Quick Hits

A Los Angeles Public Library card has always been a golden ticket to a world of opportunities, but over the last few months, cardholders have received some extra special rewards.

From February 1 to 14, the “LAPL Misses You” amnesty campaign offered patrons the chance to return overdue materials without paying fines. This tremendously successful initiative welcomed back patrons with open arms and saw these impressive numbers:

- 64,633 overdue items were returned, including 4,115 lost items
- 13,701 patron cards were unblocked
- 7,297 new library cards were issued

LAPL News

Homegrown Ideas Transform the Library

Laps to develop library skills; a cart filled with mobile devices for trying out e-media; healthy cooking workshops for teens; drought-resistant gardens to teach water conservation—these are just a sampling of the 13 projects that have received grants through IDEAS@LAPL, a program designed to foster staff empowerment and develop innovative ways to enhance the Los Angeles Public Library. Inspired by a similar concept at Atlanta Fulton Library System brought to Los Angeles by City Librarian, John F. Szabo, the Library Foundation funded the launch of this program in 2013 to bring to fruition great ideas brewing from inside the Library.

Entering its fourth cycle, IDEAS@LAPL, which stands for Innovation, Discovery, Empowerment, Aspiration, and Service, awards grants up to $5,000 every six months to all levels of staff who have envisioned fresh, creative approaches to improving existing library services or programs. “Innovation comes when we have the chance to take risks,” says San Pedro Regional Branch Children’s Librarian and grant recipient Ednita Kelly. “By working with different people in different library branches and in different departments throughout the Library and City, we can all learn so much from each other and build relationships to help each other reach our common goals.”

Mayor Eric Garcetti recently awarded Kelly a Civic Innovation Award for her IDEAS project. Kelly is the mastermind behind the LAPL Book Bike, which provides mobile delivery of Library outreach services to the community. She spins around L.A. supermarkets, street festivals, community bike rides, and more, giving away free books, signing up folks for library cards, and taking book donations—all while letting kids ring the bike bell.

IDEAS@LAPL has also squeezed new ways to serve underrepresented populations across the city. For example, in Los Angeles County, an estimated 30,000 people have been diagnosed with aphasia—an acquired language disorder, usually resulting from stroke or head injury, which affects a person’s ability to speak, read, write, and understand speech. Public Service Librarian Francis Schwartz used her grant to fund the Aphasia Seed Book Club at the Elcho Park Branch Library. “For most of our members, the books they have read in the club are the first books they have read once since having aphasia. For them, the act of reading, and discussing what they have read, is a way of reaffirming their essential intelligence. It also gives them an opportunity to interact socially without feeling self-conscious,” explains Schwartz. “Our members support each other. They take turns and they listen. These things don’t always happen in the world at large.”

At the Panorama City Branch Library, Senior Librarian Toni Markson and Program Coordinator Christine Goldstein have applied an IDEAS@LAPL grant to orchestrate a toy loan program. LAPL’s toy allow kids to check out play kits that can help lay a foundation for early literacy skills—educational toys that might otherwise be cost prohibitive for many families. “As a result of this project we have bonded as a staff, improved our community presence, and formed very valuable partnerships with local organizations such as Best Start and WIC,” says Markson. With over 1,500 kits circulated so far, the overwhelming enthusiastic response has taught Markson and Goldstein that great ideas are labors of love. They continue to evolve LAPL’s toy loan program, with additional kits that have been purchased with more toys for toddlers as well as science-themed toys for elementary age children. The program will also soon expand to the Arroyo Seco Regional Branch in Highland Park.

As Markson notes, “Innovation doesn’t just take agood idea. It takes enduring commitment.”

Stay tuned for a new crop of grant-funded projects hitting libraries that fall, including adaptive and inclusive maker programs for youth with disabilities, a teen zine, and more.

Letter from the President

What would be an ideal way to raise awareness of the Los Angeles Public Library’s wealth of free resources and commitment to creativity and freedom of expression?

