

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 <http://www.sandiegolibrary.org> and clicking on "News & Events."

AUGUST 2006

VOLUME 4

Film Chronicles Life of Alan Lomax Who Devoted Career to Recording Folk Music

Alan Lomax earned a singular place for himself in American culture and arts. Building on the pioneering work of his father, John, whom he accompanied on folk-song recording tours of the American South and Southwest in the 1930s and '40s, Alan set out after World War II to do no less



Alan Lomax with his daughter Anna at home in Florida.

than draw the folk music map of the world. Sensing that the world's indigenous music was on the point of being swept away by mass commercial culture, Lomax brought considerable energy and urgency to his awesome task. He also brought an infectious love for the varied homespun musical traditions, especially the songs passed mouth to ear for generations.

Alan Lomax was "the song hunter." He devoted his life to recording the world's folk tunes before they would permanently disappear with the rise of the modern music industry. In "**Lomax the Songhunter**," filmmaker Rogier Kappers seeks to tell Lomax's story by interviewing friends such as Pete Seeger, combining it with archival recordings of music greats Woody Guthrie and Leadbelly, and gathering footage of the cotton fields, rock quarries and prisons where Lomax captured America's quintessential music. Finally, Kappers followed the route that Lomax took so many years



Alan Lomax listening to playback in Galax, Va., August 1959.

– Shirley Collins, Courtesy of the Alan Lomax Archive

Library Announces New, Simpler Web Address

The Library has a new web address: www.sandiegolibrary.org. The new address is easier to remember and simpler to use than the previous one.

The public can perform a variety of tasks and functions on the Library's web site, including:

- Search the Library catalog of 3 million books and other items.
- Reserve books, CDs, videos and other materials with email notification when they're ready.
- Review your Library Account.
- Renew Library materials.
- Search 70 online databases on a large variety of topics.
- Sign up for the free monthly *Library Connection* newsletter with information about upcoming events.
- Download a Library card application.
- Search for upcoming activities, programs and exhibits on the Calendar of Events.

The web site is also a wealth of information about services and programs, such as library locations and operating hours, details about contributions and volunteering, assistance for people with disabilities, special announcements, new library construction, and more.

The Library web pages are among the most popular of the City of San Diego web site. In June, Library web pages received an average of more than 4,000 visitors and more than 5,600 hits per day.

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Summer Reading Program Continues with Plenty of Fun Events through Aug. 15



Ventriloquist Joe Gandelman will perform at the Mountain View/Beckwourth Library on Aug. 12 at 11:30 a.m.

The Library's Summer Reading Program continues through Aug. 15 with lots of great upcoming events and activities. Summer is an important time for children and teens to keep up their reading skills. It's also a time for fun. Some of the many events will include programs with wild, exotic animals, magic shows, and other great activities. The Summer Reading Program is open to all San Diego children and

teens. For more information, visit your local library or log onto the Library's web site at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

Earthquake Safety Workshops at Libraries

A series of free public Earthquake Safety Workshops at libraries continues in August. The workshops are being conducted by the County's Office of Emergency Services (www.sdcounty.ca.gov/oes/). Upcoming workshops include:



- Aug. 2, at 6:30 p.m., at the Central Library, 820 E St.
- Aug. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Rancho Bernardo Branch Library, 17110 Bernardo Center Drive.
- Aug. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the City Heights/Weingart Branch Library, 3795 Fairmount Ave.

Counseling Sessions Benefit Small Businesses

The Library hosts free counseling sessions with SCORE for local small businesses. These sessions present an opportunity to discuss various business challenges first-time and seasoned small business owners face in a competitive business world. Topics covered may include business plans, business start-up, financing, marketing, business expansion, etc. Participants meet one-on-one with a SCORE executive. The next program will be held Aug. 30 at 6 p.m. at the Central Library, 820 E St. To register, or for more information, contact the Business Resources & Technology Link at the Social Sciences section of the Central Library at 619-238-6630, email businesslink@sandiego.gov.

International Dance Fest to be Held Aug. 25

An International Dance Festival will be held Aug. 25, beginning at 6 p.m., at the Performance Annex of the City Heights/Weingart Branch Library, 3795 Fairmount Ave. The program will feature Viva Mexico! Ballet Folklorico Jaliscence, Ballet Folklorico Quetzal and Mariachi Arriba. For more information, call 619-641-6100.

