

# PhoenixPublicLibrary eNEWSLETTER

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Welcome to this month's edition of Phoenix Public Library's e-newsletter! At [Phoenix Public Library](#), we empower our community with resources and opportunities to inspire and enrich lives. Each month, we share stories, programs, and updates that reflect our core values of adaptability, inclusion, integrity, kindness, and making a difference. We're glad you're here—let's explore what's happening this month at the library.

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## Happy Holidays from Phoenix Public Library!

Celebrate the season with all the joy, discovery, and free fun your library has to offer.

Enjoy free movies with [Kanopy](#), whip up festive meals with [AtoZ World Food](#), and curl up with a great winter read—all with your library card.

This season, skip the stress, save money, and enrich your days with everything your library offers—all year long. Happy Holidays from all of us at [Phoenix Public Library!](#)



## All Aboard the Holiday Express

Get into the holiday spirit at [South Mountain Community Library](#) on **Thursday, December 4, 2025, from 5:30–6:30 p.m.** at our [Holiday Express Program](#). Join us for a cozy storytime, explore festive activity stations, and meet a very special guest who's stopping by just for the occasion. Pajamas are encouraged—feel free to come comfy! Bring the whole family and join us for a magical holiday adventure at the library!



## Call for Art: Celebrate Black Voices 2026

Young artists, we want to see your creativity shine! [Phoenix Public Library](#) will begin accepting submissions for our [2026 Celebrate Black Voices Virtual Art Exhibit](#) **Dec. 1 - Jan. 9**. Students in grades K–12 are invited to create a drawing, painting, or mixed-media piece that highlights an influential person or meaningful moment in Black history or culture.

Choose someone or something that inspires you—whether it's a historical figure you learned about in school, a story from a book, or a cultural moment that feels important to you. Be bold, be creative, and make it your own!

**Selected artwork** will be showcased in a virtual gallery on our website from February through December 2026 and featured on social media during Black History Month.

### Submission Highlights:

- Open to artists **K–12**
- One artwork per student
- Any medium welcome (crayon, paint, collage, etc.)
- Must be on **white paper**, up to 11" x 17"
- Include a completed submission form
- Submit in person at any library location or by email to [socialmedialibrary@phoenix.gov](mailto:socialmedialibrary@phoenix.gov)

Find full details and submission forms at [phoenixpubliclibrary.org](http://phoenixpubliclibrary.org).

Let your imagination celebrate Black stories, history, and culture!

## Get Ready for 2026 Kindergarten Bootcamp Programs

Have a child entering kindergarten in **Fall 2026**? Our 7-week [Kindergarten Bootcamp](#) series helps families get ready for school with fun, hands-on activities that build social, academic, and classroom skills. Families learn together each week and receive free tools and activities to support learning at home. [Registration is required](#) and families commit to attending all 7 weeks. Please note that this program is **only** for children entering kindergarten in Fall 2026.

## North Valley Symphony Winter Performances

Celebrate the season with our [North Valley Symphony Orchestra Winter Performances!](#) Join us as a talented trio from the [North Valley Symphony Orchestra](#) fills the library with festive winter melodies. All ages are welcome to enjoy these free performances.

- [Century Library](#)  
Friday, December 5, 2025  
3:00–4:00 p.m.
- [Mesquite Library](#)  
Saturday, December 6, 2025  
2:00–3:00 p.m.
- [Saguaro Library](#)  
Saturday, December 20, 2025  
11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Come enjoy a moment of musical magic this winter!



## December Author Talk with Sue Hincenbergs

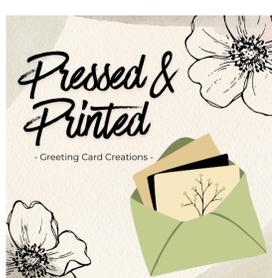
Join us virtually on **Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 12:00 PM MST** for an [online author talk with Sue Hincenbergs](#), debut author of *The Retirement Plan* and award-winning television producer. Dive into this darkly funny novel about three best friends who hatch a diabolical plan involving life insurance, a hitman, and their dreams of the perfect retirement—where murder might just be the name of the game. [Learn more and register to attend.](#)

## Pressed & Printed: Greeting Card Creations

Join us for a cozy [winter card-making session!](#) Try our new tabletop printing presses, choose from festive designs, and create your own unique greeting card using specialty papers and decorations.

