



Library Reader

Ojai, California

Summer 2020

Thank You!

The Board of OVLFF offers its profound gratitude to the volunteers who have enabled the Twice-Sold Tales Bookstore to continue processing donated books throughout this Coronavirus situation and to allow the Bookstore to reopen along current health guidelines, and to our patrons who have returned to the Bookstore and are providing needed funds for our public libraries.

“GOOD READS” RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVLFF VOLUNTEERS

Kara Hooper:

Five Days, by Wes Moore and Erica L. Green;
Hymns of the Republic, by SC Gynne

Lisa Braithwaite:

White Fragility, by Robin Di Angelo

Judy Devore:

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter, by Carson McCullers

Jo Schaden:

Untamed, by Glennon Doyle (nonfiction)
White Fragility, by Robin DiAngelo (nonfiction)
Cutting for Stone, by Abraham Verghese (novel)
Hidden Valley Road, by Robert Kolker (nonfiction)
Akin, by Emma Donoghue

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT THE BOOKSTORE

By Wendy Bonvechio

During this time of Coronavirus, The Friends have been attempting to make the resource of our Twice-Sold Tales once again available to our community. This is what has been going on...

1. We’ve been open curbside for five weeks, starting off with Sat/Sun and now open Thurs - Sun from 11-5.
2. Books are stored on carts and in boxes and brought out each day for the public.
3. There are three tiers of books in the store windows, and people can knock on the door to request them.
4. Masks must be worn anytime TST clerks are curbside, and we are asking all customers to wear masks.
5. We’ve been systematically going through the inventory which was being held for the May sale and either sending it to Discovery (for recycling) or using it in the store. Matt from Bart’s Books was able to come through and purchase \$600 of titles to help us trim down our inventory. Once we have gone through the entire contents of the sheds we will open one day a week for donations through the store only, the donation shed will remain closed.

We appreciate all the help and volunteer hours it has taken to get things up and running and will continue to operate based on the Library guidelines and those coming from the Governor, Ventura County and the City of Ojai.

If you are willing and able to help please give me a call (202-255-4522) or send me an email: wendybvechio@gmail.com.

RE-OPENING AND REMOTE SERVICES AT YOUR OJAI LIBRARY

By Ron Solórzano, Regional Librarian

It was back in mid-March that the Ojai Library, along with the other branches of the Ventura County Library, closed its doors in response to the Stay Well at Home orders issued by the county. In the weeks that followed, our staff began putting out new content through our website and social media channels, with the goal of helping a sheltering population continue to engage with us and each other. As the weeks turned into months, we explored additional options for providing remote services for our customers that would allow them to make use

of the library from the safety of their own homes.

One of the first things we did was increase our eBook holdings, securing more copies of digital titles for our eLibrary platform, cloudLibrary. At the same time we began posting virtual story-times and sing-alongs on the Ventura County Library's YouTube channel, and increased our output of social media content through Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. As a result, we saw an increase in traffic across all of these platforms, and since then we have maintained a steady stream of content, all produced by our own library staff.

We also added some other new features to our library website, including a new resource for live, remote homework assistance called Brainfuse. School-age students can access study guides through Brainfuse and can use it for live tutor support through its Help Now feature. We also added a live chat option to our website which allows customers to connect with a representative to answer basic questions about our library and their accounts. Both of these were picked up with the goal of increasing access to the library during our closure.

As excited as we were to add these resources, we were far more excited to begin offering walk-up service at our branches, which began in early June and by early July had extended

to all libraries in our system. Customers can use our walk-up service to pick up items they have on hold, and can also return their items in our libraries' book drops, which are once again available 24/7. Those looking to place new holds may do so online through our catalog, and can also call the library during our open hours for assistance. Current hours of operation for the Ojai Library are Monday through Friday, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Meiners Oaks and Oak View libraries are offering walk-up service Monday through Thursday, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Those visiting the library to pick up holds must wear a face covering in accordance with local public health guidelines, and are asked to observe social distancing when interacting with library staff.

