The Library Memories Project

a part of the Claremont library centennial celebration

Do you remember the summer you biked with your best friend to the library every week? How about the pre-school stories at the library that you took your kids to hear? Then, there were those late night dates in your favorite study carrel in the college library. So many memories of fine times at a library.

Libraries are a community’s center, its heart. As our community celebrates the 100th birthday of the Claremont public library, **FOCL invites you to share your stories of a favorite library, any library** ~ the one in the town where you grew up, a bookmobile that visited the beach where you vacationed, your junior high library, the city library you visited while traveling... any library.

**This is the Library Memories Project.** The stories sent to FOCL will be compiled into a commemorative book to be placed in the Claremont library and also shared on the FOCL website.

Use the enclosed page to tell about your library and why it was special to you.
When completed, mail the page to

Friends of the Claremont Library - attn. Library Memories Project
P.O. Box 1618
Claremont, CA 91711

**OR**

Email your story, preferably as a PDF. In your email, include the requested name and reprinting information listed at the top of the next page.

Send to friendsofclaremontlibrary@gmail.com
Subject Line: Library Memories
Library Memories of Notable People

“I used to go to the library all the time when I was kid. As a teenager, I got a book on how to write jokes at the library, and that, in turn, launched my comedy career.”  
**Comedian Drew Carey.**

“I would walk into the Carnegie Library and I would see the pictures of Booker T. and pictures of Frederick Douglass and I would read. I would go into the Savannah Public Libraries in the stacks and see all of the newspapers from all over the country. Did I dream that I would be on the Supreme Court? No. But I dreamt that there was a world out there that was worth pursuing.”  
**U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas**

“Libraries are my passion in life. Before I became mayor (of Los Angeles), I used to sneak out here during lunchtime...and I'd go to a corner and take a book--any book almost--and read it for a while, and then feel rejuvenated.”  
**Former L.A. mayor Richard Riordan**

“Getting my library card was like American citizenship. When I was a kid and the other kids were home watching "Leave it to Beaver," my father and step-mother were marching me off to the library.”  
**Oprah Winfrey**

“The part of my education that has had the deepest influence was from the library. . . The library takes me away from my everyday life and allows me to see other places and learn to understand other people unlike myself.”  
**Musician Gloria Estefan**

“As a child, my number one best friend was the librarian in my grade school. I actually believed all those books belonged to her.”  
**Author Erma Bombeck**

"My mother and father were illiterate immigrants from Russia. When I was a child they were constantly amazed that I could go to a building and take a book on any subject. They couldn't believe this access to knowledge we have here in America. They couldn't believe it was free.”  
**Actor Kirk Douglas**

“Walking the stacks in a library, dragging your fingers across the spines -- it's hard not to feel the presence of sleeping spirits.”  
**Author Robin Sloan, Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore**

“People flock in . . . in search of answers to those questions only librarians are considered to be able to answer, such as "Is this the laundry?" "How do you spell surreptitious?" and, on a regular basis, "Do you have a book I remember reading once? It had a red cover and it turned out they were twins.”  
**Author Terry Pratchett, The Long Earth**

"I had an awful childhood and flunked everything. A public librarian finally got me to read. As a teenager one cold night in Minnesota, I ducked into a library to escape the frigid weather. The librarian offered me a library card and helped me check out my first book. Six weeks later, I finished that book. From then on, I was hooked.”  
**Author Gary Paulsen, Hatchet and many others**

"Reading is one of my favorite pastimes. When I was a young girl, I went to an old library in Coral Gables, Florida, to read my favorite books, Mary Poppins and The Wind in the Willows. They helped instill in me a sense of the wonder, the humor, and the spirit of life.”  
**Former Attorney General Janet Reno**
The Library Memories Project

Library name, city, and state____________________________________________________________

My name (optional)__________________________________________________________________

My library memory may be shared in (please circle)  • the Library Memories book  • FOCL website
• in a news article (if any)

My Library Memory