



# Friends of the Del Mar Library

A newsletter for friends and patrons of the Del Mar Library Spring 2010

## New library partnerships proliferate

Want to improve your writing? Bidding? Planting? Designing, knitting or casting?

Del Mar Library is partnering with other individuals and organizations to offer a variety of activities to the community. Most are held in the library's new community room. All are free.

A popular newcomer is "Bridge Lessons to Improve Your Game," from 10 a.m. to noon every fourth Thursday. Taught by Marilyn Anderson, an American Bridge Teacher's Association instructor, the class is aimed at intermediate players. Other Thursday

programs are "Knit and Stitch" in the first week and the Chess Club with master instructor Dawn Erickson at 3:30 p.m. weekly. Book Talks and Treats is offered at 2 p.m. on fourth Fridays.

Many of the activities involve education and gardening. One includes both. Betsy Schultz, who co-designed the wall in front of the library, has built a hydroponic garden cart to show third graders at Del Mar Heights School how to grow vegetables in small containers. During summer vacation the cart will be housed at the library where children can continue to

*(Continued on next page)*

## Automated checkout has arrived at Del Mar Library

Del Mar has joined the long list of libraries utilizing automated checkout systems. At the end of January, two Radio Frequency Identification (RDIF) stations were installed and now account for more than 80% of customer usage.

Utilizing bar codes on library cards and books, the RDIF units are fast and easy to operate. Eventually, said librarian Gretchen Schmidt, they can be used to help manage inventory, restock shelves and add to library security. While that's the case in some libraries nationally, it's still in the future in San Diego County.

Of more immediate benefit, the automated checkout frees librarians to interact and provide better service to customers. It's also a labor saver; Schmidt says Del Mar's library staff is down one and a half from last year. More use of volunteers also helps maintain the library staff's effectiveness, she added.

Another advantage of automation is that the RDIF units can check out multiple materials instead of the one-at-a-time manual system. That reduces the chance



**No trouble using automated check-out.**

of carpal tunnel syndrome, an ailment that plagues librarians as well as others performing repetitive tasks in the work place.

# Partnerships

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learn about gardening. In August it will be harvested.

Again this April the Del Mar Rose Society holds its annual show at the library and, as in the past, the building will be filled with its colorful and fragrant blooms.

During April and the first two weeks of May, the County of San Diego has set up a kiosk to demonstrate water conservation techniques in gardening. An interactive touch screen computer display helps identify garden pests and how they can be controlled using few or no chemicals. Horticulturist Doug Kalal will give a talk at 6:30 p.m. June 16 on "Thirty Great Tolerant Plants for Your Garden."

In observance of Older American Month, the American Society of Interior Designers is offering a program on home improvement at 2 p.m. May 14. It will feature a talk, film and other materials to help



**Library is abloom with Rose Society's finest entries.**

seniors improve the quality of independent living at Meldahl discussing his latest book "Hard Road West."

## Two to speak in May

Two different faces of writing will be presented during Del Mar Library's Meet the Author series in May.

Merrill Joan Gerber, a prize-winning novelist and short story writer, will speak at 2 p.m. May 8. The focus of her talk will be memoir writing and the audience is expected to including members of writing groups in the area.

Gerber has published seven novels, five volumes of short stories, nine young adult novels and three books of non-fiction. In 1986, she won the

prestigious O. Henry Prize. At present she teaches fiction writing at Cal Tech.

Vince Reardon will talk about his first book *Legacy: Passing on Cherished Values in a Values-Starved World* at 2 p.m. May 22.

Some of the 25 notable Americans profiled are Daniel Ellsberg, peace activist who leaked the Pentagon Papers, the Rev. Tom Doyle, who exposed sexual abuse by Catholic clergy, and Jeffrey Wigand, who disclosed abuse in the cigarette industry.

A San Diego resident, Reardon has worked in corporate marketing and public relations for 20 years.



**New library landscaping is flourishing**

## Circuit adds a new link

San Diego County Library System's popular Circuits has added a new Link.

