

# One in a Vermillion

## Meet Patti Roberts-Pizzuto

By David Lias  
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Libraries have always been a big part of the life of Patti Roberts-Pizzuto, so it's little wonder that she'd eventually be drawn to the Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library after she and her husband, John Timothy Pizzuto, moved to Vermillion from Florida eight years ago.

Patti joined the staff of the Vermillion library in April 2012, and serves as the institution's information specialist.

"My background is in libraries, although I've never gotten a degree (in that field)," Patti said. "I went to art school in Florida, at the Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, and I stayed there after I graduated to work in the library until I figured out what I was going to do. And I was there 25 years."

Patti has discovered that her work at a library dovetails well with her other love - art.

"I realized this is a really good fit because being an artist and libraries sort of go hand-in-hand, I think," she said. "I got to catalog all of the books, and I was able to work hard during the day, and feed my own creative juices with the books I was cataloging, and then be an artist at night."

She realized leaving Florida for Vermillion would likely change that link between her library work and art that she had enjoyed for so long.

"I was going to stay home and be in the studio (here in Vermillion), but I missed being in the library. I was at USD for a few years, and there was an opening here (at the Edith B. Siegrist library), and I jumped at the chance to be able to be back in the library world," Patti said. "So, here I am, doing a whole host of different things than I ever did before at a library, but that's good. I'm very comfortable in libraries."

For Patti, libraries serve not only as a place of information and knowledge, but also a place that inspires her artistic interests.

"I'm very interested in learning and ideas in all sorts of realms - history, science, literature - and that's what libraries are full of. They're full of knowledge and they foster learning, and my actual artwork is often on the scale of a book," she said. "They're kind of small, and it took me a long time to realize it is because I spent all of these years with books on my lap as a cataloger, sort of working back and forth between the computer and the book."

Her art is often about the page of a book itself. I think of myself as a mixed-media artist, and the work will often echo a book page," Patti said. "I think books are still magical, and I don't think they're ever going to go away."

The Vermillion library,



she said, has a great staff that works hard. She also has discovered that her workplace fulfills a unique need in the community.

"All of previous experience at libraries had been at academic libraries so this is my first public experience," Patti said, "and I am really amazed in a way at how different it is, and what an honor it is to serve a community. It's different than an academic setting, because you're really serving the public and your whole community - from kids to adults - and providing resources and a place for them to be. That is pretty exciting. This is a pretty honorable place to be."

One of Patti's roles is the challenge of creating adult programming at the library. She has introduced a variety of educational series, many which are scheduled for each Wednesday of the month "that we're really

really is working to connect with the community," she said. "What ever book we choose, we're adding other events to the month that seem related. It might be based on an exhibition at the gallery at USD, something at the National Music Museum, or a film."

In October, this session will focus on a book entitled "Beethoven's Hair."

"There will also be a session on Beethoven's musical instruments. Debbie Reeves, one of the curators at the National Music Museum, will do a session on the instruments of Beethoven's day," Patti said, "and at the end of the month, they're going to do a Beethoven concert on campus at USD. "It's exciting to see what connections we make in the community, and how we get people to campus, and get folks from campus to the library and just see where it takes us," she said.

More information about the various activities going on at the Edith B. Siegrist Library can be found on its website, [vermillionpubliclibrary.org](http://vermillionpubliclibrary.org) g. To learn more about Patti's work as an artist, log on to [www.robertspizzuto.com](http://www.robertspizzuto.com)

### 1101 Announcements - Events

**FIRST BAPTIST Church** Elmer "Sandy" Aakre, Pastor 624-6391 home, 624-4658 church. Time: 9:15 Sunday School, 10:30 Worship. Sunday Choir Practice, 11:50 a.m.

**GAYVILLE LUTHERAN Church:** Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. Pastor Ralph Egbert.

**GOSPEL CHAPEL Church,** 708 Jessie St./Highway 12, Newcastle, NE. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.; AWANA Wednesday at 7 p.m., 402-355-2305. Pastor Chuck Myers, 402-355-1335.

**GRACE BAPTIST Church,** SBC, Pastor Steve Ford, 1102 E. Main. Phone 624-4949. Adult's and Children's Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Prayer Meeting Wednesday Night 7 p.m.

**HILLSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH (C&MA)** 1800 Constance Dr. West on Cherry just before you go down the hill. Worship Sept.-May 10:30a.m., May-August 10a.m., AWANA Sunday School small groups. 6 0 5 - 6 2 4 - 4 8 6 2 , [www.hillside-cc.com](http://www.hillside-cc.com)

**IMMANUEL Lutheran Church,** Elk Point, SD: Worship Service 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

**KOMSTAD COVENANT Church,** Rural Beresford and Centerville, SD: Matt Styles, Pastor. 18 miles north on University Road. Phone 563-2402. Sunday School 10 a.m., Worship Service 11 a.m.

**PLEASANT VALLEY Lutheran Church,** Rural Vermillion: Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Holy Communion First Sunday of every month. All welcome.

**PROVIDENCE REFORMED Church,** 830 Madison: Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. "We Welcome You To Historic Protestant Worship And Fellowship."

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