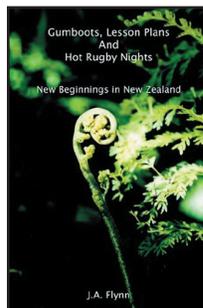
Free Films at Libraries



The Library presents a variety of free films, many of which are independent or foreign films not widely distributed. Others are classic and family-friendly movies. For more information about films being shown, visit the Calendar of Events on the Library's Web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library>.

Author to Discuss New Book About Living in New Zealand

The Library will host an author talk with Judy Flynn on Monday, Aug. 28 at 6:30 p.m., in the Second Floor Meeting Room of the Central Library, located at 820 E St. in downtown San Diego. This event is free to the public.



Explore New Zealand, savor the cuisine of this island nation and experience the culture and lifestyle of the locals. Author of "**Gumboots, Lesson Plans and Hot Rugby Nights – New Beginnings in New Zealand**," Judy accepted a position in New Zealand to teach English to Asian students. It was a metamorphosis for the author, a 30-year veteran of corporate America.

Her book weaves in anecdotes related to the trials and tribulations of maintaining a bi-coastal relationship, found friendships with Kiwis and her students, as well as tidbits about the culture, the cuisine, the Kiwi lifestyle and Maori legends. It's a must read for anyone thinking of making a career transition or interested in an overseas adventure, and especially for those who are curious about this small island country. Besides being a fun read, it is thought provoking and filled with some wonderful recipes from New Zealand's own style of cuisine described as Pacific Fusion, a blend of exquisite flavors from neighboring tropical islands, reflecting the large Polynesian population.

Judy will be available for book signing after the event.

Class Looks at Online Resources for Parents

Whether you're a working parent, a stay-at-home parent or a little bit of both, the free class "Online Resources for Parents" will show you resources on the Internet to make your parenting job a little bit easier. The workshop will focus on relevant web sites covering topics from health and child development to family finances, education and more. The class will be held in the second floor Computer Lab of the Central Library, 820 E St. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 619-238-6621. Basic Internet experience is recommended.

Dan Camp Watercolors on Display at Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library

Approximately three dozen paintings by acclaimed San Diego artist Dan Camp will be featured in an exhibition titled “Dan Camp: Watercolors from 1975 to 1990,” this summer’s offering of the Library’s Visual Arts Program.

The exhibition will be on display from Aug. 6 through Sept. 30 at the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library, 4275 Cass St.

Camp is most closely identified with dark (both thematically and in palette) oil paintings lushly and masterfully executed on board, so it may come as a surprise to viewers that he is also regarded as a world-class watercolorist and watercolor teacher.

What makes this exhibition particularly rare and exciting is that, since 1975, Camp’s watercolors have never been displayed as a group and only a few of them have been shown publicly.

Influenced by masters like John Singer Sargent, Winslow Homer, Andrew Wyeth and Charles Burchfield, Camp painted these works for a variety of reasons ranging from demonstrations for watercolor classes to more personal expressions of his artistry. Yet, in contrast to mainstream, traditional watercolor, all of them manifest the mysteri-



Fawn (1987) is one of approximately three dozen watercolors by Dan Camp that will be on display from Aug. 6 through Sept. 30 at the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library.

ous overtones that have made Camp a unique voice on the city’s art scene.

A reception for the artist will be held at the library on Sunday, Aug. 6, from 1 to 4 p.m. Also, Camp will discuss his work at an Artist Talk event on Saturday, Sept. 2 at 1 p.m. Both activities are free and open to the public.

Digital Storytelling Station to be Continued through Dec. 30

Because of its success and the continuing interest by San Diego residents, the Digital Community Storytelling Station will be continued through Dec. 30. The Library, in cooperation with the Media Arts Center of San Diego, is hosting the station in the Arts, Music & Recreation section of the Central Library. The public is invited to participate in the program and have their unique stories recorded.

Many people have already recorded their unique stories. Vernon Sander told his story about his life in 1939 when he joined the Marine Corps. Brooks Loro looked at skateboarders and the farmers market Barrio Logan. There have also been stories about growing up in Tierrasanta, the creation of the community garden in City Heights, and a history of dam building in San Diego.

Community storytelling makes use of a wide range of different types of stories and themes to explore and build local community. These stories can include personal and family stories, stories from local history; stories about local successes; contemporary stories about the local environment, characters or problems; traditional stories from cultural groups; stories of disadvantaged groups; and, folk tales and fairy tales.

