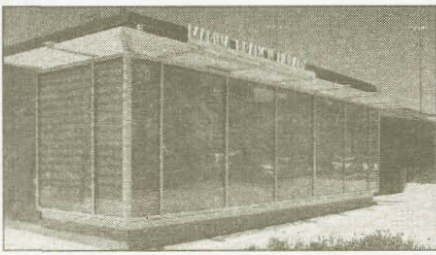


**Celebrating?** We want to hear from you! If you know of someone achieving a milestone in their life — a marriage, an anniversary, a scholarship, an honor — please let us know by sending an e-mail to [celebrations@examiner.com](mailto:celebrations@examiner.com)

## PUBLIC SPACES » ROSSITER DRAKE



Renovations at the Marina Branch Library were funded in part by voter-approved bonds. — Courtesy photo



Newsom



Alioto-Pier



Herrera

# Marina branch library reopens

Mayor Gavin Newsom, Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier and City Librarian Luis Herrera will open the doors to the newly renovated Marina Branch Library on Aug. 4. Lion dancers, musicians and children's entertainers will join in the celebration, which begins at 1 p.m.

The library, located at 1890 Chestnut St., is the fourth branch to be renovated under the Branch Library Improvement Program, which is funded by a \$105.9 million bond measure passed by voters in November 2000. Once considered a neighborhood treasure, it closed in 2005 to undergo a major renovation. Now, visitors will enjoy a newly enclosed glass reading area, a revamped children's room, a designated spot for teens and improved public restrooms. The library is now seismically safe, fully accessible and technologically updated with new computers and free Wi-Fi Internet access.

The enclosed reading area, located at the front of the building, will shower visitors with light and offer patrons a comfortable place to read and study. It will contain new stacks on wheels, which can be moved to allow more space for author readings, book club meetings and other library programs and events.

San Francisco-based architectural firms Tom Eliot Fisch and Field Paoli took great care to preserve the modernist characteristics of the single-story, ranch-style building, which was constructed in 1954 and features exposed interior and exterior brick masonry and beamed ceilings. In designing the renovation, architects made sure to retain the 1950s feel of the original structure, while "bringing the facility into the 21st century in terms of energy conservation, accessibility to all users, changes in library service and greater visibility in the community," according to Field Paoli architect Mark Schatz.

Over the last two years, Friends of the San Francisco Public Library has been working in partnership with neighborhood residents and communities to raise funds, awareness and support for the branch improvements. The organization has contributed \$500,000 toward the Marina Branch Library renovations, financing furnishings, fixtures and equipment — expenses not covered by the bond. Of the \$500,000, \$160,168 was raised by the Marina Library Campaign Committee. The Committee's total fundraising goal is \$200,000.

