From the President’s Pen

We welcome Luz Culp, our new Youth Services Librarian. With her years of experience as a YSL, her background of having grown up in Scripps Ranch, and her energy and enthusiasm, Luz is a great asset to our branch. We are truly fortunate to have her as part of our staff.

Now that our branch finally has a full staff again, we invite the community to meet and greet the new additions to our staff at a reception in the library on Saturday afternoon, March 14. See the enclosed flyer for details.

As I write this, four vendors have presented bids to reupholster our armchairs. After the last two bids come in, a decision will be made, and our armchairs will begin rotating out of the library to be reupholstered.

Although good things have been happening at our branch, all is not well for libraries in the City of San Diego. As the City is in the budget-planning process for the next fiscal year, branch libraries are again in danger of a cutback in hours and staff in addition to the possibility of the closure of some branches. We cannot assume that our branch will escape unscathed. Scripps Miramar Ranch Library needs the support of our community. I hope you will join the Friends in writing to the City Council and the Mayor to advocate for keeping our libraries open without cuts to hours or staff.

You will note that the membership form in this issue of The Folio has some changes. After many years with no increases, Friends of the San Diego Public Library has come up with a new membership fee structure, which SRFOL has adopted. This is the time of year that we ask our members for their annual renewal. You may use the form in this issue or download the form from our website, www.srfol.org. Of course, in addition to renewals, we are very eager to have new members.

Gail Harriss, SRFOL President

Welcome Luz Culp!

We’ve waited a long time for a new Youth Services Librarian. But our patience has been rewarded with Scripps Ranch resident Luz Culp. Luz and I spent some time reminiscing about Scripps Ranch. Luz recounted her memories about the book-mobile. Somehow it always ended up at her “stop” during the “closed for lunch” time but this didn’t deter her. She’d bang on the window until the librarian would open up and show Luz her weekly “stash”; books the librarian had chosen especially for her. Years later Luz met her future husband Dan through a library connection, a serendipitous meeting both personally and professionally. She calls the experience “Love in the Stacks”.

Of course Luz loves books; her favorites range from “Siddhartha” to “The Velveteen Rabbit”. She considers “reading like breathing”. But she has other passions. In addition to nature walks, she loves painting. She uses forgiving acrylics to paint “big, flashy abstracts.”

Luz is making lots of plans for young people of all ages: story time and craft time for the youngsters as well as ‘teen-friendly’ activities. Please take a moment to chat with Luz. You’ll find her energetic and delightful.

Dianne Seaman, Folio Editor
Librarian’s Corner

Lately there have been some additions and continuing programming here at the library. To enhance our DVD collection, we have ordered a large amount of DVD’s of all sorts from the whimsical to the more serious. These will be appearing over the next few months. Drop by and peruse our updated collection. Also, if you, our patrons have suggestions on ways you would like to see our collection grow, please feel free to discuss them with me.

One of our on-going programs is our Meditation Workshop being offered by The Art of Living Foundation (AOLF) in association with the San Diego Public Library System. The foundation is conducting a FREE one-hour Science of Breath and Meditation Workshop at Scripps Miramar Ranch Branch Library every third Saturday of the month starting in January 2009. The workshop will demonstrate powerful breathing techniques that can calm the mind and help de-stress the body. The workshop will also include have a guided meditation session and a talk on the highly acclaimed Sudharshan Kriya® breathing technique.

On another front, final bids for our chair re-upholstery project are being taken, and we are excited at the prospect of enhancing our building while maintaining the current aesthetic of the library.

Richard Burke, Branch Librarian

The Zookeeper’s Wife
Diane Ackerman

Luz Leaf Notes

Hi, my name is Luz Culp, and I am the new Youth Services Librarian here at Scripps Miramar Ranch Library. I grew up in Scripps Ranch, and have many fond memories of “life on the ranch”. It was great to be a kid back then! While it is still a wonderful experience to grow up in Scripps Ranch, times have changed. Moms, dads and even kids are so busy! That is why the library is more important than ever!

Here are a few notes to let you know what is happening in the children’s area. I have ordered several new kits for babies from the San Diego Welcome Baby Program. The Kit is a statewide project of First 5 California (the California Children and Families Commission), and they contain DVD’s with parenting advice from child development experts and celebrities. Included is Baby’s First Book, “Puppy and Friends”. Parent’s guides to information and services in the community, along with emergency phone numbers, are a crucial part of these kits for new babies and their parents.

During the next few months I will be meeting with the teachers and schools in the area to introduce myself. My goal is to welcome the teachers and students, and to encourage them to visit the library whenever possible.

Please feel free to stop by and say hello. I would love to meet with you, discuss your favorite book, take recommendations for additions to the collection, or even post your child’s art work. Please know that this is your library, and I am here to help.

