PLACITAS Community LIBRARY



NEWSLETTER JAN/FEB 2024





PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY HOURS
SUN: 1 - 4
TUES: 10 - 7
WED/THURS/SAT: 10 - 5

ADULT PROGRAMS

- JAN 27 (2 PM): A Reading and Conversation of "The Half-White Album" with Cynthia Sylvester and Hilda Raz
- FEB 10 (2 PM): "The Art of Staying Alive" with Shannon Farrell, Captain of Sandoval County Fire Department
- FEB 24 (2 PM): A Discussion of "New Mexico's Magnificent Sandia Mountain: The Complete Geological Story" with Dirk Van Hart

ART RECEPTIONS & EXHIBITS

- Through JAN 3: Exhibit: "Gourdeous Gourd Art" featuring works from the New Mexico Gourd Society
- JAN 14 (1-3 PM): Artists Reception: "Mary & Karl Hofmann A Retrospective" (exhibit will be displayed Jan 6-Feb 1)
- FEB 16 (5-7 PM): Artists Reception: "Gifts of Our Ancestors: Resilience in the Diaspora A
 Celebration of Black History Month" (exhibit will be displayed Feb 3-March 14)

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

- JAN 9 (10 AM): Pre-K Story Hour for infants children aged 5 (theme will be announced later)
- SUN, JAN 28 and SUN, FEB 4 (1 PM): "Create to the Music," a program for children aged 3-10 (families included) to increase understanding and enjoyment of participating in the arts.

 Children will create a piece of art inspired by the music they hear. There will be fun music, movement and dance, props, and rhythmic instruments.

RECURRING EVENTS

- Volunteer Coffee & Connect (2nd Sat of every other month at 9 AM): Meet our volunteers, enjoy coffee and snacks, and learn about all the different ways you could be part of the library (NOTE: next event is on Feb 10).
- Social Justice Discussion Group (3rd Tues of each month at 1 PM): Meet to discuss issues of social justice and how we can make a difference in the world today!
- La Parranda: Club de Español (Every Wed at 10 AM): Use and learn español with Diane Herrera Shepard and other guests. Open to anyone, especially beginners. No registration or regular attendance required!
- **Drumming Circle** (1st Sun of each month at 4 PM): Bring your own drum or use one of the many we have.
- Dungeons & Dragons Group: Email Anne Frost (annegrey3@gmail.com) for more information.





I would like to thank all our volunteers, library patrons, and community members for making 2023 another stellar year for PCL. More and more people are coming to the library for our amazing programs and the services we offer. It is a pleasure to be associated with such an incredible library.

Last year, Matthew McQueen, the State Representative for District 50 (our district), requested an appropriation of \$100,000 to be allocated to PCL to be used for "programming, equipment, and materials." We were awarded \$100,000 in grant monies to be administered through Sandoval County for fiscal year 2023/2024.

After several brainstorming sessions with the Board, Management Team, Library Director, and Library Administrator, we came up with three projects that will greatly benefit the library and fall under the parameters of how this money can be used. The three projects are: a new printer, a website redesign, and an additional solar installation.

Having a new, multifunctional printer/copier/fax, scanner will enhance our service to the community. The PCL website is the library's primary method of communicating our programs and events as well as being the vehicle for our online catalog. The expanded solar array will help offset the larger electricity use associated with the larger building.

These projects will begin very soon. We will keep everyone informed of the progress of these initiatives. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Representative McQueen for requesting this appropriation for PCL. This money will help us to become an even more integral part of our community.





For last year's words belong to last year's language
And next year's words await another voice.

And to make an end is to make a

BEGINNING.

