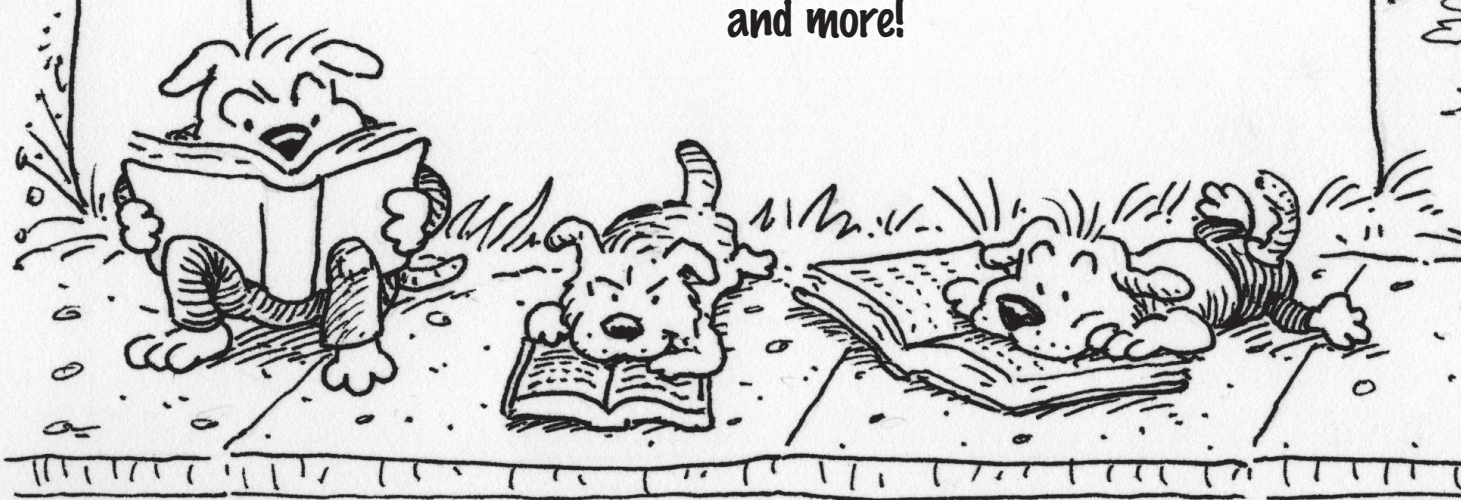




Winter 2021 News and Calendar

See inside for:
The 2021 Stay Home and Read a Book Ball
Teens and the Digital Library
Behind-the-Scenes with LFLA staff
Upcoming Programs
and more!





President’s Note

I am delighted that in this issue of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles newsletter there is an opportunity to talk about my colleagues, whose dedicated work has done so much to articulate and inform the programs of the LAPL. Together, we have the pleasure and privilege of partnering with outstanding librarians, whose creativity and commitment to all Angelenos have made the Los Angeles Public Library a national model.

What is unique about the individuals highlighted in this issue reminds me of why it is that they, among many possibilities, chose to join the Library Foundation of Los Angeles staff. As you will read in this issue, the creativity, originality, and empathy of my colleagues has contributed to public libraries being regarded as an example of democracy at its best.

What you might not know about my colleagues is that their love of music, commitment to environmental justice, passion for art and science, and joy at being a parent is never far from their thinking about what libraries can and should be providing during these unprecedented times. When I get excited about a new LAPL program such as Get Ready for Kindergarten, or review the extraordinary access to musical scores and performances available at the LAPL, or read about an internationally known Los Angeles artist who traces his most important educational experiences to one of our neighborhood libraries — I understand why the public library is a beloved institution where no question goes unanswered.

