

A detail of the beautifully restored beams...make sure to look up when you visit!

**OPEN HOUSE:**

**An Early Chance to 'Check Out' Renovated Library**

By Jeff Lester

On January 20, 2010—ten days shy of the Bernal Library's grand opening—Friends of the San Francisco Public Library hosted a sneak peek open house of the renovated facility. While admirers and neighbors milled about, admiring the plethora of fine touches, from ornately redone crossbeams to the burnished glow of the new children's area, members of the San Francisco Public Library spoke quietly but proudly of the work put in behind the scenes.

"I keep pinching myself," said Children's Librarian Valerie Reichert as children dashed from shelf to shelf in the children's area, from old favorites to new. "Because we've been seeing [the construction] at every stage down the line, but now, seeing it all completed, it's like...wow!"

Reichert added, "Also, the collection has greatly expanded, and we have a substantially larger Spanish collection that I really want to daylight. The Mission branch manager, who's fluent in Spanish and orders all the books for the system, is going to come and work with me. We're going to weed out old stuff, and then we've ordered new ones to come in. So that's going to be really great."

Such work continued at the site even while Bernal branch was under construction. "While the library is closed," explained Brian Bannon, Chief of Branches, "everything that was on the shelves goes into boxes. But anything that anyone checked out, as it gets returned, we have to rebox. And over that year and a half period, the librarians are still buying books for the library. Just because it's closed, doesn't mean the collection isn't kept current. So then all of that has to get interfiled into the collection. Getting the old collection up on the shelves and then interfilling the new one is the tricky part. There's really two years worth of collections to get back up."

Although those involved spoke of the hard work, they also took the time to admire the results. "This [library] is one of my favorites because it goes back to the WPA era," said Luis Herrera, City Librarian, as the Bernality Jazz Trio played near the central check-out area. "So whenever we can restore a building to its original state and seismically enhance it, that's just amazing."

Bannon also added praise for returning branch manager Lisa Dunseth. "Since this branch has closed, Lisa has worked at the most locations. As we close branches, we distribute people out, leaving manager positions vacant all over the City. So she's been the acting manager at, I think, five different libraries." As the combo played and people moved from aisle to aisle, touching titles, Bannon looked in Dunseth's direction and smiled. "She's been a real superstar. We're so glad she finally gets to have her own library back." ■



City Librarian Luis Herrera, Chief of Branches Brian Bannon, and Bernal Heights Branch Manager Lisa Dunseth celebrate in the library's restored lobby



Supervisor David Campos with Ellie Rossiter



Bernality Jazz Trio: Michael Gold—saxophone; Ken Lengua—bass; Tom Hassett—drums



Darragh and Ciara Howard read Spongebob together



From Head to Toe Big Book sticks out its eponymous toe in the children's area



The happy finial



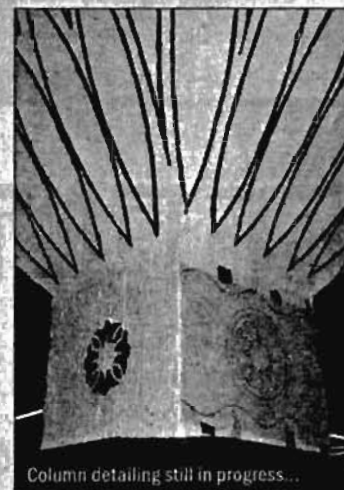
Children's Librarian Valerie Reichert



A brand-spankin' new Self Check-Out Station



l to r: Mia, Julia, and Sophie Smith (in hiding!) read alongside Julia Kirby



Column detailing still in progress...

**LIBRARY NOTES:**

**Grand Reopening of the Renovated Bernal Heights Branch Library, January 30, 2010**

The long-awaited reopening was held with much fanfare and fun. If you missed the party, please stop by to see for yourself our fabulous new library. We have added a day of service since the refurbishment: we will now be open on Mondays 10am-6pm.

**Hours:** Monday 10-6; Tuesday 10-9; Wednesday 1-9; Thursday 10-6; Friday 1-6; Saturday 1-6

**Phone:** 415-355-2810 as well as a new number for the Children's Room: 415-355-5663.

**Ongoing Programs**

Weekly Storytimes return to the library in February:

Wednesday Baby Bounce, 1:15pm  
Thursday Family Storytime, 10:15am

Origami Club returns Saturday, February 6, 2-5 pm, for their first Saturday of the month workshop—all ages and skill levels are welcome, but please bring your own paper.

**OWL: Older Writers Laboratory** returns Thursday, February 4, at 1:30pm for their weekly poetry group meeting.

**Bernal Book Group** returns on the fourth Thursday of the month at 4pm:

February 25, the title is *Confessions of Max Tivoli* by Andrew Sean Greer and



March 25, the title is *Hamlet* by Shakespeare. Congratulations to the Bernal Book Group—the March title will be their 200th—so come ready to celebrate.

**Special Events**

Wednesday, February 3, 7pm; **Bernal Heights Outdoor/Indoor Cinema** group presents the first of their "Best of Bernal" series.

