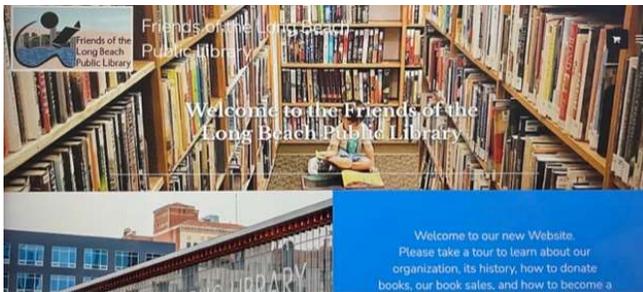




Friends of LBPL has a New Web Site

The Friends of the Library have finally joined the 21st Century!



Our new website is now LIVE at www.lbplfriends.org. Online, you can keep up to date with the Friends news and activities, and the policies and procedures for donating books and CDs (we are no longer accepting DVDs), how to become a Board member or official library volunteer, and other announcements, such as our **Annual Meeting on May 20th**.

And finally, something everyone has been asking for – the ability to purchase or renew Friends annual memberships electronically, using a credit card. We hope this convenience will help our members remain current with their dues and easily submit comments and suggestions to the Board.

The website is still in its infancy, and we will be working on improvements and functionality for the next few months. Please remember we are all volunteers and on a steep learning curve when it comes to technology. Thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation. Please visit us at www.lbplfriends.org at your convenience.

President's Message

Dear Friends,

I hope our Winter newsletter finds you all healthy and happy, and already gaining ground on your 2023 reading list.

It's been a stressful and disappointing time for our libraries. After the euphoria of the passage of last October's budget increases, reality has set in. What does that mean?

Many neighborhood libraries are still short-staffed. Library Director Cathy De Leon can't just snap her fingers to make the necessary staff appear. Some senior librarians are running two libraries at once in order to just keep the doors open and the lights on. And yes, Alamitos, Brewitt and Dana Neighborhood Libraries have been the hardest hit, with their hours and services reduced to "To-Go" service.

In addition, there have been security issues at some locations, particularly BJK Main. The good news is that most of those issues have been resolved, and a new partnership has been established between the BJK Main staff and the Special Service Officers who now patrol the building.

The bad news, at least for the Friends, is that until full staffing resumes, our Bookshop at BJK Main remains closed. We are still accepting donations of books and media (NO DVDs please!), and held a DVD/CD sale recently at Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library. But patrons looking for gently used books must

check out the Friends bookracks at branches other than Main.

Still, we of the Friends are excited for 2023. This is the 60th anniversary year for the Friends; the organization was founded in 1963 to support City Librarian Blanche Collins in her fight against the LB City Council's attempt to censor the library's selection of "The Last Temptation of Christ" by Nikos Kazantzakis. More on our history – and our future! – will be highlighted at our Annual Meeting and Luncheon, to be held Saturday, May 20 – save that date!

And thanks to the generosity of our members and book sales patrons, this year the Friends are donating \$12,000 to the library for discretionary purposes. Every year, the library administration gives the Friends Board a 'wish list', generated by neighborhood libraries and departments at BJK Main, for funds they can use as they please – for programs, a new microwave, a rug for story-time – whatever they may need. This year each library and department will receive \$750, all due to your generosity.

That's it for now. Keep reading, keep checking out your books and materials, and keep supporting our libraries. Thank you!

Memoir Writing Workshop Held at Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library

Author and memoirist Cheryl E. Klein conducted a writing workshop on "How to Write a Memoir" Saturday, November 19 at Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library. The special workshop, attended by members of the Friends and the Friends Board, was an introduction to the styles and types of memoir-writing, including sharing composed-on-the-spot essays. This workshop was sponsored by the Friends' Blanche Collins Forum.

Cheryl E. Klein's most recent book is the memoir *Crybaby: Infertility, Illness, and Other Things That Were Not the End of the World*, published by local Long Beach firm Brown Paper Press. She is also the author of a story collection, *The Commuters* (City Works Press) and a novel, *Lilac Mines* (Manic D Press). Her stories and essays have appeared in *Blunderbuss*, *Entropy*, *The Normal School*, and several anthologies.

Her work has been honored by the MacDowell Colony and the Center for Cultural Innovation. A lifelong Southern Californian, she works in the nonprofit sector while serving as columnist and co-editor for *MUTHA Magazine*. Klein lives in Southern California with her partner and son.

Welcome New Library Friends

We would like to welcome the following new Friends of the Library members. Please contact us at lb.libraryfriends@gmail.com if you have any questions or are thinking about volunteering for one of our projects or board openings.

Vivian Aragon
Joan Griffin
Linda Kellogg
Madden & Salinger Family
Joan Pimentel
Trina Tate

Super Friends of FOLBPL

We would like to thank our new and renewing Super Friends, September 2022 through January 2023. We appreciate your generosity and support.

Patricia Benoit
Kris Brooks & Pat Jones
Marlene Brown
Jordan & Justin Caltron
Ann Cantrell
Elizabeth Fowler
Karen Kearney
Monica Leff
Glenn C Moeller
Michael T. and Rosann R. Monaghan
Zhita Rea
Sharon Weissman

Save the Date!

