



Friends of the Del Mar Library

A newsletter for friends and patrons of the Del Mar Library Spring 2011

Images of America on display

Anyone who mines the stacks of the Del Mar Library is apt to come up with some nuggets. That's what Librarian Gretchen Schmidt did recently and her discoveries have led to an intriguing exhibit that will open in May.

Titled *Images of America*, it will display 32 books from Arcadia Publishing Company, which specializes in chronicling the history of local communities and bringing to life the people, places and events of the past. Employing local authors, the books are primarily pictorial histories augmented by expanded captions or short blocks of text.

While the exhibit concentrates on San Diego County, it also includes other selections from Arcadia's 6,000 titles that span the country from Maine to California. The three books that attracted Schmidt's attention all have Del Mar roots.

Published in 2008, *Del Mar Fairgrounds* should bring smiles to the faces of even the most rabid anti-fair grumps. Packed with historic photos and enhanced by the excellent writing of Diane Y. Welch, the book traces the county fair from its inception in National City in 1880, interim years in San Diego's Balboa Park and permanent relocation to Del Mar in 1936.

Like all good histories, the book goes beyond a simple story about the

(Continued on Page 2)



WINNER
Rachel Tejada (later Welch) was Fairest of the Fair in 1958.



LOSER
W. C. Fields had a bad day at the Del Mar Racetrack.

E-books are available for library users

Del Mar Library has taken another small step into cyberspace. Along with other San Diego County branches, the library is offering a limited number of e-books to its patrons.

E-books can be read on most e-readers or computers. While the present number of selections is relatively small - current best sellers and 15,000 classics that no longer are under copyright - it is expected to grow as more library patrons purchase e-readers.

Library cardholders can borrow e-books, which can be downloaded on most e-readers except the Kindle. They first must sign up on the library's database.

Patrons can borrow an unlimited number of books for up to two weeks, renewable if no other borrower is waiting. Books are available at any hour day or night.

At present, e-books make up only a small fraction of the library's total collection. But publishers are predicting e-book sales will increase 50 to 100% this year and that interest will carry over to libraries. One impediment may be publishers' reluctance to unlimited borrowing.



Lifeguard Knox Harris mans his post at the foot of the Del Mar pier, which was demolished in 1959.

Images of America on display

(Continued from Page 1)

fair to present a graphic picture of how this area has changed from the Great Depression, through World War II and on to the present day.

Almost as compelling is *Del Mar Racetrack* published in 2006. Like the other book, it includes the iconic photo of Bing Crosby greeting the first visitors to the track on July 3, 1937. A short pictorial section on what the book calls “Del Mar Racetrack’s neighbor, old Del Mar,” supplements photographs of Hollywood celebrities and racetrack action.

Published in 2007, *Lifeguards of San Diego* is an informative history of the nine professional agencies that serve the public on the beaches and bays of the county. Author Michael Martino, a UC San Diego graduate and longtime lifeguard, skillfully blends fact and fable to back up an impressive collection of photos from the early 20th century onward.

There is an eight-page chapter on Del Mar that includes such familiar faces as Gardner Stevens and Grant Larson. An eye-catching photo shows

lifeguard Knox Harris on duty at the foot of the Del Mar Pier, which was demolished in 1959.

Schmidt said the exhibit would be on display as part of the library’s celebration of Older Americans month. In addition to *Images of America*, Arcadia also has published books on sports, black America, college campuses and U. S. history. Its latest title commemorates the start of the Civil War 150 years ago at Fort Sumter, South Carolina. Fittingly, the company’s headquarters are in nearby Charleston.

Short Stories from the Del Mar Library

Sensory pleasures

A feast for the senses will be offered at 11 a.m. April 29 at the Del Mar Library.

Singer/harpist Mair Rathburn will perform a concert of songs about roses and spring in the library’s community room.

The program will be held in conjunction with the Del Mar Rose Society’s rose show so that the audience can view and smell the prize-winning blooms as they listen to the music.

Guests also can enjoy the taste of light refreshments. But they won’t be touched for money. Librarian

Gretchen Schmidt said the event is free and paid for by Friends of the Del Mar Library.

Nostalgia time

A nostalgic visit to the great wits of yesteryear will be provided at the Del Mar Library from 11 to 11:30 a.m. May 6.