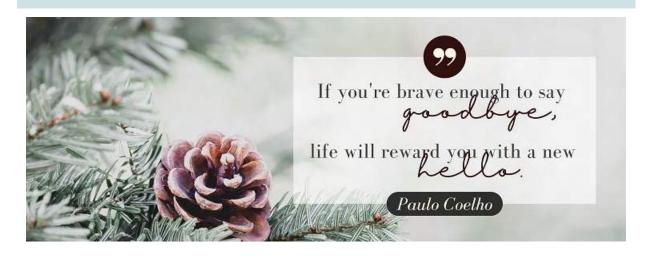
T.S. Eliot



Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM in the Gracie Lee Community Room. The public is invited and welcome to attend. Agendas are posted here and at the library.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS: THURS, JAN 18, 6:00 PM THURS, FEB 22, 6:00 PM

(NOTE: The Feb Board Meeting will be held the 4th Thurs of the month)







We are so pleased to announce some new items in the library for early 2024:

- New signs to identify the location of items in the library such as audiobooks, DVD's, new items, large print, etc.
- Large print books are all in one section in the library now. We will be adding new items to this collection throughout the year.
- Magazines: We are so excited to offer three magazines New Mexico Magazine, Albuquerque the Magazine, and Sunset. These magazines will be available for checkout for 5 days starting in February.
- Newspapers: The New York Times Sunday Paper and the Albuquerque Journal or Santa Fe New Mexican will be available for reading in the Ross's Reading Room.
- New furniture for the Ross's Reading Room and the Vulcan Cafe.
- Explora in Albuquerque, NM: iexplora! pass is available for checkout for 7 days for up to 4 people. Explora Science Center & Children's Museum offers over 250 interactive exhibits for the entire family in areas of science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

I will keep you posted as more new items are added in 2024!

Lynne

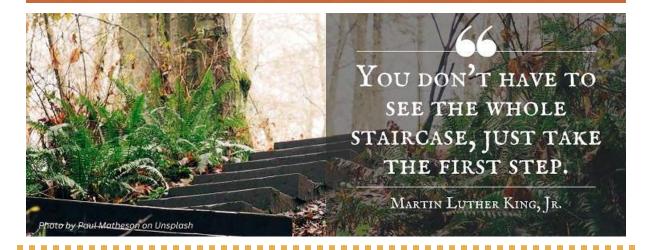
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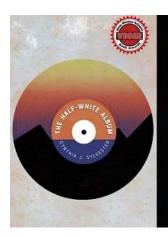


Meet to discuss issues of social justice and how we can make a difference in the world today!

Please contact Anne at annegrey3@gmail.com for more information

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1 PM in the Collin Meeting Room





THE HALF-WHITE ALBUM

A READING AND CONVERSATION WITH CYNTHIA J. SYLVESTER AND HILDA RAZ

JANUARY 27

2 PM

Join us on January 27 at 2 PM for a reading and conversation with Cynthia Sylvester and Hilda Raz. Cynthia will read from her award-winning debut book, *The Half-White Album*. The reading will be followed by a conversation with Hilda, author, poet, teacher, and editor, about the making of the book. *The Half-White Album* is a hybrid book composed of fiction—long form and flash—creative non-fiction, and poetry. The book is told through multiple characters, yet Sylvester weaves these pieces,



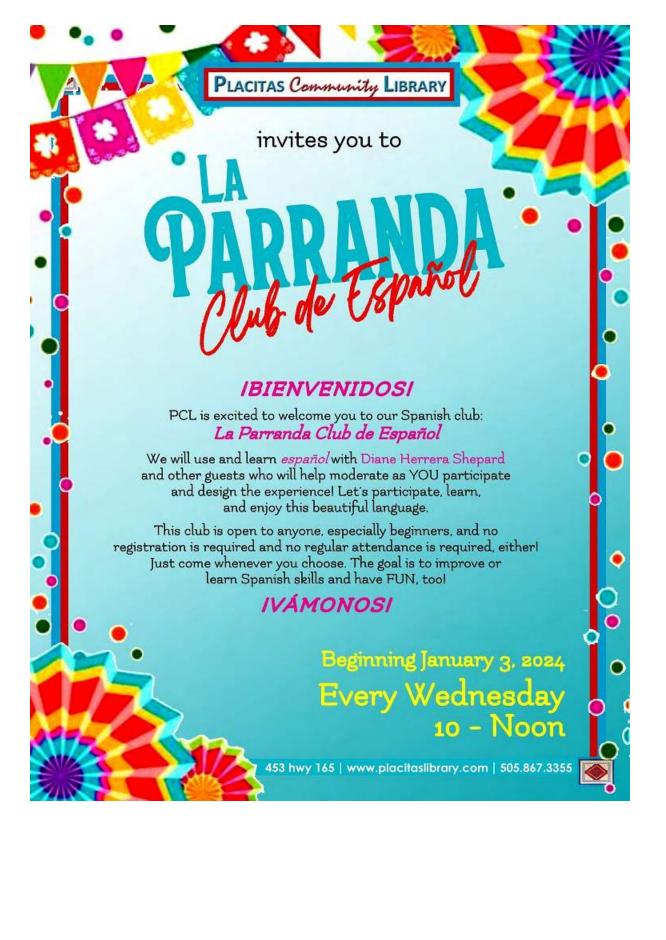
these fractured lives together to create one story. Join Cynthia and Hilda as they discuss the making of *The Half-White Album*, its threads, and the larger story the book suggests.

