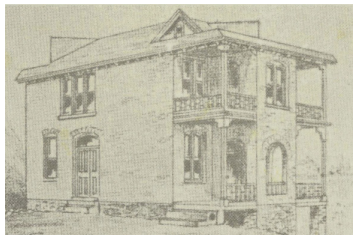


# FRIENDS OF SAN PEDRO LIBRARY

SPRING 2008

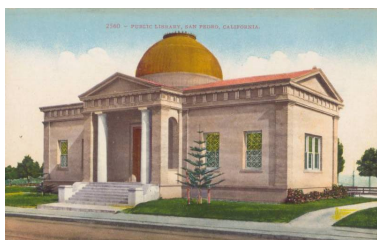
## ☞ HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO SAN PEDRO LIBRARY ☞

This year, 2008, marks the 120<sup>th</sup> birthday of the San Pedro Library. The library began with the formation of the San Pedro Literary Association at a meeting held January 12, 1888. Forty-five members



agreed to sponsor lectures, musical recitals, and debates. In March the members voted to build a reading room on a donated lot on Palos Verdes Street. The cornerstone for the new library was laid in July, and on November 18 the Literary Association held its first meeting in the new building. In December 1890 the first books were purchased.

By 1905 the library could not accommodate its many registered borrowers. The city applied for and received a grant from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation toward the cost of a new building. The city and generous donors completed the cost of construction and purchase of equipment. San Pedro's domed and pillared Carnegie Library opened June 5, 1906. In 1909 San Pedro was annexed by the City of Los Angeles, and the library became a branch of the Los Angeles Public Library.



The population of the city began to move away from the downtown location of the Carnegie Library, and in June 1924 the library moved to the corner of Gaffey and Tenth Streets. The Carnegie building became the offices of the Chamber of Commerce. The new library, with rust stucco and brick, tiled roof, and wrought iron balconies was beautiful, but it was built on filled land over a watercourse that

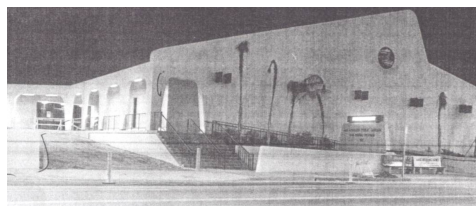
ran through early San Pedro. During the next twenty years floors buckled, steps fell away, and other serious damage occurred. In 1942 the building was declared unsafe and was condemned. The library's collection was



divided into three parts and moved to Barton Hill, Leland Street, and Fifteenth Street Schools.

In January 1944 the library's collection was brought together again in a remodeled garage on Seventh Street. Construction of a new library had to wait for the end of World War II.

The first library built in the city of Los Angeles after the war was the San Pedro Branch. It was erected on the site of the 1924 building at Gaffey and Tenth Streets and opened its doors on May 1, 1949. It served the community and region for over 30 years.



The present library, the third at the Gaffey and Tenth Street

location, was dedicated May 18, 1983. It has 20,000 square feet of floor space with shelving capacity for 103,000 books.

Reflecting San Pedro's diverse ethnic population, the library has reference and instruction materials in Arabic, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, French,

**(Continued on Page 4)**

## LIBRARY BOOK STORE

Are you looking for a beautifully bound classic or a recent release in excellent condition—at an unbelievably reasonable price? Before you trek to Borders or Barnes & Noble, visit our Library Book Store. You will find reference books, cook books, children's books, comic books, biographies and books on the Civil War, humor, art, music, science, travel, movies, and various hobbies, and books in large type. The



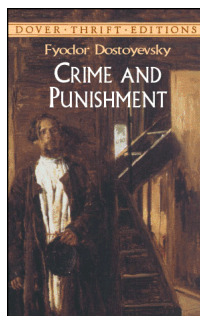
Store also sells videos, CDs, and DVDs. Hours are 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers from Friends of San Pedro Library will help you find that special book you are seeking.

New offerings at the Book Store are sets of note cards featuring the six winning art works in a competition among San Pedro artists, sponsored by Friends of San Pedro Library. The cards depict scenes around the San Pedro Peninsula.

Also available are sets of author note cards featuring such writers as Charles Dickens, Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, and Mark Twain.

## BOOK CLUB NEWS

The Book Club recently welcomed five new members, adding to the diverse viewpoints which make for lively discussions of each work read by the group. Members read *Testimonies*, by Patrick O'Brian, at the start of the year and are now deeply engrossed in *Crime and Punishment*, by Fyodor Dostoevsky. Spring meeting dates are April 12, May 10, and June 7.




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One swallow does not make a summer, but one skein of geese, cleaving the murk of March thaw, is the spring.

Aldo Leopold

## BOOK QUIZ

In honor of William Shakespeare, whose birthday we celebrate April 23, test your knowledge of memorable quotations from works by the Bard of Avon. From which of his plays does each quotation come?



