



[Strengthening LA County Library with your support](#)

February, 2022

Hey Library Champion,

February is your month – [National Library Lovers’ Month!](#)

And yes, as always, it’s been a short month, too short – especially with lots on offer from your Library.

Like storytelling, music playlists, at-home activities, virtual events, and recommended reads to help you explore, learn, and celebrate [African American and Black History Month](#).

We also rang in the new Lunar Year, Year of the Tiger. And on Valentine’s Day reflected on love and gratitude, even, or maybe especially, during these rugged times.

Yet, I’m guessing that you, like me, see every month as a month for Library Champions. That’s the beauty of your Library, there for you, for anyone, 24/7. No wonder it feels so good to support it.

So why not use February’s celebrations as a springboard – to March and to continued and new adventures, virtual and in-person, all year long?

You might explore one (or all!) of the Library’s four Resource Centers – this month’s virtual field trip takes you to the [Black Resource Center](#) (BRC) at A C Bilbrew Library. Curious about the BRC? Or wondering, just who was A C Bilbrew? Read on!

Maybe, like me, you hit a wall this month in terms of what to read...you've read one too many mysteries, you're not in the mood for another pandemic-based tome, your favorite author doesn't have another book out until June.

Not to worry! Read on for ideas – from lists of banned books, to choosing a book by its cover, to reading a bio of former Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall – you're guaranteed to get unstuck.

And back to the theme of Library Lovers, your Library Foundation is overflowing with gratitude for you – this month and every month. Your generous and strong support adds up.

You and your fellow Library Champions helped make a lot possible in 2021 – from *Nature Exploration* programming, to arts workshops, to opera at the Library, to supporting readers of all ages, and then some.

Thank you!

This year, *with you*, we're excited to do even more for the children, adults, and teens whose lives the Library enriches.

From supporting *Summer Reading* and *STEAM* programming, to continuing to help connect people of all ages – digitally and in person, with resources and community.

You'll also continue strengthening opportunities for tweens, teens, and young adults to develop crucial life-long skills.

We're in this together – celebrating, taking action, building a stronger community through your Library.

Your gifts and support are creating a more positive today, and tomorrow. Thank you.

Please be in touch – with questions, suggestions, comments, your *Library Story* – email or call me at ACarroll@LACoLibraryFoundation.org or 562.940.4189.

Here's to continued and new adventures!

ANDREA

Andrea Carroll
Executive Director

P.S. [Share your love for your Library with a gift today.](#)
Thank you!

Your Next Read: **Getting unstuck**



Image: Unsplash.

At a loss for what to read next? Your fellow Library Champions and your Library staff have you covered:

- **Gail K. suggests reading banned books.** She's starting with Art Spiegelman's *Maus*, notably banned this month in Tennessee by a school board.

The American Library Association offers a list of the [100 most banned and challenged books](#) from 2010-2019.

- **Librarian Marta at La Crescenta Library shared *Book Challenge 2022 - 50 ways to choose your next read*.** Here are my 5 favorites:

Read a book...

1. With a color in the name
 2. Recommended by a friend
 3. With a pretty book cover
 4. By an author who shares your name
 5. With a one-word title
- Choose among the [top 10 reads in 2021](#) at LA County Library (broken out for kids, teens, and adults) .
 - Put your hold in now for some of the [most anticipated books of 2022](#).
 - Where else can you [get a bespoke booklist for free](#)? Fill out a simple form about your book likes/dislikes and your local librarian will recommend some titles just for you!

What's your next read?
We'd love to hear. Email us!

Plus, check out *My Library Story* here.

And, don't forget to share yours....

Virtual Field Trip: Black Resource Center



Image: photo composite by LA County Library (left: A C Bilbrew/Calisphere, middle: painting by Willie Middlebrook/at A C Bilbrew Library, Golden State Insurance Mutual Art Collection, right: Madame Bilbrew and then Supervisor Hahn/LA County Library Digital Collection).

Madame A C Bilbrew (1888-1992), for whom A C Bilbrew Library (home to the Black Resource Center) is named, was a community leader and a deputy to former Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

Madame Bilbrew was the first Black person in the U.S. to have a radio show. She was also recognized internationally

as a musician, poet, and choral director, and for her stage and film performances.

She gave freely of her time and talents to her Willowbrook community, and to the world – in 1960, as part of a U.S. delegation, she presented a report on the status of Black women at the 50th Anniversary International Women's Day Jubilee in Denmark.

The Pittsburgh *Courier* reported "...she came away assured that if the world tensions and unrest were left to women, there would be no further wars to plague mankind."

Madame Bilbrew's story is just one of literally thousands waiting for you at the Black Resource Center.



Image: LA County Library Foundation

Black Resource Center Librarian Rose Mitchell introduces you to some of the Resource Center's treasures in [this video](#).

The [Black Resource Center](#) (BRC), established in 1978 and located at A C Bilbrew Library (in an unincorporated area west of the city of Compton), collects specialized materials by and about African Americans and Blacks, the African American and Black experience, and the African Diaspora.

The BRC is filled with treasures: physical and digital information, photographs, and throughout the BRC and library, a stunning collection of paintings, prints, and sculptures from the acclaimed Golden State Mutual Art Collection.

If you're interested in exploring some of the remarkable people and events that have shaped our community and beyond, this is the place for you.

The BRC is a remarkable place to visit -- in person or virtually (use the Library's catalog to place holds on the circulating materials you want and pick them up at your library of choice).

Like each of the Library's Resource Centers, the BRC stands out for its range of materials and accessibility.

It's for you, whether you're a student, a scholar working on a dissertation, or simply someone who's curious to learn.

There's a lot to choose from:

- **Books, magazines, journals**, dissertations, government publications, pamphlets, posters, audiovisual materials, newspapers and newspaper clippings, and photographs
- The **Black Musical Artist Collection**

- **Documents and papers on microform:** Slave Narratives, Papers of the NAACP, National Archive Slave Schedules, and other historical materials.
- **Local and national newspaper archives** on microform, including: Los Angeles *Sentinel*, Compton *Bulletin*, California *Eagle*, Chicago *Defender*, New York *Amsterdam News*, *Afro-American* (Baltimore), *Muslim Journal*, Pittsburgh *Courier* and hundreds of other titles.
- Images and programs from the Library's annual [African American Living Legends event](#) (1980 to 2008) honoring leaders and visionaries from the Black community.

Plus, in celebration of African American and Black History Month, there's a curated [booklist for kids and teens](#), a free streaming [music playlist of LGBTQ+ Black artists](#), a fascinating discussion, [In Conversation: Angela Davis and Patrisse Cullors](#), and an at-home activity kit to get you painting in the style of folk artist Clementine Hunter.

Yes, something for just about everyone! A great way to embark on a yearlong celebration of exploration and learning.

Where do you want to go next?

[Let us know.](#)

Celebrate your Library!

A red, rounded rectangular button with the word "DONATE" in white, bold, uppercase letters. The button is centered at the top of the page. There are faint, light-colored icons of a smartphone, a laptop, and a person in the background behind the button.

DONATE



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