



### Summer Essay Contest Honors Local Readers

This year, along with the Library's Summer Reading program, the Friends of the Library and the Hellen Fuller Cultural Carrousel sponsored their annual essay contest. The topic was "Describe a book that helped you learn about a new time, place or emotion."

Some of the books that competitors selected included classics like *'Charlotte's Web'*, *'Pippi Longstocking'*, and newer favorites like *'The Way I Used to Be'* and *'Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children'*.

A panel of judges selected the winning essays, and three top winners in each category received gift cards for Barnes and Noble Bookstore. On August 26<sup>th</sup> family and friends gathered for an awards ceremony held at Mark Twain Library. Cathy De Leon, Director of Library Services, presented the winners with their certificates and gift cards.

The 2023 Long Beach Friends of the Library winners are:

#### 6-7 years

- 1<sup>st</sup>: place: Olivia Dorantes  
2<sup>nd</sup>: place: Alfred Goldmas

#### 8-9 years

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Ramona Shin  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Katelyn Ewing  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Camille Brewer

#### 10-11 years

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Simone White  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Jacob Devlin  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Noelle Salgado

#### 12-13 years

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Lily Sijder  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Amelia Shin  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Sophia Mosqueda

#### 14-18 years

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Olive Chang  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Alice Kermode  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Victoria Holmes

Special thanks to Board members Arlene Gale, Barbara Sosa, Carol Quinlan and Lisa Moore.



Board member Arlene Gale with some of our essay winners

### Director's Message

October has been incredibly busy for us at LBPL! With Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month, Filipino American History Month, and the 50th Anniversary of Hip Hop all going on simultaneously, Library Staff have been working tirelessly to celebrate and commemorate these events through our public programs.

On Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, the *Mercadito Literario* brought together Latinx authors, book lovers, small businesses, and community groups at the Billie Jean King Main Library. The Liwanag Literary Festival, honoring the stories and experiences of the Filipino community, celebrated at the Michelle Obama Library on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Workshops took place throughout the month at various library branches and brought together teens, tweens, and hip-hop experts to explore the impact of hip hop through dance, art, and music. We are grateful to the Friends for their support of these public programs. Thanks to all of you, LBPL is able to offer innovative, community-responsive programs that engage Long Beach residents and show them that a library is more than just books on shelves.

Speaking of books on shelves, have you been able to visit one of our three libraries now open on Mondays? In September, and for the first time in almost 20 years, we opened Alamitos, Michelle Obama, and Harte Libraries for a sixth day of service. Thanks to the advocacy of the Friends and the Foundation, we are now able to offer enhanced service in some of our most busy and impacted neighborhoods. Early next year, we anticipate being able to add Monday hours to El Dorado and Burnett libraries.

And lastly, I want to sincerely thank the Friends for their support of the refresh of the African American Resource Area (AARA) at the Burnett Library. We commemorated the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its founding in September with a wonderful ceremony that was extremely well attended. Kudos to our Collection Development staff and the staff at Burnett also for working to make this dream a reality. Now visitors who make use of the AARA will be welcomed with a revitalized collection, new, comfortable furniture, and a display case exhibiting photos and memorabilia.

*Cathy De Leon, Director of LBPL*

## President's Message

Dear Friends,

This is the 60<sup>th</sup> year of the Friends of the Long Beach Public Library. Since 1963, when a group of anti-censorship residents first met in their living rooms, the Friends of the Library have provided support and services to all 12 libraries in Long Beach's system.

Recently, with the unfortunate nationwide efforts to ban books taking on scary proportions, we have

concentrated our outreach efforts on educating Long Beach citizens about the threat of the banned books movement. Even though we live in a wonderfully diverse community, there is always an underlying threat of censorship, recently coming from communities very close to us. The Friends will always be advocates against banning books.

But behind the scenes, there is also a large amount of physical labor being done. Did you know that the Friends manage the library systems' book donations? The process includes collecting donations and sorting them to determine if they are resaleable, or trash. I know this is hard for all book lovers to hear, but books have a limited life cycle, and at some level they become unusable.

Unfortunately, the resale market for used books is not like it used to be. No more are *National Geographic* magazines considered collectible items – now they can be purchased in many places on the internet. And with the advent of online encyclopedias and databases (which are available through LBPL), printed volumes are becoming obsolete. This means that these used items are now considered outdated and therefore trash; not even re-cyclable. They go into landfill.

The volume of donated books, music CD and DVDs the libraries receive is staggering. Lots of it we can resell to *Thriftbooks*, our online reseller who sells books for much more than our \$1 and \$2 prices.

