



Reopening Libraries for 'Grab & Go'

A Special Announcement from Library Director Glenda Williams:

I'm excited to announce that we will be reopening select library locations soon to offer a new Grab & Go service! This will complement the current LBPL To-Go contactless curb/sidewalk service launched last year. Beginning May 18, Billie Jean King (BJK) Main Library, Bay Shore, Mark Twain, and Michelle Obama Neighborhood Libraries will reopen to the public for short visits, up to 30 minutes. Book stacks will be open for browsing to make reading selections easy and convenient for all ages. Public computers will be available for 30-minute sessions, as well as printing services.

Capacity at the four Grab & Go library locations will be limited and metered for the health and safety of both residents and LBPL staff, which is the reason brief visits are being encouraged. This will allow these libraries to serve more visitors each day. All visitors will be required to wear face masks and perform a health self-assessment before entering library facilities. These four locations will also continue to offer LBPL To-Go for those residents who just wish to stop by to pick up holds. LBPL To-Go will also continue at Bret Harte, El Dorado, and Los Altos Neighborhood Libraries.

Please visit the LBPL website for more information. We look forward to welcoming you back to LBPL!

Auditor's Report on Our Libraries

The City Auditor's office released its Library Services Performance Audit in February. The audit, which was begun in 2018, covered all aspects of the library system, from languages to barriers, staffing to outreach.

The audit categorized six findings of gaps between the library's services and the residents of the city:

- Barriers to the use of services, such as limited open hours, limited offerings in languages other than English, and overdue fines
- Not using data to inform what is offered
- Not aligning programs and services with strategic goals
- Reduction in staff and outdated staff responsibilities
- Not maximizing partnerships
- Limited outreach and promotion

The audit report is thorough and comprehensive. The audit team spoke to many library patrons in numerous focus groups and community engagement initiatives. Library staff cooperated and collaborated with the audit team members.

Probably the most requested change from patrons is for an increase of service days and hours. Before the pandemic shutdown, all libraries were open five days a week, and closed by 7 pm. Most patrons want their library open seven days a week, and until later in the evening, for homework and family time after the 9-5 workday is over.

In the end, nothing in the results or the recommendations was a surprise to the library. Since

the recession of 2008 and the subsequent reductions in funding, Library Services has struggled to continue to provide services from Main Library and all 11 neighborhood branches. The library relies on the City Council for 95% of its annual budget, but that amount has failed to keep up with the additional services requested by the library's patrons. Some of the recommendations, such as additional annual funding and implementation of a fine-free structure, require City Council approval.

As a result of the audit, the City Council voted to recommend the City Manager research other funding sources to help Library Services implement the audit recommendations, and report back to the Council in 90 days. That was March 2, 2021. A report is expected imminently.

Read the complete survey at [Library-Services-Performance-Audit.pdf \(cityauditorlauradoud.com\)](https://cityauditorlauradoud.com/Library-Services-Performance-Audit.pdf)



President's Message

It's been a year like no other. I hope you and your family are getting vaccinated and that life will be more normal so our libraries can open soon.

Thank you for updating your memberships and sending in your dues last fall when we reminded you! You may not realize it, but your dues are what allow us to accomplish our most important tasks. First, the

membership funds allow us to make a substantial donation - \$10,000 this year – to the 11 neighborhood libraries and five departments at BJK Main Library. We call it the “wish list” fund - the 16 entities are able to use this donation any way they like, from purchasing a new rug for children's reading hours to getting a new coffeemaker or microwave for the staff. In addition, part of the “wish list” donation will help pay for staff training, workshops and conferences, and programming support and supplies.

Second, your dues pay for all the ways we communicate with you – from email blasts to our newsletters. Many of you have noticed that our newsletters have changed recently; we're working hard to make them more relevant, interesting, and up-to-date. And the online versions are now in color! But like everything else, production and mailing costs have increased, so we are grateful for your continued support.

Lastly, your dues help us to provide programs and events that require some funding. In the past, this has included our annual meeting and luncheon, which we have unfortunately cancelled again this year due to the pandemic. We have many plans for new programs in the fall, and our annual meeting and luncheon in 2022.

In addition, we act as advocates for our library. We follow the yearly library proposed budget and reach out to the Mayor and Council members regarding support for our libraries. This is particularly important because in October 2020, JetBlue Airlines left Long Beach Airport. There had been a long-standing agreement that penalties for flights coming in prior to 7:00 am or after 11:00 pm were charged between \$3,000-\$6,000 each (depending on how many times it happened during a quarter). That funding source is now gone and the materials budget for the library has taken a 40% hit.

