



NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2020



THE POWER OF YOUR LIBRARY CARD

Your Long Beach Public Library card is a free ticket to educational and entertainment resources and programs. Although the 12 public libraries are temporarily closed due to the pandemic, many resources are still available to patrons. The Library has made its extensive collection of books and DVDs available for check out through the LBPL To-Go pick up service. Your library card also gives you access to many online resources including eBooks, audiobooks, magazines, movie streaming, music streaming, and a broad array of online classes in databases like Udemy to help you learn something new.

FLC PROGRAM PROVES PANDEMIC PROOF

While patrons are unable to visit the libraries for homework and job search help, that hasn't stopped the Library from providing valuable services. Thanks to your donations, the Long Beach Public Library Foundation funds Brainfuse HelpNow and JobNow as part of the Library's Family Learning Center program. These online resources provide live one-on-one guidance to students and job seekers. Individualized support is needed now more than ever to help families face the challenges of homeschooling and assist workers as they search for new jobs to get their lives—and livelihoods—back on track.

Brainfuse HelpNow provides a wide variety of online tools for students grades K-12. In addition to live tutoring in English and Spanish, students can access a writing lab, a foreign language lab, virtual study rooms, college application guidance, and a library of lessons, videos, and practice tests. Adult learners can also access live tutoring along with high school equivalency preparation tools, software lessons, and resources to prepare for the US Citizenship test.

Brainfuse JobNow offers live coaching for job searches, applications, résumé development, and interview preparation. A library of lessons, videos, and practice tests give job seekers the opportunity to add new skills to their résumés.



*Young readers carrying their haul from the LBPL To-Go pick up service outside of the Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library
Photo credit: Beth Giles*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sharon L. Weissman, President

M. Lissette Flores,
President-elect
Celine Cordero,
VP Public Affairs

Joshua Norton,
VP Finance
Sean Reilly,
VP Fund Development

Ryan Ballard,
VP Board Development
Barbara Schwerin,
Secretary

John Arcos
Charlyn Bender
Jeff Carrick
Margaret Durnin

Danita Humphrey
Mary Lamo-Putnam
Todd Lemmis
John McGinnis

Theresa Morrison
Liz Munzer
Anil Pandya
Carmen O. Perez

J. P. Shotwell
Carmen D. Snuggs
Joan Van Hooten
Gregory Zinberg

EX OFFICIO DIRECTORS

Kate Azar, Executive Director,
Long Beach Public Library Foundation
Glenda Williams, Director of Library Services,
Long Beach Public Library
Barbara Sosa, President,
Friends of the Long Beach Public Library

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Dr. Jane Close Conoley, CSULB President
Dr. Robert Garcia, Mayor
Lena Gonzalez, State Senator
Douglas Haubert, City Prosecutor
Robert G. Luna, Chief of Police

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A STUDENT'S LIFE FOR JUST \$5

Help the Library Foundation reach our goal to give every Long Beach Unified School District 3rd grade student a dictionary/thesaurus of their very own! **A \$5 donation purchases a dictionary/thesaurus for one 3rd grader, \$25 helps five children, and \$150 supports an entire classroom.**

According to the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, students who do not read proficiently by 4th grade are four times more likely to leave high school without a diploma. A dictionary/thesaurus helps students navigate this crucial time, improve their reading comprehension, and succeed in school.

Since 2003, the Long Beach Public Library Foundation and the Earl B. and Loraine H. Miller Foundation have worked together to give new dictionary/thesauruses to more than 120,000 students through the annual Dictionary Days program. For some of these children, this is the first book they have ever owned. Help us make sure that this year's class doesn't miss out on two of the most important educational resources a child can have—a dictionary of their very own and the understanding of how to "look it up" for themselves.

Photos: Long Beach Public Library Dictionary Days events from previous years



VIRTUAL SUMMER LEARNING

Imagine emerging from this pandemic with a new skill, certificate, or even a diploma. Every summer, the Library offers many learning opportunities to help students and families combat the “summer slide” and continue learning during the break from school. During this recent summer of social distancing, people across Long Beach were looking for ways to continue learning and earn new, marketable job-skills. In the face of the temporary closure of libraries, resourceful librarians and library staff developed creative ways to offer educational programs. The Library Foundation is proud to have supported these programs with your donations.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM



In June, the Library launched its first virtual Summer Reading Program. Hundreds of families signed up to access English and Spanish language resources for readers of all ages, reading recommendations, and daily videos featuring storytimes, science projects, crafts, gardening workshops, and more. Participants tracked their activities in a new, interactive platform to earn points and win rewards.

