



## Strengthening LA County Library with your support

**May, 2021**

Dear Library Champion,

You've got places to go and things to do!

Whether you're reveling in being physically back at your Library (like the young readers in this month's *My Library Story*), reading and exploring with [Spring & Summer Discovery Program](#), or discovering the wonders of your own backyard with virtual [Nature Exploration](#) programs, I hope you're doing well.

Thank you for relying on, and supporting, your Library and community. You're making a difference.

May celebrated [Asian Pacific American Heritage Month](#). It's something your Library celebrates - all year long.

Learning about and understanding cultures, your own and others, develops understanding, empathy, and resiliency.

You can navigate and communicate more easily within our diverse community.

And while it takes time and effort to get there, your Library makes it interesting, exciting, and rewarding.

With year-round book recommendations and programs - like learning to make [Seasonal Kimchi](#) with chef and food historian Hae Jung Cho.

And, as highlighted in our *Virtual Field Trip*, you can enjoy, explore, and deepen your curiosity with one of the Library's cultural gems - the Asian Pacific Resource Center at Rosemead Library - in person or remotely.

Today, Memorial Day, we pay tribute to U.S. veterans and military families. That's also an area of special importance to your Library, with [Veterans Resource Centers](#) located at four libraries providing information and assistance specifically for veterans.

The Library's Veterans Resource Centers at Lancaster and Lawndale libraries are open for browsing and checking out materials.

Online, with Brainfuse [VetNow](#), an expert will guide you through VA benefits and community resources.

Whether you're looking for a good book or something fun to do, today or in days to come, you've got a lot to choose from, including:

- [Outdoor programs](#) (arts and crafts and performances) for kids and teens at 20 libraries.
- A [Library YouTube channel chock full of videos](#) - from [Work Ready workshops](#) on resume writing and interviewing, to positive parenting tips, to how-to's for teens on tying a necktie, to stories for babies through centenarians.
- Free three week loans of a [laptop and hotspot](#) - for you or someone you know who wants to connect digitally (basic help is just a call away, so don't let that get in the way).

How are you using your Library? What are you reading? [Email me](#) and let me know, I'd love to hear.

Thank you, and wishing you well,

ANDREA

Andrea Carroll  
Executive Director

**P.S. A special thank you to the Foundation's monthly donors.** You help keep your Library strong and nimble. [Your gift today](#) - a monthly or one-time donation - will make a difference.

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## Your Library Story: Happy to be back, from Lesly M. & family

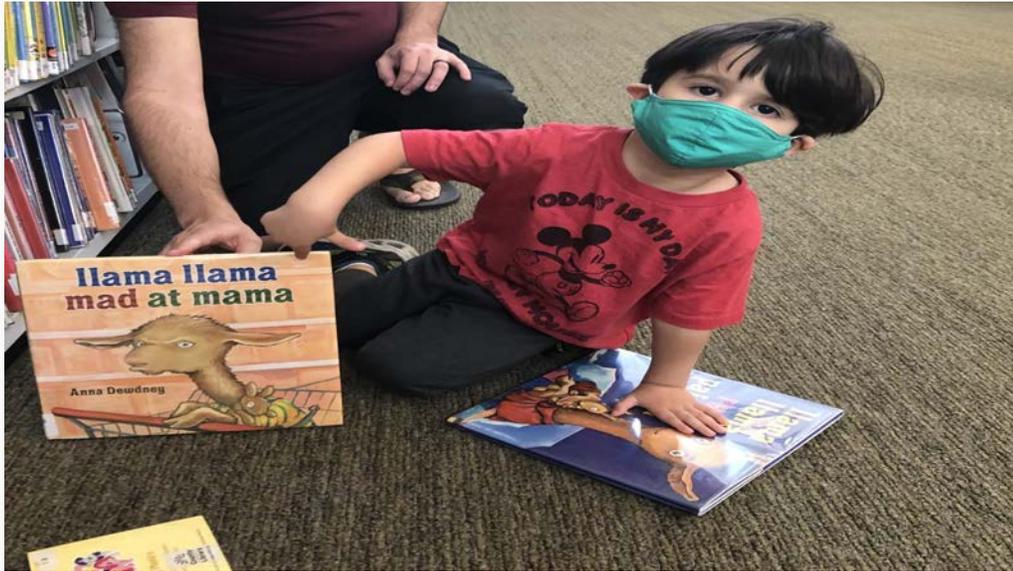


Image: Lesly M.