Luz Culp, Youth Services Librarian
Email Newsletter – What do you think?

What do you think about receiving this newsletter by email instead of by mail? We are considering sending this newsletter by email to save money. Before we switch to email we need your feedback – and your email address. Let us know what you think. Send me an email with the Subject Heading “Folio by Email” to dseaman@sanrr.com or leave me a message at 858-566-4946. Include your name and street address along with your email address.

City Services Budget Is Shrinking

On Valentine’s Day, there was a well-attended meeting with the Budget Committee of the City Council. The committee invited the public to suggest ways to cut budget expenses because we must plan for a $50+ million shortfall in the next fiscal year. Several SRFOL members spoke about the importance of the libraries. Find out more at this link: http://www.sandiego.gov/budgetandfinance/

Evans Pond Sighting

Several library patrons have reported seeing a rather strange creature in Evans Pond. The animal is described as being 12 feet long, with a humped back and a long neck. Some have nicknamed the animal "Nessie" after its resemblance to photographs of the creature purported to live in Loch Ness. The animal tends to submerge into the murky waters when spotted, leaving a trail of bubbles on the surface.

Experts say that the situation is not surprising. Evans Pond, next to the Scripps Ranch Library, is significantly deeper than its surface might imply and was connected to the open ocean in the geologic past. As the ocean receded, the animal, tentatively named Pseudosaurus Evansii, was trapped in the pond.

By this time, most of you have probably figured out that this article is only an April Fools joke; however, if you still believe that "Nessie" lives in Evans Pond, the County Department of Fish and Game has asked residents not to feed the creature.

Richard Busch, SRFOL Web Master

Volunteer Spotlight – Martha McAuliffe

We note the passing of a true library friend and volunteer. Martha McAuliffe passed away late last year. She was an active feminist and a teacher of Women’s Studies and English at both San Diego State University and Mesa Evening College. With her husband she co-authored three college textbooks and she edited several fiction and non-fiction works. After retiring from teaching, Ms. McAuliffe began many years of volunteering for our Book Nook. About this experience she said, “It’s a lot like teaching but without the job of grading papers. It was delightful being surrounded by other book-lovers.” Martha McAuliffe is missed by all who knew her.

Grace’s Book Nook – Fact Checking

Much of the money raised by the Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library (SRFOL) comes from the sales in Grace’s Book Nook (GBN). This is why GBN is so important to the entire library community. The books you donate and the volunteers who staff GBN are hugely important. The SRFOL would not be able to purchase the books, equipment, furnishings and programs for the library without the donations and volunteers and the book sales. Things you should know:

- The “book donation moratorium” has been lifted. We are happy to accept your book donations again. New books are stocked every week.
- GBN is starting to collect your book interests and contact information to let you know when “your kind of books” become available.
- GBN sells duck food and will soon stock tote bags.
- During 2008, volunteers worked over 4,000 hours.

All the library volunteers are vital to this community asset. Consider volunteering. You could work at GBN or help with Children’s or Music Programs. Call our volunteer coordinator or Grace’s Book Nook Manager listed below.

SCRIPPS RANCH FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
2008-2009 OFFICERS & CHAIRS

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<td>Joan Reese</td>
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<td>Branch Manager</td>
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Special Events at the Library…

Every Tuesday
Storytime for Preschoolers, ages 3 to 5, 10 to 10:45 a.m.

Every 3rd Saturday 10:30 a.m.
Free Meditation and Yoga Class

Sunday, March 15th, 2:30
“The Pleasure of Your Company” presents music for piano, clarinet, and flute. The trio will play the Carmen Fantasy, Time Pieces by Muczynski, and music by Pleye.

Thursday, March 19th, 3:00
“Especially for Kids”: The Scripps Ranch Fire Department invites children to a fire truck tour.

Wednesday, March 25th, 6:30
Book Discussion: The Zookeeper’s Wife by Diane Ackerman (2007)

Thursday, April 16th, 3:00
“Especially for Kids”: Mad Science-Spin, Pop, Boom. Create a foam factory with the Mad Scientist.

Sunday, April 19th, 2:30

Wednesday, April 22nd, 6:30

Sunday, May 17th, 2:30
“The Pleasure of Your Company” presents the California Quartet. The program will include music by Chavez, Revueltas and Beethoven.

Thursday, May 21st, 3:00
“Especially for Kids”: Minimus/Pigs Eye Puppets. Enjoy a Marionette Circus for the whole family.

Wednesday, May 27th, 6:30
Book Discussion: Revolutionary Road by Richard Yates (2000)

Web site: www.srfol.org

Library Hours
Monday and Wednesday:
12:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday:
9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Friday: 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.