May is generally the month for renewing memberships, as our fiscal year runs from June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022. You will find an envelope enclosed in your newsletter. This year we would also ask that you reach out to any fellow book club members, neighbors and co-workers to ask if they would like to join and remind them of what we do. We do not raise funds in other ways and we are an all-volunteer non-profit

organization. The cost to join, for example, is \$10 a year for seniors, \$25 a year for families, so showing your support doesn't break the bank. And when the libraries reopen, members will be invited to attend early openings of our bookshop at BJK Main, and have exclusive access to the collection of donated books on sale.

I hope you have a wonderful summer and thank you again for your continued support. See you soon at the library!
Barbara Sosa, Friends President

What's Happening at the Library

Greetings Friends of Long Beach Public Library,

I hope that all of you and your loved ones are well and staying safe. Even though the COVID-19 pandemic isn't over, things are up looking up! Ninety-four percent of seniors in Long Beach have been vaccinated, and venues are slowly reopening and getting back to normal. Long Beach Public Library (LBPL) is here for you with some exciting new services and celebrations. Check us out!

Tech To-Go

In April we launched Tech To-Go, a new Chromebook computer and Mifi hotspot lending service to support school students. Tech To-Go devices are equipped with automatic web filters, including Google SafeSearch for all Chromebook sessions, as well as high-school level filters on the Mifi hotspots. The Mifi filters are geared toward students, but the devices can be used by non-students for job searching, career development, research projects, skill building and more. Reservations and pickups are available to full-access library cardholders 18 years and older. They can schedule requests for devices online or by calling any of our LBPL To-Go locations directly: Billie Jean King Main Library, Bay Shore, El Dorado, Harte, Los Altos, Mark Twain and Michelle Obama Neighborhood Libraries. Staff assistance is available from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

Reservations must be made at least one day in advance. Devices may be loaned for two weeks at a time. Parents or guardians must use their library card to borrow the devices for youth who are younger than 18 years old.

Funding for this round of student-targeted devices comes from a community benefit partnership with Verizon to expand wireless connectivity in Long Beach in collaboration with the Long Beach Public Library Foundation. LBPL is investigating funding opportunities to increase the inventory of devices and get more people connected.

Celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Long Beach Public Library will commemorate Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month throughout May with a series of virtual programs, events and activities for all ages. Through story times, book discussions and cultural programs, LBPL will celebrate and uplift the beauty of many AAPI stories, voices and experiences that add richness to the cultural landscape of Long Beach.

Our Cambodian, Filipino and other AAPI brothers and sisters are an integral part of the cultural fabric that make up Long Beach, and I'm thrilled that LBPL is able to promote inclusivity through our diverse workshops and events for our Long Beach community. Highlights of this year's AAPI Heritage Month events at LBPL include:

- Author Talk & Teen Writing Workshop (May 22) - Middle and high school students can enjoy this online writing workshop, "Storytelling in the 21st Century," for young, aspiring authors, presented by local author and educator, Ky-Phong Tran.
- Pacific Islander Lecture Series featuring "Many Islands, Many Stories: Exploring Oceania Arts, Tradition, & Heritage," (May 22) - A new virtual arts and culture lecture series presented by Fran Lujan, Director of Pacific Island Ethnic Art Museum.

A full list of events is available on the LBPL online calendar. Details on how community members can participate in these virtual programs will be available

throughout the month of May on the LBPL website or by calling (562) 570-7500.

Khmer Indexing Project

We recently added Khmer indexing (author, title, subject, keyword) to our online catalog! In 2018 LBPL was awarded a Library Services and Technology Act grant administered by the California State Library to catalog the Khmer language collection in Khmer. The indexing was recently put in place and now the Khmer language materials that are cataloged are searchable in Khmer. Previously, to find library books that are cataloged in another language (except Spanish), patrons had to search library catalogs in English first. With the new functionality, readers can now search Khmer literature directly by typing directly in Khmer or cutting and pasting.

We partnered with the United Cambodian Community, a local organization to do the cataloging and test the indexing. LBPL holds more than 5,000 adult and children's books, CDs, and DVDs in Khmer. We have one of the largest, if not the largest, Khmer collections in the nation! Our staff periodically travel to Cambodia to update and replenish the collection with the support of the Friends of LBPL and the LBPL Foundation.

Khmer is the official language of Cambodia and is the most commonly spoken language by people of Cambodian descent. Long Beach has one of the largest populations of Cambodians and Cambodian Americans in the United States. We are delighted to provide access to our Khmer collection for our Cambodian community. ---*Glenda Williams, Library Director*

New Additions to our Friends' Board

The Friends' board thanks Mary Lamo, who served as Board Liaison from the Library Foundation for 2020 and welcomes **Carmen Snuggs** as our 2021 Liaison.

