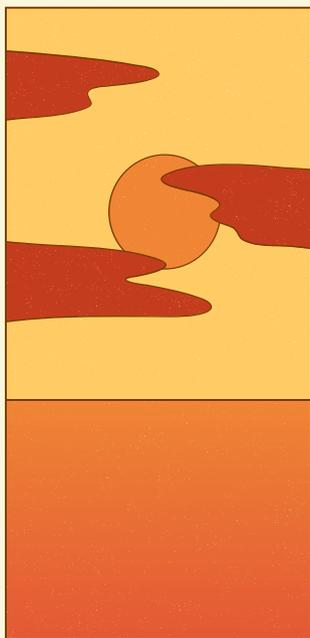


# COMMUNICATOR



**LIBRARIANS' GUILD LA**  
*December 2021*

**VOL.46 NO.1**  
*Legacy Edition*

**LIBRARIANS GUILD LA.ORG**

THE COMMUNICATOR IS THE AWARD-  
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ISSUED FREE-OF-CHARGE TO ALL MEMBERS,  
CITY OFFICIALS, LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS  
AND OTHERS.

MARKING ITS 50TH YEAR IN 2018.

*In this issue,  
released December 17, 2021,  
we pay tribute to the following members  
that have passed:*

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# BILLIE CONNOR- DOMINGUEZ



*Billie Connor-Dominguez - Principal Librarian in Science and Technology, also for many years, known as fair and decent supervisor, and while limited in many physical ways due to Polio as a child, she, nevertheless, was a Communicator Editor for many years, did the real 'cut and paste' to put the periodical together, attended the Librarians' Guild activities, spoke at Commission meetings, supported the Librarians' Guild in much the same way as Helene. As editor or as Communicator staff they won many national awards for the little Librarians' Guild publication. Helen and Billie were two long time, dedicated librarians who built their departments and survived many budget cuts, many earthquakes, the fire, and many bad City Librarians. But they still got the job done both for LAPL and for the Librarians' Guild.*

*by Roy Stone  
Former Guild President  
(Retired)*

*Billie Connor-Dominguez was my Department head when I served as a Library Assistant I in the Science, Technology and Patents Dept from 1998-2001. To say that she was a major influence in my professional career would be an understatement. Billie was proactive, always encouraging her staff to learn new things and to promote. She was a wonderful mentor, inviting me to professional meetings like SLA, in addition to support groups for the Business and Economics Dept. From my job as a library assistant, I promoted to librarian I, III and Sr. Librarian. I was thrilled when I nominated Billie for a major library award – SLA's Rose L. Vormelker Award – and she won! She will be greatly missed.*

*by  
David Tulanian  
Sr. Librarian (Retired)*

*Billie's illustrious career as an LAPL librarian spanned 38 years (1969-2007), but her early life was spent in a very different environment. She was born in Polk County, in southwest Missouri's Ozark region, where her parents had a farm. All through her library career, Billie was active in both the American Library Association and the Special Libraries Association, and around 1968, at a library convention, she met John Connor, the librarian of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, and decided to marry him and move to Los Angeles. In 1970, Billie became the senior librarian in LAPL's Business and Economics Department, where she worked with principal librarian Mariana (Rannie) Reith. When Ms. Reith became the head of LAPL Technical Services in 1977, Billie was promoted to the principal librarian position in Business, and in 1979 she moved to Science, Technology, and Patents, to become principal librarian there. Billie and Helene's friendship began very soon after Billie's arrival at LAPL and lasted for 50 years, and now they have left us within a couple of months of each other. Their LAPL careers followed similar paths: they worked exclusively at Central Library, and they promoted to senior and principal librarian positions within a couple of years of each other. They even made a pact to retire at the same time, which they did in 2007.*

*by*

*Bob Anderson, Librarian III*

*Literature & Fiction Department*

# Gloria “Joyce” Elliott

Dec. 8, 1926-May 23, 2008

## In Fond Remembrance

By Doris Dossler,  
Retired Senior Librarian



**J**oyce and I first became acquainted during the mid-1940's in undergraduate school at UCLA. Both of us belonged to the Librarians' Sorority, "Kappa Phi Zeta", she as Treasurer and I as V.P., roles which we repeated in other organizations through the years. I became ill during the middle of my junior year and dropped out; she went on to graduate and continue on to Western Reserve University to receive her degree in Library Science.