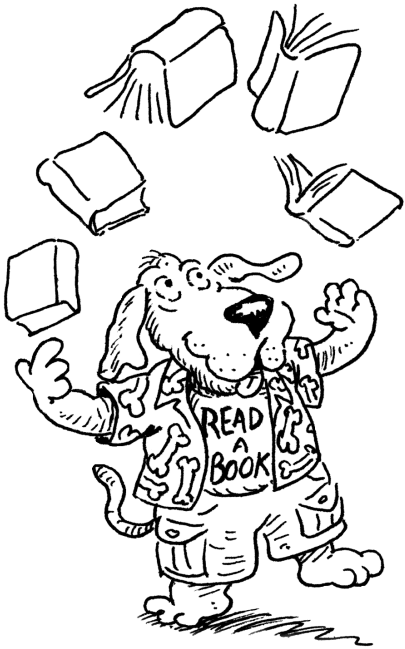
It’s hard not to be optimistic about the future when one learns more about the people who are leading the thinking about what more libraries can be doing to address what is needed in our families, communities, and city. As members of the public, and generous supporters, and library users, you will be the best judge as to whether we are rising to the challenge of these unprecedented times. I hope you will feel as I do that 2021 will be a year where what defines your public library continues to expand and support the resilience of the people of Los Angeles.

Ken Brecher
President

Save the Date!

THE STAY HOME AND READ A BOOK BALL 33RD EDITION

Sunday, March 7, 2021



Stay Home invitation design by artist Rick Meyerowitz. Rick is known by many as the most prolific contributor of illustrated articles to the National Lampoon. He painted the iconic poster for the movie Animal House, and his many projects with Maira Kalman include the acclaimed New Yorker cover “New Yorkistan.”

The Library Foundation of Los Angeles requests the pleasure of your participation for our 33rd annual Stay Home and Read a Book Ball! Join thousands of readers across Los Angeles in supporting the Los Angeles Public Library’s free, virtual resources including Online Tutoring, Career Online High School, live-streamed events, and more, from the comfort and safety of home.

We are pleased to announce the additional support of poet and artist **Claudia Rankine** as our 2021 Chair, and Honorary Chairs **Misty Copeland, Charles Yu, Valeria Luiselli**, and **Michelle Tea**.

On Sunday, March 7, stay home, read a book, and have a ball while supporting the Library’s virtual programming that has kept you entertained and well-informed while the pandemic has kept us apart.

Visit [LFLA.org/StayHome](https://lfla.org/StayHome) to learn more and RSVP!

Special Thanks to The Ring Foundation

The Library Foundation would like to thank The Ring Foundation for a generous new gift. For many years, their dedicated support has made the Cybernauts and Future Ready Teens programs possible, and now their recent unrestricted gift will have an impact on more educational and cultural programs of the Los Angeles Public Library. The Ring Foundation is a family foundation named after Norma Ring, a proud lifelong library patron of many local branches, and her family has continued to advocate for libraries in her honor. The Library Foundation is grateful for this special partnership to empower literacy and public programming in all 73 public libraries across the city.

Los Angeles Public Library News

Teens Log on to the Library for Support

Meditation classes to cope with stress; financial aid workshops for applying to college; career advice from an Apple engineer. Since the 73 libraries across the city had to close their doors in March, the bustle of activities has not stopped—especially for teens. Many students who spent their afternoons at their local branches have now turned to the Library for support from home. With an emergence of new online programs, fun and educational livestreams, and digital support systems, the Los Angeles Public Library is reaching a wide demographic of teens during this critical time.

Throughout 2020, the Library has bolstered its YouTube and social media channels to make programs easily accessible for teens. The **Your Author series** moved online connecting almost 10,000 patrons in conversations with young adult authors. The Library partnered with Locatora Radio, a local Latina led podcast and multi-media production house, to host a five-part series teaching teens how to start their own podcasts. Many other online programs are also providing tools to empower teens; for example, this winter a new social justice series will kick-off, along with special programs for teens with disabilities and a celebration of Black History Month.

“We have the potential to reach many more teens than we could before because we don’t have the same constraints. In the past, if kids had wanted to go to a program they may have had other after school activities or constraints with transportation,” explained Youth Services Librarian Kadie Seitz, who has seen a steady rise of viewers on the online platforms.

Another popular livestream for teens has been the **Career Day workshops**. With many high school students not receiving traditional career counseling from their closed in-person schools, Young Adult Librarians Lynn Nguyen and Jessica Levy have spent the last year putting together a diverse online slate of seasoned professionals to share insights from their jobs. Speakers from JPL and the Peace Corps, publishing and entertainment, along with tech and healthcare workers have talked to teens about the ins and outs of their industries.

