



the *Library Insider*

Fall 2013 Vol 19-Number 102

Published Quarterly by The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library

Pasadena Branch Libraries: Friday Hours Restored!

Hooray! After three years of Friday closures, the doors are swinging open again at six library branches previously shuttered on that weekday. The new schedule became official on September 3 for the Allendale, Hill Avenue, Lamanda Park, Linda Vista, San Rafael and Santa Catalina branches of the Pasadena Public Library. Additionally, Sunday hours have been restored at the Hastings branch, and Villa Parke is open on Saturdays (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.).

In each instance, the restored service is scheduled in four-hour segments. On Fridays, three branches (Hill, Linda Vista and San Rafael) are open midday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Allendale, Lamanda Park and Santa Catalina open later on Friday afternoons, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. And to think we once took Fridays for granted at each of the library's 10 locations! Looking back, December 2007 marked the peak of a six-year expansion in the U.S. economy. The Great Recession began that month, although the consequences roiled us later. Indeed, Pasadena's library budget rose to \$12.5 million in fiscal year 2009, before tumbling to \$11.2 million two years later.

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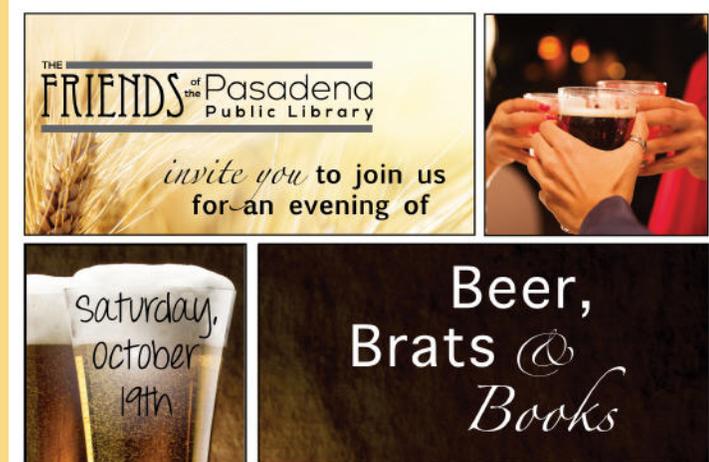
Gather with Friends on a Special Night

The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library will host its first beer tasting-and-fundraising event, "Beer, Brats & Books," on Central Library's front patio, Saturday, October 19, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Bratwursts, sauerkraut and garlic fries will accompany the beer!

Sample the product of several local breweries. Meet other booklovers. Discover ways you might support Pasadena's fine libraries by joining The Friends or serving as a volunteer.

Tickets are priced at \$45, and must be purchased in advance. Purchase tickets or make donations at www.friendsppl.org or mail checks to The Friends, 285 East Walnut Street, Pasadena, CA 91101. Tickets may also be purchased at The Friends' monthly book sale (Sept. 14 and Oct. 12). *Make checks payable to The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library, with "fundraiser" in the memo line.*

Founded in 1975, The Friends organization helps fund the library's programs, special services and cultural events. Tickets and donations benefiting the organization are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. For more information, visit www.friendsppl.org to join our mailing list; email friendsppl@yahoo.com, or telephone 626.744.4680.



Eventful Years at

La Pintoresca



If Diane Walker has a claim to Pasadena fame, she says it is as the mother of triplets (now 20 years of age and attending college, thank you). But don't be fooled. In seven years as the La Pintoresca's branch manager, Walker's energy and effervescent spirit infused the library and surrounding community.

Today, La Pintoresca Branch Library has a good feeling that spills outdoors. On any afternoon, a visitor might find a Zumba class in session on the lawn, or families relaxing on the grass, enjoying the shade of old trees and a reliable breeze. The setting is enviable, as the library and adjacent La Pintoresca Park are perched atop one of Pasadena's highest and most historic hills.

The scene was different when Walker arrived in 2006, as she recounted in a three-minute video posted on the Pasadena Public Library website. "After 20 years as a librarian, I was assigned to work at La Pintoresca Branch. *Gangs, guns, shootings, lockdowns, barred windows, Bloods, Crips, violence* were the words and

images that flashed through my mind. I asked myself, 'What had I done wrong to be sent there?'"