In collaboration with City Librarian, John F. Szabo and Mayor Eric Garcetti, Shepard Fairey and fellow artist Cliven Peterson created a limited-edition Library card offered to Angelenos of all ages and in every community. It is the first card redesign in more than 20 years, and the first to be designed by an internationally recognized artist whose home is Los Angeles. As Mayor Garcetti stated at a recent press conference for the card, “our city is the creative capital of the world and this collaboration is a great expression of how art can enrich our civic institutions.”

The new card resonates deeply for me because every day I see the way in which having a library card can change the lives of young children just learning to read and checking out their first books. This same card serves as a welcome ticket to a world of opportunities, but over the last few months, its powerful potential has been realized in unexpected ways.

Amanda and Shepard Fairey have long been active in the Library Foundation’s Young Literati donor group. Amanda has served as the group’s Chair for these years and as a member of the LAFLA Board of Directors. In fact the artwork for the new card may look familiar to you—it was inspired by Shepard and Cliven’s original design for the 2004 Young Literati Annual Event and has appeared on the cover of this newsletter. The Fairey’s artwork has done so much to connect young, creative, and passionate Angelenos to the Library. Their deep commitment and generosity will empower and develop innovative ways to enhance the Los Angeles Public Library. Inspired by a similar concept at Atlanta Fulton Library System brought to Los Angeles by City Librarian, John F. Szabo, the Library Foundation funded the launch of this program in 2013 to bring to fruition great ideas brewing from inside the Library.

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Ken Brecher
President
Summer Fun at the Library

Building a Future for Future Leaders

For over 80 years, the Summer Reading Club has been providing the children and teens of Los Angeles with free enrichment opportunities to close the gap of the “summer slump” during their school break. Through fun themes, activities, workshops, performances, and free lunches the Summer Reading Club fosters a love for reading and libraries for tens of thousands of students every year. Thanks to a generous gift from the Lenore S. and Bernard A. Greenberg Fund, this invaluable community resource will thrive for years to come.

2016 SUMMER READING PROGRAM
June 13 to August 6 - for Ages 0 to 11

Read for the Win

As a trusted destination for fun, learning, and community, the Los Angeles Public Library, with its close relationships to local and national authors, is perfectly positioned to enhance its hugely successful Summer Reading Club. In a city where too many students are reading and writing below grade-level proficiency, the program helps young people increase their reading achievement, start the school year ready to learn, become more confident in the classroom, and achieve greater success in school.

This year’s program will run from June 13 to August 6 across all 73 branches. In alignment with the California Library Association and Illinois Reading Enrichment and Development (iREAD), the theme for 2016 Summer Reading is “Sports and Games: Read for the Win!” Librarians will host events and activities featuring baseball, soccer, tennis, basketball, golf, football, the Olympics, a collaboration with the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation, and more to motivate “active” participation from students. Learn more at lapl.org/summer-reading.

A Summer Blast From the Past

From drag race to family birthday parties, from Butler Cutox & Co. skillfully serving as the honorary mayor of Woodland Hills to an airplane crash on Glenoaks Boulevard—a range of everyday and exceptional images chronicling the postwar suburban boom of the San Fernando Valley will get a second look. This June, a three-year-long initiative to organize over 40,000 historic newspaper prints, including photos from the San Fernando Valley Times, wraps up at the Los Angeles Public Library. Thanks to support from the Library Foundation and Photo Friends and through the work of Senior Librarian Christina Rice and archivist Christine Adolph, over 21,000 photos are now digitized and available for public viewing at lapl.org, with over 500 more being added each month. Now this important snapshot of Los Angeles history as documented by the Valley Times between 1956 and 1972 can be shared with future generations. In the spirit of summer, here are a few favorite photos from the collection below.

