

Spotlight

on the Library Director



Judith Pepple is the director of the Apache County Library District. She recently won the Outstanding Leader in Our Community Award at the 2nd Annual Southern Apache County Investment in Leadership Summit on February 5th, 2009.

The stated criterion for the award was: Any person living in and serving in Southern Apache County who you think is an outstanding, youth-focused individual. This person could be an elected official, business owner, leader of a group (church or secular), manager of a business, or any person you see as a leader in our community.

The following information was included in Judith's nomination:

Judith began working for Apache County in June of 1997. With her Masters of Library Science, Judith brought a wealth of knowledge to Apache County, and after becoming Director, successfully built a team of professional and unified staff members who help facilitate the numerous educational programs throughout southern Apache County.

Judith diligently endeavors to ensure that all of the libraries emphasize the importance of youth based activities such as summer and pre-school reading programs. Judith was also instrumental in facilitating a recycling program of discarded library and donated materials, using those funds to supplement the budget for children's programming.

Among her many other responsibilities, over the past two years, Judith has had the enormous challenge of overseeing the design and building of four new libraries in Apache County, all while managing to maintain her meticulous and conscientious service to the public and her staff.

Judith was born into a military family, her father was a Captain in the JAG Corps in the U.S. Navy, and spent her childhood in Guam, Hawaii, Virginia, and Rhode Island. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History and Archaeology from the University of Missouri and her MLib from the University of Washington. She worked for 13 years at the Seattle Public Library as a page, library assistant, and as an art reference librarian. Before becoming the Director of the Apache County Library District, she taught cataloging, researched automated library systems, did data conversion, completed post-graduate work in technical services, and was an information and reader's advisory librarian.

As Director, Judith credits the district's success to the dedicated staff, the tremendous support of the local communities for their libraries, the consistent support of the Board of Supervisors, and the support and direction of the Arizona State Library. "When these four groups are of a single mind, enthusiastic about and supportive of libraries, it's a recipe for success which encourages each of our libraries to become the heart of their community."

The Library District benefits daily by having such an experienced and knowledgeable leader at its head.