

WHITTIER PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION NEWS

WWW.WHITTIERPLF.ORG

A Spring to Remember

This spring, the Whittier Public Library Foundation was proud to bring our community together for two unforgettable programs that celebrated the power of storytelling in all its forms.

Our annual Whittier Reads program sparked meaningful conversation and reflection with author Jordan Thomas. His compelling work, *When It All Burns*, invited readers to confront historical, cultural and anthropological ideas while finding common ground through a hopeful concluding message.

We were equally thrilled to welcome Zarna Garg as part of the Eileen Bigelow Speaker Series. With humor, honesty, and sharp insight, Garg captivated the audience, offering a fresh and uplifting perspective on identity, family, and resilience.

These programs are at the heart of the Foundation's mission—to enrich lives, foster learning, and create opportunities for connection through the Library. They would not be possible without the continued support of our donors, sponsors, and dedicated foundation members.



SUMMER 2026



Mary McCarthy and President-Elect
Susanne Mendoza with Zarna Garg.

WELCOMING OUR NEW WPLF PRESIDENT

We are delighted to introduce our new Whittier Public Library Foundation President, Susanne Mendoza. Susanne brings a remarkable combination of energy, enthusiasm, and fresh ideas to her new role, along with a strong work ethic that will help guide the Foundation into its next chapter. Her passion for community engagement and commitment to the Library's mission position her to make an immediate and lasting impact.

As we look ahead, we are excited for the vision and leadership Susanne will bring to our programs and initiatives, continuing to strengthen the Foundation's role in enriching the Whittier community.

Please join me in warmly welcoming Susanne as our new WPLF President.

Mary McCarthy, President
Whittier Public Library Foundation



Mary McCarthy with author,
Jordan Thomas

7344 Washington Ave, Whittier CA 90602-17730

TAX ID # 95-4714775

Whittier Reads

When It All Burns

Whittier Reads 2026 looked to the natural world as we explored the human relationship with wildfire. Our featured author, Jordan Thomas, captivated the crowd, reflecting on how fire “forces people to pay attention to the landscapes . . . and to each other.”



To deepen our understanding, the Foundation produced a series of exclusive interviews with the superintendent of the Los Padres Hotshots, Matt Aoki, as well as with former Los Padres Hotshot, Chris Fournier. These stories of resilience and leadership underscored the hopeful message of Thomas’s work—that while Mother Nature remains undefeated, our actions as a community have never been more important.



Zarna Garg

Eileen Bigelow Speaker Series

The Eileen Bigelow Speaker Series reached a high note with an appearance by award-winning comedian and author Zarna Garg. Zarna shared her incredible “only-in-America” journey to a sold out audience at the Central Library.

She discussed her memoir, *This American Woman*, which explores her path from escaping an arranged marriage to finding her voice on the New York stage. Her storytelling left the community both laughing and deeply inspired by her message of perseverance.

SUMMER READING CLUB

UNEARTH A STORY!

Get ready for a prehistoric adventure! This year’s Summer Reading Club theme, “Unearth a Story,” invites young explorers to dig deep into the world of books.

Keep an eye out for the Foundation’s dino-packed videos promoting the program, as well as the custom video arch art, welcoming readers into the children’s section.



Follow us on Instagram or check our website for upcoming events!

@WhittierPLF www.whittierplf.org



Whittier Public Library
Biblioteca Pública de Whittier

SUMMER READING CLUB

CLUB DE LECTURA DE VERANO

JUNE 8 - JULY 25

Summer reading fun for kids, teens and adults!

Diversión de lectura de verano para niños,
jóvenes y adultos

Central Library
7344 Washington Ave.
(562) 567-9900



Whittwood Branch
10537 Santa Gertrudes Ave.
(562) 567-9950



Whittierlibrary.org



WHITTIER PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION'S TWELFTH ANNUAL



Booktoberfest

READ, WRITE, AND BLUE

Thursday, October 8, 2026

6:00 PM

Whittier Central Library

More Information and Sponsorship Opportunities Available Now At

Booktoberfest.org

Tickets Go On Sale August 1st!

This year, we proudly honor veterans and their families in our community, with 50% of event proceeds benefiting the Whittier Public Library's Veterans Resource Center.



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10 Pointe Drive
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Susan.West@morganstanley.com
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Whittier Intercommunity Pharmacy

Amy Kim, Pharm.D

phone 562-945-4166
Fax 562-696-8578

12291 Washington Blvd Ste101
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LAILA HAVRE JACOBSSMA
ATTORNEY AT LAW

Jacobsma Law
Southeast Law Center
12749 HOBWALK BOULEVARD
SUITE 104
NORWALK, CA 90650

(562) 219-2747
(562) 868-5539 Fax
lhw@jacobsmalaw.com



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