

Del Mar Library

October 12, 1996 - Present

1996: Construction manager Joe Nelle leads the building remodel before the library moves in; his design maintains an allegiance to the original church design.

1997: Library receives Orchid Award for Historic Preservation from San Diego Architectural Foundation

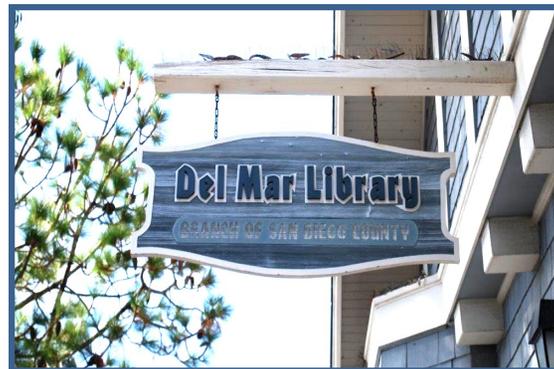
September 8, 1999: Mayor Richard Earnest hosts public art unveiling of local artist James T. Hubbell's "A River of Time." The bronze sculpture and garden are located on the library's west side.

June 7, 2003: Local artists and volunteers help create the mural on the library wall. The wall was constructed using brick, terra cotta tile, rocks, and found objects. Locals brought special objects like rocks, fossils, railroad spikes, horseshoes, dishes, and a piece of the Berlin Wall.

2009: The open patio on the building's south side is converted into the Community Room.

Fun Facts

- ◆ Mrs. E. J. Hindle, the first librarian, hosted the library in her house.
- ◆ Old Hollywood stars Bing Crosby and Pat O'Brien were ushers at St. James Roman Catholic Church. Celebrity attendees included Lucille Ball, Desi Arnaz, and Jimmy Durante.
- ◆ The original wood beams from St. James Church continue to grace the library ceiling.
- ◆ A piece of the Berlin Wall is cemented into the mural wall on the building's west side.
- ◆ Artist Pal Welsh, who designed the mural wall, later wrote "The Magic Mural and How it Got Built: A Fable for Children of All Ages," a book describing how she was inspired by the Santa Ana winds.



A History of the Del Mar Branch Library

1914-2016

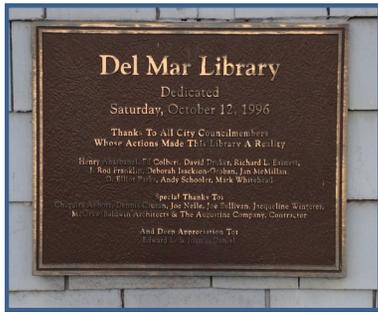


*Follow the library and
its various homes
through their century-
long evolution and
relocations throughout
the city of Del Mar.*

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The Life and Times of the Del Mar Library



Del Mar Library is established in a private home.

1914

Library moves to private residence of writer Lee Shippey, on the bluff north of 8th Street.

1924

Library relocates to 317 14th Street, where 1,400 square feet help meet the increasing demands of the community.

1961

Library moves to old Del Mar Plaza, into what was Zel's Liquor Store.

1971

Former location of St. James Church becomes occupied by **The Albatross Restaurant**, and the interior is redesigned. The lively establishment specializes in crab legs and features house jazz band Nova.

1970s-80s

St. James Roman Catholic Church founded at the site of what is now Del Mar Library. Church is designed by John Austin, who also designed the old Del Mar Hotel.

1917

Library is housed in a store.

Del Mar Library is run from a small room in the Jefferson Arcade, until 1950.

1938

St. James parish outgrows the building and moves to its current location in Solana Beach.

1966

Library moves to a trailer parked in the City Hall parking lot. This "temporary location" would actually house the library for 20 years.

1977

Del Mar Library finds a permanent home in former St. James Church.



1996

