

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

# Check Us Out

San Diego Public Library & Foundation • 820 E Street • San Diego, CA 92101-6478

## Breaking Ground in Logan Heights

The San Diego Public Library broke ground in November for a beautiful new facility to better serve the needs of Logan Heights. The current Logan Heights Branch Library is 3,967 square feet and has a collection of 40,691 items—making it among the Library's smallest branches. The quickly growing Logan



*Logan Heights Branch Manager Sara King and Logan Heights Friends of the Library President Pedro Moreno.*

Heights area needs a new, technologically updated and properly stocked Library.

The new two-story branch will be 25,000 square-feet—six times the size of the existing branch. The Library is a joint-use project between the San Diego Public Library and the San Diego Unified School District and is part of the Memorial Park “super block,” with Memorial Charter Middle School and Logan Elementary School as neighbors. Funding for the

\$12.2 million project comes from a \$5.25 million state library grant, with additional support from the First 5 Commission of San Diego County, developer fees, and federal funding.

The Logan Heights Branch Library serves a community that is 68 percent Hispanic. The Library is designed to be a place where all residents can celebrate their cultural heritage. A “Centro Cultural” community galleria/exhibit area will provide space for special events and enrichment and learning activities. The book collection will grow by 80 percent and will feature the San Diego Public Library's largest Spanish-language collection.



*Third graders from Logan Heights Elementary perform at the groundbreaking.*

The branch will feature a state-of-the-art computer lab with 35 computers and specialized software for teaching technology to young students. There will be an additional 31 public access computers at the branch.

Also planned is a *Preschooler's Door to Learning Centers* designed exclusively for children age 5 and younger, their parents and caregivers. The center will promote school readiness and allow children to discover the pleasures of reading and learning. The Library is scheduled for completion in 2009. ¡Qué bueno!



*Former Library Commission Chairman Jim Dawe with California State Library Facilities Consultant Bessie Condos. Mr. Dawe chaired the campaign to pass Proposition 14, the California bond act that funds construction and renovation of public libraries, including the Logan Heights branch. Mr. Dawe's son Jeremy worked tirelessly in Sacramento for the Proposition's passage in 2000. Jeremy passed away unexpectedly earlier this year at age 28 and was honored at the groundbreaking ceremony.*

### Logan Heights Celebrates 80th Birthday!

Originally opened at 28th and March in 1915, the Logan Heights Branch was the San Diego Public Library's fourth. The branch moved in 1917 and outgrew that space before in 1927 relocating to the current building which was built for \$17,840. As part of the birthday celebration, the City Council named November 17 “Friends of Logan Heights Library Day.”



## A Message from The City Librarian

Anna Tatár, Director,  
San Diego Public Library

As a librarian I know the power of reading and I have seen it transform lives. A recent National Endowment for the Arts report, *To Read or Not to Read*, demonstrates the importance of reading not only for readers of all ages, but for society as a whole. The report found an alarming drop in reading in the last 10 years, particularly among teenage and adult Americans. Lower literacy and reading comprehension correlate to lower academic achievement, fewer job skills, and less opportunity for personal advancement. Having a less skilled workforce has an economic impact on communities. Less skilled readers are also less likely to actively engage in social, cultural and civic activities. Non-readers are less likely to volunteer or attend concerts and theatre. They are also less likely to vote, which has far reaching implications for democracy.

These findings are a wake up call for us as a society. The San Diego Public Library plays an extremely valuable role to turn this situation around by supporting a culture of reading with programs such as *One Book, One San Diego*, our summer reading program, and our adult literacy program *READ/San Diego*.

The new Logan Heights Branch Library (see page 1) is adjacent to the Logan Heights Elementary School and Memorial Charter Middle School and will be the seventh library opened or expanded as part of the 21st Century Library Plan—following on the heels of the newly opened North University Community Branch Library in September (see page 4). Both of these new libraries will help assure

that children’s love of reading will continue through the critical teenage years that helps set the tone for the rest of their lives. Please join us in extending our reach with additional books, programs and other resources to help this future generation of readers flourish.

