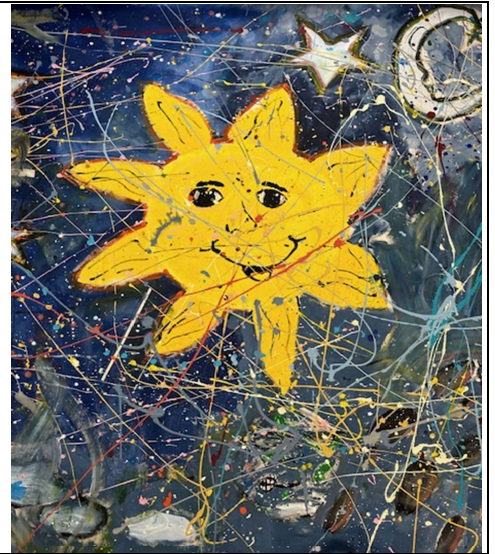




Friends of the Long Beach Public Library Autumn 2024 Newsletter



"Freedom to Read" a Huge Success

Our Banned Book Week (BBW) committee worked tirelessly all year preparing a group of activities to promote the freedom to read, educate our community on censorship in libraries across the country, and share our mission to support our public libraries.

Following dates chosen by The American Library Association (ALA), we planned our activities around Banned Book Week. We really lucked out in joining the Belmont Shore Business Association's first ever Book Fest on Sunday, Sept. 22 (which fortuitously was the first day of the ALA's annual Banned Book Week).



Ready to help people understand book censorship.

Running all along 2nd St. in front of Chase Bank, and down both Corona and Nieto, the festival featured numerous local writers (fiction, nonfiction, poetry), mic-ed readings, Justin Rudd's Little Red Wagon and . . . us, The Friends, in the perfect shady spot right on 2nd. We made several good connections with people who stopped by to talk about freedom to read, and we handed out information sheets and stickers to visitors.



Our team at the Expo Center

4th Friday on 4th St. was also very successful. Thanks to Caroline Martin, we are now making available a sign-up sheet for people who want to be informed about the Friends activities and even better, who want to volunteer. For instance, a gentleman who runs a local Girl Scout troop is interested in working with us down the road, connecting with young people!

We also combined our efforts with our Friends' book sale at BJK Main on September 28. In addition to

educating the public about our freedom to read, we sold books and media at reduced prices. The staff at Main helped greatly with logistics and provide music throughout the day. Truly, it was a fun and lively event.



First Fridays in Bixby Knolls

And the last event was 1st Fridays in Bixby Knolls. Our Banned Books tables were set up in front of the Expo building on Atlantic Ave, so we had a large number of people visiting the displays along the street and inside the building. We talked to many people, gave away most of our free books, and handed out information about censorship and the Friends. Around six people signed up for our email news and some donated cash.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped bring these events to our community.



In August, we joined the Retro Row community event on 4th Street to get a head start on Banned Book Week

Big Friends Book Sale Held at BJK Main

Our first book sale at the new BJK Main Library on September 28 was an outstanding team effort that brought in \$863. That's a bunch of sales as paperbacks, DVDs, audio books and CDs were 3/\$1, members filled up a bag-o-books for \$5, and everything else was \$1. It was such a success we will start planning for our next one in April, 2025. Watch for details to be announced.



Tom Ader helps a shopper at the book sale add to her book collection

Aside from raising money, we had fun. Every child and teen left with a free book in their hands, we danced to the music, and we made new library friends. All proceeds from the sale go back into purchasing new resources for our libraries.



Many thanks to everyone who worked the day of the sale as cashiers and stockers, including our Library liaison, librarian Lynda P, and the library's Community Outreach crew led by Laurence C. Special thanks to Barbara, Caroline, Marcia, and Tom who came in on two to three separate days to prepare for the sale and get everything back in place following the event.