“The Career Day series has exposed me to dozens of new jobs I knew very little about. After attending these events, I am much more informed and aware of many careers,” wrote one teen participant.



The Library’s **Get Ready for College initiative** is also focused on equipping teens with tools for beyond high school. “Libraries are more important than ever,” said Linda Duttonhaver, a longtime supporter of this initiative. Since 2005, Duttonhaver has sponsored programs that offer free workshops to help teens prepare for college entrance exams, applications, financial aid, and more. Last November, in a Get Ready for College Motivational Seminar streamed on YouTube, Duttonhaver spoke to teens about the importance of college as a gateway for a better future.

“College offers a much broader perspective on the world than middle and high school. While in college, you will learn about careers in areas you have never even thought of. You will meet people from all over the world. You will be exposed to a wealth of new ideas and new opportunities,” she said.

Duttonhaver’s encouraging message is hitting home. Between March and October of 2020, the Library hosted 26 online college prep workshops and saw attendance increase by over 50% from in-person workshops at the branches in 2019.

Another longstanding program, **Online Tutoring** (formerly called Live Homework Help), which has always offered online access to professional tutors, is thriving during this past year. Over 48,000 virtual private tutoring sessions have helped students with their remote learning in 2020. While this resource was always designed to provide online support, originally, Student Zones provided dedicated physical spaces for after school. Now these zones have turned to a virtual platform, allowing students to schedule an appointment with a Student Zone Helper for online assistance with their homework and accessing the Library’s online resources. Many

of these trained homework helpers are bilingual and have prior experience working with youth in the branch libraries.

Also making use of a virtual platform, **Teens Leading Change** kicked-off a new cohort of civic-minded projects created by teens to address social issues in their neighborhoods. Looking for creative ways to solve problems virtually, the teens are learning how to be advocates for their communities during the pandemic.

Beyond providing educational resources, the Library is finding innovative ways to offer emotional support. Levy, who helped oversee the Career Day workshops, also initiated an international **teen pen pal program**, which she’s found to be surprisingly successful. Los Angeles students have been writing to pen pals via email from partnering classrooms in Brazil, France, Germany, Italy and Norway. The teens share info about their personal lives and cultures, engaging in dialogues about how their countries are handling lockdown, or comparing stories of police brutality, or sharing recommendations for books and movies. “Starting this during the pandemic allowed both my pen pals and me an opportunity to bond over something,” said Georgie T., who has pen pals in three countries. “Also, because of all this time we have, we were able to connect and correspond a lot that has allowed us to build a stronger relationship that will take us beyond the pandemic.”

All of the librarians agree that reaching teens with crucial resources during this difficult time now will hopefully carry over in the years ahead—laying the foundation for lifelong learners to take advantage of the Library at all points in life. “With everything going on in the world today, quarantine can be quite a lonely and isolating place for teens. We’re grateful that with support from the Library Foundation, we have been able to pivot from helping our teens in person to helping and connecting with them virtually and hope to continue offering a mix of online and in-person programming even after the Library re-opens to the public in the future,” said Candice Mack, Senior Librarian of Young Adult Services.

Learn more about all these programs and more at **lapl.org/teens**.

Supporting Libraries Step by Step



When Young Literati Member Sean Hetherington’s plan to run a popular marathon in 2020 came to a halt because of the pandemic, he didn’t slow down. Instead, he and his partner Darius Wadia came up with a new plan: they organized their own solo marathon to raise funds and awareness for the Los Angeles Public Library. Combining a passion for running with a passion for libraries, Sean was motivated to run 26.2 miles from downtown to the sea, visiting 12 branch libraries along the way. The “MaraSean,” as these punners termed it, raised \$10,174 for the Library Foundation. We checked in with Sean and Darius after the race to see what pushed them to the finish line.

How did your love of libraries inspire this idea for a marathon?

Sean: While huge library fans, we weren’t aware of the Young Literati until Covid hit, and we started researching ways we could help in our community. We reached out to the Library Foundation to learn more about how the pandemic was affecting libraries in our area and we learned so much. In-person fundraising is crucial for all public libraries, and Covid brought all of that to an abrupt halt. We also learned how much more libraries do for our communities besides just offering books to borrow. Libraries really are the local foundation of democracy; it’s a place anyone can go to learn, to rest when the weather is harsh, find a job, vote safely and securely, and so much more. That’s why we need to do everything we can to protect them and help them thrive.

