

FRIENDS' NEWS

September 2015

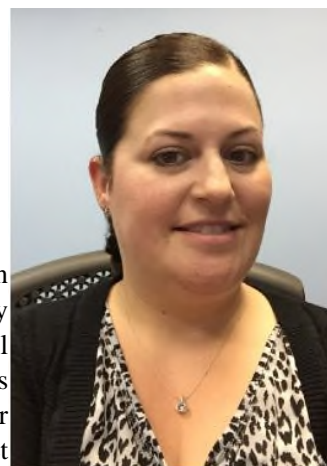
Friends of the Surprise Libraries, Arizona

BOOK SALES
IN AUGUST
TOTAL \$3,944

ELIZABETH GARCIA IS NEW SURPRISE LIBRARIAN

A veteran Chicago librarian and educator is the new Regional Branch Manager for the Surprise Libraries. Elizabeth Garcia, who holds a PhD in Library Science, became head of the local libraries on August 31 succeeding Mary Melby, the long-time librarian who retired earlier in the year. She comes to the Maricopa County Library District from the Chicago Public Library where she worked for 16 years, starting as a page. She held progressively more responsible positions in the years to follow at CPL, most recently as the Manager for the West Lawn Branch.

Ms. Garcia earned a BA degree from the University of Illinois and an MA in Library Science from Dominican University. She also holds the PhD in Library Science and taught at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. She will continue to teach online classes for Dominican University. Ms. Garcia has extensive experience delivering excellent customer service," said a spokesman for the Maricopa Library District, "She has a track record of empowering staff to set and attain their professional development goals. She also has the passion, skills and the energy to serve the customer, the community and the staff of our Surprise libraries."



Elizabeth Garcia

READ ON PROFILES LITERACY RATES

The new literacy organization, Read On Greater Surprise, of which Friends is a founding community partner, highlighted a list of reading area trouble spots in a 'community snapshot' as part of an intensive drive to increase local reading levels. Read On Co-Chairman Ellen O'Loughlin and Co-Chairman Alyson Cline offered up statistics that show the following: There is a 10 to 20 percent average chronic absentee rate (of students missing 18 or more days); there is a 3 to 6 percent average of students who fall below 3rd grade reading proficiency levels; there is about a 65 percent rate of families who read or sing to their children; there is a 10 percent rate of families who have a 'deficient' home library of 10 books or less; there is only a 51 percent rate of preschoolers who are using an expanding, expressive vocabulary; there is only a 28 percent rate of four-year-olds in preschool who demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the alphabet; and there is a 3 to 6 percent average rate of students who score far below the acceptable 3rd grade reading levels. Read On, which is counting upon Friends for volunteers and support as it tackles literacy issues, will use these facts and a vast table of other indicators, in its eventual action programs. The Friends Board of Directors unanimously approved the organization's continued participation in Read On and agreed to supply refreshments for the Read On monthly meetings.

FRIENDS SEEKS SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATIONS

Friends School Grants Committee Chair Judy Spradling and her committee are actively seeking applications from Greater Surprise school teachers and librarians for grants to libraries and reading programs. She set October 1 as the deadline for submitting requests. Friends President Alyson Cline attended the PTA presidents meeting last month to educate the organizations about the Friends School Grant Program which, since January 2003, has allocated \$156,233.48 to school reading activities. The Friends 2015 budget includes \$25,000 for schools of which only \$1,330.69, or 5.32 percent, has been allocated.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY SINCE JANUARY 2003 \$385,842.73

TOTAL GIFTS TO SURPRISE LIBRARIES SINCE JANUARY 2003 \$185,255.25