



Check Us Out

Your Link to the Past & Gateway to the Future



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Public Library • 820 E Street • San Diego, CA 92101-6478

OPEN! OPEN! OPEN!

Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library Opened December 2nd

‘T was a sunny Saturday morning in early December, and throngs of eager Serra Mesa and Kearny Mesa residents gathered outside the new facility in anticipation of the long-awaited opening of our newest branch library. Following a brief ribbon cutting ceremony, featuring elected officials and community leaders (Mayor Jerry Sanders, Councilmember Donna Frye, Library Commissioner Mel Katz, Serra Mesa Community Council President Les Williamson), local preschool children from the Child Development Center and Wegeforth Elementary, and Girl Scouts, the doors opened and people swarmed through the doors. They explored the new spaces, logged onto the computers, and checked out books and tapes in large quantities.



Photos by Lowell Wassmann



Designed by Rusty Coombs, this stunning library is a showcase of design and functionality. Community input during the planning process led to the adoption of Mission Revival and Craftsman styling, which is reflected in the wood, tile and glass work found in the furniture,

floors, ceilings, and windows.

Green building technology is incorporated into floors

and surface areas which use recycled materials, and energy saving designs and devices can be found throughout.

At 15,626 square feet, this branch is almost four times the size of the old Serra Mesa branch. A community room that can hold 80 people contains a magnificent grand piano, donated by musician and Serra Mesa resident Peter Rutman. The Sudberry Properties Conference Room offers space for smaller groups. A satellite office of the San Diego Workforce Partnership offers employment resources.

A Message from the Director

Anna Tatár, Director, San Diego Public Library

Dear Friends,

You are no doubt aware of the tough times our City is going through, on many levels. Although our libraries are also facing many challenges, I want to assure you that we are striving to continue to provide the exceptional resources for all our patrons that you have come to expect and deserve. The tree of life that serves as an appropriate symbol for our library system is alive and well in all respects.

The trunk is being strengthened. First, for the past few months, we have been undergoing an intensive self-review process, called Business Processing Re-engineering. Many staff members have participated, and we will emerge from this process with more efficient systems in all areas.

The branches are spreading. Second, in December we opened the long-awaited new branch library in the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa neighborhood. This state-of-the-art library offers not only books and computers, but is also a site for school readiness programs for young children, for job resources, for a wide variety of community programming. In the coming months our next new branch will open in the North University community, and we will break ground on the new branch library for Logan Heights by summer.

The programs are blossoming. Third, our established programs continue to flourish and new programs and services are being offered to our patrons, made possible in part through collaborations with other community organizations. The annual Local Author award and display takes place in January and February. The One Book, One San Diego reading program launches this month (see the article on page 3). And we have just launched the Live Homework Help program for school children (see the article on page 7).

Indeed, it is with deep gratitude that I thank the many individuals, foundations, and businesses whose generosity and vision provide the support and leadership we need in order to be able to keep developing and offering programs and services that make our libraries the significant and special places that contribute to the high quality of life for our citizens.

Anna Tatár

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY



Check Us Out

The San Diego Public Library is a registered non-profit organization under IRS Section 170 (c).

The Library subscribes to the Association of Fundraising Professional's Donor Bill of Rights and is committed to maximizing the effectiveness of donor contributions. A copy of the Library's latest financial report is available by request.

News and Upcoming Events

For more Library news and information, call or stop by your local library or visit the Library's website at www.sandiegolibrary.org and subscribe to *Library Connection*, the monthly online newsletter with lots of information on upcoming events.

2007 Wish List

Help the Library Fulfill Special Needs



Photo by Lowell Waxman

It comes as no surprise that the City's fiscal challenges have had a significant impact on the Library system. Between 2003 and 2006, the Library's budget for books and materials was reduced by 50%. While this year's budget contains no additional reductions, library funding in San Diego is well below the national average for comparably-sized cities. Now more than ever, the Library is in need of your support so we can continue to offer children's and adult programming, keep our collections current and provide state-of-the-art technology resources. Your gift will help fulfill the Library's *Wish List* for 2007:

- ✓ **\$35** - Covers eight weeks of Summer Reading learning experiences for one child.
- ✓ **\$50** - Adds a best seller or frequently requested book to the Library's collection.
- ✓ **\$100** - Expands the Library's selection of popular audio books.
- ✓ **\$250** - Funds an educational and entertaining program for approximately 100 kids.
- ✓ **\$400** - Underwrites a free performing arts experience for 200 children and adults.
- ✓ **\$1,000** - Provides additional Homework Center resources for middle & high school students.
- ✓ **\$3,000** - Covers the annual cost of music, film, dance and multi-cultural programming for children and adults in an underserved neighborhood.

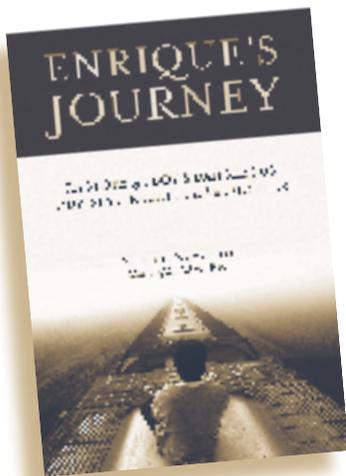
For information about Library needs and funding opportunities, please contact Jay Hill, Director of Development at (619) 236-5861 or email jayhill@sandiego.gov.