From the Director

Hello, Friends! As Fall gets underway, we're excited to share that LBPL is getting ready to turn over a new leaf! In early November, we will be bidding farewell to our old online catalog and saying hello to a new one. The new online catalog will feature enhanced search functionality and an improved interface. Through October, some regular catalog functions will be down as we transition to the new system. The new catalog will launch Wednesday, Nov. 6th.

This Fall also marked the return of Vida Latina, LBPL's 6th annual celebration of Latin American Heritage Month. Our libraries hosted a series of bilingual storytime and arts programs, financial literacy workshops, and a community quilting event. We closed out Vida Latina with a wonderful celebration of dance and music at the Michelle Obama Library.

Finally, we want to hear from you! The Library is undergoing a new strategic planning process and there is a survey we would love for you to complete if you haven't already. You can find a link to the survey on our website at LBPL.org or visit your local branch and fill out a paper survey.

*Cathy De Leon, Director
Long Beach Public Library*

President's Message

Every time I sit down to write one of these columns, I have to remind myself who our readers are. I realize that I am "preaching to the choir" – that the people who read our newsletter are like-minded thinkers who believe in the freedom to read and want to support our Long Beach libraries just like I do.

And my team, the Board members of the Friends, reminded me recently that we need to share with our members more information on how we support all the libraries through your dues, donations, and book sales.

You know all the money that you place in those blue honor boxes at your neighborhood library? And the donations that you make? Here's just a small list of what we've done this year and will continue to do in the future.

The honor box donations are allocated to each library's 'special projects fund.' From this account the library staff pays for supplies and snacks for all the programs they run that are not funded by their city budget. The list includes Storytimes, SEED and Lego Creativity Labs, Teen Cafes, Arcades, crochet and craft workshops and more. Just look at the Event Calendar on LBPL.org, and almost everything listed will be monetarily sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

And then there are the special events. The Friends are a big contributor to events during Black History Month, AAPI Heritage Month, LGBTQ+ Pride Month, Vida Latina and the performance events during every year's Summer Reading Program.

We help send the Mark Twain librarians to Cambodia on their regular trips to purchase Khmer materials. The Friends purchased the furniture and display case in the refurbished African American Resource Center at Burnett Neighborhood Library, and we're excited to contribute to the new Filipino collection center that is planned for Harte Neighborhood Library.

So, every time you attend an event at a neighborhood branch, or you make an honor box purchase at your branch, know that you are supporting the library. Be assured – the money you donate really does get back to them.

Thank you for your continued generosity. See you at the Library!

Please reach me at lb.libraryfriends@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Welcome New Library Friends

Welcome to our new Friends of the Library! If you have any questions, are considering volunteering for one of our projects or for a board opening, please email us at lb.libraryfriends@gmail.com.

<i>Amy Essington</i>	<i>Cynthia Orozco</i>
<i>Lauren Gregory</i>	<i>Megan Riddle</i>
<i>Elizabeth Johnson</i>	<i>Phyllis Schmidt</i>
<i>Juan Lara Family</i>	<i>Thelma Valezuela</i>
<i>Timothy Mountain</i>	<i>Marcie Wease</i>

Super Friends of FOLBPL

We would like to thank our new and renewing Super Friends since June 2023. We appreciate your generosity and support.

