READ for the STARS

Programs & Exhibits
June through August 2023

Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory
RANCHO MIRAGE
LIBRARY & OBSERVATORY
Library Hours
Monday to Tuesday
9 am to 6 pm
Wednesday
9 am to 8 pm
Thursday to Saturday
9 am to 6 pm
Closed Sundays

Library Closures
Juneteenth
Monday, June 19
Independence Day
Tuesday, July 4

Nearly All of Our Programs Are FREE

File that under fact, not fiction!

Thanks to the support of our generous donors.

Unless otherwise noted, programs are presented by the Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory Foundation.

Keep up to date on everything happening at the Library and Observatory by signing up for our email newsletters! In addition to a monthly preview email, each Sunday morning you’ll receive an email with a detailed look at the week ahead. We’ll even send you “day-of” reminder emails for our major programs. Sign up today at ranchomiragelibrary.org or by scanning the QR code below.
Welcome to Your Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

We are so excited to introduce to you our 2023 Summer Reading Club program in which we’ll be encouraging everyone in our community to Read for the Stars in an effort to keep our minds engaged and reading skills sharp over the summer months. Themed weekly programming will help you beat the heat as you join us for out-of-this-world fun to learn about comets, asteroids, galaxies, space careers, and more! Blast off with us to enjoy crafts, games, incredible performances, and great space-themed movies all summer long. Programs will take place nearly every Monday through Friday from June 12 through August 4 (see pages 6–27 for more information and a detailed schedule).

You are never too old to Read for the Stars, and program participants of all ages will have the opportunity to win some incredible raffle prizes. We’ll also be working together as a team this year to take on our greatest challenge yet: reading ONE MILLION minutes! Sign up today to show us you have the “right stuff” needed as we rocket towards our goal.

Additional Highlights

• As part of our Summer Reading Club, special teen programs are set to take place throughout the summer (pages 26–27).

• Performances of the Library and Observatory Foundation’s production of Charlotte’s Web JR. will take place on July 28 and 29. Our community’s talented young thespians will transport you to a very special barnyard in this theatrical adaptation of the beloved classic (page 32).

• Our popular Docu-Mondays series returns August 7 and will feature a lineup of seven terrific documentaries selected and introduced by film historian Jason Bruecks (page 28).

Our mission to provide access to lifelong learning opportunities to all is made possible due to the generous support we receive from the community. If you enjoy our programs and exhibits, please consider making a donation to the Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory Foundation.

See you this summer!
The Staff of Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

Our organization has worked with The International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES), a global leader in online training and certification programs, to be designated as a Certified Autism Center™ (CAC). Our staff has completed training and certification in best practices when assisting autistic individuals. By undergoing additional autism-specific training, the goal is for our team to be better equipped to provide better service and experiences to all.

People of all abilities are encouraged to attend Library programs. If you have special communication or access needs, please contact the Library at 760-341-7323 four business days in advance of the event(s) you will attend.
Meet our Staff

Maribel Messersmith, Administrative Analyst

Mari has been with the Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory since 2006, first as a Part-Time Library Clerk and, since April 2021, as Administrative Analyst. She worked for the Inspector General’s Office in Japan, the Superintendent of Schools at the Moreno Valley Unified School District, and for Administration at Eisenhower Medical Center, before leaving the workforce to become a full-time mom after the adoption of her son.

“I am inspired every day by the people I work with and their commitment to share their knowledge and love of books with the community. It is truly exciting and challenging to see how this Library touches the lives of so many and how important it is to those who walk through our doors.”

Austin Shaver, Network & Support Specialist

Austin is a dedicated IT specialist with a lifelong passion for computers and technology. Entirely self-taught, he has an enthusiasm for tech that started at an early age, even building the family computer at age six. Austin continues to harness this love for technology, using his skills to provide exceptional support and service in his IT career.

“I treasure the calm yet fun atmosphere at the Library and Observatory, where I have the privilege of working alongside a world-class, inspiring team. Together, this team creates a space that fosters learning, exploration, and discovery, allowing patrons to indulge their curiosities and expand their horizons.”

Jorge Avila, Maintenance Worker II

Jorge has been in the building and facilities maintenance field for over ten years. He has received his Technical Certification in HVAC/R having completed HVAC/R courses at College of the Desert. He has been with the City of Rancho Mirage for almost a year, and was just recently assigned to his station at the Library and Observatory.

