrets, mistaken concepts, and surprises. In January, the Rim Readers discussed *Homecoming* by Kate Morton and followed the evolution of several families linked to mysterious deaths in South Australia.

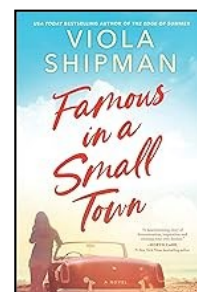
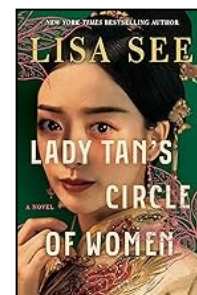
You are welcome to join us at our meetings, the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Payson Public Library at 10:00am. There is always something to learn from our lively discussions.

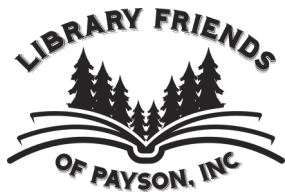
**February 21, 2024:** *Lady Tan's Circle of Women*, by Lisa See—recommended by Noel Gosnel

**March 20, 2024** *Famous in a Small Town*, by Viola Shipman—recommended by Pam Schofield

Other titles planned but not scheduled include *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus; *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict; *Rebecca* by Daphne DuMaurier; *The Year of Magical Thinking* by Joan Didion.

All Rim Reader meetings are open to the public, with no membership fee.





**Library Friends of Payson, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 13, Payson, AZ 85547

Place Stamp  
Here. Post  
Office will  
not deliver  
without a  
stamp

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



NOTE: Please check your mailing sticker. If you need to make changes to your address, please mail us your preferences to P.O. Box 13, Payson AZ 85547. Have an idea to improve our Newsletter? Would you like to submit a non-political article? Would you like to receive the newsletter electronically instead of by snail mail? Please contact Romaine Brophy at 928-474-9619, or email us at [library\\_friends@hotmail.com](mailto:library_friends@hotmail.com) and let us know. We love to hear from you!

## *Library Friends of Payson, Inc.*

P.O. Box 13, Payson AZ 85547

Email [library\\_friends@hotmail.com](mailto:library_friends@hotmail.com) Website [libraryfriendsofpayson.com](http://libraryfriendsofpayson.com)

Follow and 'Like' us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/libraryfriendspayson/](http://www.facebook.com/libraryfriendspayson/)

### **OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President	Shelly Sundra
Vice Pres.	Linda Lanctot
Treasurer	John Wilson
Secretary	Kathy Morgan
At-Large	Karen Thornton
Membership	Alice Natale
Homebound	Olivia Covelli
Financial Sec'y	Pam Jackson
At-Large	Jeanne Schoonover

Newsletter	Romaine Brophy
Membership	Alice Natale
Programs	Denise Blanchette
Bookstore	Judy Smith
Member Contact	Lynne Wayne **
Library Staff	Emily Linkey
	David Grasse
Online Sales	PeterRothenbach**

\*\* - denotes non-elected volunteer