Friends Bookshop Now Open

The Friends Bookshop at Billie Jean King Main Library opened November 1, 2019, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by volunteers, library patrons and staff, and Board members. Friends President Barbara Sosa and Bookshop Manager Beverly Studden performed the honors.

Although the new BJK Main Library opened in September, it took a few more weeks to complete the installation of the Bookshop’s unique design. Installed on the first floor, the Bookshop is comprised of four cases, three on rails. To open, the three cases are rolled out, locked into place, and voila! The Friends Bookshop is open. When closed, the three cases on rails are rolled back to the wall, and the Bookshop forms a closed ‘cube’.

Volunteers staff the Bookshop, which is generally open from 12 noon to 4 pm, Tuesday thru Saturday. These volunteers have been screened like all official library volunteers, and spend their time stocking shelves and assisting customers.

Books are sold at bargain prices! Hardback books are only $2, fiction or non-fiction. The list of $1 items includes large format paperbacks, children’s hardbacks, DVDs and audio books. (Sets of DVDs or audio books are priced at $1 per disc, up to $5.) There are also magazines, small paperbacks and music CDs priced at 50¢ each (3 small paperbacks can be had for $1). And a LBPL book bag can be purchased for $1, or is free with the purchase of five items.

Some special donations of coffee-table sized books and artwork may be priced higher. And currently, because of a large donation, the Bookshop is giving away small, romantic novel paperbacks to anyone who brings their own bag or purchases one.

The Friends accept donations of books, DVDs, and music CDs in good condition at all neighborhood libraries. In addition to the Bookshop at BJK Main, each library has a cart of books for sale by the Friends.

Proceeds from all book sales augment the book buying budget for the library system.

---Barbara Sosa

Library Director’s Report

This month marks not only the beginning of a new year, but a new decade. And with that, we have great news with which to start the year.

LB READS Literacy Service

Every day we read thousands and thousands of words without even thinking about it—emails, restaurant menus, street signs, nutrition labels, and books. But what would life be like if we couldn't read? This struggle is far more common than you think.
That is why it is so exciting to announce that we have launched a new service, LB Reads, to address the literacy needs of our community. LB Reads is a free one-on-one literacy tutoring service designed to help English-speaking adults improve their reading and writing skills so they can reach their potential as workers, parents, community members and lifelong learners. Adult learners meet with trained volunteer tutors on a weekly basis at the library. Once the learner sets a goal, such as reading the newspaper or obtaining a new job, both tutor and learner work together through a guided curriculum or with specific goal-related materials until the learner’s goal has been met.

For more information about LB Reads, please visit our website. We are enrolling adult learners and looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help. This service is made possible by the California State Library through the California Library Literacy Services grant.

Social Work Intern Pilot @ the Library

To better meet the needs of patrons of the Long Beach Public Library who may be experiencing homelessness, mental illness or have substance use challenges, we have partnered with the Department of Health and Human Services to explore models of integrating social work into our existing services.

With support from the Health Department’s Trauma and Resiliency-Informed Long Beach (TRI-LB) initiative, LBPL now has two Master’s in Social Work students from California State University Long Beach and the University of Southern California; one each at the Billie Jean King Main Library and the Mark Twain Neighborhood Library. The students are working as interns to connect LBPL patrons with social services including mental health care, legal support, food security benefits and housing resources.

To date, there have been many meaningful interactions with library patrons: one person went from being escorted out of the library for offensive conduct to being sober and researching rehabilitation centers. Another patron was assisted with filing both elder and dependent abuse reports which produced a swift response from Adult Protective Services because of the severity of the situation. These are just two examples of people that have benefitted from the social work interns. Libraries have always evolved to meet the needs of its community, and we are happy to provide this support to those in need.

Congratulations Christine Hertzel!

