



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

What an exciting time it was at the Angelo M. Iacoboni and George Nye, Jr. Libraries with the rollout of the Hello Kitty® Library Cards. Please read more on page 4.

Our Nominating Committee has named FoLL's Slate of Officers. Please see page 2 to find out who they are.

Please keep your FoLL Membership up to date and send in your dues in the attached envelope.

Another successful Book Sale for FoLL's record books! Our dedicated customers lined up at 8:30 AM to find that perfect book or books to read. Our Children's books were once again a BIG hit. The Readers' Corner kept our volunteers busy. There were plenty of handmade gift items, more Blind Date Books on sale, and many other paraphernalia that an avid reader might need. Please read the article on page 5.

FoLL's inaugural **Quartermania Extravaganza** finally came to fruition on Saturday, October 3, 2026, and it was SOLD OUT! What a wonderful sight it was to see the anticipated excitement of all the players. Our Fundraising Committee Co-Chairs, JoAnn Angeli and Michelle Thomas, along with their hard working volunteers and committee members did an outstanding job! Finally, Quartermania started, and it was "ALL PADDLES UP!" Please read more on page 6.

We look forward to seeing you at FoLL's **Annual General Membership Meeting** on Sunday, November 15, 2026. Please see the flyer on page 7 for further details.

Thank you, everyone, for your continued support and interest in our organization. We always welcome donations of books, magazines, and other items. Please visit our website: www.lakewoodlibrariesfriends.org for further information on becoming a FoLL volunteer and/or a member.

Let's all read together.
Vita Thomas, FoLL President



2027 FOLL OFFICER NOMINEES

President

Vita Thomas is proud to have been the President of the Friends of the Lakewood Libraries for the past two years. She has taken on many rewarding responsibilities and tackled some challenges. There are still many procedures to learn and accomplish. Vita is determined to meet them in 2027.

Vita is looking forward to the events scheduled for FoLL to participate in next year. Getting FoLL involved in many of Lakewood's community events is a great way of promoting our two Lakewood Libraries.

Vita and her husband, Larry, enjoy spending time with their little girl, Bailey. Going on walks twice a day is a must. Bailey likes meeting her furry friends in the neighborhood.

Vice President

Dr. Fatima Castaneda-Gutierrez spent her childhood with her sisters, seeing who could read more books at the local library.

She and her sons have volunteered with the FoLL for over fifteen years, and she most recently served as secretary.

Fatima currently teaches first grade in Watts. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, visiting local museums, stationery stores, and thrift shops.

Her current motto is "Blessed, not stressed," although she is mostly stressed, LOL.

Treasurer

Alison Braunstein is a longtime resident of Lakewood and retired from a thirty-year career in banking. From working in her middle school library to researching genealogy in the downtown Los Angeles Library during her lunch hours, she has always enjoyed libraries.

On her travels, she has visited many historic libraries in Europe, including the University of Salamanca Library in Spain, founded in 1254. This library has bats living in it!

Alison enjoys traveling, reading, volunteering, and spending time with her new grandchild.

Secretary

As a retired LA County Librarian, **Carol Burke** has been involved with FoLL since 2005. Having worked at both Iacoboni and George Nye Libraries, she really understands what the Lakewood Libraries need.

She is an experienced secretary as she has performed that role with several Lakewood organizations in the past. (including FoLL!) It's the Librarian in her! She enjoys volunteering, reading, (of course!), travel, theater, and her three grandsons!

2027 FOLL OFFICER ELECTIONS

We will elect our 2027 officers at the upcoming annual membership meeting. We encourage members to attend, where you can vote for our new officers, help shape our organization, and support FoLL's mission. Additionally, nominations can still be made from the floor during the meeting, ensuring every voice is heard.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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.

It's Dues time. Our annual dues year is now January to December.

Enclosed you will find a Membership Renewal envelope. Please take the time to complete and return it to us by mail or drop it off at the FoLL bookstore, inside the Iacoboni Library or the Nye Library.

Sincerely,
Diane Wamba, Membership Chair

FOLL WEBMASTER'S CORNER

Hi FoLL Members,

It gladdens my heart to know that some of our FoLL fundraising efforts directly support youth programs that entertain as well as educate. Some years back, we had a neighborly event at the Nye Library called "The Family Reading Festival." The festival sported activities for families like face painting, donkey rides, and one year we even had the touch tank truck from the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific. Another year, the MakMo operators was on-site with their STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) display. And what an interactive display it was! The children were energized and focused on programming little wheeled robots that would cavort around a flat board, and instead of chaos and tears, it was giggles and fun for the kids learning to program.

Feel free to explore the diverse programs and stay connected with your library!

Dan Wamba, Webmaster

BEYOND THE BOOKSHELVES

On September 18th, in partnership with Sanrio®, LA County Library released a limited-edition Hello Kitty® and Friends library card. Because Hello Kitty® has been popular for so long (and for so many age groups) we knew the response would be big, but we were honestly surprised by just how big the turnout actually was! We had lines the entire day and they only grew as the day went on. Our teams worked on processing cards all day and by the time the libraries closed both of us had distributed all of our cards!

It was exciting to see the libraries filled with people waiting for library cards and enjoying the other Hello Kitty® activities we had, such as scavenger hunts, coloring sheets, and photo opportunities. We had a lot of new library cards issued as well as long-time library users taking advantage of the ability to replace their current cards for the new limited edition one.