Friends of LBPL Annual Meeting and Luncheon
Saturday May 20, 2023
The Grand

Memorial Books

The following individuals were honored with Memorial Books donated in their name and selected by the library staff:

M. Carol Woods was honored by Lisa Moore.

Daniel Moore was honored by Lisa Moore, Mary Boykin and Mike Patterson.

Kerry Martin and Evelyn Matzot were honored by Judi Cameron.

Past member Bernice Van Steenberg was honored with a donation by The Friends LBPL Board, Kaye Briegel, Julie Darling, Chris Van Steenberg, and Michael and Rosann Monaghan.

National Banned Book Week and Freedom to Read

Many of you are aware of the increased number of attempts and successes in limiting access to specific topics and titles available on the shelves in public and school libraries. While this is not a new problem, it is certainly a continuing problem.

In response, Friends of LBPL are once again planning to participate in the National Banned Book Week in October 2023.

In May 2022, at our very successful annual meeting, four high school students read from books important to them and discussed why these books were important to them. We decided to continue working on this issue.

For Banned Book Week in 2022, which occurred just after summer break, we had little time to prepare; however, we did host an open-mic event at Page Against the Machine, an independent bookstore on Fourth Street, as reported in our Autumn newsletter.

We have started planning early and welcome you to join us in putting together a program for National Banned Book week this year, October 1-7, 2023. Please contact Ellen Butler at lnblbc@gmail.com or call her at 562-396-2251 if you would like to be involved in this effort to maintain our freedom to read.

For more information on this topic, visit <https://bannedbooksweek.org>

To follow efforts by The American Library Association to combat censorship, visit <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks>

DVD and CD Sale Held January 27-28

We hauled boxes with over 2,200 DVDs, 3,000 CDs and about 100 audio books to Michelle Obama Library Friday morning, January 27, to unload and set up for our second DVD and CD sale. We were ready earlier than planned, so we opened the sale at 10:30 am. In those two days, we brought in over \$300. We are looking at doing a repeat before summer at either the El Dorado or Los Altos branch.

Many thanks to those who helped: Barbara Sosa, Arlene Gale, Lisa Moore, Caroline Martin, Carol Quinlan, Patty Benoit, Linda Kimberly, Dawn Mendelson, Ellen Butler, Diane Riska-Taylor, Sharon Abar, and a special thanks to Tom Ader who not only helped, but brought home-made cookies.



Arlene Gale and Linda Kimberly at the sale.



Shoppers found lots of excellent deals.

Watch for the next sale announcement by email and on our new website. If you are interested in helping for a 2-3-hour shift, please let us know at:

lb.libraryfriends@gmail.com

Murals Added to our Branch Libraries

You may have noticed that three of our branch libraries have new public artwork. Murals have been added to Dana, Burnett, and Bret Harte exterior walls.

Long Beach Public Library was approached by a Long Beach-based BIPOC marketing firm, Intertrend, the group in charge of **LB Walls** (formerly known as POW! WOW!). Long Beach Public Library has collaborated with Intertrend in the past on a few projects including the “Make Noise Today” exhibit that was on display at BJK Main last year. Intertrend let LBPL know that they were focusing on local Asian American Pacific Islander and other muralists, and the Library agreed that it would be a great collaboration. The theme this year was “Stand Up” and featured female artists only.

LBPL gladly accepted the opportunity and proposed the three sites. The artists submitted their work with in advance, but the library staff only proposed a few changes. As part of the process, LBPL also worked with Development Services and Public Works to square away logistics.

These three locations were chosen because of the available wall space and that the neighborhoods in which these branches are located would benefit from the addition of public art. These murals add to the beauty and exterior aesthetic of these buildings.

Here they are!

Burnett Neighborhood Library 560 East Hill Street Thao Huynh French, Artist



Dana Neighborhood Library 3680 Atlantic Avenue Karina Vazquez, Artist





Bret Harte Neighborhood Library
1595 West Willow Street
Jocelyn Tsaih, Artist



"Hidden" Continues to Enlighten

The Friends congratulate local photojournalist, Cristina Salvador Klenz, on the opening of her photo exhibit at the CSULB Academic Services Building. The exhibit will run to the end of April.

The stunning photos are taken from her award-winning book, "**Hidden: Life with California's Roma Families**" and published by Brown Paper Press. The Friends of the Library funded the purchase of a copy for each library branch.

The book has recently been accepted to be available in all Long Beach high school libraries as well.



From left: Ellen Butler, Friends of LBPL Board; Photojournalist Christina Salvador Klenz; and Rich Archbold (Press-Telegram) at the opening of the "Hidden" exhibit at CSULB, February 2.



Photojournalist Klenz with some of the photos in the exhibit, which runs through April at CSULB.

Save the Date!

