



July 2017 eNewsletter | Volume 4, Issue 7



It's Summer! Keep on Reading!

Now through August 1

Don't think of the summer reading program as half over. Think of all the time you have left to read, log points, and earn prizes! It's easy to get your 1,000 points, earn prizes (free books, Chipotle coupons and more!) and win the game! You can do it!

[Log in or sign up now](#) and learn about [the many programs we have going on at your library this summer](#) to have cool, free fun and earn extra points!

Summer reading is for all ages! Challenge your friends and family to read with you!

Psst...When logging your reading points, enter code **IThINKICAN** for a boost in points!

Attention families of super readers!

Is your kid a big fan of reading? [Learn how](#) your child can share his/her reading picks with other kids and get their very own page on the Phoenix Public Library website. Share the reading love!





Voices: Families

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 July, we celebrate the voices of families of all kinds. Fictional families, real families, your family. Learn how your library's resources can celebrate the people we call our own.

[Visit our website](#) and click on the Voices ad after July 1 for more.



Just Read: History

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.

July's theme is History

What is something you're interested in? Art? Politics? Language? Classic cars? Genealogy? This month, we encourage you to read a history book – for fun! The library's collection has a wide spectrum of history books on a variety of topics. What are you curious to learn about?

Visit the [Just Read page](#) beginning July 1 for a selection of history books from the broadest in scope to the most specific in nature. Learn about the past to better understand the future.



This Weekend: Join us for a Frida Kahlo Birthday Celebration!

Sunday, July 2, 2017

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

[Burton Barr Central Library](#)

In partnership with the Phoenix Fridas Art Collective, we invite you to a [birthday celebration](#) honoring the artist Frida Kahlo. The first 10 attendees dressed like Frida will receive a free swag bag of craft items donated by members of the Phoenix Fridas. Bring your family and browse the Mercado for unique, handcrafted merchandise, snap a photo with a Frida-inspired backdrop, and listen to stories about Frida Kahlo's life. The little ones can make their own flower headbands, play a fun bilingual word match game and color a special Frida coloring sheet.



Celebrate 20 Years of Desert Sage Library!

Saturday, July 22, 2017

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

[Desert Sage Library](#)

Join City Librarian, Rita Hamilton, and community leaders for a celebration of Desert Sage Library's past, present and future.

Phoenix Poet Laureate, Rosemarie Dombrowski will be presenting a special poem to commemorate the 20th anniversary.

Festivities will include face painting for children, crafts and pictures with various costume characters. Light refreshments will be served. Fun for the whole family!

Supported in part by the Friends of the Phoenix Public Library – Desert Sage Branch.

Check the [online calendar](#) for event details.



Get on the Bandwagon with CodePHX

Have you heard? Join Phoenix Public Library and City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation in an exciting new project that will introduce tomorrow's leaders to the fundamentals of computer coding. This summer, kids have begun learning a number of coding skills at programs across the City, including:

Little Bytes

Ages 4-7

Think your kids are too young to learn to code? Think again! Did you know that children can learn the foundations of coding and computer commands before they can write or spell? Simple Logic and Sequencing can be taught to children as young as 4, preparing them for more advanced knowledge at an earlier age. Join us for fun activities, apps and games to teach your child the fundamentals of the coding language.

Coder Dojo

Ages 8-17

What do video games, robots and self-driving cars have in common? Code! You can become a coding master in this fun interactive program. Join us to learn with Code.org, Kodable, Scratch, Tynker, HTML and more as you expand your coding genius. Beginners welcome.

[Find a CodePHX program near you!](#)



From Collection Development: The Family

There are many kinds of families and I know, for those of us with lots of siblings, often our brothers and/or sisters can have a major impact on our view of families. I am, therefore, recommending the following titles. If you haven't already read them, or read them so long ago that they will seem new, check them out.

[Little Women](#) by Louisa May Alcott. Four sisters find conflict, comfort and support from each other as they grow from young teens to adults. Be sure to read the unabridged version! Available in print and [eBook](#), as well as eAudiobook on [OverDrive](#) or [hoopla](#).

