



THE LIBRARY CONNECTION

The Library Connection online newsletter provides the public with information about upcoming events, major programs and other news of the City of San Diego Public Library. Anyone can sign up for this free monthly email announcement by visiting the Library on the City's web site at www.sandiego.gov/public-library and clicking on "News & Events."

MARCH 2004

VOLUME 2

Seuss is Loose at Library for Seussentennial Celebration

City libraries are preparing to be invaded by cats in stovepipe hats, a dust-protecting elephant, a tree-loving Lorax, Sam and his breakfast ham and green eggs, and many, many more characters of beloved children's author Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel.

On March 2, the world will celebrate Geisel's 100th birthday with a Seussentennial. With San Diego being his longtime home, the San Diego Public Library plans to honor the man and his timeless stories with a week-long series of fun-filled events, including story telling, an author event, arts and crafts activities, films and other fun activities from Feb. 28 through March 5.

Geisel was born March 2, 1904, in Springfield, Mass., and he moved permanently to his house in La Jolla in 1941. He published his first book, "And to Think That I Saw It



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on Mulberry Street," in 1937. Over more than five decades he published more than 50 children's books with such timeless characters as the Cat in the Hat, the Grinch, Horton and many, many others. In 1984, he received a special Pulitzer Prize citation "for his special contribution over nearly half a century to the education and enjoyment of America's children and their parents." At the time of his death on Sept. 24, 1991, some 200 million copies of his books, translated into 15 different languages, had found their way into homes and hearts around the world. Since then, sales continue to climb, estimated at more than 22 million since 1991. March 2 is also the National Educators of America's annual Read Across America campaign to promote children's reading.

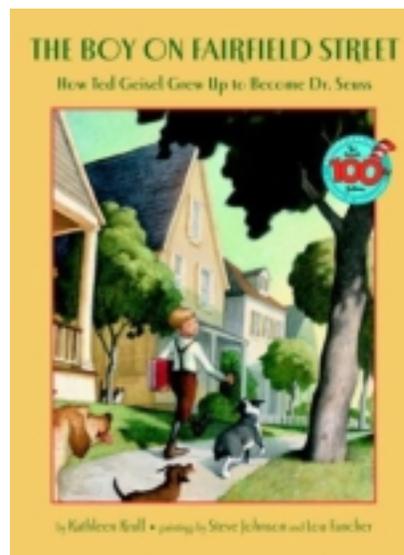
For upcoming Library events, visit your local library or the web: www.sandiego.gov/public-library

Dr. Seuss Biographer for Kids to be at UC Library March 3

Author and San Diego resident Kathleen Krull will discuss and read from her newest book, "The Boy on Fairfield Street: How Ted Geisel Grew Up to Become Dr. Seuss" (Random House, 2004) at the University Community Branch Library on Wednesday, March 3 at 7 p.m.

The new, 32-page picture book biography introduces young readers to the man behind the legend. Providing valuable insights into Geisel's inspirational life, the book illuminates his childhood world and the passions that would lead to his extraordinary life and career. Together the lively text and gorgeous illustrations bring his childhood to life evoking the spirit of his young life and the atmosphere of the world he lived in during the early decades of the 20th century. A brief section in the back of the book highlights the milestones of Geisel's adult years, creating the fullest picture of Dr. Seuss' incredible life.

In a starred review, *School Library Journal* praised the



book as "a winner," and *Kircus Reviews* said, "it's the lively writing that puts the hat on the cat." *Booklist's* starred review states, "Krull's pithy text is extended by full-page paintings that glow with the memory of yesteryear and capture the mix of humor and poignancy that comes with trying to fit in."

The University Community Branch is located at 4155 Governor Drive in University City. The event is free and open to the public. Copies of the book will be available for purchase. For more information, call 858-552-1655

Library Receives Donation of Five Computers to Help Children Prepare for the Future

The Library has received a donation of five IBM Young Explorer computers thanks to a partnership between IBM and The Catherine Montgomery Technology Fund (The Tech Fund). One computer each will be installed in the children's areas of the Valencia Park/Malcolm X, Otay Mesa-Nestor, Mountain View/Beckwourth, City Heights/Weingart and Skyline Hills branch libraries. All five computers are equipped with educational games and age-appropriate learning software to help children build a solid foundation with technology. While most children have access to computers at school, many inner-city children do not have computer access at home. Therefore, community learning centers, such as those at libraries, serve as important venues to provide computer access, helping to eliminate the digital divide.

