


Tulsa's guide to the Great American Eclipse 2017

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Ginnie Graham: Books can help heal community, national divides

By Ginnie Graham News Columnist Aug 17, 2017 0



Kimberly Johnson, CEO of Tulsa City-County Library

Courtesy, University of Tulsa



With the country growing in unrest and tension, Tulsa's chief librarian is pointing to books as the great equalizer.

Tulsa City-County Library Chief Executive Officer Kim Johnson said she was thinking of the resources available in public libraries for people to learn more about each other and how to navigate difficult times.

"I believe our solution to the world's problems are found in the library," Johnson said. "We are a neutral entity and a trusted entity. We know we have a responsibility to help facilitate the discussion."

The Tulsa system includes the [African-American Resource Center](#), [Hispanic Resource Center](#) and [Native American Resource Center](#). It also offers the databases for the "[African-American Experience](#)" and the "[American Indian Experience](#)," which both offer full-text resources for histories and cultures.

A [book list was compiled](#) by Johnson and research librarians for adults and children.

"Viral Hate" by Abraham Foxman: "Revealing how the anonymous nature of the Internet is enabling the unchecked spread of bigotry, bullying, and other hate-based vitriol, explores the working examples of social media companies while outlining recommended steps for establishing legal policies."

"The Soul of the First Amendment" by Floyd Abrams: "A lively and controversial overview by the nation's most celebrated First Amendment lawyer of the unique protections for freedom of speech in America... The right of Americans to voice their beliefs without government approval or oversight is protected under what may well be the most honored and least understood addendum to the US Constitution: the First Amendment. "

"The Harm in Hate Speech" by Jeremy Waldron: "Every liberal democracy has laws or codes against hate speech except the United States. For constitutionalists, regulation of hate speech violates the First Amendment and damages a free society. Against this absolutist view, Jeremy Waldron argues powerfully that hate speech should be regulated as part of our commitment to human dignity and to inclusion and respect for members of vulnerable minorities."

"Who We Are! All About Being the Same and Being Different" by Robie Harris. Children's book: "Join Nellie, Gus, baby Jake, and their parents at Funland as they go on rides, watch performers, and play games along with many other children and grown-ups. Helps children realize why it's important to treat others the way they want to be treated whether a person is a lot like you or different from you, a good friend or someone you have just met or seen for the first time."

"The Civility Solution: What to Do When People Are Rude" by Pier Massimo Forni: "Many of us find ourselves confronted with rudeness every day and don't know how to respond....In more than 100 different situations, he shows us how to break the rudeness cycle by responding to a variety of confrontations from bullying to rude internet behavior or the hurtful words of an insensitive family member."

"Choosing Civility: The Twenty-five Rules of Considerate Conduct" by Pier Massimo Forni: "Identifies the twenty-five rules that are most essential in connecting effectively and happily with others."

"Radical Hope, Letters of Love and Dissent in Dangerous Times." A collection of letters — to ancestors, to children five generations from now, to strangers in grocery lines, to any and all who feel weary and discouraged — written by award-winning novelists, poets, political thinkers, and activists.

"Whoever You Are, Quienquiera Que Seas" by Mem Fox. Children's book: "Despite the differences between people around the world, there are things in common, such as pain, joy, and love."

"Say This, Not That: A Foolproof Guide to Effective Interpersonal Communication" by Carl Alasko: "Presents readers with simple instructions for what to say. and what not to say. Accompanying each pair of statements is a brief discussion of what makes one so negative and

destructive, and the other inviting of the kind of discussion needed."

"Blessed Are the Organized: Grassroots Democracy in America" by Jeffrey Stout: "Vivid stories of people fighting entrenched economic and political interests around the country. From parents and teachers striving to overcome gang violence in South Central Los Angeles, to a Latino priest north of the Rio Grande who brings his parish into a citizens' organization, to the New Orleans residents who get out the vote by taking a jazz band through streets devastated by Hurricane Katrina."

"Diversity Consciousness: Opening Our Minds to People, Cultures, and Opportunities" by Richard D. Bucher: "This empowering study on human diversity helps readers develop the ability to understand, respect, and value diversity and demonstrates how opening one's mind to the views of other peoples and cultures is central for a quality education and successful career. Complete with self-reflective journal questions, case studies, and interactive exercises."



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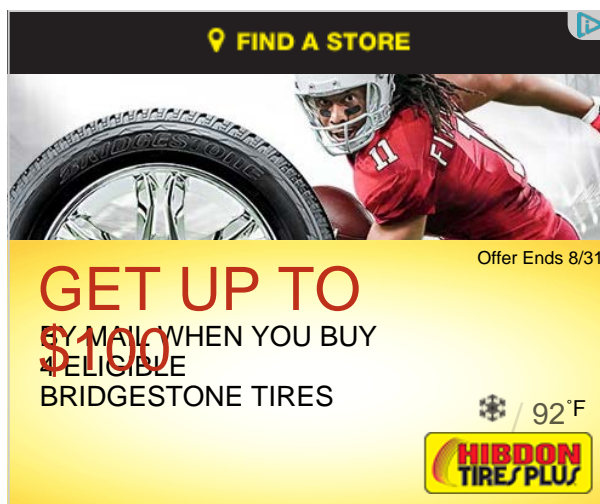
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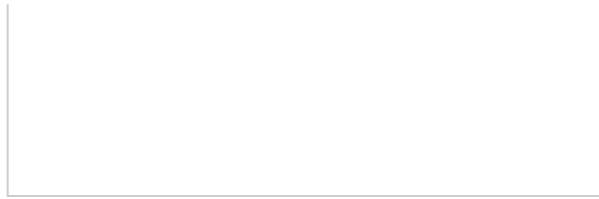
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