“I enjoy the day-to-day rewards and challenges involved in the upkeep and maintenance that is required to keep things running efficiently at the Library and Observatory.”
Book Nook

The Library Foundation offers the “Book Nook,” a convenient, well-stocked bookstore selling some new and many gently used books for readers. Paperbacks, hardcovers, best sellers, coffee table books, audiobooks, and more fill the shelves. The Book Nook is the place to buy books for gifts, books for grandchildren, books for travel, and books you have wanted to read. The Book Nook is staffed by an energetic and helpful group of volunteers who love their work, their customers, and their books!

Book Nook materials come directly from gifts made by generous residents. The annual overhead costs for running the Book Nook are $0. Every Book Nook purchase that you make goes directly to the Foundation for new books and media for the collection and programming for patrons of all ages.

If you would like to contribute new or used books in good condition to the Book Nook, please visit the Library during regular hours. Library staff is available to unload your car and to provide a receipt for your gift. We will gladly accept up to three bankers boxes of donated items per person each day. For information on the types of items we accept (and do not accept) visit our website or call 760-341-7323.

The Book Nook is open from 9 am–4 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays; from 9 am–5 pm on Wednesdays; and is closed on Sundays.

California State Parks Pass

The Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory is now circulating passes for free entry to 200+ California State Parks! These passes will allow free vehicle day-use entry at any of the participating parks. Passes check out for two weeks with no renewals. Holds can be placed on the passes via the online catalog on our website at ranchomiragelibrary.org. You can learn more about the program by visiting the California Department of Parks and Recreation website at parks.ca.gov.
The 28th Annual Summer Reading Club runs Monday, June 12, through Friday, August 4 and is open to all ages. Stop by the Children’s Room to register and pick up a reading log, your first Book Buck, and a free book!

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**Teen Activities**

**Teen Book Discussion Group**

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Summer Reading Club

Read for the Stars

The 28th Annual Summer Reading Club runs from Monday, June 12, through Friday, August 4. All programs start at 11 am in the Community Room (unless otherwise noted). Join us on Tuesdays for our special Big Show performances and presentations (please note that the content of Big Show programs may include visual or auditory elements that could cause sensory overload for some individuals).

Preview

Join us for Family Night on Wednesday, June 7 from 5:30–7 pm to learn more about this year’s theme, prizes, and weekly activities.

Registration

Registration for all ages is in the Children’s Room. Stop by to pick up a reading log, your first Book Buck, and a free book!
Reading Logs

Too young to read? Being read to counts for both the reader and the listener!

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Minutes Per Book Buck</th>
<th>Total Time Per Reading Log</th>
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<tr>
<td>Early Readers (0–4 years)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>150 (2.5 Hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kids (5–11 years)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>300 (5 Hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teens (12–17 years)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>600 (10 Hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (18 years &amp; up)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>750 (12.5 Hours)</td>
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Turn in completed reading logs for raffle tickets. The more logs you complete, the more raffle tickets you will earn.

8 Weeks of Wonder

- Week 1, June 12–16—**Planets**
- Week 2, June 19–23—**Comets and Asteroids**
- Week 3, June 26–30—**Stars**
- Week 4, July 3–7—**Galaxies**
- Week 5, July 10–14—**Black Holes**
- Week 6, July 17–21—**Aliens**
- Week 7, July 24–28—**Rockets and Telescopes**
- Week 8, July 31–August 4—**Careers in Space**
Exhibits

LEGO raffle prize
Barbie raffle prize

Reading Logs for Early Readers, Kids, Teens, and Adults

**Book Bucks**

Book Bucks can be spent on small prizes or be turned in for additional raffle tickets. Every log is worth ten book bucks. Ten book bucks can be traded for one raffle ticket.

**Raffle Prizes**

You will have through August 4 at 5 pm to turn in any outstanding reading logs for any remaining raffle tickets. Raffle prizes will be drawn the week of August 8. You do not need to be present to win.
Million Minutes Challenge

We need readers with the “right stuff” to rocket us towards our astronomical goal of one million minutes of reading this summer. Will you join Team RMLO (that’s Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory… astronomers LOVE acronyms)?? In the space race-inspired words of our intrepid leader, Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory Director Aaron Espinosa, “We choose to read one million minutes in a single summer and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win, and the others, too.”

