What does the Beverly Hills Public Library have in common with Las Vegas’ Venetian Hotel, the Harold Lloyd Estate, Disneyland, The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, and Cunard’s Queen Elizabeth? Need another hint? “Men in Black,” “Spider-Man,” and “Pirates of the Caribbean”?

Give up? Four fabulous new murals now grace our beautiful children’s wing, and they were created by the same scenic artists whose spectacular artwork appears in the above-mentioned sites and productions - celebrated scenic artists Marion Dies and Marian Westall. Commissioned by the Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library and unveiled to great acclaim in May, the new murals enhance a space already replete with art commissioned and purchased by the Friends.

The first two murals adorn the entrance to our celebrated Enchanted Woods Room, which houses a collection of treasured children’s classics. One painting shows a girl immersed in her book beneath the shelter of a tree. In the other, a boy sits at the end of a dock enjoying his book and his dog. Time-tested themes and motifs of children’s literature appear as text in the background: “time travel,” “she was brave,” “full moon,” “cave,” and even “Enchanted Woods.”

The second two murals flank the entrance to the Children’s Reading Room. Both feature windows that frame their scenes. In the first, a gaggle of geese and a flock of books with covers spread like wings fly away through the window. In the other, sea turtles and books of adventure stream forward through the window.

After a rigorous search that drew submissions from artists far and wide, the Friends board unanimously chose “Marion and Marian” and the results speak for themselves.

These marvelous new murals stir the imagination, evoke the charm of childhood, and reflect the interplay of text and pictorial art so essential to children’s literature. We expect they will encourage the joy of reading for generations to come.
BARBARA: How did the summer programs go?

NANCY: Great! . . . more than 2000 participants. All the students who completed the program received credit and a medal from the school district to acknowledge their accomplishments. 200-400 children attended each Terrific Tuesday Program. The teens and tweens had a great time: they made LED bracelets and had a major paper airplane construction and flying contest. Three programs based on a video game called “Minecraft” were packed to the rafters. The teens also earned vital service credit in a volunteer program where Library Staff trained them to read with younger children.

BARBARA: Anything new in tech?

NANCY: Lots! We now provide WiFi printing at 30 cents per page. The upstairs auditorium will be getting a new audio-visual system. With funding from the Friends, the library is streaming videos on its website to those with a valid library card. The service is called “Indie Flicks” and features independent film festival winners. Library users can also access movies through “90210 To Go.” We can access complete magazine issues, with all of the accompanying photographs and graphics through a program called “Flipster.” We can even read Consumer Reports, which is a very expensive subscription.

BARBARA: Anything else new for fall?

NANCY: The big reading room is going to get all new furniture, new carpet and more electrical outlets for device use. Also, 5000 library card applications are being sent out, for each student in our school district. This fall, new teachers will have an orientation at the library, and so will parents. Library hours for fall will continue as before: 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Friday/Saturday and noon - 6 p.m. on Sunday. The Literacy Program is also up and going with new tutors trained and already matched up to adult learners. More tutors will be trained this fall.

BARBARA: And last but not least, what is that gorgeous tall object in the garden?

NANCY: Oh, that’s the “Center Obelisk” by Joan Brown. The Hilton Corporation bought it years ago to satisfy their fine art obligations to the City. When their headquarters building was sold, they placed the obelisk in the City’s art collection and endowed it with a very generous fund to restore, install and maintain it. When the restoration is complete, the City will host a dedication.
Hello From the President

I hope you had time this summer to visit our wonderful Beverly Hills Public Library and take advantage of the programs sponsored by the Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library. Maybe your child enjoyed one of the summer programs, either the ever-popular summer reading programs or one of the special music programs. Perhaps you participated in the afternoon event with local author Gina Nahai and Judith Palarz. Or maybe you found the library a refuge from hot summer days and just stopped in for a coffee and a good book. I hope you and your children or grandchildren visited the Children’s Library and viewed the lovely new murals decorating that space. The Friends are so pleased with the outcome of this special project, and this newsletter has an in-depth article on the project.

A new season means new activities and new books! The Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library will continue its slate of wonderful Fall programs - please join us!

Sincerely,

Monique Maas Gibbons

Prices Slashed.... Don’t Miss Out!

Are you already thinking about holiday gifts? Watch for the dates of our upcoming pre-holiday half-price sale, when nearly every book inside the store is priced at 50% off. And did you know that we hold special $1 sales every three months outside on the walkway to the Library? Smart shoppers snap up fiction, non-fiction, art catalogues and children’s books for a buck each.

All books are donated. (The library welcomes and will pick up large loads - call (310) 288-2271 for information and to schedule a pick-up.) Donors and buyers alike have the satisfaction of knowing that since the bookstore and the sales are all volunteer staffed, all proceeds benefit the Library in the form of children’s and adults’ programming, equipment and services.
The Children’s Library continues to offer many wonderful programs sponsored by the Friends, such as the popular Storytime Sessions oriented towards young children and their parents.

- The Storytime Sessions will be offered this fall in the mornings, starting Monday, September 28th until Thursday, November 19th.
- Beginning this fall, the Children’s Librarians will participate at the BH Farmers Market on the 4th Sunday of every month with a Story and Crafts booth.
- The Jim J’s Jukebox will also occur on September 16th, November 4th and December 2nd.
- The popular book club discussions led by Judith Palarz, will take place during the 3rd week of the month – Tuesday & Wednesday at 10:15 a.m. and Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

The book selections for the fall are the following: September - Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng; October – Euphoria by Lily King; and November – The Children Act by Ian McEwan.

Please Note: starting on Oct. 6th, The Friends Bookstore will be open on Tuesday evenings from 5:00 p.m. till 8:30 p.m.