PhoenixPublicLibrary

eNEWSLETTER

October 2026 | Volume 13 Issue 10

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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- **Oct 1 -** Cholla Library Returns to Normal Hours of Operation
- **Oct 2 -** Name Our New Library Voting Closes
- **Oct 2 - ReaderReady Roundup**
- **Oct 3 - TeenTober: Phoenix Sister Cities**
- **Oct 3 - Nov 21 - AI in Focus**
- **Oct 6-Nov 6 -** Día de los Muertos Celebration
- **Oct 7** - Fall Literacy Night: Camp Ocotillo
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- **Oct 29** - Harvest Festival

Helpful Links

- Visit Our Website
- Library Locations & Hours
- Event Calendar
- Find the Bookmobile
- Explore Our catalog
- Browse the eLibrary
- Browse Our Book Lists
- Interlibrary Loan
- Author Talks: Livestream Events!
- Renew Your Library Card
- Join Our Team!
- FAQs
- Ask Us!

Acacia Library Historical Status

Designed by Bennie M. Gonzales Associates and opened to the public on January 5, 1969, the 6,600-square-foot Acacia Library received Historic Preservation Overlay status following a unanimous vote by the Phoenix City Council on September 9, 2026.

Phoenix Public Library, the Sunnyslope Historical Society, and Friends of the Phoenix Public Library invite the community to celebrate this historic designation, honor the contributions of master architect Bennie Gonzales, and recognize nearly 60 years of Acacia Library's service to the community.

Acacia Library Historical Preservation Celebration

Saturday, October 24
11 a.m.–noon
Acacia Library

Heat Relief Ends September 30

As our heat relief season comes to a close on **September 30,** effective October 1, 2026, **Cholla Library** will return to normal hours of operation.

M,F,Sat: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
T, W, Th: 9 a.m.–6 p.m.
Sun & holidays: Closed

We welcome you to visit a Phoenix Public Library location during regular operating hours throughout the year to access resources, browse the shelves, refill a water bottle, and more. For additional heat relief tips and resources, please visit the City of Phoenix Heat Safety webpage.

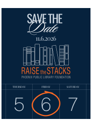
Fall Literacy Night: Camp Ocotillo

Pack your imagination and join us for Camp Ocotillo, a family-friendly fall literacy night at Ocotillo Library. Enjoy camping-themed games, hands-on crafts, and engaging literacy activities designed to make reading an adventure for everyone.

Fall Literacy Night: Camp Ocotillo
October 7
3:30–5 p.m.
Ocotillo Library

You Can Still Cast Your Vote!

Voting is open through October 2, 2026. Don't miss your chance to be part of something special, naming the soon-to-be constructed new Phoenix Public Library! Visit Name Our New Library and have your voice heard.



Get Ready for Raise the Stacks 2026

Established in 1997, the Phoenix Public Library Foundation builds community partnerships and secures resources to support Phoenix Public Library programs serving children, students, and families throughout the city.

The Phoenix Public Library Foundation's annual "Raise the Stacks" fundraiser will take place in person on Friday, November 6, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Burton Barr Central Library's 5th Floor Great Reading Room. Guests will enjoy cocktails, appetizers, and skyline views while learning more about the Foundation's impact.

The evening will include a silent auction, $5 raffle tickets, the signature Book & Bottle Pull, live music by Lunes, and a dessert reception. Registration is now open at RaisetheStacks.org. Join us in supporting the transformative work of Phoenix Public Library. Use code EARLYBIRD for $20 off tickets.

Unable to attend in person? Register for free to participate in the auction from anywhere.

Let Books Be. Protect the Freedom to Read

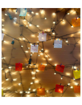
On October 10, join library supporters across the country in celebrating **Let Freedom Read Day** by visiting your favorite library. Stop in to browse the shelves, check out a book, attend a program, use a helpful resource, or simply enjoy the welcoming space your library provides.

