

From the Director



Welcome to our annual report!

Over the past year, all of us at Teton County Library have been busy with outreach and reflection as we pursue our strategic goals.

We reached out to new neighbors, curious learners, and seasoned readers. We built new partnerships, expanded services, and showed up in unexpected places – the Library Outreach Van served as a quiet space at the annual Touch-a-Truck event; in community parks alongside the Grazing Rights food trucks, promoting library services and giving away books; and at Grand Teton National Park, issuing seasonal library cards to park employees!

Wherever our community was, we tried to meet you there—with books, resources, Wi-Fi, and a smile.

But we also took the time to look inward. We examined how we do things, listened carefully to feedback, and asked ourselves: Are we serving the community the best we can? From rethinking how library spaces – physical and digital - are used, to refreshing programs, to moving toward more sustainability practices. We're committed to growing and improving with intention.

Organizational excellence is one of our strategic priorities, after all.

Libraries are both mirrors and windows— places to reflect and places to explore. This report captures a year of doing both. I hope it leaves you inspired by where we've been—and excited about where we're headed.

See you at the library,

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Kip M Roberson Director of Library Services

P.S. When you're finished reading the Library's pages, flip this report over for more of the year's story from Teton County Library Foundation & Friends.

Thank you Library Board!

Lisa McGee,* Chair Peggy Gilday, Treasurer Vicki Rosenberg, Vice Chair Stan Steiner,* Secretary Marylee White, Member at Large

*A special thanks to our two board members who completed their terms in June.



Checking in WITH OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



COMMUNITY

Starting the year strong at Alta Branch

Whoever called it the quieter side of the Tetons has probably not attended a community gathering at the Alta Branch Library. To celebrate the new year, 20 patrons gathered to cast aside the notion of resolution-setting in favor of creating something more visionary: collages showing all they hoped to accomplish in 2025.

>> "This is going to be my best year yet, thanks Alta Library!" -Ripley S. The creations were called Vision Boards, with squares arranged Bingo card-style. Some visions were simple (read by the fire), while

others were more task oriented (renew passport), and many featured learning goals (take pottery class, drive stick shift).

Folks took their Vision Boards home with them, and Branch Manager Eva Dahlgren thought they went the way of most resolutions. But over the next few months, vision boarders offered staff progress reports, such as one woman who proudly shared in June that she'd accomplished one longer-term goal: she'd practiced her form and built strength to complete a chin up, with six months still to spare!



Your place for civil discourse

We're living in contentious times but people still seek ways to talk to one another through library programs like Swap Meets, Candidate Forums, Book Clubs, and especially our Foreign Policy Discussion Series, which have taken place every winter for the last 19 years.

The weekly discussion topics are put together each year by the non-profit Foreign Policy Association. Participants can prepare for the discussions by reading an article related to the topic.

"We all watch a video with our chairs in rows," said moderator Leah Shlachter, the library's Adult Program Coordinator. "Then we pull our chairs into a circle so our discussion is face to face."

Some of the conversations need prompting, but others are compelling from the get-go. "American Policy in the Middle East" and "Climate Change" brought out the most heated opinions.

"The conversations sometimes turn into debates, but even so, most people keep coming back because there's a certain level of trust within the group," said Leah. "At the end of the day, people want to educate themselves about global topics, share ideas, and hear other perspectives through a higher level conversation that they might not get elsewhere." The series ends with a Foreign Policy Soirée, by which time, no talking points are necessary.

3 tips for effective & engaging discourse

- 1. Pay attention when others are speaking
- 2. Use respectful language
- 3. Be open to learning something new

Program attendance:

Adults 8870

Teens 1497

Children 7331

Alta 3339

Latino 3808





Teens vibing at the library

Teens use the library for everything from unstructured hanging out with video games, to directed play creating characters and building worlds through Dungeons & Dragons, to studying in groups at (mostly) quiet tables in the Adult Wing.

Teen Program Coordinator Matt George tries to appeal to them all: a typical week might include a meeting of Student Senior Book Club, a teen Skill Up life skills workshop, D&D Adventure Club in both Jackson and Alta, or a Teen Advisory Board session. "There was a definite interest I heard in having creative outlets, said Matt, "That's how the Teen Art & Writing Contest came about."

