

JUDY Z. KISHNER LIBRARY

where everybody knows your name

country living

WITH its Western flair and down-home charm, the Judy Z. Kushner Library in Sperry offers Tulsa City-County Library customers a unique experience sure to please the entire family.

ON a hot August day, catch a cool breeze on the library's front stoop while listening to the sweet sounds of summer – tree frogs trilling and cicada choruses shrilling – and enjoying the serenely scenic view of the new rain garden out back, right next to the hitching post under the big shade tree.

HOW many libraries do you know that have an actual hitching post? Well, in Sperry, the country folk sometimes like to saddle up their ponies instead of gassing up their trucks, so we added a hitching post to make sure there was a safe place to park Ol' Sal.

THE down-home feel doesn't just stop at the front door. The first thing you'll discover inside is the welcoming scent of fresh lumber permeating the air as the library features lots of beautiful wood with a high vaulted ceiling with exposed wooden beams. Hanging wagon-wheel lights, Western table lamps, Thomas Moran paintings, a peaceful hearth, and a delightful farmyard-themed children's section with barnyard puppets and a playful mural with a "Charlotte's Web" feel add to the ambience of this ranch-like beauty.

THE library's collection also expands on the ranch theme. "WE uniquely developed our collection to enhance country living," said Suzi Smith, branch manager. "One of the farmers in the area helped us select tractor repair manuals. We also have excellent resources on livestock, gardening (vegetable and flower), farming, quilting, crocheting, knitting, antiques and collectibles. Plus, we have the latest bestsellers, popular fiction, as well as all the other great resources you would find in one our other libraries."

country folk

"THE Kushner Library has such an easygoing rural feel but with all the amenities of an in-town library," said longtime Sperry resident Bonnie Lind. "It is such a huge value to our community; it is the cultural center of Sperry."

BONNIE and her family use the library extensively for everything from Internet access when their home computer is on the fritz, DVDs for family movie night (she said they rarely use the town's video store any more since the library has such a wide variety of movies to select from), cookbooks, gardening and health books, as well as other homesteading and self-sufficiency books. They also like to check out magazines. Bonnie said she almost subscribed to Prevention magazine but didn't after she discovered that she could save some money and borrow back issues from the library.

"I love coming here because I can get just about anything I want," said Bonnie. "This is a very personal library. The library workers are very friendly and helpful. They know us by name."

home on the range

IN 2008, the Tulsa City-County Library opened this much-needed new library in Sperry after the small town of about a thousand outgrew its previous library located in a renovated small house. Tulsa philanthropist and longtime library supporter Henry Zarrow donated the majority of the funding for the library's new home and named it after his daughter, Judy Z. Kushner, to recognize her hometown library and honor her commitment to literacy. Judy served more than 20 years on the library commission and is a longstanding Tulsa Library Trust board member.

southern hospitality

THE South is known for its hospitality and so too is the staff of the Judy Z. Kushner Library. Longtime branch manager Suzi Smith leads this friendly team. She is assisted by library associates Mike Weibel and Patricia Robbins, and shelvers Anna Jefferson and Stephanie Stacy.

sit a spell

ONE of the most prominent features of a country farmhouse is the front porch as it stands with welcoming arms. Likewise, the library's Claud Miller Memorial Porch with its sweet Southern charm beckons customers to come inside. This friendly stoop is named after Claud Miller, a Sperry resident, who was a founding member of the Sperry Friends of the Library and longtime member of the Tulsa City-County Library Commission. Miller passed away in 2004. Judy and Tom Kushner provided the funding for the porch to honor and celebrate Claud's dedication to all Tulsa City-County Library branches.

barn raisers

IN the old days, rural folk heavily depended on each other. When someone built a new barn, the entire community would come out to help raise it. Likewise, the Judy Z. Kushner Library depends on its support group the Sperry-Kishner Friends of the Library. Founded in 1975, this dedicated group assists the library with donations of time and money. Recently, the group helped purchase a Wii for the library.

hoedown fun

SMALL towns are known for their festivals, hoedowns, picnics and other fun community gatherings. Keeping to this small-town tradition, the Kushner Library offers a bounty of home-style events including: "Scary in Sperry," an annual Halloween carnival-style family event; the "Sequoyah Lock-in," a five-hour bonanza of action-packed activities centered around the Sequoyah Book Award nominees; and "Yarn Buddies," a group of diverse women who meet every Saturday afternoon to share their passion for knitting.



y'all come see us

You don't have to live in Sperry to use the Kushner Library. Plan a fun Saturday with the family by visiting the library located at 10150 N. Cincinnati Ave. Just head north on Peoria Avenue, pass through Turley and you'll eventually get there, or call the library at 591-4690 and they'll be glad to give you directions.

