

JUNE 2025



THE BOOK REPORT

FRIENDS OF THE LAKEWOOD LIBRARIES NEWSLETTER

Lakewood Library Locations

Angelo Iacoboni Library
4990 Clark Ave.
Lakewood CA 90712
562-866-1777

George Nye, Jr. Library
6600 Del Amo Blvd.
Lakewood CA 90713
562-421-8497

Join our community!
Celebrate and Volunteer!
LakewoodLibraryFriends.org



In This Issue

President's Corner
Page 1

Membership Renewals
Page 2

Congratulations, Dr. Rafi!
Page 2

FoLL 2025 Scholarship Recipients
Page 2


Volunteer Spotlight
Page 2

Iacoboni Book Club
Page 2

Library Events
Page 3

Webmaster's Corner
Page 4

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Happy Spring/Summer to all our Friends! I hope you're all reading an intriguing book. Whatever genre you prefer, I hope you stop in our bookstore and find what you're looking for.

Our Spring Book Sale in April was a BIG success! Thank you to all our members, friends, neighbors, families and even protestors who joined in the shopping of various merchandise for sale. Our next Book Sale is scheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2025.

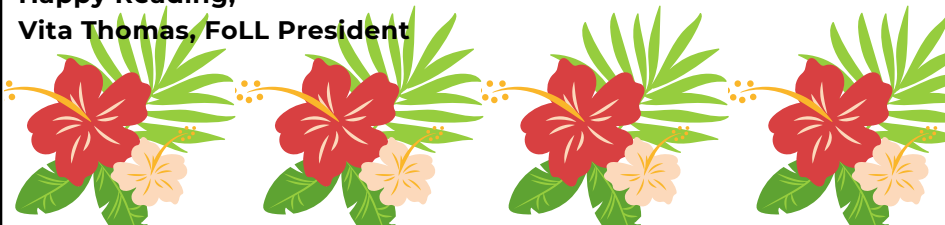
We will be participating in Angelo M. Iacoboni Library's Juneteeth event on Friday, June 20, 2025. There will be a variety of Cookbooks, Sci-Fi and Children's books for sale, as well as many other surprises. Please bring your own bags and remember we accept cash only.

Congratulations are extended to our FoLL Board member, Dr. Ahmed Rafi on his educational achievement (PhD in Public Affairs). Please see his story on page 2.

Congratulations to our 2025 FoLL Scholarship recipients. Please see them on page 2.

We are successful thanks to your generous support and numerous donations. Thank you for your interest in our organization. Please visit our website: lakewoodlibrariesfriends.org for further information. We hope to see you very soon and wish you a safe and fantastic summer.

Happy Reading,
Vita Thomas, FoLL President



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Dear Friends,

The Friends of the Lakewood Libraries (FOLL) is thankful for your help in our effort to enhance programs, services and materials at our local Lakewood libraries.

Enclosed you will find a membership renewal envelope. Please take the time to complete and return it to us by mail, in person at the book sale, or drop it off at the FOLL bookstore inside the Iacoboni Library.

We truly appreciate your membership and we look forward to seeing you during the Fall Book Sale September 27th and for members only September 26th.

Sincerely,
Diane Wamba
Membership Coordinator

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FOLL 2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Cozette Lessor, Valencia HS
Clay Green, Cerritos Junior College
Rheanna Lariago, Lakewood HS
Roan Gutierrez, St. John Bosco HS
Julie Reza, Lakewood HS
Roque Gutierrez, Long Beach City College

IACOBONI BOOK CLUB

Join the Iacoboni Book Club! This month we'll be discussing "Travels With Charley" by John Steinbeck. Copies of the book will be available at the customer service desk. This program is for adults.