Throughout February, 19 teens submitted creative work in three categories (written art, physical art, and digital art). Prizes were awarded in all categories, and all who participated earned the satisfaction of creating finished work under the structure of a deadline.

As the school year was coming to a close, the Teen Advisory Board came up with the idea of making study kits to hand out during exam week, including face masks, notepaper, graph paper, pencils, and of course, snacks. Way to look out for each other!

LIFELONG LEARNING



Ah-dorable ah-dition to library "staff"

Confetti the Yeti is our new Youth Services mascot—an adorable reminder that our collection and services grow along with young readers! There are four different Confettis to help parents and kids find the resources that best suit them:



Baby Confetti can be found in Born to Read kits, and leads the way to our board books, Early Literacy Room, and Baby Time in the Youth Auditorium on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Follow Toddler/Preschool Confetti to Storytime on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1KB4K reading challenge and other themed grab-andgo kits, the Early Literacy Room, picture books, and the Summer Reading program.

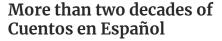


Elementary School Confetti has learned to read and loves to enroll in Summer Reading and browse the Beginning Readers and Short & Long Chapter books collection, as well as Wonderbooks. This Confetti also checks out STEAM kits and when old enough can attend Afterschool at the Library and enroll in the 500 Books B4 Middle School reading challenges.



You may find Teen Confetti chilling at D&D Adventure Club, guiding programming through Teen Advisory Board, talking about books at the Student Senior Book Club, browsing the Young Adult titles, studying for an exam on Mometrix Test Prep, prepping for the driver's test at Driving-Tests.org, and of course, what's more chill than Summer Reading?





It began as a volunteer gig—Pati Rocha was new to the community and found other Spanish-speaking moms who were looking to preserve some of their culture with their young children. She approached the library about allowing her to lead a storytime in Spanish, and the group was soon meeting once a week, using their own books and basking in each other's company.

Then it was the library's turn to approach Pati—would she be interested in a part-time gig teaching Spanish computer classes? She accepted, and little by little, part-time became full-time, she started the Spanish language collection, and eventually was made Latino Program Coordinator, planning events for all ages, open to all, Spanish-speaking or not.

Next the schools approached—would the library extend Spanish programming to them? Soon "Miss Pati" was bringing her particularly animated brand of storytelling to children around the valley through the Cuentos en Español program for PreK to 3rd graders. Fast forward 20-some years, and Pati is by far the most-recognized-around-town library staffer, who receives the

most thank you notes (and hugs) from children.

For Pati, Cuentos en Español never gets old, even though the children age out (some have become parents themselves and attend storytime with their own children). She loves connecting with students, especially now that her son is grown and her grandson lives in another state, and notes that even the most wiggly of children settle down and become absorbed in the books, pointing out details in the illustrations that even she did not see.

Enjoy a storytime with Miss Pati for yourself at tclib.org/cuentos.

Tech Tutor adds pop ups

Our long-running by-appointment Tech Tutor service has added another location—Alex is taking appointments Wednesday mornings at the Senior Center to address your basic tech questions. Make your appointment by emailing info@seniorcenterjh.org. Bring your device, your passwords, and your nagging questions. Or make an appointment at the library for most other days of the week at techtutor@tclib.org.



Mahjong anyone?

You might be surprised to learn how many requests we've had to offer Mahjong classes, and we finally made it happen this spring with the help of local Mahjong enthusiast Annette Osnos. Mahjong is a very old tile-based game that is played around the world, especially in Asia. It has enjoyed a surge in popularity over the last decade, and hopefully our beginner's classes are helping it catch on here.