Friday, February 5, 4pm; **Derrique McGee**, clown and hambone artist, presents a not-to-be-missed performance for the entire family.

Friday, February 12, 4pm; **San Francisco Blues Society**, presents "Blues in the Library," a hands-on demonstration for kids.

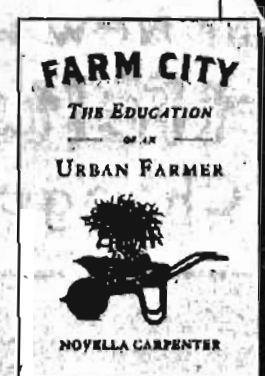
Tuesday, March 9, 6:30pm; **Urban Composting: Solutions for Your Organic Waste** with Amy Kessler.

Tuesday, March 16, 4pm; **Shadow Puppet Workshop** performs "Spin Me a Shadow, Tell Me a Tale" for all ages.

Wednesday, March 31, 7pm; **Novella Carpenter**, author of *Farm City* presents her fascinating adventures in ghetto gardening.

**Staff Recommends:**

Lisa and Valerie both recommend *Flight* by Sherman Alexie—maybe you will too. ■





MAR - 7 2010

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Mark Lane attended  
the re-open ceremony  
of Potrero Library

## 數百居民歡欣至 社區如享嘉年華

# Potrero圖書分館全新開幕

144  
修完工的三藩市Potrero圖書分館6日  
下午重新開幕。一時鑼鼓喧天，兩頭  
瑞獅舞動，數百居民興高采烈地參加了開幕  
典禮。圖書分館重新開放也成為當地社區的  
一場嘉年華會。 **本報記者黃偉江三藩市報導**

煥然一新的Potrero圖書分館是三藩市公共圖書  
館修整計劃中的第14個分館，位於1616 20街與  
Connecticut街相鄰。該館增加了33%以上的服務空  
間，透過圖書館的窗戶，美麗的城市景觀一覽無  
遺。昨天，不少市民排隊等待，為的就是要親身觀  
驗一下坐在沙發上享受城市景觀的感覺。  
出席落成典禮剪綵儀式的有來自市圖書館的代  
表路易斯·埃雷拉(Luis Herrera)、州參議員里諾  
(Mark Leno)、三藩市市參事麥斯威爾(Sophie



新落成的圖書館由各界人士一起為開幕剪綵(上圖)。右圖中可見是蜂擁而來的居民，圖書分館的重新開放成為當地社區的嘉年華會。 **記者黃偉江攝**

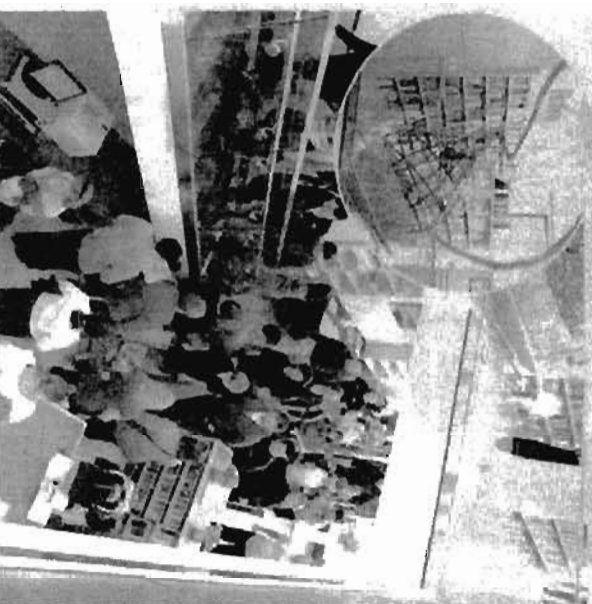
Maxwell)、工務局代表Ed Reiskin及城市和国家計劃部的官員。  
「建築面積擴大，我們迫不及待的讓該地區更多的家庭能享受知識的樂趣。」埃雷拉說。  
隨著科技的發展，圖書館內也更新了計算機、增設了視頻多功能室。該館的裝修達到抗地震的要求，有社區活動空間和兒童青少年的專用區域，還有貫穿一樓和二樓的表達過去、現在與未來概念的抽象雕塑，以體現Potrero地區獨特的自然和文化特色。

「通過圖書館的重建工程，不但為三藩市增加了就業機會。」工務局工程部主任Ed Reiskin說，「Potrero圖書館的重修方案，是在廣泛徵求社區意見基礎上的成果。」

該改善計劃的經費來自2006年11月選民通過的105.9百萬元債券，這項計劃是支持更新16個圖書館及新建的8個圖書館。Potrero圖書分館項目費用總計



約540萬元。在過去的兩年中，三藩市公共圖書館之友會一直在與社區居民和社區的合作，籌集資金，支持圖書館的修繕工程。他們聯同Potrero圖書分館運動委員會合作，募集到大約50萬元用於翻修家具、固定裝置和設備的費用，減少了債券的支付。



首日開幕就擠滿人的新圖書館。小圖為書架一樓和二樓的表達過去、現在與未來概念的雕塑。 **記者黃偉江攝**