We also have a few exciting programs coming up at our libraries. First, as part of our walk-up service we are offering Grab and Go STEAM activity kits at our branches. These are designed for early elementary school-aged children, and are self-contained, take-home kits that contain everything needed to put on a simple educational activity. We are also excited to invite customers of all ages to participate in our Summer Reading Challenge by visiting vclreads.readsquared.com. Enter yourself or your kids to keep up with your reading over the

See "Library" on page 3

OJAI VALLEY LIBRARY FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION

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The Board welcomes anyone who is interested in its activities to the Board meetings, fourth Tuesday of each month- 6 pm in the Twice-Sold Tales meeting room. Enter through the Ojai Library.

BOOK LISTS FOR CHILDREN – DIVERSITY

“Library” continued from page 2 summer—and for a chance to win fun prizes! Finally, our library is gearing up for this year’s virtual One County, One Book program, which features Lisa See’s *The Island of Sea Women* and will include several virtual events in August and September.

Our library leadership continues to monitor the situation across the county and the state, and as guidelines change we will work to respond and report any changes to our services on our website. For more information on the status of the Ventura County Library, or to check out our eBook collections, virtual storytimes, and Summer Reading contests, visit www.vencolibrary.org.

It’s a pretty “Hot Topic” these days, and one that certainly does need some attention and careful analysis and thought. Here is a listing of resources related to “Diversity” compiled by OVLFF Board Member Kris Humphries:

For the 0-5 age range, I’ve come across some lists that look really solid. The first link is for more recent titles (including some 2020 titles), and the entire page is dedicated to picture books: <https://www.embracerace.org/resources/20-picture-books-for-2020>.

The second is more of a mix, and includes titles for adults and young adults as well as some general guidelines that are interesting though perhaps not what you need at present. The picture book section has five additional titles for young kids: <https://www.read-brightly.com/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-race-books-and-resources-that-can-help/>.

Finally, the list of titles that have won the Pura Belpré Award (presented to 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):

Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreño Played the Piano for President Lincoln - illustrated by Rafael López, written by Margarita Engle

Dreamers - illustrated by Yuyi Morales, written by Yuyi Morales

Across the Bay - illustrated and written by Carlos Aponte

Islandborn - illustrated by Leo Espinosa, written by Junot Díaz

All Around Us - illustrated by Adriana M. Garcia, written by Xelena González

A Reading List of Children’s Books that Discuss Race (compiled by Black educator Brittany Smith):

Hair Love - by Matthew A. Cherry

White Socks Only - by Evelyn Coleman

Happy In Our Skin - by Fran Manushkin

My Hair is a Garden - by Cozbi A. Cabrera

Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters - by Andrea Davis

Pinkney Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry - by Mildred D. Taylor

Something Happened In Our Town - by Marianne Celano, Marieta Collins, and Ann Hazzard

The Day You Begin - by Jacqueline Woodson

When I Was Eight - by Christy Jordan-Felton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton

Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to Become Malcolm X - by Ilyasah Shabazz

When We Were Alone - by David A. Robertson and Julie Flett

Little Leaders: Black Women in Black History - by Vashti Harrison

Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer - by Carole Boston Weatherford

Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family’s Fight for Desegregation - by Duncan Tonatiuh

[Ed. - Place your order for books on-line at the Ventura County Library System’s website: <https://www.vencolibrary.org/library-catalog-account-login>].

VENCOLIBRARY.ORG – YOUR LIBRARY AT HOME

By Sharon Dykstra, Oak View Libray

The Ventura County Library (VCL) website has a new look, tailor-made to showcase the digital resources, educational tools, and seasonal reading challenges available using a computer, tablet, and/or mobile device from the comfort of home.

Your Library at Home has something for everyone - kids, teens, and adults. Consider it a one-stop-shop for individuals, parents, and teachers looking for curated lists of online learning resources, virtual storytimes, and educational entertainment. Visit www.vencolibrary.org to explore all *Your Library at Home* has to offer.

Here's a quick tour of *Your Library at Home* ...

FOR KIDS:

Virtual Storytime features live events and recorded playlists of stories, songs, and rhymes performed by VCL staff. **Kids Reading** showcases children's ebook and audiobook resources, as well as chapter book read-alouds. **Just for Fun** keeps kids entertained with drawing lessons, activities from favorite children's book authors, and digital escape rooms.