360 Born to Read kits to St. Johns

108 STEAM kits checked out

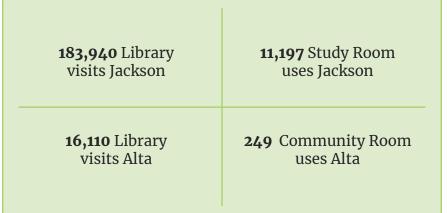
763 In-person class & workshop attendance

197 Tech tutor sessions

1029 1KB4K kits checked out

SPACES







Space Planning Project update

Our sincere thanks to everybody who answered our space planning survey and/or attended the open house that architectural firm EUA, Inc. held in October to show prospective space use ideas—we appreciate how much you care about the library!

Several needs emerged from your comments and staff comments:

- additional study rooms
- North Entrance (facing the parking lot) improvements
- WonderLab space and ventilation
- a dedicated teen space
- auditorium improvements
- · safety and accessibility

EUA crafted a phased approach to the project that will empower TCL to tackle these projects as funding and support become available. Each phase brings fresh updates and improvements, while saving upfront costs.

With current community needs directing funds to other capital improvements (such as the courthouse), library staff turned the focus to low or even no cost projects:

First project: making the Main Wing stacks more accessible. The tall shelves that house the adult collection were shifted so the top shelf is lower and more reachable. A side benefit to accessibility: it feels airier and brighter in the stacks.

Next up: bringing work teams and/or work functions together. EUA designed a plan that will rearrange staff workspaces with another major side benefit: we'll have a new study/meeting room available to the public within a few months.





ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

TCL has 29 full-time and 11 part-time employees

Our average staff tenure is 8.77 years

Librarians always stay in training

Nearly a dozen staff members were able to attend workshops and conferences near and far to continue their education and job-related training (Anna: Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services Conference), network with other library professionals (Angela and Mary: Wyoming Library Association Annual Meeting) and issues that affect our patrons (Alex: Ortus Foundation Mental Health Symposium), among others.

Youth Librarian Cayla Broseus attended the ALSC (Association of Library Services for Children) Institute Denver in September, and as selector for our juvenile collection was delighted to hear from some incredible children's authors – Meg Medina, Daniel Nayeri, and especially Donna Barba Higuera, who spoke about winning the Newbery Medal for her book, The Last Cuentista.

"Donna tracked down the librarian she remembered from her childhood to tell her that she won the Newbery and she received a letter back from that librarian – who was now 100 years old," said Cayla. "She read the letter aloud to the room full of librarians and there was not a dry eye in the entire place. It was lovely to share that experience of hearing something that we all need to hear – that our work as librarians matters. We may not see the difference that we make now in something so simple as finding the right book for someone, or helping someone fill out a job application, or providing a storytelling program so that voices can be heard. No, we may never see it. But it matters."



Our ongoing commitment to democracy

The scarcity and expense of books during the Great Depression led Helen Benson, Edith Mercill and Stella Weston to petition Teton County Commissioners for a public library in 1938. But it was the American model of civic society and democracy that allowed them to be heard, and ultimately led to the opening of the library.

It was in that spirit that the Library

Board took two actions this year to preserve and foster intellectual freedom and its role in our democracy: first, by passing a resolution declaring Teton County Library a Book Sanctuary; and second, by affirming our ongoing commitment to the core values set forth in the Urban Libraries Council's Declaration of Democracy.

As a book sanctuary, TCL commits to protect challenged/censored/ endangered books, host conversations about diverse characters and stories, and educate others on the history of book banning and burning. Learn more at booksanctuary.org.

The ULC Declaration on Democracy reads in part: Democracy is under siege throughout the world and close to home. Daily, we witness assaults on basic freedoms and human rights we've long cherished as books are banned, programs and events are canceled, disinformation and misinformation spread unchecked and racism is institutionalized...As cornerstones of democracy, it is incumbent upon libraries to stand up against all efforts to impede the democratic process and limit the full participation in civic life.

We embrace our civic role by acting as a convener for and facilitator of civic engagement and discourse, shining a spotlight on mis- and disinformation, and offering an array of collections, in various formats and languages, that hold information and knowledge for patrons to access on a wide variety of topics and with multiple viewpoints.

We appreciate your support and invite your opinions at tclib.org/comment.



