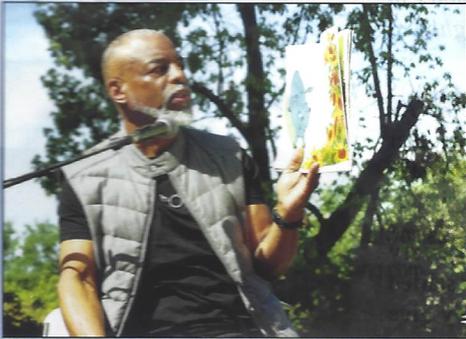


Altadena Library District

A COMMUNITY HUB

BY MICHELLE LONGO | PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ALTADENA LIBRARY DISTRICT AND ANDY K. SMITH



Author LeVar Burton



Members of the Altadena Library District pose with Clifford in March 2025.
PHOTO BY: ANDY K. SMITH



More than 150 people attend the Second Saturday concert in March, the first large community event at the library since it reopened after the Eaton fire.

Where can you go to get books, periodicals, games, and CDs? And how about a resource for ebooks, audio books, and videos? Your local library, of course!

The Altadena Library District is home to an enormous collection of materials and also offers electronic resources, literacy services, computers, a makerspace, databases, and a passport application office. As if that's not enough, patrons can also access the library of things, where they can borrow an assortment of things, including telescopes, hiking backpacks, blood pressure cuffs, and more.

Altadena Library District will celebrate its centennial next year, commemorating its establishment in 1926. A fun fact about the earliest days of the library is that Lina Elise "Dolly" Roth Grey, wife of the novelist Zane Grey, served as president of the district's first Board of Trustees.

The library was closed for two months following the Eaton Fire, and during that time, the staff was out in the community and working

with LA County Parks in Care Camps, which were set up to support families impacted by the fire. In February, staff members were involved in many outreach events and partnered with Pasadena Public Library to provide services and programs. Additionally, the Altadena Library District worked with the LA County Public Library and its foundation by fundraising to provide three hundred WiFi hotspots to local families.

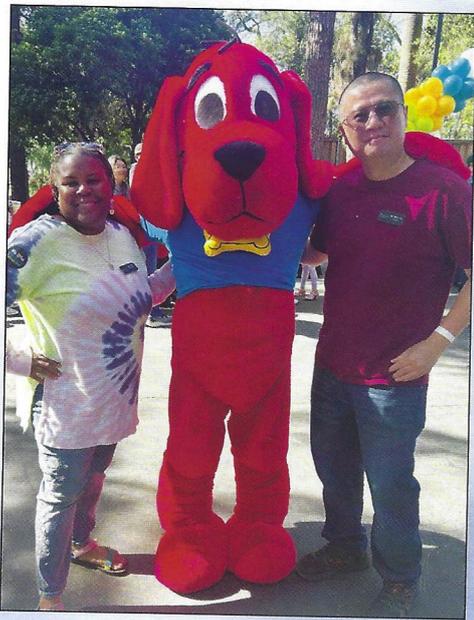
On March 4, 2025, the Main Library reopened. A celebration, attended by more than a thousand people, was held later in March, with author and actor LeVar Burton reading from his children's book, "The Rhino Who Swallowed a Storm." Governor Gavin Newsom stopped by and chatted with Library Director Nikki Winslow. The event also included live music, crafts, face painting, book giveaways, and food from local vendors.

Since reopening, the library has been a hub for community organizations to host events, including architectural and reconstruction education talks. It's also part of the Eaton Fire Collaborative, which is a collective of local government, agencies, community groups, and nonprofits that is committed to ensuring the community recovers and getting resources to those who need them.

Volunteers are a vital part of the library. There are literacy tutors that work with adult learners, as well as adults and teens who help with events and programs. There are two support groups, the Friends of the Altadena Library and the Altadena Library Foundation, and both are volunteer organizations. And, although the members of the Board of Trustees are elected into their roles, they are volunteer

Beloved actor and author LeVar Burton reads his children's book to a crowd of more than 1,000 people during the celebration welcoming the community back to the library in March 2025. PHOTO BY: ANDY K. SMITH

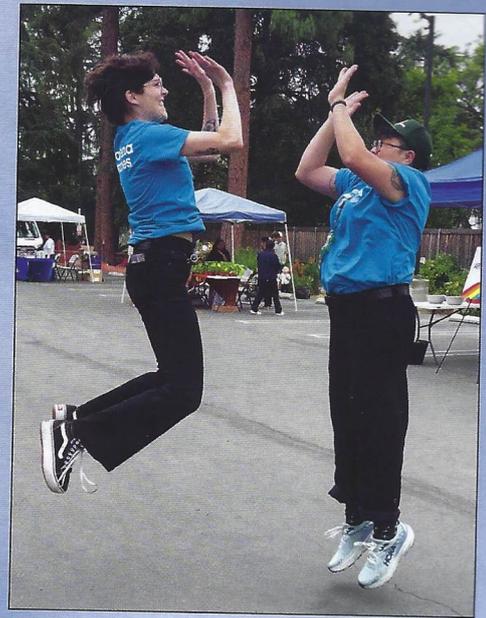




Altadena Library District Board of Trustees Kameelah Waheed Wilkerson (left) and Boon Lim pose with Clifford the Big Red Dog during the welcome back to the library celebration in March.



Children check out ocean animals brought by The Blue Submarine at the Altadena Library in March.



Altadena Library Adult Services Library Assistant Mia Prosser (left) and Teen Librarian Fin Lee prepare for the Altadena Library Summer Reading kickoff event on Saturday, June 7, 2025.

positions. With dedication to the community and a willingness to serve, volunteers enable the library to offer all that it does.

In addition to monthly staff meetings and work groups for the various services, library employees also participate in potlucks, birthday celebrations, and an annual holiday breakfast. It's clear to see that the folks working at the Altadena Library District are aligned with its strategic priorities, which are, "We are curious, we are connectors, and we are neighbors."

Here are some of your local library staff members:

Mia Prosser, Adult Services Library Assistant (They/Them): Mia moved to Altadena from Tennessee in 2024, which is when they began volunteering. When a position opened up, they applied immediately. They've been with the library for over a year now.

The Altadena Library District Director Nikki Winslow and staff welcome the community back after the Eaton fire.



"Joining the library gave me a place to connect with my neighbors in a really meaningful way," Mia says. "Because of the library, I'm so much more involved in my role as a citizen of Altadena."

Mia says they love when adults who came to the library as kids come back for the first time in years. They'll point to what's familiar and what's changed, and Mia can watch library patrons smile as they get flooded with memories.

When asked what three to five words best describe the library, Mia said, "Thinking bigger all the time."

Catalina Theodoros, Administrative Assistant (She/Her): Catalina has been with the District for a little over three years. She says the library is so important to her because of what it offers the community,

Library staff members Fin Lee, Aaron Kimbrell, and Mia Prosser help welcome back the Altadena community. PHOTO BY ANDY K. SMITH