MAKE.CREATE.DESIGN



To keep teens engaged, the Library's makerspace Studio Guides developed the online Make.Create.Design program for students in grades 7 through 12. Using free design software, students built their own video games from scratch via live virtual workshops on narrative, programming, visual art, and sound design. This exciting program encouraged creativity and taught desirable job skills to participating teens.

DIVE INTO READING



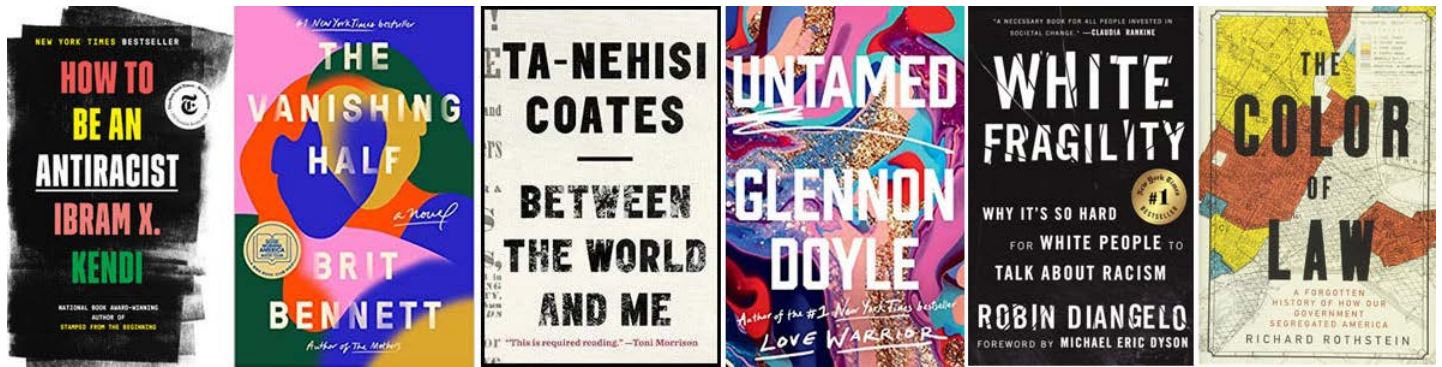
Dive into Reading is the Library's program for families with children who are just discovering the joy of a good book. The program guides parents and guardians as they read 1,000+ books to their children before kindergarten and raise life-long readers. On August 29, the program relaunched virtually with a live online bilingual performance for young children, online book trackers for parents and guardians, prizes for reaching reading milestones, and craft kits for pick up.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS



Adult learners continue to participate in Library programs designed to help them achieve academic and professional goals. Students in the Library's Career Online High School are progressing in their lessons to earn their accredited high school diplomas and become more competitive candidates in the workforce. The LB Reads program continues to conduct adult literacy tutoring sessions online to support the approximately 1 in 3 Los Angeles County adults who struggle with basic literacy skills.

RACE, EQUITY, AND JUSTICE

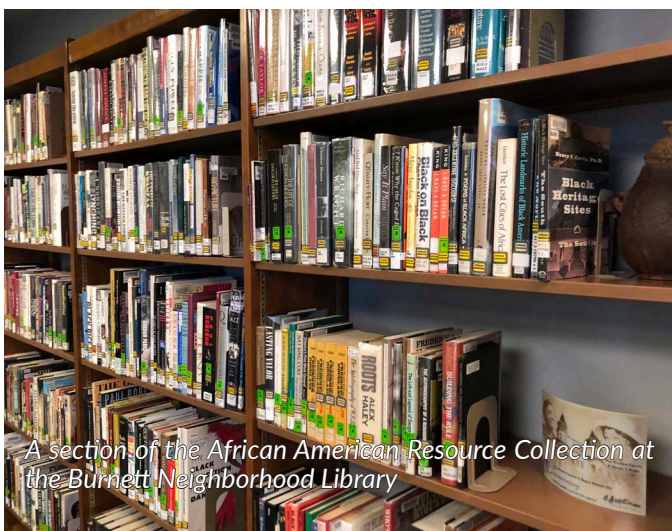


As an organization that has long advocated for equity in education and literacy, the Long Beach Public Library Foundation unequivocally affirms that Black lives matter. While we are an organization that relies heavily on the power of the written word, we know words are not enough. In June, the Library Foundation, in partnership with the African American Heritage Society of Long Beach (AAHS-LB), launched a fund for materials and programs related to race, equity, and justice at the Long Beach Public Library.