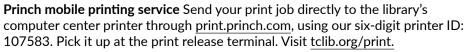








New for you at the Library



Free summer meals for youth Pick up TCSD breakfast & lunch bulk meals from our lobby on Tuesdays, 11 AM-1 PM; and Sprout Mobile lunches on Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:30-11:15 AM, in the Youth Yard.

Calculator check out Doing homework at the library but forgot your calculator? Borrow a TI-84 calculator from the Youth Desk and return it on your way out of the building.

TCL Seed Library Get growing! We offered free wildflower and vegetable seeds that grow well in Teton County and surrounding areas throughout planting season, and soon ran out of all 875 packets, which were assembled with the help of volunteers. Check out our offerings at tclib.org/seed and plan ahead for next spring!

Sustainability Committee A new team formed to focus on making the library increasingly environmentally sound, socially equitable, and economically and resource feasible. The committee collaborates with the County Sustainability Coordinator, working to align with the Teton County Internal Sustainability Plan by reducing operational energy consumption (e.g. energy efficient lighting), transitioning to local office suppliers and more environmentally-friendly purchasing procedures (ER Office Supply and EcoChit), reducing waste by supporting staff composting and public recycling, and forging new community collaborations (e.g. Yellowstone-Teton Clean Cities electric vehicle rental program and Fire/EMS grant to make the library firewise compliant).

Rigamajig building set Designed to spark imagination, creativity, innovation, collaboration, and problem-solving skills, and just plain fun. Kids can build their vision with this large-scale, loose parts engineering kit featuring wood planks, wing bolts, hex nuts, gears, pulleys, ropes, and more.



Rigamajig in use.



FY2025 by the numbers



Library visits Jackson: 183,940 Alta: 16,110



Study room use Jackson: 11,197 Alta Community Room: 249



Physical checkouts 206,043



Digital checkouts 133,165



WonderLab appointments 423



New cards issued Jackson: 2569



WiFi sessions 1,087,164



Volunteer hours: 3,307



Reference questions 3174



Passports processed 923



Active cardholders 14,889



Outreach interactions: 908

TOP CHECK OUTS



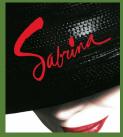
adult book, e-book & e-audiobook



adult spanish book



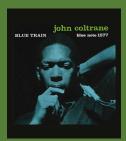
DVD



Kanopy video



<u>videogame</u>

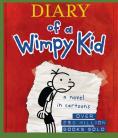


vinyl record



Library of Things item





juvenile book



Your generosity helps our community thrive.

Communities thrive when individuals have access to resources, people, and learning that allow them to become their best selves.



Support the Library You Love **Give Today**





Honoring Board Service & Welcoming New Leadership



Celebrating Years of Dedication

With heartfelt appreciation, we share our goodbye and gratitude to three Library Foundation & Friends retiring board members who will be greatly missed.

Karen Terra is an ever-enthusiastic library champion and cheerleader! During her nine and a half years of service on the Board, she infused every meeting, event, and gathering with a sense of purpose and joy and gave generously in support of the Library. Karen was always a source of energy, leadership, and positivity and shared her whole heart with TCLFF.

Bryan McDearman, with nine years of service

and many of those years on the Finance and Investment committee, offered valuable financial insight and steady guidance. His signature sense of humor brought joy and laughter to our **Board and Committee** meetings, often reminding us not to take ourselves too seriously.

Wendy Martinez, who served for six years, is appreciated for her thoughtfulness and care. Her compassionate insight and deep community perspective - always centering the library's impact on real lives - made her an essential voice on the Board.

Thank you, Karen, Bryan and Wendy, for your time, dedication, and vision!

Welcome New **Board Member Joy Surdam**

Joy Surdam's earliest childhood memories include being nestled within a never-ending array of books at her hometown tranquil library, accompanied by a strong sense of peace and well-being. With her father and other relatives serving as public and university librarians and a background serving on the Albany County Public Library Board and Friends Board, she has a deep connection to the creative and welcoming spirit of a place that welcomes people from every walk of life. With a Master of Arts in Political Science and Spanish, and a PhD in Counseling, as well as a teaching and counseling career

spanning middle school, community college and university levels, Joy moved to Teton County in 2016 with her husband Ron and immediately fell in love with the crosscultural hub and creative force that is Teton County Library. She especially loves the services that support English for Speakers of Other Languages. With her passion and belief that libraries provide free and equal educational access for all, it didn't take much convincing for her to join the Foundation & Friends board. When she's not working or engaged in board service, she enjoys reading, playing tennis, and traveling with family and friends. She highly recommends anything written by Mary Oliver, Louise Erdrich, and Gabriel Garcia Marquez.