Free Legal Advice to be Offered During Sixth Annual "Law Day" at Mission Valley Library

Free legal advice from local attorneys will be offered as part of the Library's sixth annual Law Day on Saturday, March 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Mission Valley Branch, 2123 Fenton Parkway. Each year, hundreds of San Diegans take part in the event and receive private counsel on such topics as bankruptcy law, family law, civil litigation, personal injury, medical malpractice, consumer protection, immigration, criminal law and other legal issues. The nonprofit, community event is open to the public. Attorneys participating in Law Day are in good standing with the state bar of California and licensed in state and federal courts of California. The attorneys have proven to be experienced, qualified professionals with a strong commitment to volunteerism in the community. For more information, contact the Mission Valley Branch at 858-573-5007 or the Law Offices of Mark L. Miller at 619-574-0551.

Two Classical Music Concerts Scheduled at Central Library in March

The Library's Winter/Spring Concert Series continues with two programs in March. On March 7, pianists **Kay Etheridge and Christopher Adler** will perform Stravinsky's Rite of Spring for One Piano, Four-Hands; and contemporary music for piano. On March 21, **Pacific Camerata**, an 18-voice vocal ensemble, will present a program of French, Italian, German Renaissance and Baroque works. Both concerts will be held at 2:30 p.m. in the Central Library's third floor auditorium.

Author Bill Seaton to be at Point Loma Library

The Point Loma Friends of the Library will present local author Bill Seaton, who will talk about his book "Humorous Letters From the Edge: Chronicles of a Crazy Clan" on March 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Point Loma/Hervey Branch, 3701 Voltaire St., 619-531-1539.

Coming Attractions



Each month the Library presents a variety of films, many of which are independent or foreign films that are not widely distributed.

March 1: "**Elling**" (2001) – Comedy about two misfits trying to find places in society. Nominated for Best Foreign Film Oscar. In Norwegian with English subtitles. Central Library, 6:30 p.m.

March 5: "**The 5,000 Fingers of Dr. T**" (1953) – Ted "Dr. Seuss" Geisel conceived and wrote this cult classic, live action comedy film about a boy transported to the mysterious and musical world of the evil Dr. Terwilliker. Mission Valley Branch, 7 p.m.

March 8: "**The Secret Life of Dentists**" (2002) – Comedy about a man who thinks his wife is having an affair. Central Library, 6:30 p.m.

March 14: "**Jet Lag**" (2003) – A romantic comedy about two requisite lost souls who meet while stranded in Paris. In French with English subtitles. Central Library, 2 p.m.

March 15: "**The New Americans**" (2004) – Documentary that follows immigrants through their dramatic first years in the United States. Central Library, 6:30 p.m.

March 22: "**American Splendor**" (2003) – Film based on the life of comic book artist Harvey Pekar. Central Library, 6:30 p.m.

March 26: "**Breakfast at Tiffany's**" (1961) – Audrey Hepburn and George Peppard star in the classic love story. Mission Valley Branch, 7 p.m.

March 28: "**Light of My Eyes**" (2001) – Touching story of two ordinary people with their dreams, illusions and the powerful triumph of love against the fragility of life. In Italian with English subtitles. Central Library, 2 p.m.

March 29: "**Ginger and Cinnamon**" (2003) – A precocious teenager and her repressed aunt spend a summer vacation on Ios, the Greek "island of love." In Italian with English subtitles. Central Library, 6:30 p.m.

Exhibit of New Work by Artist Lynn Schuette on Display at Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch

An exhibit by recent works of Lynn Schuette, one of San Diego's most accomplished artists, is on display through March 27 at the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch, 4274 Cass St., 858-581-9934. Titled "In a World Where Butchers Sing Like Angels," Schuette's exhibition features paintings based on images of tragedy that have been burned into our collective conscience by the mass media. Schuette's style is instantly recognizable as her own and unabashedly beautiful. An artist's talk with Schuette will be held on March 13 at 1 p.m.

Exhibit, Events to Investigate History and Future of Prairie

"Listening to the Prairie: Farming in Nature's Image," a free national traveling exhibition, organized by the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and the American Library Association, opens at the Central Library on March 2 and continues through April 19. In conjunction, the Library will also have a series of special related events from March 9 through April 28. San Diego is only one of two cities in California that will host the program.

Through stunning photographs, a colorful mural, and touch-screen shopping cart filled with household goods, the "Listening to the Prairie: Farming in Nature's Image" exhibit explores the history of the vast grasslands of North America, one of the most productive agricultural regions on Earth. The area is home to progressive farmers and ranchers who are reinventing their work in order to preserve their way of life. The exhibit features four prairie farmers, from Nebraska, Kansas, Illinois and South Dakota, who use farming techniques that maximize their yields, yet preserve the grassland ecosystem.

The Library is also offering 10 free programs for the



public in connection with the exhibit. Call 619-236-5800 or visit the Library's web site www.sandiego.gov/public-library for details.

