



DIAMOND BAR

FRIENDS *of the* LIBRARY

*Serving the
community
since 1977*

February 2026 E-Newsletter

President's Message



Dear Friends,

There's a lot to celebrate in February: the month of love, friendship and romance, Black History Month, President's Day, and Lunar New Year. Our Diamond Bar Library is all in with many special programs: crafts especially for teens and adults to celebrate friendships, learning about a little-known but important African American inventor, stories by an acclaimed African American storyteller, and a special afternoon to welcome Lunar New Year and the Year of the Horse. And there are programs with music, sandbox playtime and story time for babies and children throughout the month. Also, our monthly reading club for teens, Adventures in Bookland, will be reading **The War That Saved My Life** by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. There's so much to learn and experience, and so many books to read and explore.

Speaking about reading, our Friends' Bookstore (located inside the library) is stocked with popular books about love and friendships for this month. Also, check out the cookbooks, mystery, children and teen sections. Pick up a gift for your Valentine or Galentine. We have something for everyone!

Our Librarians and Membership Chair Lee Mao will celebrate Lunar New Year with the Diamond Bar Chinese American Association on Saturday, February 7th from 9 - 11 AM at Diamond Bar High School. Come visit our booth and check out what's new at the library and receive a special prize for visiting.

The Wine Soiree Planning Committee is hard at work on the **32nd Annual Wine Soiree**. It will be held at the **Diamond Bar Center on Sunday, June 7th**– Save the date! Co-chairs Dennis Giardina, Lee Mao and I are thrilled about this year's theme: *Sippin' on the Ritz*. This fundraiser supports the library all year long, and it's the best party of the year. We would love to have you join and help us. Please reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Susan Pantages
Diamond Bar Friends of the Library President

January Snapshots from the Library

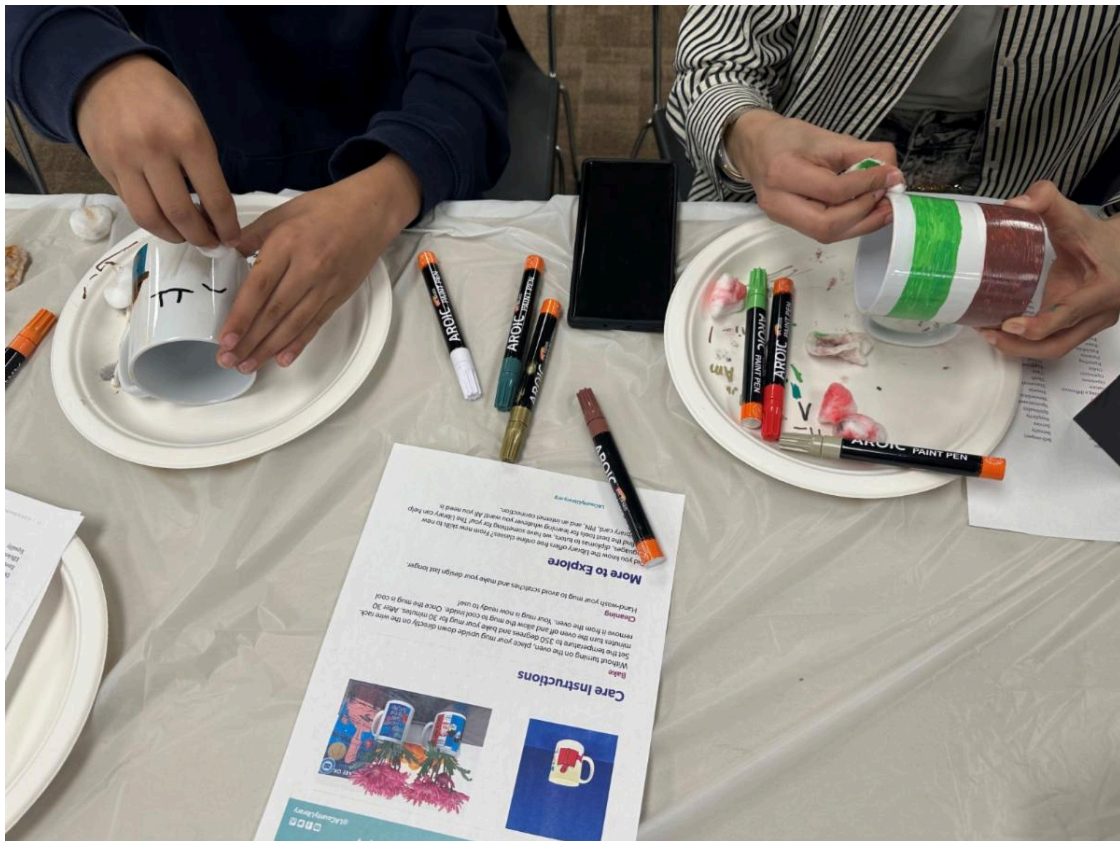
Snowstorm in a Jar



Family Craft Day-I Have a Dream



Decorate Your Own Intention Mug



February Events and Programs at the Library

In February, our library celebrates the Month of Love and Black History Month with reading, crafts, and storytelling for babies, children, teens, and adults. The

Friends of the Library are pleased to bring these special programs and exciting classes to the Diamond Bar Library this month. Join us!



