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## Hello Friends,

We're excited to share our new version of the Friends of the Scottsdale Public Library newsletter. Our hope is that this newsletter reaches new audiences while sharing our many exciting updates and upcoming events in an informative and accessible way.

In January, we hosted a behind-the-scenes tour of [Appaloosa Library](#). Appaloosa Branch Manager Sky Larson and Scottsdale Architect Doug Sydnor (who played a key role in the library's design) led an insightful discussion and memorable tour. Learn more about the experience and view photos of the library below.

We also recently welcomed Scottsdale Public Library's newest Library Director, Michael Beck. Michael brings over three decades of extensive county and municipal government experience to his new role, notably serving as the Chief Librarian at the City of Glendale for the past nine years. Learn more about Michael at the [Arizona Digital Free Press](#) and stay tuned for an invitation to an upcoming Meet the Library Director event.

This newsletter also features the story of long-time Scottsdale resident and Scottsdale Public Library supporter Rae Ellis. Rae was instrumental in building Scottsdale Public Library's second branch, [Mustang Library](#). Read more about Rae and her impact in the feature below.

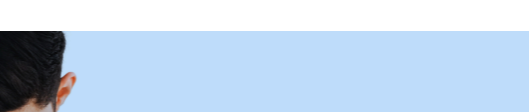
Thank you for your continued support of our treasured Scottsdale Public Libraries.

Happy reading!

Amanda Shetter  
President, Friends of the Scottsdale Public Library

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### Friends Shirts Now On Sale: 4 Designs Available

Show your library love with four library-themed shirts!

[Purchase Now](#)

## Appaloosa Library Tour

On the afternoon of January 30th, eighteen Friends gathered at [Appaloosa Library](#) for a wonderful tour led by Sky Larson, the Library Branch Manager, and Doug Sydnor, a Scottsdale Architect that played a key role in the Library's design.

*(All Appaloosa Library images courtesy of Bill Timmerman.)*



During the tour and Q&A, we learned about the exciting new Pony Express system at the library that was instituted during the pandemic to permit off-hours access to the Library, services offered by the Library, and the benefits of the open plan flexibility.

We also learned of the unique materials and design features of the building and site, including an innovative facade, benefits of natural lighting, integration of the building and landscape, and energy efficient features that resulted in Gold Certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.



Feedback from attendees was so positive that the Friends Membership Committee is planning to host a similar event at [Arabian Library](#) this Fall! Stay tuned for more information.



## Meet Longtime Scottsdale Library Champion Rae Ellis

*All content provided Courtesy of Scottsdale Public Library.*

Rae Kains Ellis was born in 1933 in Burlington, Vermont. From an early age, she developed a love of reading and libraries. Torn between becoming a teacher or a librarian, she chose the teaching profession with the option to become a school librarian in the future. In 1966, her family moved out to Arizona from Connecticut for a better climate for her asthmatic son.

Moving out north of Shea Boulevard in 1966, she would drop her children off at Cocopah Elementary School and then take a ride on her horse north of Cactus Road which was all just desert. A teachers' strike in the early 1970s brought Rae in as a teacher to Cocopah where she spent the next 20 years. She team-taught with Jackie Drinkwater, Herb Drinkwater's wife. She and her family were life-long friends of the Drinkwaters. Jackie Drinkwater suggested to her husband, the mayor, to put Rae on the Library Board as "Rae will get another library." Mustang Library was the result of her and the board's efforts. Rae also shares her insight on the down-to-earth people the Drinkwaters were, and Mayor Drinkwater's amazing vision for Scottsdale.

To access the rest of this story on the Scottsdale Public Library online catalog, follow the steps below:

1. [Click here to access the Scottsdale Public Library online catalog](#)
2. Enter "Rae Ellis Interview" in the Keyword Search box
3. Click "Rae (Kains) Ellis - Scottsdale Historical Interview"
4. Recordings are found with images at the bottom of the search result

Rae shares her favorite place in Scottsdale, her thoughts on how Scottsdale has changed over the last 55 years, and her life lessons. This interview is 40 minutes long and is provided as a video and separate audio of the interview.