Darius: My mom and I would always go to the library together when I was a kid. I would browse the stacks, looking at books of all sorts, finding something new to read. It’s where my love of books started and I still love that “old book” smell that

seems to permeate every library I’ve ever been in. It’s comforting! At a time when we’re all so isolated, the Young Literati actively works to bring people together and connect, which has never been more important than right now.



What was it like rallying a community around your cause?

Darius: I don’t like asking people for money, and in a year like 2020, it was especially hard. But we knew this cause was an important one and it kept us going. We’re very fortunate that our friends and family were so supportive and generous. We had friends from all across the country donate and leave messages about why libraries were important to them. It was so heartwarming to hear everyone’s stories and in some ways that made it easier to keep asking people for donations, so that others have the chance to have these experiences as well.



Sean: It was scary and vulnerable and awkward at times, but it was about the [Los Angeles Public] Library, which is universally beloved. It became a wonderful opportunity to teach others what we were learning about in terms of the role and value of libraries. Worth every minute.

What also made it easier was the support of Young Literati and our new buddy Rebecca [Miller, Director of Young Literati]. The kindness and openness from every volunteer and employee of LAPL and the Library Foundation kept us going,

and helped us reach new heights with the fundraising. If you have an idea for a fundraiser, no matter how ambitious or unusual, reach out and ask for their support! P.S. I think someone should lead an annual 5K or 10K for Young Literati. I’m putting that out into the universe and hope someone reading this will bring it to life. We will jog it!

As we kick off our New Year with many people making resolutions, do you have any advice about connecting personal goals to a larger mission?

Darius: Finding a cause or mission you really connect with is key because that’s what will keep you going. Just like all resolutions or goals, make a list of smaller goals that get you to the main one so that it’s not overwhelming. Don’t be afraid to ask for help! People want to see you succeed, and when you have that support system behind you, the sky’s the limit!



Sean: I would have quit training if not for this cause that we love so much. 2020 has been rough and some days I just wanted to lay in bed and eat pizza and watch HGTV until 2021. But we live near an LAPL branch and pass it everyday, and that motivated me to keep going. The best advice for this marathon, both from the training and fundraising perspective, actually came from a book I love about writing, by Anne Lamott who says, ‘to take it bird by bird,’ which essentially means to take it one step at a time.



All images courtesy of Instagram

Behind-the-Scenes of the Library Foundation

A lot has changed since the stay-at-home orders hit last March, but our staff has remained hard at work continuing to raise awareness and support for the Los Angeles Public Library. Although our staff can’t gather with you for a Membership reception in the Getty Gallery or for an inspiring ALOUD conversation in the Taper Auditorium, we want our community to stay connected. Until we see you again in-person, we hope you can get to know us better by hearing from some of the individuals behind-the-scenes of the Library Foundation about their love for life, libraries, and you.



Sharon G. Padua
Director, Major & Planned Gifts

“I grew up in Hawaii, and reading for me was a way to be exposed to different cultures and ways of life that were literally oceans away. My parents would take me to our neighborhood library and I would bring home armloads of books—I was a big fan of ‘Ramona’ and ‘Choose Your Own Adventures.’ I have great memories of rifling through the card catalog drawers, skimming through the cards to find the location of my latest book, and the sound of the librarian stamping my book with the due date. [With the pandemic now] there is so much uncertainty in the world, and the Library is both a comfort and an escape for all of us, in our own way—whether it’s watching free movies, picking up a physical book, or joining a virtual program. Or, maybe it’s just the simple fact that the Library is still here, still in operation while so much of our lives has been uprooted—[that’s a] reason enough to be grateful. I hope that when the physical doors re-open, Angelenos will remember that the Library was always there for us. At the Library Foundation, I have the privilege to work with some of the kindest and most dedicated Library supporters [such as] the Bibliophiles. The Bibliophiles are philanthropists who have decided to leave the Library in their estate plans. There is a high degree of selflessness in our planned giving donors; I think it’s the recognition and acceptance that we can inspire meaningful change even when we’re no longer around. I’ve learned a lot by being around donors who love the Library with such great depth.”