Cynthia Sylvester is born into the Kiyaa'áanii Clan for the Bilagáana Clan and is an enrolled member of the Diné. She is a native of Albuquerque, New Mexico. She is the host of Albuquerque DimeStories—3-minute stories written and read



by the author. Her debut book *The Half-White Album*, is published by the University of New Mexico Press as part of the Lynn and Lynda Miller Southwest Fiction Series. *The Half-White Album* is the winner of the best LGBTQ+ book in the 2023 New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards.

Hilda Raz has published and/or edited fourteen books, most recently Letter from a Place I've Never Been: New and Collected Poems. She has written memoir, What Becomes You, with Arron Raz Link, as well as poetry and literary criticism. She is co-publisher of Bosque Press and poetry editor of ABQinPrint and editor of the Mary Burritt Christiansen Poetry Series at UNMP. She lives in Placitas, NM.





Do you know what to do in a medical emergency? Do you know how to recognize the signs of a serious health problem? Do you know who to call for help?

If you answered no to any of these questions, you are not alone. Many people are unaware of the basics of medical emergencies and how to handle them. Join PCL's Adult Education Committee along with the Art Committee, as we welcome Shannon Farrell, who will present "The Art of Staying Alive" on February 10, 2024 from 2-4 PM. You will learn:

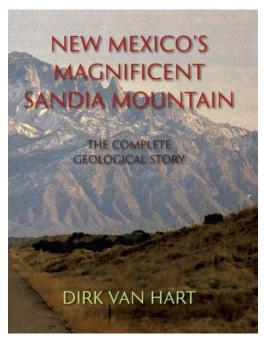
- Signs and symptoms of medical emergencies
- Best practices and procedures to follow in a medical emergency
- Resources and services available to you in a medical emergency
- How to prepare yourself and your loved ones for a medical emergency

This seminar is designed to provide you with practical and useful information that could save your or someone else's life. You will also have an opportunity to get your questions answered. We look forward to seeing you there.

Shannon Farrell is a Captain in the Sandoval County Fire Department. She is a paramedic and also manages the Public Health and Safety Program.







Dirk Van Hart, retired petroleum geologist and noted local author, returns to PCL at 2 PM on February 24 to discuss and sign copies of his new book, "New Mexico's Magnificent Sandia Mountain: The Complete Geological Story." Van Hart previously authored books about New Mexico's camps and campsites of the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression, and a historical and geological guidebook to "Old Forty-Four"—now Highway 550. All three of his books will be available while he discusses the unique aspects of the new book on Sandia Mountain.

Placitas is in an enviable location, with splendid mountain views and ready trail access for most residents. PCL is underlain by younger rocks of the mountain shoulder, and its water supply relies on the cumulative annual snowmelt. Indeed, Placitas is very much a part of the story that Van Hart will describe.

The magnificent Sandia Mountain forms an enormous rampart towering over the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Regionally, the feature's distinctive "whale back" profile utterly dominates the horizon within a huge area of central New Mexico. This book provides the complete geologic story of the mountain's origin—a story given within the context of the greater American Southwest.

