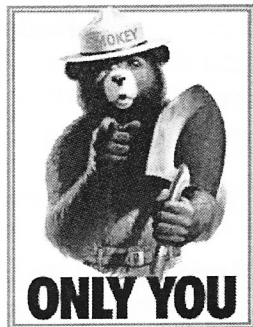


Who Says Retirement Has to be Dull?

As volunteers with the San Diego-Riverside Forest Fire Lookout Association Pat and John Downing are in their third season as certified forest-fire lookouts. Besides searching for fires they monitor and report weather conditions and are docents in the historical Boucher Peak lookout in Palomar State Park. As members of the Colorado Desert Archaeological Society they are trained avocational archaeologists, surveying new, and monitoring known, archaeological sites, and working in the lab curating and recording artifacts.



On Saturday, September 26, at 10:00 a.m., join Pat and John, who will speak on their forest-fire lookout adventures and their archeological experiences as part of the Friends of the Valley Center Library *Coffee and Conversations* program.

Frozen Ice Princess Party-Palozza



Frozen Princess fun at the library during the FOL-sponsored

VC History Museum Closes For Major Expansion

The Valley Center History Museum has closed temporarily as the popular 12-year-old complex launches a major expansion project, which will add 50 percent more space to its existing building.



Museum president Earl Brown said closure of the facility was necessary for safety reasons. He pointed out, however, that the all-volunteer staff will be available to respond to inquiries via telephone and e-mail.

The contractor, Pence Building Enterprises, estimates that construction may take up to 12 weeks to complete, with a re-opening anticipated in October. Updates will be posted on the museum website, on Facebook, at its regular telephone number, and signage in front of the building.



The California grizzly bear exhibition at the Valley Center History Museum [original town name: Bear Valley, Cali-

its original building and has been forced to place many popular exhibits in storage, said Brown. The new 700-foot wing will permit many of those displays to return to public view and will allow the addition of new exhibitions. Since its opening, the museum has welcomed some 32,000 visitors from every state in the Union and from more than 40 foreign countries.

To contact the museum during construction, e-mail staff at info@vchistory.org, visit [Facebook.com/VChistory](https://www.facebook.com/VChistory), or telephone (760) 749-2993.

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Friends Express Book Reviews

Dry Bones; China Rich Girlfriend



Dry Bones

The current television series, *Longmire*, is taken from **Craig Johnson's** well-written detective novels featuring Sheriff Longmire of huge, sparsely populated and fictional Absaroka County in Wyoming. ***Dry Bones*** is the latest book from Johnson, the title a reference to the unearthed dinosaur skeleton that starts the plot rolling.

Setting, action and characters are emphatically Western. The relationships (frequently troubled) among Cheyenne Indians, Anglo ranchers and lawmen have the sharp tang of realism, as does the weather and the scenery. These are not romanticized cowboy novels. Here are bars, fights, drugs, poverty, injustice, old ethnic resentments and prejudices. Walt Longmire's best friend, of Vietnam War vintage, is Cheyenne Henry Standing Bear, familiarly known as the Bear. You don't mess around with Henry. The women in the series are strong characters too: Walt's daughter Cady, a fiercely independent woman and a lawyer; and his street-smart deputy Vic, whose language in the books is in no way okay for prime time. Besides cleaning up language, filming changes character and plot somewhat. The camera wants conflict, action and blood,

the more the better. Whether you are a fan of the TV series or not, if you're interested in the slower paced, more expansive books, start with an early one and read chronologically. The continuing story of a cast of well-drawn characters is interesting to follow.

Critics often compare Johnson's books to Tony Hillerman's Navajo mysteries. Of course, they're both set in the American West's Indian country, but I see few other resemblances. Longmire's world seems tougher, harsher, and much more lonely.

China Rich Girlfriend

Remember the TV show *Dallas*? Well, imagine it as a novel. Then imagine the characters not as Texans, but as Chinese. And they're not just very rich, but immensely, unimaginably rich, able to collect



sports cars like candy wrappers, or buy a picture at auction for one hundred ninety-five million dollars. Give it all a satirical spin, and this is ***China Rich Girlfriend***, by **Kevin Kwan**.

Kwan's first bestseller, *Crazy Rich Asians*, is already being made into a movie; he has found a winning formula. Take a good soap opera plot of beleaguered lovers, desperate social climbers, marriages in trouble and feuding families. Season it with the details of how the mega-rich spend their

time. And set it in the cultural context of Singapore and Hong Kong, with detailed descriptions of Chinese manners, taboos, social hierarchies and holiday celebrations, most of which will be alien and fascinating to non-Asian readers.

It may not be great literature, but it's a lot of fun.

J.S. Rudolf

Halloween Event



**October 28th
6-7:30PM
Community
Room of the
Library**

The History and Lore of Werewolves

Please join the Friends for a special Halloween event, with local writer and speaker **Linda Thomas-Sundstrom** (aka **Linda Yeager**) leading us through an evening about the lore of werewolves.

Screen presentations, wolfish snacks, and a few four-legged friends might join us for a fun lead-up to Halloween. Werewolves have made a comeback recently, but they have been around for centuries. What is a "werewolf" really? How do you become one? **Linda knows.**

Children welcome, age eight and older.