Carmen was born and raised in Long Beach until she was 12. She remembers her mother and father walking her and her sister to the Burnett Library where her love of reading was sparked. She still has her first library

card. As a child she preferred reading to going outside to play or participating in other activities. Her library use did not stop there, however, as she studied at the law school library later in life. Before going to bed, she powers up her Kindle. It's how she relieves stress, and like all of us she loves getting lost in a book. Some of her favorite authors are Zora Neale Hurston, Stephen King, Max Lucado, and Agatha Christie.



Carmen Snuggs joins the Friends' Board as Foundation Liaison

Ms. Snuggs currently works as an Administrative Law Judge at the Office of Administrative Hearings in Los Angeles. However, Long Beach is her home where she enjoys being close to the water and riding her bike. She also crochets as time allows. Africa and Greece are on her travel bucket list. But her newest adventure is getting married to Curt, the love of her life.

Carmen joined the Foundation's Board of Directors in 2019.

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Susan Redfield, past president of the LB Library Foundation, has joined the Friends Board of Directors as a member-at-large.

Susan is well-known to the library and philanthropic community of Long Beach. Currently, she also serves on the LB City College Foundation's Board of Governors, and is the Director of the Long Beach-Qingdao (China) Sister City Association.

Susan has a particularly soft spot for librarians, and has hosted an annual "Celebrate Our Librarians" party at her home for the past three years. The party is a partnership between the Friends and the Foundation, and has been generously funded by donations. Last

year’s party was cancelled due to the novel coronavirus, but hopes are high that the party will be held this year.

“Susan is a dedicated and knowledgeable ally for our libraries,” says Friends President Barbara Sosa. “She has had an open invitation to join our Board for a few years, and we are so glad she has decided she has the time now. We are lucky to have her.”

Members-at-large do not have a specific assignment on the Friends Board, but can choose to assist with any project they like. Many members-at-large accept a specific role with the Board after their first year on the Board.



Susan Redfield joins the Friends’ Board

Tribute Books

Friends and colleagues have donated to honor the following:

Eric Tweedt was honored by Claudine Burnett and Gail Tweedt

Barbara McPherson was memorialized by The Friends of the Library, Margaret and Charles Durnin, and Caroline Martin

Cliff Phillips was honored by Claudine Burnett

Keith Fancher was honored by Michael Monaghan

Harry Simon was remembered by Renee Simon.

Super Friends of FOLBPL

We would like to thank our new and renewing Super Friends, October 2020 through April 2021.

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|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Dee Abrahamse</i> | <i>Geraldine Landes</i> |
| <i>Tamara Achauer</i> | <i>Monica Leff</i> |
| <i>Gary & Sally Bates</i> | <i>Janet Lipson & Buce Potter</i> |
| <i>Paula Bawden</i> | <i>Denise Mann</i> |
| <i>Robert Bellinger</i> | <i>William & Claire Marmion</i> |
| <i>Kaye Briegel</i> | <i>Janeice McConnell</i> |
| <i>Judith Cameron</i> | <i>Phyllis Metzger</i> |
| <i>Ann Cantrell</i> | <i>Mary Meyer</i> |
| <i>Deborah Chankin</i> | <i>Susanne Milkes</i> |
| <i>Steve & Julie Darling</i> | <i>Michael & Rosann Monaghan</i> |
| <i>Aaron Day</i> | <i>Sylvia Navari</i> |
| <i>Don & Kathy DeSilva</i> | <i>Eleanor Newhard</i> |
| <i>Margaret & Charles Durnin</i> | <i>Carmen Perez</i> |
| <i>Barbara Dykman</i> | <i>Gloria Perry</i> |
| <i>Patricia Essington</i> | <i>Peterson Family</i> |
| <i>Jay & Sarah Glaser</i> | <i>Carol Quinlan</i> |
| <i>Jane Hansen & Allen Sewell</i> | <i>Susan Rice</i> |
| <i>Janet Hawk</i> | <i>Kathy & Jack Rogers</i> |
| <i>Carol Hesse</i> | <i>Claudia Santos</i> |
| <i>Cordelia Howard</i> | <i>Robert & Susan Schrader</i> |
| <i>Jerry & Cheryl Jeffery</i> | <i>Larry Snider</i> |
| <i>Willia Kay</i> | <i>Bernice Van Steenberg</i> |
| <i>Sandra Kroll</i> | <i>Greg Wade</i> |



