May 2022

Friends of the Public Library Newsletter

Happy Spring from the Salado Public Library!

As the days get warmer and the kids move into summer vacation, remember to stop into the library to cool off and pick out a great book to read by the lake or while sipping sweet tea on the back porch! Avoid the “summer slide” and keep kids entertained by spending time reading every day! Remember, kids learn by watching and modeling behavior, so don’t forget to stop in and pick up a book for you too!

Have an amazing spring!

Kristen Young
Chair of Outreach and Public Relations
Joy of Reading

When I was teaching in the Houston area, I fell in love with a picture they had in the office. I must have shared my feelings with my three daughters because they gave me the wonderful picture of three young girls reading a book.

This picture reminds me of how important reading has been my entire life. When I was growing up, my parents would read books to me and then I would read books to them. When I had my own family, reading books was always on the agenda every day. When I became an elementary teacher, I loved teaching reading and hoped to pass this feeling on to my students. Truthfully, this did not always happen. Some of my daughters and my students did not love to spend their spare time curled up in a comfy chair reading a book. But you never know when they may come around.

I want to share with a couple of picture books I loved reading to my students.

Patricia Polacco’s book, Thank you, Mr. Falker, is a wonderful book about a 5th grader who believes she will never read. Her teacher that year believes in her!

Eve Bunting’s book, Train To Somewhere, is a book about the orphan trains that I used when teaching U.S. History. Now when I was growing up, history wasn’t my thing. I loved everything else in school, but history never came to life for me. In high school my history teachers were great people, but their main interest was in coaching. So hearing one of them read aloud a section of a text book and then telling us to answer the questions didn’t stir my interest in history. But when I started teaching 5th graders U.S. History, I became engaged in learning. I found books like Train to Somewhere to be magnets for my students to want to learn more.

My wish is for you to read to your children and grandchildren to awaken their minds to the world around them. Salado Public Library is a wonderful place to find engaging books. Plus, if they don’t have the book you are looking for, ask one of our helpful library staff to show you how to get the book from Texas Group Catalog.

May the reading adventure begin!

Mary French President,
Friends of the Library
There have been busy beavers working at Book Ends and you can surely tell the minute you walk into the building. It is bright, inviting, and very well organized, thanks to Colleen Greer’s leadership and her very enthusiastic volunteers, Judith Hughes and Ron Miller. Judith lives in Belton but was employed by the Temple Library for 26 years. Upon her retirement in July 2020, she caught up on her projects at home for a while but then started casting around for something else to do. When she found Book Ends, she knew she had discovered her home away from home. She has been volunteering faithfully since May 2021, sorting, organizing the categories, and shelving the used books for sale. Judith grew up in Cameron, Texas, relying on the school library and excitedly choosing books from the Scholastic Book orders we all loved as kids. When she was in high school, she was able to take library as an elective and she still speaks fondly of the librarian, Mrs. McDermott, and how she influenced Judith to want to work in a library one day herself. After high school, Judith took a temporary job at the Temple Water Department, then later as a church secretary. She volunteered at the Temple and Belton Public Libraries. When a position opened up at the Temple Library, it was offered to Judith and she began working as an outreach assistant and on the circulation desk. Eventually she was moved to a full-time position in the non-fiction department, an area she still loves to this day. Judith has a grown daughter, Lindey, who is soon to be moving to Belton from Temple, and a son, Keith, who lives in Little River. She enjoys having her 3 grandchildren close by. Also hard at work keeping Book Ends ready for customers is Friends volunteer Ron Miller, who had been recruited by Rick Powell, former Friends President and avid promoter for Book Ends. Ron was born in Bell County but his family moved to Waco when he was 4 years old when his father went to work for the Soil Conservation Service. He attended the LaVega Schools in Bellmead all the way through his senior year when his father changed jobs to Fort Hood and his family moved to Temple. A good friend’s family, however, invited Ron to stay with them for the rest of his senior year so he could graduate with his class. After graduation, Ron attended Temple Junior College on a track scholarship, lived in Austin near a friend for a few months, then attended North Texas University when the funds were available. While waiting for his basic training with the National Guard, he not only met Jeanie, his wife-to-be, but found a job surveying parks and roads for Stillhouse Hollow Lake. Soon his 6 months basic training came up and for the next 6 years he had civilian status National Guard duty. In 1967 Ron began a 20-year surveying career, first with Fred Williamson and Associates in Temple and later, with his own and other firms. In 1982 he joined the Army Corp of Engineers Survey Section working with the lakes of Central Texas. Then in 1985, he began a 30-year career as a Civil Engineer Technician, eventually Manager, overseeing the contracts administration at 6 of the area lakes, finally retiring in 2012. On May 31, 1968, Ron married the love of his life, Jeanie. “The best thing that ever happened to me,” he says with a smile. They have a son and two daughters who have blessed them with seven grandchildren, ages 9 through 15, all living in the Austin area, so they are fortunate to get to spend time with them often. When asked about his childhood library memories, he was quick to talk about the day in 4th grade when the whole class was taken to the school library and given the entire class period to explore. He says that day began his true love of books. He even remembers a particular book that made a lasting impression upon him, Big Red by Jim Kjelgaard, a lovely story about an Irish setter. He is an eclectic reader now but leans toward biographical history and Texas themed fiction. He actually reads 3 books at once – but was assured that he is not the only avid reader who does that! The Friends of the Salado Public Library would like to thank Judith and Ron for the time and effort they spend in Book Ends. They are truly appreciated!
The Friends of The Salado Public Library Board welcomes Kristen Young as Outreach and Communications Chair. Kristen comes to us originally from Boon, Michigan, a very small town upstate in the middle of the Manistee National Forest.

