

**LETTER FROM THE LIBRARIAN**

I'm happy to report that things are going very well at the Mission Hills Branch Library. Not too long ago, there were proposals to cut library funding due to the City of San Diego's budget woes. Thanks largely to the advocacy of the Friends of the Library and other concerned citizens, the most recent proposed cuts were avoided. Recently, the Mayor and the City Council allocated additional funding for the San Diego Public Library so that libraries can be open 5 more hours a week and additional staff can be hired. As of June 4, the Mission Hills Branch and all of the other branch libraries are again open on Mondays—from 12:30 to 5:30 PM. It's likely that even more hours will be added in the near future.

If you've been in the Mission Hills Branch in the last couple of months, you may have noticed that our collection of new books has been growing. This is mostly due to a monthly donation of money to the library from the Friends of the Mission Hills-Hillcrest Branch Library specifically for the purchase of new books. I'm also amazed at the huge number of gently used books, DVDs, CDs, and magazines that patrons donate to the library. We're able to add many of these to the library's collections, and the Friends of the Library sell others to raise money for the purchase of new books and other materials, to support library events, to buy equipment (such as our children's computer), and to assist in paying for building maintenance and upgrades.

The Mission Hills Branch will also have at least one professional performance or other event each week, usually on Thursdays at 10:30 AM. These programs will include musicians, magicians, ventriloquists, a clown, fun science, and even wild animals. We will also continue to hold our regular children's programs: storytimes (Tuesdays at 6:30 PM and Fridays at 10:30 AM), LEGO playtime (Wednesdays at 5:00 PM), and craft time (3rd Saturday of the month from 10:00 AM to noon).

Thank you to the Friends of the Library, our numerous hard-working volunteers, and everyone else who has supported the library in one way or another!

Newsletter Now Available Online:

If you are receiving the Branch Buzz by mail and would rather receive it by e-mail, please send your request to: library92103@gmail.com and we'll make the change.

Sponsor a Branch Buzz Issue If you would like to sponsor an issue, please email Jennifer Kavanaugh at jenakav@yahoo.com

Being a Friend

There are many ways of being a library friend, but just one way to be a Friend of the Mission Hills-Hillcrest Branch Library—that is to join the organization and make a dues contribution. Rates are very modest, with special membership levels for students and seniors. Some generous members of our community make an extra gift with their membership to help the work of the Friends. A smaller number also give of their time to serve as officers of the organization and actively participate in the monthly meetings of the Friends group.

The Friends provide extra financial support for their community branch library. Through book sales and various other fund-raising activities, the Friends enhance funding for the summer reading program and contribute to the purchase of books and equipment. A few years ago the Friends helped to refurbish the library interior and furniture. More recently the Friends have helped to underwrite the cost of all the new child-friendly features of the library, including the baby changing stations in the restrooms.

We are fortunate to enjoy a national tradition of free public library service. We invite you to help enhance and perpetuate this wonderful community asset. Be a friend and become a Friend!

NOTE: If you have received the newsletter electronically, you will find a printable membership form at the "JOIN US" tab on our website <http://library92103.org>

Family \$20 • Individual Adult \$10

Individual Senior or Student \$5

Contributor/Business \$100 • Sponsor \$50

Individual Life Member \$500 • Patron \$1,000

Make your check payable to FMH-HBL

Fundraising Events

In addition to the book carts and the monthly book sales at the Branch, the Friends raise money to support various Branch activities by selling donated materials at several community events each year. On August 12, from noon until 9:00 p.m., the Friends will sponsor a booth at the 28th annual CityFest in Hillcrest. CityFest, one of San Diego's largest community events, is expected to attract over 150,000 visitors this year. On October 6 and 7, we will have a booth at the Old Town Art Festival, offering books on art, crafts, interior design, and home improvement. If you attend one of these events, please stop by the booth and take a look at all the bargains. Your purchases will help the Branch increase its resources and offer a wide variety of programs for adults and children. If you would like to work at the Friends' booth at one of the festivals, please contact the Branch Manager.

Each year in May, the Friends elects its officers for the coming year. The 2012/13 officers are:

Secretary Pat Littlell	Treasurer Don and Ruth Rudesill	Corresponding Secretaries Abbie and Joe Sand	Essay Contest Marian Day	Chief Information Officer Al Hoefler
President Phyllis Marion	Vice-President For Communications Carol Moseley	Vice-President For Fundraising Robin Baker	Vice-President For Membership Nancy Carter	Vice-President For Programs Christine Workman
Newsletter Editor Jennifer Kavanaugh	Congratulations and thank you to all who agreed to serve.			

VOLUNTEER HELP REQUESTED

One way the Friends supports our branch is through the proceeds of the Book Sale carts and the monthly Saturday Book Sale. We are looking for volunteers to support these ventures. We need a volunteer to put in about three hours on Tuesday sorting books that are given to the library. We also need volunteers to work at least one Saturday morning a year staffing the Book Sale. Want to put your computer skills to use? We need help with our Amazon book selling venture. No experience is needed—all you need is a desire to help support the Branch. If you are interested, please contact Michele Pieters at travdiva@hotmail.com.

2012 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Each summer, the San Diego Public Library (with a lot of help from the Friends of the Library and other sponsors) has a Summer Reading Program to encourage people to continue to read, learn, and visit the library while school is out. It's a great way to enjoy reading over the summer! We have three fun themes this year: "Dream Big—Read!" for children, "Own the Night" for teens, and "Between the Covers" for adults.

Children and teens can earn toys, Padres tickets, museum passes, and other prizes by reading at least 10 books or reading for 10 hours between mid-June and mid-August. (If someone reads to a baby or child, that counts too!) At the Mission Hills Branch and some other branches, adults can also participate and earn a small prize for reading. For each book that is read or hour of reading by participants at the Mission Hills Branch, our Friends of the Library will donate \$1.00 to the branch for the purchase of new books.



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Do you own a Kindle, iPad, smartphone, or other device that can display eBooks—or are you thinking about getting one? You can download eBooks and digital audio books for free from the San Diego Public Library.

New eBooks and audio books are added to the Library's collections on a regular basis. The San Diego Public Library has offered eBooks for years, but it began to significantly expand its collection in 2010 with the help of a grant from Sony Electronics. The Library now has over 2000 eBook titles, including many recent bestsellers. The Library began offering downloadable audio books

To view the San Diego Public Library System's eBook and digital audio book collections, please visit www.sandiegolibrary.org and then click on the "Download" graphic. This will take you to a screen that contains several links, including links to detailed, step-by-step instructions for new eReader users or those unfamiliar with checking out eBooks and digital audio books. You can then click on "Search eBook Collection" or "Search OverDrive eBook Collection" to go to these collections. If you need any help getting started, please feel free to ask at the Mission Hills Branch Library or call us at (619) 692-4910.

