

Friends of the Mission Hills-Hillcrest Library seeks your help

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By Charlyn Earp

Through April there is a way to help your local library and reap some personal fiscal benefit. The Friends of the Mission Hills-Hillcrest Branch of the San Diego Public Library is conducting its third annual spring membership drive. Donations to this non-profit group are tax deductible. As an added thank you, names of new and renewing members are placed into a drawing for a special gift.

February's lucky winner received the "Balboa Park Bonanza" which included two tickets to the San Diego Zoo, the Museum of Art and the Museum of Man. In March, Whole Foods in Hillcrest donated a generous gift to the winner of the drawing. The market supplied a huge bag of products from the store and an opportunity to learn more about the Whole Foods Foundation. The Foundation is a non-profit organization that donates 100 percent of funds raised to support microcredit loans within the countries from which Whole Foods purchases its products. These loans help people create sustainable small businesses to improve their standard of living. In

April, the Friends will be offering one more incentive.

So now is a good time to begin or renew your membership in the Friends of the Mission Hills-Hillcrest Branch Library. Not only will you benefit from the tax benefit, but you could win the April drawing. The community will benefit the most with the programs your donations fund. Ongoing membership in the library Friends supports this organization that uses its resources to extend the services and programs that benefit all ages. The popular summer reading program benefits many neighborhood children. You may pick up a membership form at the library's front desk or get a printable form online at the Friends' website: <http://www.library92103.org>.

As federal, state and local governments continue to slash away at fundamental programs affecting education and other crucial areas, the Friends of the Library plays a major role in keeping affected programs running at the Mission Hills-Hillcrest Branch. Although you may always join the Friends, now is a great time to have a chance to get something for yourself as well. The last drawing will be at the end of April.