[The Glass Castle](#) by Jeannette Walls is a life-affirming memoir of a resiliency of siblings as they support each other because their parents are too alcoholic and/or free-spirited to take care of them. Sounds grim, but it isn't. Available in eBook and audiobook on multiple library platforms.

– Kathleen Sullivan

*“Family is family, in church or in prison
You get what you get, and you don't get to pick 'em
They might smoke like chimneys, but give you their kidneys
Yeah, friends come in handy, but family is family.”*

So goes the chorus to the funny and poignant song “Family is Family” on Kacey Musgraves’ album [Pageant Material](#). Even if country music isn’t your favorite (it’s not mine), you might like this album. I saw her on Austin City Limits and was immediately sucked in. Musgraves has a great voice and the songcraft is top notch. Available on [CD](#) and to stream on [hoopla](#).

Speaking of families, funny and poignant, I LOVED the graphic novel [Can’t we talk about something more pleasant? a memoir](#), by Roz Chast, in which she documents her parents’ final years. This book had me alternating between laughing and crying more than any other book in recent memory. Check out the Graphic Novel in [print](#) or on [OverDrive](#).

– Danielle Stanley

Families through the eyes of a children’s series and manga.

As I scoured my Goodreads list for anything about families, I discovered that I haven’t read a book that’s specifically about one in, oh, at least ten years. So I scoured the list more closely and came up with these titles in which the family is important and influential even though the book is not about them particularly. The [Flavia de Luce](#) series by Alan Bradley, has Flavia, a 12-year-old sleuth, who lives with her family in the decaying heap of their stately home in 1950s England. Her father, the Colonel, has severe PTSD from his sojourn in WWII and is still grieving his lost wife. Flavia’s two sisters are complete pieces of work (their names are Daffy and Feely, short for Daphne and Ophelia), Dogger, the Colonel’s former Sergeant, and Mrs. Mullet the housekeeper. This family circles around Flavia and fills much of her world, but doesn’t really get too much in the way of her freedom to solve murders. A wonderful series of books available in multiple formats including spoken word, large print, and eBook.

One only needs to look at manga to get the full spectrum of completely dysfunctional families. One of my favorites is the Tendo family in [Ranma ½](#) by Rumiko Takahashi. Ayane is the youngest daughter of the family who live in the dojo run by her father. Her two older sisters also live there along with Ranma and his father. Ranma is Ayane’s fiancé due to an arrangement between the fathers. Ranma is cursed to turn into a girl whenever he is splashed by cold water and turns back into a boy when it’s hot water. His father turns into a panda and back into a man under the same conditions. Hilarity ensues with Ranma and his father trying to break their curse and placate the Tendo family all while trying to hide the curse from the outside world. Very fun.

– Elsa Black

Fairy tales and modern tales, movies and television, songs and poems, traditional and modern, small and multi-generational – stories about families abound. As a different take, I’d like to suggest books about activities which can be done as a family, no matter how you define “family.”

[Catch a Fish, Throw a Ball, Fly a Kite: 21 timeless skills every child should know \(and any parent can teach\)](#) – When I first came across this book, I thought of it as a checklist of activities which I must teach my children before they leave the house. Build a tower of blocks; climb a tree;

these are not some of the 21 skills listed, but they could be, because Jeffrey Lee's book is not so much about mastering essential childhood skills but learning together through the attempt. And who is doing the learning? That's the beauty of this book. It is a gentle reminder that doing things together as a family is an essential part of growing up.

[***The Parent's Guide to Storytelling: How to make up new stories and retell old favorites***](#) – As the library is in the middle of the [summer reading program](#), here's a plug for something a little different. Become a storyteller. Being able to weave a plot, develop characters and capture an audience is a wonderful talent, and I appreciate those who do it well. But really, "anyone can do it", and Margaret Read MacDonald gives us the tools.

[***Muddy Boots: Outdoor Activities for Children***](#) by Liza Gardner Walsh – Like the first two recommendations, this title is not rocket science. The activities include making mud pies, stick forts, and sun clocks. However, the focus is on kids and families who want to explore the outdoors and grandparents who long for their grandchildren to have the same feeling of freedom in nature as they did once upon a time.

– Linda Kiecker



Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Library Closures

All Phoenix Public Library locations will be closed **Tuesday, July 4** in observance of Independence Day.

[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](#).