

Library News

Summer 2021



Meet New LAR Librarian Cassandra Sargent



The Friends of the Library are pleased to welcome Cassandra Sargent, the new Branch Manager of Los Alamitos - Rossmoor Library. Cassandra grew up in the high desert and attended UC Santa Barbara, attaining a Bachelor of Arts in psychology. After jobs as a substitute teacher, insurance claims adjuster, and taking baking and pastry courses, she found herself working as a Library Assistant at Long Beach Public Library in 2013.

"I quickly felt at home, like I had found what I was supposed to be doing," she said. She then began a Masters in Library and Information Science program through San Jose State University and started at OC Public Libraries in 2017 as an

Adult Literacy Librarian with the OC READ department.

Cassandra expressed that OC READ was "probably ... the most rewarding position I've ever had... helping people in our community work on their reading and writing skills."

In 2019, she was promoted to a Government Documents Librarian and supervisor at Garden Grove Main Library. "You may not know this," she explained, "but OCPL is part of a Federal Depository Library Program with the government, we have been in the program since 1963 and house federal, state, and local documents for patron access. We have a robust digital collection of 20,000+ items and a smaller tangible collection for browsing."

Cassandra is also the chair of a food literacy committee for OCPL since its creation in 2019 (See page ...).

While working at LBPL, Cassandra began what she describes as "a torrid affair with picture books. The ability to express strong emotions and ideas through illustrations and very few words drew me in, and I can't get enough of them." Some of her favorite picture book authors are Oliver Jeffers (*Heart and the Bottle* and *We are Here*), Marianne Debut (*Lion and the Bird*), Mac Barnett (*Leo a Ghost Story*, *Just Because*, *Triangle/Circle/Square* series), Jon Klassen (*This is Not My Hat*, *I Want My Hat Back*, *We Found a Hat*) and Isabelle Arsenault (Illustrator - *Cloth Lullaby*).

Her off time is spent working on jigsaw puzzles, taking walks through the city, trying new restaurants, and attending local events.

Cassandra hasn't made any specific plans for LAR yet because she is learning and connecting with the community. "It is through these interactions, tracking trends, and utilizing my staff's strengths that I will be able to create realistic goals for this branch," she said.



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President's Message – Del Clark

Hello Friends,

O' HAPPY DAY! Finally, we are coming out of the shadows heading into a brighter future!

Your Friends of the Library has had a busy and successful year zooming meetings, increasing membership, conducting an end-of-year fundraiser, holding our Annual May Volunteer Appreciation Meeting, offering special community programs, selecting scholarship winners, electing the 2021-22 Board of Directors and approving our annual budget.

The icing on the cake was holding our first major book sale in more than a year in May, following all safety measures! A grateful and enthusiastic community came out in full support happy to find the FOL back in business!

We also said "thanks and farewell" to our librarian, Semra Bilsel and gave a warm welcome to our new librarian, Cassandra Sargent!

Stay Well, Happy Reading! Del

It's Summer Reading Time

Although Los Alamitos - Rossmoor Library is slowly reopening, Summer Reading will still be online. This year's Summer Reading Challenge, Reading Colors Your World, is fun for all ages. OCPL has a website where participants can create accounts to track 50 days of reading and be entered into gift card drawings and earn virtual badges. We are sad that we won't be able to offer our usual array of performers and programs in the branch, but we are still working hard to promote reading, learning and positive interactions with the library during the summer months. Summer Reading 2021 will run from June 12th to July 31. You can sign up at <https://ocpl.beanstack.org/reader365>. Happy reading, and we hope to see you all soon.

READING COLORS YOUR WORLD

**OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES
VIRTUAL
SUMMER READING
CHALLENGE**

JUNE 12 - JULY 31

SIGN-UPS BEGIN JUNE 1!

OCPL.ORG/SUMMER2021

**100 YEARS OF POSSIBILITIES
1921 - 2021**

Friends of the Library Board

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Want to know where to find the Friends of the Los Alamitos - Rossmoor Library?

Email:

friendsoflarlibrary@gmail.com

Phone: (562) 430-1048

Website:

www.friendsoflarlibrary.com

And click here to find us on Facebook



Dr. Marissa Pei aka The Asian Oprah Joined the Friends of the Library

Sunday May 16 was the annual meeting of the Friends of the Los Alamitos - Rossmoor Library. At this meeting, among other matters of business, FOL approves the candidates for the coming board of directors. When our business was completed we were treated to a program featuring Dr. Marissa Pei.