We lost touch over the years until one day in the mid - 1960's at Venice Library, where she, the newly appointed Senior, and I (now married with four children and having gone back to UCLA to pick up my B.A. & Library Service degrees) the Young Adult Services Librarian on one of LAPL's "Federal Project" teams, got to talking about our backgrounds and discovered who we really were! We soon became fast friends and colleagues.

Joyce was a founding member of the Librarians' Guild AFSCME 2626. She was one of the first V.P.s of the Guild and a strong activist throughout her career, even as a Regional Supervisor, often bringing her daughter, Peggy and her grandson, Kevin along as we marched in many a picket line (raising them right!)

Practically everyone who worked under Joyce's supervision will say that she was the fairest, wisest, and most supportive supervisor ever; a strong and calming presence in any situation, always approachable, friendly, and open to all.

**W**ith all of that she also had a wicked sense of humor. For example: In the early days of the Union, we used to have more social get-togethers including one memorable picnic in Griffith Park. Joyce had the idea that she and I should attend as rich socialites, ala the 1920's. And so we did - long summery dresses, big hats tied on with floaty scarves -big picnic baskets from which we brought out white tablecloths, silver, china, gazpacho, brioche, strawberries Romanov and, of course, champagne! Our friends Tony Shay and Bob Brown joined us wearing driving caps and jackets with leather-patched elbows. Another friend, Leslie Wiseman, became our "French Maid", complete with short black skirt, little white apron and a small towel over her arm to assist in pouring champagne for all. The whole scene so outraged the children of Rita Kort, another colleague of ours, that they spent the whole afternoon by the creek trying to find frogs, which they intended to put on our table. Luckily they were unsuccessful.

Joyce was like a sister to me both in the "Union" sense and personally. We traveled the world and the workplace together -enjoyed reading and theater -and loved getting together with our families and our friends.

My father used to say "if you have one true friend during the course of your life, you will be a lucky person". I have been lucky indeed!

# CHERYL FUNADA

*On September 17, 2020, Los Angeles Public Library sadly lost our friend and colleague of many years. Cheryl Funada was a much-loved Library Assistant from LAPL, who touched many people's lives, and whose bright smile has left an indelible mark, on all who knew her. Cheryl started with the Los Angeles Public Library, as a messenger clerk at the Los Feliz Branch Library, when it was just a storefront on Hillhurst Avenue, and she was still in High School. Cheryl worked her way up through the ranks, giving LAPL over 40 years of Service and dedication. She is loved and remembered by, all who had the privilege to know and work with her. Cheryl dedicated herself to her colleague's advancement in Civil service and to Los Angeles Public Library. Anyone who knew her could tell you many stories about her humor and dedication. Cheryl was born and raised in the Silverlake area of Los Angeles and her family has 27 images in the Shades of LA Photo Collection. Cheryl retired from LAPL in September 2015. Cheryl Funada's loss to our greater LAPL family is being felt deeply, and she was a person you meet once in a lifetime, loyal, true and beloved.*

*by Steven Kilgore, Library Assistant  
ETC Catalog Department*



*Cheryl Funada sitting in yard, holding two puppies, circa 1960.*



*Cheryl Funada with her pet dog in yard of family home on Benton Way, circa 1962.*

# JAN METZLER

*Jan Metzler was a leader in our community, among the staff members whose lives she impacted and the patrons she touched over her forty-five years of service to the Los Angeles Public Library system. Jan worked as a Children's Librarian and Senior Librarian at numerous branches in both the East and West Valleys. She was selected as the first Senior Librarian at the brand new Platt Branch, where she was recognized for her energy, resourcefulness and confidence - which resulted in excellent public response to the new branch. Jan made a difference at the libraries where she worked, most recently as Senior Librarian at the Chatsworth Branch.*