Book, Be Mine. Will it be love on the first page? On **Monday, February 9th, 17th, and 23rd** check out a bag from the display counter in the Children's Area and start reading our sweet surprises. Fill out and return the Rating Card to the Ask Us desk for a chance to win prizes!

African American and Black History Month: Coding the Traffic Light. We take the safety and ease of traffic lights for granted, but how did they come to be? Join us on **Tuesday, February 3rd from 4 – 5 PM** to celebrate African American inventor Garrett Morgan's contributions and find out how to create your own traffic light! This program is especially for teens ages 13-18.

Smarty Pants Story Time is back! On **Wednesdays, February 4th and 11th**, from **10:15–10:45 a.m.**, let's get ready for school. Enjoy books, songs, rhymes, and movement while learning school readiness skills and having fun. This program is especially for ages 2 – 5 with their parent or caregiver.

DYI Bookish Bouquet! On **Thursday, February 5th from 11 AM to 12 PM**, we will celebrate National Library Lovers' Month by learning about the language of flowers and creating your own bookish theme flower bouquet out of book pages. You can share your handmade flowers with someone special or enjoy them yourself! This program is for adults.

Adventures in Bookland is a book club for young readers. On **Friday, February 6th from 4-5 PM** come join this exciting book club. We will meet monthly to discuss a special book and participate in journaling, crafting or games. This month's book is **The War That Saved My Life** by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley.

Learn new ways to get around our digital library. Digital Drop-In: Libby & Kanopy are here to help. Come in on **Monday, February 9th at 1 PM.** and have a librarian lead you through the process of downloading free eBooks and enjoying them on your TV, smartphone, tablet or computer. For Adults.

Fiber Arts Meetup crafts again! On **Thursdays February 12th and 26th from 1-2:30 PM**, come and get crafty with us. Whether you crochet, knit, embroider, or otherwise work with fiber, bring your project and work with other fiber artists. And make a new friend or two as well. This program is for adults.

Smart Start, Baby Band makes music! Come play with us on **Friday, February 13th from 10:15-10:45 AM!** Did you know that music helps your baby's brain make more learning connections, build fine and gross motor skills, and teach social skills? Play time is music time!

African American & Black History Month: Storytelling from Around the World. On **Saturday, February 14th from 2 – 3 PM.**, celebrate African American & Black History Month with internationally acclaimed storyteller Michael D. McCarty as he shares folktales from Africa and America.

Sandbox Playdate is full of sand fun and friends! On **Wednesday, February 18th from 10:15-11 AM**, join us for a fun playdate in the sandbox! Dig for treasures, explore sand toys and enjoy this special sensory experience while bonding with other families.

Cozy up at Pajama Storytime on Thursday, February 19th from 6:45-7:15 PM Bring your jammies and blanket and join us for a mellow evening of stories, songs, and rhymes. Don't forget your favorite stuffy!

Adult 101: Personal Well-Being Friendship Bracelets. Join us on **Monday, February 23rd from 4 – 5 PM** as we celebrate the power of friendship! Learn the importance of friendships for personal well-being and create a beaded friendship bracelet to keep or gift to a friend. This program is for teens ages 13-17.

Lunar New Year Celebration will be at the Library on **Thursday, February 26th from 4-5 PM!** Come celebrate and learn about Lunar New Year. We will provide an assortment of arts and craft stations for kids to explore as well as special snacks for all to enjoy as we welcome the Year of the Horse.



Look for Read Together Diamond Bar month in April 2026. Read Together Diamond Bar is an innovative, month-long annual program to unite people of all ages and backgrounds and encourage reading at the same time. Many cities, large and small,

hold successful One City-One Book programs, including Diamond Bar. Please look for more details in future emails and join us in April.

They Called Us Enemy is our teen/adult book for Read Together Diamond Bar. ***Stealing Home*** by J. Torres is the book selection for ages 8 to 12, and ***My Lost Freedom***, also by George Takei, is the picture book selection for young children. Cynthia Yu and her staff will be providing many activities and programs related to all of these book for adults, teens, and children throughout the month of April as usual.

Four Seasons Book Group



The Four Seasons Book Group is the quarterly book discussion organized by the Friends of the Library to discuss a wide range of books. You do not need to have read the book to participate—everyone is welcome. Come and join us and bring a friend or two.

