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the newsletter of the friends

of the encino/tarzana branch library

S P R I N G 1 9 8 2

REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

By way of starting off this report, may we call your attention to the color of the paper on which this Newsletter is printed. We have tried various ways of differentiating the successive issues at a glance, other than by the date that appears on the front page (but which is not always visible when folded), and the best way seems to be also the most obvious, a different color of paper. This was tried a couple of years ago, but the system broke down when our printer unexpectedly ran out of the required color a couple of times. Anyway, we are going to try it again -- green for Spring, yellow for Summer, tan (or whatever they call it) for Autumn, and of course snow-white for Winter (even if we don't get much snow here in Los Angeles).

Although we are a support group, rather than a political action group, we cannot but be interested and involved in things being done in Sacramento that directly affect our library. At the present time there are two pieces of good news, and one of bad news:

a. Senate Bill 358, which is designed to provide more equitable funding of public libraries, beginning in fiscal '82/83, has passed the Senate by a vote of 28-7. Thanks are due in part to those who last winter wrote to their Senators. The bill is now in the hands of the Assembly Local Government Committee, and will no doubt be out of committee by the time this reaches you. It is to be hoped that the Committee will pass it favorably, and that the whole Assembly will finally approve the Bill as the Senate has done.

b. The second piece of good news is that there is currently being circulated in California an Initiative petition which, if it receives enough signatures before April 30, 1982, will be on the November ballot. Essentially this ballot proposal will establish a more equitable tax rate between private and commercial properties, and will provide tax relief for people who have had to buy homes since Proposition 13 went into effect. In other words, new property owners would be given some tax relief, while the State would receive some additional income from a slight increase in commercial property taxes. It is anticipated that some of the State's added income would filter down to public libraries. This Initiative deserves our support, and you are urged (after reading the full proposal) to sign the petition.

c. Lastly, the bad news. An amendment to Senate Bill 393, which passed the Senate in January, has put the freedom to read, which librarians vigorously uphold, in some jeopardy. The former phrase, in the legal definition of pornography, "... appeals predominantly to prurient interests and is utterly without redeeming social importance," has been dropped, and in its stead is a phrase which seems to imply that if a work has no literary, political, or scientific value, it may be banned. Since these three criteria are not the only ones by which a printed book may be judged — what about religious, legal, medical, fiscal, or other values? — the Senate Bill would seem to open the way for indiscriminate "book burning." The Bill is currently in the hands of an Assembly Committee. It is to be hoped that the Committee will there let it die.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Our January trip to the gambling dives of Gardena turned out to be very enjoyable and not at all as sinful as it sounded. The few who attended reported a thoroughly enjoyable Japanese luncheon (buffet/cafeteria style), and a sort of vicarious gambling experience later. As it turned out, because it was a Saturday, and there would be a two-hour wait before it would be possible to sit in on a poker game, they decided to do nothing but watch. So they watched the players a while, watched an enormous fish in an aquarium tank, and a miniature television screen in a large relaxing lounge, and came home. All the same, they want to go again next year. That Gardena Japanese food is really something.

Our January evening meeting, however, was well attended, when Joe Northrup and his genealogically-minded wife Marie gave us a joint discussion of all thirteen founding families of Los Angeles (nine settlers and four soldiers) who left descendants. Joe, a descendant himself, wore an historical Spanish costume.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Our bimonthly evening meetings will henceforth be held in the Community Room of Progressive Savings & Loan Assn., 18585 Ventura Blvd, Tarzana, on the third Thursday of every other month, beginning March 18, at 7:30 p.m. The March meeting will begin with a welcome from our next host, followed by installation of our new officers for the year 1982/83. Afterwards there will be a slide show on "Easter Week in Spain." Other programs and outings are delineated in the Calendar of Events for Spring and early Summer which is enclosed with this Newsletter. If none is enclosed, or if you need another copy, call Ray Wood at 343-4868.

USED MAGAZINE SALE

As announced earlier, we will hold our very first USED MAGAZINE SALE on Monday, March 15, in the library patio. Several members have spent a lot of time (and a lot of twine) tying up magazines in preparation for this. We could still use a few more magazines. (Also we could use some help on the day of the sale: see back page of this Newsletter). If you have magazines to donate, please take them to the library as soon as you can.

MISSING TREES AT THE LIBRARY

Some of you may have noticed that the large evergreen tree at the right end of the library building, along the Boulevard, is no longer there. And it is quite possible that by the time this reaches you its companion tree on the left may also have disappeared. These trees are being removed by the Dept. of Buildings and Grounds, because they are getting too big, becoming root-bound, hiding the name of the building, or something. From our point of view this is too bad, as the trees provided a convenient place for us to hang banners advertizing our book sales. But we must submit to the inevitable. We have asked Buildings and Grounds to provide, instead, suitable eye-bolts on the main wall of the building for us to hang our banners. We hope this will be done in time for our magazine sale in March.

BOOK SALE IN MAY

The first of our two annual book sales will be held this year on Monday and Tuesday, May 17 and 18. The time will be the same as last year, 10:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday and 9:00 to 7:00 on Tuesday. We have a good many books already, but could use many more, especially those on art, hobbies, science, architecture, crafts, etc. Out-of-date text books don't sell very well, but used dictionaries do.

HELP NEEDED AT MAGAZINE SALE

Early Monday morning, March 15, we shall begin to move a thousand or so magazines from storage to the library patio, and set them out on tables to be sold. WE NEED HELP. One or two persons cannot do it all. Please come to the library patio early (before 8 if possible) and lend a hand. If unable to lift boxes you can help to sort magazines, spread them out on tables, etc. The sale begins at 10:00 a.m., so we have to work fast.

EXHIBIT CASE SCHEDULE, 1982

January	Computers
February	"Romantic Fragrances"
March	"Money Matters"
April	Spring; Easter chicks, etc.
May	"Cinco de Mayo"; Mexican foods, etc.
June	Glass: carnival glass, etc.
July/Aug.	Summer reading program.
September	Science fiction.
October	Games; playing cards, etc.
November	Toy soldiers.
December	Electric trains.

ROSTER OF OFFICERS, 1982

(will be published in our next Newsletter)

Raymund F. Wood, Editor

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TO: