

The Bandera PROPHECY

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Book some time with the Bandera Library

By Mauri Guillén Fagan
Bandera Library Director

The library is a special place unlike any other in our society. It is a space for any and all to meet, have access to information, education and entertainment. The library's mission is to provide an array of programs, services and resources to the community that stimulate creativity, intellectual curiosity and facilitate a lifetime of learning.

That mission can only be met if we maintain a space in which racism, prejudices or hate of any kind is strictly prohibited. Children cannot create if they are scared. Teens cannot develop an intellectual curiosity if they are on high alert. Adults cannot lead a life of learning if they feel targeted.

This moment in our country's history feels like the tectonic plates beneath us are shifting. But do not be afraid. There is great power in taking stock of who we are as people and as a community and who we want to be. The library is the very place where people can go to seek help in understanding. We are dedicated to providing any resource needed that will help our patrons navigate this moment. If you have questions about the history of racism in our country, if you have questions about how to discuss race politics, if you want to know more about the contributions Black Americans have made, rest assured we have what you need.

Friday, June 19, marks the 155th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. On our featured wall we have books and information about the holiday for all ages. This includes the recently released autobiography by Francoise Clemmons called "Officer Clemmons: A Memoir". Most of us remember Officer Clemmons as the friendly police

officer from PBS' Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood. Officer Clemmons was the character Mr. Rogers interacted with to help children learn about the men and women who serve the community. In addition to this very important, groundbreaking role, Francoise Clemmons is also a Grammy-award winning Gospel musician. He founded the Harlem Spiritual Ensemble and up until his recent retirement, was the director of the Martin Luther King Spiritual Choir at Middlebury College.

Don't forget to call the library to register your kids and grandkids for the Summer Reading Program which begins on June 22. Grab-and-go bags with books, activities, crafts and more will be available on the Monday of each week for pick up.

Appointments are now available Monday to Friday from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 - 4 p.m. to use the public access computers, check out books, or get any copying and faxing you need done. The library is here for our community.

Happy tales, y'all.