The library's partnership with Sanrio® runs through 10/18 and there will be Hello Kitty® programs available throughout the month.

Both Iacoboni and George Nye Libraries want to thank everyone who came out – we are so thankful for the love and support the community showed us!

Written By

Sarah Comfort, Community Library Manager, Angelo M. Iacoboni Library
Denise Zepeda, Community Library Manager, George Nye, Jr. Library



PAGE TURNERS UNITE!

The week of September 20th was a very busy one for the Friends of the Lakewood Libraries Board Members.

They kicked off their week by getting all of the books, CDs, DVDs, and magazines out of storage, setting up tables, displaying all of the materials, putting up signage, and prepping for our Fall Book Sale.

On Friday, September 25th, we welcomed a steady stream of FoLL members to do some early book shopping, since they get to peruse and purchase books one day before the general public.

The next morning, we opened the doors to a long line of book lovers who filled our Community Room to the brim as they browsed through the boxes of books. The day stayed busy, and our volunteers did their best to restock the books, especially the children's books.

This year, starting with our Spring Book Sale, we added a new feature to our Book Sales – our new Readers' Corner, which offers a variety of book-related items, such as totes, tumblers, mugs, coasters, journals, "Make Your Own Bookmark" sets, junk journaling sets, and many more items, most of which were handmade by our FoLL Board Members. In addition, they featured two stand-up walls filled with "Blind Date Books" for both children and adults, which were a big hit!

For those of you who don't know what a "Blind Date with a Book" is, it is a popular literacy activity concept where a book is wrapped in butcher paper so the reader cannot see the cover or title.

Instead, the outside of the package features a card with information about the genre along with a short synopsis or phrases that will give you a hint of what the book is about. The packaging is folded in a special way to create pockets, which are then filled with lots of curated bonus items, such as tea bags, hot cocoa packets, bookmarks, stickers, pens, highlighters, mini-notepads, and other goodies.

A "Blind Date Book" encourages readers to step outside their comfort zones, try untried authors, or pick up hidden gems they normally pass over.

It was a hectic week for everyone involved, but a very rewarding one as well.

We'd like to thank everyone who volunteered with us to make this Book Sale such a success!

Written By JoAnn Angeli



QUARTERMANIA IS HERE!

On Saturday, October 3rd, the FOLL Fundraising Team arrived at the Lakewood Youth Center and got to work preparing for their Quartermania Extravaganza.

Crystal Cantu started setting up the Registration area; Linda Manis and her team of volunteers began prepping the lunches and drink table; Susan Crawford, Bianca Villanueva, and Vita Thomas set up all the tables in the game room; Karen Ziccardi set up the "Bank" area, where people could purchase quarters and also where all the collected quarters would be counted, while Petra Palma-Appel and another set of volunteers helped get the Reader's Corner ready for business.

In the back room (aka the "Prize Room"), a separate team led by our Fundraising Co-chairs, Michelle Thomas and JoAnn Angeli, were busy putting out all of the 60+ prizes and matching them to the correct description sheets, while Irene Reyes helped set up the raffle area.

Guests began arriving, and by 11:20am, the room was filled with over 100 people, buzzing with anticipation. The event was **TOTALLY SOLD OUT!**

Michelle kicked off the event with a few special announcements, JoAnn explained how the game worked, and then everyone participated in a "TEST game", using the free quarters they were given.

Mayor Jeff Wood, Vice Mayor David Arellano, and Councilmember Rudy Villareal popped by to say hello and help us pull a few winning numbers. After Michelle and JoAnn called the first few winners, the trio jumped in and took the game over for a little while.

As the game progressed, more special guests arrived, including Valarie Frost, Director of Recreation and Community Services, Frank Ontiveros, Admin Assistant representing the City Manager's office and the Lakewood Leadership Academy, Lt. Javier Estrella and Deputy Gary Jones representing the Lakewood Sheriff's Station, and Denise Zepeda, our very own Community Library Manager from the George Nye, Jr. Library.

As the games continued, Mayor Wood, Vice Mayor Arellano, and Council Member Villareal came back to the podium and continued to take turns at the mic, pulling winning numbers and encouraging participants to place their bids to support our two libraries. This was an unexpected, but very welcome surprise!

Participants left the event with lots of prizes and lots of smiles on their faces, and when asked if they would come back again, they responded with a resounding YES!

Thank you to everyone - our Fundraising Committee, Volunteers, Board Members, special guests, members of our Council, our donors and sponsors, and all of our guests, for helping make our inaugural Quartermania such a big success! We couldn't have done it without you! See you all next year!

Written By JoAnn Angeli





FRIENDS OF THE LAKEWOOD LIBRARIES

*annual general
membership meeting*

NOVEMBER 15, 2026 | 2PM
LAKEWOOD YOUTH CENTER
4658 WOODRUFF AVE., LAKEWOOD, CA 90713

JOIN US ON
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2026
AS WE CELEBRATE OUR FRIENDS OF
THE LAKEWOOD LIBRARIES' MEMBERS
AND ELECT THE 2027 FOLL OFFICERS.

ENTERTAINMENT WILL BE PROVIDED
BY HARPIST SARAH HSIAO.

DELICIOUS REFRESHMENTS WILL BE
SERVED.

THE PUBLIC IS CORDIALLY INVITED.

Learn more about FoLL on our website:
www.lakewoodlibraryfriends.org/



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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