

Spring 2008

From your President ~

A NEW YEAR -- A RENEWED LIBRARY

In December, the Friends unanimously resolved to make 2008 a brighter, fresher, and cleaner year for our library building. Funds were allocated to paint the library, purchase new carpeting, and for refinishing the solid maple chairs hiding under all that accumulated grime. This project is going forward with the support and cooperation of the Friends, the library administration, painters from the city's Facilities Maintenance Department, and the San Diego Public Library Foundation.

We all missed the library when it closed for one week in January, but every surface had to be covered with plastic while the ceiling was spray-painted. The rest of the painting is being completed while the library is open, using a specially manufactured low VOC paint (volatile organic compound) with almost no odor.

When it is time to replace the carpeting, another closure will be required. Meanwhile, the chairs are being sent to the refinisher in small groups. Some have been returned--look for those shiny clean chairs when you visit the library.

The Friends are helping to pay for these improvements from a treasury built dollar-by-dollar. To raise these funds, our loyal volunteers keep up a sustained effort that includes monthly book sales, wrapping Christmas gifts for tips, sponsoring musical and theater events, selling books at street fairs, and working to build our membership and encourage donations. Community support for these efforts makes it possible for the Friends to support the library and its programs.

Our Friends group meets on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the branch library. New Friends are always welcome, whether as active volunteers or supporting members. Please join us.

--- Nancy Carol Carter



Volunteers moved hundreds of books to clear areas for the city's Facilities Maintenance Department painters who rolled on new colors and the clean look of fresh paint.

Library Hours

The library will close on March 31 in observance of Caesar Chavez Day.

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

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE FOR \$40.00

READING GROUPS AT OUR LIBRARY

Some books are to be tasted; others swallowed; and some to be chewed and digested. -Francis Bacon

Talking over a good book with others has always been a pleasure, but book clubs and reading groups take "book talk" to a new level. These groups replace chance conversations with a designated book selection and regular meeting times.

Reading groups may bring together a small group of friends or be as encompassing as Oprah Winfrey's television audience. The explosion of organized reading groups in the United States is such a social phenomenon that sociologists and cultural historians are studying them.

Finding Your Reading Group

Reading circles may have a distinct personality or define themselves by specific interests. They can lean toward the social or be very focused on the books under discussion. For many people, the ideal reading group can be found at the public library. The library certainly is a good place to test your interest in a reading group--everyone is welcome and there is no social pressure placed on any participant. Yet, among those who stay with a library group, friendships develop and strong bonds are forged.

The Mission Hills Book Club
First Thursday of the Month 10:00 a.m.

The Mission Hills Book Club has met at our branch library almost every month since July 1999 and maintains a list of all the books read and discussed by the group. From *The Tempest* by Shakespeare to John Krakauer's *Into the Wild*, and from Norman Mailer to Jane Austen, this group reads widely and eclectically. Non-fiction, classics, modern fiction, and history are all represented. The group holds open discussions with no designated leader. By tradition the group selects for December a book made into a movie. At a Christmas potluck dinner, the movie version is viewed.

The Mission Hills Mystery Book Club
Fourth Wednesday of the Month 6:30 p.m.

This group has met for more than 10 years, reading a wide range of mystery novels, from those that feature amateur detectives, to police procedurals, to hard-boiled detective fiction, and classics of the genre. Local authors and books set in the San Diego area are favorite selections, but the reading list includes Josephine Tey, Wilkie Collins, Peter Robinson, Leslie Glass, and Alan Russell. Books are chosen by consensus and the discussion is open and informal.

BOOK SALES BY THE FRIENDS
 Always on the 3rd Saturday -- Mission Hills Library

BOOK DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED



ALL ABOUT APRIL

- April is . . . National Poetry Month

Watch for a special Author's Program at the library.

- April is . . . a time for National Library Week

"Join the Circle of Knowledge"
Celebrate libraries April 13-19 as a place to dream, explore, learn, and grow. Knowledge comes full circle at the library.

- April kicks off . . . the Spring Membership Drive of the Mission Hills-Hillcrest Library Friends

Our dynamic community organization welcomes you. Membership forms are always available at the library.

Our concern for the future can be tested by how well we support our libraries. -Carl Sagan

• Thanks to the Mission Hills Garden Club •

A tired hedge was removed several months ago from the library's front planter box and replaced with all new plants that are just coming into their own. As the library interior is being refurbished, we also are watching the maturation of this generous gift of time and money from the Mission Hills Garden Club.



The Friends acknowledge **Tim Stigers & J. Hernández** for underwriting this issue of the newsletter.

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