

The Friends of the Los Feliz Library are always looking for a few good book donations from the community. Once a month [4th Saturday of the month, from 10 am-4 pm], the Friends' group holds a book sale with donations going to fund various projects at the library. Book donations can be dropped off at the front desk of the Los Feliz Library. Thanks!



volume 1 number 1

fall 2009

Los Feliz Library: A History



Los Feliz Branch, circa 1978

LIBRARY FACTOIDS

HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY 10 am–8 pm

TUESDAY 12 pm–8 pm

WEDNESDAY 10 am–8 pm

THURSDAY 12 pm–8 pm

FRIDAY 10 am–6 pm

SATURDAY 10 am–6 pm

CLOSED SUNDAYS/HOLIDAYS

telephone 323.913.4710

renew by phone 888.577.5275

Free WiFi

web: www.lapl.org

24-hour return box

1874 Hillhurst Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90027

The Los Feliz Branch first opened in 1923 and became part of the Los Angeles Public Library system in 1924. Originally, the branch was located on Vermont Avenue, but in subsequent years it moved many times throughout the community.

In 1950, the branch moved to a storefront at 1939½ Hillhurst Avenue, where its book collection and public usage continued to increase steadily. By 1978, the branch had expanded into a number of adjacent spaces and occupied approximately 1,000 square feet.

Eventually, the library department, the Friends of the Los Feliz Library, community members, elected officials and the Board of Library Commissioners, determined the need for a permanent space and began to develop plans for a facility that would serve the needs of the community. In 1994, the Northridge earthquake caused the temporary branch to close at the 1939½ Hillhurst location, and a year later, the branch was relocated to the vacant Yellow Ribbon Market space at 1801 Hillhurst Avenue.

Architect Barton Phelps was commissioned to design the new

10,500 square foot building at 1874 Hillhurst Avenue on the corner of Hillhurst and Franklin Avenues with funding from the Library Bond Proposition #1 passed by voters in 1989.



The interior of the Los Feliz Library is elegant, well-lit, comfortable and always in use.

Rich, warm redwood walls, large bright windows and a beautiful Cultural Affairs-funded public artwork "Conjunction of 500 Wishes" by local artist, Joyce Dallal complete the

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from the president

It seems hard to realize that fall is here and winter holidays are fast approaching. Coming soon on Dec. 5th and 6th, the Friends of the Los Feliz Library will host celebrations for its 10th Anniversary. The Family Open House will be held Sat, Dec. 5th and on Sunday, Dec. 6th, there will be a Champagne Reception from 2-4 p.m., celebrating the unveiling of our long-awaited Donor Wall with a festive fundraising event. One of the goals for the library volunteers is to team with the library staff in supporting the many needs outside those provided by the dwindling City Library budget. During these tight economic times, it is our intention to keep the library open to the public and continue to uphold the superior quality of current programs and materials for learning.

Where does your donation money go and what does it achieve? The Library's Tots Programs assist by providing opportunities in early childhood education, thus adding one important tool in preparing children for a smooth transition from the home to the public or private school system. Teen programs work with gifted or teens-at-risk, usually during and after-school activities. Adults are enriched with programs such as Architecture & Beyond, summer authors, quilting and family art classes. All are supported by the Friends of the Los Feliz Library.

Don't forget to mark your calendars and join us in celebration of our 10th Anniversary. More information is forthcoming in the days ahead.

Have safe and happy holidays.

Mark Stong, *President*

Marilyn Bush, *Vice President*

Friends of the Los Feliz Library



Friends of the Los Feliz Library Feature/Showcase

Leonardo DiCaprio Computer Room

Raymond Coty

Leonardo DiCaprio's indelible footprint on the Los Feliz Library is impressive to say the least. The computer area is cheerful, well-lit, and the spacious, comfortable seating makes for a pleasant experience. Ten years ago, for the library's grand opening, DiCaprio donated all the computers in the room visible from the lobby. Over the years, he has graciously updated the computers and software for the continued enjoyment of the library patrons.

Built on the lot of DiCaprio's former childhood home, the Los Feliz Library is always busy, no matter the time of day.

The DiCaprio Computer Room provides a full hour of unrestricted internet/word processing access free of charge. A collection of his movie posters surround a glass plaque that bears his name. As one library patron pointed out, "I like the computer room because it's clean and air-conditioned. The computers are always well-maintained and virus-free."