Many of the books that *Thriftbooks* won't take, or that we can't sell, we donate to *Discover Books*, at the very least to keep them out of the landfill.

And yes, we have a bookshop at BJK Main Library. Due to security concerns and personnel issues, our Bookshop has been closed for most of this year. We are working to reopen it on Saturdays by the end of the year. There are always racks of books available for sale at BJK Main and all neighborhood libraries; once you make your selection (hardbacks \$2, paperbacks \$1) simply place the money in the honor box on the wall.

This effort – and it is a lot of work – is performed by a small, very dedicated group of volunteers. Most are also members of the Friends Board of Directors, but we also welcome certified Library volunteers. Please contact us at [lb.libraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:lb.libraryfriends@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer.

The end result of our book resale program is more money for the libraries – to buy more books and media,

and to fund more programs. Every penny is donated to the library; the Friends is an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff. So if you have books, CDs or DVDs to donate, please do! (Unless they are magazines or encyclopedias...).

Take care – see you at the library!

**Congratulations to our 2023 Scholars**

The Friends are happy to announce the winners of our 2023 Barbara Egyud Memorial Scholarship.

Jessica Brol has been an employee about two years and is currently at the Alamitos branch. She volunteered at the library in middle school and high school, and started her first job as a page in college. She has been working on her Masters in Library Science at San Jose State and expects to complete it in 2024.



Jessica Brol with Friends Board member Linda Kimberly

Gerardo Ruiz is an employee at Bret Harte. His work at the library has given him an understanding and appreciation of the importance of libraries to all ages in our community. He is attending Coastline Community College and will pursue of Masters in Library Science in the future.



Friends Board President with Gerardo Ruiz at Bret Harte

Pedro De La Torre has been a volunteer at the Burnett branch for over two years and loves working with both children in the Family Learning Center and adults

learning English skills. Pedro is on his way to Stanford University to pursue a career as a doctor, but he promises not to forget the life lessons he has learned at the library, and looks forward to visiting on his school breaks.



Pedro De La Torre at Burnett

We are pleased we were able to provide a little help and a lot of encouragement to these scholars!

**Save the Date**  
Sunday, March 10, 2024  
LBPL Friends will host Shelby Van Pelt, author of 'Remarkably Bright Creatures', for a reading and book signing. Details to be announced in early 2024.



**President: Barbara Sosa**  
**Editor: Diane Riska-Taylor**  
**Contributors:** Sharon Abar, Ellen Butler, Cathy De Leon, Arlene Gale, Jan Jackson, Linda Kimberly, Caroline Martin, Lisa Moore, Barbara Sosa, Diane Riska-Taylor, Sydney Simon.  
*The Friends of the Library newsletter is usually published three times annually for members in good standing.*  
**Visit our website at [www.lbplfriends.org](http://www.lbplfriends.org)**  
**Contact us at [lb.libraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:lb.libraryfriends@gmail.com)**

## Friends Celebrate Freedom to Read

National Banned Book Week was Oct. 1 - 7, 2023. To help emphasize the freedom to read as one chooses, censorship, and the issue of book banning, Friends of the Long Beach Public Library hosted four events at various locations in the city: Retro Row Fourth Fridays on 4<sup>th</sup> Street; Second Street in Belmont Shore; First Fridays in Bixby Knolls; and at the Bixby Park Farmers' Market.



*Friend volunteer Donna rallying the crowd to stop censorship*

Volunteers shared information on the issues surrounding preserving the freedom to read and write, and handed out fliers and stickers. Local zine artists helped visitors make their own zines, and the open mic attracted several readers. Trivia games and a spinner wheel also entertained the crowd. We also gave away 40 journals to writers of all ages.



*Artists helping children create zines in Bixby Park*

According to the American Library Association, book titles challenged in 2022 jumped 40 percent over the previous year. There were 2,571 titles banned or challenged . . . while the majority of Americans don't support banning books. The most challenged books of 2022 are listed here:

<https://www.npr.org/2023/04/24/1171570138/number-of-books-banned-or-challenged-up-in-2022-ala>

According to PEN America, "Books are under profound attack in the United States. They are disappearing from

library shelves, being challenged in droves, being decreed off limits by school boards, legislators, and prison authorities. And everywhere, it is the books that have long fought for a place on the shelf that are being targeted: books by authors of color, by LGBTQ+ authors, by women; books about racism, sexuality, gender, and history."

PEN America tracks all book bans in libraries and classrooms across the U.S. Check out their [Index of School Book Bans](https://pen.org/issue/book-bans/), updated for the 2022-2023 school year" <https://pen.org/issue/book-bans/>

What can you do? Speak up! It is quietly happening locally, so please do not fail to seek information and contact your local city officials and school board members. Your voice makes a difference.