<i>Allan & Dorothy Abrahamse</i>	<i>Barbara Loeffler</i>
<i>Tamara Achauer</i>	<i>Herman Long</i>
<i>Elizabeth Andrew</i>	<i>Barbara Mais</i>
<i>Betty Barnecut</i>	<i>Denise Mann</i>
<i>Paula Bawden</i>	<i>Ellen Mathis</i>
<i>Tara Bender</i>	<i>Janet & George McDonald</i>
<i>Patricia Benoit</i>	<i>Nancy Messineo</i>
<i>Claudine Burnett</i>	<i>Phyllis Metzger</i>
<i>Ann Cantrell</i>	<i>Mary Meyer</i>
<i>Sandra Caulfield</i>	<i>Susanne Milked</i>
<i>Deborah Chankin</i>	<i>Glenn Moeller</i>
<i>Jo Anne Charmack</i>	<i>Michael & Rosann Monaghan</i>
<i>Debby Collins</i>	<i>Elizabeth Moore</i>
<i>Stephen & Julie Darling</i>	<i>Carmen Perez</i>
<i>Kathy DeSilva</i>	<i>Gloria Perry</i>
<i>Diane Donaldson</i>	<i>Susan Redfield</i>
<i>Margaret & Charles Durnin</i>	<i>Diane Riska-Taylor</i>
<i>Amy Essington</i>	<i>Phyllis Sands</i>
<i>Patricia Essington</i>	<i>Eleanore Schmidt</i>
<i>Elizabeth Fowler</i>	<i>Diane Schmitz</i>
<i>Lauren Gregory</i>	<i>Susan Schrader</i>
<i>Irene Graff & Debra Hamano</i>	<i>Lynn Schwarz</i>
<i>Cheryl Hebestreit</i>	<i>Jane Hansen & Allen Sewell</i>
<i>Lorrie Hutton</i>	<i>Barbara Shoag</i>
<i>Linda Mele Johnson</i>	<i>Renee Simon</i>

Janet & Richard Katz
Willa Kay
Phillip & Gillian Klinkert

Agnes & David Knight
Sandra Kroll

Sydney Simon
Beverly Stunden
Gretchen Swanson & Richard Connelly
Pamela Tuck
Bonnie van Cleve

Welcome New Lifetime Members

We would like to thank our five new Lifetime members. We appreciate your generosity and support of the Friends and our local community libraries.

Ellen Butler
Jan Jackson
Nancy Messineo
Susan Rice
Barbara Sosa



Friends of the
Long Beach
Public Library

President: Barbara Sosa

Editor: Diane Riska-Taylor

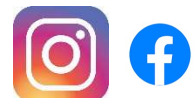
Contributors: Sharon Abar, Ellen Butler, Jordan Cantron, Arlene Gale, Cathy De Leon, Jan Jackson, Caroline Martin, Liliana Romin, Barbara Sosa

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

Use This QR Code → Friends Website



Memorial Books

Since last newsletter there has been several memorial book donations:

Ellen Butler memorialized Mary Lamo Putnam and Edward Sosa.

Margaret Durnin also remembered Mary Lamo Putnam.

Annette Gordon donated in memory of her husband, Richard.

The Bayshore Book Group remembered Lynn Hanson by commissioning a special illustrated edition of her favorite book "Anne of Green Gables".

Lisa Moore remembered Penny Briggs Ric, R.N.

Andrew and Megan Kerr donated in memory of Edward Sosa.

Samantha Fabrigass remembered Kathy Scott.

Honors granted to:

Ann Cantrell donated a book in honor of Judi Cameron.

In Memory of Robert Bakovic

Long Beach Public Library, and particularly the El Dorado Neighborhood Branch, is mourning the loss of a favorite patron. Robert Bakovic was a Long Beach resident who loved sports, traveling, and his family, including his dog Dumdum and many cats. He also loved the library.

For many years, Mr. Bakovic made a generous donation annually to the El Dorado Library, always designating the funds be used to purchase science fiction materials. In lieu of flowers, his family has requested that donations be made to the El Dorado Neighborhood Library in his name.

The Friends thank them for their generosity and send them our deepest condolences. Mr. Bakovic will be missed.

Groundlings Come Through Again

We were contacted again this year by Cynthia Navarrette and Drew Wilson about a large donation of books from the Summer Camp/DayCare group called the Groundlings. The Camp collected new and gently used books through a donation book drive, and the results filled a large SUV. Many thanks to the *Being the Church* collaborative (a group of four Methodist Long Beach churches) and the Groundlings.

<https://beingthechurchlb.org>



For the second year, Drew Wilson and Cynthia Navarrette, and their group, donated books they collected as part of their summer project.

I peel off
some of my books
let them scatter

-DRT

Save the Date!

Annual Meeting and Literary Luncheon
Saturday, May 17, 2025 at the Grand.
See you there!

We Celebrate Winners of the 2024 Essay Contest

"What book took you on an adventure, and why?"

