



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



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FOLL PRESIDENT'S CORNER

"Cool hellos" to everyone from the Friends of the Lakewood Libraries! Hoping that you are all staying cool during these very hot days. Angelo Iacoboni Library has been designated as a "Cooling Center." The library doors are open, however, the library hours of operation remain the same. Please call the library (562) 866-1777 for further details.

Meet our two Community Library Managers on page 2. They are both creative, knowledgeable and very informative about our library book clubs, programs, and events.

Our Fall Book Sale is fast approaching and is scheduled for **Saturday, September 26, 2026**. FoLL is partnering with Public Safety for its Public Safety Expo on the same day. Due to popular demand, the Readers' Corner is back with many more merchandise. Please see the Fall Book Sale flyer on page 4 for further details.

We are excited to host our first **Quartermania Extravaganza** scheduled for **Saturday, October 3, 2026**. There are over 50 beautifully packed baskets, prizes and giveaways waiting just for you! **Don't be left out. Buy your tickets now!** Please see the Quartermania flyer on page 5 for more details.

We thank you for your continued support and interest in our organization. We are grateful for all your donations so that the Library bookstore is well stocked with a variety of merchandise and FoLL continues to have its "always anticipated" Book Sales twice a year. Please visit our website: www.lakewoodlibrariesfriends.org for further information on becoming a FoLL volunteer and/or a member.

*Looking forward to seeing you soon.
Vita Thomas, FoLL President*



BEYOND THE BOOKSHELVES: MEET OUR LAKEWOOD LIBRARIANS



My name is **Sarah Comfort**, and it has been my absolute pleasure to be the Community Library Manager at Iacoboni since 2009. I'm a Southern California native and I grew up not too far from Lakewood in the city of Downey. I'm married, have one college-aged son, and four cats!

I started my library career after graduating high school as a Library Page and then a Library Associate at the Brakensiek Library in Bellflower. I have always loved reading and libraries but even working part time at the library I never thought I would make it my career. I went to college to be a teacher, but when I graduated, I wasn't sure that was the right choice for me. Fortunately, one of the librarians at Bellflower encouraged me to get my master's degree to be a librarian and it was the best advice because I love my job and wouldn't want to do anything else!

I've had so many wonderful opportunities working for LA County Library - I was a Children's Librarian at both the Brakensiek and Carson libraries, and I've been the CLM at the Alondra Library, the Brakensiek Library, and finally here at Iacoboni. Every day I come to work and have the opportunity to help someone, whether by finding a book, printing out a form, or showing someone how to use the library's resources and it's such a privilege.

When I'm not being a librarian, I love reading (no surprise) and spending time with my family.



My name is **Denise Zepeda** and I have been the Community Library Manager at George Nye, Jr. Library for 2 years. I do programming for all ages, but storytime has my heart! I grew up in Norwalk, and I have worked in public libraries for over 18 years. I started as a Library Page at Lynwood Library while attending St. Joseph High School here in Lakewood. Next, I was Library Associate at Norwalk Library while attending CSULB for my Bachelor's in Chican@/Latin@ Studies and Women's Studies. After that I became a Library Assistant at our headquarters, and I attended SJSU for my master's in library science. In 2019, I became a floater librarian and filled in where I was needed. In 2024, I was promoted to Community Library Manager at George Nye, Jr. Library where I am learning so much as a new manager.

I like to read horror fiction year-round, and some of my favorite authors right now are Stephen Graham Jones, Tananarive Due, Silvia Moreno-Garcia. On the weekends, I am usually away on some adventure, drinking an iced coffee, or taking a nap. I enjoy traveling near and far with my partner.

I hope to positively impact the community of Lakewood with my enthusiasm for libraries and reading. My goal is to not only facilitate but to provide warm guidance to anyone who walks through our doors. I want people to think of the library as an inviting space where they can use the internet, print something, make a craft or to simply connect with the community. I believe that libraries are for everyone, and I work hard to keep the library a welcoming and safe space for all.

