

FRIENDS OF PATAGONIA LIBRARY

346 Duquesne Ave., Patagonia, AZ 85624 - 520-394-2010 - www.patagoniapubliclibrary.org

A Happening Place

By Marilyn Miller, President

What's happening at our Patagonia Library? Lots! In addition to the regular services, such as books, movies and music to check out, public computers, and many varieties of birds to watch in the garden, this past year we saw a substantial increase in programming for all ages.

Author talks have been the most popular, including Gary Nabham, a local environmental author, Marshall Beaty, a local-history writer, and Craig Johnson, author of the Longmire book and TV series.

Examples of opportunities for children to read and learn included teachers bringing their classes for visits, revival of the children's story hour, a summer reading competition, and the Matt Bevel science program.

We applaud our library staff for their dedication to increasing programming for all ages. And we appreciate your donations, which allow us to provide this programming. Our Patagonia Library is a happening place where community members and visitors drift in (and sometimes flock in) all day long, 6 days a week. Thank you for helping us make all this activity happen.



Craig Johnson Author Talk

Teen Room Renovation

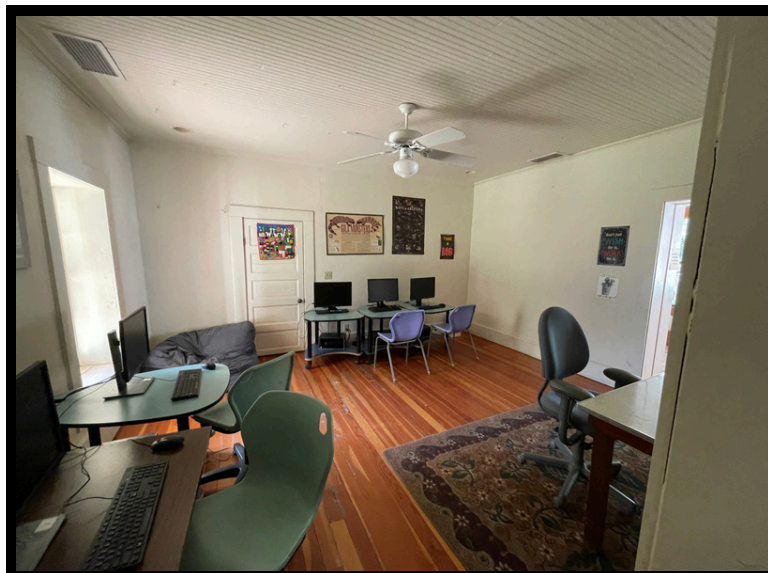
By Kayla Miller

In spring of 2023, the library was awarded a grant of \$10,000 from the state of Arizona. The grant, Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), went towards renovating the library's Teen Room to make the space comfortable and more welcoming. This grant included four laptops, an iPad, a drawing tablet, over 70 educational computer games, and a mural. The mural, painted by local artist Jacqui Trennen, illustrates the plethora of worlds and ideas that books can bring. The goal of this grant was to help encourage literacy in the Patagonia's teen and preteen population by introducing them to new ideas, educational softwares, and an environment that fosters creativity and learning.

In addition to the grant funded purchases, two desktop computers were donated and the Friends purchased several new Young Adult and Chapter books, as well as graphic novels.

(before and after pictures on page 2)

Teen Room: Before and After



May 2023



October 2024

Author Talk: Reyna Grande

By Kayla Miller

In May, the library had the privilege of working with Voices From the Border for an author talk with Pulitzer prize winning author, Reyna Grande. Reyna and moderator David Figueroa were met by a crowd of over 50 people, eager to hear about her latest book, *The Distance Between Us*, an autobiographical story of her family and the hardships they faced as they moved back and forth across the US-Mexico border. Beautifully eloquent, Reyna went into detail about her relationship with her family and friends on both sides of the border.

At the event, Reyna and David signed books for attendees and Voices Across the Border sold wares to help fund the work they do with border refugees. After the event, participants moved to a local resident's back yard for pizza, wine and more discussion.

Library Director Leaves

By the Friends Board

At the end of August, our Library Director, Kayla Miller, resigned to pursue graduate work in library science and creative writing at the University of Arizona.

Kayla believes in Patagonia's kids and their talents and their love of learning, and she believes all ages of patrons love to learn and will frequent Library if she provided the right programming. To that goal, she worked with her staff and other organizations to provide many educational offerings each week. Her belief in a universal desire to learn was proven by the significant numbers of people who attended library programs.

The patrons, the staff, and the Friends of the Library feel the loss of Kayla's departure. We hope a new director will be hired soon and will continue Kayla's focus on the community's needs.

Thank you to our generous donors and program sponsors:

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