It is with great pleasure that I welcome Christine Hertzel as the new Automated Services Bureau Manager. She has been the Senior Librarian in Automated Services since June 2018. Christine was the project leader in the redesign of our new website and the Khmer Cataloging Project. Under her leadership the Library has introduced several new digital resources, streamlined eBook access for kids, and upgraded our catalog systems and servers to keep LBPL up to date. Christine has 15 years of experience in public, academic, and museum libraries and archives, as well as time working on technology initiatives in the private sector. She can be found gardening, walking, and reading on the beach when she’s not at work. Christine loves geology, ecology, camping and hiking. It’s great to have Christine as part of the management team for LBPL!

In closing, I wish a Happy New Year to all of our Friends of the Long Beach Public Library! On behalf of the staff and the Long Beach community, I thank you for your support down through the years, and look forward to our continued partnership in the years to come. It is greatly appreciated!

---Glenda Williams, Director of Library Services

Super Friends, Honor Books, and Tributes

There is a special name for members of Friends of the Long Beach Public Library who give $100 or more annually: Super Friends. Lifetime memberships are awarded to Friends who give $1,000 or more.

Librarians maintain wish lists for these special funds, and they make selections of Honor Books from these wish lists. Honor Books are placed in branches where they are needed most.
Super Friends will be notified by special letter of the title(s) selected and in which branch(es) they have been placed. Donors’ names only will appear in our Friends’ Newsletter. Again, we thank you ever so much for your continued support.

Since October 2019, the following Super Friends have joined or renewed with us.

Linda Fell
Willa Kay
Monica Leff
Claire & William Marmion
Rob Molina
Phyllis O’Connor
Gloria Perry

We also received three gift tributes this quarter:

In honor of Massachusetts Street Book Club from Susanne Milkes

In honor of Linda Bresnan from her good friend Judy Pedneault

In honor of Lisa Moore from her dear friend Deborah Oakley

To all of our Super Friends and Donors we offer our sincere gratitude.

--- Linda Bresnan

New President Sosa’s Message: VOTE

Greetings! My name is Barbara Sosa; I am the President of the Friends of the Long Beach Library, elected last May at the Friends Annual Meeting.

By way of introduction... I was born and raised in Long Beach (Millikan and CSULB graduate). I’ve been a reader all my life, thanks to my parents, and have an intense love of all libraries, especially our neighborhood branches. I remember entering Alamitos in the summer when I was 10 years old; it was so cool and wonderfully quiet. In 5th grade at Luther Burbank Elementary School, I stayed late on the day before the Christmas break to help the librarian shelf books so that the school library would be ready when students returned after New Year’s (yes, I knew the Dewey Decimal system!). And when we moved to east Long Beach, every Saturday I visited the bookmobile that would park at Spring St. and Palo Verde Ave – boy, was it hot in the summer! I joined the Friends about 10 years ago, and have been a member of the Board since 2015.

As we all know, 2020 is an election year. And not just for primaries and eventually President and other federal offices, but for our local elections too. In Long Beach, this March 3rd will see election contests for our even-numbered city council districts – 2, 4, 6, and 8. The Friends of the Library will take no position on the candidates, and will not endorse any. We will, however, ask all candidates about their support for Long Beach’s library system; questions as elementary as “Do you have a library card?” and “What is your position on Sunday hours?” We will actively participate, as individuals and as a group, in many of the candidate debates and forums.

We are advocates for continuing and improving our city’s library system, so the positions of the candidates will be important to our membership. Although we will not make endorsements, we will publish and communicate the positions of all candidates in regard to our library system. As a citizen of Long Beach – not to say California and the United States – the most important civic responsibility we all have is to VOTE. In many ways, it is the only way to voice our opinions about the future.

Please, on March 3, VOTE. Our libraries are becoming more and more vital, and facing more difficult decisions, as the issues of homelessness and mental illness spread throughout our community. Libraries face decisions daily and try to do what is best for all their patrons. It is important to our city, state, and country that we choose people who support our libraries and staff, and resolve to give them the tools to tackle these problems.

Thank you for helping us continue our mission! Feel free to contact me at lb.libraryfriends@gmail.com.