Iacoboni Book Club

"What You Are Looking For Is In The Library"
Tuesday, April 29, 2025, 6 - 7 pm
Wednesday, April 30, 2025, 3 - 4 pm
For Ages 18 and up

"The Plot"
Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 6 - 7 pm
Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 3 - 4 pm
For Ages 18 and up

"Travels With Charley"
Tuesday, June 24, 2025, 6 - 7 pm
Wednesday, June 25, 2025, 3 - 4 pm
For Ages 18 and up

IACOBONI LIBRARY
4800 Clark Ave
Lakewood, CA 90712
562.264.1777
info@iacobonilibrary.org

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. RAFI!

Congratulations to Ahmed Rafi (known as Rafi), our FoLL Board Member, on attaining a PhD in Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Dallas in May 2025.

Rafi and his family have been Lakewood residents since 1986. Their children, Muhammad and Sarah, attend Craig William Elementary and Mayfair High Schools in Lakewood.

Rafi is passionate about teaching and learning, and loves volunteering, civic engagement, and community service. He has also volunteered at the local polling stations as a clerk for Los Angeles County in almost every election since 1990. He has been an active neighborhood watch captain since 1986 and was awarded the Neighborhood Watch Captain of the Year in 2016. During the pandemic in 2020, he embarked on his PhD journey at the University of Texas at Dallas with enormous support and encouragement from his beloved wife Nancy (RIP), who was also an active FoLL Board member, until she passed away in July 2022.

Rafi loves public service, and he retired as an exemplary civilian from the United States Air Force. He believes teaching and learning are a lifelong process a lifelong. He wants to motivate the next generation to join public service, as it's one way to serve the country.

Rafi extends his immense gratitude for the support he received from the network of the family, friends, community, University (UTD) faculty and staff, cohorts, the City of Lakewood (Leadership, staff, volunteers, and non-profit organizations), and former colleagues and superiors of the USAF. Rafi said "I could have never done it alone. I am enormously thankful for all support I had during my PhD Journey".

With his PhD, Rafi plans to join the faculty at a higher education institution, satisfying his passion for public affairs and civic engagement, serving the community, teaching, and lifelong learning. He plans to continue volunteering with Friends of the Lakewood Libraries and being a member of the Measure L Citizens Oversight Committee for the City of Lakewood.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



How wonderful it is to be a member of a group of book lovers! So all of you will understand my joy in donating children's books to the Little Free Library at the El Dorado Nature Center, where I have volunteered as a Trail Steward for over 20 years. I majored in Biology in college; I tend to look for nature and science books that kids can take home

as a way to stay connected to their visit to the Center. However, I take any book that I find enjoyable to read, as I believe that a love of reading starts with having fun! As such, diverse families and people visit the center, and I also look for Spanish-language kids' books that represent all groups. I have to thank Gwen for coaching me on what to look for in appealing preschool books. I could use a mentor for preteen/teen books, as I am out of touch with their preferences. I consider myself fortunate to grow up on the very outskirts of New York City, where there were forests, hills, and streams to play in. No Lyme disease back then! My friends and I played outside all year. I always tended to go for outdoor jobs, especially with my love of horses. You become very weather-aware when working outdoors, especially outside of California. I love the Nature Center because it's a tiny bit of wildness to share, just as I experienced as a child. Everyone is enthused to see turtles, birds, lizards, and squirrels. - Shelley Scott, FOLL Volunteer.

LIBRARY EVENTS



Angelo M. Iacoboni
Library

4990 Clark Ave
Lakewood
562.866.1777

@lacoboniLibrary

LIBRARY HOURS:

Mon	Closed
Tue - Wed	12 - 8 pm
Thu - Sat	10 am - 6 pm
Sun	Closed

HOLIDAY CLOSURE:

Thu, June 19



featured event...



LGBTQ Pride Month:
Keith Haring's Art
Fri, June 13, 4-5 pm



Attendance may be limited, and advance registration may be required as indicated below. To sign up, see library staff, or register online at [LACountyLibrary.org/Events](https://www.lacountylibrary.org/events) and filter by location or event date.

For Early Learners

These programs are part of **Smart Start at the Library**, LA County Library's collection of programs and services for early learners ages 0-5 and their caregivers.