2024-2025 **Board of Directors**

Executive Committee

Lauren Dickey President Carolyn Ripps Vice President **Stewart McIver** Treasurer Katie Mendenhall Secretary Karen Terra At-large Michael Adler **Emmie Hill** Wendy Martinez Bryan McDearman Alex McDougall Hugh O'Halloran Joy Surdam

Staff

Diane Winder

Diana Peck **Executive Director** Julie Tobiason Administrative & Outreach Coordinator

Our Mission

The Teton County Library Foundation and Friends enhances the library's programs, facilities, and resources by securing and stewarding charitable gifts, promoting volunteerism, and raising community awareness and appreciation for the Library.

Our Vision

A welcoming community inspired to pursue its passions, forge connections, discover new ideas, and engage in civic life.

Our Values

ACCESS • COMMUNITY • CONNECTION • INTEGRITY • SERVICE Dear Library Enthusiasts,

At the heart of every library, are the people who show up.

Showing up is powerful. It builds connection. It signals that something matters. Whether you donate, volunteer, or attend events, your presence brings the library to life and makes everything we do possible.

This year, we gathered feedback from donors and participants to better understand our impact and worked with library staff to improve our grantmaking, ensuring that your donations achieve their intended results.

We learned literacy isn't just found in reading books, though the Teton County Library offers plenty of those. It's in attending the Brainstorm Speaker Series, hearing experts like Dr. Anna Lembke discuss how our dopaminesaturated world alters our brains to be more anxious, and then sparking a conversation that leads to positive change.

Literacy is also found in teens who show up to a Dungeons & Dragons event, where storytelling, problem-solving, and collaboration come alive. These skills go far beyond the page, as teens take what they learn and turn it into action, bringing their characters to life in conversation with friends.

This year, because of how you show up, the library continues to be a space where curiosity thrives, stories are shared, and literacy is celebrated. On behalf of the Teton County Library Foundation and Friends, thank you for supporting this work.

We hope you enjoy reading about how your generosity impacts our community.

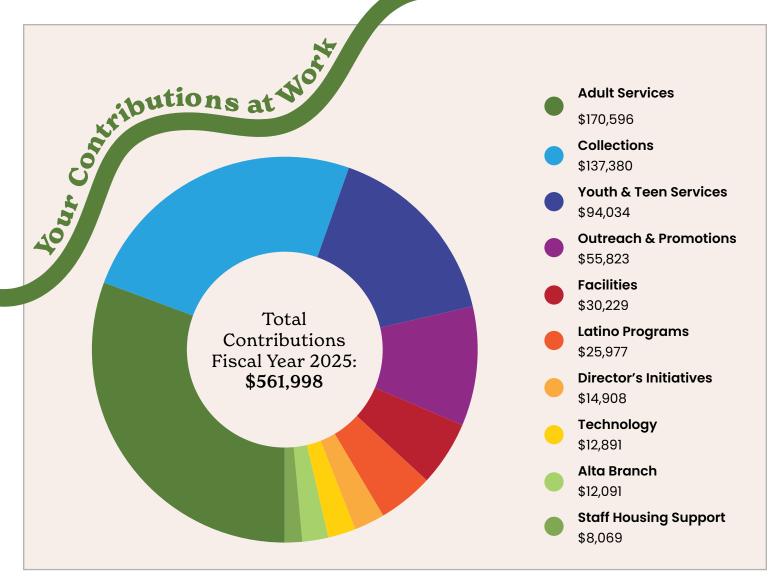
Serving as Board Chair these past three years has been an honor. I'm thrilled to welcome Stewart McIver next year. His foundation expertise, impact insight, and passion for the library make him a perfect fit.

