

Happy New Year from the City Librarian



I hope that you and yours have had a safe, comfortable and enjoyable holiday season. In 2020, Phoenix Public Library made significant changes to our business model in order to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. As we greet a new year, many of the adjustments we made remain in place. Our top priority continues to be the

health and safety of our staff, customers and communities; while still providing steady access to library resources. However as we put 2020 behind us Phoenix Public Library is looking forward to welcoming 2021 with hope; and a continued focus on being inventive in how we can expand your access to library services.

You can continue to count on the thousands of resources available through phoenixpubliclibrary.org and book drops (24/7), 6-days-a-week [Curbside Service](#) at 16 locations (South Mountain Community Library and book drop remains closed), [Online Programs](#) for all ages, [Kids' Café](#) service, free [Public WiFi](#) (7 days a week, 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.) at 16 of our locations, and [Mobile Printing](#) at select locations; with more to come in the new year.

On behalf of Phoenix Public Library, I offer heartfelt thanks for the continued support and patronage of our customers and communities. We look forward to continuing to discover ways in which to maximize our library offerings to you. Please stay safe and well and best wishes for a meaningful 2021.

Phoenix City Librarian,

Rita Hamilton

Overdrive (GPDL) Materials Expanding

Phoenix Public Library's Greater Phoenix Digital collection offered on Overdrive is expanding!

- **RB Digital** – Beginning January 1, 2021, the 300+ English and Spanish magazine selections will be offered as part of the Greater Phoenix Digital Library collection on Overdrive.
- **Axis 360** – Later in January, 2021 the eBooks and audiobooks currently offered as part of the “Best ePicks” collection through Axis 360 can be accessed through the GPDL collection on Overdrive. “Lucky Day” copies of bestsellers for adults, teens and kids (a collection of non-holdable eMaterials) will still be available.



Learn more about the Greater Phoenix Digital Library collection, getting started, and how to use the Overdrive and Libby apps by visiting the [“Getting Started with Greater Phoenix Digital Library”](https://phoenixpubliclibrary.org) page on phoenixpubliclibrary.org.



Celebrate Black Voices Virtual Art Exhibit

Phoenix Public Library is hosting a virtual art exhibit in February 2021 to celebrate Black History Month.

Entries will be displayed in a virtual art gallery on Phoenix Public Library's website and featured on social media.

Details:

- Young artists in grades K-12 are invited to draw an important person or event celebrating the African American experience.
- Each artist may enter one drawing.
- Illustrations can be in any medium: crayon, marker, colored pencil, watercolor, etc.
- Artworks should be no larger than 11"x17" on white paper. No lined or colored paper.
- Each submission must be accompanied by a submission form. [Download a submission form](#).
- Entries may be submitted in person during [Curbside Service](#) at [Phoenix Public Library locations](#) or by email to socialmedialibrary@phoenix.gov.

Entry deadline is 5 p.m. on Friday, January 22, 2021.

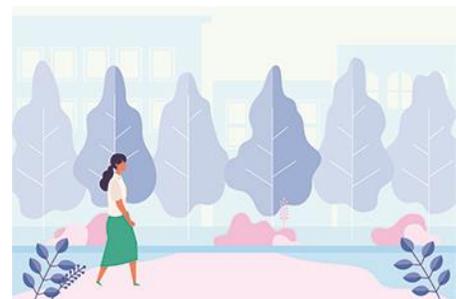
Just Read: New Beginnings

Read with us! Now more than ever, we see almost immediate benefits of regular reading. For all ages, daily reading provides mental stimulation, improves memory, can reduce stress, builds knowledge banks, improves the ability to learn and can simply provide entertainment. Phoenix Public Library has always offered several versions of book clubs both in-person and through our come-as-you-are, read-what-you-like online book club “Just Read.” While we cannot currently meet in person to discuss our “most loved reads,” Phoenix Public Library is expanding and adjusting our online book club “Just Read” to encourage more interaction from you.

January’s theme is New Beginnings

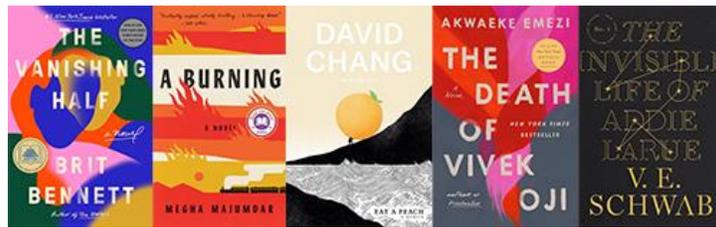
Chances are the new year brings with it a call to make changes in your life. Maybe you want to create a healthier lifestyle, do more social good, read more, focus on relationships or spend more time on yourself.

[Visit our website](#) and read something that takes your spark and lights your way to a new beginning.



Participate throughout the month by posting on social media, tagging Phoenix Public Library and [#justreadppl](#) to share, discuss and recommend your book choice.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) or visit our website for more about the Just Read online book club.



