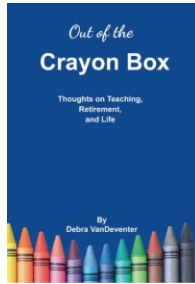


Local authors to look for this month:



Out of the Crayon Box: Thoughts on Teaching, Retirement, and Life

By Debra VanDeventer

Review by Helene Woodhams

For the Arizona Daily Star

April 3, 2022

“Timing is everything, plan way more than you think you’ll need, and expect the unexpected.” These are hard and fast rules of teaching, says former elementary school teacher Debra VanDeventer. But as her smart, highly entertaining memoir suggest, they really do double duty as a personal philosophy. After a rewarding, 37-year career in the classroom, about which she shares touchingly lovely memories and from which she actually retired twice (once in Indiana, then again after a few bonus years at Manzanita School in Tucson), VanDeventer found that retirement was a shock to her system. Abandoning her multitasking ways, adapting to a new rhythm in her days and following her bliss instead of a schedule was surprisingly challenging, but the Oro Valley resident is clearly as adept a learner as she was a teacher. One of the unexpected things she discovered about herself was her flair for writing creative nonfiction, and it’s on display here: Her adventures in retirement are a delight to read.