

Looking Forward to Lincoln Park

Construction of the new Lincoln Park is underway, south of the main library, and the goal for reopening is early 2022. Lincoln Park will once again emerge as a favorite gathering place for the Long Beach Community.

In its early life, it was referred to as Pacific Park, a parcel deeded to the city from the Long Beach Land & Water Company in March 1905. Bordered by Pacific Avenue, Ocean Boulevard, Cedar Avenue, and West Broadway, the deed required that it be used for no other purpose than as a park.

When Long Beach began the application process to obtain funding for a library from Andrew Carnegie Foundation, they searched for a central plot of land for its location. The agreement with Carnegie required that Long Beach provide the land and supporting funds, and Carnegie would construct the building. Pacific Park seemed an ideal spot. Donors of this parcel agreed to waive the provision in the original deed that the property could be used solely for park purposes, and our Carnegie Library opened to the public on May 29, 1909, in Pacific Park. Billie Jean King Main Library is the third library building constructed on this parcel.

The transition from the name Pacific Park to Lincoln Park began in 1914 when citizens solicited funds for a statue of Abraham Lincoln to serve as a memorial to Civil War and other veterans. Unveiled and dedicated in 1915, it served as a site for Memorial Day and Veterans Day celebrations. Due to the prominence of this memorial in the park, the Legislative Body of the City of Long Beach passed an ordinance to officially name the parcel Lincoln Park, in 1921.



Pacific/Lincoln Park in its early days (circa 1920) looking west from Pacific Avenue. The original deed from Long Beach Land & Water Company donated it to the city to be used solely as a public park. LBPL Postcard Collections.

Over these early years, Lincoln Park served as the home of vibrant and well-established communities of outdoor horseshoe and croquet aficionados, as well as checkers, chess, and shuffleboard players.

We are all looking forward to having a public park available in this space once again. Follow your favorite local news for details as completion of the new park nears.



Construction is in progress for our new Lincoln Park.

President's Message: An Open Letter of Thanks

Dear Friends,

I hope you and your families are all well, happy, and staying safe.

During the past year and a half, there has been lots of talk about first-responders and heroes. But did you know that our library staff members are designated first-responders? When the libraries were closed, library staff members were deployed to other city agencies as needed to fill a variety of roles. Once the city implemented its COVID-19 protocols and procedures, and libraries were allowed to slowly re-open, library staff began resuming their regular city positions.

These city librarians and their staff are my heroes. And now that all our libraries are again reopen, I want to say "Thank You."

Thank you for your un-ending dedication and commitment; for masking up all day, every day, and diplomatically reminding us to wear ours; for being patient and attentive while we struggle with the new distancing rules.

Thank you for keeping our beloved city libraries open and accessible.

In addition, I want to thank you too, all our Friends members. Your generosity this past year was overwhelming. Our annual membership dues total grew by more than 30% this year compared to last. The increase will allow us to establish a reserve fund for years when our donations and dues decrease. At the same time, we will be able to increase our 2022 donation to the libraries for their discretionary purposes. This is a primary goal of the Friends mission – to provide support to our libraries, helping them fund the special activities that make each neighborhood library unique.

You, our Friends members, are also my heroes. Thank you all. And have a wonderful, safe, and healthy holiday season.

---Barbara Sosa

What's Happening at the Library

2021 Summer Reading Club

Our yearly Summer Reading Program kicked off Saturday, June 19th and invited readers of all ages to discover how "Reading Colors Your World." As part of the program, participants were challenged to read, complete activities, and write book reviews to be automatically entered for weekly drawings and a larger grand prize drawing at the end of the summer. Since many of our libraries were open to the public, Long Beach Public Library (LBPL) designed a hybrid Summer Reading program. Participants chose between logging on paper game sheets and visiting the library to enter the weekly drawings or using the Beanstack website or mobile app to log from home.

To encourage learning and exploration all summer long, the library also offered a full slate of virtual programs for all ages, available for viewing on the library's Facebook page and YouTube channel. The fun began with a kick-off event on Facebook Live, and featured a magic show by Christopher T. Magician (the T. stands for Taco) and a display of colorful animals from all over the world by Pacific Animal Productions. Thereafter, weekly craft kits were available at any open location for families, with each kit containing all the materials necessary to get creative and learn a new art technique from home. Each week library staff published a new craft video featuring step-by-step instructions for that week's craft activity. LBPL didn't forget about older readers, however, with videos for adults and teens showing the process for making potpourri, tie dying clothes, drying and framing flowers, and even a paint night program with a real-life sloth over Zoom!

