

*Your Link to the Past & Gateway to the Future*

# Check Us Out

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

## A New Day for the Library!

**M**ore than 800 Library supporters gathered at the end of July to celebrate a new day for San Diego with the groundbreaking of the New Central Library. The landmark facility, at the corner of Park Blvd. and 11th Ave. and one block from Petco Park, will be a new regional center for learning and literacy.

“Today we break ground on a project that was more than three decades in the making – a project that has inspired a truly unprecedented number of people to participate in the civic process,” said San Diego Mayor Sanders. “We know it will con-



*Library donors and City and State leaders break ground on San Diego's New Central Library.*

tinue to inspire our citizens for generations to come.” The Mayor was joined by numerous State and City officials,

including three former City mayors.

Library Foundation Chair Mel Katz joined Immediate Past Chair Judith C. Harris, Library Commission Chair and Foundation Vice Chair Katie Sullivan and Foundation Founding Chair Jim Dawe on stage to thank donors who helped move the project to groundbreaking. “We are grateful to the families who have contributed to this important project and ensured that the City is able to break ground today,” said Katz. “These leaders had the vision and the

*Continued on Page 2*

### LIBRARIES AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

#### *Circulation at All-Time High*

**I**n the face of tough economic times, San Diegans are using the Library’s books, movies, technology, literacy services and education programs more than ever. For the second straight year, the San Diego Public Library circulated more items—more than 7.7 million—than ever in its 128-year history. This is nearly 20 percent higher than a decade ago.

In addition, more than 225,000 people attended one of 4,806 Library-sponsored programs last year—a significant increase over the previous year and the fourth year in a row attendance at programs has increased.

To learn more about how you can support the Library, please contact the Library Foundation at 619-236-5861 or visit [SupportMyLibrary.org](http://SupportMyLibrary.org).



*The Library provides free, universal access to knowledge, resources and information.*



## A Message from the Library Director

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

I am so excited that we have broken ground on the New Central Library and construction has already started! It truly is a new day for the San Diego Public Library. The new library will complete what architect Rob Quigley calls the Bay-to-Park Link, connecting the many civic and cultural institutions on a planned path from Balboa Park down to the new Library and on to the San Diego Bay. The new library will provide more opportunities for civic engagement, educational enhancement and cultural exchange for all.

When the current Central Library was built in 1954, the technology available today belonged to the realms of science fiction, literally. The New Central Library will accommodate the infrastructure and technological advances needed to meet the future and help close the digital divide. The library will have materials in various formats, from hard copy books to digital e-copies! It will have more than 400 computers for patrons—four times the number at the current Central Library. The new library also will take advantage of the latest Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for checking out, returning and sorting material. This will allow convenient and efficient movement of materials with less staff intervention, allowing the Library to increase use without increasing staff for those functions. Most importantly, it allows staff to be available to assist library users with their information needs.

One of the primary functions of new libraries is to serve as a community gathering place. The New Central Library will have a 350-seat auditorium, which features large folding glass doors. During good weather, the entire facade between the auditorium and courtyard opens to create a unique public gathering place. This outdoor room, shaded by large trees, will serve as San Diego's town square—a large adaptable space that can host large brown-bag concerts, author talks and events or more intimate gatherings. The facility also offers additional meeting spaces, including six public meeting rooms and 22 study rooms.

Early literacy is very important to successfully educate our youth and the library has an important role to play. While the current Children's Room is barely large enough to host a visit from a single classroom, the new highly visible children's area will be located on the first floor and will be more than three times the current size. This area will allow access to more than 74,100 volumes of print and non-print children's materials.

The Central Library will play a pivotal role in creating educational opportunities for the community, particularly for the teens and young adults we serve. It will be located with a San Diego Unified School District Charter High School and serve more than 35 other schools located in close proximity to the site. The new library will provide crucial services, such as a full service homework center and a 3,797-square-foot Teen Center, which is more than three times larger than the current space.

With so many amazing features, the new Central Library will be the happening place in San Diego for users of all walks of life.