*Jan believed that the library belonged to the community; that one of her roles was to ensure that the community fully utilized the branch and went to great lengths supporting local organizations. She was enthusiastically involved in children's programs, an opportunity to indulge in her lifelong passion for children's librarianship that continued long after she became a manager. Jan was familiar to younger patrons as an entertaining participant in one of her favorite activities, puppet shows! Her legacy will continue in the many Halloween and Summer Reading programs that she inspired. She was also a gifted and animated storyteller, bringing picture books to life from memory. Jan was the best advocate for her branches, working with the Friends groups to support their efforts as vigorously as they supported their local libraries.*

*Jan also celebrated the staff she worked with. She encouraged Children's Librarians to take chances and learn their craft, and affirmed her trust in their instincts. She developed relationships with her administrative staff, encouraging them to consider professional opportunities and advancement. Jan celebrated their achievements, leading efforts to send staff members off to new adventures (usually with a celebratory party!)*

*While she was appreciated professionally, Jan was also a joy to work with. Whether it was sharing chocolate from her travels, indulging in talk of wine or good coffee, she always found ways to connect with those around her. Jan is most often recalled for her talent in cooking and baking for staff, for the Friends of the Library and community events. She also had an amazing ability to remember phone numbers and dates, including EVERYONE'S birthday. Her joy was often clearly telegraphed, she had an infectious laugh and her voice would rise when she became animated or excited.*

*Thank you, Jan. Thank you for your impact on our lives, the lives of our colleagues and the many lives of our community's families and friends.*

*by Hillary St. George, Senior Librarian, Chatsworth Branch, with contributions by Ruth Seid, Principal Librarian, West Valley Area and Susan Bougetz, Librarian III, Platt Branch*



*Jan Metzler - Senior Librarian, came to volunteer at Encino-Tarzana while attending Library School in the mid-1970s, with a great smile and lovely personality, graduated and became a dedicated librarian. Always a stylish dresser and a lover of chocolate, and fine food, but sadly did not get to enjoy retirement.*

*by Roy Stone  
Former Guild President  
(Retired)*

# HELENE MOCHEDLOVER

*When I started working full-time in the Literature & Fiction Department, Helene Mochedlover was the Principal Librarian for the department. She also was in charge of International Languages. When I applied for the Librarian II position in the department, it was Helene who fought for me, because there was someone in Administration who did not want me to have the job. In all my years as a Librarian, at LAPL and at other public, academic and private libraries, no one was ever able to persuade or cajole me to promote, except Helene. Because of Helene I took the Senior Exam, at least twice and did well on it, and chose not to apply for any Senior positions. It is because of Helene that I started drinking scotch, not Johnny Walker Black Label which was her preference, and which she compared to mother's milk. It is because of Helene that I got involved in the Bruckman Rare Books Friends Group and chaired a Bruckman Rare Books Award Committee. It is because of Helene that I was persuaded to volunteer at the LA Times Book Festival, for several years and loved it. It is because of Helene that I have worked in this department for 19 years and have had a second education in literature and fiction that has gone far beyond my B.A in English. There are books and writers, not only in our department, that I have learned about, but in almost all of the subject departments at Central.*

*I have so many wonderful memories of Helene, other than those in the library. She was a truly loyal and wonderful friend. Helen had a passionate interest in live theatre and had season tickets for the Mark Taper and the Ahmanson Theatre. When she traveled to Boston to visit family, they always had tickets for Broadway and Off-Broadway performances in New York. She knew when it was all right to take a longer lunch or dinner, especially when several of us had been putting in hours of work to meet some last-minute deadline from Administration. One particular lunch was at The Water Grill with Helene and Bill Jankos, Librarian II, and it was very special. After she retired, her good friend, Renny Day, retired Senior Librarian, Children's Literature, got Helene involved in FOCAL and the two of them created The Bruckman Rare Books Friends Group. There were several years of book awards luncheons organized by the two of them, most often at the L.A. Athletic Club and the last one was at Smeraldi's Restaurant at the Biltmore Hotel in DTLA, 2019. The purpose of the luncheons was to increase membership in The Bruckman Rare Books Friends Group, whose mission was to provide money for materials needed in several Central Library subject departments and for programs.*