The Friends were proud to sponsor this summer's annual Summer Reading Program Essay Contest with funds from the Helen Fuller Cultural Carrousel. A panel of judges selected the 15 essays that best answered the question from a field of more than 50 applicants.

The Friends celebrated these young scribes with a reception and awards ceremony at Mark Twain Branch Library. All winners went home with gift cards to both Barnes & Noble and Fingerprints Music.

Congratulations to the winners in all age categories!

Age 6-7

1st Aaron Cox
2nd Camilla Contillo
3rd Ryder Nguyen

Age 8-9

1st Olivia Jean Dorantes
2nd Katelyn Ewing
3rd Sophia Sasaki

Age 10-11

1st Zoe Hoel
2nd Milany Nguyen
3rd Mila Hacegaba

Age 12-13

1st Molly Phillips
2nd Amita Puri
3rd Cylon Littlehawk

Age 14-18

1st Elijah Badgett
2nd Amelia Shin
3rd Abigail Catalan

Here are some of the winners with their families:



Librarians Are Our Secret Weapon

The Boards of the Friends of the Library and the LBPL Foundation hosted the annual ***Celebrate Our Librarians*** party on August 9, 2024 at the home of Susan Redfield. Donations from City Council members covered the expenses for a taco feast, as librarians and board members mingled in the late afternoon twilight – a good time was had by all!



Thank You to Our Banned Book Committee

We would like to highlight our Freedom to Read Committee and all the volunteers who worked for many months planning our 2024 events. They met in person (I believe cookies were served) and communicated behind the scenes to coordinate these events:

Ellen Butler, Arlene Gale, Barbara Mais, Barbara Shoag, Beth Grace, Carol Quinlan, Dawn Mendelson, Donna Artukovic, Sharon Craig, and Sydney Simon. Many other volunteers from the Friends Board help educate our community about the importance of maintaining the freedom to read during these events.



The Long Beach City Council acknowledged the importance of this mission by unanimously approving a resolution to recognize National Banned Books Week, beginning September 22, at the Council meeting on September 17.

Honoring Renee Simon

A dedication ceremony for the unveiling of a plaque honoring Renee Simon was held June 6, 2024, in the community room at El Dorado Neighborhood Library. It was a standing-room only event, coordinated by the League of Women Voters and the National Council of Jewish Women - Greater Long Beach & West Orange County. Nine speakers paid tribute to Renee and her trail-blazing accomplishments.

Renee was a founding member of the Friends of the Library in 1963, and has continued her work as an advocate for the freedom to read. The plaque is on display inside the El Dorado Neighborhood Library.



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Our annual membership year is from July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025. Have you renewed your membership? *The date above your name on your mailing label shows when your membership expires.*

Your membership is important. Your contributions enable the Friends to purchase books and support other library programs and activities. As a member of the Friends, you show your concern for maintaining the resources and services of the Long Beach Public Library. You will be informed of the vital issues that affect the Library. We welcome contributions of any amount: both dues and contributions are tax deductible. A book will be donated to the library in the name of each Super Friend. Thank you for your support.

Please use this form for your renewal or give it to an acquaintance who might wish to join. Thank you for joining the Friends of the Long Beach Public Library. Or visit our new web site at www.lbplfriends.org

- New Member or Renewal
- Senior Membership \$10 Student Membership.....\$15
- Individual Membership..... \$20 Family Membership.....\$25
- Super Friend \$100 or more Patron Membership.....\$75
- Business Membership \$200 or more Lifetime Membership.....\$1,000 or more

I want to participate in the following way:

- Serve on the Friends of the Library Board of Directors
- Volunteer in the Book Store

Name.....Address.....
Zip.....Phone.....Email.....

Please join online using a credit card at www.lbplfriends.org or by mail: make checks payable to the *Friends of the Long Beach Public Library*, and mail to: Friends of the Long Beach Public Library, PO Box 15733, Long Beach, CA, 90815-0733. Either way, our membership card will be mailed to you.