Smarty Pants Storytime

Wednesdays, June 4 & 25, 12-12:30 pm

Let's get ready for school! Enjoy books, songs, rhymes, and movement while learning school readiness skills and having fun. Please check-in at the Rose Garden on the east side of the library near the parking lot. **Registration required. For ages 3-5.**

Baby Band Practice

Saturday, June 21 & Thursday, June 26, 10-10:30 am

Music helps your baby's brain make more learning connections, build fine and gross motor skills, and teach social skills. Celebrate LGBTQ Pride month by listening to your favorite musicians! Come play with us! Please check-in at the Rose Garden on the east side of the library near the parking lot. **Registration required. For ages 0-2 years and their caregivers.**

For Children

Celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride Month: Learn About Keith Haring's Art

Friday, June 13, 4-5 pm

Join us for a group read aloud of Matthew Burgess' picture book *Drawing on Walls: A Story of Keith Haring* and learn about the artist's fun and colorful life. Then paint your own Keith Haring inspired pencil bag to take home with you. **Registration required. For readers ages 6-12.**

Celebrate Juneteenth: Storywalk® & Sidewalk Chalk

Friday, June 20, 3:30-4:30 pm

Release your inner artist and draw what freedom means to you or create your own family tree on our sidewalk mural. Then take a walk and read our featured book *The Night Before Freedom: A Juneteenth Story* by Glenda Arman. **For all ages.**

Make Your Mark: Introduction to Printmaking - Animal Prints

Friday, June 27, 3:30-4:30 pm

Learn about the exciting and messy art of printmaking and make your own reproducible print of your favorite animal with paint. **Registration required. For ages 6-12.**

[LACountyLibrary.org](https://www.lacountylibrary.org) For ADA accommodations, call Monday - Thursday, 562.940.8462 (voice) or 562.940.8477 (TT)

SUMMER Discovery PROGRAM

Learn more about these and other events at [Visit.LACountyLibrary.org/Events](https://www.lacountylibrary.org/events). Registration may be required for some events, noted below.



Cross Stitching for Teens

Thursday, June 5, 2025, 4-5 pm

Learn the basics of cross stitch and create your own summer inspired work of art! All supplies and patterns are provided. Program will take place in YA area. **For ages 12-18. Registration required.**



Watercolor Painting: Georgia O'Keefe

Thursday, June 12, 2025, 4-5 pm

Learn the basics of watercolor painting through Georgia O'Keefe's distinct style and create unique floral artworks! **For ages 12-18. Registration required.**



Teen Advisory Board and Crafternoon

Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 4-5 pm

Join the Teen Advisory Board this month for an opportunity to voice your opinion and enjoy an afternoon of crafting with your friends! We'll provide all art materials! **For ages 12-18. Registration required.**



Summer Solstice Flower Crowns

Wednesday, June 25, 2025, 4-5 pm

Happy Summer Solstice! The longest day of the year is on June 20th and we're celebrating. Join us in the YA area to learn about the symbolism of summer solstice flower crowns in Sweden and then make your very own. **For ages 12-18. This program is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Lakewood Libraries. Registration required.**

Join our free game for all ages! Earn badges and prizes as you log reading & activities. Visit [LACountyLibrary.org/Summer-Discovery](https://www.lacountylibrary.org/Summer-Discovery) to learn more and sign up!

[LACOUNTYLIBRARY.ORG](https://www.lacountylibrary.org)



Angelo M. Iacoboni Library

4990 Clark Ave

Lakewood

562.866.1777

@lacoboniLibrary

[@LACountyLibrary](https://www.lacountylibrary.org)

For ADA accommodations, call Monday - Thursday, 562.940.8462 (voice) or 562.940.8477 (TTY).



George Nye, Jr. Library

6600 Del Amo Blvd
Lakewood
562.421.8497

LIBRARY HOURS:

Mon	10 am - 6 pm
Tue - Wed	12 - 8 pm
Thu - Fri	10 am - 6 pm
Sat & Sun	Closed

HOLIDAY CLOSURE:

Thursday, June 19

featured event...