We’ll be tracking our progress all summer long in the Children’s Room, so be sure to stop in to see where we stand as a team. **If we can reach our sky-high goal by the end of the day on July 28th, and ONLY if we reach that goal, we will celebrate following the Big Show performance by Christopher T. Magician on Tuesday, August 1 with a SNOW CONE PARTY!! Go Team RMLO!**

**LET’S READ A MILLION MINUTES!**
Week 1—Planets
June 12–16

Facts About Planets

- There are more planets than stars in our galaxy. Thousands more planets have been discovered beyond our solar system, which are called exoplanets because exo means “from outside.”
- The five best-known dwarf planets are Ceres, Pluto, Makemake, Haumea, and Eris. Ceres can be found in the asteroid belt, while the four others are in the Kuiper Belt beyond the orbit of Neptune.
- Mercury, the closest planet to the Sun, is the fastest planet, zipping around the Sun every 88 Earth days.
- Neptune is the eighth planet in our solar system. It is dark, cold, and has supersonic winds. It was the first planet located through mathematical calculations.
- Earth’s Moon, the fifth largest moon in our solar system, is the only place beyond Earth where humans have set foot. The moon has had 24 human visitors, of which half walked on the moon.

Monday
June 12, 11 am–1 pm

Moon Phases
Create your own moon to learn more about lunar phases.

Wednesday
June 14, 11 am–1 pm

Space Origami
Explore unique star shapes through the art of paper folding.
Big Show Tuesday
Arty Loon Magic Show!
June 13, 11 am–12 pm
Join us to kick off our 2023 Summer Reading Club with Los Angeles magician Arty Loon! This can’t-miss show will combine the latest technology with fantastic magic, puppetry, comedy, and lots of fun audience participation.

Thursday
June 15, 11 am–1 pm
Solar System Art
Paint a planet using sponges and a variety of vibrant colors.

Friday
June 16, 11 am–12:30 pm
Film: Space Chimps
Three chimps are sent into space to explore the possibility of alien life when an unmanned space shuttle crash lands on an uncharted planet.
Week 2—Comets and Asteroids
June 19–23

Facts About Comets and Asteroids
• Asteroids, comets, and meteors are chunks of rock, ice, and metal left over from the formation of our solar system 4.6 billion years ago.
• There are currently over 1.2 million known asteroids and almost 4,000 comets.
• Most known asteroids are in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. The belt is estimated to contain between 1.1 and 1.9 million asteroids larger than 1 kilometer (0.6 miles) in diameter.
• Comets are cosmic snowballs of gas and dust that make sweeping orbits around the sun. A comet warms up as it nears the Sun and develops an atmosphere or coma. The pressure of sunlight and high-speed solar particles blow the coma dust and gas away from the Sun, sometimes forming a long, bright tail. Comets have two tails—a dust tail and an ion (gas) tail.
• Comets that take less than 200 years to orbit the sun make their appearance predictable because they have passed by before.

Monday
June 19, Library is Closed for Juneteenth

Wednesday
June 21, 11 am–1 pm

Established as a federal holiday in 2021, Juneteenth commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans on the anniversary of the 1865 date when emancipation was announced in Galveston, Texas.

Comet on a Stick
Swish! Did a comet just fly by? Join us to create your own comet on a stick.
Big Show Tuesday
Michael Rayner, Juggler Extraordinaire
June 20, 11 am–12 pm
Michael’s show has been described as “preposterous brilliance” and “wacky jugglement,” a combination of hilarious tricks and stunts with uproarious comedy. His signature trick, spinning a cheeseburger on a parasol, is unlike anything you’ve ever seen!

Thursday
June 22, 11 am–1 pm

Spinning Solar System
Learn about asteroid belts and more as you craft a spinning solar system to take home.

Friday
June 23, 11 am–12:40 pm

Film: Astro Boy
When an android replica of a boy is rejected by his aggrieved creator, he goes off to find his own identity in an adventure that would make him the greatest hero of his time.
Week 3—Stars
June 26–30

Facts About Stars

• Stars represent the most fundamental building blocks of galaxies. The age, distribution, and composition of the stars in a galaxy trace the history, dynamics, and evolution of that galaxy.

