

# El Segundo Herald

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## Inside This Issue

*Business & Professional*.....18

*Calendar*.....4

*Classifieds*.....17

*Crossword*.....17

*Dear Carol*.....4

*Frankly Plank*.....6

*Happy Tails*.....2

*Obituaries*.....3

*Open House Directory*.....13

*Pets*.....2

*Sports*.....6-8

## Weekend Weather Forecast

**Friday**

Mostly Cloudy

61°



**Saturday**

Mostly Cloudy

62°



**Sunday**

Partly Cloudy

64°



## Choir and Band Win Music Competition



El Segundo Middle School Show Choir with choir director Gianna Summers around their 1st place trophy after the award ceremony at Sea World.

## Author Fair Gets a Read on Mystery, Money

By Brian Simon

It's anyone's guess when the current recession will end, so it should come as no surprise that "Mysterious Happenings" and "Stretching Your Dollar" will be the panel themes at this year's El Segundo Author Fair. For the ninth annual installment of this popular local event, over 40 distinguished authors will be on-hand this Sunday (June 7) at the El Segundo Public Library (111 W. Mariposa Avenue) between 12:45 to 4:45 p.m. In addition to the mystery and finance writers, other participants will represent a variety of genres, including fiction, history, politics, medical, and children's books. The list of authors includes acclaimed mystery writers Harley Jane Kozak and Leslie Klinger, both of whom were panelists at the *Los Angeles Times*' Festival of Books event at UCLA in April, and Jeri Westerson, who has been nominated for a 2009 Macavity Award (Sue Feder Memorial Historical Mystery) for her book *Veil of Lies*. Other notables include well-known El Segundo-based author and poet Gabriel Meyer, and Jennie Nash, who has two new novels set in the South Bay.

As always El Segundo Mayor Kelly McDowell will serve as one of the panel moderators, this time focusing on texts with a fiscal frugality theme. "After hearing about our latest revenue estimates and what's happening with the State of California, I'm open to reading anything that'll help us cope better with the economy," said McDowell, an avid reader going back to his childhood. "One of the most money-saving and intellect-enhancing forms of entertainment you can find in bad economic times is reading a book, especially those from the library that cost nothing to read."

Despite a hectic schedule, McDowell manages to get through at least two books a month. Lately, that number has risen thanks

to a recent spate of back east plane trips. Yet the hours in the air haven't been the only reason for the increase in reading time. "I've been flying back to deal with my father's estate," he explained. "I'm inheriting a house with no TV, no radio and no phone line, but a ton of books..."

The Author Fair was the brainchild of current Library Director Debra Brighton back in 2001, and is co-sponsored by the Friends of the El Segundo Library and El Segundo Kiwanis Club. The event has grown in stature from its inception, now drawing over 700 attendees each year from all over the Los Angeles region as well as a talented cross-section of notable published authors from a multitude of genres.

McDowell's panel will take place from 1:15 to 2 p.m. in the Friends of the Library room. Former Library Public Services Manager Dina Cramer will return to her old stomping grounds to moderate the mystery panel from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Other festivities include author tables, book sales, goody bag giveaways and live musical performances on the main floor throughout the afternoon; a poetry reading moderated by Gabriel Meyer in the Rose Garden room from 1 to 3:30 p.m.; Young People's Program downstairs, including balloon art (12:45 to 4 p.m.), children's illustrator demonstration with author Deborah Nourse Lattimore (1:30 to 2 p.m.) and storytelling (3 p.m.). Also, kids and their

**See Author Fair, page 3**

## State of the City 2009

(Part one of two. Second part will be published next week)

Welcome. Welcome and thanks. First, thank you for coming. And special thanks to the table sponsors. Your participation makes the Chamber's work so much more effective and helps our city, too.

But most important, thank you for being such an important part of our community. We are very proud of each of you and hope that you are happy being a part of our town. Our strong sense of community - whether you live here, work here or both - is what makes El Segundo unique. You are vital in keeping our community strong and preserving our city's unique character.

Thanks especially to my colleagues on the city council. To Bill Fisher, for his extra efforts to balance community needs and financial desires about filming TV shows and movies in our city.

To Don Brann for his expertise in

education and kids in school. To Eric Busch for his concern about the environment and for finding real-world answers to conservation issues.

And to Carl Jacobson, for going to every meeting there is - period - and for being the bottomless pit of knowledge about El Segundo's history.

Thanks also to City Manager Jack Wayt and his staff. Council members come up with all these ideas, but they are the ones who make them work - or talk us out of them.

So, to butcher Charles Dickens' lead in *A Tale Of Two Cities*, this is neither the best of times, nor is it the worst of times in El Segundo. But it sure is different!

Our city, like the rest of planet Earth, is in the midst of what my sister, Tina, calls the Great Correction. It is profoundly affecting the lives of all of us here, all

**See State of the City, page 7**