

## Library Budget for FY 2021

When our libraries are allowed to re-open, all of them will open on a full five-day weekly schedule, thanks to the support of Mayor Robert Garcia and the City Council. On September 8 they passed the fiscal year 2021 city budget that retained funding for the libraries' Tuesday – Saturday hours.

The original budget proposed by City Manager Tom Modica included a substantial reduction in library hours. The proposal suggested opening only three libraries full-time, seven days a week, and the other nine neighborhood libraries would then be open only three days a week. The proposal was not welcome news to library supporter Mayor Garcia, who immediately asked his staff for suggestions to restore funding for a five-day a week schedule for all libraries.

In addition, both the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation mounted an intense letter-writing campaign to all City Council members, adamantly rejecting the original budget proposal and supporting the Mayor's position.

"Mayor Garcia's strong support for our libraries is well known," Barbara Sosa, president of the Friends, said. "We thank him for taking the lead on this issue and ensuring all our libraries re-open for full service when they can."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, all libraries have been closed to in-person visits. City library staff are designated Registered Disaster Service Workers, and many have been re-deployed to assist other city departments. The library instituted "LBPL To-Go", a curbside pick-up program to check out books and

materials from the online catalog, with pickup locations now at six neighborhood branches and BJK Main Library. The current City plan is to begin reopening libraries as of January 4, 2021, but that is the best-case scenario depending on the virus in L.A. County.

---Barbara Sosa

## Local Author's Novel Donated to All Long Beach Libraries

The Friends have donated twelve copies of local author Desiree R. Kannel's first novel, *Lucky John*. Desiree graduated from Milliken High and California State Long Beach. She discovered her love of creative writing and storytelling while teaching writing to fourth grade students. She left education to pursue her MFA and now teaches creative writing to youth and adults through her workshop, Rose Writers. She is a founding board member of the Long Beach Literary Arts Center, and a chapter lead of Women Who Submit, an organization dedicated to empowering woman writers to submit their work for publication. *Lucky John* tells the story of John Roberts, a man trying to learn the hard act of forgiveness.

---Lisa Moore

## A Note from Glenda Williams, Director of Library Services

I hope that all of you and your loved ones are well during this time of COVID-19 and Racial Equity and Reconciliation. Although all Long Beach Public Libraries are currently closed to the public, know that we are here for you with pick-up and virtual library services.

Once it is safe for us to re-open, we look forward to seeing you again!

### LBPL To-Go!

LBPL To-Go is our safe and easy contactless library service at seven locations: Billie Jean King Main Library, Bay Shore, El Dorado, Bret Harte, Los Altos, Mark Twain and Michelle Obama Libraries. Similar in concept to restaurant takeout service, library cardholders in good standing order books or DVDs online or via phone and schedule an appointment to pick up those items at the designated library from 10AM - 3PM, Tuesday – Saturday. Please visit us at <http://longbeach.gov/library/news/lbpl-to-go> or call us (562) 570-7500 for more information.

### Your Library at Home

More than ever, families are facing the challenge of schooling their kids at home, finding high quality sources for online learning and enrichment, and in some cases, searching for ways to improve their job skills in an increasingly uncertain economy. Long Beach residents can access free, online support for all of this at Long Beach Public Library's [Your Library at Home](#) webpage, designed to be a "one-stop shop" of online resources for families during this Safer at Home period. Residents can sign up for a library card online and take advantage of e-books, streaming movies and music. It's that easy! Library staff are standing by to assist at (562) 570-7500, 10AM - 5PM, Tuesday – Saturday.

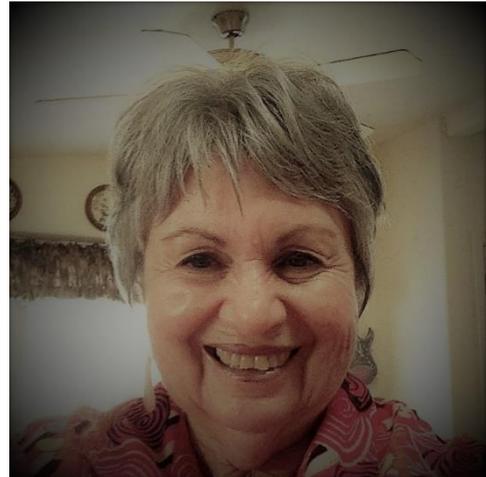
### City Furloughs

To help balance the City's budget during this economic downturn, some services are closed on alternating Fridays for staff furloughs (unpaid time off). These furloughs affect many operations in all City Departments and help prevent significant service reductions to the community. To see a schedule of impacted services days, visit [www.longbeach.gov/furlough](http://www.longbeach.gov/furlough). We appreciate your patience and understanding.