FOR KIDS AND TEENS:

Online Learning links to the newly available live homework assistance service HelpNow! by *Brainfuse*. It also features at-a-glance links to VCL's eLibrary resources organized by school subject and lists free on-line resources available during the COVID-19 school closures. **STEAM Resources** encourages exploration of science, technology, engineering, art, and math curiosities, including a link to watch VCL staff present experiments and projects.

FOR TEENS:

Teens Reading features links to digital ebook and audiobook resources. **Boredom Busters** has a multitude of ideas to keep teens busy. **Virtual Volunteering** offers online volunteer opportunities for tech-savvy youth who want to help the library and/or need community service credit for school.

The **Recursos en Español** page was created with Spanish speaking families in mind. It contains selected library and internet resources for all ages, each with detailed access instructions.

FOR ADULTS:, find quick access to ebooks, Novelist reader's advisory service, seasonal reading challenges, and genealogy resources for researching family history.

Looking for more? Browse the full contents of the **eLibrary** for everything from career preparation and wellness information to multidisciplinary research and automotive repair.



Visit TwiceSoldTakes.com Bookstore

PUBLIC LIBRARIES NOVEL RESPONSE TO A NOVEL VIRUS

The Atlantic,
Deborah Fallows

(on-line) March 31, 2020

America's public libraries have led the ranks of "second responders," stepping up for their communities in times of natural or manmade disasters, like hurricanes, floods, shootings, fires, and big downturns in individual lives.

Throughout all these events, libraries have stayed open, filling in for the kids when their schools closed; offering therapeutic sessions in art or conversation or writing after losses of life; bringing in nurses or social workers when services were unavailable to people; and hiring life-counselors for the homeless, whom they offer shelter and safety during the day.

Today, interventions like those have a ring of simpler days. But libraries have learned from their experience and attention to these previous, pre-pandemic efforts. They are pivoting quickly to new ways of offering services to the public—the core of their mission. When libraries closed their doors abruptly, they immediately opened their digital communications, collaborations, and creative activity to reach their public in ways as novel as the virus that forced them into it.

You can be sure that this is just the beginning. Today, libraries are already acting and improvising. Later, they'll be figuring out what the experience means to their future operations and their role in American communities.

[Ed. Note: excerpted from a longer article. A PDF copy of the full article is available by emailing contact@ovlff.com with "Libraries' Response" in the subject line.]

SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAMS

There is a lot going on at the Library this summer!

Ventura County Library invites everyone to join the Summer Reading Challenge. Residents of all ages and from all across the county have the opportunity to read, participate in live streaming programs, win prizes, collect badges, and have fun. Signup at: <http://vclreads.readsquared.com>.

A variety of virtual programs have been added to our website. See our web calendar for more including bilingual storytimes, poetry, and ukulele online at <https://www.vencolibrary.org/calendar>.

Ground Operations: Battlefields to Farmfields, an award-winning film available free to stream via Vimeo from July 25 through August 2, 2020

One County, One Book events in late August and September around *"The Island of Sea Women"* by Lisa See.

Don't forget all the great storytimes and STEAM programs found on our social media!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Ventura-County-Library-68759970694/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/vencolibrary/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/vencolibraryvideo>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/vencolibrary>





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A REPUBLIC OF DUNCES?

Phi Delta Kappa (online), Rafael Heller, March 26, 2020

Has intellectual life in America declined to a new low? Tom Nichols, a professor of national security affairs at the U.S. Naval War College, certainly thinks so. As he writes in his 2017 best seller, *The Death of Expertise*, our “foundational knowledge” about history, geography, science, and many other subjects “has crashed through the floor of ‘uninformed,’ passed ‘misin-

formed’ on the way down, and is now plummeting to ‘aggressively wrong.’”

When we do try to provide a liberal education, can we avoid the anti-intellectualism that bears down on us from outside the classroom? As Robert Bullough, Glenn Branch, and Emily Knox describe in these pages [Phi Delta Kappa Magazine, Volume 101 Issue 7, April 2020] teach-

ers’ efforts to provide a rich curriculum are often constrained by top-down management, organized opposition to the teaching of science, and local resistance to having children read “dangerous” books.

[Ed. Note: Rafael Heller is the Editor of the PDK Magazine. A PDF copy of his article is available by emailing contact@OVLFF.com with “Dunces” in the subject line.]