Imani Harris
Director, Foundation & Corporate Relations

“My fondest memories are going to the Altadena Public Library with my late grandmother. My grandmother was a librarian in L.A. and Pasadena; she would have celebrated her 95th birthday in November 2020. When I would go to libraries as a kid, I loved the art classes and browsing the stacks. As a teenager, I read a lot of Hip Hop magazines like *The Source*, *Rap Pages*, and *Vibe*. [Now] I make music for fun. I bought a portable toy record-maker that allows you to record straight to 7” vinyl. I’m a guest music selector for a radio show on 90.7 FM/KPFK. I like to maintain a little mystery, but the show airs from 2-4 a.m. on Sundays or Saturday night—if you will. I have a son too—he’s ten and an artist. Lately, we watch *The Regular Show* on lunch break while I’ve been working from home, and we love riding bikes together. I’m interested in finding out what ideas will come out of this period of physical isolation and how that will impact how libraries deliver services. [Before the Library Foundation] I fundraised for Pitzer College and Art Center; I was also a program manager for the Watts Labor Action Committee and a smaller nonprofit called People Who Care, also in South L.A. I’ve always wanted to support people through social service. I love that public libraries are all about democratizing information and creating spaces for public discourse and engagement around ideas—the cross-pollination of ideas spark creativity. Library Foundations Members and supporters are library believers. They get what it means and why it is necessary to have public libraries for our collective well-being.”



Sarah Charleton
Membership Director

“In middle school, my best friend’s mother was our school librarian, so we often spent our lunch periods or extra time after class hanging out in the library. Libraries have felt like a sort of sanctuary to me ever since. I also was a library aid for two years in high school, where I was taught how to repair broken book spines and realized book hoarding was in my future because I personally ‘rescued’ almost all the books sent to the discard bin. I started at the Library Foundation as an intern in 2010! It has been such a privilege to see Library Foundation funded programs in action and how they have evolved over the past 10 years. I have been able to experience first-hand how much the community values Adult Literacy Services, have spoken to adult graduates of LAPL’s Career Online High School program, and have personally learned so much from years of incredible ALOUD programs. In my pre-pandemic role as a Central Library Docent, I was able to talk to the public about the beauty of this space—the historic painted ceilings, the quotes on the building’s exterior, the gorgeous Zodiac chandelier, and the sphinx sculptures holding open books. What I love the most about my job is talking to people and hearing their library story. One that stands out is a former Member who had slowly brought herself out of homelessness and started donating to the Library Foundation after that because the Library essentially ‘housed’ her for so many years while she worked to better her situation. She wanted to give back whatever she could because the Library was the only safe place she felt she could go.”

Public Programs

Lost & Found at the Movies Returns the L.A. Rebellion to the Library

In the late 1960s, in the wake of the Civil Rights movement and rising criticism for the lack of diversity in California’s public university system, UCLA created an Ethno-Communications program to bring filmmakers of color into the school. For decades to come, vital filmmakers like Charles Burnett, Julie Dash, Haile Gerima, Billy Woodberry, and many others emerged. The group became known as the **L.A. Rebellion**, revolutionizing diverse representation in film and rewriting the language of cinema and liberation.

These Black filmmakers, along with Native American, Latino and Chicano, and Asian American filmmakers, deeply influenced future generations of UCLA students who studied alongside this cinematic revolution in the making. Lost & Found at the Movies Curator John Nein is one of the UCLA directing alumni who was inspired by this groundbreaking work, but also shocked by the lack of awareness of this story outside of UCLA.

On January 23, Lost & Found at the Movies returned with a new virtual installment to reflect on this and

other stories of cinematic revolt where Nein talked to acclaimed filmmaker Billy Woodberry about the unheralded history of the L.A. Rebellion.

One reason that few are aware of this story unfolding in the backyard of Hollywood is that many of these films were not available through formal distribution and were incredibly difficult for the public to watch. Before the wider accessibility of DVDs and streaming, the films were often only screened at art house theatres for a week and then disappeared until they were revived years later.

