



**LA COUNTY
LIBRARY FOUNDATION**

February 2023

Dear Library Champion,

Yes, it's February, and brrr...right now, your sunny southern California is facing a blizzard!

Definitely the kind of weather that makes you want to curl up with a good book, some good music, and some good food.

You're in luck - your Library has you covered! There's a whole lotta love in the air, and with your Library, that doesn't end with February.

Read on for curated booklists and recommendations for tasty treats - culinary and for the mind.

First up - [African American and Black History Month](#). Your Library has all kinds of great reads, in-person and virtual activities, movies, music, and more for you.

Lots of opportunities to recognize, explore, celebrate, and honor the rich history and achievements of Black and African Americans.

You'll get a taste of that with this month's *Virtual Field Trip* - to a Library gem, the Black Resource Center (BRC) at A C Bilbrew Library. Like its three sister resource centers, the BRC is there for you - with resources on site and for every library in the system - all year long.

That kind of service, with trusted information and a welcoming space for all ages, is what Jill P loves about her library. Hope you'll enjoy *My Library Story*, Jill's outpouring of love for the amazing staff of Westlake Village Library, her personal *Cheers*.

Into romance? You might find something on [this booklist](#) for adults and teens.

And if you're a history buff, or really, if you just like a good story (especially one that's told with pictures), dive into the Library's Digital Collections. You'll enjoy a blast from the past - scroll down to find out more!

As always, thank you for your incredible generosity.

Thank you, too, for the love you shower on your Library and Foundation.

Wishing you a warm, safe, and joyous weekend,

Andrea

Andrea Carroll

Executive Director

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

My Library Story: Jill P on loving her librarians, "My library is my *Cheers*."



Image: Jill P

Some of Jill's Cheers crew at Westlake Village Library: Library Manager Julie, Library Assistant Martha, Jill, and Children's Librarian Jessie.

Favorite Author: Louise Penny
Love my Gamache!

Like Jill, I'm a fan of Louise Penny mysteries and her down to earth Chief Inspector Armand Gamache. What about you?

Who's your favorite author? Why? We'd love to know – [drop me a line.](#)

"I love to read. But more than that even, are those wonderful women, my librarians.

I feel warmly welcomed. **It's my Cheers**, where everyone knows your name. I love seeing all the children who come with parents to take out piles of books at a time, and remember when I would do the same.

My library and the Book Nook are a very important part of my life, especially in my retirement years."

Gratefully submitted,
Jill

What's your Library Story?

[We want to know.](#)

[Read more Library stories here.](#)

Virtual Field Trip: Exploring and Celebrating Black & African American History at the Black Resource Center and beyond



Image: LA County Library

[The Black Resource Center \(BRC\)](#) founded in 1978, is located at A C Bilbrew Library (in an unincorporated area west of the city of Compton). It's filled with stories, information, and art. Learn about remarkable people and events who've shaped our community - like Madame A C Bilbrew.

She was the first Black person to have a radio show. Madame Bilbrew was also an internationally recognized musician, poet, and choral director, as well as a community leader and a deputy to former Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

The Library's Black Resource Center (BRC) is a marvelous resource for answering the theme of this year's Black History Month - Black Resistance - a call for everyone to explore the history of Black Americans.

The BRC collects specialized materials by and about African Americans and Blacks, the African American and Black experience, and the African Diaspora.

You'll find treasures of all sorts - physical and digital information, photographs, and throughout the BRC and library, paintings, prints, fabric works, and sculptures from the acclaimed Golden State Mutual Art Collection.

You'll discover new information about well-known figures, and find out about vital people, places, and events that weren't in the spotlight.

You can sift through old and current newspapers and dig through documents and papers on microform, including Slave Narratives and Papers of the NAACP. The BRC is a scholar's and any learner's haven.

Can't make it to A C Bilbrew Library and the BRC? Not a problem. Many of the materials will travel to you - find them in the Library's catalog, place a hold, and pick them up at your library of choice.

Get started with some of these goodies your Librarians have put together for you:

- A [curated booklist](#) for African American and Black History Month, with titles for all ages
- [A playlist of music](#) by Black jazz musicians
- A [video introduction](#) of African American physician and medical researcher Charles Drew. Dr. Drew is credited with saving many lives in WWII and beyond, thanks to his research in blood banks
- [African American cinema and documentaries](#) on Kanopy

And there's more!

Check out [upcoming events](#) - from a virtual workshop, Researching Your African American ancestry, to learning about the Compton Cowboys ([live streamed on YouTube](#) on Saturday, February 25 at 1 pm).

Explore, learn, and create with your Library. Together, we're building a brighter and stronger community.



Image: LA County Library

Weekend idea: Join Compton Library Manager Crystal for a virtual fact-filled and mouth-watering journey through African American and Black culinary traditions. [Watch the video](#) and then check out one (or lots!) of these cookbooks and enjoy a feast - from soul food to vegan, to cultural and historical celebrations centered on food, and more.

Plus, [click here](#) for other fun culinary-related activities. You might record your own family recipe, whip up a batch of benne wafers, or decorate a potholder.

Plan ahead - join celebrity chef Jernard Wells for a [virtual chat on March 21](#) about his newest cookbook, Southern Inspired: More Than 100 Delicious Dishes from My American Table to Yours. *Have fun!*

Where do you want to go next?

[Email us.](#)

Baby, it's cold outside: your Library's Digital Collections offers a blast from the past



Image: Antelope Valley Rural Museum/LA County Library Digital Collections

Snow blankets the city of Lancaster in this 1949 photo. This weekend, as you hunker inside - at home or perhaps in a cozy spot at your Library - take a peek at some of the other fascinating visual stories of cultural happenings and histories from across LA County. You've got all kinds of blasts from the past to explore with the Library's [Digital Collections](#).

Thank you, Library Champion!
Your support builds a stronger community.

Give Today



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