



**Friends of the
Long Beach Public Library
Winter 2022 Newsletter**



New Side of the Library: Lincoln Park

Lincoln Park is open, revealing an expansive playground for people of all ages: from the stage-like steps of BJK Main to fitness row along Ocean; from the Discovery Area on the west side to the dog parks and skate park along Pacific; from the wide lawns to the children’s gym down the middle, residents found a place to be as soon as the construction fences disappeared. Watch for the library and LB Parks and Rec to introduce programs at this new park.



What's Happening at the Library

A belated Happy New Year to all of you! I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Christine Hertzelt, and I am the Interim Library Director, taking over for Glenda Williams starting January 1, 2022. I've been with LBPL since 2018 in our Automated Services Bureau, overseeing library technology, book acquisitions, and cataloging. I have over 15 years of experience working in public, academic, and museum libraries of all sizes – in addition to my time at LBPL, I've also served in various roles at Cuyahoga County Public Library in the Cleveland, Ohio area and at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania. I am a resident here in Long Beach, and am honored to serve the community in which I live!

As we progress into this new calendar year, LBPL looks forward to continuing to serve our residents with renewed energy and a fresh outlook on things to come. In order to do our part to keep our patrons and staff as safe as possible during the Omicron surge, we've taken a pause on in-person programs through the end of February. This doesn't mean that we've ceased offering great service though!

Virtual story-times are taking place every Saturday during February in celebration of Black History Month. We're also planning a wonderful Black History Month virtual presentation entitled, "Growing Up in Long Beach," featuring guest speaker Sharon Diggs-Jackson. To find out more about these events, please contact your local branch or visit our website at www.lbpl.org. Also amongst our digital offerings are Salsa Saturdays, a virtual program focusing on healthy and mindful eating.

Ever wanted to learn a new language or skill? LBPL can help with that! Through the library's digital resources, patrons can access Mango Languages which features over 70 different languages to choose from as well as ESL courses for free. Patrons also have access to LinkedIn Learning, a free online learning platform where patrons can work on boosting all sorts of skills such as singing, time management, email etiquette, and drawing portraits.

And of course, your local libraries are still open for what many of us love best about libraries—checking out books! Feel free to stop in and visit, and take a look at all the new books rolling onto the shelves every day.

The new Lincoln Park downtown officially opens this month, and it feels refreshing here at the Billie Jean King Main Library to have the fencing down. I highly recommend a visit to Main Library, followed by a stroll in the park!

We at LBPL are truly grateful for the support of our Friends and look forward to seeing you in-person and online!

Christine Hertzelt
Interim Director of Library Services

President's Message

Greetings to one and all! I hope you had a safe and happy holiday, and that you and your family all began the new year vaccinated, boosted, and well.

Like all non-profit organizations, and the city departments as well, 2021 was a challenging year for the LB Public Library and the Friends. And it ended with a surprise when we said good-bye to our great friend, Library Services Director Glenda Williams. No one deserves a happy retirement more than Glenda, and I know she is settling into her new life with joy.

She was a great director to work with, and we will all miss her. However, we are working closely with interim director Christine Hertzelt, who is filling in until a successor to Glenda is found. (See her introductory message in this newsletter)

Donations to the Friends reached a new high this year, in both materials – books and media – and funds. At times our Bookshop storage room at BJK Main was overflowing! As a result, we held our first DVD and CD sale at the Los Altos Neighborhood Library in December, and earned \$400 in 2 days. New Senior Librarian Eric Cardoso and his staff were especially welcoming. We are still getting lots of media donations, and hope to have another sale sometime this spring.

Unfortunately, we have had to suspend our donation pick-up process – please bring your books and media to your neighborhood library, one or two boxes at a time, during open hours. (DO NOT put donations in the return bin.)

Each year, we give a portion of dues and donations directly to the library; discretionary funds that are

disbursed among the neighborhood libraries and departments at BJK Main, and used to fund training and special programming. We call this the library's "wish list". This year we were able to give the library \$15,000, a 30 percent increase from last year's amount. This increase was a direct result of your generosity.

Our new website is coming! As you know, our current website is only available under the LBPL website – go to Connect, then Friends of the Library. We are currently working on an independent website which we hope will make it easier to find things like donation policies, processes, and eventually purchase memberships and renewals online.

We are optimistically planning to hold our annual meeting and luncheon this May, our first one since 2019. There will be some changes – this year we'll gather at the Grand on Willow, instead of the Reef, which we hope will be more convenient for everyone. Keep an eye out for more announcements!

Thank you again for your support and generosity. As we begin the budget process and an election year, we'll be researching the candidates and their positions regarding the library. We will also advocate for an increase in funding for the library system, something that hasn't happened for 10 years. The Friends will be out and about at town halls, meetings, and forums, and may ask for your help to show up and talk or write to a candidate.

Take care and stay safe! Please feel free to reach out to me at lb.libraryfriends@gmail.com if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

---Barbara Sosa

Thank You, Jack

The Friends of the Library send our heartfelt thanks to Jack Angel, the security guard at BJK Main who allowed us access to the library's basement garage for the last 18 months. With Jack's cooperation, we were able to deliver and move donations in and out of our basement storage room, instead of hauling boxes up the ramp in the front door, and then down the freight elevator to the basement.

