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New librarians bring experience, enthusiasm to G'town library

BIBLIOFILES

Dana Hendrix

The library has two new librarians to introduce to the community, Brittany Patrick and Joshua Macias.

Mr. Macias is the new reference librarian. He replaces Ann Evans, 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'm really enjoying about my job is helping patrons at the reference desk," he said. "It feels great to assist someone with a research project, or help them find the right book, troubleshoot a technical issue, or offer them a private place to work. 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 2018 at the University of North Texas. Before he started work in Georgetown last month, he worked for the Leander Public Library, the Willis Library at the University of North Texas, the Waco Public Library, and the Baylor 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 collection 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 realistic 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 *Candide* by Voltaire and highly recommends it.

"Voltaire can tell 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 brevity



Brittany Patrick began work at the end of August as a cataloging librarian at the Georgetown Public Library.



Joshua Macias began work in September as the reference librarian at the Georgetown Public Library.

being the soul of wit!" he said.

Mr. Macias will be involved with library programming for adults, including Wired Wednesdays 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, often performed by local musicians."

His vision for the Live Music at the Library series is, "to generate interest in the arts while offering space and performance time to local musicians. I hope to include a variety of music genres and encourage audiences to experience new and unique music gathered from around the world."

In his own musical compositions, Mr. Macias typically writes for large ensembles but has experimented with electronic music, minimalism, and small ensembles as well.

"I also spent a couple summer seasons in Alaska working at an artist residency 200 miles from a road!" he said. "The residency was at Chulitna Lodge, where I was invited as a multimedia artist. While I was there, I wrote three extended-technique flute pieces and performed them for other artists and staff. I was also writing my own science-fiction novel and creating 3D models of places in the story."

Ms. Patrick began work at the library at the end of August as one of our two cataloging librarians. She replaces Becca Sexton, who is now the assistant library director. She will be putting new items into the library system and working within the catalog to make sure patrons can easily 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 in 2015, and she previously worked at the Wells Branch Community Library as the adult services librarian and volunteer coordinator. She also worked in retail in the past, which "was great preparation for public service in libraries," she said.

"My best pre-librarian job was at a tea shop in downtown Round Rock, where I got to learn about and share my love of tea with everyone on Main Street," she said.

Ms. 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 within his books." Her ultimate goal, she said, is to live the hobby life, enjoying good food, good friends and pleasant walks through beautiful landscapes.

She recently read *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson. The book describes the movement of African American families to the north and west 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 time period, and her writing is detailed yet easy to read. I highly recommend her books!" Ms. Patrick said.

Since she joined the library staff, Ms. Patrick said the sheer variety of things available at GPL amazes her.

"Did you know you can check out a bike to ride around town? Or a cake pan to use at home? Not to mention the beautiful artwork throughout the building, all the local historical materials, or the Words on Wheels bookmobile. I feel like I'm still learning something new at every turn. I love seeing all the new items coming into the library. I get to see all these great new books as they arrive, and then see the patrons get excited as they check them out," she said.

If you see Ms. Patrick or Mr. Macias at the library circulation or reference desks, please stop and welcome them. They are both especially great additions to the library's professional staff.

And finally: National Friends of the Library week is here. The Friends of the Georgetown Public Library are taking this opportunity to launch a fundraising campaign called "Sailing into Success 2021." Funds raised will be used to purchase new adult fiction and nonfiction books. To donate, visit gplgeorgetown.org/donate, or stop by with a check payable to Friends of the Georgetown Public Library at Georgetown Public Library.

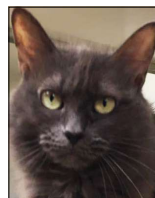
Thank you for helping our Friends help us sail into success.

Dana Hendrix is the Technical Services Librarian at the Georgetown Public Library.

PETS OF THE WEEK



JONES



HONDO



RICHARD



CHANEL

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Williamson County Animal Shelter

Jones, 4 months, is a long-legged ball of energy, ready to play and learn. Surrendered as a young puppy, he has not had the training he needs to curb his mouthiness and jumping. Jones has the potential to be a great dog for someone willing to work with him. He knows sit, walks with some jumping on leash and gets along with other dogs and older children. His adoption fee is \$75.

Hondo, 9, is a friendly and active female with soft gray long fur: She loves pets and scratches and being in the middle of everything. Hondo was surrendered with Snicklefritz when their humans divorced, and she gets along with other cats. Her adoption fee is waived.

Visit pets.georgetown.org to see available pets and how to make an appointment to meet them.

Georgetown Animal Shelter

Richard, 8, is a grumpy old man. Once he's sure things are as they should be, then Richard is ready to find a comfy place in the house to watch TV with you or supervise you while you're doing the chores. Old guys like him know how things should be done. Richard's got great house manners, as anyone with this much experience in life would. He even gets along with other dogs of the aged persuasion and he has much respect for the felines.

Chanel, 4, is an elegant creature who is aching for a new home to call her very own. She is shy and hides under blankets when people pass her in the shelter, but that's just an act. This sweet kitty has a lot of love to give to you once she's warmed up. She's calm and gentle, enjoys pets and prefers not to be picked up. She'll do great in a home with adults and older children that will be understanding of her elegant creature ways. Chanel would love to grace your home with her beauty and charm.

Email adoption@wilco.org for a priority service appointment to meet Richard or Chanel.

Dana Hendrix is the Technical Services Librarian at the Georgetown Public Library.