After all was said and done, Summer Reading participants read a total of 13,930 days, completed 4,785 activities, and wrote 734 book reviews. LBPL's weekly craft and story-time programs garnered a total of 2,420 views on YouTube and Facebook. It was a busy summer, but we're already looking ahead to Summer Reading 2022, when we'll ask readers of all ages to, "Read Beyond the Beaten Path."

Dive Into School!

In September Long Beach Public Library launched the new *Dive Into School* program at Billie Jean King Main Library. Dive Into School is an extension of *Dive Into Reading*, where we focus on providing tools for

parents to support their children’s kindergarten readiness. Through interactive workshops and Beanstack digital access, caregivers and children will play and learn alongside each other.

Every second Saturday of the month, from September until December, we will host in-person workshops for parents and caregivers. Simultaneously we will lead mini-kindergarten classes for children ages 4 to 5. During the workshops, parents and caregivers will learn about important developmental concepts, including early literacy, math, science, physical development, and social-emotional learning. Families will also receive take-home kits with books and manipulatives, while developing their toolbox of easy-to-implement activities to do at home that support the different developmental concepts.

While parents and caregivers are learning, children will be participating in their own kinder readiness fun! Children will engage in hands-on activities that build on skills to better prepare them for kindergarten, including letter concepts, math and science exploration, fine and gross motor support, following multiple-step processes, independence, and collaborating with their peers. Parents and caregivers will be able to see these activities in action while discussing the developmental benefits!

As a way to include and reach out to the larger Long Beach community, families will also have the option to participate from home via the Beanstack app. Through the Dive Into School: Kinder Readiness Challenge, families can complete kinder readiness activities at their own pace, while earning books and prizes along the way!

More information is available on our website, www.lbpl.org, or by contacting our LBPL Family Engagement Coordinator Antonette Franceschi-Chavez at antonette.franceschi-chavez@lbpl.org.

CurioCity: STEAM and Beyond!

The Long Beach Public Library launched an exciting new series of in-person programming designed to introduce participants ages 12 and up to a wide array of creative interests within the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM). Drones, interactive electronics, and modular synthesizers are just some of the engaging topics that participants will

be able to explore. The series kicked off on Saturday, October 2nd at 2:00 PM at the Billie Jean King Main Library with the inaugural module featuring Radio Control/Semiautonomous Robotics, presented by a local drone expert who guided participants through the history of this technology up to its current form.

Hosted in “The Studio” makerspace at the Billie Jean King Main Library, this new series aims to provide insight and hands-on exploration into various STEAM fields through bi-weekly themes. Each two-week module will feature a presentation by a local expert in the field, followed by two hands-on programs hosted by Library Studio staff. Every two weeks through mid-December, a new module will premiere, featuring new guest professionals and exciting follow-up activities. We hope to see you there!

---Glenda Williams, Library Director

New Faces at Your Libraries

LBPL is getting back to full staffing capacity slowly, but surely. We’ve been fortunate enough to promote some existing staff, hire some new staff members from other library systems, and rotate some staff. The following libraries have welcomed new team members:

Bach - Kaitlyn Buxton, Library Assistant
 Burnett – Julianna Robbins, Senior Librarian; Petry Rivera, General Librarian
 Dana – Jacquelyn Viale, Library Assistant
 El Dorado – Janine Sakakura, General Librarian
 Harte – Susanne Vanderhoof, Library Clerk
 Los Altos – Eric Cardoso, Senior Librarian; Melissa Smith, Library Clerk
 Mark Twain – Elizabeth Munoz, General Librarian
 Michelle Obama – Coral Rios, General Librarian; Josh Sanchez, General Librarian
 BJK Main – Fiorella Casella, General Librarian

Honor Books and Tributes

Ray and Betty Barnicut donated two books in honor of Bill Collins.

Ribi Sobieski had donated a photography book in memory of Eric Dunn.

Summer Essay Contest for Students

The Friends of the Library and the Helen Fuller Cultural Carrousel have announced the winners of the annual Summer Reading Contest!

