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## Author Mitch Albom tours library

By Diane Bell

Tuesday with **Mitch Albom**.

**Dale Spector**, a library tour volunteer, spent part of Tuesday with the prizewinning author of “Tuesdays with Morrie.” Their discussion was not as wide ranging as the bedside philosophizing of Brandeis Professor **Morrie Schwartz**, but it could become every bit as inspirational.

You see, Albom may open a library.

He and his nonprofit S.A.Y. Detroit charity are investigating remodeling a Detroit library branch that has been shuttered and abandoned for 16 years, still loaded with books.

“I had heard the San Diego Library was on the cutting edge of new library approaches,” Albom emailed. “I was very impressed with what I saw and am taking back some great ideas that hopefully we can implement on a smaller scale in Detroit.”

Intrigued by the role of public-private partnerships in financing the new San Diego Central Library, the Detroit Free Press columnist and best-selling author is looking for ways to resurrect a facility that truly serves its community.



In this Nov. 7, 2013 file photo, author Mitch Albom is interviewed in Highland Park, Mich. about his drive to rebuild 10 libraries in a central Philippine city ravaged by Typhoon Haiyan in November. He pledged to raise \$160,000, starting with his own contribution of \$10,000 for the libraries. Albom is now focusing on renovating and reopening a closed library in Detroit. (AP Photo/Carlos Osorio) *The Associated Press*

He was impressed with the library's workforce development center and envisioned creating a job-hunting hub in the Detroit library, Spector said.

Albom also mentioned trying to replicate some of the features of San Diego's Sanford Children's Library, Foster Family Teen Center and Union Bank Homework Center, which bear the names of community benefactors.

The author's visit was low-key. "I saw him walk by my office and I said, 'Hey, that's Mitch Albom,'" commented library Marketing Director **Charlie Goldberg**.

Albom praised the library staff and volunteers for being "very open to exchanging ideas... I hope to talk to them again."