



Strengthening LA County Library with your support

February, 2021

Dear Library Champion,

Happy Valentine's Day!

Thank you for supporting your Library - with your checkouts, stories, generous donations, and by spreading the word about how much you value your Library.

This month is filled with celebrations - [African American and Black History Month](#), [Lunar New Year](#), [Valentine's Day](#), and for many, a day off for Presidents' Day.

Plus, next Thursday, NASA's *Perseverance* rover will attempt to land on Mars. It's audacious and nail-biting, and I look forward to celebrating a successful touchdown, and the years of work behind the mission.

Kids can enjoy a Book Party - *Mae Among the Stars* by Roda Ahmed - a reading of a book about physician Mae Jemison, the first Black woman to travel in space. Tuesday, February 23 at 4 pm - [register here](#).

Maybe, like me, you feel awkward, even wrong, about celebrating - when so much in our lives is topsy-turvy, and sorrow is rampant.

Yet - and I thank you for your notes, your calls, and your Library stories - you remind me that celebration is essential to recognizing triumphs, to seizing joy, to moving forward.

In her [My Library Story](#) on our website, Sara W. speaks of hope, of taking heart, a way to persevere in this "Year of the Ox." In his, Charles L. points to the strength behind "we're all in this together."

Yes, we're all in this together.

That is, at its core, what your Library is about: welcoming to all, accessible, a haven of resources and support for a life-long journey of learning and understanding, a force for creating a just and equitable community for us all.

Celebrations are a step in that journey, from the national and international ones this month, to personal day-to-day successes.

In *My Library Story*, Porsha C., a working mom with two young boys, pens a valentine: "Story Time and Baby Band Practice...These have been a wonderful gift for them to enjoy learning and dancing with friends virtually."

With physical locations closed, our *Virtual Field Trip* to the Black Resource Center goes beyond library walls. We're showcasing morsels from the feast of programs your Library is offering throughout African American and Black History Month.

The celebration doesn't end with the month: we're sharing resources and programs you can enjoy today, and all year-long.

There's a special treat on offer next week: an interview with your LA County Library Director Skye Patrick, an internationally acclaimed and recognized *Librarian of the Year*.

Skye will talk about her career path, books important to her life, and her thoughts on how representation of Black women in our society is evolving. Wednesday, February 24 at 6 pm - [register here](#).

You won't want to miss her talk!

Circling back to your love for the Library, you may be wondering, like other Library Champions, how you can celebrate your Library with a legacy gift.

Including LA County Library Foundation in your will is a simple way for you to make a meaningful and enduring impact. Scroll down to *Fabulous Facts* to learn more.

Again, thank you for supporting your Library Foundation. With you, we're helping strengthen the Library to create a better today and a more positive future.

[I love to hear from you!](#)

Share your Library story, let me know what you'd like to see in future e-news, send me your favorite fabulous literary facts.

In celebration of you,

ANDREA

Andrea Carroll
Executive Director

P.S. We're on Facebook and Instagram (LACoLibraryFoundation). Please follow us. Thank you for telling people about your Library Foundation!

[Your gift makes a difference.](#)

My Library Story: **Porsha C.**



Image: Porsha C.

As a mother of 2 small children ages 4 and 1, I am always looking for ways to keep them having fun, learning and engaged.

Prior to COVID, that meant days filled with activities like visiting the beach, trips to the park or Saturdays visiting our local library.

When the COVID pandemic started, suddenly I was thrust into working from home, providing full time care for my little ones, unfortunately telling them the beach and the park were closed, and trying to still find ways they could have fun and learn.

I am so immensely grateful for LA County Library.

My boys and I have participated in the virtual Story Times and the Baby Band Practice classes. These have been a wonderful gift for them to enjoy learning and dancing with friends virtually.

Thank you LA County Library for providing my little ones fun and engaging learning time!

What's your Library Story?

[Email us!](#)

[Read more Library stories here.](#)

Virtual Field Trip: Black Resource Center and beyond.



Images:

Wiki Commons.

The Black Resource Center, located at A C Bilbrew Library (in an unincorporated area west of the city of Compton), is a treasure trove of stories and information, including about remarkable people who've shaped our community. A few are pictured above.

Left: actor Paul Robeson and publisher Charlotta Bass, first African American woman to own and operate a newspaper in the U.S., and in 1952, the first African American woman nominated to be Vice President.

Middle: Biddy Mason, born enslaved, was an early and prominent landowner in Los Angeles in the 1850s and 1860s, and founded the First African Methodist Episcopal Church in Los Angeles.

Right: A C Bilbrew, for whom A C Bilbrew Library is named, was the first Black person in the U.S. to have a radio show.

The Black Resource Center (BRC) may be physically closed, but you can still access many of its resources - through the Library catalog, and with virtual programs.

You've got lots to choose from throughout [African American and Black History Month](#).

Want to discover more about local gems like Biddy Mason or Charlotta Bass? Historian Robert Lee Johnson invites you to join him next Saturday, February 20 for a virtual Author Talk.

Mr. Johnson will discuss his books *Compton* and *Notable Southern Californians in Black History*. He'll also talk about his upcoming book

on the history of the Watts/Willowbrook area of Los Angeles.

You can [register here](#).

Celebrating this year's theme of *The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity*, your Library is hosting a virtual genealogy workshop to guide you in researching and honoring your ancestry.

Whether you're a beginner or experienced researcher, genealogist and family historian Charlotte Bocage welcomes your participation.

Saturday, February 20, 2021 - [register here](#).



Image: nakul/unsplash

Communities of color have been hit especially hard during the pandemic. Record numbers of people are out of work, or looking for a new career opportunity to weather this economy and beyond.

The digital divide is real. Many people don't have access to a computer or reliable internet. And for job seekers, that's a gaping canyon.

To meet those needs - helping people develop career skills and find work, along with a free loan of a laptop and hotspot from one of 20 libraries - your Library launched [Work Ready](#).

The next 6-week online session of this job development program starts February 16.

[Sign up online today](#) if you or someone you know could use a boost in looking for work or developing job skills.

And for moms, dads, and other caretakers, a heads-up: when life gives you distance learning, turn to *Parent-Ade* .

These virtual programs take place every Wednesday afternoon (in English and Spanish) to help you and your child navigate the challenges of school online.

There are also booklists for kids and teens, books by African American authors, and activity ideas for adults. Something for everyone, a way to jump start and develop learning and understanding about African American and Black histories and cultures that continues throughout the year.

We're in this together - celebrating, taking action, building a stronger community through your Library. Your gifts and support make an impact. Thank you.

Where do you want to go next?

Let us know.

Fabulous Facts: *Your Library Legacy*

Setting up a legacy gift is simple and deeply satisfying.

You're making a difference now, and with your legacy gift, you'll celebrate and share your love for the Library with future generations.

A bequest is one of the easiest gifts to make.

Your lawyer or professional advisor can help you include language in

your will or trust specifying a gift be made to family, friends, or LA County Library Foundation as part of your estate plan.

You can name LA County Library Foundation in your will or trust (a bequest) or make the Foundation the full or partial beneficiary of an insurance policy or retirement plan.

Interested in learning more?

You'll find [basic information for you and your advisor on our website](#) or call or email:

Andrea Carroll, Executive Director, at 562.940.4189 or acarroll@lacountylibraryfoundation.org.

Have you already included a legacy gift for LA County Library Foundation?

[Please let us know](#) - **we'd love to thank you!**

Thank you for celebrating the power of your Library - a builder of community, a center of civil participation and understanding.

Thank you for keeping your Library strong.

[You can make a difference with your gift - today.](#)

Thank you for investing in a positive future!



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