--- Barbara Sosa, President
Friends of Long Beach Public Library
Memorial Books Honor Family and Friends

Would you like to create a lasting tribute to a family member or friend? Memorial Books have special book plates honoring the person memorialized and are listed in the Friends newsletter. For memorial books, send a donation and include the name of the person memorialized, along with contact information for the family. We will inform them that you have made this memorial and consult with them about materials and in which library they would like the materials held.

Tony and Lauren Dow made a memorial donation in honor of Anne Scarborough in November 2019.

Doris Soriano and Ruth Brillault made a memorial donation in honor of Helen Webb in December 2019.

---Jan Jackson

Chris Erskine to Speak at Annual Meeting

Come meet Chris Erskine at the Friends of the Library Annual Luncheon Saturday, May 2, 2020 at the Reef Restaurant in Long Beach. Chris is a nationally-known humor columnist and editor for the Los Angeles Times. He writes for the Sports, Travel and Saturday sections and serves as an editor on the paper’s Features staff. The Chicago native previously worked for papers in New Orleans and Miami.

As an editor, he has been a part of two Pulitzer Prize-winning contributions at The Times (for his graphics work on the Northridge earthquake and the North Hollywood bank robbery). He is best known to readers for his weekly humor pieces on life in suburban Los Angeles. His latest book, Daditude, released in 2018, is a collection of his favorite Times columns on fatherhood. He has written two other books, Man of the House and Surviving Suburbia, both of which reached the LA Times bestseller list.

Chris is an entertaining and engaging speaker so mark your calendar for May 2, 2020, and join us for our annual meeting.

---Lisa Moore
Barbara Egyud Memorial Scholarship Seeks Applicants

Friends of the Long Beach Public Library are currently accepting applications for the Barbara Egyud Memorial Scholarship for 2020. Applicants must be LBPL employees or volunteers and accepted to enroll in college or continuing college classes.

Copies of the applications are available at all branches. Please read the application to see if you are eligible. You may submit questions to bescholarship@hotmail.com.

All scholarship applications must be submitted online by midnight, March 22, 2020.

Successful applicants for the two $1,000 scholarships will be rewarded at the Friends of the Library Annual Meeting on May 2, 2020.

---Linda Kimberly

Blue Honesty Boxes are Here

As promised in our Autumn newsletter, blue “Honesty Boxes” have been installed at all library branches after a successful pilot program. Customers now pay for their purchases on the honor system. They can just drop the money in the box.

Come prepared with your quarters and dollar bills. If you don’t have exact change, consider donating that extra quarter to the cause.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding as we move into this new procedure.

—Caroline Martin

Long Beach Reads One Book Returns

After a six-year hiatus, Long Beach Reads One Book is returning under the guidance of Long Beach City College Foundation and Long Beach City College. The selection for 2020 is “They Call Us Enemy”, a graphic memoir by actor and social justice advocate George Takei. It portrays a part of his childhood growing up in a Japanese internment camp during World War II and how it shaped his life thereafter.

Long Beach Reads One Book began in 2002 as a community-focused literary project to encourage people to read the same book and exchange ideas through a variety of community events. Mr. Takei will join our community on March 19, 2020, at Hall of Champions Gym at LBCC to discuss his experiences and their relevance today.

For more information on related activities, please watch local community resources for updates.

---Arlene Gale

Find 2020 Census Assistance at the Library

If you haven’t heard of it yet, then you haven’t been paying attention. 2020 is the year of the Census. And the LB Public Library, along with volunteers from the Friends, will play a large part in helping the city’s residents complete the required census documents accurately.

This will be the first time in history that much of the census documentation will be completed digitally. The Library, with its existing computer resources, is a natural place for residents to come if they require help when completing the census forms. In addition to library staff, members of the Friends have volunteered to be trained as well to help with the 2020 Census.

The plan is for libraries to have some computers dedicated just for the Census. And many libraries will also get an independent kiosk exclusively dedicated for submission of Census 2020 entries.