LBPL-To-Go has been a huge success

Save-the-Date Events

- In May – Construction scheduled to begin at El Dorado Neighborhood Library
- May 15th, 2:30 pm – Book Club @ The Miller Room (online event): *The Refugees* by Viet Thanh Nguyuen
- May 18th – Library’s “Grab & Go” program begins at BJK Main and Bay Shore, Mark Twain, and Michelle Obama neighborhood branches
- May 22nd, 3 pm – Arts and Culture Lecture Series @ The Miller Room (online event): Arts & Culture Lecture Series @ The Miller Room: “Many Islands, Many Stories – Exploring Oceania Arts, Tradition, & Heritage with the Pacific Island Ethnic Art”
- May 25th – Gregorio Luke Lecture on Censorship Benefiting the Foundation, 6:00 pm (Online, reservations required)
- June 19th – August 14th - Summer Reading Program “Reading Colors Your World.” (Virtual kickoff program)
- June 19th – August 14th – Friends of the Library-sponsored essay contest for ages 5-18
- September 19th – “Grape Expectations” fund raising dinner and silent auction for the LB Public Library Foundation. More info @ [Long Beach Public Library Foundation](https://www.longbeachpubliclibrary.org/foundation) » [Grape Expectations](https://www.longbeachpubliclibrary.org/foundation/grape-expectations) ([lbplfoundation.org](https://www.lbplfoundation.org))

Build America’s Libraries

Calling all library lovers!

Get out your pens and sharpen your pencils! The Build America’s Libraries Act needs your support.

Introduced in the Senate on January 28, 2021, by Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) and co-sponsors (S.127), and in the House on March 3, 2021 by Reps. Andy Levin (D-MI), Don Young (R-AK) and co-sponsors (H.R. 1581), the legislation would provide federal funds to upgrade the nation's library infrastructure to address challenges such as natural disasters, COVID-19, broadband

capacity, environmental hazards, and accessibility barriers.

Legislators listen to their constituents. You can help by sending, calling or emailing our Senators Diane Feinstein and Alex Padilla, and/or your Representative to urge their support and passage for the Build America’s Libraries Act. Ask your legislators to invest in our library infrastructure today. To make it easier, contact information is detailed below:

Diane Feinstein, US Senator: 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 **Phone:** (202) 224-3841

Alex Padilla, US Senator: 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510; **Phone:** (202) 224-3553

Nanette Barragan, US Representative 44th District: 2246 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; **Phone:** (202) 225-8220

Alan Lowenthal, US Representative 47th District: 108 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; **Phone:** (202) 225-7924

Friends Board member Carol Quinlan keeps us up to date on advocacy opportunities. For more information on Library advocacy, visit The American Library Association at www.ALA.org



President: Barbara Sosa

Editor: Diane Riska-Taylor

Contributors: Arlene Gale, Jan Jackson, Caroline Martin, Lisa Moore, Carol Quinlan, 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**

Friends' Bookshop to Reopen

The Friends Library Bookshop at BJK Main will reopen in a new style in June – it will be totally self-service, and on our “honesty box” payment system.

Donations of gently-used books from Friends and library patrons fill the Bookshop and book racks at the neighborhood libraries. Hardback books are \$2, trade-format and paperback books are \$1 – a bargain! Before the pandemic, the Friends Bookshop at BJK Main was open daily during library hours from noon to 4 pm., and staffed by helpful library volunteers.

But due to the pandemic restrictions in place with the library’s reopening, the Friends Bookshop will open as a self-service enterprise. A blue “honesty box” will be available for payment deposits. And only books – not magazines, music CDs, or DVD – will be made available.

The neighborhood branch libraries open for the “Grab & Go” program – Bay Shore, Mark Twain, and Michelle Obama – will also have a rack of books for sale by the Friends, with the “honesty box” payment system in place.

Please feel free to shop our Bookshop and our book sale racks when you’re visiting the library. And stay tuned! When pandemic restrictions are lifted, the Friends Bookshop will feature special sales events just for the members of the Friends of the Library.

Donating Books & Materials to the Friends

We have had a number of inquiries about donating books and DVDs to the Friends. Currently we will coordinate a time to come to your home and pick up the books you wish to donate. Email us at lb.libraryfriends@gmail.com and our volunteers will get to work.

You can also contact Caroline Martin via text or phone at (805) 890-0240 to coordinate a pickup. Arlene Gale, Barbara Sosa or Caroline will come to your home to pick

up your no longer needed treasures. Your donation is tax-deductible.

We accept the following gently used items:

- Books
- Media including: DVDs, CDs, audio books on CD, video games

We are unable to accept:

- Moldy, wet, torn, yellowed or damaged books
- Encyclopedias, out-of-date textbooks or computer books (2016 and older)
- VHS tapes
- Books on Tape and cassettes
- Newspapers, magazines and pamphlets
- Library discards– other than Children’s, Young Adult, & Large Print

Why are we selective about free materials?

The time to go through donated materials to evaluate and process materials 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?

What happens with donations while libraries are not open?

Glad you asked. Many paperbacks have gone to the homeless shelters and to local senior care facilities. Other books have been shipped to a second-hand book seller for sale. The money we receive goes to the same place -- supporting our libraries with new materials, and the Summer Reading & Annual Essay programs and prizes.



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