She grew up with a brother, a sister and “lots of cousins”, riding bikes, swimming in the area lakes, and helping on her uncle’s dairy farm during the nice weather but staying indoors during the harsh Michigan winters.

Joining the US Army at age 18, Kristen’s first and only duty station was Fort Hood. She served 4 years active duty and ran the casualty reporting office for the First Cavalry Division when they were deployed. She then served 4 years reserve as a human resources officer.

Kristen met her now husband, Jeramey Young, on a camping trip in San Angelo shortly after arriving at Fort Hood. They were married about a year later.

After her discharge from the Army, Kristen attended Texas A&M for a few years studying education but, like many of us, determined that teaching was not her field and concentrated her time and energy on her growing family: Rylee, now age 15, Hayden, age 9, and Annika, age 6. They settled in Salado in 2006. All three girls keep Kristen busy with their school activities, mainly soccer, basketball, and track. Jeramey oversees irrigation accounts for Green Solutions.

Kristen also has her own business, Kristen Young Designs, creating insulated backflow covers for your home.

Kristen has fond memories of libraries growing up since she was homeschooled. Her mother would take the kids to the library in Cadillac, Michigan, where they would often spend the whole day. She recalls that she and her sister would bring home whole piles of chapter books and they would devour them before their next trip back to the library. Public libraries continue to be valuable resources for homeschooling families.

Kristen mainly listens to audio books now and enjoys post-apocalyptic, dystopian, and historical fiction. Thank you, Kristen, for joining our board and for your hard work on our Friend’s newsletter and other outreach projects!
Adult Arts and Crafts

6-April Craft is Eve Fitch - we made Easter and Birthday gift bags, package tags and more. Eve sells her greeting cards at Uniquely Salado.

4-May-Artist Laylee Muslovski - taught us new techniques in watercolor painting. Laylee specializes in unique watercolor paintings of pets. Laylee taught a class last year where we painted carrots.

1-June- Crafter Krista Dobbins will be showing us how to make a 4th of July wreath for our front doors. Krista sells her beautiful wreaths at Arts and Craft Fairs in Central TX. She instructed 2 classes last year where, at one we made angels and another on how to make bows for Christmas package decorating.

6-July- Local Artist Marie Hossfeld will hold an acrylic painting class. Marie also sells her work at Uniquely Salado.

3-August- Local Artist Donna Lemons-Owen will show us her technique using watercolors.