



## THE BEAUTY OF MOSAICS

"Mosaic has a strength and permanence that can sometimes feel like an ancient ruin," said local mosaic artist Linda Allen, who created the beautiful family tree mosaic in the lobby of the Schusterman-Benson Library.

Several new murals recently joined Linda's work at the library. Created by local artist Caryn Brown, the new mosaics include lovely irises above the fireplace and vibrant animals playfully adorning the children's picture-book area.

# SCHUSTERMAN-BENSON LIBRARY

## A midtown delight

## SIMPLE PLEASURES

Sitting in a comfy chair and reading the newspaper by the fireplace, picking out movies to watch at home or browsing the used-book sale for a fantastic deal – these are just some of the simple pleasures enjoyed by customers at the Schusterman-Benson Library, located in midtown Tulsa at 32nd and Harvard.



"We are very much a library for all ages," said Shirley Gidley, branch manager. "We serve both ends of the spectrum, from babies to seniors to lots in between. Our weekly storytimes are a huge draw for families. Plus, retirees love to use our computers, read the periodicals or just while away the morning by the fireplace with a great read. Our customers and staff are avid readers. In fact, many of our customers often ask the staff for reading suggestions."

Several customers are loyal followers of longtime library associate Michele Bradford's "Mystery Readers Roundtable" monthly book discussions. They relish the time to get together and sip coffee and delve into the latest whodunit.

For customer James Johnson, the Schusterman-Benson Library is a fabulous find for borrowing DVDs for his 5-year-old grandson Evan Guzan of Owasso. James takes Evan to the library to check out popular children's shows like "VeggieTales," "Wiggles" and "Blues Clues."



"I hadn't used the library in 30 to 40 years, and then one day I decided to stop by," James said. "I was pleasantly surprised to see all these great DVDs that I had been paying to rent from the video store. Now I take my grandson to pick out his favorite shows when he comes to stay with me on the weekend. Evan loves the library and so do I. The nicest, kindest, friendliest people work there."

## CRAZY FOR STORYTIME

On a recent weekday morning about a few minutes before opening time, about 15 moms and their youngsters anxiously awaited to get into the Schusterman-Benson Library for storytime.

When one little one spotted library associate Michelle Blocker unlocking the doors, he excitedly yelled: "Look, Mommy, there's Miss Michelle! There's Miss Michelle!"

In turn, another tot echoed the sentiment. As the children entered the lobby doors they greeted Miss Michelle as if she were a rock star.

"Our families are crazy for storytime," said Linda Troutt, children's and youth librarian. "We never stop storytime; we have it every single week, every Tuesday and Wednesday morning, no matter what unless we're closed for a holiday. After storytime is over, the kiddos and their parents spend lots of time together reading in our picture-book area. It's a great gathering place for families."



Linda and her stuffed turtle Toby present "Preschool Storytime" for ages 3 to 5 on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., and Michelle and her stuffed lamb B-a-a-B-e (Bobby) present "My First Storytime" for newborns to 2-year-olds on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Jenny Clyde regularly takes her 9-month-old daughter Tilda to storytime.



"I enjoy reading and I want my daughter to have a love of books," said Jenny. "Tilda gets to interact with Miss Michelle and the other kids. It's a good social time for her and for me too as I get to visit with the other moms. Tilda loves the music and stories. It's good for her language and social development."



Some dads, like David Franklin, also bring their children to storytime. After storytime, David and his son Ethan, age 2, and daughter Chloe, age 1, pick out books to share at home.

## WHICH WAY IS FRONT?

Schusterman-Benson Library is in the process of getting a new main entrance. Renovations to the entry on 32nd Place should be complete within the next month or so.

"Currently, many people think our back entrance on the north side of the building is really the front but actually it's vice versa," said Shirley Gidley, branch manager. "The new entrance definitely will give more prominence to the south side of the building. But, of course, customers are welcome to continue coming in our back door too as we'll take them coming from any direction!"

The Schusterman-Benson Library opened in 1997, replacing the Florence Park Library. It was named in honor of its main benefactors – Charles and Lynn Schusterman, and Sibyl Benson, a longtime library volunteer.