• Stars are fueled by the nuclear fusion of hydrogen to form helium deep in their interiors.

• Stars are responsible for the creation and distribution of heavy elements such as carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen.

• A star the size of our Sun requires about 50 million years to mature from the beginning of the collapse to adulthood.

• The larger the star, the shorter its life. The most massive stars live only for hundreds of millions of years. An average star like our Sun will live for about 10 billion years.

Monday
June 26, 11 am–1 pm

Straw Rocket
Build your own flying rocket and see how far it will fly!

Wednesday
June 28, 11 am–1 pm

Water Safety with Lenny the Landshark!
Join Desert Recreation District’s Lenny the Landshark for a program filled with fun and crafts that will help you and your friends stay safe in the water all summer long.
Big Show Tuesday
Mobile Zoo of Southern California Cool Critters Show
June 27, 11 am–12 pm
This educational program features an exotic mix of furry, feathered, and scaly critters for animal lovers to enjoy. Parrots will soar, snakes will slither, and hedgehogs will... hedge? Learn hands-on about the animals, where they come from, and where their favorite place to be scratched is.

Thursday
June 29, 11 am–1 pm
Solar Constellation Book
We’ll provide the supplies and help you create a special book featuring your favorite constellations.

Friday
June 30, 11 am–12:45 pm
Film: WALL-E
In the distant future, a small waste-collecting robot inadvertently embarks on a space journey that will ultimately decide the fate of mankind.
Week 4—Galaxies
July 3–7

Facts About Galaxies

- Our Milky Way Galaxy is just one of the billions of galaxies in the Universe. Our Sun is one of at least 100 billion stars in the Milky Way, a spiral galaxy about 100,000 light-years across.
- About two-thirds of the known galaxies are spiral-shaped like our Milky Way galaxy. Most of the rest have elliptical (oval-like) shapes, and a few have unusual shapes like toothpicks or rings.
- All the stars in our galaxy orbit a supermassive black hole which is located at the center of the Milky Way Galaxy. It is estimated to be four million times as massive as the Sun.
- Scientists have calculated that there are at least 100 billion galaxies in the observable Universe, each one chock-full of stars.
- When the Hubble Space Telescope observed a tiny “empty” patch of space about the size of the Moon, it revealed more than 10,000 distant galaxies.

Monday
July 3, 11 am–1 pm

Galaxy Slime
It’s time for slime! Join us in this annual Summer Reading Club tradition to create your own galactic goo that is truly “out of this world.”

Wednesday
July 5, 11 am–1 pm

Space LEGOS
Are you NASA or SpaceX’s next design specialist or engineer? Show us your stuff and have fun as we build space-inspired LEGO creations.
**Tuesday**

July 4, Library is Closed for Independence Day

Independence Day celebrates the 1776 adoption of the Declaration of Independence from British rule.

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**Thursday**

July 6, 11 am–1 pm

**Galaxy Chalk Art**

As art and science collide, you’ll be cosmically inspired to create a galactic masterpiece in chalk!

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**Friday**

July 7, 11 am–12:45 pm

**Film: Space Buddies**

Disney’s pups are back and take one small step for dog and one giant leap for dogkind.
Week 5—Black Holes
July 10–14

Facts About Black Holes

• A black hole is an extremely dense object in space from which no light can escape.
• When a massive star is at the end of its life, it can implode and collapse in on itself, forming a black hole.
• If you fell into a black hole, you would experience another reality. However, at the same time, the very strong gravity of the black hole would compress you horizontally and stretch you vertically like a noodle, which is why scientists call this phenomenon spaghettification.
• The most distant black hole ever detected is located in a galaxy about 13.1 billion light-years from Earth. This supermassive black hole is what astronomers call a quasar. Large quantities of gas are pouring into the black hole so fast that the energy output is a thousand times greater than that of the galaxy itself.
• A galaxy cluster has copious amounts of gas that envelop hundreds and thousands of galaxies within it. In 2022, NASA released a new audio clip of sound waves that were rippling out of a black hole in the center of the Perseus cluster of galaxies, located 250 million light-years away.

Monday
July 10, 11 am–1 pm

Galaxy Pinwheel
Keep your mind spinning with wonder as you use the beauty of the cosmos to create a special pinwheel to take home.