This year's topic was "How has reading changed your life?" There were 15 winners – 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each age division:

6 - 7 year-old Division

- 1st place Anya Sharma
- 2nd place Grace Catron
- 3rd place Emerson Keeler

8 - 9 year-old Division

- 1st place Sahasra Linga
- 2nd place Violet Young
- 3rd place Antonio Perez

10 - 11 year-old Division

- 1st place Claudia Macho Saez
- 2nd place Alison Vazquez
- 3rd place Cybele Zeigler

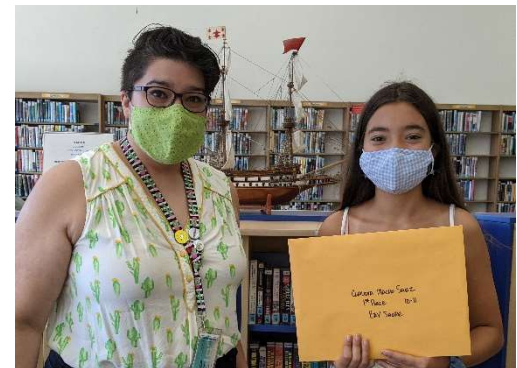
12 - 13 year-old Division

- 1st place Sela Hacegaba
- 2nd place Olive Chang
- 3rd place Abigail Catalan

14 - 18 year-old Division

- 1st place Kade Mulford-Romero
- 2nd place Exly Lundahl
- 3rd place Caroline Gass

All winners received an award certificate and a gift card to Barnes & Noble; \$100 for 1st place, \$75 for 2nd place, and \$50 for 3rd place. Due to the pandemic, there was no award ceremony this year; instead, winners claimed their prizes at their home libraries and had their pictures taken with the neighborhood library staff.





Thank you for the great news. Sela was elated. She enjoys reading and writing so much and we're glad there are opportunities like this.

Grace Hacegaba (mom)

* * * * *

Thank you so much for the opportunity to participate in the contest. I really appreciate your time and effort. I'm so excited to get some new books with the gift card! Thank you!

Exly Lundahl

Libraries---and the Friends Bookshop---are Open

Hooray! After nearly 18 months, all Long Beach libraries are once again open to patrons. Including the Friends Bookshop at BJK Main!

Libraries began re-opening to patron visits in June, but it took a few months for all libraries to resume their regular open hours schedule. Some, like El Dorado, underwent major maintenance and upgrades that delayed their re-opening. Other openings were postponed until staff members were released from COVID-19 support jobs to resume their regular library duties.

The Friends Bookshop at BJK Main Library also underwent changes in staffing. Since volunteers are still not allowed back at the libraries, an honor box has been installed for payments. Bookshop Manager Dr. Beverly Stunden fills in empty shelves weekly. And great deals are available: music CDs are on sale for 50¢ each or 3 for \$1; DVDs are \$1 per disk; and small mass-market paperback romance novels are so plentiful, they are free. (Bring your own bag!)

Since the pandemic began, the Friends have been swamped with book donations. Many have made their way to the Bookshop, but it's not necessary to go downtown to the BJK Main Library to pick up book bargains. Each neighborhood library also has their own shelves of books for sale by the Friends. An honesty box is installed for payment at each library.



We would like to thank all of the LBPL Branch Library staff for encouraging young people to participate, and for submitting photos of their winning candidates.

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Next time you visit your neighborhood library, stop by the Friends "Books for Sale" shelves, especially if you're looking for holiday gifts.

Friends Children and Teen Book Giveaway: A Collaborative Program with LBUSD

One of the many goals of a librarian is to put good books in the hands of children. In our Bookshop at BJK Main, children's books do not sell well, and when our back-stock of them seemed to peak this September, we contacted elementary school librarians in LBUSD to see if they would help us help them put good books in the hands of their students. We offered to deliver them to schools if librarians would be willing to give them away to students to take home. Responses were as we had hoped: 16 schools contacted us. To date, we have delivered 38 boxes of gently used books to 10 Elementary, one K-8, one High School, and two Head Start programs, and we have several requests pending.

We weeded our children's book stock (weeding is a technical term that means much the same as in gardening) to be sure that only books in gently-used condition would be given to children. No one wants to be given a torn, dirty, or outdated book, and children do not deserve them. We wanted to give away only those books students would be happy to receive.

It is important for their reading development that children have books of their own in their homes. We would like to continue this as an on-going community service program as long as there is interest and as long as we have children's books in stock to do so.

If you have gently-used books for children and teens, please consider donating them to the Friends so that we may continue to put good books in the hands of students in Long Beach, and onto their bedside tables at home. You may deliver them to your local branch or BJK Main during open hours (please label them for the Friends Children's Book Giveaway), or, if you have two or more boxes, contact the Friends at lb.libraryfriends@gmail.com and we will pick them up for you. If you have any questions, please contact the newsletter editor at drdriskat@gmail.com

Tribute to Barbara Egyud for Contributions to Programs for Children



We now have a well-anticipated plaque honoring our late Friend of the Library, Barbara Egyud.

