I came to the world of public libraries 10 years ago after more than 25 years in postsecondary education. In those ten years I came to understand what R. David Lankes meant when he said, “Bad libraries only build collections. Good libraries build services (and a collection is only one of many). Great libraries build communities.” In the ten years I was the director of the Santa Paula library, I felt my mission was to do exactly that. In the short time I have been here, I have had opportunities to visit our libraries and to meet and speak with many of the staff. As a result of those opportunities, I know I came to the right place. Everyone has been supportive and welcoming. I am truly honored to be working with such a great team and great individuals. Another of my favorite library quotations is from Timothy Healy, who said, “The most important asset of any library goes home at night—the library staff.” I could not agree more. - Ned Branch
One County, One Book main author event, VIP Reception with the author, and booths featuring vendors, non-profits, local authors, children’s story time, and more!

Are you a local author, vendor, or non-profit who would like to participate?

Please contact: email@vclibraryfoundation.org
Play to Learn
Drop-in play group for caregivers and kids aged 0-5 years.
Oak View Library in the Community Room
Tuesdays, 3:30pm, following the weekly 3pm storytime

These 30 minute sessions feature sensory, art, and perceptual/motor development activities. A great opportunity for social-emotional learning, and to practice school readiness skills!

Pathways to Science
May 27th 2023 | 5pm-6pm | Soliz Library
Free K-8 STEM experiments that engage children to learn science in a fun way. Themes include coding, electricity and more! The program is led by Rio Mesa students and IB Diploma Candidates. Please call (805) 485-4515 to reserve a spot and for more information!

Paws for Reading
Children who read aloud to dogs can feel more comfortable because there is no pressure or judgment. It’s a safe place to practice!

Kids of all ages
E.P. Foster - Thurs 4 to 6 pm
Hill Rd - Wed 3:30 to 5 pm
Ojai - Wed 1:30 to 2:30 pm

In-Person & Virtual Storytime
Check our website for dates and times.
FIND YOUR VOICE
Read books, play games, and win prizes!

Ventura County Library's 2023 Summer Reading Challenge runs May 15 - August 4, 2023
Registration starts May 1st!

Ventura County Library urges everybody to get ready, get set, go to the library and sign up for our summer reading challenge!!

Over the summer, the library is hosting a range of free activities for children, teens, and adults to encourage and support a love of reading. Participants may win prizes for reaching their reading goals.

READING CHALLENGE FOR ADULTS

More information coming soon!
Adults in this challenge may submit an entry every time they read a book.

Enter titles as you finish them, be they traditional books, audiobooks, or eBooks.

You can log up to 100 titles throughout the duration of the challenge, and each title is a chance to win a prize.

LEARN MORE, WATCH OUR VIDEOS!
Our libraries don’t lack for books about poetry, poems to read, and poetry to listen to. Here are some places to start.
POETRY

Picturebooks Fiction and Nonfiction

Early Reader

Children's Nonfiction

Children's Fiction

Young Adult
ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN Heritage Month  

May 2023

There’s a large area to cover here – from Japan and Iran to India and Hawaii. Our fiction selections honoring Asian/Pacific Americans deal with characters confronting their heritage, and for nonfiction, we have a selection of memoirs centered around recent immigration. For more Own Voices suggestions try Novelist Plus in our eLibrary.

**Fiction**

[Siren Queen] by Nghí Vo  
[In the Time of Our History] by Susanne Pari  
[Vibrant Years] by Sonali Dev  
[Counterfeit] by Kirstin Chen  
[The Picture Bride] by Lee Geum-yi

**Nonfiction**

[Asian American Histories of the United States] by Catherine Ceniza Choy  
[Year of the Tiger] by Alice Wong  
[Voyagers] by Nicholas Thomas  
[Nathan Chen: My Story] by Nathan Chen  
[Ma and Me] by Putsata Reang
ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN Heritage Month
May 2023

Picturebook Fiction and Nonfiction

Early Reader

Children's Fiction

Young Adult
Judaism’s main branches - juxtaposing tradition and modernism- feature in these books exploring everything from orthodoxy to mainstream culture. There is something here for everyone, from the serious, the thought-provoking, and the informative, to the more lighthearted.

**Adult Fiction**

**LAST SUMMER AT THE GOLDEN HOTEL**

**SIGNAL FIRES**

**THISTLEFOOT**

**FLEISHMAN IS IN TROUBLE**

**BEAT THE DEVILS**

**ALL OTHER NIGHTS**

**LOYALTY**

**CHABON**

**Adult Nonfiction**

**LOOKING FOR AN ENEMY**

**LITTLE FAILURE**

**MICHAEL W. TWITTY KOSHERSOU**

**Typically Jewish**

**Nuestra América**

**Save the Deli**

**Typically Jewish**

**The Sassoons**

**The Sassoons**

**Backing Forward**

**The Great Global Merchants and the Making of an Empire**

**ONE HUNDRED SATURDAYS**
May

JEWISH AMERICAN HISTORY

Picturebooks Fiction and Nonfiction

- TRY IT!
- Sweet Meeting on Mimouna Night
- Queen of the Hanukkah Dosas
- Invisible Girl
- Nathan’s Song
- Big Dreams, Small Fish

Children's Fiction

- Broken Strings
- Turtle Boy
- A Place at the Table
- My Basman Bat Mitzvah

Early Reader

- Jennifer A. Nielsen: Resistance

Young Adult

- Anne Frank’s Chestnut Tree
- From Dust, A Flame
- It’s a Whole Spiel
- The City Beautiful
- Whistle
- The Day Back
"Established in 1963, Older Americans Month is a time for us to acknowledge the contributions and achievements of older Americans, highlight important trends, and strengthen our commitment to honoring our older citizens."
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living

Fiction

**Killers of a Certain Age**
*Deanna Raybourn*

**Adriana Trigiani**

**Remarkably Bright Creatures**

**We Spread the Good Left Undone**
*Wee Spread Iain Reid*

**Aunt Dimity & the Enchanted Cottage**

Nonfiction

**From Strength to Strength**
*Arthur C. Brooks*

**Retirement Watch**
*Bob Carlson*

**Jellyfish Age Backwards**

**Chair Yoga**

**The Swedish Art of Aging Exuberantly**
*Magnusson*
OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

AGING UNBOUND: MAY 2023

Picturebook Fiction

Picturebook Nonfiction

Middle Grade and Teen Fiction

Middle Grade and Teen Nonfiction
## Paper Globe

### SUPPLIES NEEDED
- printed out template
- scoring tool (knitting needle, skewer, chopstick)
- tape/glue
- coloring implements (optional)
- scissors

### NOTES
These paper globes are such versatile canvases! Experiment and have fun creating and decorating them!

### COLOR, CUT, SCORE, FOLD
1. Color the strips as desired.
2. Score along the arches of all 3 strips.
3. Cut all 3 strips out along the solid line.
4. Gently fold along the arched scored line, then unfold.

### TAPE, BEGIN CONSTRUCTION
1. Tape 2 strips into tubes.
2. Place one tube into the other tube, as shown above.

### CONTRUCT, TAPE
1. Take the third strip and put it over the inside tube but under the outside tube as shown above.
2. Once third strip is placed, tape into tube shape.

### REARRANGE
- Rearrange tubes so that the scored partial circles show on the outside faces of the paper globe.

### FORM, ENJOY
- Form paper ball by popping all the scored semi-circles inward.
- ENJOY!