

Your Link to the Past & Gateway to the Future

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San Diego Public Library & Foundation • 820 E Street • San Diego, CA 92101-6416

New Central Construction on the Fast Track

Less than four months after ground breaking, the New Central Library construction site is abuzz with activity as the facility moves toward its summer 2013 opening. Excavation is complete and two cranes will soon be in place to begin pouring the Library's foundation.

"It is so exciting to see this rapid progress," said Library Foundation Chair Mel Katz. "Each day, we move closer to opening this new center for learning, literacy and education."

For more information on supporting this project, call 619-238-6638 or visit SupportMyLibrary.org.

Interested in regular email construction updates? Click on "Sign Up for eNews" at SupportMyLibrary.org and check "New Central Library" from the list of options.

Watch the construction by webcam at SupportMyLibrary.org.



A day in the life

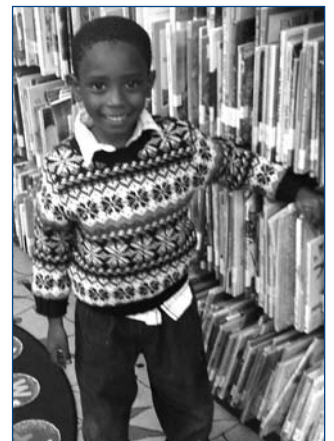
Library Snapshot – Wednesday, October 6



Giovanni Chienti uses Library Wi-Fi at the Ocean Beach Branch Library. For millions of Americans, the Library is their sole source of Internet access. Last year, customers used Library computers over 1.7 million times for Internet access, a 132% increase from eight years ago.

The San Diego Public Library makes free access to reliable information and learning our mission each day. On just one day, Wednesday, October 6—

- 25,887 people visited their San Diego Public Library.
- 28,481 items were checked out or renewed.
- 6,701 people used a Library computer.
- 1,064 adults, teens and children attended free Library programs.
- 1,784 items were retrieved from the Library's online databases



Young reader chooses a book. Last year, San Diegans checked out more books – over 7.7 million items – than ever before in the Library's 128-year history.



A Message from the Library Director

**Deborah Barrow,
San Diego Public Library Director**

In October, I participated in the Mayor's Town Hall Meetings to provide information on potential cuts to the City and Library's budget to address the \$73 million shortfall anticipated for Fiscal Year 2012. At those meetings, I met so many people who care deeply about the Library and are concerned about its future.

I am thankful for all the support we enjoy and the creative and positive things taking place in the communities we serve. It takes all of us thinking creatively and working together to fulfill our mission.

In this issue we salute our volunteers, who so generously give of their time, talent and resources. They work tirelessly to raise funds and work behind the scenes to free our professional staff to focus on the tasks only they can do (see page 3). Thanks to all of our volunteers, from the bottom of my heart!

I am also very proud of our staff and thankful for the excellent job they are doing. This was evident on Snapshot Day on October 6 (see page 1) when staff helped provide a picture of just how many people the library serves on a daily basis. As you can see, it is very impressive.

The Library's essential impact has not changed thanks to the collective effort of our staff, volunteers, Friends groups, Library Foundation, donors and the community as a whole. With their support, the Library will continue to offer quality services that change lives.

"There is no greater mission; there is no grander goal..."

If you heard Bill Walton speak these strong words out of context, you might think he was talking about an NBA Championship. That would mean you didn't really know Bill Walton.



Walton at the New Central Library groundbreaking.

You may remember his stunning basketball career or his success as a broadcaster. But if you REALLY know Bill, you know "eclectic" is an apt description. His passions go well beyond sports to include family, the Grateful Dead, and education. Especially education.

The San Diego native was raised in a home that loved the value of learning. His mother Gloria, a City librarian for more than 20 years, became an inspiration for Bill and others. "Countless people still come up to me to this day and tell me how my mother changed their lives," said Walton.

Walton is excited to be part of that tradition. As an active New Central Library champion, Walton eloquently argues we don't have a choice. "We can't afford not to do this," he recently told the City Council. "We can either start building this library today or start building prisons tomorrow."

To join Bill Walton in supporting the New Central Library, call 619-238-6639 or visit SupportMyLibrary.org.

Logan Library Use Surges

"This Library is always packed with students after school lets out," reports Logan Heights Branch Library Youth Services Librarian Ady Huertas. "Every computer is in use with others waiting their turn."

The Logan Heights Branch celebrates its one-year anniversary in December and the community has embraced its expanded resources. Visits are up 63 percent and circulation has soared over 168 percent!