*Volunteer at Fourth Fridays reads from a favorite book*

## Celebrate Our Librarians

On August 18 the Friends of the Library and the Long Beach Library Foundation held their annual salute to the city's hard-working and dedicated librarians. This fun event was held at the home of Susan Redfield. Tacos were served along with wine, cookies, and lemon bars. Barbara Sosa, president of the Friends, and Ryan Ballard, president of the Foundation, welcomed the crowd.



*Long Beach's Superpower: our library staff*

Tables, chairs, and centerpieces were donated by Long Beach City Councilpersons Daryl Supernow, District 4; Megan Kerr, District 5; Cindy Allen, District 2; Roberto Uranga, District 7; and Mayor Rex Richardson. Our thanks to them for supporting the event.

Special thanks to Cheryl Avirom, Barbara Sosa, Susan Redfield, Carol Quinlan, Lisa Moore and Patty Benoit.

### Rededication of African American Resource Area

Burnett Neighborhood Library, under the leadership of Petry Saenz-Rivera, Sr. Librarian, celebrated the opening of its new African American Resource Area on September 16, 2023. The African American Heritage Society (AAHS) first established this collection in 1997 when co-founders Indira Hale Tucker and Doris Topsy-Elvord identified the need for books about African American history, culture, and achievement in the Long Beach Public Library. Friends of LBPL has collaborated with the AAHS to expand this collection throughout the years. With the grand reopening and 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are happy to have donated the furnishing that visitors can enjoy inside this area including lounge seating and a display case with historical artifacts.



*Nicole Ballard and Angelique Chamberlain, daughter of co-founder Indira Hale Tucker, cut the ribbon to the new AARA*

Inspirational young musicians from the *Jazz Angels* entertained as people were arriving. Lawrence Clinkscale, Community Engagement and Outreach Sr. Librarian, emceed the program. Nicole Ballard, President of the African American Heritage Society, spoke about the history of AAHS, its book collection and the Resource Area within the Burnett Library. Ryan Ballard, President of the LBPL Foundation, and Barbara Sosa, President of the Friends of LBPL, spoke on their support and collaboration with the AARA. Petry Saenz-Rivera, emphasized the importance of the AARA and its lasting impact on the surrounding community. Peggie Presley, MPH, Oral Historian and Poet, read one of her

poems and spoke about her family history in the civil rights movement. Councilwoman Suely Saro of District 6 showed support for the revitalization project.



*Carl Phillips, former employee and great supporter of Burnett, with the new resource area*



*Lawrence Clinkscale, Community Engagement and Outreach Sr. Librarian, was the excellent emcee*

The Friends were happy to host the food and drinks for the event with over 60 people attending. It was a wonderful afternoon, both entertaining and informative.

### Super Friends of FOLBPL

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

Tamara Achauer  
Paula Bawden  
Robert Bellinger  
Tara Bender  
Kaye Briegel  
Marlene Brown  
Ellen Butler  
Bill & Fran Cahill  
Ann Cantrell  
Jo Anne & Scott  
Charmack

JoAnn Kuroda  
Joan Leb  
Camille Lenhert  
Herman Long  
Denise Mann  
Claire & Bill Marmion  
Carol Ann Masters  
Ellen Mathis  
Janeice McConnell  
George & Jan McDonald

Margaret Cherry	Nancy McGrath & William Osborn
Carol Collins	Phyllis Metzger
Deborah Collins	Mary Nan Meyer
Steve & Julie Darling	Mie & Rosann Monaghan
Don & Kathy DeSilva	Lisa Moore
Elizabeth Fowler	Dagmar Muthamia
Annette Gordon	Sylvia Navari
Joan Gustafson	Carmen Perez
Debra Hamano & Irene Graff	Flo Pickett & Gerrie Schipske
Jane Hansen	Diane Riska-Taylor
Cheryl Hebestreit	Phyllis Sands
Eileen Hunter	Eleanore Schmidt
Lorrie Hutton	Diane Schmitz
Meera & Padmini Iyer	Susan Schrader
Janet & Richard Katz	Lynn Schwarz
Karen Kearney	Sydney Simon
Linda Kimberly	Edward & Barbara Sosa
Stephen Klein	Nancy Stone
Phillip & Glillian Klinkert	Marie Treadwell
Agnes Knight	George White
Sandy Kroll	

### Welcome New Members

We are delighted to welcome many new Friends since last Spring. Please check out our website for more information, or contact us if you have any questions.

