

The Mission Hills/Hillcrest Library presents two authors this March

By Charlyn Earp

The Mission Hills / Hillcrest Library Branch of the San Diego City Library plans to sweep any competition by inviting two authors to speak on topics that interest their patrons next month. Participants can begin the month learning how to go solar in their homes and end the month celebrating National Women's history month. Both authors are locals who can't wait to share their knowledge and information.

First, in support of the premier San Diego Science Festival in March and April, Librarian Philip Detwiler asked Robert Brenner, a local homeowner and author, to speak about his experience transforming his home into a solar powered wonder. At 7 p.m., March 10, he will share strategies from his book, "Going Solar: A Homeowner's Experience." He'll guide his audience through his experience and teach them how to lower their utility bills while appreciating the value of their homes.

Brenner began his solar quest after reading an article describing significant utility rate increases in other states. It prompted him to look at his own bills. Shocked, his deeper research led to a larger understanding of the global magnitude of energy consumption. He has learned how to help extend the earth's natural resources, help keep our air clean, and become a wiser manager of his energy use.

His audience will discover that newer processes are less expensive and much easier to manage. Because solar is renewable, quiet and non-polluting,



Amy Goodpaster Strebe, a San Diego native and author, speaks about female military pilots.

it is a no-pain conservation tool.

Later in the month, 7 p.m., March 31, library patrons can hear historian Amy Goodpaster Strebe, a San Diego native and author, marvel at the amazing American and Soviet women who piloted planes during World War II. Strebe was born in La Jolla, raised in Mission Hills, and later earned her Bachelor's degree from

Loyola Marymount University and her Master's degree from San Jose State University.

Strebe wrote her first book, "Desert Dogs: The Marines of Operation Iraqi Freedom," after drawing on her experiences as a journalist when she accompanied the U.S. Army's Third Infantry Division from Fort Stewart, Georgia. They were on deployment to the Persian Gulf as part of Operation Desert Thunder in 1998.

Her current book, "Flying for Her Country, The American and Soviet Women Military Pilots of World War II," is a comparative study of the pilots who flew combat missions along the Eastern Front during the Second World War. She is considered one of the leading experts on the women military pilots of World War II. Her book will be available at the event on March 31.

Interested patrons should take advantage of these unique opportunities to learn and grow in this highly active month of meeting the authors at the Mission Hills/Hillcrest Branch of the San Diego City Library.