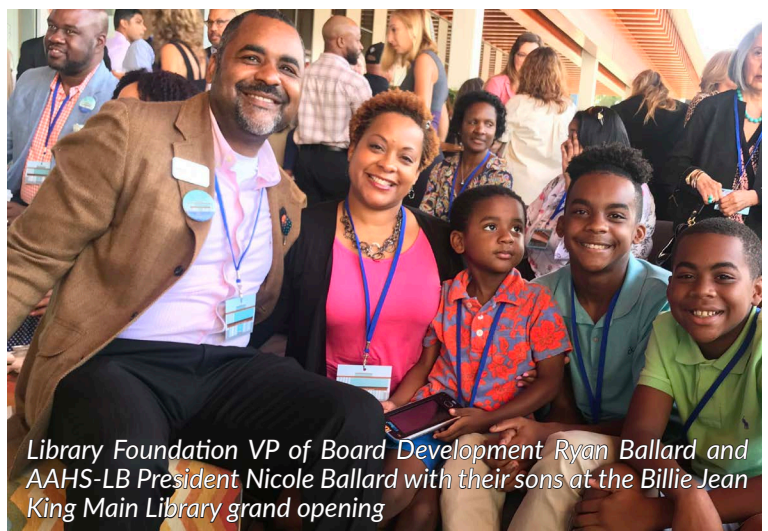
This fund was conceived when local faith leaders, Reverend Melinda Teter Dodge and Reverend Katy Hyman, contacted the Library Foundation to form a collaboration in support of broad community access to anti-racist educational resources through the library system. As an extension of the Library's African American Resource Collection, supported and curated by AAHS-LB, this fund will support the purchase of new materials including books, eBooks, and audiobooks that promote the voices, narratives, and histories of African Americans. The fund will also support similarly-themed events and activities hosted by the Library. Programs and materials will educate the public on issues such as anti-Black racism, white privilege, white supremacy, mass incarceration, other forms of institutional racism, and human rights issues that have plagued our society.

Thanks to everyone who donated so far, nearly 400 eBooks and audiobooks have been added to the Library's collection including additional licenses for very popular titles, like the books pictured above. In fact, Robin DiAngelo's *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* had an astonishing 248 holds prior to this acquisition. These new additions will ease waitlists and give more people the opportunity to educate themselves about systemic racism.

Learn how to support this fund with a donation of any size at LBPLfoundation.org/aarc.



A section of the African American Resource Collection at the Burnett Neighborhood Library



Library Foundation VP of Board Development Ryan Ballard and AAHS-LB President Nicole Ballard with their sons at the Billie Jean King Main Library grand opening

SOCIAL DISTANCED CELEBRATING



Billie Jean King

The *Grunion*'s executive editor, Harry Saltzgaver, put it best in April, "Grape Expectations 2020 is crushed, another victim of the coronavirus stay at home and no gatherings orders." But readers know better than anyone how to make the most of an evening at home. Instead of our annual gala, Library Foundation donors grabbed a good book, their smart devices, and virtually toasted to the power of literacy, raising more than \$80,000 for the Library Foundation in the process.

From April 23 to 30, "Grape Expectations: Stay Home & Read Edition" connected readers during Long Beach's Safer-at-Home ordinance. Readings, performances, and messages for attendees were featured on the Library Foundation's website and on the event's Facebook page. Special guests who shared videos included sports icon and social activist

Billie Jean King, bestselling author Lisa See, award-winning food writer Russ Parsons, Golden Globe-winning writer and producer Prentice Penny, Councilwoman Stacy Mungo, Councilwoman Jeannine Pearce, and local Bossa Nova singer Caro Pierotto.

The Wine Country created a Grape Expectations Read-along Wine Sampler 4-pack of the wines that we would have shared at dinner with 100% of the profit being donated to the Library Foundation, and TGIS made the menu it had planned to serve available to order.



Councilwoman Pearce and her daughter

Always a key feature of the Grape Expectations gala, the Library Foundation's auction of fine wines, great culinary experiences, and treasures was moved online this year. Thanks to generous auction donors, including Tony and Kay Tortorice, Primal Alchemy Catering

and Provisions, McCarty's Fine Jewelry & Watches, Councilmember Al Austin, Councilwoman Stacy Mungo, and Councilwoman Suzie Price, many winners walked away with exciting prizes.