## A New Day for the Library!

*Continued from Page 1*

commitment to make this amazing ceremony possible. And now that we have put shovels in the ground, we know new donors will continue to step forward to invest in the New Central Library."

New Central Library supporters Joan and Dr. Irwin Jacobs also spoke at the ceremony (visit page 6 for more on the Jacobs' contribution). "Joan and I are pleased to join other donors in support of this wonderful project to further enrich the cultural, educational and community activities in our city and region for many years," said Dr. Jacobs.

Speakers noted how the New Central Library will be a landmark and icon that embodies San Diego's commitment to the future. The nine-story building is scheduled to open in Summer 2013 (see page 5 for more details).

To learn more about how you can support construction of the New Central Library, please contact the San Diego Public Library Foundation at 619-238-6643 or visit [SupportMyLibrary.org](http://SupportMyLibrary.org).

A PUBLICATION OF SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY & FOUNDATION



# Check Us Out

FALL 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](http://www.SupportMyLibrary.org).

# One Book, One San Diego

## San Diegans Choose to Read

### The Gangster We Are All Looking For

Online voting is complete and San Diegans have selected the novel *The Gangster We Are All Looking For* by lê thi diem thúy as the 2011 *One Book, One San Diego* title. Presented in partnership with KPBS, this program brings San Diego together to read and discuss the same book.

*Gangster* is a true-life novel about a Vietnamese refugee family in San Diego, told from the perspective of the family's young daughter. The narrator and her parents struggle to adapt to life in an unfamiliar land, while simultaneously dealing with a troubled marriage, a father's mysterious past, and the loss of a brother.

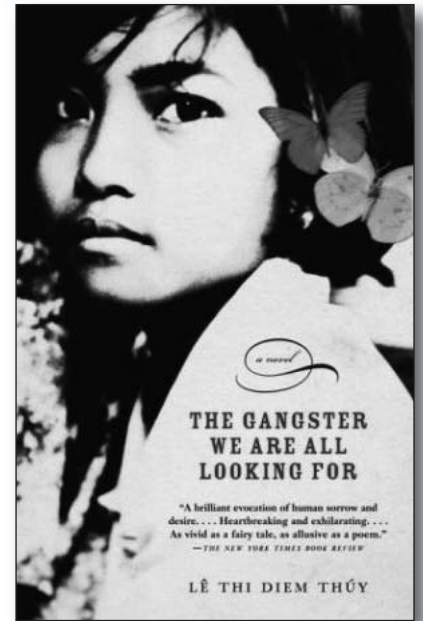
lê thi diem thúy grew up in the Linda Vista area and at one time wrote for the *San Diego Union-Tribune*. "It is especially meaningful to me that the San Diego Public



*lê thi diem thúy speaks at a 2006 author event at the Linda Vista Branch Library. (Photo: Lowell Waxman)*

libraries play such a large part in the *One Book* program," she said. "It was in the public libraries of San Diego that I learned to love being in the company of books, and experienced both the consolation of words, and their power to challenge and transport.

The Library and KPBS thank Cubic Corporation, the Fox Foundation at Union Bank, Lloyd Pest Control and the Linden Root Dickinson Foundation for their support. To learn more about how you can support the program, please contact the San Diego Public Library Foundation at 619-238-6643 or visit [SupportMyLibrary.org](http://SupportMyLibrary.org).



## What's Your Story?

### Catching the Reading Bug in Your 80s

Bob Perez is enjoying life. At age 88, he is retired from a successful construction career. He loves regular bike rides, working on his home and visiting with his grandchildren. Recently, though, Bob decided there was one thing still missing from his life – an education.

#### LIBRARIES CHANGE LIVES—WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Every day, the San Diego Public Library changes lives, as it did for Bob Perez. From providing free job-searching assistance and educational children's programming to teaching literacy skills, the Library makes an impact in communities throughout San Diego. The Library Foundation knows there are thousands of life-changing stories about the Library. We want to hear your story and share it with others. Visit [SupportMyLibrary.org/Story](http://SupportMyLibrary.org/Story) to read other stories and to submit your own. The Library Foundation thanks L+L Printing and Twin Bees Communications for their support in capturing library stories.