Her anxieties were valid. In the first half of 2007, a spate of violence rocked the area. "There was a lot of gang activity in the park. Lots of lock downs. Gun shootings," Walker told *The Insider*. Indeed, the statistics tell the story. Visits to La Pintoresca library tumbled nine percent that year. Dismayed by the violence, civic leaders and police worked to turn the tide. Heavy law enforcement was followed by a multi-agency effort to offer better resources and options to Pasadena's youth. Change came visibly to La Pintoresca Park. New playground equipment was purchased and a skate park was renovated in 2007. In 2010, the City undertook a \$445,000 renovation of a building adjacent to the park, to open La Pintoresca Teen Education Center in 2011 as a year-round haven.

This summer, as Walker prepared to leave for a new assignment as Hastings branch manager, she talked about her La Pintoresca years with a mix of humor, humility and enthusiasm. Walker said she had to learn much about diverse cultures, beginning with the African-American celebration of Kwanzaa. "I'm African-American," she said, but Kwanzaa wasn't celebrated in her home when she was growing up in Arkansas. "So I had to read; I went to a lot of individual homes where they actually did it. So I fully engaged in it. So guess what, the first year I was here, the

What's on Your Nightstand?

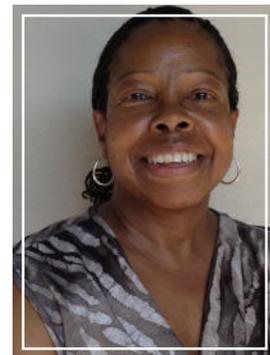
If books are your livelihood, do you read in your free time? The answer is a resounding yes for Colleen Dunn Bates, founder of Prospect Park Books, and Bernadette Glover, the librarian who selects non-fiction titles for the Pasadena Public Library collection. Both are enthusiastic readers who say they usually reach for fiction when they read "for fun."

Fiction might be the counterbalance to their demanding jobs. Both women are steeped in the news as they monitor contemporary trends. Bates is a journalist-turned-publisher; Glover describes herself as a news junkie. "I really enjoy my job. I enjoy being on top of what's happening," she said.

Glover hastens to say that she does not—and cannot—read the thousands of non-fiction materials purchased by the Pasadena Public Library each year. As a "selector," she must identify prospective acquisitions far in advance of publication. She does that by scouring five or six professional journals, reading the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Pasadena Star-News* and

weeklies, watching a variety of news programs, and weighing the recommendations of local library patrons.

With patrons' suggestions, Glover said, "I do learn about books that are of interest to the community, that maybe I've missed in journals that I'm reading." (Suggestions are easily submitted via the library's website. Click on the "Books & Materials" link, then "Suggest for Purchase" to find the form.)



Bernadette Glover

On staff since 1986, Glover knows Pasadena well. She spent 10 years in two branches, and has also worked as a reference librarian at Central. A Chicago native, she earned her master's degree in library science at Columbia University before she was recruited by Edward M. Szyrnaka, the Pasadena library's director from 1981 to 1994.



Built in 1930, La Pintaresca Branch Library occupies part of the site of a grand hotel that burned in 1912. Last year, the City of Pasadena nominated La Pintaresca Park for listing on the National Register of Historical Places. (The library is not nominated, although the city noted that it might be eligible for listing under a different context.)

Kwanzaa program was on the front page of the *Star-News*!

She turned the same energy to other projects. Plays were produced. A literacy program flourished. Use of the library soared. In 2010, La Pintaresca drew 28 percent more visitors than the tough year of 2007. Walker encouraged diverse community events. In turn, patrons and diverse groups showed their appreciation. She'll be honored at least twice this fall.

"You have consistently worked with us to find ways that our theme could more closely connect with patrons of La Pintaresca. Whether it was a fashion show, a plane in the parade, or a special place for an ofrenda, you availed library energy and space to us," wrote Latino Heritage Executive Director Roberta H. Martinez in July, inviting Walker to be a Dona Eulalia Award recipient on October 19, during the 15th annual Latino Heritage parade and Jamaica (community fair). Two days later, Walker is scheduled to attend the 11th Annual Women for Racial Justice Breakfast, sponsored by YWCA Pasadena-Foothill Valley. Why? She's won Honorable Mention for the organization's 2013 Racial Justice Award.

Well done!

—Katie Harris



Glover returned to Chicago this summer to attend the annual American Library Association conference. Not surprisingly, she discovered books to read in her own time. After meeting British novelist Jojo Moyes, Glover read that author's *Me Before You* on the plane home.

"I like European writers," Glover said, citing Tana French, an Irish novelist and theatrical actress. She also admires Kate Atkinson, the novelist who makes her home in Scotland, after reading Atkinson's latest book, *Life After Life*. Some readers find the novel's structure difficult because the female protagonist dies and lives multiple times in different wars and different war zones, Glover said, but she liked the novel because "It told me about people in World War I and II. It brought it down to the human level."

As a fan of mysteries, Glover reads four American authors: Kathy Reichs, Linda Fairstein, Michael Connelly and David Baldacchi. This year, her "light" summer reads included Susan Mallery's *Three Sisters*, *The Engagements* by J. Courtney Sullivan and Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*. But she also read

The Library Insider
is published quarterly by
The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library
Pasadena, California



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For questions regarding membership or
our activities and projects,
please contact The Friends through our
voice mail at 626.744.4680 or
email at friendsppl@yahoo.com

What's on Your Nightstand?

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thought-provoking non-fiction works: *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail* by Cheryl Strayed, and *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot.

"You can't put me in a box," Glover said. "I hate when Nook and all these other companies say, 'We want to recommend your next read,' because *they don't know*. Thank you! I'm all over the map."



Colleen Dunn Bates

On its website, Prospect Park Books insists that "sleep is overrated," in explaining how the small publishing house produced nine titles this year. The Pasadena firm, launched in 2006 by Colleen Dunn Bates, focuses on fiction, humor, cooking and food, and regional work. Those genres are dear to Bates, whether she's reading for work or sheer pleasure.

"My favorite is the engrossing contemporary novel. I like realistic fiction and humanistic fiction," Bates said, yet some humorists jump to the top of her reading list. "I will drop everything when David Sedaris comes out; Sloane Crosley, Paul Rudnick, Calvin Trilling, Tina Fey." In July, she was reading

the latest Sedaris book, *Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls*.

"My fun fiction reading is *Beautiful Ruins*, which is a bestseller that I somehow had not heard about when it was in hardback," she said of the 2012 book by Jess Walter. "I'm really enjoying it. It's taking place—at least so far—just outside of Cinque Terre in Italy, and my husband and I honeymooned there 30 years ago, so that's kind of fun, too."

Bates praises four novels that she read earlier in the year: "*Life After Life*, which is getting all kinds of attention; [it is] the Kate Atkinson book, really good . . . *Mary Coin* by Marisa Silver, who's an L.A. writer. I truly try to read as many L.A. writers as I can because I'm an L.A. publisher. . . I'm a big fan of *Where'd You Go, Bernadette?* Loved that book [by] Maria Semple. It's really funny. I would have to say, just on a pure gut level, that was my favorite book this year . . . The other one that I really liked was *The Interestings* by Meg Wolitzer."

As much as she loves contemporary fiction, Bates is reading three very different works suggested by friends and family. She picked up *The House of Mirth*, an Edith Wharton novel first published in 1905, because her younger daughter was reading it. "It's so much fun! I thought it would be more stilted. It's terrific and it's very entertaining." She's begun *The Art of Thinking Clearly* by Rolf Dobelli, a Swiss novelist, philosopher and entrepreneur. "It's a psychology book, in a way," Bates said of the book, which was a hit in Europe before its English translation reached the U.S. market this year. She's reading it at the urging of peers she met this summer at the Yale Publishing Course, a six-day program on the university campus in New Haven, Connecticut. Then there is *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*, the 2010 memoir by Gregory Boyle, the Jesuit priest who founded Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles. "I was a latecomer, believe it or not, to read *Tattoos on the Heart*." Bates said the book moved her to tears.

—Katie Harris

Central Library

626.744.4066

285 East Walnut Street
Mon - Th 9:00 am - 9:00 pm
Fri and Sat 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sunday 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Allendale Branch

626.744.7260

1130 South Marengo
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm
Fri 2 - 6 pm

Hastings Branch

626.744.7262

3325 E. Orange Grove Blvd.
Mon - Thurs 10am - 9pm
Fri & Sat 10am - 6pm
Sun 1 - 5 pm

Hill Avenue Branch

626.744.7264

55 South Hill Ave.
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10am - 6pm
Fri 10 am - 2 pm

La Pintoresca Branch

626.744.7268

1355 North Raymond Ave.
Mon - Sat 9 am - 6 pm

Lamanda Park Branch

626.744.7266

140 South Altadena Dr.
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm
Fri 2 pm - 6 pm

Linda Vista Branch

626.744.7278

1281 Bryant Street
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm
Fri 10 am - 2 pm

San Rafael Branch

626.744.7270

1260 Nithsdale Road
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm
Fri 10 am - 2 pm

Santa Catalina Branch

626.744.7272

999 E. Washington Blvd.
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm
Fri 2 - 6 pm

Villa Parke Branch

626.744.6510

363 E. Villa Street
Mon - Fri 10 am - 6pm
Sat 10am - 2 pm



Five Poets to Speak at Central Library on September 26



Brendan Constantine, Peter Harris, Claudia Rankine, Lynn Thompson, and Amy Uyematsu are the guest speakers in the Pasadena segment of the Poetry Society of America's 2013 national series.

The program, entitled "Yet Do I Marvel: Black Iconic Poets of the 20th Century," begins at 7 p.m. in the Donald Wright Auditorium at Central Library, preceded by a reception at 6 p.m.

Come meet these distinguished poets! Hear them discuss the lives and poetry of major 20th century figures: Aime Cesaire, Sterling Brown, Lucille Clifton, and Jean Toomer.

Admission is free. The event is co-sponsored by the Pasadena Public Library and The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library.

Friday Hours

(continued from page 1)

By the spring of 2010, belt-tightening was imperative. In April of that year, the Pasadena Public Library announced the Friday closure of six branches, leaving just three—Hastings, La Pintoresca and Villa Parke—open on that day, in addition to Central. The library's director also announced that as of May 2, 2010, only Central Library would be open on Sundays.

Since 2011, the city has restored a bit more of the library's budget each fiscal year. With \$12.6 million allocated in 2014, the library will regain or slightly surpass the level of spending recorded five years ago.

The Friends salute the dedicated library staff and the City for safeguarding our libraries in a memorably rough period.

—Katie Harris

Friends Ask:

When does my membership expire?

"One year after your last payment," we reply. Beginning with this issue of the *Insider*, the address label will note—above your name—the upcoming anniversary of your 2013 donation. If you haven't updated your membership since December 2012, no date appears on the label and your membership may expire soon.

Pasadena's 10 libraries and the thousands of patrons who use them need your support. Please renew your membership!

—John Price
Membership

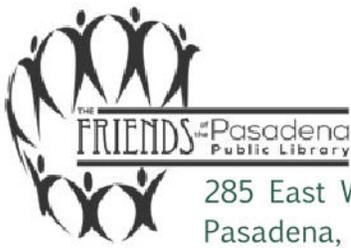


Celebrate Public Libraries with Friends

Friends of Libraries groups have their own national week. This year marks the eighth such event. National Friends of Libraries Week takes place Oct. 20-26, 2013.

In Pasadena, we're kicking off the occasion with our "Beer, Brats & Books" fundraiser on Oct. 19. Turn to the front page of this newsletter for details! If you can't attend the party, please look for our volunteers or materials when you visit Central Library or any of the branches. Our non-profit organization is one of thousands in the United States, dedicated to the support of a beloved local library.

We invite you to join The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library. Learn more by visiting our website www.friendsppl.org. You may join online, or mail the form in our brochure or *Library Insider* newsletter.



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The mission of The Friends is to support the library's programs, special services and cultural events. Priority is given to projects that instill the excitement of discovery and the love reading in library patrons of all ages.

The Friends' Upcoming Book Sales

Saturdays
September 14,
October 12 &
November 9

Central Library's East Patio

If you wish to donate books to The Friends' monthly sales to help raise funds for library programs, you may deposit books in the Book Drop container on the loading dock next to Central Library's north entrance.

Donations may also be left inside at the Circulation Desk or in The Friends' book store during store hours (11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday).

Need help with your donation?
Call us at 626.744.4680

All donations are tax-deductible. Request a receipt in The Friends' book store or at the Circulation Desk.
The Friends thank you!



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- Book Lover \$100
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