News Release

"Poppy in the Wild" Selected for Riverside Reads 2023

Events featuring author Teresa J. Rhyne start Feb. 4

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – *"Poppy in the Wild,"* the true story of the search for a rescue beagle lost in the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Area by local New York Times best-selling author Teresa J. Rhyne, has been selected as the featured book for Riverside Reads 2023.

The book is a heart-warming true account of the powerful bond that exists between humans and animals and Rhyne's personal joy of rescuing dogs. Free copies are available at all Riverside Public Library locations.

The Library will host three author events, a pet journaling workshop, pet portrait painting opportunities, and other paw-some activities.

Author events featuring Teresa Rhyne and her beagle friends will be held:

- Saturday, February 4, 10 a.m. to noon, Ameal Moore Nature Center, 400 Central Ave.

- Wednesday, March 1, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Foster Army Animal Rescue, 3711 Central Ave.

- Tuesday, March 7, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Mary S. Roberts Pet Adoption Center, 6165 Industrial Ave.

This year's Riverside Reads focuses on the importance of pet adoption and animal fostering, including animals adopted during the COVID-19 quarantine that were later released or returned to overcrowded shelters once the quarantine was lifted.

Rhyne shares her experience with rescue specialists, volunteers, psychics, a Native American who works with owls, helpful neighbors, decidedly unhelpful strangers, a howling woman, and the police. This network assisted in finding her lost rescue beagle named Poppy, who escaped from a potential foster family in the vast wilderness of the 1,500-acre Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Area.

Riverside Reads is the annual presentation of the California State Library Book to Action funding opportunity in the City of Riverside.

For more information visit one of the Riverside Public Library locations or visit https://riversideca.gov/library/riversidereads.asp.

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