All Fines Forgiven…for You!

We are proud to announce that Phoenix Public Library’s All Fines Forgiven program is now fully implemented! As of Monday, November 18, 2019 all existing overdue fines on customer accounts were waived and we have discontinued the practice of applying overdue fines to items returned late.

Initial reports show that of the customers with overdue fines, approximately 60,000 Phoenix Public Library cards were blocked and are now unblocked and good to use again.

One customer from Mesquite Library and her children recently brought back 8 books that were roughly 4 years overdue. She and her children stayed away because of the large amount of fines owed on the mother’s card. The kids were so excited at the thought of returning to the library that they could hardly sit still!

If you still have overdue materials, just bring them back to any one of our 17 locations. We are here for you.
Phoenix Public Library is a Winter Wonderland!

Get in the spirit of the season! Join us at one of many wintry-themed events at Phoenix Public Library this December.

From magical rides on The Polar Express to musical performances and gift wrapping programs, [find an event that's right for you and your family.](#)

We welcome you warmly at Phoenix Public Library this December and always!

Voices: Friendship

Communities are comprised of a diversity of experiences and perspectives and the voices that emerge from those experiences and perspectives. We believe that these voices make for a richer, more meaningful experience for all.

Join Phoenix Public Library in enjoying and learning from the many voices of our community through monthly themes meant to educate, entertain and inspire.

In December we celebrate the practice of friendship and honor the relationships we build with our chosen family.

[Visit the library website in early December](#) for resources, books, and films that friendship.
Just Read: Folklore

We at Phoenix Public Library want you to maintain your goal to read for leisure and/or reading for self-education. Just Read is a come-as-you-are, read-what-you-like online book club and so much more!

Each month, we will announce a book club genre or theme on our website. Read what you like within this genre or theme. Participate throughout the month by posting on social media, tagging Phoenix Public Library and #justreadppl to share, discuss and recommend your book choice. Or, follow along on your own without posting on social media – it’s all good! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube or visit our website for more about the Just Read online book club.

December’s theme is Folklore

A civilization’s culture relies on a history of oral and written tradition that keeps its stories and its beliefs thriving and intact. Folklore is a group’s shared character and symbolic framework that can be found in literature, music, art, and more. It can be the basis of identify for those that seek to purposefully celebrate it and, yet, it is also simply ingrained in the everyday.

This month, we honor the authentic stories and sentiments that tie together the many cultures to which we belong. We examine our common human threads and share our unique perspectives with one another.

Need some ideas? Visit our website in early December to browse a selection of folklore in a variety of formats and for all ages. Read something that celebrates your personal culture or gain a new perspective on this great big world we share.

Share what you’re reading with us! Tag us on social media with #justreadppl
Calling All Young Artists!
Enter Palo Verde Library’s Celebrate Black Voices Art Contest

Palo Verde Library is hosting an art contest to celebrate Black History Month. Selected entries will be featured on Phoenix Public Library’s website and social media.

The details:

- Young artists are invited to draw an important person or event celebrating black voices.
- Artists in grades K-12 may enter.
- Each artist may enter one drawing.
- Illustrations can be in any medium: crayon, marker, colored pencil, watercolor, etc.
- Artworks should be no larger than 11"x17" on white paper. No lined or colored paper.
- Entries may be submitted to: Palo Verde Library
  4402 N. 51st. Ave.
- Each submission must be accompanied by a submission form.

Entry deadline is 8 p.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2020.

College-bound? RSVP for College Goal FAFSA!

College Goal FAFSA

Friday, December 27 from 1 to 4 p.m.
Burton Barr Central Library

The application for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2020-2021 academic year opened on October 1, 2019!

Drop in to receive FREE individualized assistance with the application process at College Depot at our family-friendly FAFSA event!
College Goal FAFSA is a statewide initiative that provides free information and professional assistance to help students and families complete the FAFSA. Registration is not required, however, you can RSVP to receive a reminder email and/or text for the event. Spanish interpreters available. Interpretes disponibles en español.