One Book

ONE SAN DIEGO

Read and Experience Enrique's Journey

One Book, One San Diego is an open invitation during 2007 for everyone who lives, works or visits San Diego to read and discuss the same book. San Diego's inaugural One Book, One San Diego selection is a significant book entitled *Enrique's Journey* by Sonia Nazario. *Enrique's Journey* is Nazario's account of a 17-year-old Honduran boy's harrowing search to find his mother in America. Greatly expanded with fresh research, the book vividly conveys the experience of illegal immigration from Central America. *Enrique's Journey* is a story about family and love that everyone can relate to.



Throughout the campaign, the Library, in partnership with KPBS, will present television and radio programming, workshops, lectures, and discussion groups. Check out a copy of *Enrique's Journey* at your neighborhood branch or reserve the book via the Library's online catalogue. Book clubs may pre-reserve a "Book Club in a Bag"

- a canvas tote bag containing 10 copies of the book, discussion guide, links to additional resources and tips on how to organize a book club.

Author Sonia Nazario



For a calendar of community events and book discussion groups visit:

www.sandiegolibrary.org and click on the One Book, One San Diego link.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: LES WILLIAMSON

Some people are more active after retiring, and Les Williamson is one of the most involved retirees you could hope to meet! Motivated by a desire to encourage youth and people of all ages to embrace reading, one of his favorite community causes is the library. This passion was born early in his life, when he spent many hours in his local library, in the Washington Heights area of Manhattan. His friend's mother was the head librarian, and the family had an apartment *in* the library itself. Les therefore had unlimited access to the collection, where he could do homework and read to his heart's content.



Photo by Stephen White

After college, Les joined the Marine Corps and spent twenty years in the service, retiring in San Diego in 1974. For the next 28 years he worked his second career as a retail advertising account manager at the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, and retired in 2002. His first wife Nobuko died in 1994, and he is the father of 5 and grandfather of 9.

Les' extensive community involvement over three decades includes the Mother Goose Parade, the Copley Federal Credit Union, the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission, the Serra Mesa Community Council, and the Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library. Through the latter, he met and married branch manager Marilyn Gibbs.

Knowing the community businesses, personalities, and concerns has helped him connect and collaborate extensively, to the benefit of all. Donations of goods, services, and dollars have been directed our way by Les's efforts. We have all definitely benefited from this active volunteer's energy, dedication, and gusto. And he and Marilyn also give generously, and are proud to have their names listed on the donor panel at the new branch. We appreciate and thank you, Les!



Photo by Lowell Waxman

The children's area is colorful and creative, with bright red patterned carpet, specialized lighting fixtures, and whimsical furniture, such as a book-holding crocodile. The Kathryn C. Neal Family Reading Area provides nooks for children and adults to snuggle together to read. The Sunroad Enterprises Children's Computer Area provides kid-sized desks and computers. The Preschoolers' Door to Learning Center, sponsored by the First Five Commission, offers special materials and equipment to promote school readiness.

Though the old branch had only four computers, the new building boasts forty. A separate Computer Lab provides a quiet area for patrons. Free wireless Internet access and 70 subscription databases are available online.

A lovely Reading Room with comfortable chairs, outside courtyards with benches, and reading carrels and chairs scattered throughout the main reading room provide lots of spaces to sit and enjoy the newest addition to our Public Library system. It may have taken a long time to be realized, but all agree that this library and the services it offers are definitely sources of pride for the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa neighborhood.

An endowment has been created to fund Sunday hours at this branch. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please contact Jay Hill of the Development Team at 619-236-5861 or jayhill@sandiego.gov.



Photos by Stephen White



Hervey Family Recognized

During the annual luncheon for National Philanthropy Day, eight individuals and organizations were recognized for their philanthropic activity in San Diego. Nominated by the San Diego Public Library Foundation, the Hervey Family was honored as Outstanding Philanthropists.

James Edgar and Jean Jessop Hervey left a legacy to the city by leaving an \$80 million endowment to the San Diego Foundation.



Photo by Bob Ross

John, Matthew, Jim, Susan and Linda Hervey

Now their five children share in distributing funds to a wide variety of community organizations. Our public libraries have benefited greatly from the family's generosity, and the Point Loma/Hervey branch serves as a lasting testament to their parents. We are most grateful for the Herveys, not only for

their support of our libraries, but also for the inspiration they provide that encourages philanthropy in others.

North University Community Branch Construction Update



Construction of the North University Community Branch is well on its way toward completion in mid-2007. The new 15,900 square foot library will be a tremendous resource to residents of the burgeoning North University City area. The facility is located on a knoll overlooking the Nobel Athletic Park, canyon and surrounding neighborhood. Special thanks to Stan Siegel and the Friends of the North University Community Library for their dedication and contributions to the project.