The text is richly illustrated, producing a reader-friendly narrative understandable to the non-geologist. The mountain and its surroundings are the end-products of a long sequence of geologic events spanning a vast period of 1.7 billion years, but the uplift we call today's Sandia Mountain was formed quite recently. In this way it differs in origin from the Rocky Mountains, which are located nearby but are much older. Paradoxically, then, what we see today is a relatively new mountain made from very old rocks. Join us on February 24 at 2 PM to learn more!





You may remember that the PCL gardens were designated a USDA People's Garden late last year. We were recently featured on the USDA's Facebook page. Kudos to the Landscape Committee and all our volunteers involved! Check it out here.

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Surrounding the Placitas Community Library in New Mexico, a bounty of shrubs, wildflowers and water-hardy trees provide inspiration and contemplation—hallmarks of the reading life. The library garden serves as a space for residents to learn about soil and water conservation, wildlife habitat, and the value of native plants. An all-volunteer crew of Sandoval Extension Master Gardeners, patrons, and community members tend the garden, providing a community place to gather – ind... See more





If you miss this exhibit, you're out of your gourd!

"Gordeous Gourd Art," presented by the New Mexico Gourd Society in collaboration with the PCL Art Committee, offers an amazing assortment of hand-crafted objects made from this hard-shelled fruit. The exhibit includes more than one hundred decorative and functional



pieces including wall hangings, southwestern style spirit dolls, Christmas ornaments and decorations, bowls, vases, a teapot, lamps, desk accessories, and turtle and mermaid sculptures.

Ten artists from Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, Placitas, and Roswell, New Mexico have contributed the work on display. Each piece is a unique work of art. The exhibit will run through January 3.

Image: Jeannie Pinel, Native Maiden







A retrospective featuring works by longtime Placitas residents Mary and Karl Hofmann will begin PCL's 2024 exhibition series in the Gracie Lee Community Room. The couple is being celebrated for their collaborative efforts throughout the nearly fifty years they've lived and worked together in New Mexico producing ceramics and sculpture, paintings, pastels, and linocuts that speak both to their sense of place and personal history.

Karl Hofmann, who was born and grew up in Germany before immigrating to the United States in the midfifties, credits the aesthetic influence of 20th century Japanese potter Hamada when discussing his ceramic

work, and relies on memories, personal experience, folktales, legends, and the local landscape to

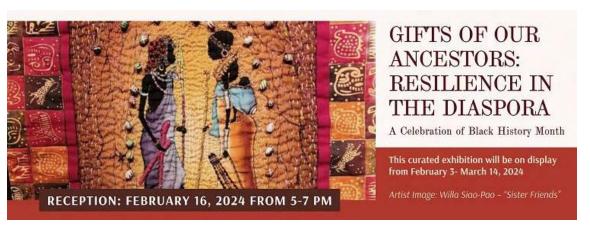
inspire his two-dimensional work. "I do not go out and look at things and try to paint," says Karl. "I think a camera can do a very good job with that."

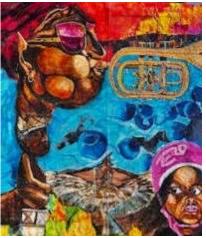
Mary Hofmann was initially drawn to the arts through painting, in particular Expressionism and the emotion it evoked. She and Karl met on a blind date 65 years ago when they were both studying art at Michigan State University. After Mary retired from her job at the MSU library, she functioned as business manager and studio assistant for Karl when he was teaching at Albuquerque's Sandia Prep, and over time the line blurred between her support of Karl's production and creation of her own handbuilt, functional clay works. Now, she is the potter and Karl, who can no longer throw pots, has been producing delightful linocuts and paintings. Her works are quiet and modest in scale while Karl's clay pots and sculptures are heftier and his linocuts brilliantly colored.



This exhibition continues through February 1 and is the third in a series of annual "legacy exhibitions" presented by the Library Art Committee to recognize resident Placitans who have contributed significantly to the community's vibrant arts scene over many years. The public is invited to a reception for the artists Sunday, January 14 from 1–3 PM.

