

To Our Members,

As with previous years, subscriptions ended with the year on December 31. We hope you will renew soon so we can continue to support the library, with popular community programs such as Livermore Reads Together, the "Lucky Day" Book/DVD Collection, Authors & Arts presentations and the Summer Reading programs.

Renewal Options

- You can complete the renewal form in this newsletter and return it in person at the bookstore. You may also mail the completed form to FOLL, PO Box 2483, Livermore, CA. 94551-2483. All checks should be made payable to FOLL. Additional renewal forms are available in the Friends Bookstore.
- Online at <http://friendsoflivermorelibrary.org/join>. On the Join or Renew page, click on the membership level (Individual, Family or Lifetime) near the bottom of the page. On the next page click "Purchase" and then follow the prompts to complete your renewal transaction. You may pay with either a Credit/Debit card, or by PayPal.

As a reminder, please check with your employer to see if they have a policy of matching your charitable donations or giving grants. Friends of the Livermore Public Library is a 501(c)(3) charity, and membership dues and donations are fully deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Renewing your membership entitles you to the Bookbucks card, (Two for Family memberships) which gives you \$10 toward purchases in the Friends Bookstore in the Civic Center Library.

President's Message

-Dave Runyon

Now that we have entered 2022, Treasurer Matt Berry and myself will be reaching the end of our five year term limits. Serving these last five years has been an unparalleled experience in our respective positions, but new leaders will be elected in our Annual Members Meeting in June so that new members of the Board may continue to serve our wonderful community.

I have been overwhelmed with thankfulness serving as President for the last five years — for our hard working volunteers, our Book vendors, endlessly focused and creative Board and Library Staff, our generous donors and members, our Bookstore patrons, and most especially this amazing Livermore community we serve.

It has been an undeniable privilege to work with such talented and dedicated individuals. At the beginning of my term, I would never have imagined the challenges we faced.

Our challenges have surely not ended, and the best leadership for Friends will be needed starting June. Please consider if you or someone you know would do excellent work in these positions and send all nominations to the following email to be eligible: nominations@friendsoflivermorelibrary.com.

We, of course, still have plenty of amazing Library programs happening in the first half of 2022 as you will surely read in this fantastic newsletter.

"Not everything that is faced can be changed; but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

-James Baldwin



Black History Month

Event Schedule

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor: Chris Buck

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Friends of the Livermore Library
PO Box 2483
Livermore, CA 94551-2483
<http://friendsoflivermorelibrary.com>

VISIT THE FRIENDS BOOKSTORE

Civic Center Library
1188 S. Livermore Ave.,
Livermore, CA
(925) 373-5520

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET

Third Thursday 7 pm at Civic Center
Library Board Room
Jan., Mar., May, Jul., Sept., & Nov.

OFFICERS 2022

President: Dave Runyon
Vice President: Bill Leach
Treasurer: Matt Berry
Secretary: Jan Bennett
Website: Mini Chopra
Membership: Tanya Stout

FINANCIAL REPORT

'21-'22 Income: \$7,684
'21-'22 Operating Expenses: \$917
'21-'22 Grants to Livermore Public
Library: \$21,550
Net assets as of November 15, 2021:
\$135,242

Black Authors Conversation: The Power of Storytelling **Tuesday February 08, 2022 at 7 PM on Zoom**

Moderated by Livermore Author Tina Jones Williams, and featuring local authors Dera R. Williams, Geraldine Cynthia Forté, Kevin E. Eastman, and R.C. Barnes. Storytelling gives us an opportunity to learn from another person's experience and it can shape, strengthen or challenge our opinions and values. Five local Black authors will discuss the power and influence of storytelling, and how it shapes their writing. This program includes Q & A. Join the conversation!

Speaking of Wine

Tuesday February 16, 2022 at 7 PM on Zoom

Get to know local Black winemakers Phil Long (Longevity Winery in Livermore) and Aaliyah Nitoto (Free Range Flower Winery in Oakland). Join us for this talk and Q & A on Zoom. Phil Long and Aaliyah Nitoto will talk about how they got started in the wine business, their keys to success as winemakers, and give advice to anyone who aspires to follow in their footsteps. If there is time, they'll even give food and wine pairing tips.

