

December 2016 eNewsletter | Volume 3, Issue 12



Winter Wonderland at Phoenix Public Library

Oh, the weather outside is... WONDERFUL!

Fun for the whole family awaits at our Phoenix Public Library locations. Find something for everyone with our [winter-themed programs and events](#).

Join us for pajama parties, crafts, culinary programs, musical performances and more when you celebrate the holiday season with Phoenix Public Library.



Discover the Best of 2016

Wondering what you missed in books, movies, and music this year? Need a gift idea? Filling in your To Be Read list for 2017? We have got you covered. Take the guesswork out of identifying this year's top titles and enjoy some of the greatest entertainment to come out of 2016.

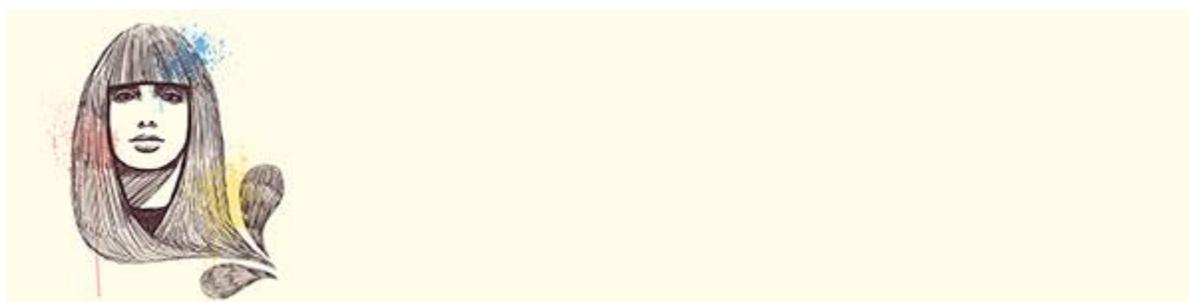
[Check out this year's Best of 2016 lists.](#)



eResource Feature: Pronunciator

Yearning to learn a new language? Phoenix Public Library's new language learning tool is **Pronunciator**. With Pronunciator, you can learn any language, in virtually any other language. Plus, ESL for speakers of 51 non-English languages is also included.

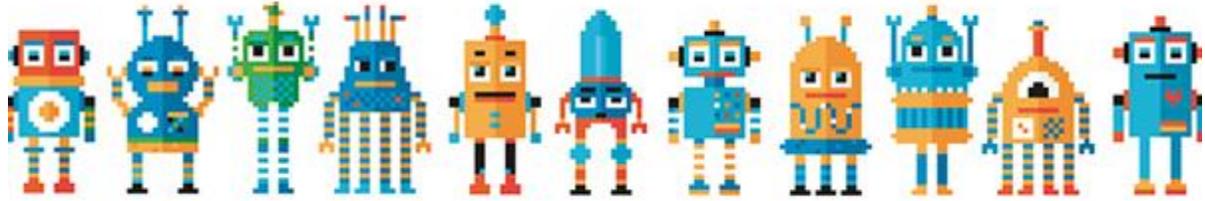
Each language course has on average 9,600 instructional phrases, and about 4 years of activities. Many languages also have live teachers. Start using Pronunciator today to learn one of 80 languages for free with your Phoenix Public Library card. Pronunciator can be used on your smartphone, tablet or computer. Users have access to live courses, self-paced learning modules, special interest modules, citizenship preparation and more. [Get started with Pronunciator](#).



I Am Cesar Chavez: Submit Your Self-Portrait

Be a part of the Cesar Chavez Library 10th anniversary celebration by creating a self-portrait for use in a community art installation. Select from your favorite medium: watercolors, collage, crayons, pencils, pastels, oil paint, photography, or digital art, to name a few. Return your portrait and completed submission form to [Cesar Chavez Library](#) by January 15, 2017. Submission from artists at all levels are welcome.

Entries will be entered into a drawing to win prizes. Prizes will be awarded at the anniversary celebration on Saturday, January 28, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. by the guest of honor, Paul Chavez, President of the Cesar Chavez Foundation.



Join us at Roboception

Tuesday, December 6

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

[Burton Barr Central Library](#)

Join us for an exciting, fun-filled night of robotics! Visit with robotics teams from across the Valley as they show off their innovative competition robots. Awesome door prizes will be raffled throughout the program! All ages are encouraged to attend [Roboception](#).



AARP Life Reimagined Workshops

The life you've dreamed of is closer than you think. AARP's "Life Reimagined" workshop points you in the right direction with small, simple steps that lead to exciting new possibilities in your work, relationships and overall well-being. During this two-hour workshop, you will learn strategies that empower you to set and meet your own expectations and how to construct the life plan that works for you. Come connect with others who have taken similar paths!

[Find and register for](#) an AARP Life Reimagined Workshop at a Phoenix Public Library location near you.