Dr. Marissa, also known as “the Asian Oprah”, is an author, life coach and motivational speaker. Her book, *8 Ways to Choose Happiness from Wherever You Are* is a guide to choosing happiness. Her goal is to help 88% of the people to be at least 88% happy most of the time.

Most people (7 out of 10 of us) have suffered trauma in our lives and circumstances around us may be negative and harmful but we have the means to choose happiness. Through humor and wisdom she shared some practical, easy ways to make that choice.

For instance we can take a bite of her *Gratitude Sandwich*. Wake up in the morning and think of 8 things you are grateful for and go to bed recalling 8 things you like about yourself. She also challenged us to go a 21-day fast from complaining. Her book is a practical and enjoyable guide to making your life at least 88% happier.

All in all it was a very enjoyable and encouraging program. You can follow her on her Facebook fan page or on the internet at www.drmarissa.life.

By Sandy Tessier, VP Programs

Celebrating LAR's Own Savannah

Belated congratulations to Savannah Feiner, named OCP April Employee of the Month.

“Savannah always looks for ways to better serve library patrons. Through this last year, she has kept in contact with our teen volunteers and TAB group, keeping them informed and offering support.”

Serving as co-chair of the Virtual Storytime Committee, she creates video Zoom Storytimes. She is “natural and engaging in front of the camera and her Zoom Storytimes are always filled with smiling and happy kids.”

Savannah is also a member of the Social Media Committee, actively sending content to Community Relations.

At the Los Alamitos - Rossmoor Branch, she's always smiling and helpful, no matter the question. Congrats Savannah!!



Congratulations to FOL's 2021 Awardees

Each year, the Friends of the Los Alamitos - Rossmoor Library are pleased to recognize the achievements of a number of local high school seniors with an award to start them off on their paths to the future.

Among other endeavors, **Jillian Sarquiz** is in the Spanish Honor Society and tutors Spanish speaking students to improve their English language skills. Working with the Growing Up Stem club, she provides elementary school students with hands-on science experiments to spark their love of science. This coming year, Jillian is bound for UCLA and will major in Molecular Cell & Developmental Biology.

Janelle Kim is very active in the UNICEF club at Los Alamitos High School. Last year, she devoted her summer to volunteer at a camp for mentally disabled children. She wishes to become a nurse practitioner and will be attending Biola College in the fall.

At school, **Samantha Paul** is actively involved in the Cross Country team, Hiking Club and the Environmental Activism Club, which she founded with three of her friends. Sami, as her friends call her, is also a gifted author. She wrote, illustrated and published a children's book *Milo Moves Away*. Sami will be attending UC Davis studying Animal Science.



Dylan Stone has is an avid reader and has volunteered at Los Alamitos - Rossmoor library. He enjoys the online Dungeons and Dragons Club and will attend either Golden West or Cypress College in the fall.

Alyssa Manzanares has a love of theater and all its aspects. She has also spent many years as a camper and finally as a counselor with the CSULB 49er summer camp program. Alyssa said that at camp her eyes were opened to the possibility of a career in teaching and shaping young minds. So, her journey to realize her dream of making a future in the theater industry will begin at Cal State University Fullerton and move toward a BA in theater arts.

Jared Martinez volunteers at both the Youth Center and at the Grateful Heart Storehouse in the hope that he can make the world a more peaceful and safer place. At school, Jared is a member of the Model United Nations and plans on attending Cal State University San Bernardino in the fall.

Through her participation in the dance program at Los Al, **Megan Schwartz** feels that she has learned discipline. Her membership in the National Honor Society which she feels has helped her develop her leadership skills. She has worked during the summers as a volunteer at the Los Alamitos - Rossmoor Library and was a teacher's assistant through the LEAF program and a volunteer at Torrance Memorial Hospital. Megan will be perusing a nursing career and will decide between Perdue and Texas Christian University for college.



Libraries Offer More than Books

Donna Wares of the LA Times Book Club shared the story of L.A. writer **Christina Simon** at [Electric Literature](#) about the community she found in her public library. Always a reader and a library user, Christina tried many book clubs but didn't find her home until she attended one at her local library. "The purpose of my library book club is incredibly meaningful: to find connection among book lovers, avid readers who want to talk about books, debate a popular bestseller or dive into a classic. We show up for the books, the friendship and the community we've created."