Barbara was the creator of the "Raising a Reader," program, encouraging early literacy through library engagement with over 15,000 families in Long Beach. Following that, she introduced "Bring Me a Book," connecting libraries to preschool classrooms throughout the city. Partnering with local YMCAs, Barbara solicited donors for "Bring Me a Book" support, resulting in nearly 5,000 children participating annually.

Throughout the years, Barbara's love for children and literacy was the impetus for many Library programs and grants to fund them. She raised more than \$14 million for the Long Beach Public Library Foundation, and her enthusiasm for the Friends continued throughout her 10-year fight with cancer. The Friends of the Library collected \$2500 for the memorial plaque and the books behind it, now in the children's section of BJK Main.

Her good-bye message was *"I am surrounded by angels. How blessed am I? My angels have faces and names - YOU. Just sayin'"*

Super Friends of FOLBPL

We would like to thank our new and renewing Super Friends, April 2021 through October 2021.

Elizabeth Andrew
Paula Bawden
Kristina M. Brooks
Elizabeth Buffington
Deborah Chankin

Betty Jean Barnecut
Tara Bender
Marlene Brown
Sandra Caulfield
Joanne Charmack

Scott Charmack
 Phyllis Comiskey
 Steve & Julie Darling
 Lesley Deck
 Amy Essington
 Elizabeth Fowler
 Annette Gordon
 Rosemary Harks
 Lorrie Hutton
 Janet & Richard Katz
 Karen Kearney
 David & Agnes Knight
 Joan Leb
 Herman Long
 William & Claire Marmion
 George & Jan McDonald
 Nancy Messineo
 Mary Nan Meyer
 Lisa Moore
 Dagmar Muthamia
 Eleanor Newhard
 Gloria Perry
 Diane Riska-Taylor
 Susan Schrader
 Renee Simon
 Barbara & Edward Sosa
 Beverly Stunden
 Greg Wade
 Sharon Weissman
 Sharon Westafer

Carol Collins
 Patrick & Trudi Curran
 Aaron Day
 Kathy & Don DeSilva
 Patricia Essington
 Jay & Pease Glaser
 Joan Gustafson
 Eileen Hunter
 Jan Jackson
 Willa Kay
 Linda Kimberly
 Sandy Kroll
 Barbara Loeffler
 Caroline Martin
 Janeice McConnell
 T. J. Mercer
 Phyllis Metzger
 Susanne Milkes
 Susan Morales
 Sylvia Navari
 Jean Ruth North
 Carol Quinlan
 Claudia Santos
 Lynn Schwartz
 Leon & Barbara Shoag
 Doris Soriano
 Marie Treadwell
 Diane Wash
 Ian Wilke
 Mollie Woods

Donations are Welcome for Friends Bookshops

What about donating items to the Friends? We need your books, DVDs and CDs which we sell in our library bookshops. These funds buy new materials for the libraries, prizes for Summer Reading and our Essay Contest, and help each library with specific needs that are not covered in the city budget.

We are selective about what we accept. And we get it -- everyone hates throwing out books. We don't like doing it either, but about 20% of the donated books end up recycled. The time to go through to evaluate and process donated materials is considerable. Ask yourself before you donate – would you purchase that item at a used book store?

We are unable to accept:

- Library Discards
- Moldy, wet, torn, yellowed or damaged books
- Encyclopedias, out-of-date textbooks, or computer books (2019 and older)
- VHS tapes
- Books on tape or cassettes
- Newspapers, magazines, and pamphlets

Contact us at lb.libraryfriends@gmail.com and our volunteers will get to work.



President: Barbara Sosa

Editor: Diane Riska-Taylor

Contributors: Jan Jackson, Caroline Martin, Lisa Moore, Carol Collins, Cathy de Leon, Barbara Sosa, Glenda Williams, Sharon Abar, Diane Riska-Taylor

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



California State Librarian Greg Lucas toured BJK Main Library in June to receive an update on the LBL's Khmer Cataloging Project, the largest of its kind in the US. He made a stop at the Friends of the Library Bookshop to visit with Friends' Board President Barbara Sosa and Director of Library Services Glenda Williams. Mr. Lucas' late mother left many of her books to the Friends collection for sale to fund our projects.

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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.