On our January 31st meeting we chose ***Custodians Of Wonder: Ancient Customs, Profound Traditions, and the People Keeping Them Alive***, by Eliot Stein. This is a non-fiction book with a broad appeal and something different from what we usually choose. The meeting was well attended, and we were able to show some YouTube videos featuring some of the “Custodians” which added to our discussion.

The next Four Seasons Book Club meeting will be held on **Saturday, April 18th at 11 AM** in the library reading garden. The book selection for this meeting is George Takei’s graphic novel, ***They Called Us Enemy***. This is a memoir and firsthand account of the time George and his family spent in a Japanese-American incarceration camp during World War II.

Please mark your 2026 calendars for the Four Seasons quarterly meetings as follows on **Saturdays at 11 AM:**

- **Spring-April 18th at the Friends’ Reading Garden**
 - **Summer-July 25th at the Windmill Room**
 - **Fall-November 14th at the Windmill Room**
-

How a Book Changed My Life Student Essay Contest

How a Book Changed My Life Student Essay Contest: Letter to an Author



Prizes: \$300 (3)

Sponsored by the Diamond Bar Friends of the Library

Rules:

- Open to students ages 13-18
- Entries must be 1,000 words or less
- Entries must be emailed to ReadTogetherDB@library.lacounty.gov, mailed, or dropped off at Diamond Bar Library
- All entries become the property of LA County Library
- This completed form must accompany all essay submissions
- No AI writing assistance



Due by Saturday, April 11, 2026

If you're a book lover, you've likely read a book, fiction or non-fiction, classic or contemporary, that has left its mark on you. Now's your chance to express your appreciation to the author with an essay **in the form of a letter**. In this letter, you'll describe how the author's work has altered your worldview or affected your life in a meaningful way. Don't miss out on this opportunity! Winners will be announced on **April 25, 2026**.

Name: _____ Age: _____ Phone Number: _____

School Name: _____ Grade Level: _____

Address: _____

Parental Consent*: _____

I consent to my child's participation in the Student Essay Contest. If my child is chosen as a winner, I consent to having his/her picture and essay taken for use in a newspaper, magazine, or any other public document/presentation as part of the outreach activities of the Library.

*Parental consent is required to participate in contest.

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@DiamondBarLib

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For ADA accommodations, call Monday – Thursday, 562.940.8462 (voice) or 562.940.8477 (TTY).

Our annual student essay writing contest, "How a Book Changed My Life" is taking essay submissions until **Saturday, April 11th, 2026**. Three essay winners will be chosen and presented their \$300 awards at our culminating event on **Saturday, April 25th at 2 PM** in the Windmill Room. There will also be a guest speaker for this event, which is still in the works. You can download an entry form [here](#). Entries must be mailed or dropped off at the Diamond Bar Library.

Save the Date – Sunday, June 7th, 2026

Mark your calendars for the best party of the year, the Annual Wine Soiree on **Sunday, June 7th from 3- 7 PM**. Join us as we will be *Sipping on the Ritz* at the



Become a Member!



Please be a "Friend" of the Diamond Bar Library and join today! Your contribution will support programs, materials, and improvements for the Diamond Bar Library.

Membership Dues:

\$10 -Individual (Yearly)

\$15 -Family (Yearly)

\$250 -Lifetime

\$350 -Lifetime Family

Click [here](#) to make a membership contribution.

Our Bookstore



Check out our \$5-a-bag section! You can fill up a bag of books for just \$5.

Come in and browse our specially priced book sets. They make great gifts or collectors' items!

Every season we will have a special themed basket for one lucky customer to win! Visit our bookstore and receive an entry ticket to win the basket. One ticket per transaction can be entered into the opportunity drawing.

Come visit us inside the Diamond Bar Library!

We are open Monday-Saturday 11 AM-5 PM.

Diamond Bar Library
21800 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
Bookstore: (909) 612-0276

Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, April 11th:** Submission deadline for *How a Book Changed My Life* Student essay contest.
- **Saturday, April 18th at 11 AM: Four Seasons Book Discussion**
They Called Us Enemy by George Takei. Inside the library reading garden.
- **Saturday, April 25th at 2 PM:** Essay winners presentation and the final Read Together author event. Inside the DB Library Windmill Room.

- **Sunday, June 7th at 3-7 PM: 32nd Annual Wine Soiree & Benefit Auction.**
Mark your calendars for the best party of the year! Join us as we will be *Sipping on the Ritz* at the Diamond Bar Center.
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Consider making a gift to support the Diamond Bar Library. Funds will go towards library programs, new books and media, capital improvements, and more.

MAKE A DONATION TO THE FRIENDS



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