Introduced in 2008, the Circuit enables library users to quickly borrow books from four universities - San Diego State, Cal State San Marcos, UCSD and the University of San Diego. With a simple click of computers at home or a library branch, books can be ordered and will be sent out within 24 to 48 hours. More than 7.5 million library books and periodicals are available.

Now The Circuit has been expanded to include 28 more college libraries in California and Nevada. Called Link+, the expanded service is available without charge and books on disc also are available.

## A Message from the President



The past year has been an amazing one for the Del Mar Library. Our new Community Room has been used by many groups and also is a wonderful space for library programs.

Although the county has cut its budget for books, Friends of the Del Mar Library has closed the gap by buying best sellers, magazines and newspapers desired by our patrons. Most important, we've been able to maintain our hours of operation.

In our upcoming budget the Friends board has

set aside \$8,000 for programs for children, teens and adults; one-fourth of this total will be paid by a generous grant from The Del Mar Foundation. We're especially grateful because the county also has reduced funding for these programs.

Another obvious area of improvement has been the landscaping in our front yard. We appreciate the efforts of the city of Del Mar, our own volunteers and particularly the Del Mar Garden Club.

The annual Friends meeting is at 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 18, 5 p.m. at the library. Please feel free to attend, meet the board and learn about our budget and goals for this next year. We'll also install officers and board members for 2010-11. They are Pat Freeman, president; Ann Von Benckendorff, vice president; Barbara Myers, secretary; Bill Michalsky, treasurer, and Barbara Anderson, Kathy Finnell, Peter Kaye, Marion Perlman, and H. Randall Stoke, board members. As usual we're on the lookout for new blood on the board.

Thanks to all of you for your donations and support. Our library could not meet its needs without you.

*Pat Freeman*

## Mini Book Reviews

I highly recommend Saving Cee Cee Honeycutt by Beth Hoffman. Cee Cee is 12 and when her mom dies, she goes to live with a great aunt in Savannah, Georgia. This book has wonderful lovable eccentric women characters. While reading it, I laughed out loud and at times I felt very saddened. It is amazing to me that this first novel could explore so many feelings and experiences of relationships while relating the journey of a young girl who loses her mother. I enjoyed it as much as The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk.

*--Pat Freeman*

Caught by Harold Cohen catches the reader with the first page. The story seems clear-cut, but then it begins to evolve and captivates the reader with each detail. A junior reporter, Wendy, reports a story and then wonders if she has mistakenly accused someone, but then the story takes off in another direction. It is hard to put down as it makes you want to read until the book is done. Lots of twists and a great story to enjoy just like all of Cohen's other books. Add it to your list.

*--Barbara Myers*

## Children's librarian hired

Del Mar has half of a new children's librarian. Jennifer Runge will split her time between the Del Mar and Cardiff branches. Her specialties are story telling and puppetry.

A graduate of Cal State San Marcos with a



master's degree in library science from UCLA, Runge comes to Del Mar from the county's 4S Ranch Branch where she was youth services librarian. She lives in Carlsbad with her new husband, Stephan Hoover, a dog, two cats and a turtle.

**Jennifer Runge**

Friends of the Del Mar Library  
Post Office Box 933  
Del Mar, CA 92014

**San Diego County  
Library**

Del Mar Branch  
1309 Camino Del Mar  
Del Mar, CA 92014  
858-755-1666

**Gretchen Schmidt**, Librarian  
**Patricia Selkowitz**,  
Assistant Branch Manager

**Library Hours**

Monday Closed  
Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Thursday: 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sunday: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Website:**

[www.friendsofdelmarlibrary.org](http://www.friendsofdelmarlibrary.org)

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**FRIENDS OF THE DEL MAR LIBRARY  
2010 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2010 Membership Levels \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_ \$30 Individual membership/renewal

\_\_\_ \$50 Family membership/renewal

\_\_\_ \$100 Sponsor membership/renewal

\_\_\_ \$300 Patron membership/renewal

\_\_\_ \$1000 Corporate/Benefactor membership

\_\_\_ Other

Mail your tax deductible contribution to:

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