"Listening to the Prairie" is on a three-year tour of libraries in 20 cities across the country from May 2001 through August 2004. The exhibition and tour are funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Author Alan Russell to Sign Copies of New Novel

Mystery author and local resident Alan Russell will discuss and sign copies of his eighth and newest novel, "Political Suicide" on March 16 at 7 p.m. at the Mission Hills Branch, 925 W. Washington St., 619-692-4910. Other Russell novels include "Exposure," "Multiple Wounds," "No Sign of Murder," "The Fat Innkeeper," "The Forest Prime Evil" and "Shame."

"Don Carlo" Opera to be Examined as Part of Library's Continuing Opera Lecture Series

A lecture on the opera "Don Carlo" will explore what many consider to be Verdi's masterpiece. The discussion will take place March 23 at 2 p.m. at the Central Library. An epic saga told through powerful, glorious music, "Don Carlo" will be performed by the San Diego Opera at the San Diego Civic Theater in March and April.

Child's Self Esteem Seminar to be Held March 17

A free parenting seminar, "Self Esteem – A Child's Best Defense," will be held March 17, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., at the Clairemont Branch, 2920 Burgener Blvd. The interactive program will provide parents and caregivers with the basic tools necessary to enhance a child's self-esteem, prepare a child for school and guide the child toward positive behaviors. Family therapist Mary Helen Gembala, a founding member of the Center for Self-Improvement, will host. To register, call the library at 858-581-9935. For information about the seminar, contact Gembala at 619-347-0304 or centerforselfimprovement@hotmail.com.

"Return Borrowed Books Week," March 1-6

Do you have any overdue library books? March 1-6 is national Return Borrowed Books Week. The San Diego Public Library urges patrons to return overdue books and get their accounts in order.

Library to Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Music

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the Raggle Taggle Irish Band in Central Library's auditorium on March 17 at 10:30 a.m. For group reservations, call the Children's Room at 619-236-5833.

"Art in Workspaces" to be Discussed March 10

Vicki Ford, owner of the Gallery at Land's End, will discuss "Art in Workspaces" as part of a continuing series of lectures on art on March 10 at 7 p.m. at the Mission Valley Branch, 2123 Fenton Parkway, 858-573-5007. The lectures are sponsored by the San Diego Public Library and the La Jolla Art Association. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Even More Great Events and Programs!

For the very latest information about Library events, exhibits, activities and other programs, visit your local library or check out the Library on the City's web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library>.





Expanded La Jolla Branch to Reopen on March 27

The La Jolla/Riford Branch Library will reopen Saturday, March 27 with a major community event featuring many City officials and local residents. The event will take place at 10 a.m. and the public is invited to attend.

The library was expanded from 10,000 square feet to 24,745 square feet. Both the original building, built in 1989, and the \$4.7 million expansion were designed by Architects Mosher Drew Watson Ferguson.

The additional, two-level space includes a children's library, young adult area, La Jolla history room, reading room, meeting rooms, and stack areas for a 120,000-book capacity. Public art and display space includes wrought iron stair rails and a gate, sculpted light fixtures, a stained glass wall, and art and photo galleries. Remodeling of the existing library structure provided space for a computer lab, a Friends of the La Jolla Library store, and expanded collections.

Functionally efficient and sensitively integrated, the community meeting room is conveniently adjacent to the main entrance; an adult reading area offers a cozy fireplace; and a separate children's reading area incorporates scaled and inviting window seats.

The main desk is close to the staff workroom and the lounge area provides open and unobstructed views. An exterior courtyard and fountain provide overflow reading space in a pleasant outdoor retreat, while on-site parking areas are screened by low courtyard walls and a flowering landscape.

The project was made possible thanks to a capital campaign by the Friends of the La Jolla Library, a \$3.5 million donation from Joan and Irwin Jacobs, and a \$1 million donation from the Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Foundation.

Located at 7555 Draper Ave., the La Jolla-Riford Branch Library will be open Monday and Wednesday from noon to 8 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.



The expansion of the La Jolla-Riford Branch Library was designed by Architects Mosher Drew Watson Ferguson.

Library staff can be reached by calling 858-551-0519.

The expanded branch is part of the City of San Diego's \$312.3 million library building program that calls for the building of 13 new libraries and expansion of 11 existing branches over the next 10 years.

Preview Screening of "New Americans" Documentary to be Shown March 15

The Library and KPBS will present "The New Americans," a documentary that follows newcomers from five areas of the world from their countries of origin through their dramatic first years in the United States, putting a human face on the phenomenon of globalization. The free presentation will take place Monday, March 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Central Library, 820 E St.

This will be a sneak preview screening of the film that will premiere on PBS station beginning March. 29.

America has seen many waves of immigration since the country's founding. Yet despite the fact that most Americans have personal or family stories of immigration to the United States, the country is currently experiencing a wave of anti-immigrant sentiment – feelings that have ebbed and flowed throughout our nation's history.