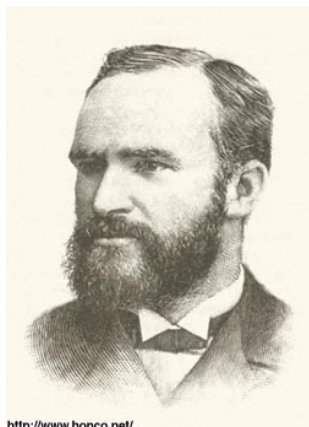
1. Beware the Ides of March
2. The quality of mercy is not strained;  
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven  
Upon the place beneath: it is twice blest---  
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes
3. Neither a borrower nor a lender be  
For loan oft loses both itself and friend  
And borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry
4. How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child
5. I will wear my heart upon my sleeve for daws to peck at
6. Cowards die many times before their deaths; the valiant never taste of death but once
7. Our doubts are traitors and make us lose the good we oft might win, by fearing to attempt
8. Out, out, brief candle! Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage and then is heard no more: it is a tale told by an idiot, full of of sound and fury, signifying nothing
9. See how she leans her cheek upon her hand. O, that I were a glove upon that hand that I might touch that cheek
10. I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,  
Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows  
Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine  
With sweet musk-roses and with eglantine
11. My horse! My horse! My kingdom for a horse!
12. We are such stuff as dreams are made on;  
and our little life is rounded by a sleep
13. What a piece of work is a man! how noble in reason! how infinite in faculty! in form and moving how express and admirable! in action how like an angel! in apprehension how like a god! the beauty of the world! the paradigm of animals!

(Answers on Page 5)

## MEET MR. DEWEY OF THE DEWEY SYSTEM

Imagine entering a library, looking for a particular book and having no way of knowing how to find it—or knowing how to find it in one library but encountering a completely different system in another library. That was the situation before Melvil Dewey created his Dewey Decimal Classification System of sorting books. Dewey invented a system of grouping books of similar subject together, classified by numbers.

Melville Louis Kossuth Dewey, the youngest of five children, was born on December 10, 1851, in New York. He later shortened his first name to Melvil and dropped his two middle names.



<http://www.honco.net/>

As a child, Dewey loved to organize things and had a talent for mathematics. He attended Amherst College, where he worked in the library to help pay for his education. He was appalled by the way books were sorted. Arrangements varied from library to library, and users had to look in many places to find books on the same subject. Combining his love of mathematics and his orderliness, he invented the Dewey Decimal Classification System when he was only twenty-one years old, working as a student assistant in the Amherst College Library. After graduation, he became a librarian at the college.

Dewey's system created a revolution in library science and spurred a new era of librarianship. Melvil Dewey is rightly considered the father of the modern library.

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April is the cruelest month, breeding  
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing  
Memory and desire, stirring  
Dull roots with spring rain.  
T. S. Eliot

## BRUSH UP YOUR DEWEY

Before Dewey developed his classification system, there was no uniform method for sorting books used in libraries. He created a way to classify books using Arabic numbers and decimals to categorize books according to subject. Here are the general categories:

- 000 – Generalities
- 100 – Philosophy and Psychology
- 200 – Religion
- 300 – Social Sciences
- 400 – Language
- 500 – Natural Sciences and Mathematics
- 600 – Technology and Applied Science
- 700 – The Arts
- 800 – Literature and Rhetoric
- 900 – History and Geography

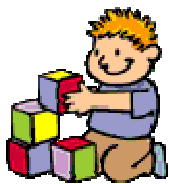
Each category, or class, has ten divisions, and each division has ten sections, making a call number more and more specific. Finally, each numerical identification is followed by the first letter of the author's last name.

MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS  
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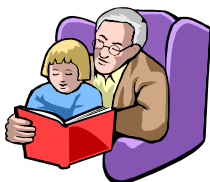
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## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

**Read to Me L.A.**, a preschool story time, will have its last session for the season Thursday, April 3. This city-wide program gives parents an opportunity to learn how to help their preschoolers gain skills that will prepare them for their formal reading instruction. The sessions will resume in September.



**GAB (Grandparents and Books)** Volunteers are needed for the GAB program. At present "Grandma" Elaine Lang is the only "grandparent." She reads to children and listens to them read from 1:30 to 3:30 p. m. every Wednesday. When a child has read two whole books to Elaine, the child receives a free book of his/her choice from the GAB collection.



**Read-a Ton** continues each Tuesday from 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. Young readers have a new goal of 200 pounds of reading. After meeting each goal during the year, youngsters in the program have a party to celebrate their accomplishment. The group averages 20 pounds of reading each week.



