



## One City, One Story 2016

A committee of local readers has selected *Orphan Train* as the novel to read for Pasadena's One City, One Story program. Now in its 14th year, OCOS schedules a number of free events throughout March, hoping to spur discussion and an exploration of arts or even culinary classes inspired by the selected book. The program culminates at month's end with the author's visit. Christina Baker Kline, who counts *Orphan Train* as her fifth novel, will visit Pasadena on March 31.

Although its main characters are fictional, *Orphan Train* draws on a true chapter in American history. From 1854 until 1929, orphaned or abandoned children were routinely sent from East Coast cities to sparsely populated places in the Midwest. The forced migration was a bit of social engineering initiated by a well-intended minister who believed such children would find better homes. Too often, the youngsters were exploited as farm or domestic laborers.

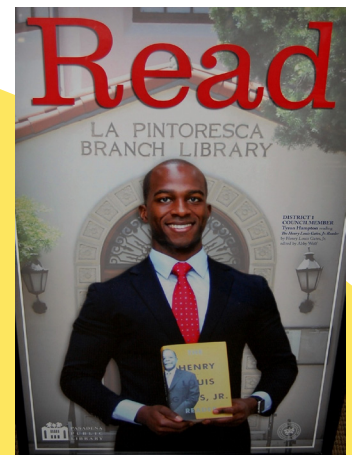
Kline tells her story through a modern-day foster child, who is thrown into the company of a 91-year-old woman who has suppressed difficult childhood memories. "Kline does a superb job in connecting goth-girl Molly, emotionally damaged by the 'toll [of] years of judgment and criticism,' to Vivian, who sees her troubled childhood reflected in angry Molly," *Kirkus Reviews* declared upon the novel's publication in 2013.

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## La Pintoresca Draws an Appreciative Crowd

A fundraiser for the 85-year-old branch library proved a great success on October 4. "Fall-In for La Pintoresca" attracted some 70 supporters and raised \$4,078.21. The branch, serving one of the busiest communities in Pasadena, plans to create an interactive learning and play center for children.

"We have a list of creative learning-based toys, everything from puzzle sets, to a magnetic playboard and magnetic letters and numbers, to phonics center kits, to all kinds of blocks," said Pat Smith, the staff librarian who oversees La Pintoresca as well as the Villa Parke branch. "One of the most important items is a set of Raspberry Pi circuit boards that kids can use to create their own computer programs," she said, noting that a volunteer and a library staffer together are developing a series of computer classes that will enable youngsters to create their own games.



Tyron Hampton, District  
One council member

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# What's On Your Nightstand?

Name a single individual who plays a wicked game of tennis, hosts opera singers and also volunteers for Homeboy Industries. Stumped? Meet Ann Mosser, a Pasadena resident who regularly shops The Friends' monthly book sales at Central Library. Mosser, who often arrives when the doors open at 9 a.m., is on a mission to buy used books for the youngsters and high school students who use Homeboy's services in Los Angeles.

Homeboy Industries, founded in 1988 by Jesuit priest Gregory Boyle, offers a path out of gang life with job training, counseling, tattoo removal and education and enrichment classes. Demand for its services spurred Homeboy's move from Boyle Heights to downtown Los Angeles. The non-profit organization is currently working to expand its facilities; it operates a charter high school and learning center at its old Boyle Heights site.

"They're really bursting at the seams. I'm just storing things in my garage for the younger children," Mosser said, explaining that she'll deliver some books in time for the winter holidays.

As one might surmise, Mosser has great energy, broad interests and an interesting life. In her career as a physical therapist, she specialized in pediatric

care, while also making her mark as a volunteer, most notably for the LA Opera. Twenty years ago, she was chairing the artists' hospitality committee for the Opera League, steering the volunteers who agreed to meet airplanes and generally be on call for guest artists. Today, Mosser often hosts young singers in her home. She serves as a co-director of the Los Angeles District for the National Council that organizes auditions leading up to the Grand Finals for the Metropolitan Opera.

Mosser is also an active and enthusiastic alumna of Stanford University, where she earned a master's degree. She recently played a role in a conductor's decision to donate his collection of materials to Stanford. Mosser intends to send the conductor a copy of *Nothing Like It in the World: The Men Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad, 1863-1869*, because it describes a key period in the life of university founder Leland Stanford. However, Mosser said she's reading the Stephen E. Ambrose book before she mails it!

In Pasadena, she has helped organize one Stanford book club that has attracted enough participants to launch a second. For the original club, the indefatigable Mosser is reading *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid; for the newer group, she's reading *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* by Katherine Boo. Neither book is lightweight.

In Hamid's 2007 best-selling novel, the protagonist is a Pakistani native who graduated from Princeton

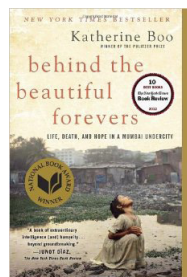


## Who Knew?

The Santa Catalina Branch Library, which opened its doors in December 1930, looks strikingly different from the Hill Avenue Branch, even though architect Sylvanus B. Marston was a name partner of the firms that designed the buildings just five years apart.



University and assumed he was an assimilated American until the aftermath of September 11. (The book was adapted for the silver screen in 2013, with Riz Ahmed cast as Changez Khan, the Pakistani radical who tells his story to an American tourist, played by Liev Schreiber.)



Behind the Beautiful Forevers is investigative journalist Katherine Boo's account of life in a Mumbai slum that crowds 3,000 people into one-half acre. Published in 2012, the book won the National Book Award for nonfiction that year. Playwright David Hare adapted the bestseller for the stage; his play premiered at the National Theater

in London in December 2014.

Boo, a *New Yorker* staff writer since 2003, won a MacArthur "genius" grant in 2002. Two years earlier, her work at the *Washington Post* won that newspaper

a Pulitzer Prize for public service for Boo's series on abuse and neglect of the mentally retarded in District of Columbia group homes.

Mosser began reading the work of another journalist and author, Robin Wright, after hearing her speak in August at Chautauqua Institution in New York. Mosser has finished *Dreams and Shadows: the Future of the Middle East*, and is giving copies of that 2008 book to her son and nephew. She's now reading Wright's *Rock the Casbah: Rage and Revolution Across the Islamic World*. Wright, a former staff writer for the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Washington Post*, is a contributing writer for *The New Yorker* and a joint fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

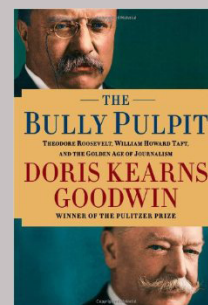
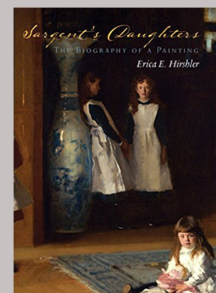
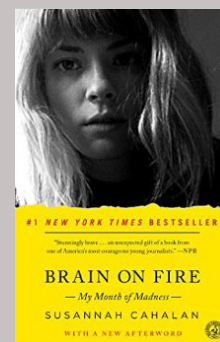
There is scant chance that Mosser will soon exhaust her reading material. "I've got my parents' library," she said.

—Katie Harris

## Nightstand Recommendations of 2015

With the winter holidays approaching, you might wish to read or gift-wrap a book mentioned this year by avid readers and contributors to *The Insider*. Below, we list the titles and authors of books featured in the "What's on Your Nightstand?" columns of 2015.

- *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* by Katherine Boo
- *Brain on Fire* by Susannah Cahalan
- *Clara and Mr. Tiffany: A Novel* by Susan Vreeland
- *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Erik Larson
- *Dreams and Shadows: the Future of the Middle East* by Robin Wright
- *Nothing Like It in the World: The Men Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad, 1863-1869*, by Stephen E. Ambrose
- *Number: The Language of Science* by Tobias Dantzig
- *Remarkable Creatures* by Tracy Chevalier
- *Sargent's Daughters: A Biography of a Painting* by Erica E. Hirshler
- *Sunset Western Garden Book of Easy Care Planting: The Ultimate Guide to Low-Water Beds, Borders, and Containers* by the editors of Sunset Magazine
- *The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism* by Doris Kearns Goodwin
- *The Martian* by Andy Weir
- *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid
- *Rock the Casbah: Rage and Revolution Across the Islamic World* by Robin Wright
- *The Snow Queen* by Michael Cunningham
- *When I Found You* by Catherine Ryan Hyde





# One City, One Story

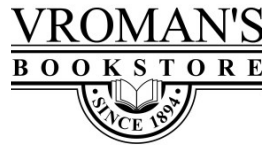
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As Kline noted in an NPR interview that year, Vivian—as a red-haired Catholic immigrant from Ireland—encountered prejudice in the 1920s for her looks, religion and birthplace. Molly, half-Native American, has issues in modern-day Maine.

The selection of *Orphan Train* was kept under wraps until November 18, when Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek announced the committee's decision. Four other books were finalists: *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah; *Euphoria* by Lily King; *Redeployment* by Phil Klay; and *A Tale for the Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki.

Once again, The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library is a proud sponsor of One City, One Story. In support, the Pasadena Public Library purchases 200 or more copies of the selected book, so look for a copy at any of the library's 10 locations. In coming weeks, please visit [www.onecityonestory.com](http://www.onecityonestory.com) to learn the full schedule of One City, One Story events.