Teen Services:

Take & Make Craft Kits (available starting 2/1/22, all branches)

The spa face mask kits are inspired by Black inventor and beauty entrepreneur Madam C. J. Walker. The kits will include instructions and the specialized supplies necessary to complete the crafts; including information about Madam C. J. Walker.

Blind Date with a Book (available starting 2/1/22, all branches)

Black authors will be honored in this special book display. Books will be wrapped in paper and keywords will be written on the covers giving readers clues about the genre and tone of the books. This is intended to introduce readers to Black authors that they might not be familiar with.

Black History Jeopardy!

February 9, 2022 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

Join Black History Jeopardy to answer trivia questions that will highlight Black excellence in a variety of fields, such as science, innovation, politics, activism, athletics, entertainment, and literature. Special prizes will be offered to the winners.

Children's Services:

Take & Make Craft Kits (available starting 2/1/22, all branches)

Crafts are inspired by Black inventors and scientists. Kits will include instructions and the specialized supplies necessary to complete the crafts along with information about the scientist/inventor. A different craft will be available at each library encouraging community members to visit all branches.

- Straw rocket craft in honor of mathematician Katherine Johnson
- Traffic light craft in honor of inventor Garrett Morgan
- Elevator craft in honor of inventor Alexander Miles

Livermore Reads Together

Written by Paul Sevilla

The New York Times bestselling book, *The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-Year-Old Boy with Autism*, will be the featured book for the 16th Livermore Reads Together (LRT), the Library's annual community reading program sponsored by the Friends of the Livermore Public Library.

Written by Naoki Higashida, a remarkable thirteen-year-old boy with autism, *The Reason I Jump* is a one-of-a-kind memoir that demonstrates how the mind of a young boy with autism thinks, feels, perceives, and responds in ways few people can imagine. Using an alphabet grid to painstakingly construct words, sentences, and thoughts that he is unable to speak out loud, Higashida answers even the most delicate questions such as: "Why do people with autism talk so loudly and weirdly?" "Why do you line up your toy cars and blocks?" "Why don't you make eye contact when you're talking?" and "What's the reason you jump?" (Higashida's answer: "When I'm jumping, it's as if my feelings are going upward to the sky."). With disarming honesty and a generous heart, Higashida shares his unique point of view on not only autism but life itself. His insights — into the mystery of words, the wonders of laughter, and the elusiveness of memory — are so startling, so strange, and so powerful that readers will never look at the world the same way again.

Livermore Reads Together Event Schedule: Please call (925) 373-5505 to register.