---Glenda Williams, Director of Library Service

## A Tribute to Our Friend Barbara

We lost our long time Friends' board member and former newsletter editor of many years, Barbara McPherson Randall, to Covid-19 on September 29. Our sympathy for their loss goes out to her two children, Craig and Heather, and to all her grandchildren.



**Barbara McPherson Randall**

When Margaret Durnin (former LB library manager and one of the founders of the LB Library Foundation) was president of the Friends over 15 years ago she looked for a special someone to put together the newsletter and declared that "Barbara would do." And Barbara made our newsletters happen. She also kept our member database and ran our Constant Contact email program for four years.

Barbara was a local Californian -- born in East LA. She attended North Hollywood High School, Valley College and graduated from UCLA in English with honors. After college, she was in a car accident, ended up with settlement funds, and decided to use the money to take a tour around the world where she met a Scottish engineer. She moved to Scotland for a year, taught school, and then moved back to California with her spouse.

Years later with two small children and a divorce, Barbara began a series of jobs, moving up the financial ladder. She started in a hospital for the County of Los Angeles where she rose to supervisor, then took a \$500 a month pay cut to learn how to program computers. As a programmer she worked for Southern CA Edison, Cedars-Sinai, General Telephone, and Kaiser Permanente. At Kaiser, she moved into technical writing

and retired there. She lived in a variety of CA cities following job opportunities, eventually landing in Long Beach to be near family in 1996.

At around 30, Barbara decided to become athletic. She took up snow skiing, bought a 250 Honda motorcycle and began riding the canyons, and purchased a dune buggy to ride the sand dunes in Glamis (near the Salton Sea/Algodones Dunes). She sailed racing catamarans with her brother 15 years later, winning a trophy in the Hurricane Gulch Daytona right here in Long Beach. Sadly, that ended when he passed in 1997.

She loved going to the movies once a week and dinner with friends. She traveled to Italy, the Greek Isles and Puerto Rico. Her two dogs, Venus and Apollo, Schnauzer/Poodle mixes (aka Snoodles) entertained and distracted her. Barbara drove to Northridge regularly to watch her son Craig's girls Tanner (9) and Nevalee (12). Her daughter Heather lives in Studio City with grandsons Matthew (20), and Ethan (13).

Bay Shore was Barbara's local library. She read fiction, some historical, but mostly mysteries and enjoyed her monthly book club and potluck.

Always active in her community, Barbara put the newsletter together for the Belmont Shore Mobile Estates where she lived. She was previously a member of the Bluff Heights Neighborhood Association board for many years working on their newsletter, website, membership and email committees. Until recently she was also a member of the Long Beach Area Coalition for the Homeless and their newsletter editor. At one point she was working on three newsletters for local groups. Who else could have managed all that?

Barbara was funny, quick-witted and opinionated; and generous and kind. There were several replies in her Facebook feed following the announcement of her death from friends who had stayed with her during tough times in their own lives. Like them, we at Friends of LBPL will miss her dearly.

---Caroline Martin

### Super Friends, Honor Books, and Tributes

We would like to thank our new and renewing Super Friends, February through October 2020.

Rick Alsagoff	Lorrie Hutton
Elizabeth Andrew	Jan Jackson
Sally & Gary Bates	Karen Kearney
Robert Beillinger	Agnes & David Knight
Linda Bresnan	Magree Family
Kay Briegel	Glen Moeller
Marlene Brown	Lisa Moore
Ellen Butler	Susan Morales
Diedre Caesar	Gloria Perry
Bill & Fran Cahill	Diane Riska-Taylor
Sandra Caulfield	Eleanor Schmidt
Scott & Joanne Charmack	Doris Soriano
Carol Collins	Barbara & Edward Sosa
Patrick & Trudi Curran	Beverly Stunden
Aaron Day	Marie Treadwell
Barbara Dykman	Sharon Weissman
Joan Gustafson	Audrey Hyde Zahler
Rosemary Harks	

We would like to recognize the receipt of two Honor Books in honor of Lisa Moore for her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, from Martha Kay Evans (Long Beach, CA) and Deborah Oakley, Chelsea, MI.

--- Linda Bresnan

### Memorial Books

Since May 2020, friends and colleagues have donated in memory of the following:

Christine Hertzel honored Russell C Weeks  
 Rubi Sobieski honored Edward Brillault  
 Lisa Moore honored Douglas Dauphin  
 Toony and Lauren Dow honored Anne Scarborough  
 Doris Soriano and Ruth Brillault honored Helen Webb  
 Gail and Eric Tweedt honored Sidney Haskins  
 Lisa Moore honored M.J. Gonty and Patricia Moore  
 The Friends Board honored Mayor Garcia's parents,  
 Gabriella and Gregory O'Donnell

---Jan Jackson

### President's Message

So far, 2020 has definitely been a year like no other. I know many of us will be happy to see it in the rear-view mirror.

