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Check Out New Bird Watching Backpacks at Edendale Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library

Edendale Library Friends Society Unveils New Packs at Echo Park Lake Raskin Memorial Dedication

LOS ANGELES (Nov. 1, 2017)—Edendale Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library will unveil new bird watching backpacks at the Echo Park Lake Raskin Memorial Dedication on Thursday, November 2, at Echo Park Lake. City Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell will MC the dedication ceremony, and Susan Broman, Acting Assistant City Librarian, will participate in the program.

The event honors the donations by long-time Echo Park resident, Judy Raskin, who bequeathed funds to the Edendale Library Friends Society (ELFS) and other local organizations, including monies to add benches and tables to improve the park grounds around the lake.

Because Raskin was an avid bird watcher, ELFS used their bequest to create five bird watching backpacks for Edendale Branch. Each pack contains binoculars, birding books and other supplies, and will be available for patrons to checkout beginning November 2. The backpacks will help encourage future naturalists and bird watchers, who can practice their skills in the field just two blocks from the library at Echo Park Lake. ELFS will also supplement the natural science collection with additional materials at Edendale Branch, 2011 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles.

"The life and legacy of Judy Raskin, and her love for her community, the Lake, its wildlife and environment, will benefit many who visit Echo Park Lake. I want to thank the volunteer neighborhood groups, along with the Los Angeles Public Library, the Department of Recreation and Parks, and the L.A. Parks Foundation, who are working together to ensure Judy's vision is realized. Our beloved lake is a better place thanks to her generosity," said Councilmember O'Farrell.

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Three local elementary schools will bring more than 150 students to the dedication ceremony, and members of the Audubon Society will guide bird walks after the program.

A recipient of the nation's highest honor for library service—the National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest and most diverse urban population of any library in the nation. Its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, collection of more than 6 million books, state-of-the-art technology accessible at www.lapl.org, and more than 18,000 public programs a year provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning.

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