Wednesday
July 12, 11 am–1 pm

Indoor Pickleball
Desert Recreation District will be joining us for air-conditioned fun with indoor pickleball and a special craft.
Thursday
July 13, 11 am–1 pm

Solar System Jewelry
Using wooden beads, color and design planets to make a necklace or bracelet.

Friday
July 14, 11 am–12:30 pm

Film: Muppets from Space
Gonzo is contacted by his alien family through his breakfast cereal. But when the men in black kidnap him, it’s up to Kermit and the gang to rescue Gonzo and help him reunite with his long-lost family.

Big Show Tuesday
Ticket to the Stars
July 11, 11 am–12 pm

Journey to the Cosmos in this fascinating presentation combining information from astronomy, mythology, folklore, and more. You’ll even have the opportunity to get hands-on with exciting display pieces such as real meteorites. You don’t want to miss this special program from Full Spectrum Educational Services.
Week 6—Aliens
July 17–21

Facts About Aliens

- According to NASA, no life beyond Earth has yet been found, and there is no evidence that alien life has ever visited our planet.
- Additionally, research from the SETI Institute, analysis of Martian meteorites, recent findings of methane in the Mars atmosphere, and other similar studies show that there is no known evidence for life elsewhere, intelligent or otherwise.
- This does not mean that the Universe is lifeless. While no clear signs of life have ever been detected, the possibility of extraterrestrial biology—and the scientific logic that supports it—has grown increasingly plausible.
- NASA also supports research that leads to a better understanding of how life emerged and evolved on Earth.
- NASA does not actively search for Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP), another name for Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). However, the U.S. Department of Defense acknowledges UAPs are real and they are investigating them, noting that so far, no evidence suggests the objects are extraterrestrial.

(Source: www.nasa.gov/feature/faq-unidentified-aerial-phenomena-uapsufos)

Monday
July 17, 11 am–1 pm

Alien Sock Monster
Using colorful socks, sew your very own alien sock monster! Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory assumes no responsibility and shall not be held liable for any problems or damages caused by extraterrestrial monsters brought to life in sock-form on city property.

Wednesday
July 19, 11 am–1 pm

Alien Egg Drop
Can your creativity and construction skills survive the Alien Egg Drop? Use recycled materials to protect your precious extraterrestrial cargo in this always popular program.
Big Show Tuesday
Master Rusty’s Rock and Roll Circus
July 18, 11 am–12 pm
Join international performance artist, comic actor, and musician Christopher Yates to learn the fundamentals of music AND what it’s like to be a real circus performer. Get ready to “Cirque and Roll” (literally), in this fun, highly entertaining, original “BIG TOP ROCK” show.

Thursday
July 20, 11 am–1 pm
Paper Plate UFO
We want to believe… that the Coachella Valley has the best UFO builders in the Universe! Show us your skills as you construct your own flying saucer to take home.

Friday
July 21, No Film
Join us for a Blood Drive
See more on page 30.
Week 7—Rockets and Telescopes
July 24–28

Facts About Rockets and Telescopes

• The first true rockets were used in China in the 1200s as fireworks and weapons. Rockets are engines, and like most engines, rockets burn fuel, turning the fuel into a hot gas. The engine pushes the gas out its back making the rocket move forward. This is called thrust.

• In 1969, the United States launched the first men to land on the moon using a Saturn V rocket.

• In 1609, Italian physicist and astronomer Galileo Galilei became the first person to point a telescope up to the sky, helping prove that the planets revolve around the Sun.

• The Hubble Space Telescope was launched on April 24, 1990. In 1983, it was named after astronomer Edwin Hubble who proved that there were other galaxies in our Universe. In 1991, Hubble took its first observations of the planet Jupiter.

• On Christmas Day 2021, NASA launched the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), an orbiting infrared observatory that will complement and extend the discoveries of the Hubble Space Telescope. The longer wavelengths allow JWST to look much closer to the beginning of the Universe in search of the first galaxies and how they formed.

Monday
July 24, 11 am–1 pm

Galileo’s Star Viewer Chart Telescope
Take inspiration from one of astronomy’s greatest minds to create a special tool.