Around 2010, a restoration project at UCLA helped to make some of the films more available and a few distributors also started releasing remastered or restored versions—like Milestone Films, Women Make Movies, and Cohen Media—while others continued to be handled by individual filmmakers—like Haile Gerima’s work. In the years since, some of these films began to find wider audiences and critical acclaim like *Killer of Sheep*, *Bless Their Little Hearts*, and *Daughters of the Dust*, which were added to the Library of Congress National Film Registry.

But according to Woodberry, one early champion of the L.A. Rebellion was public libraries. Countering an overall cultural slowness to be open to these films, Woodberry credits the New York and Los Angeles public library systems for discovering the films.

“Sometimes one source of collectors of these films and the people who bought prints and made them available to the public were through libraries,” said Woodberry. “The most loyal and open-minded and creative people were the librarians.”

On the occasion of the Lost & Found program, the Library Foundation has supported the acquisition of several essential L.A. Rebellion works for the Los Angeles Public Library that were not previously part of their collection. Library patrons can now read, watch, and learn more about this vibrant part of independent cinema history. Below are a few of these newly acquired works that will be accessible in 2021 at the Library:

Learn more about this Lost & Found program at lfla.org/rebels, or watch the program at vimeo.com/libraryfoundla.



L.A. Rebellion:
Creating a New Black Rebellion
Allyson Nadia Field, Jan-Christopher Horak, Jacqueline Najuma Stewart
A collection of essays and oral histories that examines the creative output of the L.A. Rebellion, contextualizing the group’s film practices and offering analyses of the wide range of work.

L.A. Rebellion:
Creating a New Black Cinema
25 Short Films from the UCLA Archive
The first DVD set of the moving image legacy of the L.A. Rebellion will be available as a reference copy for onsite Library viewing.



Bless Their Little Hearts, Billy Woodberry
A key masterpiece of the L.A. Rebellion, the film distills the social concerns and aesthetics of that trailblazing movement in African American cinema.

Illusions, Julie Dash
A 2020 inductee into the National Film Registry, this critically acclaimed short film takes place in 1942 at a fictitious Hollywood motion picture studio.

Bush Mama, Haile Gerima
Born and raised in Ethiopia, Gerima emigrated to the U.S. in 1967 and produced a rich legacy of films over the course of his career. *Bush Mama* is his UCLA thesis film, an unflinching story about a pregnant welfare recipient in Watts.



A Different Image, Alile Sharon Larkin
An extraordinary poetic portrait of a beautiful young African American woman attempting to escape becoming a sex object and to discover her true heritage.

Spirits of Rebellion:
Black Independent Cinema from Los Angeles
Zeinabu irene Davis
A documentary about the L.A. Rebellion artists, including over 30 recent interviews with the filmmakers as well as archival footage, clips from rarely seen films, and reflections from leading scholars.

Still courtesy of UCLA

Public Programs: Winter 2021 Calendar

Library Foundation of Los Angeles

ALoud

Getting Louder.

ALoud is the Library Foundation of Los Angeles’ series of bold, powerful programs. Programs continue to evolve as we experiment, take risks, and try new ideas that are informed by the changing world and the audiences we serve. New programs are frequently added, and all programs are subject to change. Visit lfla.org/calendar for a full list of digital programs.

ON WORDS

FINDING LATINX
In Search of the Voices Redefining Latino Identity
PAOLA RAMOS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD @ 5 PM
Finding Latinx:
In Search of the Voices Redefining Latino Identity
with Paola Ramos
In conversation with Fidel Martinez
Young Latinos across the United States are redefining their identities, pushing boundaries, and awakening politically in powerful and surprising ways. Many of them—Afrolatino, indigenous, Muslim, queer, and undocumented, living in large cities and small towns—are voices who have been chronically overlooked in how the diverse population of almost sixty million Latinos in the U.S. has been represented. No longer.

We're Better Than This
MY FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR DEMOCRACY
Elijah Cummings
WITH JAMES DALE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH @ 3 PM
We’re Better Than This:
My Fight for the Future of Our Democracy
with Dr. Maya Rockey Moore Cummings
in conversation with James Dale
Part memoir, part call to action, *We’re Better Than This* is the story of our modern-day democracy and the threats that we all must face together, as well as a retrospective on the life and career of one of our country’s most inspirational politicians.