Libraries give everyone the freedom to explore new ideas, discover different perspectives, and choose what they want to read. Your visit is a meaningful way to show support for our essential community spaces and the Phoenix Public Library team who help make them accessible to all.

Mark your calendar, invite a friend, and visit your library on October 10. Every visit helps celebrate the freedom to read and strengthens the library community we value. Be sure to get your *"I Read Today"* sticker from a library staff member while you're there.

LET FREEDOM READ DAY

Celebrate Día de los Muertos



Visit Burton Barr Central Library October 6 through November 6, 2nd Floor by the Arizona Room for the annual Día de los Muertos Celebration.

Join us for the 2026 celebration honoring loved ones who have passed. The exhibition will feature community-created *nichos*, *papel picado*, and *ofrendas*. Add a message or photo to the community altar and photo wall, or follow scavenger-hunt clues to displays throughout the library. Prizes will be awarded on the 5th floor.
Día de los Muertos Celebration

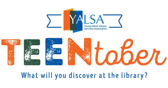
Presence and Other Poems by José Emilio Pacheco

On May 10, 2022, the Cervantes Institute in Chicago inaugurated a library named in honor of the Mexican poet José Emilio Pacheco. In 2001, the Berlin International Literature Festival recognized Pacheco as "one of the most important Latin American poets." To commemorate Pacheco, who received the Cervantes Prize in 2009, the Cervantes Institute commissioned Spanish singer and composer Tomás Lozano to set several poems from Pacheco's extensive body of work to music and perform them at the library's inauguration.

Presence and other poems by José Emilio Pacheco

Lozano now presents Pacheco's poetry to audiences worldwide. His concerts feature declaimer Rima Montoya, who recites English translations of the poems before Lozano performs them in their original language. The concert begins with a 12-minute mini-documentary, *Presencia Eterna, José Emilio Pacheco (1939–2014)*, produced by Diagrama Producciones SL and screened with English subtitles.

Presence and other poems by José Emilio Pacheco
Sunday, October 11, 2026
2–3:30 p.m.
Burton Barr Central Library


YALSA
Young Adult Library Services Association
TEENtober
What will you discover at the library?

Featured TeenTober™ Program at Desert Broom Library

Join us in October for TeenTober™, a month celebrating teens, their passions, and the ways libraries support learning and growth.

Desert Broom Library and Phoenix Sister Cities Youth Ambassador Program are hosting a TeenTober special program on October 3, 1—2 p.m.Phoenix high school sophomores and juniors are invited to learn how to apply to spend a year serving as a Phoenix Sister Cities Youth Ambassador. Selected Youth Ambassadors live with one of ten Phoenix Sister City's families for three weeks in the summer and then host a visiting Sister City student here in Phoenix. TeenTober introduces interested teens to how they can become part of the global community, develop cultural awareness, build leadership skills and more. Visit the calendar at phoenixpubliclibrary.org to find more TeenTober™ events.

TeenTober™: Phoenix Sister Cities Youth Ambassador Program
Saturday, October 3
1–2 p.m.
Desert Broom Library

AI In Focus

AI In Focus
October 3, 17, 31 & November 14
10–11 a.m.
Ocotillo Library and Workforce Literacy Center

AI In Focus
October 10, 24 & November 7, 21
10–11 a.m.
South Mountain Community Library

How good are you at spotting AI? Offered this fall at Ocotillo and South Mountain Community Library, drop in to a session topic of your choice or join us for all eight sessions of AI In Focus. Test your knowledge, engage in discussion, and grab take-home resources about how to navigate and thrive in a world where AI is around us. Tech safety tools and swag may be available in the session while supplies last.

Harvest Festival

Join us for the Harvest Festival at South Mountain Community Library, featuring seasonal stories, games, crafts, and other activities celebrating Halloween, Día de los Muertos, and Diwali. Families of all ages are invited to enjoy this festive fall event. Seasonal attire and costumes are welcome but optional.