Wednesday
July 26, 11 am–1 pm

Indoor Golf
Can you drive the ball faster than a rocket? Do you putt with the precision required to dock with the space station? Show us your skills as the Desert Recreation District team joins us to provide indoor golf and a fun craft.
Summer Reading Club • Thursday July 27, 11 am–1 pm

Super Swishy Flying Rocket
Swish! Swish! We’ll have everything you need to create an awesome flying rocket that is sure to attract attention (or annoy your family!).

Friday July 28, No Film

We are getting ready for Charlotte’s Web JR.
See more on page 32.

Big Show Tuesday
Guide Dogs of the Desert
July 25, 11 am–12 pm

The Guide Dogs of the Desert team (including some of their friendly four-legged students) will be on site to share information about their mission to provide mobility, companionship, and independence to the blind with custom-trained guide dogs.
Week 8—Careers in Space
July 31–August 4

Facts About Careers in Space

• Within the field of astronomy, one can study fascinating topics such as astrobiology, observational astrophysics, astrometry and situational domain awareness, cosmology, data science, exoplanets, instrumentation, planetary sciences, general space science, and theoretical astrophysics.

• The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is the federal agency responsible for the civil space program and aeronautics and space research. Its diverse workforce is about 18,000 strong. But NASA is more than just astronauts. They are scientists, engineers, technicians, IT specialists, human resource specialists, accountants, writers, artists, and more.

• Despite being overlooked in previous generations, women have always played a critical role in NASA’s history. From the first black female engineer to the first female astronaut, many of our female pioneers were the first to achieve monumental breakthroughs in their fields.

• Careers in space are not limited to just NASA and space exploration. There are a multitude of different careers such as teaching, scientific research, telescope and camera technology, informal education, software development, and many more that contribute to the rich field of astronomy.

Monday
July 31, 11 am–1 pm

Lunar Lander
Design and construct your own lunar lander using the materials provided. Can you create a Human Landing System worthy of the upcoming Artemis missions?

Wednesday
August 2, 11 am–1 pm

Astronaut Helmet
Do you dream of being an astronaut someday? See what you’d look like in a spacesuit by creating and then trying on your very own helmet!
Model Spaceship

From the space shuttle, to the International Space Station, to the Millennium Falcon, spaceships (both real and imagined) can come in all shapes and sizes. Join us to build a model of your own original spaceship design using a variety of materials.

Big Show Tuesday

Christopher T. Magician
August 1, 11 am–12 pm

Christopher knows the secret to making kids sit quietly and watch a magic show. The secret: they don’t! Christopher’s audiences never just sit and watch. YOU will be as much a part of the show as he is, constantly interacting, shouting, helping, and participating. Join us for our final Big Show of the summer with one of the most popular performers we’ve ever had!

If we reach our goal of one million minutes of reading this summer, we will celebrate with a snow cone party following this Big Show!

Thursday

August 3, 11 am–1 pm

Film: Lightyear

While spending years attempting to return home, marooned Space Ranger Buzz Lightyear encounters an army of ruthless robots commanded by Zurg who are attempting to steal his fuel source.

Friday

August 4, 11 am–12:45 pm
Teen Activities
Middle school and high school students are invited to join us for these free activities.

**Video Game Tournament • Wednesday, June 14, 1–3 pm**
Join us for a tournament playing the hit game *Super Smash Bros.* The final player standing will win a great prize; no prior game playing experience needed! Various board games and snacks will also be available.

**Galaxy Jars • Wednesday, June 21, 1–3 pm**
Make your very own galaxy in a jar to take home.

**Design Your Own Tote Bag • Wednesday, July 5, 1–3 pm**
Design and make your very own tote bag using a variety of materials. All supplies provided.

**Women in STEM • Wednesday, July 12, 1–3 pm**
A panel of women who have careers in STEM related fields will discuss their paths—classes taken, internships, extracurriculars, etc. Come prepared with questions on a potential career in STEM.

**DIY Spa • Wednesday, July 19, 1–3 pm**
Make your own items for a luxurious spa experience at home. All materials provided.

**Video Games • Wednesday, August 2, 1–3 pm**
End the summer with your friends and video games! We’ll have a variety of games and devices as well as board games. No previous playing experience necessary.
Teen Book Discussion Group
Snacks will be provided, and registration is required. Visit ranchomiragelibrary.org to register.