Images: Karl and Mary Hofmann, Landscape by Karl Hofmann, Platter by Mary Hofmann





As displaced persons of the African Diaspora, upon birth we are inundated with tainted notions of other's perceptions of who we are, can be, will be, and won't be. Because we are born of Spirit-power, from a soul level we continuously, actively, no matter how arduous the journey, identify and embrace our true individual and collective selves. Art, all arts, are one of the primary ways we do this. "Gifts of Our Ancestors: Resilience in the Diaspora" represents the breadth of our diversity and connectedness no matter how many generations from home we are. We and others can see ourselves through interpretations, insights, and the ancestral legacies we carry.

This is an opportunity to share the joy, wisdom, brilliance, and

wholeness of us, by us. In honor of the African Diaspora, its history, legacy, people, and resources, the New Mexico African American Resilience Committee invited artists to share the gifts of their ancestors.

Specifically, artists were urged to be introspective in honoring direct and collective ancestral lineages, our diverse communities and experiences, and themselves through their art. They were asked to submit work that reflects the role ancestors play in their creativity, defiance, power, resilience, and success. Art is our gift from our ancestors, from wherever we come.

The theme is inspired by author and philosopher, James Baldwin, who said "History, as nearly no one seems to know, is not merely something to be read. And it does not refer merely, or even principally, to the past. On the contrary, the great force of history comes from the fact that we carry it within us, are unconsciously controlled by it in many ways, and history is literally present in all that we do. It could scarcely be otherwise, since it is to history that we owe our frames of reference, our identities, and our aspirations."

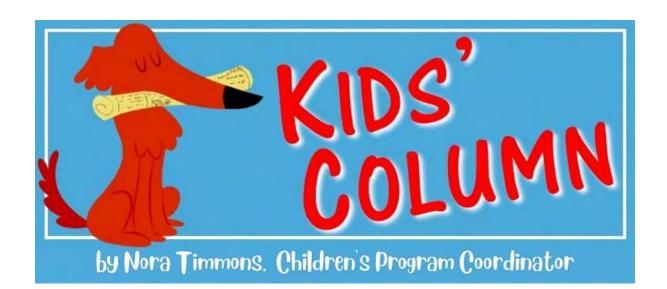
Further, Dr. Doris Fields urges, "When we know our past, we may understand our arrival at present; and when we understand our arrival at present, we may readily create our future."

The community will be introduced (or reintroduced) to African queens and philosophers, intercultural connectivity, and human interdependence that has proven critical to the very evolution of all of us Homo sapiens (this is not an error).

This curated exhibition is on display from February 3- March 14, 2024. The reception, which will feature Maurice Burns of Gerald Peters Gallery in Santa Fe and other renowned artists, including Zero Bey, Willa Siao-Pao, Karen Jones Meadows, and Raul Davis, will be held on Friday, February 16, 2024, from 5-7 PM. Soul food refreshments will be served. Please join us in this celebration of art from the African Diaspora.

Image: Zero Bey "I am Prometheus"





Pre-K Story Hour

JAN 9 (10 AM)

 Save the date! This program is designed for infants - children aged 5 (theme will be announced later at a later date).



Create to Music

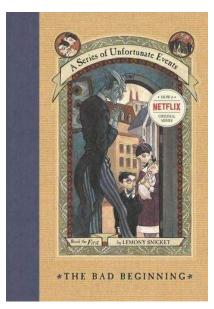
SUN, JAN 28 and SUN, FEB 4 (1 PM)

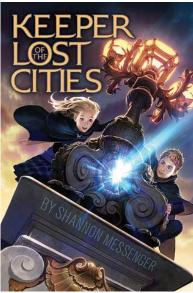
The PCL Children's Committee is beginning 2024 with another special event, once again courtesy of the Placitas Artists Series. "Create to the Music" will be presented by Genevieve Leitner, Guitar Teacher at Albuquerque Academy and Performing Artist for Guitar New Mexico, and Shelley Miller, Visual Artist Art Teacher.