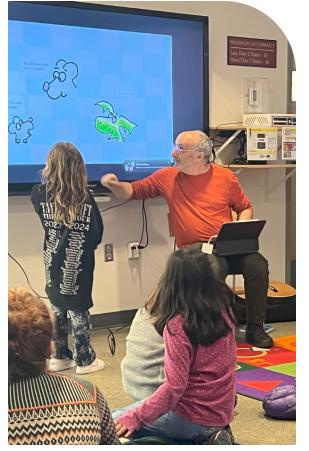
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Lauren Dickey Library Foundation & Friends President

Diana Peck Library Foundation & Friends Executive Director







Barney Saltzberg:

Children's Book Author. Illustrator. Singer/Songwriter. Dog Lover!

This March, the Author in the Schools guest, award-winning author Barney Saltzberg brought creativity to life during an evening visit to the library's Youth Wing. Young patrons were captivated by his interactive presentation, which revealed how "mistakes" become stories. By transforming accidents into inspiration, like turning spilled coffee into a monster or a torn page into a crocodile's mouth, Barney shows how creativity can come from everyday surprises. With quitar in hand, Barney led joyful singalongs, sparking laughter and participation. Meeting a real author made the creative process feel tangible and inspiring for young patrons. "Barney's visits to the classrooms and the library really resonated with the kids. For weeks after his visit, kids talked about how much they enjoyed interacting and learning from Barney," shared Youth Program Coordinator Beth Holmes.



First Teen Page to the Podium: Jason Reynolds

From non-reader to MacArthur Genius

When young-adult author Jason Reynolds spoke to community members of all ages at this year's first Teen Page to the Podium, he connected through authenticity.

Sharing his journey growing up in a neighborhood shaped by poverty, violence, and music, he spoke with warmth, humor, and unflinching honesty. A self-described nonreader, he found his love for words through rap music and poetry, discovering in them both a lifeline and a calling. And though he leans heavily on championing a habit of excellence, rather than preaching, he empowers young readers to realize that their own stories, however raw or overlooked, are not just valid, but vital.

By passing on the lessons he learned from his college professor Gene Garret, he inspired us all to appreciate the value of reading

- 1 Reading is the only gym you can go to to build the muscle of the mind.
- 2 Through the act of reading, you will learn discipline, you will learn how to concentrate, you will learn how to start and finish something.
- 3 You will broaden your vocabulary.
- 4 You will stoke your imagination.
- 5 Most importantly, you will learn how to listen to yourself. Because when you are reading, it is your voice you hear, not the writer's. And that voice is the one you will need to recognize as you move through life.

Hoopla Digital Collection

No holds. No waitlists. Just instant access to eBooks, audiobooks, films, and more. At home, on the go, and on demand.

2,081

Patrons downloaded:

25,239

Audiobooks

9,162

Ebooks

2,689

Movies

2,127

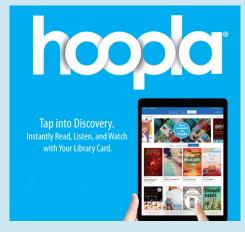
Television

1,054

Music

922

Comics



*\$2.29 average cost per download, made possible by your donations to TCLFF

Story Slam Turns 10

and Karen Terra Takes the Spotlight



Every year, Library Foundation & Friends Board Member (and former President) Karen Terra, resolves to do a "step-out-ofmy-comfort-zone" challenge. One year, she went skydiving. Another year, she bungee jumped. This year, at the 10th anniversary of the Library's beloved Cabin Fever Story Slam series, she put her name into the orange bucket.

Story Slam is an event that invites community

members to enter their names for the chance to tell a fiveminute, true story (without notes) based on a theme. Since debuting at Pinky G's in 2015, Story Slam has popped up at 11 different venues, from cozy bars to outdoor patios to online screens during COVID lockdown, becoming a local favorite for laughter, connection, and surprise storytelling brilliance.

The celebratory

January slam was held at the Virginian Lodge, with the theme "Age." Emcee Jeff Moran tossed out Story Slam trivia between performances, and the judges' panel included hosts from across the event's decade-long history.

