

# WHITTIER PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION NEWS

WWW.WHITTIERPLF.ORG

## Congratulations Paymaneh

Friends, colleagues, and community members gathered to celebrate Paymaneh Maghsoudi's remarkable 25 years of service as Library Director of the Whittier Public library.

The celebration was attended by state dignitaries, Whittier's Mayor Joe, city council members, the State Librarian, library trustees, members of the Library Foundation, as well as friends, family members, and even her beloved granddog, all joining together to toast a stellar career dedicated to literacy, learning, and community engagement.

Throughout her tenure, Paymaneh has led a talented staff, fostered a vibrant library community of patrons, donors, and volunteers, and championed innovative programs that have made the Whittier Public Library a hub of creativity and connection.

Her leadership leaves an enduring legacy of excellence and inspiration for generations to come.



SPRING 2026



Paymaneh received a California Senate Resolution from Senator Bob Archuleta



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEADFAST SUPPORT

Looking ahead, we have exceptional events on the calendar that reflect the mission of the Whittier Public Library Foundation. They enrich our community by supporting dynamic programming for children, young adults, adults, and veterans. Because of you, we are able to host engaging author talks, foster meaningful conversations, and provide enriching educational opportunities for readers of all ages.

Your continued membership and generosity sustain the vitality of our library. Thank you for believing in the power of books, ideas, and community. We look forward to seeing you at our exciting upcoming events and sharing another inspiring season together.

See you at the library,

Mary McCarthy, President  
Whittier Public Library Foundation

7344 Washington Ave, Whittier CA 90602-17730

TAX ID # 95-4714775

# STACEY LEE

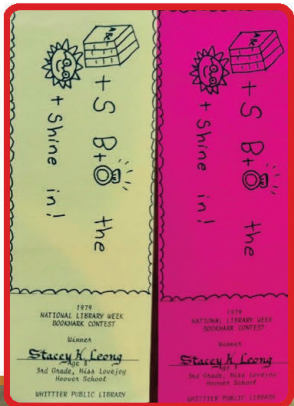
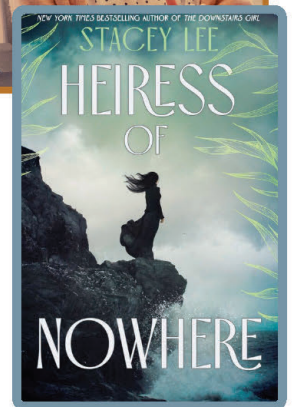
## MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION DINNER

Author **Stacey Lee** spoke at the Foundation's Member Appreciation Dinner, sharing her inspiring journey from the Whittier Stacks to the New York Times Best Seller list.



After the Member Appreciation Dinner, Stacey Lee and Foundation Board Member Mike Garabedian had a conversation about Lee's gothic historical fiction novel, *Heiress of Nowhere*, which releases **March 17th**. Stacey showed pictures of her research trip to the Pacific Northwest, exploring the landscape of her novel's setting, Orcas Island, and shared its influence as a character in her story.

Throughout the night, she reminisced about her early years at the Whittier Public Library, where she researched her very first agent at the age of thirteen and even won the National Library Week bookmark contest. She emphasized the importance of books, libraries, and librarians in her journey as a "Library Girl Who Found Her Voice."



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

— **EILEEN BIGELOW SPEAKER SERIES** —

On **May 7<sup>th</sup>**, we are thrilled to welcome author, actress, and comedian **Zarna Garg** in the next **Eileen Bigelow Speaker Series**. Zarna's humor, insight, and unique perspective have captivated audiences across the country. Her visit will undoubtedly be a highlight of our Spring programming.

Follow us on Instagram or check our website for updated ticketing info!

[@WhittierPLF](https://www.instagram.com/WhittierPLF) [www.whittierplf.org](http://www.whittierplf.org)



# WHITTIER READS 2026

Whittier Public Library and the  
Whittier Public Library Foundation  
present a series of programs based on



## WHEN IT ALL BURNS BY JORDAN THOMAS

Check out or purchase your copy of **When It All Burns** at the library and join us in April for a series of programs featuring the book! Program Tickets are available in person at both libraries starting in March.

Find out more information online at  
[whittierplf.org](http://whittierplf.org)

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Jordan Thomas is an anthropologist and former Los Padres hotshot wildland firefighter. His work has appeared in the Los Angeles Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, The Seattle Times, and The Drift. Thomas is a Marshall Scholar with graduate degrees from the University of Cambridge and Durham University. He is currently a Chancellor's Fellow at the University of California. He lives in Santa Barbara, California

### WHITTIER READS PROGRAMS

\*Thursday, April 2

**Fire Safety Storytime + Touch a Truck**  
Children Ages 4+  
3:30 PM • Whittwood Branch • Free Tickets

\*Monday, April 6

**Whittier Reads Presents: An Evening with Brian Fies, Author of A Fire Story**  
6:00 PM • Central Library • Free Tickets

Tuesday, April 7

**Firehouse Tales Storytime**  
Children Ages 0-5 with a caregiver  
10:30 AM • Central Library • Free

\*Thursday, April 9

**Reel Club: Wilder Than Wild: Fire, Forests, and the Future**  
6:00 PM • Central Library • Free Tickets

Wednesday, April 15

**Wednesday Night Book Group**  
**When It All Burns** - Author will not be present  
6:00 PM • Central Library • Free

\*Thursday, April 16

**Author Talk with Jordan Thomas**  
5:00 PM • Central Library • Free Tickets

\*Thursday, April 16

**Reception and Dinner with the Author**  
**Advanced Ticket Purchase Required**  
7:00 PM • Central Library  
Tickets available in person at both libraries and online at [whittierplf.org](http://whittierplf.org)

\*Monday, April 20

**Hotshot Talk with Doug Moore**  
6:00 PM • Central Library • Free Tickets

\*Tuesday, April 21

**Be Red Cross Ready - Wildfire Safety**  
6:00 PM • Central Library • Free Tickets

\*Wednesday, April 22

**Prepare with Pedro presented by the American Red Cross**  
Children Ages 4-7  
3:00 PM • Central Library • Free Tickets

\*Thursday, April 23

**Reel Club: Elemental: Reimagine Wildfire**  
6:00 PM • Whittwood Branch • Free Tickets

Ticket required for all asterisked (\*) events.

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