Discover Our Picks for the Best of 2020

From fiction to poetry to science to memoir, there's a little bit of everything on our list of the best books we read in 2020. [Find a great read.](#)

Stormwater Awareness Week



Phoenix Water is kicking off 2021 with a focus on stormwater pollution prevention. The utility's second annual **Stormwater Awareness Week** is set for January 25 – 31, 2021.

A number of Arizona cities and organizations will join Phoenix for this regional effort to educate the public about the importance of preserving stormwater quality for the environment and future generations. For more information visit phoenix.gov/stormwater.



Collection Development: Creative Goals and New Beginnings

Are you ready for something new in 2021?

The Collection Development Department of Phoenix Public Library shares these ideas for creatively thinking about new goals and new beginnings.

I used to think that I was not a creative person. Those who visited my home or started to "frolic" with me (visits to museums, eating out, checking out plant nurseries, and traveling) soon showed me the error of this view. I have a beautiful (if eclectic) home filled with original art pieces. My garden is an inviting space. And, when I travel, I am often the designated guide. I have no formal education in these areas but have "played" with my home; thumbed through art books ever since I discovered libraries; and been courageous with cooking, gardening and travel (thank you, mom and dad).

Here are a few books that encourage the curiosity, playfulness and joy of being creative in one's own way:

[Creativity: a Short Cheerful Guide](#) by John Cleese (of Monty Python fame). Offers insight into what creativity is and how to cultivate it. This is a holiday gift I am giving to myself.

[99 Keys to a Creative Life: Spiritual, Intuitive and Awareness Practices for Personal Fulfillment](#) by Melissa Harris. Pick and choose from a wide selection of ways to kick start your creative juices. (available in [multiple formats](#), including eBook in French)

[Imagination First: Unlocking the Power of Possibility](#) by Eric Liu and Scott Noppe-Brandon. 28 ½ exercises on using the power of imagination in your work, home and play life!

For writers, I would like to recommend a classic book on creativity in writing: [Writing Down the Bones](#) by Natalie Goldberg

May you have a new year in which you begin to realize what a creative person you are and can be!

-Recommended by Kathleen Sullivan

2020 was a crazy year and I'm really looking forward to things hopefully getting better in 2021. It can be hard to think of self improvement when we are all just trying to get through this as best we can. But, I do have a few things I'd like to do in 2021.

One is to finish the [How to Draw](#) (An Introduction to Drawing) Great Course on Kanopy that I started this year with my husband. [Kanopy](#) has a lot of the Great Course videos on a wide variety of subjects. It's a great way to learn something new. Another thing I'd like to do is read more non-fiction. I usually only read one or two non-fiction books a year.

This year I'd like to read more diversely. Some of the titles I'm looking forward to are:

[Sweet Dreams: From Club Culture to Style Culture, the Story of the New Romantics](#), by Dylan Jones

[Artcurious: Stories of the Unexpected, Slightly Odd, and Strangely Wonderful in Art History](#) by Jennifer Dasal

[Caste: The Origins of our Discontents](#) by Isabel Wilkerson

[Owls of the Eastern Ice: A Quest to Find and Save the World's Largest Owl](#) by Jonathan C. Slaght

[How I Built This](#) by Guy Raz

[More Than a Woman](#) by Caitlin Moran

[Nose Dive: A Field Guide to the World's Smells](#) by Harold McGee

Whatever your 2021 goals are, I hope Phoenix Public Library can help you with them!

-Recommended by Danielle Stanley

No one planned for this: challenges to physical health; extreme weather events; anxiety over family, political, and social fabric. Young Esperanza grew up quickly in a novel by Pam Muñoz Ryan. Set in the Great Depression, [Esperanza Rising](#) has parallels to current times, and now we along with Esperanza are looking for new goals and hoping for new beginnings. Whether you read or listen, sharing this award-winning novel with children will open the door to discuss how each of us approach the difficulties and challenges in our lives as we search for new beginnings.

One way to take action? What about planting a garden? Author Lauri Kranz tells us in her book [A Garden Can Be Anywhere: A Guide to Growing Bountiful, Beautiful, Edible Gardens](#) to

rethink utilitarian gardens. Rather than a matter of size or area or ornamentation, instead, a garden can produce nutrition and beauty at the *same time* and in the *same space*. New growth, new goals, new beginnings – we have done it before, we can do it again.

-Recommended by Linda Kiecker



Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Library Closures

All Phoenix Public Library locations will be closed the following day:

- **Monday, January 18 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

[Curbside Service](#) is available at all locations (with the exception of South Mountain Community Library). Book drops at all locations (with the exception of South Mountain Community Library) are open 24/7. [Learn about Curbside Service hours and more on our website.](#)

At this time, all Phoenix Public Library buildings remain closed to in-building services.

Keep up with all the news. Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/phxlibrary, follow us on Instagram at instagram.com/phoenixpubliclibrary and “like us” on Facebook at facebook.com/phoenixpubliclibrary.