1. Members of the “Frenchie Queens” put their skills on display in a club range which competed against a unique driving car at the film Fernando Drug Row. October 12, 1966.
3. Quarterback Max Cacaceanu serves up a 12-ounce hot dog for daughter, June, 7/5, in body on August 4, 1982.
4. Valley State College student Laverne Cameron visits the San Fernando Valley Library standing in a wheel and in protective clothing, also known in a pool and reading a book in order to cross children in coming to the library for a cup of soup and to join the summer reading program. June 27, 1963.
5. Derrick Beaudion gives dynamic performance to the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum at the opening concert of the free summer band-concert season at Boarder Park May 19, 1983.
7. “What have I Done?” says Studio Photographer A.J. McQueen on getting his record approved by the Valley Times recording and Honorary Sheriff of Woodland Hills May 19, 1963.
8. Banana split stands in the Valley Times office as a happy summer vacation of Mrs. and Mrs. George Draine, proving it by taking her first plunge into the swimming pool. Just to be certain he is safe, Horace Lipshutz at the West Valley Library parking lot. She is dressed standing in a mobile unit in the library parking lot. She is dressed.
In 1896, a room size tragically destroyed much of the historic downtown Central Library along with 400,000 volumes of its collection. Upon rebuilding Central Library into the cultural and architectural landmark it is today, the Library has often been referred to as “a phoenix rising from the ashes.” One facet of this great rebirth includes the founding of The Library Store, which was established to help raise funds for the restoration and to welcome patrons back into Central Library when it reopened in 1993. Over 20 years later, Central Library is seeing a second rebirth with a newly expanded and redesigned Store to better serve the increasing hustle of patrons and services pouring through the Library’s lobby.

With an expanded retail space of almost 1,200 square feet, a completely remodeled interior featuring that new displays cases, lighting, fixtures, and a host of improved ADA updates, The Library Store reopened on April 28—timed to coincide with A Second Rising: The Library Store’s Grand Reopening. The Library into the cultural and architectural landmark it is today, the Library has been referred to as “a phoenix rising from the ashes.” One facet of this great rebirth includes the founding of The Library Store, which was established to help raise funds for the restoration and to welcome patrons back into Central Library when it reopened in 1993. Over 20 years later, Central Library is seeing a second rebirth with a newly expanded and redesigned Store to better serve the increasing hustle of patrons and services pouring through the Library’s lobby. The Library Store reopened on April 28—timed to coincide with A Second Rising: The Library Store’s Grand Reopening.

As the population of people actually living in downtown Los Angeles has grown over the past two decades, there has been a definite resurgence of civic pride downtown,” says Christine Romo, the Director of Retail Services at the Store since 1999. “There’s a very real sense of community and excitement in the air downtown these days. People don’t just work here—they live and shop here, too. Think of our merchandise really reflects that. Strive, uniquely L.A., who has taken root downtown.”

Aside from the new brick and mortar storefront at Central Library, Romo says she and her team are very excited about the many changes afect for The Library Store online as well. “We’ve really enhanced and streamlined our digital storefront over the past five months and the response from our customers, both old and new, has been overwhelmingly positive,” explains Romo. “We’re hopeful that the improvements on both fronts will really help the Store grow and increase our ever-expanding customer base while also strengthening our efforts to raise funds and awareness for the Los Angeles Public Library.”

Sponsored by the Library Foundation, The Library Store donates five percent of all sales to the Los Angeles Public Library and is also the official bookseller for all ALOUD events. The Library Store is open Monday–Thursday from 10 AM–7 PM, Friday and Saturday from 9:30 AM–5:30 PM, and Sunday from 1 PM–5 PM. For more information, visit The Library Store online at lfla.org/store.

ALOUD Summer Preview: Eddie Huang

Over the last few years, Eddie Huang has catapulted to international fame as a young, hip chef, a bestselling author, and TV personality. Beneath the limelight, Huang’s something more akin to a cultural anthropologist fearlessly exploring many oft-forgotten paths to make sense of his place in the world. First, he brought old school Taiwanese street food to the ever-trendy East Village with his restaurant, Baohaus. After the great success of his humble bun shop, he wrote a laugh-out-loud coming-of-age memoir, Fresh Off The Boat, about growing up with a traditional Chinese family in “white” Orlando. His brash memoir made an even bigger splash when it was turned into a hit television sitcom on ABC. Huang also demystifies cultural stereotypes through Huang’s World, a series on VICE where he eats his way through far-flung corners of the globe. Huang’s latest project is another memoir, Double Cup Love, where he challenges the authenticity of his cooking and worldview by returning to his ancestral home of Taiwan. The intrepid protagonist dives into some uncharted territory as well in Double Cup Love—his romantic relationships. Before his visit to ALOUD this summer, Huang continued to keep it real when we asked about his emotionally charged new book.