Bookstore Hours

Mon	10:30 - 6:30
Tues	10:30 - 4:30
Wed	10:30 - 7:00
Thurs	10:30 - 4:30
Fri	10:00 - 4:00
Sat	10:00 - 4:00
Sun	Closed

Some Upcoming Friends-Sponsored VC Library Events
Info at 760-749-1305
(Registration required)

September/October Saturdays

Writer's Discussion Group
Qigong
10:00 a.m.
Zumba Fitness Classes
10:30 a.m.
Family Story Time & Craft
1:00 p.m.
Gentle Yoga
4:45 p.m.

Tuesdays

Twisted Knitters
12:00 p.m.
Family Story Time
3:30 p.m.
Gentle Yoga
4:45 p.m.
Adult Literacy Tutoring:
ESL
6:00 p.m.

Wednesdays

Family Storytime and Craft
3:00 p.m.

For full Schedule see Calendar of Events at the San Diego County Library website.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT September 2015

By Marian Klein

After a summer recess in July and August, the Friends of the Library Board is back at work. We have several programs planned, with more in the works. First, though, I want to give all of you an update on the bookstore. During the past few months our earnings have increased considerably. In July we made over \$1,000. We thank our members for their patronage. Special thanks go to our silent auctioneer, Bonnie Wheeler, and our buck-a-bag lady, Ineke Burrie. Each of their monthly events have been very successful. Children's books sell especially well at our buck-a-bag sales, held on *Fine-Free Fridays*, the last Friday of each month. We are always in need of gently used children's books. If you have any, please donate them.

Back by popular demand are our *Coffee and Conversations* programs, which are held at the fireplace on the fourth Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. Have a cup of coffee with a breakfast treat, and listen to interesting talks about various subjects. On September 26th Marilyn Guidroz, owner and president of Marilyn's Garden Design and a certified member of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, will speak on gardening in a dry climate and cover the highlights of a California-friendly landscape, certainly an important topic for us all. On October 24th Pat and John Downing will speak about volunteering in local California state parks. They will describe their work as forest-fire lookouts on Palomar Mountain. They will also share their experiences assisting the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park archaeologist in the protection of the park's numerous cultural heritage sites.

That brings us to Halloween. On Wednesday, October 28th, from 6-7:30 p.m., Friends Board Member and author, Linda Thomas-Sundstrom, aka Linda Yeager, will present a program titled *The History and Lore of Werewolves*. Werewolves have made a comeback recently, but they have been around for centuries. How have these creatures migrated from horror films to fantasy and romance? What is a "werewolf" really? Linda Knows. Children welcome, age eight and over.

Much more is being planned for the Fall and Winter. Renew your memberships and support our bookstore to make more of such events possible.

Marian

Items of Interest

Coffee and Conversations

Sponsored by the Friends of the Valley Center Library

Join us for informal morning talks with local experts covering a variety of topics for fun and information. Light refreshments are served as we gather around the cozy fireplace in the library on the 4th Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. For more information, call (760) 749-1305.



Gardening in a Dry Climate

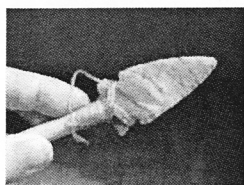
Saturday, September 26th

Marilyn Guidroz, of Marilyn's Garden Design, will cover a timely topic: *California Friendly Landscape*, including site evaluation, soil building, plant selection and irrigation. Visit Marilyn's website at www.marilynsgardendesign.com.

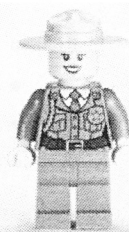


Volunteering in Local California State Parks

Saturday, October 24th



Valley Center Residents **John and Pat Downing** will speak on their work as forest-fire lookouts on Palomar Mountain and also share their experiences assisting the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park archaeologist in protecting the park's numerous cultural heritage sites.



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Friends of the Valley Center Library

Librarian's Report

The Valley Center Library had an amazing summer loaded with programs, prizes and more. We owe it to the Friends of the Valley Center Library (FOL) for its generous support and sponsorship. All of our big summer reading programs were paid for by the Friends. These included the **John Abrams Animal Magic**, **Mad Science** and **Amazing Dana Magic** shows and Valley Center Symphony Orchestra's **Peter and the Wolf Concert Series**. Additionally, children enjoyed the **Water Balloons and Watermelons Party**, **The Frozen Ice Princess Party-Palozza** and the **End of Summer Reading Grand Prize Raffle & Ice Cream Social**. Valley Center teens also had an wonderful summer filled with art classes, gaming events, author visits, teen crafts and the popular **Summer Kendama Competition!** The adults weren't left out and enjoyed a full line-up of **Gentle Yoga**, **Zumba**, **Thursday Art Classes** and the very special **Floral Design Workshop** with Master Designer George Speer. The Friends of the Valley Center Library also purchased library material packages to bring the Valley Center community more DVDs, books and magazines for the 2015-2016 year.

Laura

The FOL will sponsor these fall programs:

- *The Fall Acoustic Showcase*, 6:00 p.m live music concerts in the evenings on the 3rd Wednesdays of the month.
- Musician Gregory Page, Wednesday, September 16th at 6:00 p.m.
- Yael and Vlady, Wednesday, October 21st at 6:00 p.m.
- *Red Moon Road*, Wednesday, November 18th at 6:00 p.m.
- Additional Gentle Yoga Classes on Saturdays from 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Please Renew if You Haven't Yet!