## Join the Friends Book Club!

The FOL Book discussion group is open to Friends at the Contributing Level (\$100) and above ([learn more about our Friends membership levels here](#)). The group focuses on titles that deal with books, libraries, librarians, and reading in general. The titles we read sometime lead us to titles outside our stated focus.

### OUR RECENT AND UPCOMING TITLES

February

March

April

#### **The Paris**

#### **Bookseller**

by Kerri Maher

#### **The Storied Life**

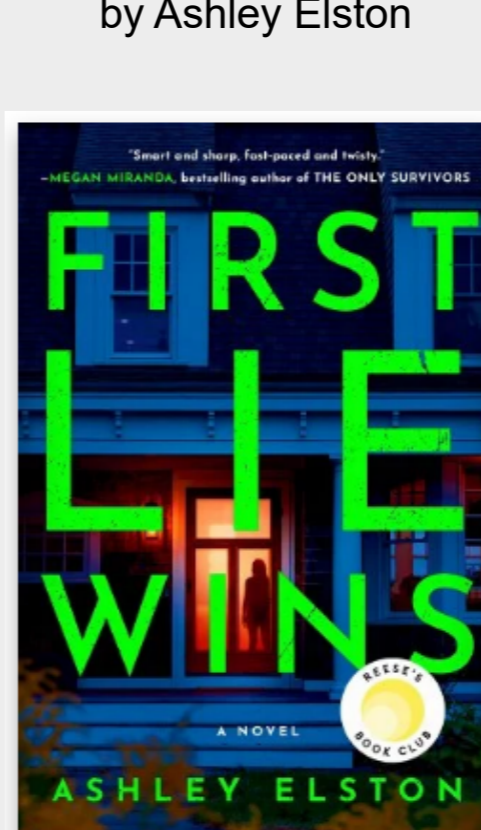
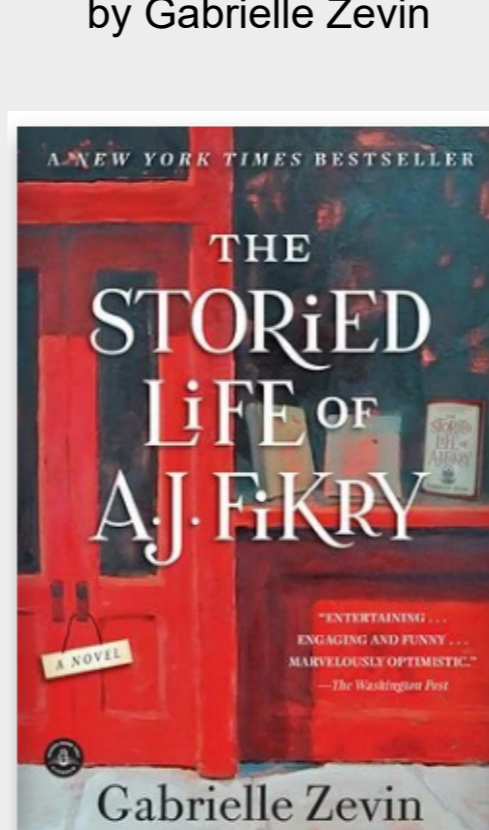
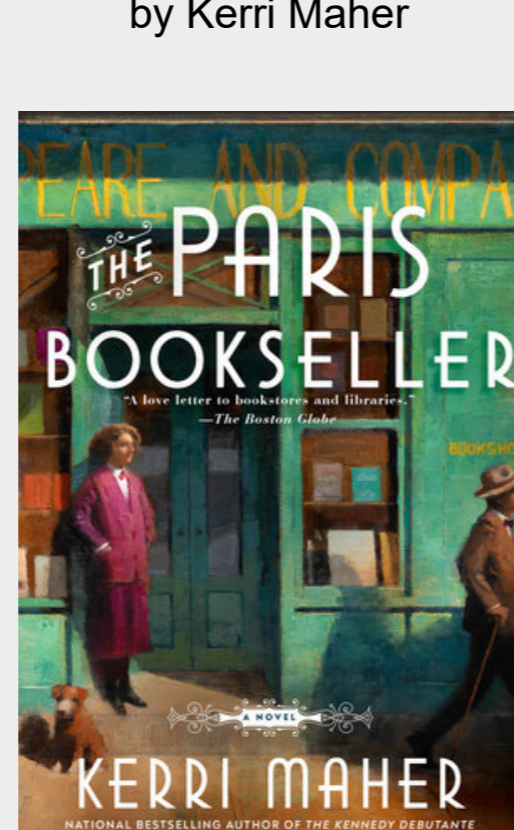
#### **of A.J. Fikry**