Sign up for the Los Angeles Times Book Club at <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/books/los-angeles-times-book-club> or the Book Club Newsletter at <https://membership.latimes.com/newsletters/>



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Membership Dues are Vital to Ongoing Planning

... Sharon Westafer

Dear Friends,

We hope you're doing well and are planning to visit the library soon if you haven't already done so. Outdoor book sales have resumed and soon the bookstore will reopen. Due to the library closure, the income stream from the bookstore and bimonthly book sales has been curtailed. Consequently, your membership dues are even more important now as we forecast our budget and make plans for our 2021-22 year. Your dues support our children, teen, and adult programs; library materials; landscaping; etc., all to benefit library patrons.

Dues renewal notices were mailed in April. Please check to see if you've renewed your membership and if not, please take a moment to write your renewal check and mail it to the library or drop it by at the checkout desk.



Follow us on Facebook and our website for up-to-date information.

Thank you!
Sharon Westafer, Membership Chair

Membership Application

- Individual \$20 Family \$25 Patron \$50 Business \$200 Life \$250
 Donation _____ New Member Renewal

Please Print:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Make checks payable to Friends of LAR Library. You can also join or renew on-line at <https://friendsofalarlibrary.com/membership> and pay through PayPal. Our email is friendsofalarlibrary@gmail.com

I would like to volunteer in the following:

- Bookstore Outside sales Event support Board member Publicity
 I'm not sure, please contact me

Apply for OC Poet Laureate, Youth Poet Laureate Until 7/15

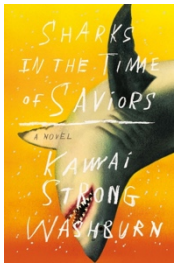
In connection with National Poetry Month, OC Public Libraries' inaugural OC Poet Laureate (OC-PL) and OC Youth Poet Laureate (OCYPL) programs in Orange County aim to reflect regional demographics, inspire and promote cultural connections and community partnerships by celebrating local poets using their powerful voices to impact social change.

One OC Poet Laureate and one OC Youth Poet Laureate will be selected for the 2021-2022 program year. Inaugural applications for the OC-PL and OCYPL programs will be accepted through July 15, 2021. Announcement of the 2021-2022 OC Poet Laureate Appointments will be made on August 15, 2021. <https://www.libromobile.com/ocpoetlaureates>

Virtual Storytime and Book Clubs Continue

Genre-Hopping Book Club

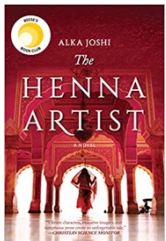
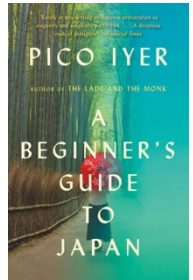
The Genre-Hopping Book Club meets the third Wednesday of the month at 5 pm, via ZOOM. Open to ages 18 and up. ZOOM Permission Waiver required. Register by emailing: cathryne.ramirez@occr.ocgov.com



***Sharks in the Time of Saviors* by Kawai Strong Washburn** **Wednesday, June 16th @ 5 pm**
A groundbreaking debut novel, *Sharks in the Time of Saviors* folds the legends of Hawaiian gods into an engrossing family saga; a story of exile and the pursuit of salvation. It is one of Barack Obama's Favorite Books of 2020, a finalist for the 2020 PEN/Jean Stein Book Award and named one of the Best Books of 2020 by the New York Times (#30), the *Guardian*, the *Boston Globe*, *Oprah Magazine*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *BBC Culture*, *Good Housekeeping*, *LitHub*, *Spectrum Culture*, *Third Place Books*, and *Powell's Books*.

***A Beginner's Guide to Japan* by Pico Iyer** **Wednesday, July 21st @ 5 pm**

In *A Beginner's Guide to Japan*, Pico Iyer, draws on his years of experience—his travels, conversations, readings, and reflections—to craft a playful and profound book of surprising, brief, incisive glimpses into Japanese culture. He recounts his adventures and observations as he travels from a meditation hall to a love hotel, from West Point to Kyoto Station, and from dinner with Meryl Streep to an ill-fated call to the Apple service center in a series of provocations guaranteed to pique the interest and curiosity of those who don't know Japan—and to remind those who do of its myriad fascinations.



