

# District EXTRA



**Above, Margarita Rodriguez, a teacher at the Rosemount Center, an institution that provides bilingual education, reads to her students from "The Lion Who Saw Himself in the Water" by Idries Shah. Above left, Sandra Huerta and daughter Beatriz, 4, listen to Rodriguez. At left, Lesly Maradizaga, 4, peruses her own copy, given by Hoopoe Books.**

BY JAMES M. THRENER — THE WASHINGTON POST

## Bilingual Center Gets Books, CDs

Children at the Rosemount Center were given books and CDs on Monday by Hoopoe Books as part of an effort to encourage reading. The center provides bilingual educational services for preschool children and their parents, most of them immigrants from Spanish-speaking countries. In addition to books and CDs, Hoopoe Books provided the center with a curriculum guide for classroom use. Assistance for the book distribution was provided by the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of Share Literacy. Although based in Mount Pleasant neighborhood in Northwest, Rosemount is temporarily working out of Trinity College in Northeast.

## Liquor Rules Give Neighbors a Voice

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the local Advisory Neighborhood Commission; the Metropolitan Police Department; and the District and federal

## Bill Would Allow Direct Donations To City Libraries

LIBRARY, From Page 3

ed onto the library's budget. Until that happens, the library system does not have access to that money.

"If people are kind enough to donate, whether it be computers, books or money, the libraries ought to be able to utilize these gifts immediately," Mendelson said in an interview. "Currently, all gifts, indiscriminate of their origin or intent, must go through a lengthy and cumbersome review process by the [district government] before even reaching a library."

City officials said donors sometimes try to circumvent the system to get quicker use of their gifts. "Basically, you either cheat or go through a very laborious process," Mendelson added.

The Mendelson bill comes at a time when four branch libraries are being demolished and rebuilt at a total cost of about \$20 million in capital funds. The public library's operating budget has increased from \$28.3 million in 2003 to \$32.5 million this fiscal year, but the system's interim director, Francis Buckley Jr., says the libraries need more money.

"As a library, we receive more donations than other agencies," Buckley said in a written statement about Mendelson's bill. "With the major reconstruction of our libraries, having more methods of receiving gifts and being able to put them quickly to use by library service recipients would be beneficial."

The legislation, which has a half-dozen co-sponsors, would permit the library system to accept private gifts, except real estate. Any gift, grant or asset with a value of \$10,000 or more would have to be approved by the Board of Library Trustees.

Under the legislation, income and expenditures by the fund would be audited annually by the District's