**The Sun is Also a Star: Special Edition Book to Movie**
Wednesday, June 28, 1–4 pm
By Nicola Yoon.

Join us for a SPECIAL teen book discussion. We’ll begin at 1 pm by watching the movie *The Sun is Also a Star* and then follow that up with a discussion of the book.

“Every moment in our lives has brought us to this single moment. A million futures lie before us. Which one will come true?”

The first 10 registrants will receive a free copy of the book. Open to grades 6–12.

**Jasmine Zumideh Needs a Win**
Wednesday, July 26, 1–3 pm
By Coachella Valley resident Susan Azim Boyer.

The author will be joining us for this month’s book discussion to talk about her book and writing process and answer any questions you may have!

Told with biting insight and fierce humor, *Jasmine Zumideh Needs a Win* is a fresh, unforgettable story of one Iranian-American young woman’s experience navigating her identity, friendship, family, her future, and a budding romance, all set against life-changing historical events with present-day relevance.

The first 15 registrants will receive a free copy of the book. Open to grades 6–12.

**Caraval**
Wednesday, August 16, 5:30–6:30 pm
By Stephanie Garber.

According to *Entertainment Weekly*, “*The Hunger Games* meets *The Night Circus* in this tale of two sisters enmeshed in a deadly game.”

The first 10 registrants will receive a free copy of the book. Open to grades 6–12.
Docu-Mondays
Join us for this summer series featuring unique documentaries selected and introduced by film historian Jason Bruecks.

Tina (2021)
Monday, August 7, 2–5 pm
A revealing and intimate look at the life and career of musical icon Tina Turner, charting her improbable rise to early fame, her personal and professional struggles throughout her life, and her resurgence as a global phenomenon in the 1980s.

Alive Inside (2014)
Monday, August 14, 2–5 pm
Dan Cohen, founder of the nonprofit organization Music and Memory, fights against a broken healthcare system to demonstrate music’s ability to combat memory loss and restore a deep sense of self to those suffering from it.
The Conductor (2022)  
Monday, August 21, 2–5 pm
Marin Alsop, Leonard Bernstein’s protege, reveals how she smashed the glass ceiling to become an internationally renowned conductor, becoming the first woman to serve as music director of a multitude of renowned orchestras.

The Biggest Little Farm (2019)  
Monday, August 28, 2–5 pm
A couple are followed through their successes and failures as they work to develop a sustainable farm on 200 acres outside of Los Angeles. Over the years, the desolate land they purchase begins to thrive and is transformed.

Docu-Mondays Continues in September

The Trials of Muhammad Ali (2014) • Monday, September 11, 2–5 pm
Free Solo (2019) • Monday, September 18, 2–5 pm
Meeting Gorbachev (2018) • Monday, September 25, 2–5 pm
Community Showcase

**LifeStream Blood Drives**

Friday June 2, 9 am–2 pm  
Friday, July 21, 9 am–2 pm (9 Cities Challenge Day 1)  
Friday August 18, 9 am–2 pm (9 Cities Challenge Day 2)

Support your community, and join us for a blood drive! Throughout the year, the Library and Observatory partners with LifeStream to host these important events. Please be sure to drink plenty of fluids and bring photo ID with proof of age. Donors under the age of 17 must bring a signed LifeStream parental consent form. To learn more and sign up in advance, visit lstream.org or call 1-800-879-4484.

**Book Discussion Group**

The Library’s Book Discussion Group meets on the second Friday of each month. No advance sign-up necessary! If you have any questions, please contact Reference Librarian Jeffery Durham at (760) 341-7323 ext. 781 or email JefferyD@ranchomiragelibrary.org.

- **Friday, June 9, 10–11 am**  
  *A Home at the End of the World*  
  by Michael Cunningham

- **Friday, July 14, 10–11 am**  
  *Nomadland*  
  by Jessica Bruder

- **Friday, August 11, 10–11 am**  
  *Things We Lost to the Water*  
  by Eric Nguyen
Observatory

Observatory Tours
Take a daytime tour of the Observatory to learn more about the facility and its history, see a live view of the sun through our solar telescope (when available), check out the Cosmic Office, and enjoy a presentation via our Integrated Space Theater inside the dome. No registration necessary. For dates and times visit ranchomiragelibrary.org/observatory.

