

South Pasadena Public Library
1100 Oxley St.
South Pasadena CA. 91030
www.cityofsouthpasadena.us/library

Library Hours

Monday–Wednesday: 11 a.m.–9 p.m.
Thursday & Friday: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m.–5 p.m.

Checkout Services (626) 403-7340

Children's Services (626) 403-7358
childrenlibrarian@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us

Reference Services (626) 403-7350
referencedesk@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us

Administration (626) 403-7330

The **Friends of the South Pasadena Library**,
an all-volunteer non-profit support organization,
operates a 7-day per week bookstore on the
2nd floor of the Library. The Friends Bookstore
accepts donated books and A/V materials.
Call (626) 441-5294 for more information.

<http://www.friendsofsopaslibrary.org>

Bookstore Hours

Monday–Wednesday: 11 a.m.–5 p.m.
Thursday & Friday: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Saturday: Noon–4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m.–4 p.m.

BrooklynBoy Design

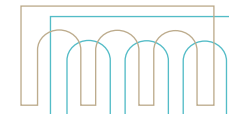


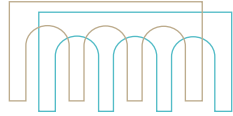
LEO POLITI

Untitled Mural, 1982

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South Pasadena Public Library Children's Room





The South Pasadena Public Library is the proud home of the earliest remaining example of a Leo Politi mural. The untitled artwork can be seen in the Children's Room. Politi painted many other famous murals, in public locations on Olvera Street and in Chinatown in Downtown Los Angeles.

Some may be surprised to learn that the Politi mural on display at the South Pasadena Library is significantly different than the one he originally painted in 1957 (for the sum of \$200!). When Leo was asked to touch up the original mural for the grand opening for the Library's 1982 expansion project, he characteristically took on the job without asking for a fee. He planned on spending only 2 or 3 hours, but ended up devoting weeks, almost completely repainting the mural in the process. The differences between the 1957 and 1982 paintings are rather striking. The earliest depiction features minimalistic youthful figures in muted tones, while the update is more contemporary with flowing lines and lush, bright green hues. Nevertheless, both versions capture the universal charm of children with books.

Leo Politi was born in Fresno, California in 1908. When he was 6 years-old he and his family moved to Italy where he began his art training at the Royal Palace of Monza. He returned to Fresno and launched his literary career in 1938 with *Little Pancho*. In 1950 he was honored with the Caldecott Medal for "the nation's most distinguished children's picture book" for *Song of the Swallows*. Over the years he wrote many more widely-acclaimed books and achieved worldwide fame and passed away in 1996. A public library, a park, a plaza and an elementary school have been named for him. 2008 saw the Centennial of his birth and many commemorative celebrations in South Pasadena and beyond.



LEO POLITI

Untitled Mural, 1957

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Formerly in South Pasadena Public Library Children's Room