

KNOW VOLUNTEERS

Library Volunteers Make A Difference



WINTER PROVIDES A CHILLY and renewed sense of the wonder to Central Oregon with snow being welcome and a sparkly winter wonderland a beautiful bonus. Throughout each season volunteers bring joy to our libraries along with a strong sense of dedication, putting their time where their heart is in supporting the library come wind, rain and snow. As we plunge into winter and winter road conditions being what they are, we want you to be safe and ask you to err on the side of caution as you consider coming in for your shift. Be safe and be well and thank you for all you do!

Judy England, Volunteer Services Coordinator

Programs and Events 2022!

Deschutes Public Library continues to offer a wide variety of programs for children to adults. Check out the online calendar here:

www.deschuteslibrary.org/calendar

Future Libraries: Expansions and Improvement

Stay up to date with the development and everything related to the Deschutes Public Library bond measure! Information can be found here:

www.deschuteslibrary.org/about/bond

Click on “Conceptual Designs Report” to see information on our future libraries.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT *Jay & Melanie*



For the past six years, after many years working in the education field, Jay Blank and Melanie Butler have volunteered with the La Pine Library. What brought them from Los Angeles to Central Oregon is a pure love of nature.

Jay, a retired science teacher, speaks eloquently about his time working with and guiding students, although it wasn't a straight path to teaching. Starting out working in city government in Northern California after leaving his home in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, it wasn't long before Jay decided working in city government wasn't for him. Jay headed to Southern California to reinvent himself as a teacher. He taught Marriage and Family classes along with Spanish, Science and Math while teaching at his district's Continuation school and soon returned to his favorite, teaching science to junior high school students. Jay acquired several accolades along the way. To name a few: writing a grant through NASA worth \$100,000 and receiving a fellowship from John Hopkins for teaching gifted and talented students. And while those are serious

accolades, perhaps his most cherished one is becoming a beloved teacher. Jay doesn't brag about his achievements but he happily shares that many of his students went into the science field. He misses the kids and, not surprisingly, remains in touch with many of them and now delights in hearing about his students' children and grandchildren.

Melanie also attended college getting a B.A. in psychology with a biology minor. She obtained a M.A. in psychology and became a career counselor and then an academic advisor at the same college she attended. She enjoyed working with students to meet the requirements for graduation and, to this day, also not surprisingly, she remains in touch with her favorite professors and students.

Jay and Melanie moved here for the abundance of hiking trails, rivers and lakes. They spend as much time experiencing the great Central Oregon outdoors as possible (any of their visitors better be able to walk and kayak!). Both are passionate about the environment and expressed great joy in all the sights and animals they see while being out in nature. Melanie spoke fondly about the book *The World Without Us* by Alan Weisman. It is a biology teacher's thoughts on what the planet would be without the current damage to the planet. It may be considered a warning but it is also a hope for recovery. Many other books have had an impact on Melanie, including *The Road Less Traveled* by M. Scott Peck, *The Gift of Fear and Fear Less* by Gavin DE Becker and *Love, Medicine and Miracles* by Bernie S Siegel to name a few. Jay's influential book is *Catcher in the Rye* by JD Salinger; having read it in high school and just re-reading, Jay finds the thought of "loss of innocence" quite compelling.

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When talking about who she would like to share a meal with, Melanie would like to spend time with Bill and Melinda Gates to learn how they select the campaigns they support through their philanthropic work. When she dreams of winning the lottery she fantasizes about what big problems she could solve. Jay, who has an uncanny resemblance to Art Garfunkel, would find sharing a meal with the musician fascinating as he embraces so many facets of the arts and sciences from a math professor to singer, poet, actor, writer and more. What dinner parties those would be!

Jay and Melanie have so much dedication to the things they love and they feel strongly in giving back to their community. We're so thankful Jay and Melanie chose Central Oregon!