ON POWER

TANGLED UP IN BLUE
POLICING THE AMERICAN CITY
ROSA BROOKS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH @ 5PM
Tangled Up in Blue:
Policing the American City
with Rosa Brooks
In conversation with Christy Lopez
Chronicling an immersive investigation, journalist and law professor Rosa Brooks takes audiences on a tour of duty to see inside the “blue wall of silence” as she served with the Washington, D.C., police force.



MONDAY, MARCH 1ST @ 3PM
Ongoing Challenges of Disability Discrimination in Law, Politics, and Society
with Jasmine E. Harris and Ruth Colker
In conversation with Michele Bratcher Goodwin
In celebration of Zero Discrimination Day, a discussion of the intersectional issues of gender, race, and disability rights and how we can work towards inclusion, equity, and real change in our society.
Presented in collaboration with Center for Biotechnology & Global Health Policy at University of California, Irvine School of Law

The Library Foundation thanks its generous program sponsors:

The Lenore S. and Bernard A. Greenberg Fund



The Goldhirsh Foundation

Gwen Miller/City National Bank

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The Ralph Me. Parsons Foundation

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

Sharon Oxborough

And individual Library Foundation donors

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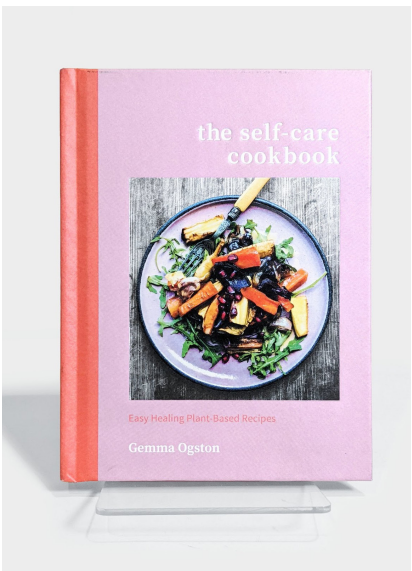


Live From the Library: Ballot Box Edition

This past fall, the Los Angeles Public Library played an essential role in California’s election process. Nearly 418,000 ballots were cast via the secure Ballot Boxes stationed outside of all 73 neighborhood library locations. Below, see a selection of notable Angelenos who shared a photo of themselves on Instagram voting at the Ballot Boxes.