During the pandemic lockdown we really missed our local library and all the community programs it provided.

My kids would both ask "Can we go to the library when all the germs are gone?"

It was simultaneously heartbreaking, yet reassuring that my kids hadn't lost the love of the library.

We made sure to check out digital books from our library's Overdrive collection to keep our bedtime routines as exciting as possible. My kids are now a big fan of the *Scaredy Squirrel* series of books thanks to this wonderful option.

But, I have to admit, nothing will be able to take the place of physical books for my family.

That's why we almost couldn't contain ourselves when we heard the good news that our local library, the La Crescenta Library, had reopened!

We strapped on our masks and went as soon as we could. They have protocols in place and hand sanitizing stations to make us feel comfortable and safe when making our selections.

**The kids excitedly picked their own books and were extremely disappointed to hear, after 16 books, my husband and I could not carry anymore.**

Some of the books they picked were new adventures to dive into while others were some of our favorite books to cuddle up with, like *Llama Llama Red Pajama* by Anna Dewdney.

We will continue to make weekly trips to the library now that it has reopened. And we'll wait patiently in anticipation for the day the La Crescenta Library can bring back the community shows and activities.

For now, we are completely satisfied with being able to safely reunite with our favorite library staff members and being able to be amongst our beloved books.

Thank you to all those at LA County Library who have made this safe re-opening possible.

Sincerely,

Lesly

What's your Library Story?

[Email us!](#)

[Read more Library stories here.](#)

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## You've got places to go: **Asian Pacific Resource Center**



Join Librarian Katrina in a [virtual tour of the Asian Pacific Resource Center](#) (APRC). Better yet, go see it for yourself!

*If you're not quite ready to head to Rosemead Library, where the APRC is housed, see what's available with the online [Library catalog](#), find what you'd like, and have it delivered to your home library.*

**May is [Asian Pacific American Heritage Month](#)**. And at LA County Library, that celebration lasts throughout the year.

Because developing cultural awareness and understanding is fundamental to your Library.

Your Library welcomes all, providing opportunities for success to everyone.

And cultural literacy - being able to understand and engage with a culture's traditions, activities, and history - is crucial to successfully navigating the workforce and social issues of today. And to battling hate and discrimination.

This isn't a new concept.

The Library established the [Asian Pacific Resource Center](#) (APRC) in 1979, the same year President Jimmy Carter declared May 4-10 as the first Asian Pacific Heritage Week (extended, in 1990, to the full month by President George H.W. Bush).

The APRC's purpose?

To support Asian and Pacific Islander Americans and share their rich cultural heritage through information, programs, and resources - for scholars and community members.

Tucked inside Rosemead Library, the Asian Pacific Resource Center has a lot going on.

The collection's core holdings focus on the history, art, and culture of many countries, including: China, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Vietnam, Hawaii, American Samoa, and more.

The newspaper and magazine section, with leading publications in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Japanese, is popular.

On microfilm, newspapers and documents from World War II offer you firsthand accounts about the Japanese American incarceration.

APRC Librarian Katrina Lacerna says the AV room is also well-used, with documentaries, TV shows, K-Dramas, and the Criterion Collection, featuring classic and contemporary cinema.

She hosted a film fest during the pandemic - [you might want to watch one or more of her picks](#).

Or browse the catalog to find a cookbook, a biography or memoir, or some contemporary Asian American fiction.

Katrina recommends authors Elaine Castillo ([America Is Not the Heart](#) - a "must read") and Vivien Chien for mystery lovers (*Death by Dumpling* and *Fatal Fried Rice*) - you can't go wrong with stories that mix crime and cuisine.

Check out this [curated booklist](#) or browse the stacks in person. Follow APRC on [Facebook](#).

However you choose to do it, enjoy getting to know more about Asian and Pacific Islander American cultures, and the rich heritage they bring to our community and the nation.

Let us know what you discover! [Send us an email](#).

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[You're creating a vibrant future.](#)

You're supporting literacy, helping job seekers, promoting cultural understanding, and more.

Thank you!

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