Hometown hero Billie Jean King opened Long Beach’s new main library with plenty of flair and acclaim on Saturday, September 21, assisted by Mayor Robert Garcia, Director of Library Services Glenda Williams, Councilperson Jeanine Pearce, and other city officials.

Located at 200 Broadway and named in her honor, King cut the ribbon for the much-anticipated new Main Library after a flag ceremony featuring students from Los Cerritos Elementary and Hughes Middle schools, and a performance by the Poly High School Marching Band, all King Long Beach alumni.

Barbara Schwerin, President, and Kate Azar, Executive Director, of the Long Beach Public Library Foundation, presented a check for over $2 million, raised on behalf of their Main Library Campaign. The campaign will continue to collect donations for another year, specifically benefiting the new library.

Attendees of the opening ceremony filled Broadway between Cedar and Pacific, and proceeded through the front doors when the formalities ended. The new library has two levels, a maker studio, and interactive displays in the children’s section. The Presidential Medal of Freedom, awarded to Billie Jean King by President Obama in 2014, is on display in the Miller Room, adjacent to the main floor display area for rotating art exhibits.

The Friends of the Library’s novel new Bookstore ‘cube’ was still under construction at the opening, but plans are to have it open the first week of November. It is located on the first floor of the library in the open reading space known as the Community Living Room.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded to Billie Jean King in 2014 is on display until early 2020. Photo credit: Caroline Martin

Above: Ready to help visitors on Opening Day: (from left) Patricia Benoit, Barbara McPherson, Beverly Studden (Book Sales Chair), and Barbara Sosa (President of Friends). Photo credit: Arlene Gale
Above: Lisa Moore shares information on the mission of the Friends with an opening-day visitor in front of our bookstore cube, adjacent to the Veterans Resource Center. Photo credit: Sharon Abar

The library processed more than 300 requests for library cards on opening day. The Billie Jean King Main Library is open Tuesday, 12-6; Wednesday, 12-7; Thursday, 12-8; Friday and Saturday, 10-5.

—Barbara Sosa

Above: Everyone waited patiently during opening ceremonies.
Photo credit: Ellen Butler

Above: A view of the beautiful Douglas Fir ceiling and balcony. Photo credit: Ellen Butler

Above: Opening Long Beach crowd celebrating the new BJK Main Library.
Above: On opening day, Friend and volunteer Diane Riska-Taylor ran into her former library assistant from Hughes Middle School. Mario Anderson is a senior at UCLA.

Celebrating Our Librarians

Librarians from all city libraries gathered at the home of Susan Redfield on Friday, August 18, for the third annual celebration in their honor, hosted by the Friends of the Library and the LB Public Library Foundation.

Susan Redfield, former President of the Foundation, welcomed the crowd to her home. Kate Azar, Executive Director of the Foundation, gave an update on the fundraising effort for the Billie Jean King Main Library. Barbara Sosa, President of the Friends, greeted everyone and ran a raffle, open only to the librarians, with spectacular coffee-table art books donated by Redfield and the Friends.

The cocktail party was an *al fresco* event featuring homemade appetizers and sweets, and a bring-your-own wine bar. Tables, chairs, centerpieces, and amenities were donated by Long Beach City Councilpersons Jeannine Pearce, District 2; Daryl Supernaw, District 5; and Dee Andrews, District 6.

Special thanks to Patricia Benoit and Mary Lamo for their many contributions to the event’s success. Steve Hinds and Edward Sosa also brought cheer as they volunteered their time to make the evening festive.

—Barbara Sosa
Celebrating our Librarians Gallery 2019


Above: Hostess Sharon Redfield and librarian Shiloh Moore enjoy the evening.

Above: Renee Simon and Undine Wildman
Above: Friend Patricia Benoit (L) with librarian Lauren Nguyen and retired librarian Sue Taylor

Above: Friends Caroline Martin and Jo Rae Zuckerman

Above: Retired Director of Library Services Eleanore Schmidt

Above: Librarians Lynda Poling and Alana LaBeaf

Above: Barbara Sosa and Susan Redfield
Cultural Carrousel Committee Supports Library Programs for Children

The Friends of the Long Beach Public Library’s Helen Fuller Cultural Carrousel (HFCC) Committee celebrated more than 30 years of providing quality book-related programs for children and promoting literacy.