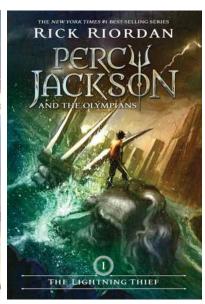
Children will create a piece of art inspired by the music they hear. There will be fun music, movement and dance, props, and rhythmic instruments. The overall intention of this program is to increase understanding and enjoyment of participating in the arts for children aged 3 to 10 (families included).

The program begins at promptly at 1 PM on Sunday, January 28, with a second session on Sunday, February 4, 2024, also at 1 PM. Children's artwork will be professionally displayed in PCL's Collin Meeting Room.









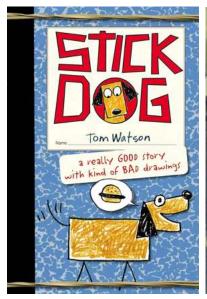
Chapter book series have become increasingly popular for children. Once the young reader has gotten hooked into a series, he/she can't wait for the next installment. What better way to nurture enthusiasm for reading! Familiarity with characters and plot structure also contribute to increased comprehension and fluency. And then there is the benefit of the social connection children make with others who are reading the same series—sharing opinions about characters or stories.

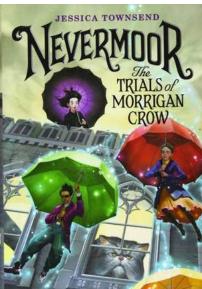
The children's collection at our library contains many chapter book series—popular series that have stood the test of time as well as new series that are fresh and getting attention. I have listed below a few of the series that can be found on the children's juvenile fiction shelves. Maybe one or two of these will be a new discovery for your child.

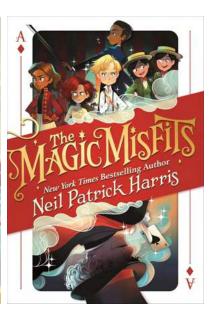
- A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket: The adventures and misfortunes of the three Baudelaire siblings. First published in 1999, the series consists of 13 volumes.
- Keeper of the Lost Cities by Shannon Messenger: Sophie, a 12-year-old girl who is telepathic, finds herself living in a new world. As she tries to learn about her own background, magical creatures, secrets, and conspiracies are intertwined in her adventure.
- *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* by Rick Riordan: Fantasy novels set in the 21st century in a world in which the Greek gods live. The chief character, Percy Jackson, is a young demigod.
- Stick Dog by Tom Watson: A light-hearted series where laughs and adventure abound. Sprinkled with stick figure drawings to entice the reluctant reader who will soon be asking for more!

- Nevermoor by Jessica Townsend: An 11-year-old girl finds herself rescued from a drastic fate to be left
 in a magical world called Nevermoor where she must prove herself through dangerous feats in order to
 be part of the Wundrous Society.
- Magic Misfits by Neil Patrick Harris: Runaway street magician, Carter, discovers magic and friendship as he attempts to escape a group of crooked carnival performers and save a quiet New England town. Fun magic tricks are scattered throughout! (Volumes #3 and 4 on order.)

The above are just a sampling of the chapter book series available in the children's collection. If there is an interest in a series which we do not have or additional volumes wanted for a series which we only partially have, please let us know.









Reading Recommendations

By Susanne Domínguez

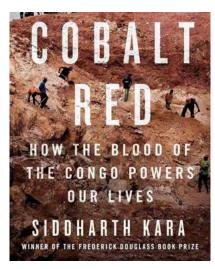


Available for e-Checkout!

The titles in Susanne's Selections have been added to our Online Catalog (which you can access with your library card).



Cobalt Red: How the Blood of the Congo Powers
Our Lives



by Siddharth Kara

"We work in our graves."

~ Josue, a Congolese artisanal worker

"Cobalt is an essential component to every lithium-ion rechargeable battery made today, the batteries that power our smartphones, tablets, laptops, and electric vehicles. Roughly 75 percent of the world's supply of cobalt is mined in the Congo, often by peasants and children in sub-human conditions."