Jack was always cooperative, friendly and generous, and we thanked him with treats each time we met. With the gates coming down around BJK Main and Lincoln

Park, we said farewell to our friend Jack, but hope to see him again monitoring the parking structure. Thanks, Jack!



Dawn Hass, Jack Angel, and Barbara Sosa at Jack's entry to the underground garage on one of our many trips hauling books.

Library Bookshop News

Although the city libraries have now been open for several months, volunteers have not yet been allowed to return, including those who tended the Bookshop. Anticipating this, the Friends Board was faced with two options: close the shop ... it is composed of four rows of shelves on tracks that can slide each segment forward to form a cube ... or leave it locked open, with no attendants. The decision was to keep the shop opened and provide a drop box for payment ... an honesty box.

There were concerns about possible thefts and damages, of course, but these were outweighed by the fact that the shop can now be open during all hours that the library is open, a goal that was never reached while depending on availability of volunteers.

So how has the change worked out? So far very well. There has been no damage, nor perceptible theft. In fact, some customers drop in more money than they owe, as an additional donation. Since the Bookshop reopened last summer, patrons have paid almost \$2000 for books and media - \$1933.62, to be exact. This total includes the \$400 we made at the Los Altos DVD/CD sale.

Keeping the shop open mandates that it be maintained and restocked by the Friends. A small cadre of Board members hold work parties in our basement storage room ... the Cave ...to process donated books, box those eligible to ship to ThriftBooks for online sale, or categorize and shelve the rest. The shop is inspected for housekeeping needs and restocked where needed.

Soooo... the beginning of the new year is proceeding in a positive direction. Here's to 2022 and lots of pleasurable reading.



DVD and CD Sale at Los Altos

Los Altos Neighborhood Library hosted the first Friends DVD/CD Sale for two days in December that ultimately netted \$400 for the Library's Special Project Fund.

Friends volunteers brought boxes of donated DVDs and music CDs of all genres and categories from the storage area at BJK Main to the Los Altos Community Room. Tables were set up, and for two days, library patrons browsed the offerings and filled new Friends of the Library book bags with their purchases. DVDs were sold 3 for \$2 and CDs went for 50¢ each or 3 for \$1.

"When everyone decluttered during the pandemic, they donated many DVDs and CDs to the library," said Barbara Sosa, President of the Friends of the Library. "Due to the construction around BJK Main Library, many patrons are not visiting our Bookshop. We thought this was the best way to offer these treasures for sale. And as always, the proceeds go directly to the Library for books and special projects."

Some patrons collected favorites to augment their own collections; others bought gifts. One patron told the Friends she was a music teacher, and her entire CD collection had been burned in a fire. She purchased many of the classical and jazz CDs to rebuild her collection at a discounted price.

The sale was so successful that we plan to hold another sometime this spring. The Friends just received a donation of 800 music CDs from a patron. Keep an eye on your email for the announcement of the next sale!



Book the Date: Friends Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Plans are underway for our annual meeting and luncheon, and you are all invited. After the two years of Covid-cancel, we are looking forward to seeing you again.

Saturday, May 21, 2022

Change in venue: The Grand on Willow

Luncheon*Speaker*Silent Auction*Free Parking

Watch your email and the Friends web site for details as we approach the date. But book it!



Memorial Books

Since last newsletter the following Memorial Books have been purchased:

Eleanor Schmidt honored Pat Reynolds with two books which are at Dana Branch.

The Massachusetts St. Book Club memorialized Dorothy Schrottenboer with children's books which are scattered throughout the system.

Marilyn and Ron Herrera honored their neighbor, Ron Emurian with two books which are at Main.

Friends of LBPL honored Eunice Sato, former mayor of Long Beach, with a book in her name.



Honor Books

Dr. Deborah Oakley honored her nursing mentee, Lisa Moore, with a \$200 donation.



President: Barbara Sosa

Editor: Diane Riska-Taylor

Contributors: Arlene Gale, Christine Hertzelt, Jan Jackson, Dawn Mendelson, Diane Riska-Taylor, Barbara Sosa, Beverly Stunden

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

Visit our website at

<http://www.longbeach.gov/library/connect/friends-of-the-library/> Contact us at lb.libraryfriends@gmail.com

Super Friends and Life Members

We would like to thank our new and renewing Super Friends and Life Members, October 2021 through January 2022. We appreciate your generosity and support.

Lifetime Members (\$1000):

Cordelia Howard
Caroline Martin

Super Friends (\$300):

Karen Kearney
Jewell Stindt

Super Friends (\$120):

Cheryl Avirom

Super Friends (\$100):

Susanne Milker
Bernice van Steenberg
Bill & Fran Cahill

Dee Abrahamse
Janet Phun
Flo Pickett & Gerrie Schipske
Jane Hansen & Allen Sewell

Jordan & Justin Catron
Monica Leff
Diane Schmitz
Mike & Rosann Monaghan
Glenn Moeller
Judith Cameron
Rick Alsagoff & Bruce Alton
Gretchen Swanson & Richard Connelly



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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LONG BEACH, CA
PERMIT NO. 450



Our annual membership year is from June 1, 2021 - May 31, 2022. 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.

- 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 make checks payable to the *Friends of the Long Beach Public Library*, and mail to: Friends of the Long Beach Public Library, 200 West Broadway, Long Beach, CA 90802-4433. Your membership card will be mailed to you.