In addition to coordinating and sponsoring the Friends of the Library’s Summer Reading Essay Contest, this summer HFCC providing more than $5,000 in donations to various Long Beach Public Library programs for children.

Carrousel funds sponsored the LBPL's Summer Reading Kickoff “It's Showtime at Your Library” on June 15, including performances by Franklin Haynes Marionettes, Arty Loon Magician, and craft activities. HFCC also sponsored snacks and decorations by Celebrations.

Christopher T. Magician's "Page to Stage" Magic Show visited 11 LBPL branches in August, sponsored by HFCC.

And, Carrousel money is being put to use this fall for library staff to attend an early literacy webinar put on by the Association for Library Service to Children.

—Ashleigh Ruhl

Above: A Catalog of Librarians

Above: Friend Linda Bresnan and Foundation Executive Director Kate Azar, with young Mr. Azar

Above: Arty Loon entertained readers of all ages and taught magic tricks at the Kickoff at Bach Library, June 15. Photo credit: Diane Taylor
Youngsters Rewarded For Writing In Third Annual Summer Reading Essay Contest

More than 60 family and friends attended a ceremony announcing and celebrating the 2019 winners of the Third Annual Summer Reading Essay Contest at Michelle Obama Library on August 24.

Over 100 library patrons submitted essays this summer. Volunteers on the Helen Fuller Cultural Carrousel Committee (HFCC) had the difficult task of selecting the top three essays in five different age groups. Winners were presented with gift certificates valued between $100 and $50 to purchase books.

As part of the Long Beach Public Library system’s summer reading program, this year’s essay contest question was: “What book would you like to see turned into a show (movie or television), and why?”

The top five essays submitted this year were from: 7-year-old Eyan Lundahl, who wrote about “The Kissing Hand” by Audrey Penn; 8-year-old Rocky Sandoval, who enjoyed “Dog Man: Lord of the Fleas” by Dav Pilkey; 11-year-old Archie Byrom, who read “Phineas Gage: A Gruesome But True Tale About Brain Science” by John Fleischman; 13-year-old Natalie Canalis, who wrote about “A Tree Grows in Brooklyn” by Betty Smith; and Christopher Chhim, who read the “I Survived” series by Lauren Tarshis.

Second place finishers included: Sofia Perez, 7; Elijah Livingood, 8; Darcy Fukuhaga, 11; Greta Shinn, 12; and Raquel Gass, 15. Third place honors went to: Zachary Ecsedy, 6; Charlotte Navarrete, 9; Sela Hacegaba, 10; Payton Miller, 12; and Ellie Kerns, 16.

One teenage girl wrote about being inspired by “Fish in a Tree” by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. Many young readers penned essays about the popular “Dog Man” by Dav Pilkey, and there was even an 8-year-old James Patterson fan in the mix.

Check back with the Friends of the Library in Spring 2020 for details about the Fourth Annual Summer Reading Essay Contest.

Portions of this article appeared in The Grunion Gazette, and the top five winning essays are available to read online at Gazettes.com.

—Ashleigh Ruhl

Above: President Barbara Sosa with Charlotte Navarrete

Above: Archie Byrom

Above: Sophia Perez

Above: Payton Miller

Above: Eyan Lundahl
Congratulations to our Scholarship Winners

The Friends value our wonderful library staff and volunteers who contribute so much to the community. We established The Barbara Egyud Memorial Scholarship in 2018 to help them along their path to advance their education. This year we had so many outstanding scholarship applicants we’re happy to announce we added additional awards: Friends Scholarship and Kenneth F. Slaybaugh Memorial Scholarship.

You may have seen these helpful faces at our branches, and we hope to have them around for many years to come. When you see them again, congratulate and wish them luck with their goals.

—Linda Kimberly

People Often Ask...

How are the Friends different from the Long Beach Public Library Foundation?

Both groups support and advocate for our libraries, each with different focuses.

The Friends were founded in 1962 as a non-profit all-volunteer group to fight censorship and advocate for our city libraries. Our dues, donations, and sales of donated books purchase much needed new library materials, train staff, help purchase items not in the library city budget and support educational and children’s programs. We sponsor the free Blanche Collins Forum that brings a well-known author to Long Beach annually to discuss their work with the public.

The Foundation, founded in 1996, has an Executive Director and several paid staff members. Their large fund raising event each June is Grape Expectations. They fund the Family Learning Centers, Dictionary Day, purchase library materials, raise funds for technology in new city libraries and encourage literacy.

—Caroline Martin

Above: Scholarship recipients were honored at our annual Luncheon on May 18 at The Reef in Long Beach. (Left to right): Daniela Lara, Mark Twain branch, Friends Scholarship; Josh Sanchez, Main Library, Barbara Egyud Memorial Scholarship; Carl Phillips, Dana branch, Friends Scholarship; Sheridan Cazarez, Main Library, Kenneth F. Slaybaugh Memorial Scholarship.
Library staff have been ringing up the sales of donated, lightly used books for the Friends for years, but that’s about to change. The City has determined that Friends and library monies can’t co-mingle. This procedural update will not alter how the money is spent – all of it will still go to purchase new materials for our libraries.

Blue “Honesty Boxes” have been installed at three library branches (Dana, El Dorado and Los Altos) as part of a pilot program to have customers pay for their purchases on the honor system. They can just drop the money in the box.

Watch for our new blue boxes as we roll out this program to all 11 neighborhood branches. Come prepared with your quarters and dollar bills. If you don’t have exact change, consider donating that extra quarter to the cause.

Donating a Memorial Book is a special way to honor people who have passed away.

Memorial Books are chosen from a Wish List our librarians maintain for materials they know they need for their patrons. When Memorial Books are purchased, a note is sent to both the donor and the family of the deceased, including the title of the book and where in the collection it may be found. The book will contain a nameplate with the name of the honoree. All memorial donations will be mentioned in the Friends Newsletter.

To honor someone with a Memorial Book, please send a check made payable to the Friends of the LBPL and write Memorial Book in the memo section. Be sure to attach a note stating the name of the donor, the name of the honoree, and other information such as interests of the decedent.

—Jan Jackson

The following donations of Memorial Books have been made to the FLBPL.

Christine Hertzel et al in honor of Russell C. Weeks
Rubi Sobieski in honor of Edward Brilliant
Lisa Moore for Douglas Dauphin

These were purchased between May and September of 2019.

—Jan Jackson

—Caroline Martin
How to Donate Books and Media to the 
Friends Bookstore

Donations of books, DVDs and CDs are always welcome.

Each year we receive thousands of donated books, DVDs and CDs which we then resell. Your donation is tax-deductible and helps to provide critical support to the Long Beach Public Libraries.

All proceeds go towards purchasing new materials at the branches.

We are now accepting donations of your clean and gently used books and DVDs at the BJK Main library circulation desk. Local branches also accept donations, but if you have more than two boxes, please bring them to the BJK Main or contact us at lb.libraryfriends@gmail.com for assistance.

We accept the following gently used items:

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

We do not accept:

- Moldy, wet, torn, yellowed or damaged books
- Out-of-date encyclopedias, textbooks, computer books (2009 and older)
- VHS tapes
- Library discards—other than Children’s, Young Adult, & Large Print
- Audiobooks on Tape and Cassettes
- Newspapers and pamphlets

Why are we selective about free materials?

The time required to go through donated materials, evaluate and process materials, and allocate space for storage is considerable. Ask yourself before you donate—would you purchase that book or media at a used book store?

Thank you for supporting the libraries.
—Caroline Martin

Serving with a Purpose Conference

In May, Friends Board Members Caroline Martin, Barbara Sosa, Arlene Gale and Lisa Moore attended the Serving With A Purpose Conference, a yearly gathering for California Friends, Trustees, Foundations, Volunteer Leaders and staff who support them. Now in its seventh year, this popular conference is designed to provide resources, inspiration, best practices and support to the many library advocates in California.