On a recent early morning stroll at the Santa Monica Farmer's Market on 2nd St., I wandered into the NRDC's (Natural Resource Defense Council) new building. This is a very modern building with incredible lines and detail, and the pleasing feel is carried throughout with curves and open spaces. I saw an area with computers that have NRDC info and history access for the public entitled *The Leonardo DiCaprio e-Activism Zone*. As DiCaprio commented, "online activism is an incredibly powerful tool for protecting the planet and the purpose of the e-Activism Zone is to keep expanding its reach." Thousands of young people will visit the Environmental Action Center each year, and I hope it is the start of a lifetime of Civic involvement for each one of them."

Join the Friends Group and Celebrate the Los Feliz Library

Your dues, plus revenues tendered at our fourth Saturday of each month Book Sale, assist the Los Feliz Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library in providing various services to our community.

For example, we support special programs for children, teens and adults throughout the year with performers, refreshments and supplies.

We've replaced worn cushions and chair coverings, purchased entrance mats and additional tables used in the meeting room and provided some garden/patio clean-up. Most importantly, your funds allow for ongoing purchases of new books of local interest by our library staff. You should check out Los Feliz in the literature and new book areas.

When you become a member of the Friends Group, you become a partner, working together to serve our community. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

USED BOOK SALE

Book sales are held in the meeting room of the Los Feliz Library

September 26

October 24

November 28

December 26

January 23, 2010

February 27, 2010

March 27, 2010

April 24, 2010

vision of Barton Phelps. The new Los Feliz Library opened to the public on April 8, 1999 amid much fanfare. The Junior Girl Scout Troop #864, Thomas Starr King Middle School Drill Team, then-Mayor Richard Riordan, Councilman John Ferraro, City Librarian Susan Kent and Irmelin DiCaprio entertained the waiting crowd. The John Marshall Brass Quintet performed lively fanfare, the ribbon was cut and the Los Feliz community entered their new library.

The Los Feliz Library has a vast collection of over 56,000 books, dvds, cds and special items. Additionally, there is the Helen Bernstein Meeting Room named in honor of the former member of the Board of Library Commissioners and the Leonardo DiCaprio Computer Center. There are Virtual Library workstations funded by the Walt Disney Company Foundation "Adopt-a-Branch" program and regularly scheduled programs for children, teens, adults and families.

In response to requests from people for "good places to eat" after their library visit, there is a reference menu collection, "A Taste of Los Feliz" and a Los Feliz in Literature collection highlighting local authors and books taking place in Los Feliz and surrounding environs.

The library offers a wide variety of programs such as computer classes, storytimes, author programs, architecture lectures sponsored by the Friends' Group and merchants of the Los Feliz Village BID, monthly book discussions, music performances, teen council, anime, chess, scrabble and a quilting circle. In addition, the Friends of the Los Feliz Library holds a used book sale on the fourth Saturday of each month.

The Los Feliz Branch is part of the Los Angeles Public Library system and is located in the Fourth Council District represented by Councilman Tom LaBonge.



Chief William Bratton stopped by the Friends of the Los Feliz Library booth at the 2008 Street Fair.

Anatomy of a Book Sale

Angela Stewart

Before I became a volunteer for *The Friends of the Los Feliz Library*, I had no idea how much prepping went into the monthly Book Sale. I thought books magically appeared on various tables and left-over books placed themselves back into their boxes to await another sale. Oh, how wrong I was.

Our book sale takes place the fourth Saturday of every month. Books are placed by category; mystery, fiction, non-fiction, religious and so on... but how does this happen?

Thursday evening before the sale, three volunteers carry hundreds of books from the storeroom and place them by category on the tables. This backbreaking chore takes nearly three hours, working non-stop. There is much laughter among the volunteers, who share a terrific connection... the love of *BOOKS* and a good cup of coffee.