“The census is so important to our Long Beach community,” says Friends President Barbara Sosa. “We need to count every head in the city in order to qualify for increased federal funding and maintain our representation in the State and Federal governments. The Friends are ready to help in any way we can to ensure an accurate, comprehensive count for Long Beach.”
In Article 1, Section 2, the US Constitution mandates that the population of the United States be counted every 10 years. 2020 is that 10th year, and it will be the 24th time all residents of the country have been counted since 1790. Every individual in the country will be counted, including the populations of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five (5) US territories (American Samoa, Guam, the Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands).

The number of persons in each city, county, state dictates two important things. First, the number of persons in each community dictates the amount of federal funding that may be provided for services such as schools, roads, hospitals, fire departments, and other essential services.

Second, census results are used to determine the make-up of the House of Representatives. California could lose or gain additional seats in the House depending on the outcome of the census. And the boundaries of the California State Assembly and State Senate districts also are dependent on the number of residents counted.

The Friends are happy to join with the staff of the LB Public Library to support the 2020 Census.

---Barbara Sosa

Rene Simon, long time community activist and the author of Our Own Big City, will speak at a Friends of the Long Beach event at 2pm on Saturday April 11, 2020, at the Michelle Obama Branch Library.

Rene is a native of Brooklyn and moved to Long Beach in 1950. She became active in the League of Women Voters and was elected to the Long Beach City Council in 1972, serving until 1980. Rene was the first woman to complete two terms on the Council. Some of her other community activities include involvement in the Long Beach Library Foundation and the Friends of the Long Beach Library, and work in land use which shaped the city and resulted in our wonderful El Dorado Park.

Rene has written four other books: one about the Queen Mary, the Long Beach Transit System, the Long Beach Water Department and the 75th Anniversary of the Long Beach Symphony.

So come join the Friends on April 11 for an interesting afternoon presented by one of Long Beach’s renowned icons.

---Lisa Moore

The Friends of the Library were saddened to learn of the death of our patron Elaine Gidcombe.

For the last two years, Elaine generously donated her once-read books to the Friends. She would pack them in boxes and send us an email, and we would pick them up from her home; usually eight to ten boxes at a time. She donated children’s books, non-fiction books, and many current hardback fiction titles. She was an engineer, and she had a meticulous tracking system for each and every book – where and when it was purchased, its cost and its current resale value.

We learned about Mrs. Gidcombe’s death when her realtor called us in November. The trustees of her estate asked the Friends of the Library if we would be interested in having her books for our collection to sell. It’s not something we usually do – pack up a donation and truck it to our bookshop storage – but the collection was so incredible we couldn’t turn it down.

It took us three days to pack up more than 120 boxes of books. We packed books on travel and history, on medicine and economics. We packed cookbooks of all kinds – Hawaiian, Hungarian, and Filipino cooking, Southern and traditional English cooking, and many by the most current popular chefs. There were fiction hard backs and paperbacks, children’s pop-up books, and computer manuals. We took everything we were offered. The entire collection totaled more than 3,000 volumes.
The Friends of the Library are grateful to the estate of Elaine Gidcombe for the donation of her collection. Most of the books will be added to our Bookshop inventory for sale at BJK Main.

---Barbara Sosa

Winter Photo Gallery 2020

Ribbon-cutting from left: Library Director Glenda Williams, Friends President Barbara Sosa, and Bookshop Manager Beverly Studden.

Volunteer Karen Asraf at the Bookshop “Cube”.

Inside the Bookshop.

Jo Rae Zuckerman (right) makes a purchase with volunteer Alexandra Rainer.

Arlene Gale, Friends Branch Buddy at Eldorado, reads to little tykes on Halloween.

Beverly Studden (left) and Arlene Gale (right) with carloads of donations from the estate of Elaine Gidcombe

Crystal Timberlake (left) and Barbara Sosa take a break from carting boxes of donations.
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.