**Knitting Club** will meet April 9 and 23, and May 14 and 28. More volunteer knitting instructors are needed to join double-duty volunteer, "Grandma" Elaine Lang. Please contact Children's Librarians Ednita Kelly or Maura Large at (310) 548-7779

**"The Magic of Reading"** San Pedro Library's summer reading program will kick off on Thursday, June 26 at 3:30 p.m. The first session will feature a special program called "Operacadabra" presented by Patrick Bell, an opera singer and magician.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY (CONTINUED)

Gaelic, German, Greek, Hawaiian, Hebrew, Hindi, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Persian (Farsi), Polish, Pushtu (an official language of Afghanistan), Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tagalog, Thai, Turkish, Vietnamese, Welsh, Yiddish, and a language that no one speaks but many study—Latin. There are permanent collections of literature in Croatian, Italian, and Spanish, and rotating collections in other languages.

From those early days of a reading room 120 years ago to our present modern facility, San Pedro Library has served the harbor area as a repository of our literary cultural heritage. Thanks to all our librarians, clerks, and other workers who continue to serve.

(Editor's note: Many thanks to Anne Hansford and Al Bitonio at San Pedro Bay Historical Society archives and Susan Haffey of Armagh Post Cards and Collectibles for photos and information in this article.)

## FEBRUARY RECEPTION

Friends of San Pedro Library honored library volunteers and celebrated the centennial of artist Leo Politi at a Valentine's Day tea/reception February 14. Volunteers received certificates of appreciation for their hours of service to the library. On display were original paintings



and books by Mr. Politi, some owned by San Pedro Library, and others brought from personal collections by Maria Martinez, Margaret Littman, Jerry Gusha, Pat Saevig, and Kay Mattera, who may have the prize collection with nine original paintings and one lithograph by the artist. Many of the books were personally autographed by Mr. Politi and featured additional drawings in his inscription.




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The peace and beauty of a spring day had descended upon the earth like a benediction.  
Kate Chopin

Thanks to JoAnn Kostelas and Phyllis Samson for arranging the attractive Valentine's Day motif and the delicious sandwiches, fruit, cookies, and beverages.

## NOTES FROM THE CENTRAL LIBRARY

Fans of Leo Politi will not want to miss the current exhibit of his work at the Central Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library, 650 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles 90071, (213) 229-7000.

**Bunker Hill by Leo Politi** began February 2 and continues until June 14. Mr. Politi lived and worked in Los Angeles for more than 60 years. His paintings chronicle decades of changes downtown. This exhibit examines Bunker Hill through a series of paintings of the stately Victorian houses that characterized the neighborhood before skyscrapers irrevocably altered the landscape. It also commemorates the centennial of Leo Politi's birth.



Another exhibit of interest features photographs of Paris that concentrate on scenes beyond the usual famous places in the City of Light. It began March 1 and will end June 1.

### **Beyond the Iconic—Contemporary**

**Photographs of Paris** brings these works to the United States for the first time. The exhibit includes the work of 24 photographers and is organized according to six themes that explore Paris in terms of:

- Paris's literal city limits
- Controlled images that "reinvent" the city's appearance
- Documentary treatment of Paris's "ordinary" details
- Portraits of the city's inhabitants
- "Timeless" exposures using early and alternative photographic techniques
- Other namesake Parises located in the United States

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## THE FRIENDS OF SAN PEDRO LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS

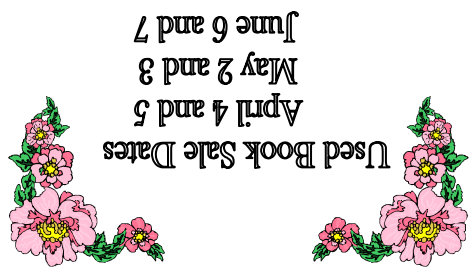
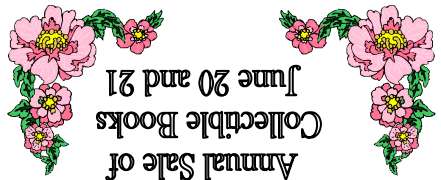
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### Library Hours:

Monday:	10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday:	10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday:	10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Thursday:	10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Friday:	10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday:	10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sunday:	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### Answers to Book Quiz:

1. *Julius Caesar*
2. *The Merchant of Venice*
3. *Hamlet*
4. *King Lear*
5. *Othello*
6. *Julius Caesar*
7. *Measure for Measure*
8. *Macbeth*
9. *Romeo and Juliet*
10. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
11. *Richard III*
12. *The Tempest*
13. *Hamlet*



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- Family Membership \$20.00
- Senior (55+) Membership \$7.00
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- Business Membership \$50.00
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- Life Membership \$100.00

I am enclosing my additional, tax-deductible, contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Friends of San Pedro Library.

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