Early Friday morning, a cadre of different volunteers shows up to help place the books. Books are placed by size with all titles going in the same direction. Paperbacks and soft-bound books are placed together, as are the hardcovers. Volunteers ensure that all books are properly categorized so as to make the buying atmosphere attractive for

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Condensed Reading

with author, Mark Twain

From his carefree boyhood in Hannibal, MO., which was immortalized in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, to the moment more than 50 years later when he received an honorary degree from Oxford University, Mark Twain lived half a dozen lives and as many fabulous careers. He knew the Mississippi River from log rafts and from the lofty pilot houses of magnificent stern-wheelers; he knew the West at its wildest – from Carson City's saloons to the silver mines of the Nevada Territory. The most American of authors, he lived for a decade in Europe; was a devoted husband and father, he laughed at life's happinesses and wept at its tragedies. And with his universal wit and humor, he won the love of all the world.

As for the characters, Tom Sawyer is, of course, Sam Clemens almost entirely. Huckleberry Finn was modeled after Tom Blankenship, son of the town drunkard: "He was ignorant, unwashed, insufficiently fed, but he had as good a heart as ever a boy had. His liberties were totally unrestricted. He was the only really independent person – boy or man – in the community, and by consequence he was tranquilly and continuously happy and was envied by all the rest of us. We liked him; we enjoyed his society. And as his society was forbidden us by our parents the prohibition trebled and quadrupled its value."

Aunt Polly was Sam's mother. Tom's brother, Sid, was a caricature of his own brother, Henry – "It was Henry who called my mother's attention to the fact that the thread with which she sewed my collar together to keep me from going swimming had changed color."

In real life, Tom's sweetheart, Becky Thatcher, was Laura Hawkins. Laura once described her first meeting with Sam: "I was standing in my yard one day when Sam

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Friends of the Los Feliz Library
1874 Hillhurst Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90027

**Friends of the Los Feliz Library
Board Members**

Mark Stong, president

Marilyn Bush

Raymond Coty

Mary Lou Dresak

Robert Granas

Dora Herrera

Kathryn Louyse

David R. Moss

Angela Stewart

for more information: www.folfl.org

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came along and saw me. He had a rose in his hand. He put it between his toes and, with a kind of handspring, tossed it over the fence to me. We became fast friends after that.”

Sam was the unquestioned leader of a gang of Hannibal youths and when school was not in session – and often enough when it was, and they should have been attending – they ranged over the fields and along the bluffs and through all the woods between.

They often cruised up to Turtle Island, about two miles above Hannibal, and spent the day feasting. Quantities of turtles and their eggs were there, as well as mussels and plenty of fish. Fishing and swimming were their chief pastimes, with general marauding for adventure. Bear Creek was their swimming place by day, and the river at nightfall.

MacDougall’s cave, where Tom and Becky Thatcher were lost, was an enduring joy to the gang – a subterranean marvel of deep passages and vaulted chambers that led away into the bluffs and far down into the earth’s black silences, even below the river, some said.

For Sam it had a fascination that never faded. With its long corridors, its royal chambers hung with stalactites, its remote hiding places, its possibilities as the home of a gallant outlaw band, it contained everything that a romantic boy could long for.

From “The Many Sides of Mark Twain” ~Readers Digest Book Section



**Samuel Clemens
aka Mark Twain.**

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easy browsing Saturday morning.

At 10 am sharp on Saturday morning the doors swing open to a mass of eager buyers. The first hour is usually hectic, buyers jousting for position at the tables and then rushing to the cashier table with their treasures. And, there are treasures to be had. Books are generally priced to be enjoyed by all... 25 cents per soft cover and a dollar for hardcover, unless the book is rare, or part of a larger set, which bumps the price slightly. Our most experienced volunteer is needed to handle the first rush and sometimes two are needed. Each volunteer donates one hour of his or her time for each sale.

When the book sale is over for the day, volunteers box the left-over books and ready them for delivery to the Pico Union Library, near downtown Los Angeles. At Pico Union, the books are sorted and if a book is needed for the library collection, the book is put on the library shelf, otherwise remaining books are saved for their book sale. No donated book goes without a home.

You can be a terrific friend to your local library by donating books, time or by donating money. Through your continued support, the Los Feliz Library is able to support multiple programs. For this, we thank you.

Thank you for your recent donation to the Friends of the Los Feliz Library

Tom Ford & Hugh Farrington

Marian & Steve Dodge

Tom Labonge

Los Feliz Improvement Association

Prudential Foundation

Jim Schupp & Kathleen Bynes

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