

40
YEARS



LA COUNTY
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

April 2022

Hi Library Champion,

Happy National Library Week! I'm hoping that like me, you're ready to celebrate - your Library and the incredible people who move it forward.

Thank you for your strong support. With you, LA County Library Foundation is 40 years strong!

And I'm delighted that the County Librarian - Linda F. Crismond - who established the Foundation in 1982, has shared a *My Library Story*. Read on.

It's fitting, too, that **today is national Library Workers Day**, a day to celebrate the people who power your Library. With you, we'll keep the celebration going throughout the spring...and all year long.

Honor Your Librarian! Please [share your story](#) about a librarian or other library worker - someone who makes, or made, a difference in your life. We'll share your stories on our website, and with Library staff.

You can honor your current librarian, a library worker from your childhood, a librarian you appreciate from another library system, or even another state or country.

Your story is important. Library stories help people understand the many and powerful ways libraries and library workers shape our lives and enrich our community.

Librarians will be quick to tell you it's a two way street. **You, Library Champion, make a difference, too.** As a donor, advocate, Library user. It all adds up.

The Library is a dynamic and unifying force in Los Angeles County. You and your Library Foundation are vital partners.

This month's virtual Field Trip takes you on a quick tour of your Library Foundation - glimpsing back and importantly, looking ahead to the good you can do this year with your support for your Library.

Give me a call (562.940.4189), [email me](#), or write. I'd love to hear why you love and support your Library.

Here's to you, and to your Library!

Thank you,

Andrea

Andrea Carroll
Executive Director

P.S. Heads up...tomorrow is national Library Giving Day, a reminder that [your support for your Library matters](#). Because your Library is essential. Every day.

My Library Story

Linda F. Crismond, County Librarian (1981-1989)



Image: Linda F. Crismond

County Librarian Linda F. Crismond directed LA County Library from 1981-1989. She established LA County Library Foundation in 1982. With you, the Foundation is 40 years strong this year!

We asked Linda to share her story, to tell you why she started the Library Foundation. Here's what she said:

"The Los Angeles County Public Library in the 1980's was undergoing a period of strong growth fueled by increased funding to support collection development, expanded staff training, and enhanced local programs. Every library was reaching record attendance numbers. There was a strong connection with the local communities through a network of over 50 Friends of the Library groups.

What seemed lacking was a system wide support group that would look at broader County Library needs. The Los Angeles County Public Library Foundation [today known as LA County Library Foundation] was created to support common system programs, to increase the visibility of the library in local media, and to reach out to state and national organizations that support local libraries.

Prominent leaders in business, media, and nonprofits were asked to be members of the Board. As the County Librarian, I was appointed as the first Chair of the Board. As a testament to the viability of the organization, it is still going strong after 40 years.

Being the director of the Library was a very rewarding time for me and was my favorite job over all of my library career. What made it so great was the commitment of the staff and the strong team spirit to provide the best service possible.

I received a surprise call last week from a former staff member. She and her friend were both community librarians in the 1980's. She wanted to thank me for the training and leadership skills they received and attributed them as the main factor in both becoming library directors.

I wish the Foundation continued success on its 40th birthday."

What's your Library Story?

[Please share.](#)



Image: LA County Library/Digital Collections

Technology advanced quickly during the 1980's, and Linda ensured the Library was at the fore. During her tenure, the Library moved from a physical card catalog to a digital system.

Reflecting other advances in technology, the Library transitioned its collection from 16mm film to videocassettes, and from phonograph records to audio cassettes and compact discs.

Forty years later, that drive for technological innovation continues -- with parking lot WiFi, laptop and hotspot loans, accessible devices for people with low vision, and a 24/7 digital library, with streaming movies and music, databases, and more. Thank you, Library Champion, for your support.



**LA COUNTY
LIBRARY FOUNDATION**

Virtual Field Trip

LA County Library Foundation: 40 years strong

Wow. Your LA County Library Foundation is 40 years strong this year. That's thanks to you and to literally thousands of your fellow Library Champions.

Former County Librarian Linda F. Crismond summed up the need for a Library Foundation in 1982 - helping support system wide needs the Library meets with resources for each of its 86 libraries and their unique communities.

Your generosity and commitment continue to add up - building a Library Foundation that raises funds and creates partnerships to support LA County Library and the millions of children, teens, and adults whose lives it enriches with free programs, services, and resources.

Your support last year made a positive impact on individuals and communities throughout LA County, and beyond.

I hope you'll enjoy the Foundation's [2021 Impact Report](#) - read about STEAM and arts programming, literacy and engagement, community building, and more. Areas your Foundation has focused on since its founding.

Most importantly, I hope you'll take joy in what you make possible with your generosity and commitment.

This year, with you, the Foundation will do even more. Here's just a taste of what's in store, and how your gift will help make an impact - to develop literacy, encourage lifelong learning, and strengthen individuals and communities.

- Getting kids, teens, and adults reading - and engaged with their Library and other people
- Investigating careers in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) for tweens and teens
- Building connections, with physical materials and digital programming
- Developing programs for young people on their journeys to adulthood
- Spurring creativity among students with the Library's Annual Bookmark Contest
- Strengthening cultural awareness and understanding through the Library's four Resource Centers

That's the tip of the iceberg. With you, your Library Foundation will do so much more.

As you can imagine, Library programs and resources cost a lot. And public dollars don't cover it all. That's why the Library Foundation started 40 years ago.

And that's why, today, you continue to make a difference, helping the Foundation raise private dollars and build deep rooted support to help fill that gap.

You love your Library and believe in its power to change lives and communities - making a more positive future for all of us.

You're a Library Champion - a donor, an ambassador sharing news about your Library, an advocate for libraries and the value they bring to your life and your community.

Thank you - here's to this year and to the next 40 years!

Thank you, Library Champion!

GIVE



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