



September 2022

Hi Library Champion,

Talk about craving some light and joy these days. That's definitely me, and maybe that's you, too.

If so, you and I are in luck. This newsletter is flowing over with reports of Library goodness -- fueled with your support. Thank you!

From cheering the literally thousands of readers who participated in *Summer Discovery Program*, to exploring and celebrating with *National Hispanic Heritage Month* (it runs from September 15 through October 15 -- and yes, we're heading to a cultural gem, the Library's Chicano Resource Center, with this month's *Virtual Field Trip*), to listening with gratitude and appreciation as you voice your hopes and dreams for your Library in *Community Feedback Sessions*, there's a lot of joy and light.

Check out the *Donor Impact Snapshot* for a taste of more of the good you're making possible with your Library Foundation.

Savor the positive difference and opportunities you help create for children, teens, and adults whose lives the Library enriches.

That's not all that's packed into this month's ode to Fall and to Library Champions.

In *My Library Story*, Gaili S. shares how, during the pandemic, she started a blog to fill a void she felt as a reader: sharing books by and for people older than 50.

She's hooked me - with *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson, and Claire Pooley's *Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting*. I haven't dipped into her non-fiction recommendations yet.

Spoiler alert...apart from being a reader, Gaili is a musician and composes for film, and has created trailers for some of her book reviews. Read on to find out more, and where you can read, watch, and listen!

Her blog and recommended reads goes nicely with your Library's [resource page for older adults](#) - with Silver STEAMers videos, a list of upcoming events, links to lots of lifelong learning materials, activity pages, connections to outside organizations, and more.

Library stories, recommended reads, a shout out to your amazing Library staff. I love to hear and share them - [send them](#) my way.

Thank you for creating light and joy with your support and love for your Library!

Wishing you a wonderful Fall season,

Andrea

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P.S. [Your gift today will strengthen your Library](#). **Thank you!**

My Library Story: Gaili S. on stepping into the void...blogging about books by and for people aged 50 years and up



From RipeReads.net: I am Gaili Schoen, 61-year-old joyfully voracious reader living in southern California. At any given time I am listening to an audio book while hiking, reading my Kindle in bed, and enjoying a hard cover in a Cafe with a cuppa matcha latte. I swoon in bookstores and libraries, and secretly collect bookish accessories - enamel pins, book bags and bookish photos. There are so many great books out there (and some not so great ones), but as I attempt to age gracefully I am most interested in reading stories about mature adults.

I will be posting reviews of new and previously published contemporary fiction, as well as some exceptional non-fiction titles that I think might interest you.

Editor's note: Gaili's book trailers are also on [TikTok](#). Check them out and tell a friend.

I wanted to tell you my story. I have always loved visiting the Julian Dixon Culver City Library, and was able to get there by bicycle due to its proximity to the bike path (and mine).

When Covid hit, I switched to a heavy reliance on Overdrive to read e-books and to listen to audiobooks, as I am a passionate reader, and needed the calm and enjoyment of reading more than ever during lockdown.

I approached a couple of neighbors about buddy reading books that feature characters over 50, and though that petered out due to their busy schedules and my enthusiastic reading pace, I decided to focus my energy on creating a book blog in which I would review books by and about adults over 50.

I was not able to find a source or database of books for mature adults - including at AARP, book blogs, and podcasts, or sending inquiries to publishers' reps.

No one was doing it, so I started [RipeReads.net](#). I scour many sources, the NY Times and LA Times Reviews of books, Book Riot, Kirkus, numerous publishers, and many blogs to sift through and find the gem novels featuring older adult characters.

As I have a history of composing music for film, lately I have been creating "trailers" to include with my book reviews. It's so fun, though a bit time consuming, composing a musical piece and picture to match the emotional characteristics of a book.

I give monthly to the LA County Library Foundation because I read SO MANY books via Overdrive (will have to switch to Libby soon, I know!) and wanted to spend what it would cost for a monthly Audible or Libro.fm account. Really, I should be paying more, as I read 4-7 books per month, not the 1 that those services provide.

Anyway, that's surely a longer story than you needed to read, but I thought I would tell you in case you found it interesting or relevant.

Older adults really love to read books that mirror their experiences, and I am happy to provide that service! I wish it could be my full time job, but for now it's a very fulfilling hobby.

What's your Library Story?