## DONOR PROFILE

### Richard and Judy Eby

*Volunteers, Donors, Carnegie Society Members*

Judy and Richard Eby have always loved libraries. While a United Airlines pilot, Richard often visited libraries during his layovers, making a beeline for aviator biographies or naval histories. Judy, educator and author of nine books, heads straight for the new fiction, and is proud her books are available in the Library’s collection. She is deeply involved in the Point Loma/Hervey library. She serves on the board of the Friends of the Library, writes their newsletter, organizes a concert series and leads weekly story time for toddlers.



Judy and Richard Eby with one of their donated pianos.

their newsletter, organizes a concert series and leads weekly story time for toddlers.

Inspired by the Hervey family’s generosity and support of the Library, Judy and Richard donated a piano to Point Loma in 2003. They have since given pianos to schools and libraries where their children and grandchildren live.

The next year, Judy organized the Peninsula Singers, a community choir for highschoolers to octogenarians. “The choir is the essence of what libraries are about—to allow people of all ages to continue growing and expanding their horizons at any age,” said Judy.

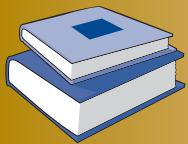
Judy and Richard also actively support the entire system by attending programs at other branches and donating for books, equipment, and programs system wide. They believe a Central Library represents what the city treasures, and are eager to see progress on the project.

Judy and Richard find it very rewarding to see the joy that their donations bring to others—not only pianos, but also funds to enhance collections or support children’s programming.

When they learned about the Carnegie Society’s founding in 2005, they became Charter Members. “With what we have left at the end of our lives, it brings us a kind of secret sense of satisfaction and happiness to know that it will be used to build libraries and library collections for all the people of San Diego,” said Judy. The Library appreciates the dedication, devotion, and donations of these two library lovers!

**We just learned that Richard died December 10 after a long illness, with his family gathered around. Our heartfelt condolences to all whose lives he touched.**

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# Check Us Out

WINTER 2007

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, call or stop by your local library or visit the Library’s website at [www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org) and subscribe to *Library Connection*, the monthly online newsletter with lots of information on upcoming events.

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This information is available in alternative formats upon request.

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The San Diego Public Library and Foundation thank the following contributors who made gifts of \$100 or more to support the Library from August through October 2007.

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## Library Receives Generous Bequests

The San Diego Public Library Foundation recently received two generous bequests. The Ronald B. and H. Marina Worley Estate named the Library as the sole beneficiary, with funds just under \$1 million to establish an endowment to benefit the Rancho Bernardo Branch Library. Marcia Grave de Peralta died on September 17. Her bequest named the Library as a beneficiary of 90 percent of the estate. These funds, directed toward building the new central library or improving the branches, are anticipated to be a high six-figure sum. It was Marcia's wish to honor her late son and an appropriate memorial designation is being discussed. Both bequests reflect the donors' beliefs in the public library as a free resource to information for all people.

## North University Community Branch Library: Meeting Community Needs

The newly opened North University Community Branch Library is a hit! Crowds streamed into the Library at the September grand opening and have continued to make the Library a popular community destination. Attendance at some Tuesday morning story times has exceeded capacity and interest in children's crafts and reading programs is strong.

The new 16,020 square foot North University Community Branch Library is the San Diego Public Library's 36th location. The facility is at the heart of the new City-owned Nobel Athletic Park complex. The Library features large, separate areas designated for children and teens—the children and storytelling areas alone are 4,593 square feet! The computer lab has space for 16 computers with seven other computers available in other



*Erin Gillum (left) reads to Sit Up and Read dog Bitsy with sister Sidney and brother Garrett. At the Library, children can read, under supervision, to a certified therapy dog. Research finds reading aloud to dogs can help lessen anxiety for reluctant young readers.*



*Yucan Chiu reads to his 2-year-old daughter.*



*Prakykow Garcis uses the self-check machine at the grand opening. She said she was "thrilled" by the branch's new book collection.*

locations in the Library. The branch sits in a culturally diverse neighborhood and offers materials in Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Hebrew.