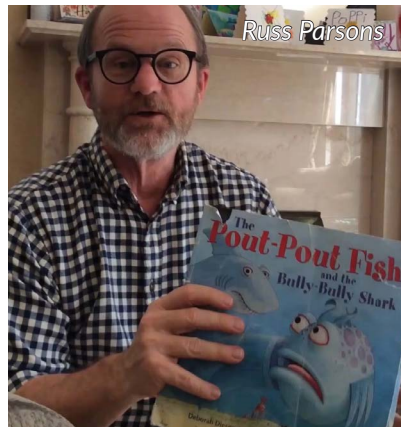
The week-long celebration of literacy would not have been possible without its sponsors, including lead sponsors **Charley and Margaret Durnin, Marathon Petroleum Corporation, the Port of Long Beach, and Windes**. The volunteers who worked to make this event an experience to remember include Grape Expectations Committee Chair Sean Reilly, and his committee: John Arcos, Mary Hancock Hinds, Mary Lamo-Putnam, M. Lissette Flores, Jeffrey Toelsin, Tony Tortorice, and Sharon Weissman.



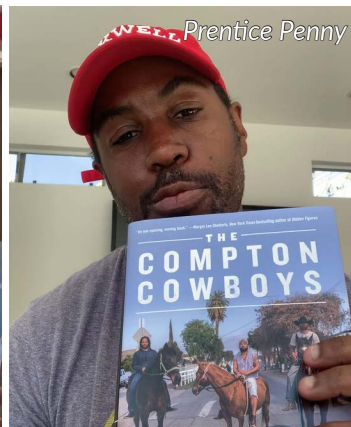
Sean Reilly and Jeff Toelsin



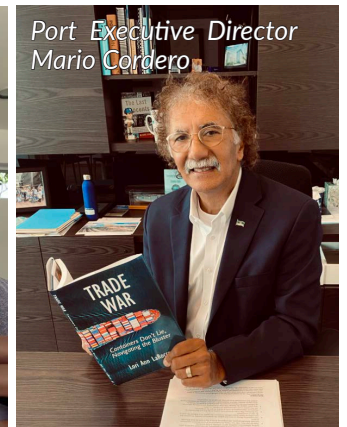
Councilwoman Mungo and her daughter



Russ Parsons



Prentice Penny



Port Executive Director Mario Cordero

A CHAMPION OF LITERACY

“ Libraries are critical to the life of a community. It’s a vital part of being here. The stronger the library, the better the community. ”

-Richard D. Green

In January 2019, we mourned the loss of a true champion of literacy and libraries, Richard D. Green. A supporter of the Library Foundation since 2002, Dick’s commitment to supporting literacy and education has been proven time and again, throughout his life and in the legacy he leaves behind. This year, the Library Foundation was honored to receive a \$1 million gift from his estate to add to the Richard D. Green Endowed Fund for Literacy which will support programs and resources at the Library for many years to come.

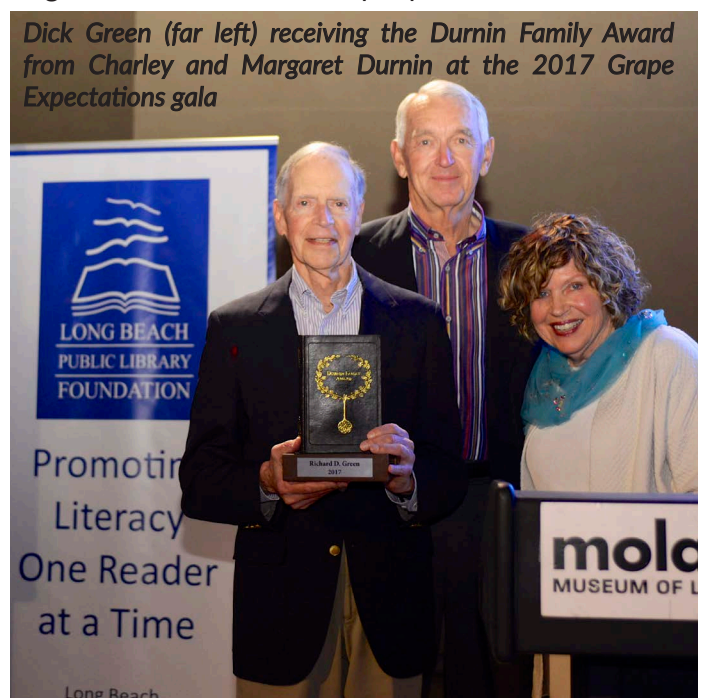
Dick first called Long Beach home in 1935 when his father moved the family to Belmont Heights after being stationed here with the Navy. His family came and went frequently over the coming years, moving to the east coast, then to Honolulu in 1941 and through the start of the War, but returning each time to their Long Beach home. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Dick worked for Chase Manhattan Bank in New York until 1982, when he came back to Long Beach permanently. He became a widely generous advocate for education, literacy, and community restoration supporting California State University, Long Beach; the Long Beach Rescue Mission; Meals on Wheels; Goodwill; the Long Beach Symphony; and of course, the Long Beach Public Library Foundation.