No registration required. Seating and supplies are limited—please arrive on time. Meet in the **Lecture Room, 4th Floor** at [Burton Barr Central Library](#).

- **Friday, December 5, 2025** from 3 – 4:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, December 13, 2025** from 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.



## Book Look: New & Notable Picks

Discover standout titles curated by our Collection Services team—these popular picks are in high demand, so be sure to place a hold today!

<p><b>Cursed Daughters</b> by Oyinbank Braithwaite "A sweeping, sobering take on romantic fatalism... Our three female protagonists are rich, full characters navigating love, family, and freedom from the curse." —The New York Times</p>	<p><b>Don't Eat Fustace</b> by Lian Cho "When cuddly lighthouse keeper Bear reels in a discarded sail, they inadvertently rescue a fish... with a hilarious page turn." —Booklist (starred review)</p>	<p><b>Some Bright Nowhere</b> by Ann Packer "Packer's gorgeous, deeply involving novel is a suspenseful and radiant reckoning with love, sorrow, and the everlasting mystery of death." —Booklist</p>	<p><b>Sole Survivor</b> by Norman Olestad "This riveting middle grade memoir recounts Olestad's survival of a plane crash... A gripping story of resilience, self-discovery, and family." —School Library Journal</p>	<p><b>Kissing Girls on Shabbat</b> by Sara Glass "Written with astonishing empathy... Few readers will be unmoved by the depth of her struggle and her strength of her resistance." —Publishers Weekly</p>	<p><b>The Polar Bear and the Ballerina</b> by Eric Velasquez "A lushly rendered wordless picture book... Thickly stroked art evokes a strong sense of place with recognizable landmarks and comically melodramatic bystanders." —Publishers Weekly</p>
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## Don't let FOG Ruin Your Holiday Cheer

While planning holiday meals, don't forget to keep Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) out of the sink. FOG can clog your drain and our sewer system. That's over 5,000 miles of pipes! And if wastewater can't properly flow to a treatment plant, it'll come back up — through your drains or a City manhole. Pro tip: pour grease into a container before putting it in the trash. Find more helpful holiday tips at [Phoenix.gov/FOG](http://Phoenix.gov/FOG).

## Attend the S'edav Va'aki Museum Indian Market

S'edav Va'aki Museum is hosting its [48th Annual Indian Market](#) on **Saturday, Dec. 13 and Sunday, Dec. 14** from 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Attendees will be able to learn about Native American culture, enjoy cultural food like fry bread and Navajo tacos, crafts, watch performances, experience art and more. Museum access is also included in admission so guests can enjoy learning about the history of the O'odham people. Learn more: <https://phoenix.gov/svmuseum>



## Fireworks Do's and Don'ts This Holiday Season

As you celebrate this season, the [Phoenix Fire Department](#) encourages everyone to use fireworks safely.

**Know what's legal.** Anything that launches into the air or explodes is *illegal*.

**Dispose of fireworks properly.** Always used fireworks in water for at least 24 hours before throwing them away.

**Keep kids safe.** Never let children handle fireworks. Even sparklers can reach 2,000 degrees and cause serious burns in seconds. Learn more at [phoenix.gov/fire](http://phoenix.gov/fire).



**Staff Development Day/December 12:** On Friday, Dec. 12, for Phoenix Public Library's annual Staff Development Day, all Phoenix Public Library locations and Bookmobile will be closed with the exception of South Mountain Community Library. [South Mountain Community Library](#) will be open with their normal operating hours and all [Phoenix Public Library Book Drops](#), and digital/eLibrary will remain available. Visit [phoenixpubliclibrary.org](http://phoenixpubliclibrary.org) for more details.

**Christmas Holiday/December 24 & 25:** In observance of the Christmas holiday, all Phoenix Public Library locations will be open from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Wednesday December 24 and closed on Thursday, December 25. All Phoenix Public Library book drops, and digital/eResources remain available. Visit [phoenixpubliclibrary.org](http://phoenixpubliclibrary.org) for more details.

Thanks for reading!  
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