“Calm” Quartz Stone Box Set
\$10



The Self-Care Cookbook
\$20



“Peace Out” Loose-leaf Tea
\$17



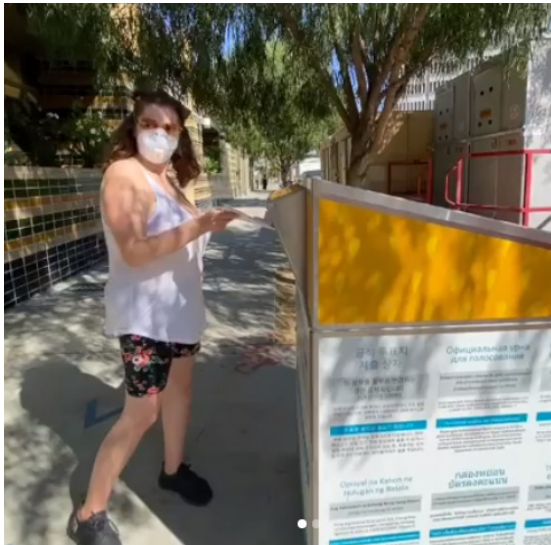
“Dream Decoder” card set
\$16.99



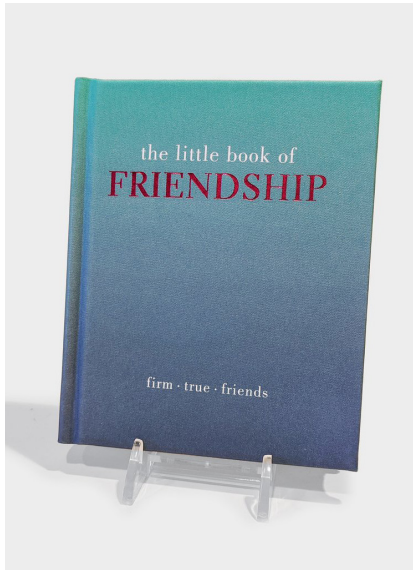
Entertainer Weird “Al” Yankovic



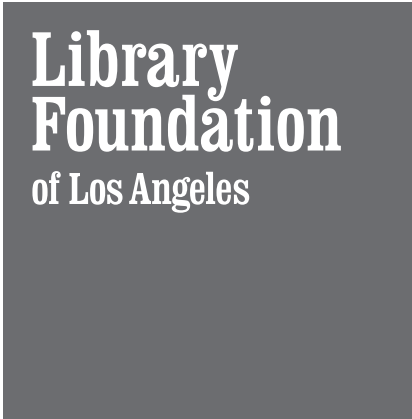
Actor and Comedian Ali Wong



Actor and Comedian Rachel Bloom



The Little Book of Friendship
\$9.99



Refresh, Renew, Revive

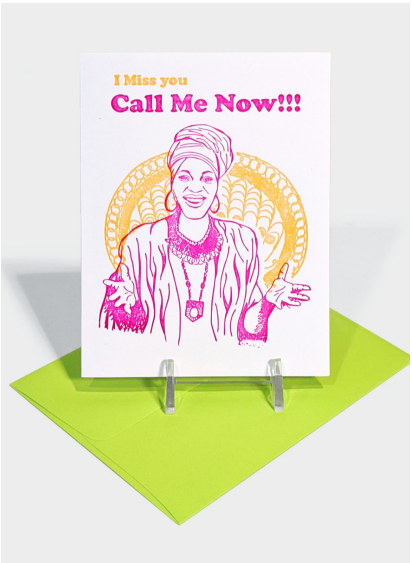
It's 2021 and it has never been more important to focus on self-care. The Library Store is committed to supplying you with all of your wellness needs, from helping you stay calm in turbulent times, to inspiring you with nourishing meals, to encouraging connections, no matter how far away.

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“I Miss You - Call Me Now!”
Greeting Card \$5.50



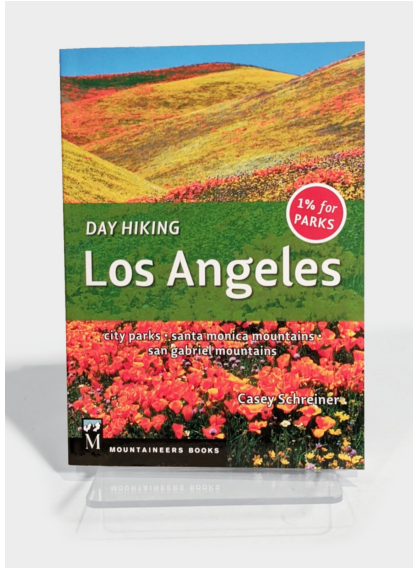
Actor Jenna Fischer



Choreographer and Drag Queen Laganja Estranja



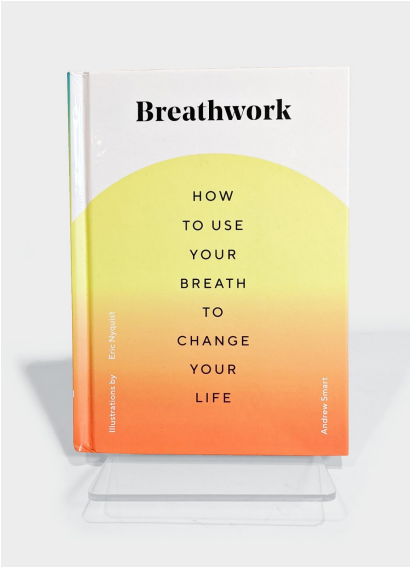
Actor John Cryer



Day Hiking - Los Angeles
\$18.95



Discovering Griffith Park
Guide Book \$18.95



Breathwork Book
\$16.95



“Keep in Touch” Greeting Card
\$6.50



Actor Sasheer Zamata



Actor Zendaya



Actor and Singer David Hasselhoff