THANK YOU, LIBRARY CONTRIBUTORS!

The San Diego Public Library would like to thank the following contributors who made gifts of \$100 or more to support the Library during August – November 2006.

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In Memory Of:

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Thank you Corporate, Organization and Foundation Contributors!

The Library would like to acknowledge the generous support of the following businesses, foundations and organizations whose direct contributions and employee-generated matching gifts are making a positive impact on Library programs and services. Gifts received last summer from Westcore Properties, Fairfield Residential, William Lyon Homes, Inc., and Sunroad Enterprises are being used to help underwrite the cost of Sunday hours this year at the newly opened Serra Mesa – Kearny Mesa Branch. Contact your company's human resources department to find out how you can take advantage of your employer's matching gift program and potentially double the value of your gift to the Library.

Kathryn C. Neal Estate

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Photo by Mary Slaben

Everybody Wins! San Diego Chargers player Keenan McCardell, spokesperson for the Library, presented San Diego Public Library Foundation Chair Judith Harris with a jersey and football during pre-opening activities at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa branch, showing the team's support for their neighborhood branch library.

Live Homework Help Launched



A new electronic resource for the library, Live Homework Help is an innovative after-school program that connects children in grades 4-12 and college students with expert tutors for live, one-on-one help with homework assignments. Through the public libraries, technology is harnessed to provide educational services either from terminals at the library or remotely from home with a library card. Through partnership with the San Diego Unified School District, and with the generosity of a dozen or so friends, we are able to make this program happen.

We wish to acknowledge Matthew Spathas for his superlative efforts in promoting this project and soliciting donors. And we wish to recognize and thank these generous friends for their support of the Live Homework Help program.

The Girard Foundation

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**Educational Networks
Architects Delawie Wilkes Rodrigues Barker
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Local Authors Achievement Award:

Congratulations to Poet Jerome Rothenberg, the 2006 recipient of the Library's annual Local Authors Lifetime Achievement Award. This prestigious award is presented annually to a writer who has a distinguished career and whose work has provided significant enrichment to the San Diego community.

LEAVE A LEGACY FOR LIBRARIES

Do you believe in the value of public libraries so much that you wish to help them continue to thrive far into the future? Have you thought about making arrangements to leave funds to the Library in your will or trust or other estate document? If so, we would really like to know about your intentions, for several reasons. First, we would be better able to carry out your wishes. Second, we would be able to recognize you now. And third, being able to share your intentions helps inspire other potential donors to include the San Diego Public Library in their estate plans.

We honor those who have made arrangements to support the Library with a legacy gift by membership in the Carnegie Society. Started in 2005 with a charter membership of 15, the Society has now grown to number over 40 members. In the past three years, the Library has received funds totaling almost six million dollars from estates of a dozen generous individuals. Their gifts are supporting items ranging from large print books to computer technology to capital building projects, to name but a few examples. We are very grateful to these passionate people for leaving a legacy to help ensure the future of our libraries.

If you have included the San Diego Public Library in your estate plans, or are thinking about doing so, please let us know by contacting Katie Boskoff of the Development Team (619-238-6615 or kboskoff@sandiego.gov). We would love to include you in the annual Carnegie Society event in April.



Photo by Bob Ross



Phillip Green above, Alyce and Michael Archuleta, middle, Alice and Doug Diamond, below, all are proud members of the Carnegie Society.



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BRANCH HAPPENINGS

Photo by Rosie Dectidue



Central Library: Abraham Lincoln himself (aka Bill Peck) spent a morning speaking to school children as part of the exhibit "Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation."

Central Library: Four-year-old Melody Ruth, a frequent participant in the Children's Room's weekly Story Time, made a turkey during a Thanksgiving-themed crafts activities.

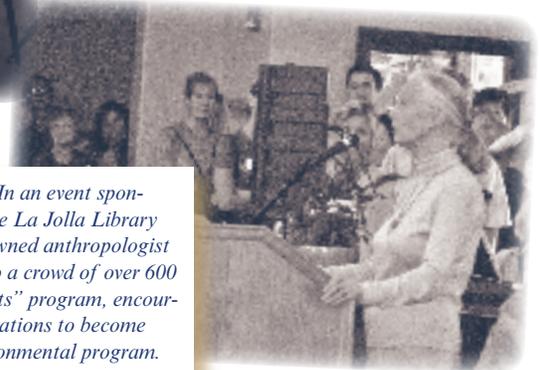


Photo by Liz Culp

North Clairemont: A Little Enchantress charmed the Magician and the audience as part of Safe Halloween activities during the month of October.



Mira Mesa: Youth Programs Director for the Epicentre Youth Center, Meredith Foellmi (left), and Branch Manager Laurie Macrae (right), celebrated the opening of the Children's Art Exhibit held during the month of October. Another exhibit is planned for March.



La Jolla Riford Library: In an event sponsored by the Friends of the La Jolla Library on October 4, world-renowned anthropologist Dr. Jane Goodall spoke to a crowd of over 600 about her "Roots & Shoots" program, encouraging schools and organizations to become involved in this vital environmental program.