



LA COUNTY LIBRARY FOUNDATION

June 2023

Hi Library Champion,

Summer is here, hooray!

Hope you're enjoying these sunshiney days, and that you're ready to dive into Summer Discovery with your Library!

I also hope you're feeling just how vital - how essential - your Library is. And feeling joy.

Because you're part of it, you're helping power your Library with your support.

Your Library is here for you, and for all - with trusted information, resources of all kinds and for all ages, comforting (and cool) spaces, and opportunities to connect.

This month's enews shares a few examples:

- In *My Library Story*, Kelly and Rex give a shout out to South Whittier Library and Children's Librarian Elizabeth, whose Smarty Pants Story Time delights their young daughter and have her hooked on reading and libraries.

- There's a recording of author and poverty and child welfare expert David Ambroz that you won't want to miss. As a child, homeless with his family in New York, and later in foster care, he, too, felt the power and caring of librarians and libraries.
- June is Pride month, and your Library has lots on offer, to [celebrate and learn about Pride and the LGBTQ+ community](#). Take your pick of online and in person events, reading recommendations for children, teens, and adults, and resources and activities for all ages.

On one of these glorious summer days, consider heading to the West Hollywood Library. That's where we're going with this month's *Virtual Field Trip* - to that architecturally splendid place, sited in a park. And home to the LGBT Collection.

That's your LA County Library - a community cornerstone: serving up trusted information, inviting conversation, and offering opportunities for positive action.

Stay tuned...next month we'll be partying at the libraries - congratulating LA County Library for receiving the prestigious National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

Wishing you a wonderful and bright summer,

Andrea

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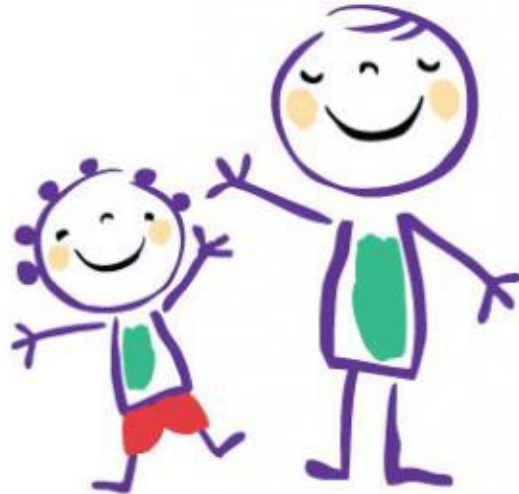
P.S. [You make an impact with your gift](#). Thank you!

My Library Story: Gratitude for Ms. Elizabeth, children's librarian & other gems at South Whittier Library

"We recently made a donation to the LA County Library Foundation, and you had sent us a note and asked for our reason for donating.

There are many reasons we chose to donate including online classes for adults, the Unincorporated Whittier Heritage Photo Project, and access to Libby/Hoopla/Kanopy.

Our primary reason why is because we would like to show our thanks and support to Ms. Elizabeth, the Children's Librarian at the South Whittier Library.



SMARTY PANTS Storytime

She leads the Smarty Pants Storytime, Preschool Art Class, and all of the other activities for children. Our three year old loves to go to storytime and art class with Ms. Elizabeth.

Not only does Ms. Elizabeth encourage reading wonderful books, but she is also very welcoming and she really builds relationships with all of the families who come to the library.

We appreciate Mr. Oscar who is very helpful and responsive. He leads an awesome staff at the South Whittier branch."

Thank you,

Kelly and Rex H.

What's your Library Story?

[We want to know.](#)

[Read more Library stories here.](#)



Image: LA County Library/Digital Library

Your Library has a trove of historical community treasures, including the [Whittier Unincorporated Heritage Project](#).

A glimpse into the area's agricultural past: Eulogio Cabral drives his tractor at the 1955 Independence Day Carnival Parade, South Whittier (held at what today is Mayberry Park).

Interested in the history of LA County communities? Take a trip through time with your Library's [Digital Collections](#).

Virtual Field Trip: West Hollywood Library



Image: LA County Library

West Hollywood Library welcomes you to explore their collection and Library and to learn about and celebrate the LGBTQ+ community.

"We're proud to celebrate every color of the pride flag and we've got a book for every member of the alphabet community!"

Find books for all ages on multiple displays around the library, as well as the Ron Shipton HIV Information Center and the LGBT Collection on the 2nd floor. Happy Pride Month!"

Library Manager Matt Gill is proud the library was one of the first libraries in the country to host a Drag Story Hour, in 2017, with the support of the City of West Hollywood.



In addition to special collections, three book clubs, and in-person and online events, the LEED Gold certified library is architecturally vibrant and has changing art exhibits from the city's Arts Council.

Plus, you don't want to miss the Shepard Fairey mural (*Peace, Freedom, and Creativity*), or the marvelous Children's Theater - a small scale version of Michelangelo's Laurentian Library.

So, go if you get a chance. And if it's not in the cards, remember you've got access to that treasure trove of books and other materials at West Hollywood Library...just find what you want in the card catalog, place a hold, and pick it up at your library of choice.



Image: City of West Hollywood - LA County Library Director Skye Patrick and West Hollywood Library Manager Matt Gill (at center) with Library Foundation directors and Executive Director, and West Hollywood City Councilmembers.

The City of West Hollywood is proud - of its spectacular library and of LA County Library - with 85 community libraries! In April, the City Council, including Mayor Pro Tempore and LA County Library Foundation Vice President John Erickson issued a proclamation celebrating West Hollywood Library and LA County Library.

Where do you want to go next?

Let us know!



Image: LA County Library/Monica Almeida

Author David Ambroz (*A Place Called Home - A Memoir*) joined Library Champions at East Los Angeles Library last week in a Heart & Hand Book Talk Series conversation with Library Director Skye Patrick.

David talked about growing up homeless, navigating the foster care system, how he got to where he is today - a poverty and child welfare advocate - and how you can move from empathy to taking action for positive change.

He views the Library as a powerful force for the communities from which he began and is working to help - people in poverty, foster youth, individuals struggling with mental illness, and the LGBTQ+ community.

Thank you to all who joined us, and thank you to our sponsor BIG Outdoor and you, Library Champion, for helping share David's story and call to action!

[Listen to the recording of David's remarkable talk](#) on YouTube...and check out a copy of his book.

Take the challenge: 50,000 books!



Graphic: LA County Library

Are you signed up?!

Help your Library log 50,000 books this summer!

[Summer Discovery Program](#) is for ALL ages - from babies and toddlers to centenarians.

It's a great way to combat the summer slide, help students regain their academic footing, and connect with people, places, and interests. Learn, explore, have fun!

Thanks to you and your fellow Library Champions for supporting this program with your Library Foundation.

Thank you, Library Champion!

You make a difference.

Give Today



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