*Helene was also very good friends with Billie Connor-Dominguez, who passed away last year. Both of them were incredibly hard workers and mentors. However, the two of them parted ways when it came to problem patrons. Helene knew when enough was enough, but Billie frequently wanted to hear some poor soul's hard luck accounting of why they had misbehaved. There was one evening when Helene had asked someone to leave the building and a few minutes later Billie allowed the person back in. Helene really lit into Billie and the person was out for the evening.*

*by  
Sheryn Morris, Librarian II  
Literature & Fiction Department*



*Bruckman Rare Books Luncheon, Sep. 2019*

*On the left is Renny Day, Membership Chairman for  
Bruckman, retired Senior Librarian, Children's  
Literature*

*On the right is Helene Mochedlover, President of  
Bruckman, retired Principal Librarian, Literature &  
Fiction Department*

*This was the last time the two very good friends and  
colleagues were photographed together. Helene  
passed away in 2020. Renny continues to be active  
with FOCAL.*

# Sallie Riley

1951 — 2008

By Robert Thornhill,  
Watts Branch



Sallie loved her family, her friends, the sea, whales, mermaids, music, children, and helping other people. She liked to laugh and have fun. She loved her library and was a great children's librarian. Sallie was definitely one of the good people of the world.

She was children's librarian at the Watts Branch, and I saw first hand how devoted she was to her young patrons and how they liked her. She had a way with them. When she enforced the rules and made them change their behavior, she did it in such a way the kids accepted it and seldom argued. Her enthusiasm for books and reading was infectious, and kids had great fun at her reading clubs.

They read over 500 pounds of books by the end of the first school year I was at the branch. The programs she arranged for kids were always fun. Our meeting room and patio at Watts were full of laughing happy young people with Sallie in their midst. I remember especially how much fun she had

when the reptiles came to visit, and how delighted she was when the kids were not afraid to touch a snake. At all the programs, she enjoyed the kids' enjoyment at least as much as she herself enjoyed the program.

It was difficult for her to give up her job with the children to become Senior Librarian at John Muir Branch. But she was Acting Senior at Watts after Lucille left and before I arrived and knew she could do it. I was sorry to see her go but realized it was a good move for her and encouraged her as much as I could. By all accounts, she did a fine job as Senior at John Muir. I know all the people there miss her a lot, as we at Watts do.

In August, Sallie went into the hospital in Torrance for a hip replacement. There were complications after the surgery, and she passed away on August 14, 2008. Her family was with her. Some of us attended a celebration of her life at the Rancho Palos Verdes Bay Club the afternoon of August 23 and met her children, grandchildren, and brother. It was a beautiful day in a beautiful place by the ocean Sallie loved.

# RITA D. WALTERS



*On February 19, 2020 Rita Walters, long time Board of Library Commissioners member, passed away.*

Commissioner Rita Walters was appointed to the Board of Library Commissioners on February 2002.

Former Los Angeles City Council Member Rita Walters was a member of the Los Angeles City Council for three terms, from 1991-2001, representing the 9th Council District.

During her tenure on the City Council, she chaired the Arts, Health and Humanities Committee, which reviewed matters related to the Library Department for the City Council. She previously served on the Los Angeles Unified School District's Board of Education for 12 years (1979 – 1991) and was a teacher in the Adult Division of the School District for four years.

Commissioner Walters has a M.B.A. from UCLA's Anderson School of Management and a B.A. from Shaw University, Raleigh, North Carolina.

She was the recipient of the 2015 Hall of Fame Award in Government.

The following excerpt taken from program of the grand opening of the Rita Walters Learning Complex:

"On April 29, 2002, the Rita D. Walters Learning Complex (Child Development Center, Community Center and High School) opened in honor of her distinguished public service and unflinching champion for the rights of all people. She stated that, "more important than the buildings are programs that help People, from the youngest to the oldest, understand their own value and self-worth."

Ms. Walters' family held a memorial in March of 2020.

