



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

## San Diego Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Linda Vista Library to celebrate over 65 years of library service** *Award winning building reaches 20 year milestone*

**SAN DIEGO** – Before there was a grocery store or movie theater there was a public library in Linda Vista. Paralleling the historic growth of the Linda Vista community, the Linda Vista Branch of the San Diego Public Library was war-born in June 1942 as a tiny converted 24' x 17' gardener's cottage. It was placed amidst the 3000 homes built between March and November 1941 to house the thousands of World War II defense industry workers and their families in Linda Vista in one of the largest government housing developments ever undertaken.

On Monday, **May 12, 2008** there will be a celebration of the vitality of the Linda Vista neighborhood and the over 65 years of library service to the community. The Library simultaneously celebrates 20 years in its 10,000 square foot San Diego AIA Orchid award winning building designed by San Diego architect Rob Quigley. The event takes place from **5:30 – 7:30 PM** in the Linda Vista Library located at **2160 Ulric Street**.

When the first cozy little library opened the Linda Vista population was 11,106 with over 5000 children. Parents and teachers clamored for a library. The library was made possible through the joint efforts of the Linda Vista federal government housing management which donated the cottage and provided light, water and grounds maintenance; the tenants' own Linda Vista Civic Association raised \$400 to stock the library with books and supplement the opening day collection made up of books borrowed from other branch libraries or culled from the Victory Book Campaign; and, the San Diego city librarians who volunteered to work at the branch on a daily rotating basis until permanent staffing could be afforded by the City six months after opening.

The second Linda Vista Branch Library opened in April 1951. It was the first new library built in San Diego since 1928 and the first library built after voters approved a \$2 million bond issue for library construction in November 1949 with a 70% Yes vote. The 4,350 square foot building had

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seating for 40 and room for 10,000 books. It cost approximately \$48,000 including furniture and landscaping. The library was open 2 PM - 8 PM every day but Sunday.

On December 12, 1987, a 10,000 square foot, \$2.26 million facility designed by Architect Rob Quigley replaced the by then old and out-dated facility which had served the library needs of the community which had matured over 36 years. The current library consists of four separate wings branching off the central two-story rotunda: Young-adult area, Homework Center, meeting room and public facilities on the West; children's area on South; general collection and reading room on the North; and staff workroom, office, staff lounge and reference room on the East. The interior of the library is light and warm, providing a pleasant and inviting atmosphere.

Today's modern Linda Vista library provides free internet access, word processing, wi-fi connectivity; materials in multiple formats including books in print and audio formats (CD and audiocassette); videos and music CDs; downloadable electronic books; and materials in Vietnamese, Spanish, Hmong, Lao and Chinese languages in addition to English; numerous subscription databases providing library users with access to thousands of magazines and journals, reliable current medical and health information, science and history resources and homework help for students of all ages.

Linda Vista, meaning "pretty view," appropriately describes this San Diego community built high on a plateau with views of the Pacific Ocean and Mission Bay to the west, the San Bernardino Mountains to the north and east, and the San Diego River valley to the south.

The Linda Vista Branch Library is located at 2160 Ulric Street, San Diego 92111. The Library's hours of operation are Monday and Wednesday 12:30 to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Friday 12:30 to 5:30 p.m., Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and closed on Sunday.

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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