

“From the Stacks”

By Alison E. Williams, Program Coordinator at the Copper Queen Library

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The Third Space

Where we most spend the hours of our time in our daily lives is sometimes defined as the First Space and Second Space, home and work, respectively. These are the physical regions we move between and build our communities around. A Third Space, is something other than work or home, sometimes called “the Great Good Place”, this gathering place has the hallmarks of being free or inexpensive, involves regulars, is welcoming and comfortable, and sometimes involves food or drink. Libraries are fast becoming a community’s Third Space, a place not just dedicated to shelves of books and a muffled blanket of silence, but a place to gather and interact, to see old friends and meet new ones, to share experiences through programs and workshops, and to interact via one of the many resources available at the Library. The Copper Queen Library truly is of the People, paid for by you, the tax-payer; by the People, supported by you, the Patron; and for the People, populated and sustained by you, the community.

As we move into the coldest months and the shortest days of the year, we enter the holiday season which has long been the celebration designed to give comfort in climates much harsher than our sunny Arizona days and nights. The rituals of December range from Yule Logs and Christmas trees, to Chanukah menorahs and Winter Solstice rituals. Here at the CQL we have some of our own. We have built the book tree, a tree shaped tower of books, covered in purple lights, and scheduled our holiday card making workshop with Ruby Odell. We can’t wait for the annual screening of Krampus, where we will drink hot chocolate to comfort us in the face of the half-goat, half-demon punisher of children who have misbehaved. We are excited to have Rose Hall get ready for the Solstice Lantern Parade, with creative workshops for all ages, and have the Bisbee Community Chorus give a concert after the Friends of the CQL party. But our favorite December traditions are the ones that allow us to give back.

Three years ago we started two programs to assist families and patrons. Food For Fines starts December 1, allowing Patrons to bring in food to donate to the Bisbee Fire Department food baskets for Christmas. One can or box equals one dollar and helps alleviate the burden of overdue fines. In turn we are able to assist the BFD, and we hope that our community will bring in food to help over 100 families right here in Bisbee. The other Program is our very own Secret Santa. Jason pulls the list of the most beloved of the lost books from the Children’s Library, items sometimes impossible for parents to replace, and we list the items individually with prices. If you purchase an item on this list, not only will it go back into the Children’s Library to be enjoyed by the many, but we will remove that item from the account of the child, giving them that Secret Santa gift. The people of Bisbee and our neighboring areas are a generous and delightful group, always finding a way to give a little bit back, creating a gift worth more whole, than just the sum of its parts. Our Living Room is yours, our lamps lit, come read the paper, or make a card, and if you have an extra

can or want to buy a new book for the Library, we will thank you twice, as we already send you our thanks for making the Library a Third Space in our lives.