Harvest Festival at South Mountain Community Library
Thursday, October 29
5:30–6:30 p.m.
South Mountain Community Library

Financial Aid

Get Ready for the 2026 FAFSA Season!

The 2026–27 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) season opens on **October 1, 2026**—the first step toward applying for federal, state, and college-based financial aid. Whether you're completing the FAFSA for the first time or renewing your application, getting started early can help you stay on track and make the most of available opportunities.

Need guidance? **College Depot at Phoenix Public Library** is your go-to resource for FAFSA support. Our knowledgeable team can help you understand the process, prepare the information you need, and navigate the application with greater confidence.

Don't wait until the deadline. Visit College Depot to get answers to your questions, learn about financial aid resources, and take the next step toward funding your education.

Find a College Depot FAFSA Lab in October. Visit College Depot FAFSA for more information and resources.

Introducing ReaderReady Roundup!

Yeehaw, young readers! Saddle up for the launch of ReaderReady Roundup, an exciting program designed especially for children ages 5–8. Kids will discover the joy of reading through engaging stories, playful games, creative story-related crafts, and plenty of opportunities to celebrate every reading accomplishment.

Bring your little readers and join the fun as we read, play, create, and celebrate together. ReaderReady Roundup is the perfect place for kids to build reading confidence while making wonderful memories along the way! As part of the celebration, every participating child will receive a free book to take home and enjoy.

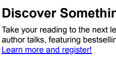
ReaderReady Roundup
Monthly beginning October 2,
1:30–2:30 p.m.
Desert Sage Library

ReaderReady Roundup
Monthly beginning October 21,
1:30–2:15 p.m.
Ocotillo Library

ReaderReady Roundup
Monthly beginning October 23,
4–4:30 p.m.
Palo Verde Library

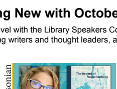
Discover Something New with October's Author Talks

Take your reading to the next level with the Library Speakers Consortium's free, live virtual author talks, featuring bestselling writers and thought leaders, all from the comfort of home.
Learn more and register!



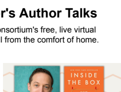
On **October 1**, join #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Veronica Roth in a conversation and Q&A about the enduring legacy of her *Divergent* series.

Courage, Choice, and What Comes Next



On **October 8**, view history through the unique prism of light with the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum curator Carolyn Russo.

Art in Flight: Reinventing Postmodernism with Smithsonian Curator Carolyn Russo


INSIDE THE BOX
HOW CONSTRAINTS MAKE US BETTER
DAVID EPSTEIN

On **October 13**, explore bestselling Author, Science Writer, and Human Performance Expert David Epstein's latest book, *Inside the Box*.

Inside the Box: How Constraints Make Us Better

Keeping up with the City of Phoenix!

Drive-Up Battery Collection Event
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.

Here's a FREE event to safely dispose of all those dead batteries you've been hanging onto! Join us at Desert West Sports Complex on Thursday, October 8 from 2-6 p.m. It's a drive-up collection event, so you don't even have to get out of your car. Representatives from Phoenix Public Works and the Phoenix Fire Department will be on hand to receive your lithium-ion, alkaline, and button batteries.

We cannot accept car, e-scooter, e-bike, or any lead-acid batteries.

Lithium-ion batteries are some of the most common fire starters inside garbage trucks, transfer stations, and the landfill. Batteries should *never* be tossed in your blue or black curbside bins. For more details on battery safety, or to book an at-home Household Hazardous Waste collection appointment for your batteries, visit phoenix.gov/hhw

Library Closures!

Indigenous People's Day/October 12: In observance of Indigenous People's Day, all Phoenix Public Library locations with the exception of South Mountain Community Library will be closed. All Phoenix Public Library book drops, and digital /eResources remain available.
Visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org for more details.

START WITH US.
PhoenixPublicLibrary

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