Branch Manager Eileen Labrador reports strong attendance at literacy classes and an exciting new teen music program. After the Library's opening, a Teen Council formed and saw the need for new arts programs. Over 20 teens have met weekly to hone their performing skills. Their enthusiasm inspired Friends member Judy Eby to donate instruments and music instruction, in addition to the piano she already contributed. Weekly art classes are offered in collaboration with the nonprofit group ARTS. And, the Teen Council hopes to offer jazz, choral music and hip-hop dance classes next year.

To learn how you can support the Logan Heights Library or your neighborhood Library, call 619-238-6638 or visit SupportMyLibrary.org

A PUBLICATION OF SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY & FOUNDATION



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WINTER 2010

The San Diego Public Library Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

The Library subscribes to the Association of Fundraising Professional's Donor Bill of Rights and is committed to maximizing the effectiveness of donor contributions. A copy of the Library Foundation's latest financial reports is available by request.

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



For more Library news and information, sign up for the monthly *Library Connection* email newsletter featuring free library events and Friends Advocacy Network e-updates at www.SupportMyLibrary.org.

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This information is available in alternative formats upon request.

Thank You Library Volunteers!

Over the past fiscal year, more than 2,700 Library volunteers clocked over 156,000 hours helping the Library and Foundation raise funds, tutor new readers, sell used books, lead story times and provide essential behind-the-scenes support. That service was valued at more than \$3.2 million, a

more than 26 percent increase over last year!

“Our volunteers are indispensable,” said Library Director Deborah Barrow. “Each of our branches relies on the support these incredible individuals provide each day. With tightened budgets, this support is even more crucial. Thank you all!”



Mission Hills Branch Library Volunteer Christine Workman pulls books for patrons who have placed holds.



A volunteer tutor helps students with their math homework at the Mountainview/Beckwourth Branch Library.



Volunteer instructor Jerry Goldstein (standing) helps students in a Rancho Bernardo Branch Library beginning computer class for seniors.

Library Contributors

The San Diego Public Library and Foundation thank the following non-capital contributors who made gifts of \$500 or more to support the Library from August through October 2010. A future special edition will be dedicated to supporters of the New Central Library.

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Thank you to the following contributors who made memorial gifts In Memory Of:

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CHARLOTTE'S (WORLD WIDE) WEB WASN'T ENOUGH...

What can you learn from an 1863 Sanitation Commission report and 150 year-old Civil War diaries? Ask Charlotte who used those resources to earn a solid “A” after discovering them at the Central Library.

For the 14-year old middle school student, it was a process. Charlotte is a good student and savvy in the ways of current communication. She can tweet and navigate the Internet with ease so the assignment of an in-depth look at Civil War field hospitals didn't seem daunting.

She moved from her school library to the Internet to her Allied Gardens/Benjamin Branch Library. But her paper still was missing depth and authenticity. To get that, all roads led in one direction.

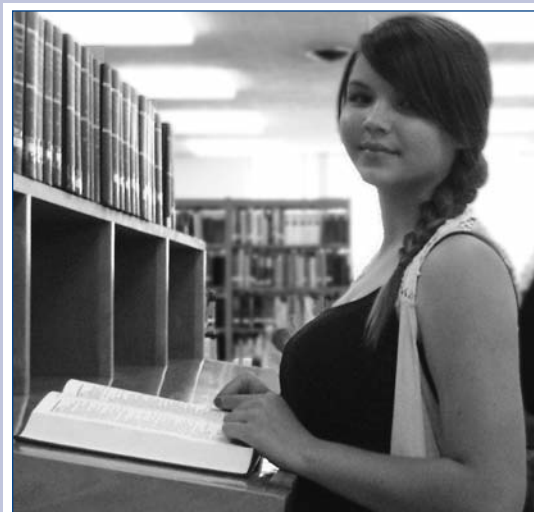
“I found so much information, but it was all located at the Central Library,” recalls Charlotte. So, she and her mom headed downtown where they found Civil War books and original source materials and the expertise of highly trained librarians willing to help. Charlotte's hard work paid off with an “A” and praise from her teacher on her thoroughness.

“So many people have never been to the Central Library, but it is so great for students like me,” says Charlotte.

The Central Library, the heart of the 35-branch system, is at the threshold of exciting change for students like Charlotte. With twice the space, the new facility will include a vibrant Youth Service Center, Teen Center and Homework Center to assist thousands of students throughout the San Diego region.

Sometimes an “A” is about “access” as much as excellence!

To read more Library stories like Charlotte's and to share your own, visit SupportMyLibrary.org/story.



After conducting research at the Central Library, Charlotte said, “Everybody was so helpful and there were so many wonderful resources. More than I had ever imagined!”