Library Volunteers Make A Difference

As you have all experienced, we are going through some major changes at Deschutes Public Library! It is “all hands on deck” time for staff across the district as we move collections, reclassify materials and set up temporary spaces. It is so wonderful to know that throughout this exciting period we have so much support from our volunteers.

I know I speak for all of our staff in offering you a heartfelt thank you for all that you do to help our library and our community thrive. Together we are ensuring that people learn, thrive, and connect to one another and the world!

Todd Dunkelberg
Library Director

The people of Deschutes County give so much to Central Oregon, and Deschutes Public Library is fortunate to have many community members giving their time to support the library. As we navigate the reclassification of materials and moves to temporary spaces, library volunteers continue to support our libraries in any way they can. Volunteers flex with the changes, make staff smile, and continue to help get materials on the shelves for customers. Thank you!

Judy England
Volunteer Services Coordinator
Deschutes Public Library has an extraordinary team of volunteer liaisons working with and supporting volunteers. From a volunteer’s first shift to their last, volunteer liaisons are involved and are an extremely valued addition to DPL Volunteer Services! With new additions to the team (see Volunteer Liaison Spotlight with Emily Midyette) to fond farewells (Jordan VanBuskirk, Redmond Volunteer Liaison), our libraries hum with their support for all things volunteer. A very fond salute to them all!

**Rashelle Maplethorpe** and **Emily Midyette** (Downtown Bend)

**Sara Farina** (East Bend) and **Kaelynn Sieg** (La Pine)

**Lydia Alvarez** (Sisters) and **Annie Bucher** (Sunriver)
Volunteer Spotlight
Linda Chavez Redmond & Downtown Bend

The opportunity to meet over coffee with Linda Chavez was like catching a breath of fresh air. Linda exudes genuine and dedicated energy to everything she does in her life, including her dedication to Deschutes Public Library.

After 30 years teaching and being a school librarian in Woodburn and Portland, Linda and her husband made the move to Central Oregon. Coming here over the years to camp and hike, and then spending two years teaching in Prineville, Linda knew she wanted to live here. Thinking Bend was the town they would move to, when steered towards Redmond, they found an incredible community and never looked back. Linda and her husband have embraced all the area has to offer.

Coming to the Redmond Library six months ago to help in any way she could, shelving was the greatest need. With the relocation to a temporary space during construction of the new library, Linda continues her support by shelving at the Downtown Bend Library. Linda joined Traveling Stories to read to children in Head Start classrooms. “I usually get to the Head Start classroom for Story Time right after their rest period, when kids are still a little sleepy. It’s fun to see them change from drowsy and quiet to excited and smiling. I hope to build a love of reading in these young students.”

Linda is a native Oregonian and has always loved to garden. We commiserated over the challenges of gardening in Central Oregon and agreed it would not deter us. Starting out college as an art major, Linda’s interest in teaching grew and art took a back seat. Now Linda paints or draws almost every day. She’s found great joy in returning to a passion she finally has the time to enjoy. Linda also loves spending time with her two-year-old granddaughter, who not surprisingly, enjoys books and the outdoors.

Choosing a single book that had great influence in our lives is hard for many of us, as it was for Linda. Books that celebrate people who overcome difficult circumstances are the ones she highlighted, and what amazing books they are: Endurance: Shackleton’s Incredible Voyage by Alfred Lansing; Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian Football Team by Steve Sheinken; and Undaunted Courage by Stephen Ambrose. As Linda succinctly says, “These are stories of people who faced incredible circumstances and succeeded!”

Linda comes to Deschutes Public Library with a lot of library experience—from her school library to the Multnomah County Library where she helped with holds processing as well as answering questions about books.

Linda has great passion for reading and information for all ages. We’re delighted that Linda made her way back to Central Oregon and chose to volunteer at Deschutes Public Library!
Emily Midyette is the newest addition to Downtown Bend’s Volunteer Liaison Team and recently celebrated her first anniversary with Deschutes Public Library!

As a Public Services Specialist Emily finds her work as “easily the best job I have ever had!” Emily’s parents are bookstore owners and it’s clear she inherited the book lover’s gene. Emily feels right at home in the stacks and enjoys serving the diverse patrons of Deschutes County. She loves that no two days are ever the same.

Volunteering has been a major part of her life, and Emily was eager to take on this role so she could engage with like-minded people. You can find Emily in the materials work room listening to her favorite music or reading a colorful picture book at the Children’s desk. Outside of work Emily enjoys dancing to live music, cooking something decadent, or volunteering with the hospice organization Partners in Care.

Emily has an incredible energy for the work she does and for the people around her, and she is delighted to be working with volunteers and customers alike!

**What are you currently reading?**
The Dog Stars by Peter Heller to celebrate 20 years of A Novel Idea.

**What has been your most influential book?**
The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison. My junior year of high school this book was banned from my English class (yes, for real, in 2014). The experience solidified my commitment to intellectual freedom and the book expanded my understanding of experiences outside of my identities.

**What is your favorite book from childhood?**
Jeff Smith’s Bone graphic novel series. It lit a love for comics that is still burning bright.

**Which is your favorite section of the library? Why?**
The picture books! There is no higher form of art. Don’t believe me? Try Sun Wishes by Patricia Storms and Milan Pavlović or Poojo’s Got Wheels by Charrow.

**E-reader or print?**
Print.

**Where is your favorite place to read?**
In my blue papasan chair.
As school began in the fall of 2022, a team of Deschutes Public Library volunteers started preparations for Traveling Stories, a program that sends volunteers out to read to children in Deschutes County Head Start classrooms. Eleven volunteers received training on early literacy and narrative skills with Chandra vanEijnsbergen, Youth Services Supervisor, and Ericka Brunson-Rochette and Roxanne Renteria, Youth Community Librarians.

Utilizing over 100 DPL Story Time to Go Kits on a variety of topics along with flannel boards, puppets and other items, Traveling Stories volunteers read weekly in their classrooms, making connections and promoting the love of books and reading to 3–5 year olds.
Clockwise
Roxanne trains volunteers, Jan M in a Head Start classroom, and more Story Time To Go kits.