

### A Letter from your President ~

It's no news to anyone that San Diego (and indeed the nation) is in dire financial shape. Most of you probably know Mayor Sanders' original budget proposal in November 2008 included closing seven branch libraries. Fortunately, proposed closures were not accepted by the City Council and the branches are safe—for now. But, in a few months, city finances will be looked at once again and it seems inevitable that we'll hear the news of a need to close some branches and reduce services in order to balance the budget.

It seems counterintuitive to me to close libraries and reduce services at a time when so many of our neighbors are more in need of library services than ever because of the financial turmoil surrounding their lives. If you've lost your job and had to drop your Internet access, you can use a computer at a branch library to look for a job and polish and print your resume. If you are cutting back on expenses and can't afford movies and theme park visits as family outings, you can bring the children to the library to check out books and borrow videos, CDs and DVDs. You can also sign the children up for one of the many free programs and activities sponsored by the local Branch. (See this newsletter about the much-anticipated visits of Blaze, the Therapy Dog, who loves to hear children read to him!) At the same time, pick up a book on your favorite hobby or sport or look at the new bookshelf for a novel to escape into. And keep an eye on the programs being offered for adults. There is sure to be one or more that you'll find informative and enjoyable.

It's up to each person in the community to assure our library continues to meet the needs of the community. When the next call comes to cut branch libraries or cut hours or funds for books, please call or e-mail the Mayor and the members of the City Council to let them know just how important your branch and its staff are to you. In addition, many of the activities of Mission Hills/Hillcrest Branch Library are made possible by the generous support of the Friends of the Library. We have begun our spring membership drive and ask for your help--it doesn't cost much to join the Friends, but the benefits to our community are great. Please consider returning the envelope that's enclosed in this Newsletter with your membership dues. Each and every contribution helps. Thank you for your support!

**Phyllis Marion**  
President, Friends of the MH-Hillcrest Branch Library



*This issue of the Newsletter is sponsored by:*

The Friends acknowledge **Tim Stigers & J. Hernández**  
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tim & j.

  
**Prudential**  
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office 619.295.9583

email: [timstigers@cox.net](mailto:timstigers@cox.net) or [jaimhernandes@cox.net](mailto:jaimhernandes@cox.net)

This newsletter is distributed to more than 1000 residents of the Mission Hills, Hillcrest, Bankers Hill, Old Town and other nearby communities. Would you like to be included in our mailing? Go to <http://www.library92103.org/> to sign up.

If you would like to underwrite an issue, please contact [carol.moseley@gmail.com](mailto:carol.moseley@gmail.com)

On Tuesday, **March 31st**, at 7pm, the Friends will host **Amy Goodpaster Strebe**, author of two books, "*Desert Dogs: The Marines of Operation Iraqi Freedom*" and "*Flying for Her Country: The American and Soviet Women Military Pilots of World War II*". Amy is a native San Diegan raised, and now residing with her husband and two children, in Mission Hills. She is considered one of the leading experts on women military pilots of WW II. The paperback edition of her most recent book will be out in February 2009 and available for sale at our event. Please join us in welcoming this young local talent. Light refreshments will be served.

### Spring 2009

#### Children's Programs

Preschool & PJ Storytime Theme

Is "Teddy Bears' Picnic"

Selections will introduce books

With Teddy Bears to our young listeners



Preschool Storytime-Tuesday during the school year-10:30 am

March	April	May	June
3	7	5	2
10	14	12	9
17	21	19	16
24	28	26	23
31			30

PJ Storytime-2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday during the school year-6:00 pm

March	April	May	June
<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>18</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>17</u>

Children's science-related craft projects-3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month  
**11 am to noon**

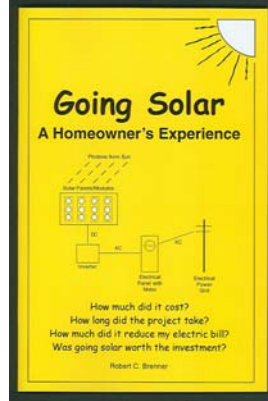
March	April	May	June
21	18	16	20

Editor: **Carol Moseley**

A Blaze of Glory By Charlyn Earp

Young readers have begun enjoying the opportunity to hone their reading skills and confidence at the Mission Hills Branch Library. They are spending time at the library reading to a beautiful Therapy Dog named Blaze. A sheltie, Blaze has a loving and sweet spirit and actually enjoys the stories and attention. Research shows this activity improves the confidence of young readers. Blaze tilts his head with expression and appears extremely interested in every word and doesn't correct any mistakes. He isn't judgmental, but positively supportive.

Other libraries are eager to utilize this gift, but **Samantha Hurst**, a Professor of Anthropology at UCSD, chose this library because it is such a vital part of the Mission Hills and Hillcrest communities. Therapy Dog International is a volunteer group organized to provide qualified handlers and their Therapy Dogs for visitation to schools, libraries and hospitals. As a member of this group, Hurst chose to volunteer her services to help hesitant, embarrassed and shy young readers grow into confident and skillful readers, and to showcase her wonderful dog. Young readers are reaping huge rewards when their improved reading leads to better grades in school. Blaze and Samantha look forward to meeting more young readers. Check the library for an up-to-date monthly schedule of reading times.



Branch Manager, **Philip Detwiler** invited San Diego home owner and author, **Robert Brenner**, to speak on his money-saving experience transforming his home into a solar-powered wonder.

On **Tuesday, March 10 at 7 p.m.**, Mr. Brenner will share strategies from his book, *Going Solar: A Homeowner's Experience*. He'll guide the audience through his experience and teach them how to lower their utility bills while appreciating the value of their homes.

**MISSION HILLS LIBRARY presents  
ONE BOOK, ONE SAN DIEGO**

**"The Zookeeper's Wife" by Diane Ackerman**

Remarkable true-story of Jan & Antonina Zabinski, keepers of the Warsaw Zoo who, with extraordinary courage, compassion, and calm under pressure, managed to save hundreds of people from Nazi hands. With her inimitable blend of lyricism and insight into the natural world, Ackerman reveals in this book how empathy for nature can, occasionally, allow us to triumph over the worst in human nature.

**February 25, 2009 Book Discussion**

The **Mission Hills Mystery Book Group** will be discussing "The Zookeeper's Wife" as part of the One Book, One San Diego program. Contact: 619-692-4910

April is *Poetry Month*

AND

**National Library Week is**

April 12-18, 2009

**Library Hours**

The library is closed Feb 16 for President's Day; Mar 31 for Cesar Chavez Day; and May 25 for Memorial Day.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Closed	12:30	9:30	12:30	9:30	12:30	9:30
	8:00	5:30	8:00	5:30	5:30	2:30

**Friends Used Book Sales every 3rd Saturday from 9:30 - 12:30**

We welcome your used book donations

Friends of the San Diego Public Library  
820 E St, San Diego, CA 92101  
A California Tax Exempt Corporation for the

**Friends of the Mission Hills-Hillcrest Library**

**Return Service Requested**

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