



## LIBRARIES OF SAN FRANCISCO



ANZA



BAYVIEW



BERNAL HEIGHTS



CHINATOWN



EUREKA VALLEY



EXCELSIOR



GLEN PARK



GOLDEN GATE VALLEY



INGLESIDE



MAIN



MARINA



MERCED



MISSION



MISSION BAY



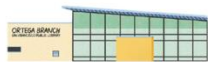
NOE VALLEY



NORTH BEACH



OCEAN VIEW



ORTEGA



PARK



PARKSIDE



PORTOLA



POTRERO



PRESIDIO



RICHMOND



SUNSET



VISITACION VALLEY



WEST PORTAL



WESTERN ADDITION

# Council of Neighborhood Libraries

In service to San Francisco Public Library since 1988.

Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor  
Chief of Branches  
January 16, 2025



# Origin Story

Val Matthews of Penrose Properties volunteered her leaf-letting crew to distribute the News door-to-door throughout the neighborhood. As we go to press, we are not sure whether this will continue, but we are very grateful to Val for having undertaken this monumental task for as long as she has.

The News can always use assistance, particularly in finding new advertisers, articles, technical skills (editing, graphics, computer know-how, etc.) so we can continue to keep you informed about the past, present and future of Glen Park, our very special 'urban village' within our very special San Francisco.

## CHECK IT OUT! News from Glen Park Branch Library

Glen Park Branch Librarian Martin Magid reports the Main Library re-opened for business in mid-January, restoring all of the SFPL staff and systems to a more normal state. Meanwhile, plans for the new Main proceed and ground-breaking should take place in 1990, with doors opening in 1995.

Threatening noises are once again circulating about the Library's FY 90-91 budget, and both Mayor Art Agnos and the Board of Supervisors' Finance Committee (Nancy Walker, Chair) should be informed of the importance of this branch to the people of Glen Park. Crank up your typewriters, and be ready to unleash a series of letters!

Closer to home, ABRACADADA Rubber Stamp Company will present a program for children (happily, of all ages) at the Glen Park Branch on Thursday, April 12th (during school vacation) at 3:30 p.m. Given that space is limited in our little branch, be early. Extremely short people (those under age 8) will be allowed up front.

Many new titles are coming in to our Branch this month and next, so be sure to stop by. Remember, we have to keep our circulation numbers high to ensure we have a branch library in the future. Isn't it wonderful that doing one's civic duty is such a pleasure?

## Council of Neighborhood Library News

Carol Steiman, our delegate to the Council, reports that slowly but surely the City is figuring out just what a powerful group branch library patrons can be, particularly when it comes to lobbying. This power was demonstrated last year during the budget-making process, when the City attempted to cut book-buying funds by \$250,000. Virtually all of that was restored, because of major arm-twisting carried out by Council members. This year, they relearned the lesson when attempts to close the Presidio Branch Library (under the guise of earthquake storage needs) was met by a barrage of outcry, coordinated by the Council.

Gradually, Library administration is also figuring out that

the Council need not be regarded as the enemy. Not only are they useful as lobbyists, they genuinely care about libraries. It's just that the Council brings a consumer's perspective to library issues, and that's something new to the service providers.

This year, the Council will focus on preserving the library's budget, particularly basic items like books, and on nudging administration to be more consumer-oriented. In other words, more evening hours, more programs, more books that people want. The GPA is indeed fortunate to have such a dedicated and articulate champion for our branch in Carol Steiman. She's a scrapper!

It's also worth noting that the Council came into being after a suggestion by The GPA. Following the Great Library Fight of 1988 when we came within a hair's breadth of losing our branch entirely, The GPA suggested to Mayor Agnos that since we in the neighborhoods had become essentially instant experts on the subject of library financing, it would be a shame to let all that knowledge go to waste. Why not, therefore, set up a forum where neighborhood library users could maintain a dialogue with library administration, to our mutual benefit. Mayor Agnos agreed, contacted City Librarian Ken DowLin, and the Council of Neighborhood Libraries came into being. We can all be proud.

## The State of the State Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods

by Jay Estey

The latter half of 1989 and the first months of this year have been characterized by internal dialogue at assembly meetings, which hopefully will result in a period of renewed growth for the Coalition. Disagreements over the present style of leadership have caused some dissension, the resolution of which is pending as of this writing. A number of organizations have expressed disappointment that the major issues which currently confront our city are not being addressed in a timely manner by the Coalition. Concerns have been voiced over what is perceived to be a continuing struggle to determine whose interpretation of parliamentary procedure will be deemed appropriate.

It's my feeling that the apparent leadership vacuum of the last few months will ultimately draw out some of the untapped resources of the Coalition. Elections are scheduled for May, and the nominating committee will be selected at the next monthly meeting. The assembly will be much less likely to sit by and watch as another potentially divided Executive Committee is created. We have been informed in these last months, and hopefully we can emerge with more strength and enthusiasm to direct at the major issues confronting our neighborhoods.

In the late 1980s, threats of branch closures due to budget cuts became the call to action for library advocates and power users throughout who fought to keep branch libraries open.

In 1990, Hope Hayes, Chief of Branches, brought together this broad group of neighborhood library supporters at the request of the City Librarian. In the Council, these activists found a forum where they could voice their strong opinions about library policies and services. From there, the Council became a rallying force for neighborhood and city-wide support for the branches.

Council members were instrumental in fighting branch closures and the diminution of library programs and services. They worked tirelessly in their neighborhoods for the passage of Prop E in 1994 to ensure "more hours and more books."

# Mission Statement

To create a public library system that best meets the needs of San Franciscans, the CNL promotes dialogue among and between Branch Libraries, San Francisco neighborhoods, and library and city decision-makers by:



Promoting public awareness about the library system and its services



Identifying and championing branch needs and working to resolve issues



Acting as a conduit for neighborhood input



*Adopted August 30, 2001*

# Branch Champions



# Community Connectors



# Thank You

## Council of Neighborhood Libraries, 1988

The original Council include the following: Jean Amos, Ann Anderson, Betsey Bannerman, Janet Berenson, Connie Blanding, Miriam Blaustein, Mary Jo Brazil, Sally Brunn, Bill Carpenter, Sue Cauthen, Angela Chen, Margaret Coughlin, Marcia DeHart, Mirian Gray, Andrew Grimstad, Mario Guzman, Virginia Hanley, Anna Ruth Kipping, Vernon Kipping, Carolyn Kleymeyer, Maylian Lee, Lucretia Levinger, DeEtte Loubell, Carol O'Toole, William Park, Jean Parrott, Susan Poole, Rebecca Radner, Martin Ravn, Marilyn Sachs, Sark, William Schaefer, Pat Speulda, Ruth Spolum, Carol Steiman, Landis Whistler, Naomi Williams, Colleen Wong, Amy Tan, Chune Lee, Harriet Fielding, Stephen Pantos, Judy Baston, Carolene Marks, Idelle Rubino, Eleain Fuchs, Richard Rafael, Jeanne Sommer, Morris Sachs, Quincy Norris, Susan Sobel-Feldman and Doris Sanchez.

Other members became active in the early 1990s: Judy Baston, Karen Bevelander, Karen Crommie, Dorothy Danielson, Ella Driscoll, Ellen Egbert, Tiffany Farr, Harriet Fielding, Barbara Gersh, Julie Kavanaugh, Caroline Kleymeyer, Marty Koshuba, Miriam Pavis, Larry Ware and Dr. Rose Resnick. Two Council members, Carol Steiman and Karen Crommie, later serve as Library Commissioners.