VOLUNTEER LIAISON *Kaelynn Sieg*



Kaelynn joined the Deschutes Public Library's La Pine team in July 2013 as a Public Services Specialist. The library is her happy place where she can "people" and share all the good things the library offers. She enjoys working in a career that gives to our community.

Another favorite place to be is on her little acre of heaven in La Pine with her husband, son, three dogs (ages 3-15 years), one handsome cat and a big Cockatoo. Spring and summers are spent gardening, working in the yard and reading on the back deck.

Some of Kaelynn's favorite hobbies include rock hounding, exploring the Oregon Outback and floating on the many lakes and rivers Central Oregon has to offer. You can find her reading urban fantasies (a personal favorite) on her tablet during breaks at work and at home. And just to shake up her reads, she'll throw in a bit of paranormal and romance.

-Cathy Zraggen, Operations Supervisor, La Pine Library

Kaelynn's *picks*

What are you currently reading? *The Becoming* by Nora Roberts

What has been your most influential book? *Run Between the Rain Drops* by Dale A. Dye a Marine Corp Veteran. More enlightening and gut wrenching than any history book could share about the US Soldier in Vietnam. And, *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* by **Richard Bach because who doesn't want to fly!**

What is your favorite book from childhood? I loved *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. I thought she was such a brave women.

Which is your favorite section of the library? Why? **I love the children's section.** I enjoy hearing the happy voices exploring all the wonderful places they can go and things they can learn about!

E-reader or print? I was a diehard print person until my eyes became tired and old. I am E-reader all the way now.

Where is your favorite place to read? I have reading materials with me at all times but my favorite place to read is on my back deck on a warm day enjoying the outside while watching my dogs play.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT *Sharon Rexford*



Shortly after retirement and for the last five years, Sharon Rexford has volunteered at the East Bend Library helping with the paging list, missing list, shelving and with anything needing attention. It was a seamless transition for Sharon after working in education for many years.

Sharon describes time at the library like being on a treasure hunt. She says one of the many joys of being a library volunteer is how it has expanded the types of materials she reads and the exposure to so many new titles. Fiction has always been high on her list of enjoyable reads but more and more she's finding non-fiction creeping in to her reading. Mysteries clearly top Sharon's list and have from an early age with fond memories of going once a week with her sister to the library in her hometown and devouring all of the Nancy Drew books.

Sharon and her husband John have been involved in education for over 30 years having started in the Willamette Valley before coming to Central Oregon.

Deciding on what areas to teach, health and math were high on the list with an occasional opportunity to consider both. Ultimately math came out on top and as a math teacher at Mountain View High School (MVHS) for over 25 years, Sharon's passion for teaching is clear along with a strong desire that young women see studying and understanding math as not only obtainable but also exciting. Sharon has great pride in her voice when she informs me that when she taught at MVHS six out of the seven math teachers were women (where were these math teachers when I was in school?).

When asked who she might like to share a meal with it comes as little surprise with her love of mysteries that Sharon selected a mystery writer. A sit with Agatha Christie to ask how she came up with her awesome mysteries and to have the chance to ask her about what really happened when she went missing (an entire mystery in itself) would be amazing.

There were many delightful moments talking with Sharon about her interests outside of her devotion to supporting the library district. She spoke lovingly of her two daughters who, not surprisingly, are also avid readers—albeit they enjoy different reading materials and share what they're reading and learn from each other. Sharon also spoke of her joy of running and of recently being part of a relay team on the coast as part of the Gorgeous Series—a series of individuals who come together to run in gorgeous scenery and give back to the community www.gorgeousseries.com/about-us.html#

Before COVID, Sharon also helped high school students through the ASPIRE program at Mountain View High School, a series of volunteers who help in the College and Career Center assisting students filling out scholarship and grant forms. As soon as things return to include ASPIRE at high schools, Sharon will be back to helping students.

Sharon, thank you for your community generosity, dedication, and being part of the volunteer corps!



DESCHUTES PUBLIC
LIBRARY