



January 2023

Hi Library Champion,

I hope you're doing well. And that your new year will be filled with joy and fulfillment in the months ahead.

January has been a painful and violent start to the year, a stark contrast to the month's celebrations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr and his legacy of non-violence, and the welcoming of the lunar New Year - year of the rabbit, a symbol of hope and resilience.

Please remember - your Library is here for you. A place of information, trusted resources, and comfort. It's a place that forges connection. A place of hope, and action.

Thank you for being part of that, for using and supporting Library resources, and building a community that understands and values the power of libraries.

Next month, we'll share the Foundation's *2022 Impact Report*. You and your fellow Library Champions are making a positive impact for children, teens, and adults across LA County, and beyond.

Thank you for your incredible generosity.

I'm always warmed, and often humbled, by your notes - sharing your Library story, why you give, what connects you to your Library.

I've been inundated with notes of thanks, especially for your remarkable Library staff.

They (and I) appreciate you, too, as you'll hear from Community Library Manager Marta Wiggins in this month's *Virtual Field Trip* to La Crescenta Library.

Who are you? I love to hear your Library stories. Sharing a couple snippets I received...

From Cristina C: *Our public library is indeed a lifeline. We check out travel guides and other reading materials. School kids depend on public libraries. They can't do without it. That's why we'd like to support it."*

And from Mary Ann R: *"I'm an old lady that loves books. Libraries are my favorite places! Thank you for so many to read...especially e-books."*

Read on for another *My Library Story*, from longtime Library Champion and monthly donor Charlie B on why she loves her library and physical books.

And finally, with thanks again for the good you make possible - with your gifts, unfailing hope and resiliency, and action - a list of **10 cool Library resources** you may not know about. Enjoy!

Again, thank you. You are marvelous!

Wishing you peace, joy, and prosperity,

Andrea

Andrea Carroll
Executive Director
acarroll@lacolibraryfoundation.org

P.S. [You make your Library stronger with your gift.](#) **Thank you!**

My Library Story: Charlie B on the library, books, and why she gives



Image: Charlie B

Library Champion Charlie B appreciates the Library's Digital Library with its 24/7 access, but prefers physical books and the welcoming staff and place of her local library in Hawthorne.

"I have tried, but have yet to be able to embrace the online, tablet, audible. etc., versions of a book - something about being able to hold the story in my hands makes me feel more connected.

Having an actual library card makes me feel that I will always be "included and welcomed" somewhere special. I give because I want others to have access to and feel the joy that I do!"

With warmth and sincerity,
Charlie B (she/her)

What's your Library Story?

[We want to know.](#)

[Read more Library stories here.](#)

Virtual Field Trip: La Crescenta Library with Library Manager Marta Wiggins



Image: LA County Library

[La Crescenta Library](#), founded in 1914 as the system's 78th branch and rebuilt and reopened at its present location in 2010, serves an unincorporated area in the foothills north of Glendale and west of La Canada. Located adjacent to the Angeles National Forest and Deukmejian Wilderness Area, you might want to follow a visit to La Crescenta Library with a hike and a meal in nearby Montrose.

What makes La Crescenta Library special? Library Manager Marta Wiggins is quick to answer: "the people."

She explains, "The people who work here. The people who walk through the doors. The people who volunteer - teens and our Friends of the Library group."

Marta gestured to a pile of new books, *Spare* by Prince Harry. The Friends of the Library funded this purchase, as well as 10 copies of *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus - two best sellers that Library goers are clamoring to check out.

[Remember: Don't see what you want in your library? If it's in one of the system's 85 community libraries, you can request to have it sent to your library to pick up.]

A trademark of the LA County Library system, La Crescenta Library reflects the needs and interests of the people who walk through its doors: a large children's area, a teen space and heavily used study room, books and DVDs in Korean, Armenian, Farsi, Spanish, Hindi, and English, computers, cozy chairs for reading one of the many periodicals or newspapers, and a community meeting room.

Many groups use the community room, including the Town Council, Sierra Club, and stamp and coin clubs. Marta points to display cases maintained by the local historical society and the Friends of Rosemont Preserve.

This library is integral to the community, Marta says, and many library-going families stretch back generations. People are at the heart of the library, she says - staff, as well as library users.



Image: LA County Library

La Crescenta Library staff say goodbye to the old library (1963-2007). Having once more outgrown the size and needs of its community (prior locations had included a local church building, store front, and school), the Library was rebuilt and reopened in 2010 in an arts and crafts style with approximately 15,000 square feet that includes a meeting space that is open to (and popular with) the public.

Marta explains, "Libraries are very special places - magical, really. They're about information and much more - they provide community, they create connection."

That connection takes many forms at La Crescenta Library: high school students meet up after school, a book club gathers monthly, an older housebound man calls each day - sometimes with a question, sometimes simply to say hello.

Marta says her staff - cross-trained and ready to jump in where needed - put their heart into their work, and appreciate getting to know the people who walk through their doors.

She shares the story of Malia, a young woman and former meth addict. She had gotten her GED and dreamed of going to college. But where to begin?

Staff guided her to study materials and virtual resources, including online courses to build computer skills and developing effective study habits. Over time, Malia achieved her goal.

She graduated college and, Marta proudly reports, is working on a PhD and drops by the library every few months to update staff.

These life-changing stories, Marta says, are part of every library. "Libraries are special. It's about the people."

Where do you want to go next?

[Email us.](#)

10 cool Library resources you may not know about



Image: Los Angeles County Fire Museum

Los Angeles County Fire Museum is just one of the cool places your Library card will take you - for free - with the Discover & Go program.

1. **Curated booklists that introduce you to people, places, cultures, and communities** - here's just a taste: [Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's](#) legacy of non-violence, [Lunar New Year](#) (year of the rabbit, a fitting symbol of hope and resilience), and [Staff Picks](#) (books for all ages and in a range of genres)
2. **Job Help** - Get [resources for job seekers here](#) or participate in [Work Ready](#) to develop skills and strategies for career success, and borrow a laptop and hotspot for the six-week course
3. **Business Resource Center** - [resources](#) at the tip of your finger with a suite of databases, plus links to in-person help for entrepreneurs
4. **Tax time** - Check for tax forms at your local library or check out the Library's [resource page for tax information](#)
5. **Go places** (for free) - [Discover & Go](#) is back! Get free passes to museums, including the La Brea Tar Pits, Los Angeles County Fire Museum, Catalina Island Museum, Natural History Museum, and Academy Museum of Motion Pictures
6. **Earn Your High School Diploma** - adults 19 years and over can earn a [free diploma, career certificate, and online career counseling](#)
7. **Emerging Adults** - [programs & resources for adults 18 - 25](#) include virtual and in-person programs on topics of substance abuse awareness and support, and caring for clothes

8. **Citizenship & Immigration** - [lots of resources](#), from Citizenship in a Bag, to online resources for learning English, to booklists for Constitution and Citizenship Days, to sharing your immigration and citizenship stories
9. **Books by Mail** - individuals who are homebound, in a care facility, or in a rural area, can [order up to 4 books at a time](#) that the Library will mail
10. **Free printing** - Easy peasy...you can [send your print job](#) (up to 10 pages a day for free - black and white) to your local library, and pick it up

What else? [Let us know.](#)

**Thank you, Library Champion!
Your support makes an impact.**

[Give Today](#)



Our Contact Information

LA County Library Foundation

7400 Imperial Hwy #201

Downey, CA 90242

562.940.4189

<https://www.lacolibraryfoundation.org>