**Know What to Bring**
Your 2018 income tax returns, W-2s and other records of money earned
Your Social Security Number or Alien Registration Number
Request your FSA ID
Learn more.

*College Depot* also offers individual appointments. Call 602-261-8847 for availability.

**Celebrate Little Women at the Library**
In anticipation of the latest cinematic interpretation of Louisa May Alcott’s classic book *Little Women,* join us for a Little Women program celebrating the book, its characters, and its lasting legacy.

**Little Women Night**
**Tuesday, December 3 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.**
**Burton Barr Central Library**

Join us for an event inspired by Louisa May Alcott’s classic *Little Women.* Activities will include games, crafts, and stories inspired by the March sisters – Amy, Jo, Beth, and Meg. Themes will include sisterhood, historical fiction, and fashion. All ages.

**Little Women & Little Men**
**Sunday, December 8 from 3 to 4 p.m.**
**Cholla Library**

Enjoy activities these book characters could have participated in during the Civil War era.

**Cross Stitch for Everyone!**
**Saturday, December 14 from 10 a.m. to noon**
**Ironwood Library**

In anticipation of the latest cinematic interpretation of Louisa May Alcott’s classic book *Little Women,* join us for a beginner’s introduction to a sewing craft the civil war era characters may have practiced: cross stitching! Crafters ages 6 - 600 will stitch their
own small hanging needlework piece, with step-by-step instructions by staff and supplies provided by the Friends of the Phoenix Public Library Ironwood Chapter.

**Featured eResource: Flipster**

Flipster is an easy to use, online newsstand. Access Flipster's library of popular magazine titles from any computer, laptop, or mobile device that is connected to the internet and click on a magazine to view it immediately within your browser. Users have access to a variety of popular titles.

Access [Flipster](#) any time with your [Phoenix Public Library card](#).

**Collection Development: Friendship**

How do you define friendship?

A quick internet search can result in quotes from Winnie the Pooh, Socrates and Alice Walker. A thesaurus offers words such as “companionship,” “solidarity” and “harmony.” While a single definition may be difficult to pin down, tales of true friendship abound in literature and movies.

The Collection Development Department shares some of these titles.

Sometimes, if you are lucky, your best friend will be someone in your family.

This month, there will be another movie released, based on Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. While all of the former film representations made have value, none of them can match the nuanced and oh-so-very-real relationships as those in the original novel. Sisters are both best friends and, at times, best enemies. As they grow from young girls to women, each sister grows in different ways. How the sisters find a way, sometimes reluctantly, to embrace these changes is the focus of this novel.

In *When Women Were Birds*, Terry Tempest Williams has written a short memoir which is the best book I read this year. It has pride of place alongside Anne Morrow Lindbergh’s *Gift from the Sea* as one of my favorite books ever. I particularly treasure her friendships with her Mormon women ancestors- her mother and maternal grandmother. These women, through their examples and enigmas, helped Terry to find her voice both as a writer and a woman.

- **Recommended by Kathleen Sullivan**

Could I **BE** any more excited to share my favorite books about friendship? Friends are the family we choose and are there for you through the peaks and valleys of life. They stick by you,
even when you’re on a break; they always ask you how you doin’? and they even lend a compassionate ear when everything you say is basically a moo point.

Here are some of the books that I know that you know that you’ll love:

*I’ll Be There for You* by Kelsey Miller and *Generation Friends* by Saul Austerlitz

So, I’m going to throw you a curve ball here: I love the TV show *Friends*. You’re shocked, right? Most people are. Ever heard of it? It’s a nice little sitcom that premiered in 1994 and since then, it’s been a bit of a sleeper. But, I am here to let you in on the secret – it’s a great show. (Wink wink). *Friends* is the ultimate show about friendship. To celebrate the 25-year anniversary of the pilot, these two books both share a delightful sneak peek into how the show was made, how it has continued to be an extremely popular sitcom in syndication and how, after Netflix acquired it, it continues to garner new fans from every generation.