Throughout the night, contestant after contestant stood before the audience and told their stories, while those whose names remained in the orange bucket waited expectantly and perhaps nervously. Finally, the last name was drawn from the bucket and handed to Moran, who smiled.

"Here's a longtime supporter of the Cabin Fever Story Slam--please help me welcome Karen Terra!"

Karen stepped on stage, took a breath, and shared a funny, relatable tale about a dysfunctional iPhone when she needed it most, her quest for help to fix it, and a case of mistaken identity. The story struck a chord, and the crowd erupted into cheers. Karen later described her first-time Story

Slam experience as having a real connection with the audience. She said she felt seen, appreciated, and that the audience was truly entertained.

When the final scores were tallied, third and second place winners, Forrest Lewis and Tony Cross, were announced. Then, for the second time that night, Karen's name was called - this time as the night's firstplace storyteller. The crowd erupted once more as she was handed the coveted donkey piñata trophy, a perfect symbol for a night when courage met celebration.

Way to step outside your comfort zone, Karen! And what a joyful way to honor ten years of storytelling, laughter, and community.

Listen to Karen Terra's story, and more, on TCL's Soundcloud page.



Summer Reading

TCL's Summer Reading Program kept minds of all ages active and curious all summer long. Whether logging picture books, graphic novels, or the latest best-sellers, 1,433 participants read for 28,438 hours and embraced the joy of reading, the benefits of learning and the delight of engaging programs. For many families, the library became a cornerstone of their summer routine.







A Year of Compelling Conversations

The Brainstorm Speaker Series and Alta Branch's Elemental: Reimagine Wildfire film and discussion, brought powerful voices to the stage. From environmental justice to digital ethics, addiction, resilience, and activism, this year's speakers sparked bold conversations and lasting reflection among our community. Audiences were inspired to listen deeply, think critically, and act thoughtfully.

It was meaningful and moving to learn about the specific insights and perspectives that resonated most with audiences and also the actions and conversations they felt inspired to pursue.

This program and panel discussion, with experts in wildland fires, conservation, climate science, and residential and community fire safety, was a partnership between Idaho Master Naturalists - Teton Valley Chapter and Teton County Library.



- Mike Maltaverne, Fire Chief Teton County Idaho Fire Rescue
- · Jonathan White, Fuels Specialist Caribou-Targhee National Forest
- Jen Pierce PhD, Professor Boise State Department of Geosciences; Director - Earth, Wind and Fire Laboratory
- Matthew Ward, Forest and Fire Program Manager The Nature Conservancy









Fire science is complex! There are many things to consider but defensible space and fireproof building materials are things we can all do."

I'm reaching out to local government to make fire risk and management an integral part of our communities' development"

66

Thank you for bringing this excellent film and panel to the valley! The conversation was insightful."



"I'm going to learn more about Al, introduce the topic to my children, and if using AI, find ways that will promote more human connection and advocate for governance mechanisms for Al."

"The speaker was able to break down difficult concepts for the entire audience to understand - I loved learning about dopamine, hormesis, and how to balance out addictive tendencies. I left feeling hopeful about taking action in my own life (deleting tiktok!)"

"A wonderful display of courage and compassion, a wonderful source for experiencing and working through trauma."

"Aza Raskin's talk on the future promise and peril of Artificial Intelligence was both hopeful and fear-inducing. This complex new technology will literally change the world and I feel more informed on the complex issues surrounding AI and how we as humans use it."

"Thank you for this amazing opportunity to hear these change makers in our small community. Pure inspiration."

"(I'm) speaking with my family about ways to reduce dependence on our devices and find alternatives to endless scrolling on social media."

The Library Foundation & Friends is proud to support the Brainstorm Speaker Series, a collaboration between Teton County Library, Center for the Arts, Jackson Hole News&Guide and - for the Chanel Miller event - Community Safety Network. The Series brings powerful voices and urgent conversations to the heart of our community.

This partnership helps amplify our reach, deepen our impact, and ensure that important topics are heard widely and discussed meaningfully. We are deeply grateful for this shared vision and commitment to informed, engaged dialogue.