Observatory Public Exploration Nights
Observatory Public Exploration Nights are your portal to the Universe! Join us at the Rancho Mirage Observatory to glimpse beyond our world through our PlaneWave Instruments CDK 700 telescope. Ask questions and learn fun facts from astronomers and volunteer docents as you take in 100-350x magnified views of planets, nebulae, star clusters, and more (weather permitting). No registration is necessary for this drop-in, open-house-style event. Due to the capacity limits of the Observatory, you may experience a short wait, but everyone will have a chance to get in. For dates and times visit ranchomiragelibrary.org/stargazing.
Charlotte’s Web JR.

This delightful stage adaptation follows the novel which tells the story of a livestock pig named Wilbur and his friendship with a barn spider named Charlotte. When Wilbur is in danger of being slaughtered by the farmer, Charlotte writes messages praising Wilbur (such as “Some Pig”) in her web in order to persuade the farmer to let him live. A classic novel becomes a fun and theatrical stage version—great for the entire family!

Auditions

Monday, June 12 to Wednesday, June 14

Local youth ages 7–17 can audition to join our production of Charlotte’s Web JR. Auditions will take place at the Library. To learn more and register, visit www.desert-theatricals.com/junior-theatre. There is no cost to audition or take part in our youth theatre program. Taking part is a TERRIFIC way to have fun, make friends, and learn new skills this summer. The experience includes amazing costumes, professional scenery and props, two performances in front of your family and friends, and instruction from award-winning theatre professionals!

Performances

Friday, July 28, 6–7 pm • Saturday, July 29, 2–3 pm

Performances will take place in the Library’s Community Room. Admission to the performance is free, however tickets are required. Visit www.desert-theatricals.com to reserve your tickets.

Rancho Mirage youth theatre programs are facilitated by Desert Theatricals and made possible by the Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory Foundation and a generous gift from the Richard Brooke Foundation.
Storytimes

All ages • Wednesdays at 10 am

Storytime will be held in the back of the Annenberg Room. 30 minutes of engaging stories, songs, and active rhymes will captivate the imagination of young children.

We suggest that participants arrive early so that all can benefit from the total experience and minimize disruptions. Space is limited. First come, first served.

Creative Writing Club

Children • Tuesdays, June 13 to July 18, 1–2 pm

Kids ages 9–11 join us once a week for five weeks for Creative Writing Club! Character and Cosplay. Young writers will focus on crafting detailed and dynamic characters. Sessions include an icebreaker, snack, discussion, and time to create. Throughout the session, writers will be encouraged to dress up as their characters and share their work. Please plan to attend all five weeks and register at ranchomiragelibrary.org.

Teens • Thursdays, July 6 to August 3, 1–2 pm

Teens ages 12–17 join us once a week for five weeks for Creative Writing Club! Fanfiction and Cosplay. Writers will explore their favorite worlds through the eyes of reimagined or newly created characters. Sessions will include an icebreaker, snack, discussion, and time to create and share. All participants will receive a journal and a cute pen at the start. Please plan to attend all five weeks and register at ranchomiragelibrary.org.
A terrific way to support Library and Observatory programming is to make a general donation to our Foundation, but did you know that individuals and organizations can also choose to sponsor specific programs? Sponsorships help us continue to fund favorite presenters and performers and allow us to bring in exciting new programs as well. Upcoming sponsorship and naming opportunities include, but are not limited to, the programs listed below.

Dr. William Gudelunas 2024 History Lecture Series—$5,000

Annual Gingerbread House Event—$3,000

Kids Book Discussion Groups—$2,500

Seed Library—$2,500

Creative Writing Club—$1,000

Music Programs and Concerts—$1,000–$5,000

Film and Lecture Programs—$250–$1,500

Sponsorship is a great way to publicly show your support for the power of lifelong learning. To learn more, get in touch with us by calling 760-341-7323 or sending an email to programming@ranchomiragelibrary.org.
# Calendar • June

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<td>Michael Rayner, Juggler Extraordinaire 11 am–12 pm p. 13</td>
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**June is Rainbow Book Month!**

**June is African-American Music Appreciation Month!**

**June is African-American Music Appreciation Month!**
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<td>Build a Model Spaceship 11 am–1 pm p. 25</td>
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- **Summer Reading Club**
- **Kids, Teens, and Families**
- **Film**
- **Community Showcase**
- **Observatory**