This illuminating and meticulously researched book discusses the cobalt industry in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the workers who mine it. "Kara has traveled deep into cobalt territory to document the

testimonies of the people living, working, and dying for cobalt. To uncover the truth about brutal mining practices, Kara investigated militia-controlled mining areas, traced the supply chain of child-mined cobalt from toxic pit to consumer-facing tech giants, and gathered shocking testimonies of people who endure immense suffering and even die mining cobalt."

The millions of Congolese mine workers are called "artisanal miners," and are essentially slave labor forced to suffer horrifically and often die in tragic accidents such as cave-ins and tunnel collapses, which are common and kill dozens of workers in each incident. Tunnels are three feet wide and it's impossible to rescue workers, since they are crushed or buried alive. Workers often go barefoot or wear cheap flip flops, and possess no protective gear while extracting the cobalt with only hand tools, all at a minor cost to the Big Tech firms. The miners are paid a paltry \$1–2 daily, barely enough to survive. Incredibly, tens of thousands of children or more also work at the mines.

The author states, "across twenty-one years of research into slavery and child labor, I have never seen more extreme predation for profit than I witnessed at the bottom of global cobalt supply chains. The titanic companies that sell products containing Congolese cobalt are worth trillions, yet the people who dig their cobalt out of the ground eke out a base existence characterized by extreme poverty and immense suffering...It is a system of absolute exploitation for absolute profit."

Kara traveled to the Congo to document peoples' testimonies first hand. In this book, he exposes child labor abuse, slavery, and other terrible issues that you would never expect in the 21st century. As the author states, we are all complicit in this ghastly problem and need to find ways to alleviate the miners' suffering and find different methods to mine cobalt and/or find a substitute for it. We need to alert the world about this by sharing the book with others, for instance.

Kara, who considers himself an activist, is a professor of human trafficking and modern slavery at Nottingham University and a senior fellow at Harvard's School of Public Health.

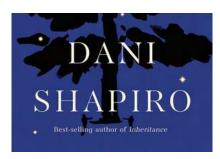
Signal Fires by Dani Shapiro

Signal Fires, Shapiro's first book written in 15 years, is absolutely stunning. If you are reading for only a plot or a desire for everything "spelled out," this may not be the novel for you. Dear readers, please use your critical thinking on this one. Numerous layers of meaning make this evocative novel an especially powerful contemplation on memories



and loss. It stayed with me for days.

On a summer evening in 1985, three teenagers who have been drinking heavily go joy riding. In a flash, their lives are forever changed by a tragic car accident. The secrets that ensue affect them, their friends, and their families for the rest of their lives. Shapiro crafted a poignant exploration of how traumatic experiences and secrets affect people both in the present and in the future. Gorgeous and lyrical prose, and a slow revealing of each character and their different points of views all create a profound read.





Deadly Harvest by Michael Stanley

The fourth mystery in the immersing Detective Kubu series includes unique traditional and current Botswana cultural themes. Young girls begin to mysteriously disappear, and Samantha Khama, the only woman detective on the Botswana police force, suspects that the use of "muti"—a traditional African medicine utilized by an unknown, mysterious witch doctor—is the cause.

David "Kubu" Bengu, an affable, dedicated sleuth and gourmand, is the primary protagonist in the series. He takes Samantha under his wings and helps her settle in as a brand-new detective on the force. I especially enjoy these novels because they incorporate the personal lives of the characters, illuminate African history and culture, and address pertinent social issues. In this book, both HIV and "muti," a form of African witchcraft are explored. Readers will appreciate this

engaging page turner, and hopefully continue on to read the entire series about Detective Kubu's intriguing adventures.

The Michael Stanley crime thrillers can all be read on a stand-alone basis but best to read the novels in order. Michael Stanley is the writing team of Michael Sears and Stanley Trollip. Both are retired professors who have worked in academia and business. Sears is a mathematician, specializing in geological remote sensing. Trollip is an educational psychologist, specializing in the application of computers to teaching and learning, and a pilot. They were both born in South Africa.

HOURS	FIND US AT
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Una Placita Para Todos

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