***The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi**

Wednesday, August 18th @ 5 pm

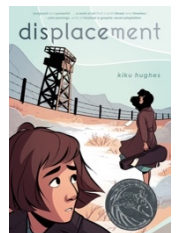
Vivid and compelling in its portrait of one woman's struggle for fulfillment in a society pivoting between the traditional and the modern, *The Henna Artist* opens a door into a world that is at once lush and fascinating, stark and cruel.

Virtual Teen Book Group

The Virtual Teen Book Group meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 5 pm, via ZOOM. Email savannah.feiner@occr.ocgov.com for more info!

***Displacement* by Kiku Hughes** **Thursday, June 24th @ 5 pm**

In *Displacement*, a historical graphic novel from Kiku Hughes, a teenager is pulled back in time to witness her grandmother's experiences in World War II-era Japanese internment camps. Described as a "riveting, bittersweet tale that highlights the intergenerational impact and power of memory."



***There's Someone Inside Your House* by Stephanie Perkins.** **Thursday, July 21st @ 5 pm**

It's been almost a year since Makani Young came to live with her grandmother and she's still adjusting to her new life in rural Nebraska. Then, one by one, students at her high school begin to die in a series of gruesome murders, each with increasing and grotesque flair. Soon to be a major motion picture coming to Netflix.

***Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo.** **Thursday, August 26th @ 5 pm**

In a novel-in-verse that brims with grief and love, National Book Award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author Elizabeth Acevedo writes about the devastation of loss, the difficulty of forgiveness, and the bittersweet bonds that shape our lives.



OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES PRESENTS



JUNE 12 - JULY 29

Summer Storytime runs June 12 – July 29 via ZOOM.

Baby Lapsit Storytime meets Tuesdays at 10:30 am for Birth to 2 years old with a caregiver.

Family Storytime meets Tuesdays at 5 pm, Fun-filled storytime for the whole family.

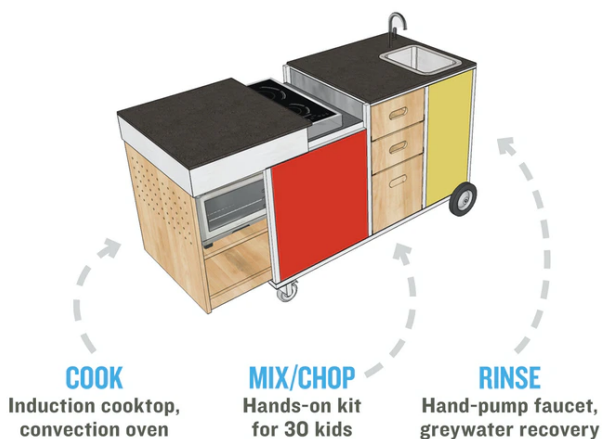
Kindergarten Readiness Storytime meets Wednesdays at 10:30 am for ages 3 to 5 with a caregiver.

Thursdays are for **Bilingual Storytime**: Chinese at 10:30 am and Spanish at 5 pm. Expect stories, songs and fun in both languages. No knowledge of the language is needed as storytime will be conducted in English too.

Family Storytime – Music & Movement is at 11 am on Saturdays. Get up and move with your family!

Space is limited. Register today. Email: ocplstorytimes@occr.ocgov.com

OCPL Establishes Food Literacy Program



Established in 2019 with funds from a Families for Literacy grant from California State Library for OC READ, OCPL purchased three [Charlie Carts](#) for staff to request and use for programming around the county. The goal is to provide communities ways to connect and learn about food. The Charlie Cart Food Literacy Committee is currently working on a Farm to Table series, growing herbs, and vegetables in a garden, harvesting them and creating a simple dish using those ingredients. Also available is a monthly take and make kit called Taste Buds, a family program that includes a spice sample, recipe, discussion questions, and activities. The committee created a [community cookbook](#) during the stay-at-home orders last year to build connections with our communities and are looking to expand on that idea by

creating a food memory scrapbook. Finally, the team, chaired by LAR Branch Manager Cassandra Sargent, is working on a Bilingual Snack time, focusing on first concepts (colors, numbers, letters, etc.). Currently, all of these programs will be virtual, either live or recordings for social media posting, we're looking forward to offering in-person programming again next year.

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