Storyteller Linda Henry-Bonin, in the guise of Little Miss Marker, will enact stories by such mid-20th Century masters as James Thurber and Damon Runyon.

As part of the library’s celebration of Older Americans Month, the program is free and open to the

public. Refreshments will be served after the performance.

Children’s programs

Del Mar Library’s children’s reading program will have an international theme this summer.

Beginning in July, the library will offer an “Around the World” story time at 10:30 a.m. each Tuesday. Each week will feature a different language – Spanish, German, French, Farsi and sign language.

Wednesday mornings are for family programs, including puppets, clowns, music and art, ending with

(Continued on Page 3)

A message from the President

Dear Friends,

With the start of a new fiscal year May 1, my thoughts turn to increased participation in Friends of the Del Mar Library. We need new blood both on our board of directors and among our members.



Our annual meeting is scheduled at 5 p.m. May 17. You're invited to attend and participate. This also is a call to recruit new board members.

Anne Von Benckendorff, our vice president is stepping down. She has served for five years and has headed our fund raising efforts. We appreciate her hard work and will miss her greatly.

More than ever we need greater public participation. San Diego County's perilous financial situation puts library programs in jeopardy and each branch must develop ways to maintain programs and acquisitions.

Your generous support has enabled us to budget \$20,000 in fiscal 2011-12 to support various library programs along with purchase of new books. — our Red Dot collection of popular fiction and primarily non-fiction Gold Dot fiction books. Both can be found near the 13th Street entrance.

A big boost has come from a Del Mar Foundation grant of \$2,000 for children, teen, and adult programs. We've allocated these funds for craft materials, instructors, and speakers, which cost about \$6,000 annually. This is the second year we've received this grant and we thank the Del Mar Foundation for its support.

Our new community room enables the library to better serve Del Mar and to strengthen the ties with its residents. The new fiscal year will be one of challenge and opportunity.

Pat Freeman

Stories

(Continued from Page 2)

a Mary Poppins finale at 10:30 a.m. August 10. Wednesday afternoons feature movies, puzzles and other activities for older children. Teen programs – movies, munchies and scrap booking – are scheduled twice monthly at 2 p.m. Saturdays.

Families are urged by children's librarian Jennifer Runge to register online or in person after June 1. She also is accepting applications for teen library volunteers.

Denise Vando

Denise A. Vando, a mainstay of the Del Mar Library for 19 years, died Jan. 20 in San Diego. She was 74.

A native of New York and graduate of Bennington College, Denise held a variety of jobs before joining the library staff in 1990. In addition to her work at the circulation desk, she used her artistic skills to assist in children's craft programs. She retired as assistant customer service supervisor in 2009.

Mini book reviews

Destiny and Desire by Carlos Fuentes: Mexico's leading novelist has pulled out all stops in this sprawling saga of his native land. A classic Cain and Abel story becomes a complex, cynical and occasionally tender tale of love, violence and political opportunism. Spanning a century from Mexico's 1910 revolution to its present narcoterrorism, *Destiny and Desire* employs all of Fuentes' formidable talents including magic realism. The narrator is a severed head oozing life on a Pacific beach. Don't let that scare you off! This is a captivating book of particular interest to us who live near the border.

— Peter Kaye

Sing You Home by Jodi Picoult is a timely and unusual story that keeps readers engrossed to see what will happen next. It involves a couple's attempt to have a baby and its tragic climax with a miscarriage. What happens next involves such contemporary controversies as gay rights, abortion and the Christian Right. Picoult carefully explores these issues from all sides. Her characters are carefully delineated so readers can understand their motivations and how they fit into the overall plot.

— Barbara Myers

Atlantic by Simon Winchester. Winchester is the Shamu of authors -- entertaining, energetic and capable of diving deep into his subject. This is a whale of a book comparable to his earlier triumphs such as *Krakatoa* and *The Professor and the Madman*. Winchester tells how the Atlantic Ocean has been shaped by forces of nature and follies of mankind -- tectonic plates, explorers, sea battles and the environmental disasters that mankind is creating.

— Peter Kaye

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: 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Website:

www.friendsofdelmarlibrary.org

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
SAN DIEGO CA
PERMIT #3013



**FRIENDS OF THE DEL MAR LIBRARY
2011 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:

Friends of Del Mar Library

Post Office Box 993

Del Mar, CA 92014