Anyone with a story to tell – reminiscences of the neighborhood they grew up in, memories of the interesting jobs they were involved in, or tales of special interests and activities. If you are interested in creating a 3 to 5 minute

digital story, you need to bring four things to your session:

- A story to tell.
- A CD with music to help reinforce the mood and message of your story.
- Photos, if you have them, to illustrate your story. (On a CD is the easiest way to import, but we can also scan them)
- A blank CD or DVD to take your story home with you. If you don’t have music or photos you can still tell a story.

This project is part of “BARRIO LOGAN: Youth Voices & Community Stories,” a one-year digital storytelling project that will help sustain, support, celebrate and maintain community identity and pride in an area that is widely regarded as a spiritual center for Latino civic engagement. However, residents of all San Diego communities are welcome to participate. The project is funded by the California State Library.

A representative from the Media Arts Center of San Diego will be on site Monday and Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. to demonstrate the Digital Community Storytelling Station. The Central Library is located at 820 E St. in downtown San Diego.

For more information, please contact Lynn Whitehouse at 619-236-5821 or the Media Arts Center of San Diego at 619-230-1938.

“Waging a Living” Explores Elusiveness of American Dream

The term “working poor” should be an oxymoron. If you work full time, you should not be poor, but more than 30 million Americans — one in four workers — are stuck in jobs that do not pay the basics for a decent life. The documentary film **“Waging a Living”** chronicles the day-to-day battles of four low-wage earners fighting to lift their families out of poverty.

Shot over a three-year period in the northeast and California, this observational film captures the dreams, frustrations and accomplishments of a diverse group of people who struggle to live from paycheck to paycheck. By presenting an unvarnished look at the barriers that these workers must overcome to lift their families out of poverty, “Waging a Living” offers a sobering view of the elusive American Dream.

“In making ‘Waging a Living,’ I wanted viewers to understand what it’s like to work hard, play by the rules, and still not be able to support a family,” says producer/director Roger Weisberg. “It’s easy to take for granted the janitors



Jerry Longoria lives in a single room occupancy hotel and works as a security officer in San Francisco in a scene from “Waging a Living.” – Bill Burke/Page One Photography

and security guards in the offices where we work, the waiters and bus boys in the restaurants where we eat, and the nurses and care-givers in the facilities where we place our children and elderly.”

“Waging a Living” has won several awards, including the CINE Golden Eagle Award and the Grand Prize at the New Jersey International Film Festival. It will be shown Sunday, Aug. 13, at 2 p.m., in the third floor auditorium of the Central Library, 820 E St.

Sponsored by the Library and the Center on Policy Initiatives, the event is free and open to the public. Following the screening, a member of the Center on Policy Initiatives will facilitate an open discussion.

Since 1988, PBS’ “POV” series has brought the best of



In “Waging a Living,” Jean Reynold turns to public assistance for first time.

independent point-of-view documentaries to a national audience, featuring the work of America’s most innovative documentary filmmakers to build new communities in conversation about today’s most pressing social issues. “Waging a Living” is scheduled to debut on national public television on Aug. 29.

Lomax the Songhunter (continued from page 1)

ago and traveled to remote villages in Spain and Italy, hearing memories and music from the farmers, shepherds and weavers whose songs Lomax recorded decades earlier.

Kappers’ musical road movie becomes a half-century feedback loop that rediscovers something of Lomax’s own restlessness and wonder. It also validates the urgency of the songhunter’s quest; the elderly musicians and singers whom Kappers finds are often the last generation for whom the old music has come down as a living legacy and not as a preserved artifact.

In 2004, the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress acquired the original recordings, papers and other documentation in the Alan Lomax Archive, uniting it with the material Alan Lomax collected from 1933 through 1942 for the Library’s Archive of American Folk Song. The Alan Lomax Collection is presently being arranged and cataloged at the Library of Congress.

“Lomax the Songhunter,” which has won more than nine international festival awards, will be shown Wednesday, Aug. 9, at 6:30 p.m., at the Central Library, located at 820 E St. Sponsored by the City of San Diego Public Library, San Diego Folk Heritage and San Diego Troubadour, the free screening will be held in the third floor auditorium.

Since 1988, PBS’ “POV” series has brought the best of independent point-of-view documentaries to a national audience, featuring the work of America’s most innovative documentary filmmakers to build new communities in conversation about today’s most pressing social issues. “Lomax the Songhunter” is scheduled to debut on national public television on Aug. 22.

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>.