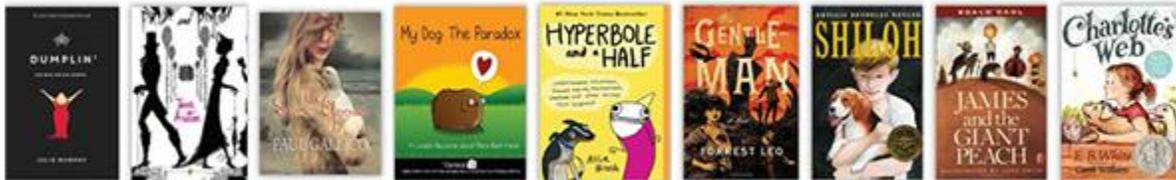


Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Library Closures

All Phoenix Public Library locations will be closed on the following dates:

- Friday, December 2 for Staff Development Day
([South Mountain Community Library](#) will remain open to the public)
- Sunday, December 25 for Christmas Day
- Monday, December 26 for Christmas Day (Observed)
- Sunday, January 1 for New Year's Day
- Monday, January 2 for New Year's Day (Observed)

[View the website](#) for more library closures.



Collection Development: Feel Good Fiction

This month's picks from Collection Development are all about fun, funny or just plain ol' feeling good. Some of these titles will give you a good laugh and some are about friendships that are warm and fuzzy. Enjoy!

[Dumplin'](#) by Julie Murphy is about a plus-sized teen girl who decides to run for her town's beauty queen pageant. It celebrates small town Texas life and features realistic characters. This book is funny, joyful and deals with very real issues around body image. It appeals not just to teens, but to the women and men who care for them, as well.

Sometimes one just needs to read a guaranteed "feel good" masterpiece. I recommend [Pride and Prejudice](#) by Jane Austen. Mrs. Bennet is desperate to find husbands for her five daughters because, without husbands, they will be poor and unprotected after their father dies. Sounds like a bummer, I know, but Austen's language and light touch has created a compelling and delightful tale.

Finally, I want to highlight two small books that were written over sixty years ago but are still in print. Both are by Paul Gallico. [Snow Goose](#) features a young girl and the recluse lighthouse keeper to whom she brings a wounded goose. The development of the friendship between these two unlikely people is beautiful. [Coronation](#), written at the time of the present queen's formal investiture, features

a working class family who give up their precious two week's holiday funds in order to go to London for this historical event. Facing a day of disappointments, they find joy and unlikely comradeship that redefines how they will forever remember that remarkable occasion.

– Kathleen Sullivan

I actually struggled a bit with this topic, as I read mostly non-fiction and the fiction I do read usually isn't fun. What can I say? I'm a downer. My recommendations are fun and fictional, but are not novels.

I am big fan of animals, but dogs in particular. And as a dog owner, I completely relate to Matthew Inman's [*My Dog: The Paradox*](#). If you're not familiar with Inman, he is better known as the creator of [*The Oatmeal*](#), an Eisner award winning website specializing in comics for adults. This title, as well as others by Inman, is available in print and in [eBook format](#) in the [Great Phoenix Digital Library](#).

Another comic website that I've read regularly and enjoyed in book format is Allie Brosh's [*Hyperbole and a Half*](#), a biographical set of comics about her experiences growing up and living with depression. But it's funny, I swear! My favorite chapter is "This Is Why I'll Never Be an Adult." *Hyperbole and a Half* is available in print and [eBook format](#) in the [Great Phoenix Digital Library](#).

– Jeriann Thacker

[*The Gentleman*](#) by Forrest Leo is my choice for a fun read. Its blurb describes it as a cross between P. G. Wodehouse and Monty Python. I'd go for Oscar Wilde rather than Monty, but you get the point.

Lionel Savage, popular yet penniless Victorian poet, marries the beautiful Vivien Lancaster for her money. When he discovers that his muse has abandoned him and he doesn't love his wife, he accidentally conjures the Devil who appears at a party thrown by Lionel's wife. The two hit it off quite well and Lionel lends him a volume of Tennyson. But when the party's over and Vivien has disappeared, Lionel concludes that he must have inadvertently sold his wife to the Devil. Hilarity ensues when Simmons, the butler; Lizzie, Lionel's little sister (sent home from school for a "dalliance"); Ashley Lancaster, Vivien's Manly and Adventurous brother; Tompkins the bookseller; Will Kensington the inventor and Lionel mount a rescue mission to hell. Except they don't really know where it is. Funny, funny stuff. Available in print and [eAudio through One Click Digital](#).

– Elsa Black

I think the books which put me in a good mood are those about enduring or unexpected friendships. The relationships in these three books show that friendship happens when we least expect it, but probably most need a friend. All three titles are available in multiple formats including eBook, print, and spoken word.

[Shiloh](#) by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor follows the tradition of boy-and-his-dog stories. What would you do if you fell in love with a dog who is not yours, but to return him would bring certain abuse to your friend? Such is the dilemma of young Marty and the lesson in friendship and doing the right thing is a strong one.

[James and the Giant Peach](#) by Roald Dahl is full of fanciful but very believable characters. James' garden bug friends include the boisterous rascal Centipede, the paternal Old Green Grasshopper, and good-natured Miss Spider. These friends and more accompany James on a wild adventure, teaching him about life along the way.

[Charlotte's Web](#) by E.B. White is the classic tale of friendship between a pig and a spider. But it is more than that – other friendships are portrayed – and one can see the difference between a friendship that is only superficial, and a relationship among friends that goes beyond life and death.

– Linda Kiecker



[Phoenix Public Library](#) is a system of 16 branch libraries and Burton Barr Central Library. Keep up with all the news. Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/phxlibrary, follow us on Instagram at instagram.com/phoenixpubliclibrary and “like us” on Facebook at facebook.com/phoenixpubliclibrary.