- **Thursday, March 3 through Monday, March 7:** Virtual film screening of the documentary *The Reason I Jump* (PG, 2020). Registration is required to receive the link and password to view the film online.
- **Friday, March 4, 3:30 p.m.** at Rincon Library
- **Tuesday, March 15, 3:30 p.m.** at Civic Center Library
- **Tuesday, March 29, 4:00 p.m.** at Springtown Library
Drumming for Inclusion. Join an in-person, open air drumming circle program. Children with autism and their caregivers are especially invited. No Registration is required.
- **Saturday, March 5, 11:00 a.m.:** Turtle Dance Music. An interactive virtual autism-friendly music program for kids! No registration required. Join us on Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3EMbTSn>
- **Monday, March 7, 6:00 p.m.:** Virtual talk and Q & A with Journalist Eric Garcia, author of *We're Not Broken: Changing the Autism Conversation*. No registration required. Join us on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87657222283>
- **Monday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.:** Virtual talk and Q & A with Anlor Davin, author of *Being Seen: Memoir of an Autistic Mother, Immigrant, And Zen Student*. No registration required. Join us on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85991440426>
- **Thursday, March 10, 7:00 p.m.:** Virtual talk and Q & A with Steve Silberman, New York Times bestselling author of *Neurotribes: The Legacy of Autism and the Future of Neurodiversity*. No registration required. Join us on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82049686905>
- **Wednesday, March 16, 7:00 p.m.:** Virtual presentation by Laurie Leventhal-Belfer, PhD, author of *College on the Autism Spectrum: A Parent's Guide to Students' Mental Health and Wellbeing*. Registration is required to attend this Zoom program.
- **Saturday, March 19, 2:00 p.m.:** Virtual talk and Q & A by Michael Bernick and Louis A. Vismara, MD, authors of the book *The Autism Full Employment Act: The Next Stage of Jobs for Adults with Autism, ADHD, and Other Learning and Mental Health Differences*. Topics include: job search strategies and advice for adults with autism and other learning and mental health differences. Registration is required to attend this Zoom program.
- **Monday, March 21, 7:00 p.m.:** Virtual talk and Q & A with Dr. Temple Grandin. Don't miss an evening with this world-renowned author, autism advocate, and professor of animal science at Colorado State University. Co-hosted by Livermore Poet Laureate and founder of the Autism A to Z organization -- Cynthia J. Patton. No registration required. Join us on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82620390503>. Individuals can email their questions to Dr. Grandin in advance to Paul Sevilla at prsevilla@livermore.lib.ca.us. Please put "**Question for Temple Grandin**" in the subject box.
- **Wednesday, March 23, 7:00 p.m.:** Virtual presentation and Q & A on Autism and Neurodiversity by Yue Yu, PhD and Taffeta Star Wood, PhD from the UC Davis MIND Institute. Learn about the latest research and clinical therapy for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and how to support the mental health of children with autism.

Library Director's Update

By Anwan Baker

It has been a tumultuous 22 months since the beginning of the pandemic and our world has changed in many ways. From the pandemic, to climate change, to social justice, and a focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) efforts, our country has faced unprecedented challenges and obligations. During this time, the Livermore Public Library has sought to continue supporting the community's needs and to connect patrons with materials and services that provide support and add value to their lives. I have been proud of the Library's efforts, successes, and accomplishments since my arrival last June, and look forward to guiding and influencing our work in 2022 and beyond.

My first priority as the new Library Services Director was to ensure that all of the Library's programs and services are designed with EDI in mind. We have worked to expand our outreach and promote programs to all segments of our community. It is no longer enough to offer an open invitation; we must reach out to underserved populations, connect with people, uncover what services and programs would be best to address that communities needs, and actively seek to engage with them as part of our Library.

February is Black History Month and the Library is planning several programs to celebrate the heritage of African Americans. In addition to programs and events, we are planning to feature relevant collection displays throughout the Library.

The annual Livermore Reads Together event has taken place in February in years past. Going forward, to allow February's efforts to be focused on Black History Month, Livermore Reads Together will occur in the month of March. The feature title this year, *The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-Year-Old Boy with Autism*, written by Naoki Higashida, has been described as a one-of-a-kind memoir that demonstrates how a young boy with autism thinks, feels, perceives, and responds in ways few people can imagine. In consideration of the rising prevalence of autism spectrum disorders (approximately 1 in 44 children), bringing awareness through this novel and the programs associated with it will enhance our community's understanding of developmental disabilities and lead to increased inclusion. Many of the planned programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Livermore Public Library, and we are grateful for their continued support.

Has your address changed?

Notify us at libraryfriends.livermore@gmail.com; or send a note to FOLL, PO Box 2483, Livermore, CA. 94551-2483

Friends of the Livermore Public Library Membership Form

Membership Form

Return form to the Friends Bookstore in the Civic Center Library, or mail it to: Friends of the Livermore Library, PO Box 2483, Livermore, CA 94551-2483

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Email _____

Phone (optional) _____

To further support the Library I/we have included a donation of

\$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities

Member Dues

- New
- Renewal
- \$10 Individual
- \$20 Family
- \$250 Lifetime
- Instant (Card given)

Contributions to the Friends of the Livermore Public Library are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.