

Mission Hills-Hillcrest/Harley & Bessie Knox Library

Friends of the Library Newsletter **library92103.org**

March 2021 Update

[Friends of the Mission Hills-Hillcrest/Knox Library](#)

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones in good health. The past year has been one filled with many challenges for all of us, including the Branch and the Friends. We are fortunate to be one of the

branches that has been able to reopen on a limited basis, providing increasing in-person services at different points during the year. We are all hoping that the next few months will see more and more activity at the Branch.



The Friends group has continued to support the Library during the past year. In March 2020, we donated \$10,000 to the Library matching funds program to specifically support the Library's e-book collection and other electronic resources. This past January we donated another \$10,000 to further enhance electronic resources.

We have received several questions about becoming a Friend or renewing a membership. We have delayed our annual membership drive, but are now planning one for this Spring. Look for an email in the next month or so asking for your continued support!

After almost a year without a permanent branch manager (with the Branch ably overseen by several acting branch managers), we are very pleased to welcome back Steve Wheeler. As you may remember, Steve was our branch manager at the old Branch facility from 2010-2018 when most of the planning was done for our new building. It's great to have him back. He's reintroducing himself this newsletter and providing information about current Branch services.

Finally, the SDPL and the San Diego Public Library Foundation are in the midst of developing a new master plan for the Library and need your help. Following this letter, there is information about a survey they are doing to get your views on how the Library can best serve the community and what you personally want from the Library. Please take a few minutes to [complete the survey](#). Your input is crucial to the success of the planning process.

Phyllis C. Marion

President

Friends of the Mission Hills-Hillcrest/Knox Library

A Note from the Branch Manager

My name is Steve Wheeler, and I've been the branch manager here since late November 2020. You may remember me from the old Mission Hills Branch, where I was the manager from 2010 to 2018. I'm very happy to be back in this area at our beautiful library, which recently turned 2 years old. It's been a pleasure to see many patrons that I previously knew and to meet new patrons, and I look forward to meeting many more.



The Wheelers at the opening of the Mission Hills-Hillcrest/Knox Library.

I'll give you a little of my background. I grew up in Oceanside and Vista, and I graduated from UCLA many years ago with a B.A. in history. (Go Bruins!) After working in publishing, I returned to school and earned a master's degree in library and information science from San Jose State. I've been a librarian with the San Diego Public Library for over 16 years, including time at the old Central Library and the Logan Heights Branch. I love this area and lived in Mission Hills for about 12 years. Currently, I live in La Mesa with my wife – an elementary school teacher – and our 15-year-old and 12-year-old sons. Our sons attended local elementary schools – Grant and Florence – and our younger son now goes to Roosevelt Middle School. I love to read (of course) and spend time with my family and our three dogs.

I hope everyone is aware that this branch is open for limited in-person services Monday-Saturday 9:30 AM-5:30 PM (but closed 1:00-2:00 PM). At present, up to 10 people at a time can be in the library to pick up holds, get quick help from library staff, obtain or renew a library card, use a computer for up to an hour, print, and make photocopies. We're taking abundant precautions to ensure safety, including temperature checks, wearing masks, and social distancing. If you prefer not to enter the building, we can bring your books and other holds outside for pickup.

I'm happy to report that lots and lots of people are still using the library. During the pandemic, this has been one of the busiest branches in the library system. For instance, in January alone, we had over 11,000 circulations here.

Our electronic resources, including eBooks, eAudiobooks, digital magazines, databases, online homework help, and online courses, have been especially popular during the pandemic. You can access them at sandiego.gov/public-library/elibrary.

Although we're not offering in-person events yet, we invite you to participate in the library system's virtual programs. Children's programs include storytimes, crafts, dance

parties, music, and Spring into STEAM. Adults can attend lectures, author events, meditation, and yoga. Our online calendar of events is at sandiego.librarymarket.com. You can also search for “SDPL Virtual Hub” to find our events on the Web and Facebook.

I hope to see you soon at the library!

Help Decide the Future of Your Library

Your input can help craft the San Diego Public Library’s future.



The San

Diego Public Library and San Diego Public Library Foundation are developing a new master plan and need you to tell us:

- What do you want from the Library?
- How can the Library serve your community?
- What services, technologies, and programs would help you?

The survey will be open through April 17 and is available in Chinese, Arabic, Farsi, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Spanish in addition to English. The plan is being built in collaboration with the Mayor and City Council, the Friends of the San Diego Public Library, and the Library Commission and will provide a long-range vision and strategy for San Diego Public Library facility, technology, and program investments.

The current plan, adopted in 2002, is outdated and based on assumptions from the 1990 census. It does not consider current technologies or reflect how the Library has evolved and is used today.

Please be sure to take the survey. If you need help completing the survey or want a printed version, email office@supportmylibrary.org. Learn more about the process and sign up for a presentation of the Library Master Plan to your community group at SupportMyLibrary.org/master-plan.

[READ MORE](#)

Friends Book Sales

The Friends' largest source of income has always been our books sales. When the Library closed last spring, we also closed the Friends Bookstore. We have yet to reopen the store, but were able to resume our Amazon sales operation in late summer. The good news is that we have now been okayed for outdoor sales. We have two book trucks of books for sale on the patio whenever the Branch is open. The price of the item can be found inside the cover and you will pay at the donation box on the information desk inside the Branch. Payment is on the honor system. If you don't have cash with you on this visit—pay on your next visit. And, since we won't be able to give change, it doesn't matter if you are a bit under or over. Our plan is to follow the book trucks with a Saturday sale (being careful to follow safety protocols) sometime in the spring.



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Protect Library Hours and Services as an Advocate

You can help ensure essential library services are properly funded by joining other library supporters and advocating for our libraries. A budget shortfall is projected for the upcoming. Your support is essential. Please consider reaching out to Councilmember Whitburn ([by email](#) or at 619-236-6633) and let him know how important the library is to you and your hope that Library materials, programs, and resources are adequately funded. I also hope you will become a part of the

#LibrariesTransformSD coalition of Library supporters. Visit [here](#) to sign up to send postcards to all Councilmembers. The Library Foundation will send you pre-stamped postcards you can send to Council about the importance of Libraries to you.



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