Jackson Hole News&Guide



Community Safety Network

LIBRARY FRIENDS The volunteer-powered, community outreach program of the Library Foundation & Friends



Spring Blooms at the Library



A Celebration of Art, Poetry, and Community

Showcasing the Library as a vibrant cultural hub, the Friends Committee - together with local artist and volunteer Gwen Mann - hosted the Spring Blooms event. Welcoming local artists, poets, and book lovers, the two-day celebration of creativity, connection and the arrival of spring beautifully ushered in the new season at the Library.

Creative Reflections on Spring

At the heart of this event, local artist Dorie Smith's vibrant floral watercolors and note cards created a gallery-like atmosphere outside the Book Nook, while Jackson Hole Writers curated a thoughtful display of original poetry reflecting on the Spring Blooms theme. Dorie's one-ofa-kind pieces captured the vibrancy of spring and offered a perfect way to bring nature's beauty indoors.



Planting Seeds of Joy

The Library's pop-up Seed Library invited patrons to share in the joy of spring planting, offering free flower and vegetable seeds to take home and grow.







Floral Reads for **Every Reader**

The Book Nook committee curated themed book displays with flower and garden titles for all ages, encouraging discovery and inspiration through seasonal reads.





Friends Committee Members

Michael Adler, Chair • Virginia Adler • Susan Bettino • Janice Harris • Karin King • June McCollister • Joy Surdam







Young Builders Create Lasting Impact: A New Little Free Library Comes to Town Square

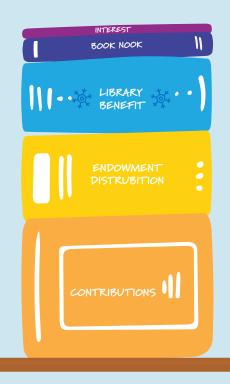
When middle school students Solenne Bradley and Addie Aufderheide gave thought to their English Language Arts "Combat the Silence" project, they knew they wanted to tackle the challenge of illiteracy. To promote reading and expand access to books in their community, together they designed, built, and painted Jackson's newest Little Free Library. Their thoughtful and creative work culminated in the installation of a beautifully crafted mini lending library on Town Square, which now invites visitors of all ages to "take a book, leave a book," and participate in the joy of reading.

The grand opening marked more than just the debut of a book-sharing box. It celebrated youth leadership, the power of stories, and a shared belief that books should be accessible to everyone. Solenne and Addie's project is a lasting gift to the community and a meaningful reminder that when young people lead with purpose, they can spark real change.

Thank you

for being a vital part of our library's story this year. From Old Bill's Fun Run and the 22nd Annual Library Benefit to Year-End Giving and Library Giving Day, your generosity helped fuel programs, services, and spaces that inspire discovery and connection. Every gift makes a difference. Because of you, our community continues to learn, create, and thrive at the Library.

Support for the Library you LOVE



- Contributions \$405,109
- **Endowment Distribution \$340,347**
- Library Benefit \$158,650
- Book Nook & Used Book Sales \$30,221
- Interest \$27,366

Fundraisers & Events







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Celebrating **National** Library Week April 6-12



The Library Outreach Van in your neighborhoods sharing free books, prizes, library swag, and information.

2 Take Action for Libraries Day

Joining the Library Foundation & Friends for free coffee and pastries, WonderLab demos and a Library of Things Petting Zoo.

National Library Week Proclamation with the Teton County Board of County Commissioners







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3307 volunteer hours

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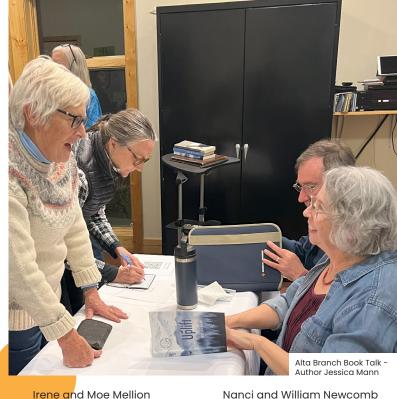
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