Friends of LBPL Annual Meeting and Luncheon
Saturday May 20, 2023
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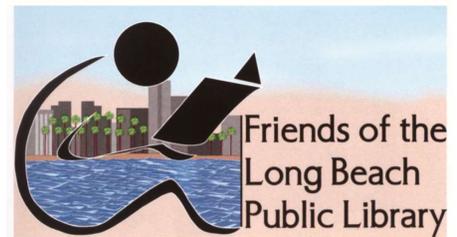
Books for the Homeless Shelters

Atlantic Farms Bridge Housing Community in North Long Beach (ABC) contacted us recently asking if we had any books to donate for their 125+ residents. They have no library, no shelves, no books.

We delivered five boxes of gently used fiction and non-fiction books and DVDs. As soon as they received them, they put them out on fold-up tables so residents could use them right away. The Board is currently working on getting donations of shelves, and we will continue to assist them with used books.

Amazon Smile Charity Ends

As an FYI: Amazon is discontinuing their Amazon Smile charity program. Many of you have registered with them over the past several years, and that has allowed them to donate to our organization. You may have received an email from them about this. We are updating our registration with them so the last deposit can be made. There is nothing you need to do. We just wanted you to be aware and to thank you for your support.



President: Barbara Sosa

Editor: Diane Riska-Taylor

Contributors: Sharon Abar, Ellen Butler, Cathy De Leon, Arlene Gale, Jan Jackson, Linda Kimberly, Caroline Martin, Dawn Mendelson, Barbara Sosa, Diane Riska-Taylor

The Friends of the Library newsletter is usually published three times annually for members in good standing.

Visit our website at www.lbplfriends.org

Contact us at lb.libraryfriends@gmail.com

Your Ralphs Reward Card Can Help the Friends Every Time You Shop

Using your Ralphs Reward card to benefit the Friends is easy and free, and it doesn't impact any fuel points you may use. Here are a few ways to get started.

No computer – don't want to go online?

Call Ralph's at 1-800-443-4438 and they will be happy to link your rewards card or phone number to our organization. They will ask for our number, which is **VL775 - Friends of the Long Beach Library**.

Online - log into your online Ralphs account:

At the upper right you will see an icon with your name under it. Click on the down arrow next to your name and choose "My Account". Scroll down to the last section on the left titled "Community Contributions". Click on the "Community Contributions" button that says "Enroll". In the box that says "Find Your Organization" enter **VL775** or type in **Friends of the Long Beach Library**. Click on the blue "ENROLL" button under our name & address and it will enroll you. Within seven (7) days of successfully registering your Ralph's rewards card, there will be a note at the bottom of your Ralph's receipt that reads "At your request, Ralph's is donating to The Friends of the Long Beach Library".

If you have a Ralph's Reward Card,

but have never set up an online account, it's easy. When you go to Ralph's online, there will be WELCOME: SIGN IN in the upper right of the page, next to a simple head icon. Click on that. Next page will show "No Account? Register" at the top right. Click on "Register". Fill in the blanks, and that will get things started.

Contact Friends Board members Caroline Martin at phone 805/ 890-0240 or Sharon Abar at 562/ 434-9156 for assistance.

We thank you for supporting your libraries.

Highlights of Library Programming

March 1, 11 am – 12 pm, Online Event
Reference Solutions: How Small Businesses Like Yours Are Finding Customers and Partners – WEBINAR
 Reference Solutions provides exclusive information to help you craft effective business plans. *Use Cases – Applying Tools and Data Filters*: In this workshop, you'll learn how others have used their search tools and filters. This webinar is held online every 1st and 3rd

Wednesday of the month. Registration is required. Reference Solutions is available in the LBPL Digital Library thanks to support of the Long Beach Public Library foundation and its generous donors.

March 2-6, All Libraries
National Read Across America Week

March 6, 11am – 12 pm Online Event
Introduction to Reference Solutions – WEBINAR
 Learn how to use the basics of this data-driven marketing tool, identify business opportunities, view historical market trends, create business and customer lists with contact information, find jobs by job skills, location and industry, and much more!

March 7, 4-5 pm El Dorado Neighborhood Library, 2900 Studebaker Rd. 90815

Pacific Gateway - Resume Workshop
 Pacific Gateway will lead a presentation on how to write an effective resume, for ages 14-30.

March 16, 5:30-6:30 pm, BJK Main Library Miller Room
Local Author Talk: Diane Marie Brown
 Brown will read from her debut novel "Black Candle Women" and be joined by local author Elana Arnold in a discussion, Q&A and book signing.

March 28, 4-5 pm. Online Event
"Code Name Sapphire" – Author Talk with Pam Jenoff, bestselling author of "The Lost Girls of Paris"
 Join us for an exciting trip through time as we chat with New York Times bestselling historical fiction author Pam Jenoff about her newest book.

April 23-29 National Library Week
Theme: There's More to the Story

April 25 All Libraries
National Library Workers Day
 Visit your library and let them know you appreciate what they do.

April 27, 5-6pm Online Event
"Fox Creek" – Author Talk with William Kent Krueger, bestselling mystery author
 Join us as Krueger discusses his newest book in the Cork O'Connor series.

Please visit the LBPL website
<https://www.longbeach.gov/library/>
 for more information and a complete list of events.

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Details to Follow

