

LIBRARY NEWS

POTRERO BRANCH
1616 20th St. / 355-2822

Closed Sunday and Monday
Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm
Wednesday: 12 noon - 8 pm
Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm
Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm
Saturday: 1 pm - 6 pm



Jensa Woo, Potrero Branch Library Manager

COMPUTER RESOURCES AT THE LIBRARY

People ask us about using the Internet. We get questions such as, "How do I get onto the Internet?" or "How do I do e-mail?" While our branch staff can give brief on-ramp computer assistance in getting on to the Internet, the Main Library (located at 100 Larkin Street at Grove in Civic Center) offers free classes that cover various aspects of the Internet, ranging from using the library's online catalog and databases to using the Internet for subject searches or e-mail. Classes are conducted at the Main Library, are either hands-on training or lecture style, and generally are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The training schedules are printed each month and available for pick-up at all library locations and also are published in each monthly issue of *At the Library*. For further information, please call 415.557.4400 or check our website at www.sfpl.org (click on "Classes"). Note: basic computer keyboard and mouse skills are required for all sessions. If you have never used a keyboard or mouse, the Main Library has volunteers available to help acquaint you with the basic skills; contact Volunteer Services at 415.557.4280 for information and a schedule of practice times.

AND OTHER RESOURCES AT THE LIBRARY

Here at Potrero Branch, we subscribe to over 90 magazine and newspaper titles! Stop by the library to peruse the latest (or back) issues. While you're here, take a look at the educational CD-ROM sets in the children's section—these can be borrowed and used on your family's home computer.

CAN YOU HELP US?

We are in need of one or two volunteers to help us transport on a regular basis donated materials to the Friends of the Library's Book Bay location at Fort Mason. If you are available to help us in this way, please contact me at 415.355.2855.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN IN JANUARY

Come and join us as we welcome in the Year of the Boar (lunar year 4705) with the Chinese Lion Dance on Saturday, January 13 at 3 p.m. For children of all ages. This program is made possible by funding from the Friends of the Library.

There are also other programs for children throughout the month:

- Infant/toddler lapsit, featuring stories, songs, and rhymes on Thursdays, January 4, 18, and 25 at 10:30 a.m. For children newborn through age 3.
- Evening storytimes on Tuesday, January 2, 23, and 30 at 7 p.m. For ages 3 to 7 years old.
- Evening films on Tuesday, January 9 at 7 p.m. Scheduled to be shown are *The Snowy Day*, *The Beast of Monsieur Racine*, and *Where the Wild Things Are*. For ages 3 and older.

Please note: All library programs are free. Meeting room is not accessible by elevator. Groups, please call in advance for reservations.

Library to be Renovated

By Harry J. Johnson

This spring the Potrero Hill Library will close for renovation, reopening in early-2009.

"We are recommending locals use other branches during the closure," said branch manager Jensa Woo, "specifically the new Mission Bay branch at 4th Street and Berry. The children's programs will continue in local neighborhood centers. We will also be setting up bookmobile service with a regular location and hours."

The Potrero Hill Library, San Francisco's third branch, opened in 1888. The existing building dates from 1951. Woo said the renovation will make the library seismically safe, and fully accessible to disabled persons, including restrooms, stairs and an elevator. Responding to community requests, she added, a new meeting room will be available for neighborhood groups and clubs.

"There will be an expanded second floor and a new designated teen area," she said. "The design will maximize use of natural light, including a new atrium and skylight. We will have new furniture, with comfortable seating options for quiet reading and studying. New computers will also be added as well as wireless Internet access."

Other benefits of the renovation include an enlarged second floor with views of the City, a children's area, new furniture, shelving and displays,

greater access to library online resources, an improved heating system, natural ventilation and more space for public art.

The Potrero Hill branch has a history of supporting the arts. "What's distinctive about our branch is the annual art show, which was started in 1955 by concerned citizens," said Woo. "We have it in the spring, normally, but there will be no show this year because of the closure."

Although the Potrero Hill branch will be closed for nearly two years, no jobs will be lost. "All of library staff will be reassigned, no one will be laid off," said Woo. "For some it may be working on the bookmobile. I will continue to work with the children's program in local neighborhood centers. We have received a lot of comments from neighborhood folks about how they will miss the library. But the renovation will put the library in a better place to serve the community. The staff will miss the library, too!"

To help celebrate the reopening in 2009, Gina Telcocci, a sculptor from Oakland, will create a new work for the branch. Telcocci works with plants and other natural materials to create organic sculptural forms. She received the commission by winning an art competition that was juried by a neighborhood artist selection panel.



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