Growing up during the Great Depression, Bob had to stop school after only a few years to work with his family. He adopted coping mechanisms to overcome his illiteracy. "Throughout my adult life I was able to hide my lack of education, but it was not easy," recalls Bob.

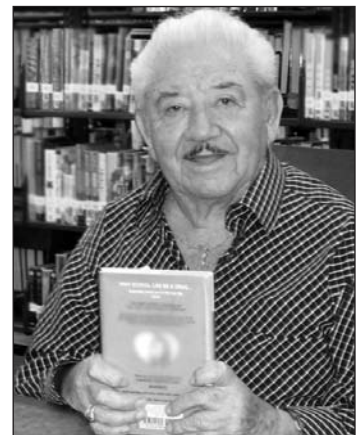
Following several years in the Navy, Bob settled in San Diego in 1945. In 2006, he decided to pursue an education. "I got my first library card ever at the age of 84 and began going to the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library," said Bob. "I would check out books for very young children, take them home and try to read them. One day, a Librarian asked me who the books were for, and when I pointed to myself, she told me about READ and how it could help me."

READ/San Diego is a nationally-recognized free adult literacy instruction service provided by the San Diego Public Library. Each year, READ provides comprehensive instruction for nearly 500 adults from various backgrounds and learning levels.

"I felt so welcome into the program," said Bob, who estimates he has now read more than 150 books. "It is never too late to learn to read and write," said Bob's former volunteer tutor, Erica Aguillon.

"You couldn't ask for anything better than READ/San Diego and the staff and resources at the San Diego Public Library," said Bob.

To learn more, call the Library Foundation at 619-238-6638 or visit [SupportMyLibrary.org](http://SupportMyLibrary.org).

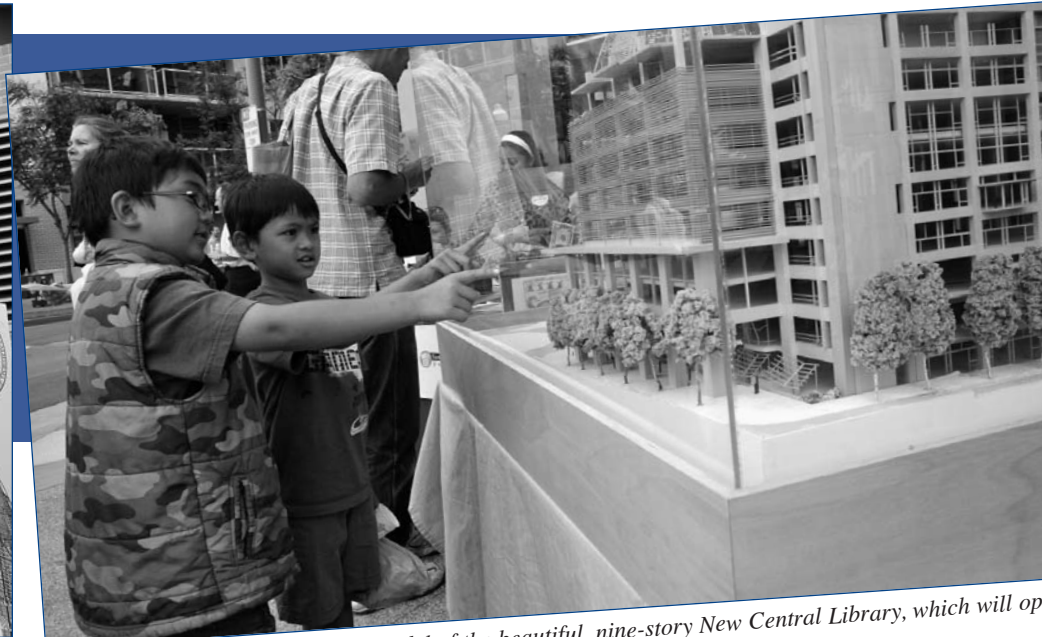


A New Day—

# San Diego Breaks Ground on its New Central Library



From left—San Diego Public Library Foundation Chair Mel Katz, Foundation Founding Chair Jim Dawe, Immediate Past Chair Judith C. Harris and Library Commission Chair and Library Foundation Vice Chair Katie Sullivan.