## Use the Vroman's Give Back Program



Are you participating in the independent bookseller's "Gives Back" program? If so, please designate The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library as the charity that you wish to benefit. Vroman's Bookstore will then donate to our organization a portion of the proceeds from your in-store purchases over the course of a year. What a fitting way to support the Pasadena Public Library!

Not yet a member of the Vroman's "Gives Back" program? Enroll at a store register, or sign up online at [www.vromansbookstore.com](http://www.vromansbookstore.com). Make every purchase count!

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For questions regarding membership or our activities  
and projects, please contact The Friends through our  
voice mail at 626.744.4680 or email at [friendsppl@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsppl@yahoo.com)

### Central Library

**626.744.4066**

285 East Walnut Street  
Mon - Thurs 9:00 am - 9:00 pm  
Fri & Sat 9:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Sunday 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

### Allendale Branch

**626.744.7260**

1130 South Marengo  
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm  
Fri 2 - 6 pm

### Hastings Branch

**626.744.7262**

3325 E. Orange Grove Blvd.  
Mon - Thurs 10 am - 9 pm  
Fri & Sat 10 am - 6 pm  
Sun 1 - 5 pm

### Hill Avenue Branch

**626.744.7264**

55 South Hill Ave.  
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm  
Fri 9 am - 1 pm

### La Pintoresca Branch

**626.744.7268**

1355 North Raymond Ave.  
Mon - Sat 9 am - 6 pm

### Lamanda Park Branch

**626.744.7266**

140 South Altadena Dr.  
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm  
Fri 2 pm - 6 pm

### Linda Vista Branch

**626.744.7278**

1281 Bryant Street  
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm  
Fri 9 am - 1 pm

### San Rafael Branch

**626.744.7270**

1260 Nithsdale Road  
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm  
Fri 9 am - 1 pm

### Santa Catalina Branch

**626.744.7272**

999 E. Washington Blvd.  
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm  
Fri 2 - 6 pm

### Villa Parke Branch

**626.744.6510**

363 E. Villa Street  
Mon - Fri 10 am - 6 pm  
Sat 9 am - 1 pm

# La Pintoresca !

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With a silent auction, refreshments and a good turnout, “Fall-In for La Pintoresca” was great fun! The October event was organized by La Pintoresca Library Associates, the recently revived support group that is an affiliate of The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library.

Guests of honor included Terry Tornek, the mayor of Pasadena, and Tyron Hampton, the District One council member. Each spoke warmly of La Pintoresca and its enduring importance to the community, as did Smith, who spoke of her grandparents who once lived just a mile from the branch she now supervises.



photos by  
Molly Kennington



## Something Old, Something New

*At Santa Catalina Branch Library*



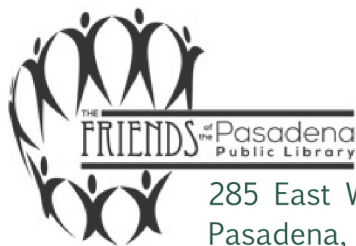
Santa Catalina's 2014 Book Tree

Inside and out, the 10 branches of the Pasadena Public Library are highly individualistic. The exterior designs are varied; so too are the collections, programs and traditions sparked by neighborhood interests and the talents of library staff.

Holidays are no exception; it's a Pasadena custom for each branch to select its winter decorations. Step inside Santa Catalina! In December, you'll find a giant fir-shaped tree constructed of sturdy books. The book tree—assembled from scratch each year—has become a tradition under the tutelage of Robin Reidy, the librarian who oversees both Santa Catalina and the Linda Vista branches. In anticipation, donated and discontinued hardbacks are collected throughout the year. Most prized: book spines colored green or red.

In the “something new” category: Santa Catalina is organizing a new book club in December. Opportunity knocks! You can help determine the whys, whens and wherefores of a new book club at the branch. Just attend an organizational meeting on Tuesday, December 15 at 4 p.m., or contact librarian Deborah Takahashi ([dtakahashi@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:dtakahashi@cityofpasadena.net)) for more information. The club will meet monthly on a Tuesday afternoon, but Takahashi says the precise hour, reading selections and organizational structure will be set by the early participants.





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The mission of The Friends is to support the library's programs, special services and cultural events. Priority is given to projects that instill the excitement of discovery and the love of reading in library patrons of all ages.

*The Friends'*  
Upcoming Book Sales  
Saturdays  
December 12, January 9  
& February 13

Central Library's East Patio  
9 a.m. to Noon

To donate books to The Friends' monthly sales to help raise funds for library programs, please deposit books in the Book Drop container on the loading dock next to Central Library's north entrance.

Donations may also be left inside at the Circulation Desk or in The Friends' book store during store hours (11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday).

Need help with your donation?  
Call us at 626.744.4680

All donations are tax-deductible. Request a receipt in The Friends' book store or at the Circulation Desk.

## JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE PASADENA PUBLIC LIBRARY

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