



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

## San Diego Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **THE SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY CONCLUDES ITS EXCITING BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES ON NEO-SLAVE NARRATIVES**

*Copies of DESSA ROSE are currently available for the group's final meeting*

**SAN DIEGO** – The San Diego Public Library will host its final installment of a series of book discussions on neo-slave narratives, novels written by contemporary African American writers that revisit and revise the “slave narrative” genre and address authors’ concerns not only with history, but also with race and identity in the contemporary America. The discussion of Sherley Anne Williams’ *Dessa Rose* will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 12, in the Wangenheim Room, on the third floor of the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego.

This acclaimed historical novel is based on two actual incidents. One of a pregnant black woman who was sentenced to death, but her hanging was delayed until after the birth of her baby, and the other of a white woman on an isolated farm who was reported to have given sanctuary to runaway slaves. In *Dessa Rose*, the author asks the question: “What if these two women were to meet?”

Camille F. Forbes, Ph.D., an author (*Introducing Bert Williams*, Basic Civitas Books, 2008), performer and professor in the Literature Department at the University of California, San Diego, will facilitate the discussions.

Discussion participants may borrow a copy of *Dessa Rose* (FIC/Williams), as supplies allow, from the Central Library’s Literature and Languages section or reserve a copy online with their San Diego Public Library card and PIN.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library’s Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library’s catalog online at [www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org).

*The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future*

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