Dick became a member of the Library Foundation’s Carnegie49 Society, which honors those who care deeply about the future of Long Beach’s public libraries and name the Library Foundation as a beneficiary of their estate. The Society is named for Andrew Carnegie because of his generous work spreading literacy across the country by building libraries from New York to California. Carnegie’s library in Long Beach was the 49th Carnegie library in the state. Dick was a regular at the group’s annual events, listening to visiting authors, receiving signed copies of their books, and enjoying great food with fellow library supporters. In 2014, Dick made the decision to give during his lifetime the \$1 million gift he had planned, establishing his endowed fund for literacy. The next year, recognizing the pressing need for immediate support for the new Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library, he designated a portion of that gift to the new branch. A plaque in his honor is on display in that Library’s atrium.

In 2017, the Library Foundation awarded Dick the Durnin Family Award at the annual Grape Expectations gala. Dick’s compassionate response to the needs of the Long Beach community made him a more than deserving recipient.

While the Library Foundation never suspected that Dick would quietly replace the gift he had already given us with another to be revealed after his passing, this act is a true reflection of his humble and generous character. He will be remembered in the faces of those who will be helped by the Library for generations to come.

If you are interested in joining Carnegie49 and including the Library Foundation in your estate, please contact Director of Development Erica Bradley at (562) 628-2441 ext.2.



Dick Green (far left) receiving the Durnin Family Award from Charley and Margaret Durnin at the 2017 Grape Expectations gala



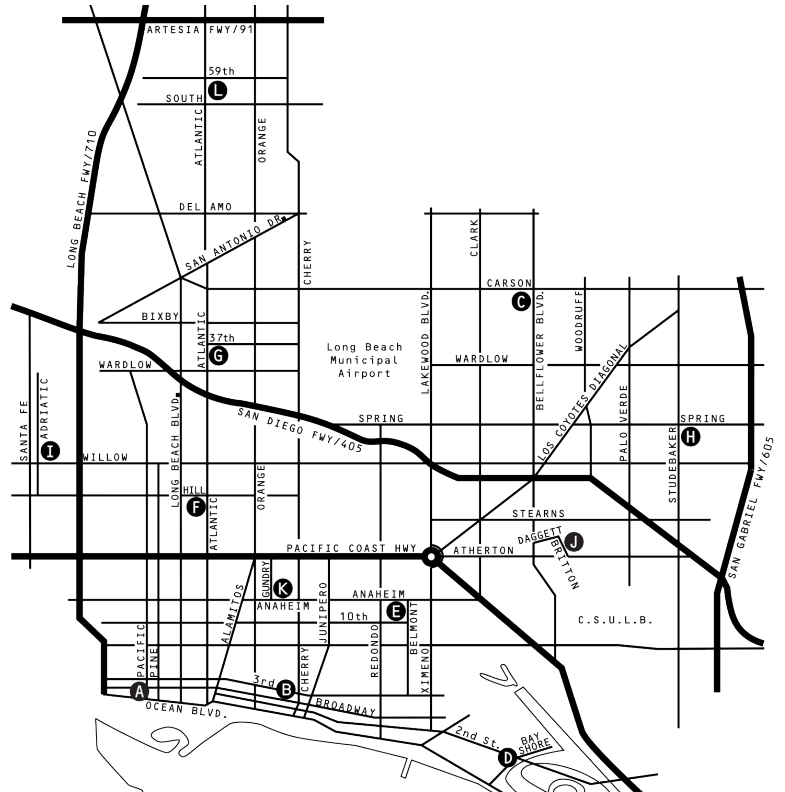
Long Beach Public Library Foundation
 200 W. Broadway
 Long Beach, California 90802
LBPLfoundation.org
 (562) 628-2441

Follow us @LBPLfoundation



Visit longbeach.gov/library to enjoy the Library's many online resources and check out books through the LBPL To-Go pick up service available at the libraries highlighted below (as of September 8). For more information, the Library can be reached at (562) 570-7500.

- A** Billie Jean King Main Library
- B** Alamitos Branch
- C** Bach Branch
- D** Bay Shore Branch
- E** Brewitt Branch
- F** Burnett Branch
- G** Dana Branch
- H** El Dorado Branch
- I** Harte Branch
- J** Los Altos Branch
- K** Mark Twain Branch
- L** Michelle Obama Branch



YOUR GIFT TRANSFORMS LIVES