# PRISCILLA MOXOM WHITE



*Susan Patron, retired Collection Development  
Manager, Children's Services.  
Central Library Staff Artist Anton (Tony) Schedl, and  
Priscilla Moxom White,  
celebrating Tony's 103rd birthday in 2017.*

*My mother began her career with the LAPL as a young adult librarian at the North Hollywood branch on July 1, 1957. I spent many happy hours there as a child. She retired, thirty years later, on July 1, 1987. At that time she was Coordinator of Children's Services. She spent her entire career with the LAPL and loved her work and her co-workers.*

*Born in New York City she graduated from Hunter College and got her M.S. at Columbia University. She was active in the Association for Library Service to Children of the ALA as well as in local organizations like the Children's Literature Council and the Metropolitan Cooperative Library System. She loved children and literature for children.*

*One book was on her desk, when she passed away. It was Susan Orlean's chronicle of the 1986 fire at the Central Library which she experienced firsthand. It is fitting that this was the last book my mother ever read, because she loved books and she loved the Central Library.*

*by Priscilla's Family*

*Priscilla was a pivotal figure in the growth and development of the Children's Literature Department. When I became Senior of the Department in 1976, I was tasked with saving the department from closure, due to the "Space Wars" being fought by other departments at Central that coveted the room and the closed stack shelving. Priscilla introduced me to world-renowned children's book authors and illustrators, whose presence filled the room, and she helped revive the Children's Dinner Theatre programs that received national press. The Board of Library Commissioners changed their mind about closing the department. Her door was always open for advice and encouragement. Priscilla was also a wicked good cook, bringing gourmet salads to our potluck luncheons. I shall always treasure her friendship.*

*by Serena Day, retired Senior Librarian, Children's Literature Department.*

*Priscilla was my supervisor, friend, and mentor for many years. She had a kind of rare and profound integrity that informed her work and friendships. I learned from her the true meaning of intellectual freedom in a public library context: sometimes people will be exposed to the worst of mankind's thoughts and actions; it is not our job as librarians to protect those readers; rather it's to ensure they have access to the material, however odious, and however unpopular the defense of such material.*

*Priscilla loved animals and children; she loved plants and all growing things. She created exquisite floral displays. After retirement, she was a twice-weekly volunteer at her local elementary school, where she sat in the back of the classroom and listened to children one-on-one as they learned to read. She did this with endless patience and encouragement and I'm certain those challenged children loved her and flourished.*

*Priscilla's most beautiful trait was her kindness to everyone. She gave her smile and encouragement to snarling waiters and inattentive servers; strangers responded to her positively and repeatedly. Having lost her mother at the age of three, Priscilla lived throughout her life with courage, a diminutive redhead facing whatever needed to be faced and going forward, right up to the very end of her life. Priscilla wrote with great clarity, every word precisely chosen. I learned from her the meaning of the word lugubrious as well as her aversion to any writing characterized by it. So I'll sign off with a grateful heart and a cheery au-revoir to my deeply cherished friend, and with a promise to "keep on keeping on."*

*by Susan Patron, retired Collection Development Manager,  
Children's Services.*

The Communicator is published by the Librarians' Guild, a professional organization and union representing librarians who serve the Los Angeles Public Library. The Guild is AFSCME 2626 in Council 36.

The Communicator editors reserve the right to edit for form, space, and content. Viewpoints expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial staff or the Librarians' Guild Executive Board. Unsigned articles, if any, are written by the editorial staff. Submissions for the Communicator may be sent to Editor in Chief at [librariansguildcommunicator@gmail.com](mailto:librariansguildcommunicator@gmail.com)

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All Guild members are encouraged to attend our monthly membership meetings via zoom (specific dates vary), and are invited to attend our monthly executive board meetings (held 1st Wednesday of each month via zoom; Meeting commences at 7:15 pm). Notices of membership meetings, including zoom links, are sent via Email. If you are a member, please visit: <https://www.librariansguildla.org/join-the-mailing-list.html> to receive these notices.

Committee for Volume 46 Number 1:  
Ziba Perez and Eugene Owens

Moved? Transferred? Extended FMLA?

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