Young library lovers marvel at a model of the beautiful, nine-story New Central Library, which will open its doors summer 2013.



Library supporters sign a beam which will be used in the New Central Library's construction (photo Lowell Waxman).



Library supporters Robert Singer (left), David Copley, Christopher Dolan, Judith C. Harris and Joan Jacobs enjoy the groundbreaking shirt worn by New Central Library Design Architect Rob Quigley (center).



New Central Library supporters Dr. Irwin and Joan Jacobs and Matthew Hervey enjoy the historic groundbreaking — which was three decades in the making.

## San Diego's New Central Library A NEW CENTER FOR LEARNING AND LITERACY

The New Central Library will be an icon embodying San Diego's commitment to the future. The new building will allow the Central Library's collection to more than triple in the next decade and will feature 407 public computers, 22 WiFi enabled study rooms and several large public meeting areas. A progressive charter high school onsite embodies the building's role as a new, dynamic regional center for learning and literacy.

The New Central Library is where San Diegans will celebrate reading and culture, hear great music, appreciate art work and discuss critical issues. The structure reflects San Diego's commitment to the environment with photovoltaic cells and other "green" attributes.

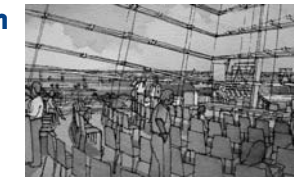
## You Can Help

Every day, the San Diego Public Library changes lives. The Central Library is the dynamic heart of a community-wide system providing free, universal access to history-changing knowledge and world-changing information. Your gift of support for the New Central Library helps ensure this long-needed public asset becomes a reality.

The San Diego Public Library Foundation welcomes philanthropic contributions from individuals, corporations and charitable foundations. Naming opportunities exist for the building and for many key and visible areas of the New Central Library. For more information on these opportunities, contact Jay Hill at 619-236-5861 or at [jhill@supportmylibrary.org](mailto:jhill@supportmylibrary.org).

### Penthouse Special Event Room

With open terraces looking down to the Reading Room and floor-to-ceiling windows with views of the Bay, Coronado Bridge and Petco Park, this is a stunning space for public and private events for up to 500 guests.



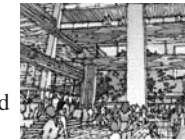
### The Reading Room

Nestled in a three-story glass enclosure and covered by the Library's iconic sun-screening protective Dome, this public penthouse invites guests to read, relax and enjoy panoramic views of the Bay and City skyline.



### Garden Courtyard

This intimate, shaded courtyard will serve as a much-needed town square in San Diego — a large, adaptable space to host large brown-bag concerts, author talks, public events or more intimate gatherings.



### Auditorium

This state-of-the-art theater, performance space and classroom will host up to 350 guests for author talks, concerts, films, dance performances, lectures or special City meetings.



# Jacobs' Leadership Helps Move Project Forward

*“A charitable commitment from Joan and Dr. Irwin Jacobs is an important endorsement for the New Central Library. Their involvement is a seal of approval about the significance and viability of projects in San Diego.”*

– Library Foundation Immediate Past Chair Judith C. Harris

The Jacobs offered that endorsement of the New Central Library with their commitment of \$15 million for construction and an additional \$5 million toward operations of the new facility. Dr. Jacobs, the co-founder and former chairman and CEO of Qualcomm Incorporated, said the couple



Joan Jacobs speaks at the New Central Library groundbreaking flanked by husband Dr. Irwin Jacobs.

sees their support for the public library system as a way to strengthen the San Diego community and its members.

Mrs. Jacobs said the New Central Library is an investment in San Diego's educational resources.