Bubbleman!
Wed, June 18, 4:30-5:30 pm



For Children

Smarty Pants Storytime*

Fridays, May 30 - June 27, 10:15-10:45 am

Let's get ready for school! Enjoy books, songs, rhymes, and movement while learning school readiness skills and having fun. **For ages 2-5 with their parent or caregiver.**

Attendance is limited and advance registration is required. Please register every member of your group. To sign up, register online at [Visit.LACountyLibrary.org/Events](https://www.lacountylibrary.org/events) and filter by location or event date.

Stick Structures

Wednesday, June 4, 4:30-5:30 pm

Learn about some of the rulebreakers in architecture and put your own structural engineering skills to the test by building a stick structure! **For ages 5-12 with adult caregiver.**

Bubbles Galore!

Wednesday, June 18, 4:30-5:30 pm

Learn about reflection and refraction in this interactive program with Bubbleman! Observe bubbles of different shapes and sizes, pop bouncing bubbles, and get the chance to be inside a giant bubble. **For ages 5-12 with their families.**

Program generously sponsored by the Friends of the Lakewood Libraries.

Play & Explore!*

Tuesday, June 24, 5-6 pm

Join us for a session of play, curiosity, and creativity! Help children learn problem solving skills through pretend play and enjoy a unique family bonding experience. **For kids ages 0-36 months and caregivers.**

Please join us after Play & Explore! for an opportunity to chat with a Family Community Specialist from the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

*These programs are part of **Smart Start at the Library**, LA County Library's collection of programs and services for early learners ages 0-5 and their caregivers.

For Teens

Anime Your Way

Thursday, June 12, 4-5 pm

Are you a fan of graphic novels, manga, or anime? Join us with our guest artist, former Simpsons and King of the Hill illustrator Carlos Nieto III, who leads a workshop on how to design and draw your own cartoon characters! **For teens ages 13-18.**

Program generously sponsored by the Friends of the Lakewood Libraries.

[LACountyLibrary.org](https://www.lacountylibrary.org) For ADA accommodations, call Monday - Thursday, 562.940.8462 (voice) or 562.940.8477 (TT)

For Teens (continued)

Watercolor Painting: Georgia O'Keefe

Thursday, June 26, 4-5 pm

Georgia O'Keefe is known for her vibrant paintings of flowers. Join us as we take inspiration from this great artist and create our own floral paintings. **For teens ages 13-18.**

For Adults

Journaling

Tuesday, June 10, 4:30-5:30 pm

Dive into the world of journaling to boost your mindfulness, memory, and communication skills. Learn where to begin to make it a habit and practice with writing exercises. **For adults.**

All materials will be provided.

For Adults

For Everyone

Don't forget to sign up for our Summer Discovery Program!

Join our free game for all ages! Earn badges and prizes as you log reading & activities. Visit [LACountyLibrary.org/Summer-Discovery](https://www.lacountylibrary.org/Summer-Discovery) to learn more and sign up!

[LACountyLibrary.org](https://www.lacountylibrary.org) For ADA accommodations, call Monday - Thursday, 562.940.8462 (voice) or 562.940.8477 (TTY).

WEBMASTER'S CORNER

To help everyone plan ahead and stay in the loop, we've updated our website with current dates for all your favorite upcoming library events! Be sure to check in regularly so you don't miss out on our popular seasonal book sales, the annual library meeting, the always exciting youth bookmark contest, and our spooky youth scary story submissions just in time for Halloween. Whether you're a longtime supporter or a new visitor, we want to make it easy to stay engaged and be part of the fun. Mark your calendars and visit our site today!

WWW.LAKEWOODLIBRARYFRIENDS.ORG

OR USE THE QR CODE:



Current Resident or

4990 Clark Ave.
Lakewood, CA 90712



Friends of the
Lakewood
Libraries

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Long Beach
Permit 60180