



San Francisco Public Library

MINUTES
Council of Neighborhood Libraries
March 19, 2026, 4:00 p.m.
CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Location: Presidio Branch Library
Facilitator: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor

CNL Members			
Tom Gorrebeeck (ANZ)	x	Rasa Gustaitis (NVA)	
Toni Hines (BAY)	x	Helen Land (NBE)	x
Katherine Hsieh (CHI)	x	Nicky Trasvina (OVI)	
Henry Roark (EVA)	x	Johanna Lopez Miyaki (OVI)	x
Marcia Parrot (EXC)		Edna James (OVI)	
Nora Dowley (GPA)		Chuck Moody (ORT)	x
Lindy Chris (GPA)	x	Marcia Erlich (PAR)	
Chloe Rounsley (GGV)		Diane Silver (PAR)	x
Leonie van den Berg (GGV)	x	Lily Li (PSI)	x
Sonia Moscardon (ING)	x	Jon Logan (POR)	x
Ed Connor (ING)	x	Peter Linenthal (POT)	
Deirdre Merrill (MAR)	x	Jessica Hyman (POT)	x
Phil Lesure (MAR)		Julia Anaya (RIC)	
Judy Blanchard (MER)	x	Tara Cahn (RIC)	x
Kathy Mallegni (MER)	x	Deborah Oppenheim (SUN)	x
Sharon Chien (MBA)		Julia Gitis (WPO)	x
Janie Alcindor (MBA)		Monica Herbert (WSA)	x
Ruth Maginnis (NVA)	x	Crystal Lê (WSA)	

COB Office			
Christy Estrovitz	x	Anne Vannucchi	
Ana Elisa de Campos Salles		Denise Sanderson	x
Genevieve Feldman	x	Florinda Battad	x
Regan Gong		Michael Roman	x

Library Administrators: Michael Lambert (City Librarian), Dolly Goyal (Chief of Public Services),
Margot Shaub (Library Commission Analyst)

Guests: Jessica Parker (Friends of SFPL)

Housekeeping

Upcoming Meetings

- The next **Library Commission meeting** will be on **Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 4:30 p.m., Hybrid (In-person and Virtual)**.
- The next **Council of Neighborhood Libraries Meeting** will be on **Thursday, April 23, 2026, 4:00 p.m., Virtual**

Announcements

Upcoming Open Houses

- March 28 – Presidio Branch
- April 18 – West Portal Branch
- April 25 – Visitacion Valley Branch

City Librarian's Report – Michael Lambert

Mission Branch Update

- The opening date has been pushed out to early fall because of issues with PG&E and the contractor.
- A substantial amount of the work will be finished by August 13, with all work finishing on October 12.

Chinatown Branch Update

- The bid process is taking longer because there has been a lot of interest and questions from prospective contractors.
- No update on the when the Chinatown temporary site at 950 Grant Avenue will open. In the meantime, there will be pop-up activations at the temporary site.

Ocean View Branch Update

- The Library is looking at the Pilgrim Community Church on 400 Randolph Street as a site for the new Ocean View Branch.
- San Francisco Real Estate is having active discussions with the reverend of the church to acquire the property.

[One Book, One Coast: They Called Us Enemy](#)

- One Book, One Coast (OBOC) is a new multi-state community reading initiative with 140 libraries along the West Coast participating.
- The inaugural selection is [They Called Us Enemy](#), a graphic memoir by George Takei that recounts his childhood experience of being in a Japanese internment camp during World War II.
- A conversation with the author will stream live on May 31 (2-4 pm) at the Main Library, Chinese Center.

Q&A

- **Lindy (Glen Park) – Where does the money for the Library come from?**
Lambert – Library services are primarily paid for with taxes; 2.5 cents for every \$100 of assessed property tax is dedicated to the Library Preservation Fund. The Library also gets some money from the General Fund and has received about \$13 million from grant funding. During better times, the Library has been saving its money and can fully fund its projects - we've saved \$42 million for the Ocean View Branch renovation. We are also supported by the Friends of

SFPL. Their fundraising efforts help to buy furnishings for newly renovated branches and pay for programs.

- **Lindy (Glen Park) – The Friends no longer have their book sale at Aquatic Park. Will they have it at another location?**

Lambert (LIB)– The book sales aren't huge money makers, so probably not.

