New librarians bring experience, enthusiasm to G’town library

BIOGRAPHIES

June Hendrix

The library has two new librarians to bolster the staff and bring new ideas to the community. Bethany Patrick and Elizabeth Macias.

Mr. Macias is the new circulation librarian. He replaces Ann Jones, who is now the adult services librarian. Mr. Macias assists patrons with reference questions, offers readers’ advisory, helps with research and contributes to adult programming.

“One thing I really enjoy about my job is helping patrons at the reference desk,” he said. “It’s great to see someone with a research project, or help them find the right book. Sometimes a technical issue, or offer them a person to talk to. Enabling people to continue on their personal journeys and projects is a satisfying part of my job.”

Mr. Macias earned his master’s degree in library science in 2010 at the University of North Texas. Before he started work in Georgetown last month, he worked for the Lamar Public Library, the Willis Library at the University of Texas at Dallas, the Dallas Public Library and the Skelly Fine Arts Library.

He said that one of his first goals for this year is to really learn the history of Georgetown and Williamson County. We have a great deal of local resources at the library and I hope to read and understand as much of it as I can.”

Mr. Macias also loves to read science fiction, especially stories with religious technology or dystopian/utopian settings.

“Some of my favorite authors are Kurt Vonnegut, Douglas Adams, and Robert Heinlein,” he said.

But science fiction is not his only interest; he is currently reading “Cradle of Vultures” and highly recommends it.

“Vultures” tells a complete and powerful story in just a few sentences, all while discussing philosophies that are still relevant to today’s life. Candide is a great example of literature being the soul of the world,” he said.

Mr. Macias will be involved with library programs for adults, including the Readers’ Advisory program and the popular Live Music at the Library concert series, for which a master’s degree in music composition makes him an especially good fit.

“One thing that makes this library special is its participation in the arts,” he said. “We offer free monthly concerts or open performances by local music talent.”

His vision for the Live Music at the Library series is to “generate interest in the arts while offering us a new way to get to know local musicians. I hope to include a variety of music genres and encourage the local musicians to come and discover new music and new musicians that are coming from around the world.”

In his own musical endeavors, Mr. Macias typically writes large ensembles but has experience working with electronic music, acoustics, and small ensembles as well.

“I also spent a couple of other summer seasons in Alabama working as an artist in residence 200 miles from the Big House,” he said. “The music was at a Christadelphian church where I was invited as a multimedia artist.”

While there, I wrote and produced a new CD and performed with other artists and staff. I was also writing my own science-fiction novel and creating a model of Mars for my book tour.”

Mr. Patrick began her work at the library at the end of August as one of our two new librarians. She replaced Reva Nathan, who is now the assistant librarian. She will be putting new items into the library system and working within the catalog to make sure people can find what they need when they search for library materials.

Ms. Patrick earned her master’s degree from the University of Texas at Austin School of Information and previously worked at the Willis Branch Community Library as an adult services librarian and volunteer coordinator.

She also worked in retail for a few years, which was a great preparation for public service, she said.

“My best preparation for this job was at a stay-in-the-tent in downtown Round Rock, where I learned to teach and share my love of music on multiple instruments,” she said.

Mr. Patrick’s favorite author is J.R.R. Tolkien because of his deep world-building and his ability to create unique languages and backgrounds for the people in his books. “His ultimate goal, she said, is to live the hobbit life, enjoying good food, good friends and pleasant walks through beautiful landscapes.”

She recently read “The Wishes of Other Things” by Alejandro Marquez’s “Mistakes.”

Mr. Macias works for the National Library of African-American Families in the north and south of the U.S. through the first half of the twentieth century.

“The author centers the book on the experiences of specific individuals, which gives the reader an insightful look into the Black experience and her writing is detailed yet easy to read. I highly recommend this book,” Mr. Patrick said.

Since she joined the library, she has added many new books to the library’s collection, including the novel by a Jewish woman in Nazi Germany, “The Book Thief,” by Sally Levinson. The book tells the story of a Jewish woman in Nazi Germany, “The Book Thief,” by Sally Levinson.

“Those that know you can check out a book to ride around town or to take to work or to see a show in order to remember the beauty of that story throughout the world, all the way to the Walkers of the World,” he said. “I feel like I’m still learning something new at every turn. I love seeing the new items coming into the library and then seeing them in use, such as these great new books as they are written, and then see the patrons get excited as they check them out,” he added.

If you see Ms. Patrick or Mr. Macias at the library circulation or reference desk, please stop and say hello. They are both especially great additions to the library’s professional staff.

And finally: National Friends of the Library this week is “The Friends of the Georgetown Public Library are only taking an opportunity to launch a fundraising campaign.”

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