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This is an extraordinarily turbulent time. The current strife is difficult for all of us. The pandemic has been a direct threat to our well-being. The economic catastrophe coming on its heels made things considerably worse. Now, the horrifying murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis and other acts of bigotry, violence, and hostility are weighing heavily on us.

The current events bring to mind these ominous lines from William Butler Yeats:

*Turning and turning in the widening gyre*

*The falcon cannot hear the falconer;*

*Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;*

*Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,*

*The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere*

*The ceremony of innocence is drowned;*

*The best lack all conviction, while the worst*

*Are full of passionate intensity.\**

The public library is far from perfect and, yet, its mission is vital more than ever. The library starts from a place of inclusiveness and equity. We welcome everyone in offering free and open access to resources and tools in support of lifelong learning, literacy, and information. Our professional culture respects diversity and seeks to maintain an environment for safe and productive conversations. These public library principles have never been more important than now to combat ignorance, hate, and racism.

We wish you peace, health, and prosperity,

Doreen Martinez  
President, Board of Trustees

Jon Walker  
Executive Director  
Pueblo City-County Library District