*PIVOT!*

*My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante

I’m shifting from fun and light friendships to more heavy and affecting friendships. Elena Ferrante’s entire Neopolitan Quartet is a fantastic saga of two friends as they grow up in Naples, Italy. The main characters Lenu and Lila meet when they are in elementary school and this first novel brings them to the brink of adulthood. I recommend sticking with Lenu and Lila through all four books. This is the type of series that is hard to put down and makes you think about the depth of female friendships long after the last page. The other titles, in order, are: *The Story of a New Name; Those Who Leave and Those Who Stay*; and *The Story of the Lost Child*. All four titles are also available as eBook via *Hoopla* and eAudio and eBook via *The Greater Phoenix Digital Library*.

*PIVOT!*

*Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers* by Celia C. Perez

For the younger set – this middle grade novel looks like the perfect book about sisterhood, friendship and strength in community. Four girls get together to form an alternative scout group in response to the Floras, a scout group with an outdated tradition. This one is packed with activism, advocacy and lots of fun. I haven’t read it yet, but it looks inspiring. I have this one at the top of my to-read list.

- Recommended by Jacqui Higgins-Dailey

There are a lot of great comedies out there about friendship. A classic that never gets old for me is *I Love You, Man*. This movie has a great cast, including Paul Rudd and Rashida Jones. It’s about a guy who gets engaged and realizes he doesn’t have any close male friends to be his best man. So, he schedules a series of hilarious “man dates” in hopes of finding a suitable candidate. He does hit it off with Sydney Fife (Jason Segel) and the two become close very quickly. This movie is funny and heartwarming! Plus, it makes me laugh every time I watch it.
A couple of recent movies about friendship that are on my To-Watch List are *Girls Trip* and *Booksmart*. Both deal with girlfriends just trying to have some fun. I’ve heard *Girls Trip* has a lot of laughs but also read it described thusly: “The film, in both explicit and implicit ways, is a necessary celebration of women as partners and not competitors.” Add an all star cast into the mix and I’m sold! *Booksmart* is about two high school best friends who have played by the rules all throughout high school who suddenly realize they should have worked less and played more. So, they decide to try to cram four years of fun into one night. What a relatable plot!

- **Recommended by Danielle Stanley**

Sometimes friendships are made despite difficult times and between the unlikeliest of people.

As the title suggests, *The Banker and the Blackfoot: An Untold Story of Friendship, Trust and Broken Promises in the Old West* chronicles the lifelong bond between two horsemen. The banker is Jack Cowdrey, rancher, banker and eventual mayor of Fort MacLeod. Crop Eared Wolf is the Blackfoot warrior and chief. The backdrop is western Canada in the late 1880s-1910s where hunting grounds become farms and ranches through broken treaties and promises.

Skipping forward a century is another true account of a friendship between warring enemies. Meredith May, award winning journalist, helps Zahed Haftlang and Najah Aboud tell their stories: a brutal childhood in Iran, a prosperous existence in Iraq, during the Iran/Iraq war. A child soldier saves the life of his enemy on the battlefield, the two never expecting to meet again. With fighting and conflict as the setting, texts about war can be difficult to read, and *I, Who Did Not Die: A Sweeping Story of Loss, Redemption, and Fate* is no exception.

If friendship is based on common language, culture, age, and nationality, then the bonds described in these two titles should not have been created, much less lasted. Yet they did. Both titles are reminders that the differences which divide can be overcome by the friendship which unites.

- **Recommended by Linda Kiecker**
Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Library Closures

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

- **Friday, December 6** for Staff Development Day
- **Wednesday, December 25** in observance of Christmas
- **Wednesday, January 1** in observance of New Year’s Day

All Phoenix Public Library locations will be open special hours the following dates:

- **Tuesday, December 24** – open from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- **Tuesday, December 31** – open from 9 a.m to 5 p.m.

View the website for all upcoming library closures.

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.