As with most of life, the Friends Board meetings and activities came to an abrupt halt in March when our libraries closed due to COVID-19. We canceled many of

our planned functions, including our Annual Meeting and Literary Luncheon (which was to feature columnist Chris Erskine!), a special afternoon program with Long Beach legend Renee Simon, and the popular annual essay contest which is sponsored by the Helen Fuller Cultural Carrousel and runs in conjunction with the library's summer reading program. For the months of April thru June, we did not even have a board meeting.

However, our board members bought into Zoom technology and we are meeting again virtually. We have had to weather some storms, including the death of our beloved member Barbara McPherson Randall, who succumbed to COVID-19, and the effort to retain funding levels for the library so all branches and BJK Main Library will be able to re-open with a full five-day a week schedule. Thank you, Mayor Garcia and the City Council.

Because we did not send out a Spring newsletter that contained our usual reminder to renew membership, our membership dues fund has taken a drastic hit. We have received only about one-third of the membership renewals that we usually have by this time of the year. Which means I have to do something I absolutely hate.

I have to ask you for money.

If you haven't renewed your membership dues, please consider doing so today. Member dues fund our annual donation to each library and five library departments, providing them with training dollars and money to purchase items specially needed at their branch. Dues help us pay for our newsletters, fund special programs, and purchase books for the library.

During this pandemic, we realize it may not be possible for you to renew your Friends' membership at the same level you have in the past. If so, I hope you will still consider a membership at a lower level, and use the envelope enclosed to send us your check (we do not have an online membership payment process yet). Please consider talking to your book club buddies, neighbors and friends about joining the Friends of the Library. And what about a holiday gift family membership for your children or grandkids? At just \$25, a family membership is such a great deal.

Thank you, Friends Members, for your continued cooperation and support. Take care of yourselves and your families and friends, and have a healthy and happy holiday season.

---Barbara Sosa, President  
Friends of Long Beach Public Library

### Helen Fuller Cultural Carrousel Sponsorships

The Helen Fuller Cultural Carrousel, which supports children's programming, was proud to sponsor \$1,097 in costs for various raffle items and \$408 for craft kits used to help promote summer reading while the libraries remained closed to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The pandemic, however, did stop us from doing the annual Friends' Summer Reading Essay Contest and sponsoring the library system's Summer Reading Kickoff and live performances that we'd originally wanted to provide to promote literacy among children over the summer months. We look forward to bringing those things back next summer.

---Ashleigh Ruhl



**President: Barbara Sosa**

**Editor: Diane Riska-Taylor**

Contributors: Linda Bresnan, Jan Jackson, Caroline Martin, Lisa Moore, Ashleigh Ruhl, Barbara Sosa, Glenda Williams

*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](mailto:lb.libraryfriends@gmail.com)



## About Those Book Donations

We've had a lot of inquiries at our email address, [lb.libraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:lb.libraryfriends@gmail.com) about book donations. Currently we are **unable** to accept donated materials. We don't know when accepting donations will be feasible, but hope it will happen in 2021.

If possible, please hold onto your donations and we'll email a notice when we are able to accept donations. If you donate somewhere else, we understand and thank you for thinking of us. Please check with your local bookstores to see if they are accepting books or contact Re-Book It <https://www.rebookit.org> (an arm of The Last Bookstore in LA).

If you do hold onto books, please keep the following considerations in mind:

Your donation is tax-deductible and helps to provide critical support to the Long Beach Public Libraries. Proceeds go towards new materials at the branches.

When we open, we will accept the following gently used items:

- Books
- Media including: DVDs, CDs, audio books on CD, video games, LPs
- Current magazines and calendars

We will not accept:

- Moldy, wet, torn, yellowed or damaged books
- Out-of-date encyclopedias, textbooks, computer books (2016 and older)
- VHS tapes
- Library discards— other than Children's, Young Adult, & Large Print

- All Books on Tape and Cassettes
- Newspapers and pamphlets

*Why are we so darn picky about free materials?*

The time to go through donated materials to evaluate and process them and the allocation of space for storage of items is considerable. Ask yourself before you donate – would you purchase that book or item at a used book store?

We truly appreciate that you think of Friends and our mission when finding a home for your used materials. We hope we will be accepting donations in the near future.

---Caroline Martin

## Thriftbooks, Here We Come!

Three pallets (76 boxes!) of donated books were shipped to Thriftbooks for sale in partnership with the Friends of the Library. Thriftbooks evaluates the donations and places the best for sale online. While our bookshop is closed, this is the way for the Friends to generate income from our catalogue of donated books. We hope to send another three pallets of books before Christmas, just in time for the holidays.



*Three pallets awaiting pick-up in a Friend's garage: As we currently do not have a loading dock at BJK Main, boxes of books must be loaded into cars via the front steps at BJK Main, taken to a board member's home location, and picked up there by Thriftbooks.*

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, 2019 - May 31, 2020. 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 Broadway, Long Beach, CA 90802-4433. Your membership card will be mailed to you.