

San Diego County Library

Annual Report

FY 2008-2009



Jerri Patchett & José Aponte

Jerri Patchett, chair of the Friends of the Fallbrook Library Building Task Force, is the Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year. Patchett spearheads fundraising for the new library.

Message from the Library Director

By any measure, 2008-09 was an extraordinary year. Jobs, housing, healthcare and education were at the forefront of our national and local agenda. Concurrently, SDCL developed a plan of service that saw record-shattering growth in all areas. Staff and our partners designed housing clinics for distressed homeowners and 'job cafes' for the unemployed, while circulating a record 8.3 million library materials. Indeed our staff, Friends, and volunteers have created a community nexus for San Diego to share, rebuild and set a plan for our collective destiny.

Our challenges are real: meet increased demand with level-to-diminished resources. To that end, we have focused on state-of-the-art technology solutions, revisiting our core competencies, and leveraging new partnerships and networks to create opportunities for expansion and growth for the future.

We thank you, the greater San Diego County community for your generous support, use and engagement. Together we will approach 2010 a resilient and vital SDCL, providing the tools to inform, educate, inspire and entertain our residents while embracing a public service philosophy of creative 'play and optimism' in the workplace.

Best wishes from the entire SDCL team and thank you.

José Aponte, Library Director

- SDCL's 682,904 customers checked out 8.3 million items, up 25%, and a major milestone for SDCL, making it the 6th busiest library in California.
- Open hours rose 6% to 92,092 in SDCL's 33 branches and two bookmobiles.
- 5.2 million visits to library branches, up 22%
- Event attendance climbed 33% to 378,451.
- SDCL's popular Web site (www.sdcl.org) recorded 30 million hits.
- 17,937 library events were held, averaging nearly 50 a day, a jump of 27%.
- 675 bilingual (Spanish/English) storytimes had an attendance of 8,521.
- More than 200 successful partnerships with County departments and other community agencies enhanced and expanded library services.
- 18 branches hosted 26 English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, six citizenship classes, and two computer classes through L.E.A.R.N., SDCL's adult literacy program. L.E.A.R.N. served 569 learners with 177 volunteer tutors.
- 4,053 invaluable volunteers (an increase of 82%) donated 96,651 hours, the equivalent of \$1,985,580.
- The Friends of the Library members system-wide number 5,000.
- Librarians answered 697,025 reference questions, up 14% over last year.





New & Expanded Branches

SDCL opened its new branch in Borrego Springs, rolled out a new East County Bookmobile, expanded its Descanso Branch, and set plans for new branches in Fallbrook, Ramona and Lincoln Acres, and an expansion of the Cardiff Branch.

Summer Reading Clubs

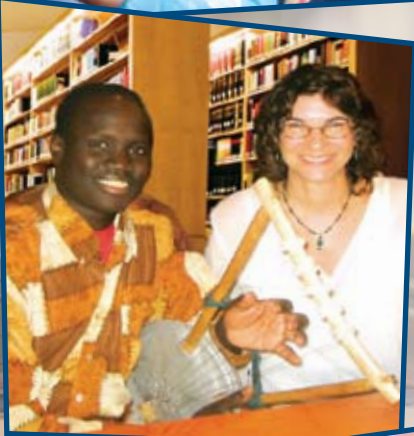
- 30,100 children signed up for the Summer Reading Club, up 6%.
- Read for a Reason Summer Reading Club benefited the San Diego Food Bank and The Pet Food Bank, with more than 5,000 lbs. of pet food donated by corporate sponsor Iams® Pet Food and local families. Partners included the County's Department of Animal Services and S.N.A.P. mobile pet clinics.
- 4,640 adults joined the Adult Summer Reading Program.

Grants & Awards

- SDCL garnered 9 national NACo awards for major programs and partnerships, the most of any library in the country.
- Grants: 2 successful American Library Association grants, "Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature" and "Let's Talk About It: Love and Forgiveness," were presented at the La Mesa, Vista and Santee libraries. A California Council for the Humanities grant, "California Stories: How I See It," through the California State Library, gave teens at the Lincoln Acres Library a unique opportunity to photograph their community.

Programs & Events

- The award-winning World Music & Cultural Arts series brought African/Celtic band Baka Beyond, Zydeco king Geno Delafosse, jazz guitarist Peter Sprague, Native American dancer Kevin Locke and singer Arigon Starr, Mexican American band Quetzal, Ostracized Music by Jewish composers persecuted by the Nazis, and exhibits by Smithsonian photographer Tony Gleaton.
- The national award-winning Intergenerational Dance partnership with the County's Aging & Independence Services brought youngsters and seniors together for a series of dance classes, culminating in a performance.
- Another nationally recognized event, Spring Valley Library's Fiesta, featured the dedication of a colorful mural by artist Salvador Barajas, which covers an exterior wall of the library.
- A number of branches hosted parenting classes in English and Spanish, including the popular Noches de Familia series.
- The award-winning Home Clinics, in partnership with the San Diego Housing Opportunities Collaborative, were held monthly in library branches to help homeowners facing foreclosure.
- SDCL participated in the national campaigns for children and Teens, "Día de los Niños" and Teen Read Week.
- The national award-winning Gateway/Al Bawaba series of computer classes in Arabic continued in five branches.



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