After your first memoir Fresh Off the Boat you experimented with various films and television projects. What made you want to return to writing to tell the stories of Double Cup Love?

Huang: Writing is the most direct — me, trying. It’s also the most through, specific, all-encompassing medium for what you want to say, it’s like filmmaking and TV, because you get to see visuals, sound, and it’s a more physical experience. I think listening to something in your ear is the most personal, but writing is through the story, you’re the writer, you need to use the 100 some odd pages, and the precision you can achieve through writing. It’s also very slow. Visuals and sounds can be taken in many different ways and that’s what’s beautiful about those tools, but writing in very, very, very, slow, and I think it’s very hard to escape yourself on paper.

You’ve always been very honest in your explorations of topics that may shy away from like family and race. Double Cup Love gets even more personal by directly tackling your love life—dealt with in a non-romantic relationship with Ning, then with a love-swept courtship of Dena. What were the challenges of confronting this part of your life for a public audience?

Huang: I never thought I’d write a romance. I didn’t set out to write it at all. It just happened to me and it was a strange way the universe came for you. One thing I battled with myself about in book one was whether to delve further into my relationship with Ning and I didn’t. There were several times for doing so or not doing so. It’s something I still think about, but as soon as I met Dena I realized it wasn’t meant to be her. This was the love of my life to date, she came into my life just before I went to China, and it just happened. This story found me, and whether I wanted to write about it or not, I had to. It was really hard. It broke me at times, but I didn’t. I journaled, and I’m better person for it.

Double Cup Love also takes you on a journey to explore your ancestral heritage to better understand what it means to be Taiwanese-Chinese in America and vice-versa, American in China. Diving into the nuances of culture and race, who do you see as your audience?

Huang: The first book was entirely from the perspective of a 19-year-old Taiwanese-American that was stuck and tried of not having a voice or being represented in this country. It was a story of a kid, and I was angry. I think this book, it had to happen. In the three years since Fresh Off The Boat came out, it has fundamentally changed the way Americans talk about race and I’m proud of it. I don’t think I’ll ever write like that again, unless I get really mad. It was funny because when you’ve been angry for so long you don’t know how to be without that anger. You get worried. That anger was your armor, it was part of your identity, and even though I’m writing you up you try to hang onto it. But meeting Dena really changed me, she loved me and I learned to love myself. I placed better relationship with my parents once they were proud of me and the chip on my shoulder just went away.

I don’t go into thinking, “I’m gonna write for Asian people!” If there’s one group of people I write for it’s people that want to examine struggle. I think my books are about dealing with struggle, letting others understand or helping others out of their struggle. My close friends and family all have a very wide-eyed relationship with struggle and we’re constantly negotiating it, using it, and letting go of what it means to know who we are. You could be Asian, Black, LGBTQ Latinx, short, tall, or just average, everybody struggles but not every one wants to own it. I want to speak with the people who struggle, persevere, and then remember not to put other people through these same struggles that they don’t have to.

Because the ALOUD series is part of the Los Angeles Public Library, we’re always curious to ask what roles do libraries play in shaping your work?

Huang: I used to go to the library as a kid with a giant duffel bag and borrow the maximum. We didn’t go cable until I was 15 so internet age was not boring books, connectives, and VHS tapes from the library.

And last, but not least… Do you have a favorite book to recommend?

Huang: Baohaus L.A. opening soon.
The Library Foundation Calendar Summer 2016

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 7:30 PM
The Writer’s Cut
Damon Lindelof
In conversation with Joef Strick
The Library Foundation of Los Angeles cordially invites you to join us for the sixth episode of “The Writer’s Cut.” This series celebrates the written word and how it connects us to life. Our television thanks to the modern storytellers of our time, the writers who craft our favorite shows.