- **Henry (Eureka Valley) – Other libraries in cities like San Francisco, sell library merchandise. Has the Library considered branded merchandise as a revenue stream?**

Parker (Friends) – Yes, we were inspired by the New York Public Library and are in the final design stages of creating a Mission Branch specific line of merch. If it is well received, we'll use it as a basis to create merch for other branches. Commissioner Jones has a merchandising background and has been sharing her ideas with us.

Library Commission Report – Margot Shaub

- [Archived Library Commission Meetings](#)
- The upcoming April 16 meeting will include presentations on:
 - Branch Division by Rebecca
 - Financial Capability Month
 - Night of Ideas (April 11)
 - National Library Week / 30th Anniversary of the Main (April 19-25)
- [Night of Ideas](#)
 - Saturday, April 11 with programs in the Main Library, Fulton Plaza and the Asian Art Museum
 - Afternoon of Ideas has family programs from 3-6pm
 - Night of Ideas is open from 6:30 – Midnight
 - Activities include panels, music, food trucks, local small business marketplace and a light show.

Friends Update – Jess Parker

- For the moment, the Library Preservation Fund is in good shape and will not be affected by reforms to the City Charter.
- The Friends will remain vigilant at City meetings and keep CNL updated.

Partnering with Department of Elections – Genevieve Feldman

- There will be two upcoming elections this year: Primary Election on June 2nd and Midterm Elections on November 3rd.
- Chosen by the Department of Elections, fourteen branch libraries will serve as polling locations.
- After-hours program rooms are meeting rooms where the public can access them without entering the library. Sites with after-hours program rooms do not need library staffing. Sites without after-hours program rooms require library staffing as early as 6am and as late as 10pm.

SFPL Branches that host Polling Sites



Sites Staffed by SFPL Staff	Sites with independent election use
Anza Branch	Bernal Heights Branch
Glen Park Branch	Ingleside Branch
Golden Gate Valley Branch	Noe Valley Branch
Ocean View Branch	North Beach Branch
Richmond Branch	Ortega Branch
Western Addition Branch	Park Branch
	Presidio Branch
	Visitation Valley Branch

- Some branch libraries have ballot drop off boxes.

Ballot drop off boxes at library branches



Supervisorial District	Library Branch
1	Richmond
2	Golden Gate Valley, Presidio
3	North Beach
4	Ortega, Parkside, Sunset
5	Park, Western Addition
6	Mission bay
7	Ingleside, Merced
8	Glen Park, Noe Valley
9	Bernal Heights, Portola
10	Bayview, Visitation Valley
11	Excelsior, Ocean View

- The Department of Elections tables at library events and open houses to do voter outreach.

Q&A

- **Judy (Merced) – What election materials can/cannot the branches provide?**
Feldman – The Library only provides voter registration forms. We don't provide materials advocating for candidates or measures that are on the ballot.
- **Lindy (Glen Park) – Who picks up the ballots?**
Feldman – The Department of Elections staff, accompanied by a sheriff, picks up the ballots.
Alcalá-Veraflor – We work with the Department of Elections to make sure that there is no tampering with the ballots.
- **Katherine (Chinatown) – How do you handle vandalism on the ballot boxes?**
Feldman – Let us know if you notice vandalism on the ballot boxes, and we will let the Department of Elections know.

- **Henry (Eureka Valley) - Can the Friends share any advocacy materials they have for the library fund when they meet with supervisors, so that we can do the same informally in our networks?**
Parker – We don't have anything printed, but you can direct folks to our website for information on the Library Preservation Fund and its importance:
<https://www.friendssfpl.org/impact.html>
- **Katherine (Chinatown) – Given the size, how will the Chinatown temporary site host programs and events?**
Alcalá-Veraflor – We typically work with our partners to host large library programs and events off-site. We have monthly meetings with the Committee for Better Parks and Recreation in Chinatown (CBPRC) to talk about using spaces in the community for programs.
- **Lindy (Glen Park) – There was a story in the news recently about librarians providing books in the jails.**
Estrovitz – Here is the link to the story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/sanfrancisco/video/san-francisco-jail-library-program-a-model-for-other-jails/>
Alcalá-Veraflor – We can invite the librarians from the Jail and Reentry Services (JARS) to present at a future CNL meeting.

Adjournment: 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Florinda Battad