



Mariposa READ

(Read, Enjoy, And Discover)

Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 7:30 PM
Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 2:30 PM

All That is Essential (1)

To listen, tune in to KRYZ Radio or log onto www.kryzradio.org
For Transcripts:

- Go to the event on our Facebook Page: Mariposa Adult & Family Literacy
- Go to our website: www.mariposalibrary.org under the Adult Literacy tab, Mariposa READ
- Pick up a print copy from the Adult Literacy cart in front of the Mariposa Library, M-F, 9-4

All That is Essential

The California Library Literacy Services created a book titled, “All That is Essential” and has made the book available for California libraries and literacy programs. Participants in California literacy programs were asked to submit writings about the feelings and reflections that the authors have experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the COVID Diaries, authors were invited to share their experiences and emotions of hope, joy, and endurance during that time of tragedy and turmoil. The book is full of essays, poems, and six-word stories. The book is meant to inspire thoughts and conversations as well as encourage reading and writing, or even drawing. Each entry contains the name of the author and the library from which they submitted their writing. Let’s read some of them here together.

(Note that when anyone reads aloud, they do their best to pronounce the words that they see. Often names are pronounced very differently than the reader says aloud. I will do my best to read the names, but they may not be accurate. This is a challenge for any reader, and it is 100% okay. Also please note that our transcripts do not contain editing for grammar or punctuation but have adapted the way some of these read to fit them in this format.)

Anna Kwon from Newport Beach Public Library – Everything stopped. All of a sudden, the world was changed due to COVID-19. My husband works at home in the office online, and my children also take classes online. In the news, the world looks like a war, but our daily lives are peaceful.

Helene Chaban from Newport Beach Public Library – I definitely could use BIG HUGS.

An anonymous author from Newport Beach Public Library – Working from home my mental health has improved. I've improved my work/life balance. I don't feel the pressure of ambition as much from home as I did in the office, and I no longer have to be "on" with a smile on my face all the time. Additionally, COVID-19 has prompted me to reconsider my engagement with my community and the world at large, so I've spent significantly more time volunteering and being more thoughtful about my giving. After COVID, I hope for the world to take a step forward. For me, I want to stay true to my convictions. Sometimes I look around and it's hard not to give in to cynicism in my heart.

Chelsea Egli from Oceanside Public Library, Silin Huang from San Leandro Community Library, and Zhengzhi Miao from Pleasanton Public Library – A year of Social Distancing has changed the way I think about... gathering with friends and family, blowing out candles on a birthday cake, traveling and getting to know people, greeting strangers... changed teaching and working at the library, changed the way I think about going to church, my hair, and my privilege.

Anonymous from Carlsbad City Library – Family Enduring Deep Protecting Loving Forgiving A place to stay Disagreeing Learning Compromising Unconditional Intimate Bond

Group submission from a state-wide writer's workshop – The COVID pandemic has changed the way I greet people, do my shopping, appreciate the things I have and the people I know, exercise, work, and go to my doctor's appointments.

Nina Park from Sonoma County Library – Early this year my family had to make a big decision. My husband got a new job in San Diego, but my son did not want to move for his senior year. So we decided to live separately until my son's graduation next year. It was a challenge for my family because we've never been apart from each other for so long. We worried about this strange situation, encouraged each other, and tried to help other family members. After my husband left for San Diego, just two months later, COVID-19 affected all the world. His new company was shut down and he came back to us. We sometimes talk about this ironic situation that we are supposed to be apart, but we aren't now. It's a kind of gift from a horrible pandemic.

Teddy Edwards from Newport Beach Public Library – Birds sing, roads clear, silence everywhere.

Anthony S. from Livermore Public Library – Lots of takeout. More family time.

Susan Manzoor from Newport Beach Public Library – I know we are all going through a tough time locked in and anxious about the unknown future, but there is another positive way to look at this situation. As a very hyper and restless person, in the beginning when the pandemic happened, I was wondering what I would do every day locked down at home. How

would I explain to my non-verbal autistic son why he has to stay at home, why he is not having his program anymore, why he is not seeing his dad as usual some weekends, what quarantine means and a lot of more whys and whats. My son and I have a very special relationship. I am not only his mom, but his advocate, his cook, his nurse, his caregiver, and his interpreter. After some difficult days, I started to think about how I could turn this situation in a positive way! I started to think about how I can use this time to help my son to communicate more, to participate better, and be more active in everyday tasks. I feel this time is a pause for everyone to be still, to stop and reflect on life.

Soon Oh from Alameda County Library – I was a very busy career woman who was working at Samsung before COVID. I used to get so mad at other people's mistakes and judge other people on the basis of my situation. I never tried to put myself in other people's shoes. I couldn't get along with the colleagues, who in my opinion, put me at a great disadvantage. I used to get them wrong rather than understand why they should act like that. Sometimes, whenever I was busy, I was not even kind to the customers who I felt were annoying. But after the pandemic, I was alone and the time I needed to be alone was getting longer than I expected. I started to miss all the people I would meet with before COVID, even the colleagues I hated. And I realized all the people giving me hardship before must be the angels who had been training my personality and trimming my bad attitudes about life. I became able to embrace what the others made wrong, and to embrace the difference between me and other friends. Even more, I could take care of others who were lonely because I experienced how sad being alone is. I hope people who are very selfish, arrogant like me, become more careful and generous toward others and more humble. I hope we can look at ourselves and reflect in our minds and hearts deeply and think about how we have been wrong and what we need to correct in our lives.

From now on, I have decided not to think anymore about what is going to happen in the future, and just be thankful if I am okay today.