This sixth installment features Damon Lindelof, creator, executive producer, and showrunner of HBO’s The Leftovers, and creators/owners of Lost, Lindelof has a reputation for creating intense, character-based dramas that are heavily influenced by literature. He has worked in both television and film. He will be in conversation with writer/journalist Joel Stein discussing influences, his writing process, the writer’s room, and more.

Library Foundation Members-Only Reception to Follow.

Join us in July For Members Month!
Learn more at lfla.org/members-month

TUESDAY, JULY 19, 7:15 PM
Northernmost
Ehrenreich’s new book, Northernmost: A Memoir, takes readers on a cultural romp through a thicket of profound difficulties. The book traces 300 years of history—from the beginnings of slavery to the modern storytellers of our time: the writers who craft our favorite shows.

Join us for a live broadcast (on KPFK 90.7 FM) dedicated to the voices of author and civil rights activist James Baldwin. Benjamin Dolnick, host of From the Vault radio program, will read excerpts from Baldwin’s 1948 book before the murder of four girls in Birmingham, Alabama, and his Confidential of Dr. Martin Luther King (recorded in the home of Martin Brande) weeks before King’s assassination. Dolnick is joined by two writers who have thought deeply about Baldwin’s work—novelist Nina Revoyr and Melvin L. Rogers, Associate Professor of Political Science and African-American Studies at UCLA—to reflect on Baldwin’s impact on literature and society.

Join us in July For Members Month!
Learn more at lfla.org/members-month

TUESDAY, JULY 19, 7:15 PM
PEN Emerging Voices: A Reading
20th Anniversary Celebration Featuring Miranda Golden, Joan Huang, Wendy LaBinger, Natalie Liu, and Chelsea Sutton
In partnership with PEN Center USA
ALOUD presents the culminating event of PEN’s 20th Emerging Voices Fellowship to mark the program’s 20th anniversary. Celebrate an evening of poetry, fiction, and animation with readings from this year’s Fellows, featuring an introduction from this year’s Emerging Voices mentors: Camrai Beasley, Claudia Lirón, Patrick O’Neil, Mike Padilla, and Alicia Poetry. The Emerging Voices Fellowship is an literary mentorship program aiming to provide new writers who are isolated from the literary establishment with the tools, skills, and knowledge they need to launch a professional writing career.

TUESDAY, JULY 18, 7:30 PM
WRITERS GUILD THEATER
An Evening with Sally Mann
Hold Still: A Memoir with Photographs

In conversation with author Amy Wilentz
For three years, award-winning journalist Ben Ehrenreich has been traveling to and living in the West Bank, living with Palestinian families in its larger towns and smaller villages. Placing readers in the footsteps of ordinary Palestinians, Ehrenreich’s new book, The Way the Spring, offers one of the most compelling portraits of this century. Together on stage to read both poetry and prose, these two groundbreaking writers will join in conversation to see how they say, “Let thought rip.”
Live From The Library
The Library Foundation of Los Angeles provides critical support to the Los Angeles Public Library resulting in free programs, resources, and services available to thousands of adults, children, and youth in Los Angeles. We accomplish this mission through fundraising, advocacy, and innovative programs that strengthen the Library and promote greater awareness of its valuable resources.

Become a Member of the Library Foundation and receive a 15% discount on all items. All sales support the Los Angeles Public Library.

For more information about the newly renovated Library Store, turn to page 6 inside.

630 West Fifth Street
Los Angeles, California 90071

Sock the Vote!
Men’s Crew Socks
$11.50
All in favor raise your hand and vote yes on socks.

Los Angeles Central Library: A History of its Art and Architecture in Hardcover
$45
This much-anticipated book about our beloved Central Library lives up to our expectations in every way. Within these pages are beautiful pictures, fascinating history, and an eloquent foreword by City Librarian, John F. Szabo.

Girl Boss Office Sign
$28
Tell everyone exactly who you are with this retro-vibe desk sign.

lfla.org
213.228.7500