“The library is wonderful,” she said at the Library's groundbreaking ceremonies. “We need to understand as citizens of this great city that our biggest

value is educating our children and making things available to the rest of the population who can benefit.”

Dr. Jacobs noted the role libraries played in his life. “One of my earliest memories growing up in New Bedford, Mass., was the weekly trolley ride to the library to select an armful of books,” he said. “Later, Joan and I with our family lived a short walk from the Arlington, Mass. library, the site of the first public children's library in the country, and we visited often for books and records.”

The Jacobs said they considered if a New Central Library would be used in the digital age. “Our conclusion was a definite YES following repeated visits to new libraries in many major cities, all of which were invariably busy, supporting a broad cross-section of the community with a variety of well-used services,” Dr. Jacobs stated.

The Jacobs met at Cornell University when both were working toward undergraduate degrees. They moved to San Diego in 1966 when Irwin left his faculty position at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to accept a teaching position at the new University of California San Diego

(UCSD).

They have four children and 11 grandchildren who all reside in San Diego. The Jacobs are widely recognized contributors

to the San Diego community.

Joan has played a vital role in the development of San Diego's arts community, serving on the boards of many organizations. The Jacobs also actively support UCSD, the San Diego Symphony and the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, among others.

The Jacobs said they hope their contribution will motivate others to support this overdue project. At the groundbreaking, Mrs. Jacobs called on others to join them in support of the New Central Library. “Please help finish this project and we look forward to more celebrations,” she said.

“We are grateful to the Jacobs and all the families who believe and have invested in this project,” Harris said. “These donors inspire all of the project's volunteer fundraisers to raise the additional contributions needed to deliver free literacy opportunities made possible by this Library.”

For more information on supporting the New Central Library, contact the Library Foundation at 619-238-6638 or visit [SupportMyLibrary.org](http://SupportMyLibrary.org)



## Find Us on Facebook and Beyond

The Library and Foundation are looking to stay connected with patrons and supporters. Be sure to follow us on:

► **Facebook.** The Central Library, 22 branch libraries and the Library Foundation have active Facebook pages. Be sure to join your library and stay up to date on the latest.

► **The Director's blog.** Visit [sandiegolibrary.org](http://sandiegolibrary.org) for the latest perspectives of Library Director Deborah Barrow.

► **Library Connections and the Friends Advocacy Network.** Visit [SupportMyLibrary.org](http://SupportMyLibrary.org) and select “Sign up for E-News” to sign up for monthly updates of Library services and programs.

# Library Contributors

The San Diego Public Library and Foundation thank the following contributors who made gifts of \$500 or more to support the Library from April through July 2010.

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Amanda Matheson

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## READERS MAKE A SPLASH AT THE LIBRARY

**C**hildren and teens turned to the Library in record numbers for a reading-filled summer, with more than 30,000 students participating in the 2010 Summer Reading Program. The popular program boosts reading skills and spurs children and teens to read 10 or more books. Program partners provided unique incentives to encourage participation, including tickets for a San Diego Padres game and the San Diego Zoo.

“We are very thankful to our partners for providing such meaningful incentives,” said Marina Claudio Perez, Youth Services Coordinator. “We had so many thankful parents and students who depended on this free programming to meet their educational needs this summer.”

According to recent national research, students participating in public library summer reading programs scored higher in reading achievement the next school year than their peers who did not participate. They also began the school year with more confidence.

Along with the Padres and Zoo, program partners providing incentives included Auntie Anne's Pretzels, Daphne's Greek Café, Legoland, Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, San Diego Air & Space Museum and the San Diego Natural History Museum. The Pratt Memorial Fund at Union Bank and Target provided financial support. For more information on how you can support this vital free educational resource, please contact the Library Foundation at 619-238-6638 or visit [SupportMyLibrary.org](http://SupportMyLibrary.org).



*Children's art classes, like this one at the Kensington-Normal Heights Branch Library, keep children coming to the Library throughout the summer.  
(Rescate Photography)*