Ryan Ballard	Ann & Mike Martens
Colleen Bentley	Patricia Reilly
Ranzie Claxton	Sean Reilly
Kayla Crow	Bonnie Rettgers
Marilyn Gable	Phyllis Sands
Elizabeth Grace	Roger Scheuer
Barbara Long	Nancy Stone
Gail Mann	Joan Van Hooten

Several members have asked us not to share their contact information. Be assured; we do not share or sell any of your personal information. Not ever.

### Welcome New Leader in Branch Services

Please join us in congratulating Cynthia Bautista on her promotion to the role of Manager of Branch Library Services effective June 3<sup>rd</sup>! We are so thrilled that Cynthia, with her incredible depth of knowledge and experience, has joined the Management Team.

Cynthia established her reputation within the City of Long Beach as a relationship builder and community advocate. With over 25 years of experience in the field in both public and academic libraries, Cynthia has grown into a dynamic leader through her development of innovative library programs for Spanish-speaking patrons and leadership roles within the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-speaking (REFORMA) at both the national and local levels. She began her career with LA County Public Library as a homework helper, promoted to Library Assistant and helped to open the newly remodeled East LA Library. She then transitioned into the world of adult literacy, all while earning her MLIS degree. At the City of Commerce, she worked for seven years as a children's librarian, developing library policies and serving as an in-charge librarian.

In 2015, she made her way to Long Beach and has led the Youth and Family Services Division as a Senior Librarian with kindness, a collaborative spirit, creativity, adaptability, and poise, producing transformative children's and Spanish bilingual children's programs. Under her leadership, these programs reached across department lines and helped raise the profile of LBPL at state and national levels. She led the creation of Vida Latina, our systemwide Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month celebration, setting the precedent for the growth and expansion of cultural programs. Cynthia also selected Spanish-language materials for the system up until the current fiscal year, and was a regular in-charge senior librarian at BJK Main. In her spare time, she serves as President of the LA Chapter of REFORMA and an adjunct librarian at Santa Monica College.

It truly brings us joy to see Cynthia step into this new role. Congratulations, Cynthia! You're gonna rock it!

### New Mailing Address for Friends

No, we haven't moved. Our storage and much of our work is still done in the basement of the BJK Main Library; however, in order to receive and process memberships, donations, and other financial information in a timely manner we have a new post office box. It is listed on both our website and Facebook page should you need it.

PO Box 15733  
Long Beach, CA 90815-0733

### QR Code Pathway to The Friends Web Site

Here is a quick and easy way to reach our Friends web site. Just scan it with your phone and go. Yes, we are entering the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!



### Memorial and Honor Books

You may honor friends and family with Memorial Books or Honor Books donated in their name and selected by the library staff. Here are the most recent:

Kaye Briegel on behalf of *John Ahouse*.

Kelly Sullivan, Vicki O'Toole, Karen McClory, and Claire Tschirky honored in memory of *Vicki Shoop*.

John Snidecor has remembered *Barbara Irwin*.

Lisa Moore and Mary Boykin remember their aunt, *Janet P. Moore*.

Ann Cantrell honored *Judi Cameron*.

### Brewitt Celebrates 75 Years

Brewitt Neighborhood Library threw a birthday party for the community on August 26<sup>th</sup>, with family crafts and activities, a professional face painter (a huge hit with the kids!), and refreshments. District 3 Councilwoman Khristina Duggan presented Cathy De Leon a certificate of appreciation from the City.



*Crafts and treats kept families entertained at the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday party*



*Face painting was a favorite 75<sup>th</sup> activity*

We thank the wonderful staff at Brewitt for all they do to make Long Beach a great place to live. Thanks also to Friends board members Sharon Abar, Elizabeth Andrew, Barbara Sosa, and Arlene Gale. Activities and refreshments were paid for from funds donated by the Friends.

### Groundlings Donate Books for Children

We were contacted by Cynthia Navarrette from the *Being the Church* collaborative about a large donation of books. Their Summer Camp/Day Care group called the *Groundlings Camp* had collected new and gently used books through a donation book drive. When she said they were successful, she wasn't kidding. Caroline Martin picked up 600+ books, almost entirely children's books, on July 12. The "groundlings" had counted, bagged and boxed them up, and they loaded them into her car. Arlene Gale later sorted them for grade levels. Then she and Diane Riska-Taylor have been delivering them to Head Start classes for children to take home and keep, and to branch libraries where they can be purchased for 25 cents. A big thank you to *Being the Church* (a group of four Methodist Long Beach churches) and the *Groundlings*.

<https://beingthechurchlb.org>



*Groundlings with their book donations*

Friends of the Long Beach Public Library  
200 W Broadway  
Long Beach CA 90802-4433

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Our annual membership year is from June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024. 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](http://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](http://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.