—Caroline Martin

Above: L-R Barbara Sosa, Lisa Moore, and Arlene Gale gleaning information on serving our community, May 23 at the Ontario Conference Center.

SAVE THE DATE
Friends of the Long Beach Public Library invite you to our Annual Meeting and Literary Luncheon featuring Chris Erskine nationally known author, columnist and editor at the LA Times.
May 16, 2020
Honoring our Super Friends and Lifetime Members

Super Friends are members who contribute $100 or more in their annual dues. Lifetime members are those who contribute $1,000 or more.

Librarians maintain a Wish List of needed titles for the different branches. Honor Books are selected from this list and placed in branches where they are needed most in honor of Super Friends. Super Friends are notified, by special letter, of the title(s) selected and in which branch they've been placed. Their names only will appear in Friends' newsletters. Again, we thank you ever so much for your continued support.

New Lifetime Member: Leslie Wiberg

Gift Tribute in honor of Lisa Moore from her dear friend, Deborah Oakley

New and Renewing Super Friends since April 2019

| Dee Abrahamse | Jane Hansen & Allen Sewell | Gloria Perry |
| Elizabeth Andrew | Rosemary Harks | Carol Quinlan |
| Betty Barnecut | Cheryl M. Hebestreit | Susan Rice |
| Sally Bates | Meera Iyer | Ashleigh Ruhl |
| Robert Bellinger | Jan Jackson | Claudia Santos |
| Tara Bender | Linda Johnson | Eleanore Schmidt |
| Linda Bresnan | Janet & Richard Katz | Lee & Barbara Shoag |
| Kaye Briegel | Willa Kay | Renee Simon |
| Kris & Patrick Joyce Brooks | Karen Kearney | Larry Snider |
| Marlene Brown | Agnes & David Knight | Barbara & Edward Sosa |
| Ellen Butler | Sandra Kroll | Julie Stindt |
| Bill & Fran Cahill | Janet Lipson & Bruce Potter | Bernice Van Steenbergen |
| Judith Cameron | Janice McConnell | Beverly Stundt |
| Ann Cantrell | Phyllis Metzger | Wanda Thompson |
| Sandra Caulfield | Mary Nan Meyer | Marie Treadwell |
| Deborah Chankin | Susan Milkes | Sue Wenke |
| Joanne & Scott Charmack | Glenn Moeller | Undine Harris Wildman |
| Carol Collins | Mike & Rosann Monaghan | Glenda Williams |
| Debby Collins | Lisa Moore | L. Hope Wills |
| Patrick & Trudi Curran | Susan Morales | Mollie Woods |
| Steve & Julie Darling | Dagmar Muthamia | Audrey Hyde Zahler |
| Don & Kathy DeSilva | Sylvia Navari | Diane Riska-Taylor |
| Margaret & Charles Durnin | Jean Ruth North | Philip & Gillian Klinkert |
| Elizabeth Fowler | Deborah Oakley | |
| Jay & Pease Glaser | Art Olsen | |
| Joan Gustafson | William Osborn | |
Here are the Board members for Friends of the Long Beach Public Library for the 2019-2020 year.

President: Barbara Sosa
Recording Secretary & PR Co-Chair: Sharon Abar
VP Membership: Arlene Gale
Treasurer: Doris Soriano
VP Programs: Lisa Moore
Corresponding Secretary: Carol Collins
Book Sales Chair: Dr. Beverly J. Stunden
Historian: Juliet Ebner
Honor Books Chair: Linda Bresnan
Memorial Books Chair: Jan Jackson
Nominating Chair: Marie Treadwell
Barbara Egyud Scholarship Chair: Linda Kimberly
PR Co-Chair & Data Processing: Caroline Martin
Advocacy and Legislation Chair: Carol Quinlan
Helen Fuller CC Director: Ashleigh Ruhl
Newsletter Co-Editors: Barbara McPherson and Diane Riska-Taylor
Member-at-Large: Jo Rae Zuckerman
Member-at-Large: Ellen Butler
Member-at-Large: Elizabeth Andrew
Library Director: Glenda Williams
Manager of Branch Services: Cathy DeLeon
Foundation Liaison: Mary Lamo
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.