by Gabrielle Zevin

#### **First Lie**

#### **Wins**

by Ashley Elston



A novel about the founding of the Shakespeare and Company Bookstore in Paris by Sylvia Beach in the 1920s. Includes literary icons James Joyce and Ernest Hemingway, among others.

Fikry is a bitter man who owns a small bookstore off the coast of Massachusetts. After his rare copy of Poe's poems are stolen and a small child is abandoned at his bookstore, he begins to reassess his life.

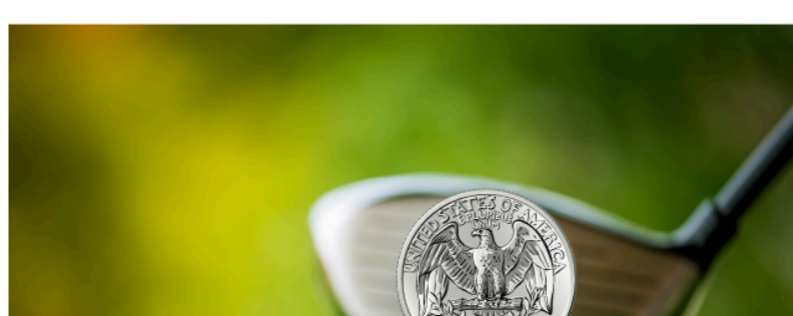
Evelyn Porter is a woman who has just moved in with her doting, successful boyfriend, Ryan. Except that Evelyn Porter doesn't really exist and Ryan is an assignment she was given from her mysterious employer.

Should you decide to purchase a book linked above, the Friends will receive 10% of the proceeds from our partners at Bookshop.org. All proceeds are invested directly in initiatives that benefit Scottsdale Public Library and its patrons. [Visit our shop at Bookshop.org.](#)

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

### 2024 Birdies for Charity

We raised over \$2,000 from 17 generous supporters during the 2024 WM Phoenix Open! Thank you to those supporters and to the Thunderbirds for providing a 10% match. All Birdies for Charity funds will support the 2024 Summer Reading Program, a well-loved library program sponsored annually by the Friends of the Scottsdale Public Library.



### SRP Awards the Friends \$4,000

We received a \$4,000 grant from [Salt River Project](#) to purchase a new AWE Platinum Workstation for [Civic Center Library](#). AWE Workstations are self-contained computers without internet access that offer young library patrons unique ways to learn and grow. [Learn more about AWE computers here.](#)



### Next Meet-up: Meet the Library Director

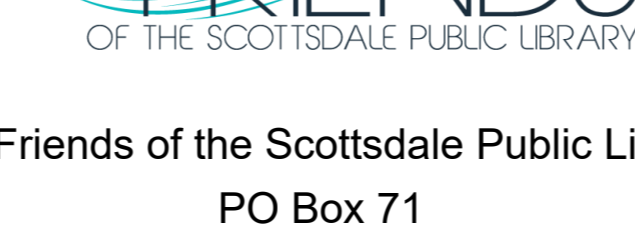
Join us on Tuesday, April 30 for the next Friends Meet-Up with new Scottsdale Public Library Director, Michael Beck! The event will be held at Civic Center Library from 10 - 11:30 AM. More information to come.



## Interested in joining the Friends of the Scottsdale Public Library Board?

[Learn More](#)

[Contact Us](#)



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