***Thank you, Sarah and Denise, for making our Lakewood Libraries
a wonderful and welcoming place for knowledge, programs, and stories.***

VOLUNTEER VOICES

Finding Calm One Fold at a Time **by Fatima Castaneda-Gutierrez**

As I carefully fold each piece of paper, my attention shifts away from worries, stress, and a racing mind. Crease, open, fold. Crease, open, fold. The repetitive motions require just enough concentration to keep my mind engaged as my fingers on the paper ground me to the present. Anxious thoughts fade into the background as I find the crane in the paper and myself calmer.

There is something deeply satisfying about transforming a flat square of paper into a delicate crane. Knowing that this Japanese art is ancient and has been practiced over the years is reassuring. The process cannot be rushed and requires patience and acceptance when a fold is not perfect.

Folding cranes encourages slow, deliberate breathing, steady hand movements and serves as a reminder that beauty can emerge from all places. What I appreciate most is the simplicity of the practice. All I need is a piece of paper and a few minutes.

Contributing to the library's goal of folding 1,000 paper cranes has been for me a peaceful escape from overwhelming stress and a meaningful opportunity to reconnect with the present moment and to live in gratitude.

(Note: The author folded over 50 paper cranes over several days while visiting her father-in-law in the hospital.)



FOLL WEBMASTER'S CORNER

Hi All,

It took some time before my interest was stirred by the statue on the wall of the entryway to Angelo M. Iacoboni Library. It is a nice thing to have been built and installed over the structure in 1972. Many people coming into the library have more urgent things in mind, so instead of words of exclaim or questions about the artwork, a typical query is "do you know the code to the bathroom?" These customers are missing a moment to appreciate art in a public place.

If you want to find out more information regarding this artwork and the artist, browse our FoLL website home page and find a link in the section about visiting our friendly Lakewood libraries.

Also, for your information, there is no cypher lock code to the bathroom - you must alert the librarian holding the remote control to "click" the lock open.

See you in cyberspace,
Dan Wamba



FRIENDS OF THE LAKEWOOD
LIBRARIES (FOLL)
www.lakewoodlibraryfriends.org

Fall Book Sale

Memberships

Memberships are available
at the door for Friday shopping!
Membership dues are 100% tax deductible.

Presale Event - Members Only

Friday, September 25, 2026

10am - 4pm

*All disabled customers will be
admitted to the presale event.*

General Public

Saturday, September 26, 2026

9am - 2pm

Angelo M. Iacoboni Library
4990 Clark Avenue
Lakewood, CA 90712
(562)866-1777

CASH ONLY

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BAGS



Created by P. Proch



L.A. COUNTY
FRAUD HOTLINE
800-544-6861
24/7



QUARTER^{25¢} MANIA! EXTRAVAGANZA



Sat, Oct 3, 2026
11:00am – 2:00pm

Lakewood Youth Center
4658 Woodruff Avenue
Lakewood, CA 90713

11:00: Registration, view prizes, lunch
12:00: Game starts



Tickets: \$26.00
(\$25.00 ticket price + \$1.00 service charge)

Ticket Price includes:

- Light Lunch
- 1 Bidder Paddle (*you may purchase more at event*)
- 1 Grand Prize Drawing Ticket
- 1 Quarter (to start the game off)
- A little special gift from FoLL

Tickets will be available for cash purchase
at our Library Book Store, beginning July 1, 2026.

What is Quartermania?

Quartermania is a cross between an auction and a raffle,
where people "bid" anywhere from \$0.25 to \$1.00 on the item they want to win.

So, bring your quarters and join the fun!
(Quarters may also be purchased at the event!)

SCAN TO PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE



Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to enhance the current activities, programs,
services and materials of our two Lakewood Libraries.

To stay current on the latest FoLL
news and communications,
check out our website:

www.lakewoodlibraryfriends.org/

or use the QR code below:



Current Resident or

4990 Clark Ave.
Lakewood, CA 90712



Friends of the
Lakewood
Libraries

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Permit 60180