[We want to know.](#)

[Read more Library stories here.](#)

Virtual Field Trip: Chicano Resource Center



Image: LA County Library

[National Hispanic Heritage Month](#) (September 15-October 15) is in full swing at your Library - with activities, events, booklists, and more - to recognize and celebrate the culture, contributions, and heritage of Hispanic Americans.

It's a great time to call attention to the Library's [Chicano Resource Center](#) (CRC), a cultural gem at the East Los Angeles Library. And representative of the Library's work to celebrate diverse cultures all year long.

The CRC, established in 1976, delights academic researchers, as well as community members, with a collection rich with information for and about the Chicano (Mexican American) community and, increasingly, other Latin American communities for whom LA County is home.

You can explore hard to find materials - English and Spanish language newspapers (on microfilm) that date to the 1800s, skim historical clippings about East Los Angeles, pull from a feast of poetry and fiction titles, and on a hot summer day, grab a book and settle in for a cool read in the tranquil and art adorned CRC.

CRC librarian Daniel Hernandez, like the Library's three other Resource Center librarians (Black Resource Center, Asian Pacific Resource Center, and American Indian Resource Center), supports cultural and historical programming for the entire system - all year long.

For example, if you're feeling crafty, you might enjoy Daniel's video about the history of Talavera tiles, along with instructions for [creating your own Talavera tile-inspired art](#). You can download templates, and depending on availability, pick up a kit from your local library.

That's just the start of what's on offer - attend a virtual [Heart and Hand Talk](#) with Annette Chavez Macias, Mexican American author of *Big Chicas Don't Cry* and *Too Soon for Adiós*.

Or head to the Chicano Resource Center for an in-person event, [Generations of Revolutionary Chicano Poetry](#) - poetry readings by Poet Laureate and author of *Always Running*, Luis J. Rodriguez, and Matt Sedillo, poet and Literary Director of the Mexican Cultural Institute of Los Angeles.



image: LA County Library. South El Monte Library

Special celebrations abound among the 85 community libraries that make up your LA County Library. For example, South El Monte Library is shining a spotlight on books by winners of the Pura Belpré Award.

This award, established in 1996 and named after the first Latina librarian at the New York Public Library, annually recognizes a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work "best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth."

South El Monte Library has gathered many of the award-winning titles, including some fun ones like *¡Vamos! Let's Go Eat* (winner of the 2021 Illustrator award)

and *My Papi Has a Motorcycle* (2020 illustrator award). Or read about Pura Belpré and how as a children's librarian, bilingual storyteller, and author, she got people interested in preserving the folklore of her native Puerto Rico.

Are you thinking South El Monte is a bit far for you? That's the beauty of your LA County Library card. You can place a hold through the [Library catalog](#) and have your request delivered to your local library.

That said, think about it for a minute....Because, even with gas prices through the roof, there's something magical about adventures. And that's what it would be, a field trip to a library that's new to you, an adventure.

So, maybe when you have some time and you're ready for something new, head to the Chicano Resource Center or to South El Monte Library.

Take your time exploring and learning, and finding even more good reads to take home with you.

Bottom line, have fun!

Where do you want to go next?

[Email us.](#)

**Donor Impact Snapshot: a taste of what
YOU make possible**



Your generous gifts helped fuel participation in **Summer Discovery Program** - a celebration of reading for ALL ages, from babies and toddlers to older adults.

12,683 readers logged 41,188 books! That's not to mention the nearly 11,000 people who worked on Library activity challenges.

Those numbers translate into making lives better - creating connections, encouraging exploration, and helping students continue to learn over the summer.

Know a teen? Tell them about [Teen Read Month](#)! That gets underway in October - a celebration of all things related to teens and reading. They can play Teen Read Month BINGO for a chance to win a prize.

With you, and generous support from Via Care Community Health Center, the Foundation is thrilled to help keep teens engaged and having fun reading.

Your Library wants to hear from you! What do you want and what do you need? That's the point of [Community Feedback Sessions](#). You're invited to help the Library shape its vision for the next five years.

If you haven't participated in one of the virtual sessions, please [share your voice via the Library's online survey](#).

Thank you to you, and to Amazon, for supporting this crucial endeavor!

Stay tuned...next month we'll celebrate more of what you and your fellow Library Champions make possible, and the ways you're building a brighter today and tomorrow.

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

Give Today



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