

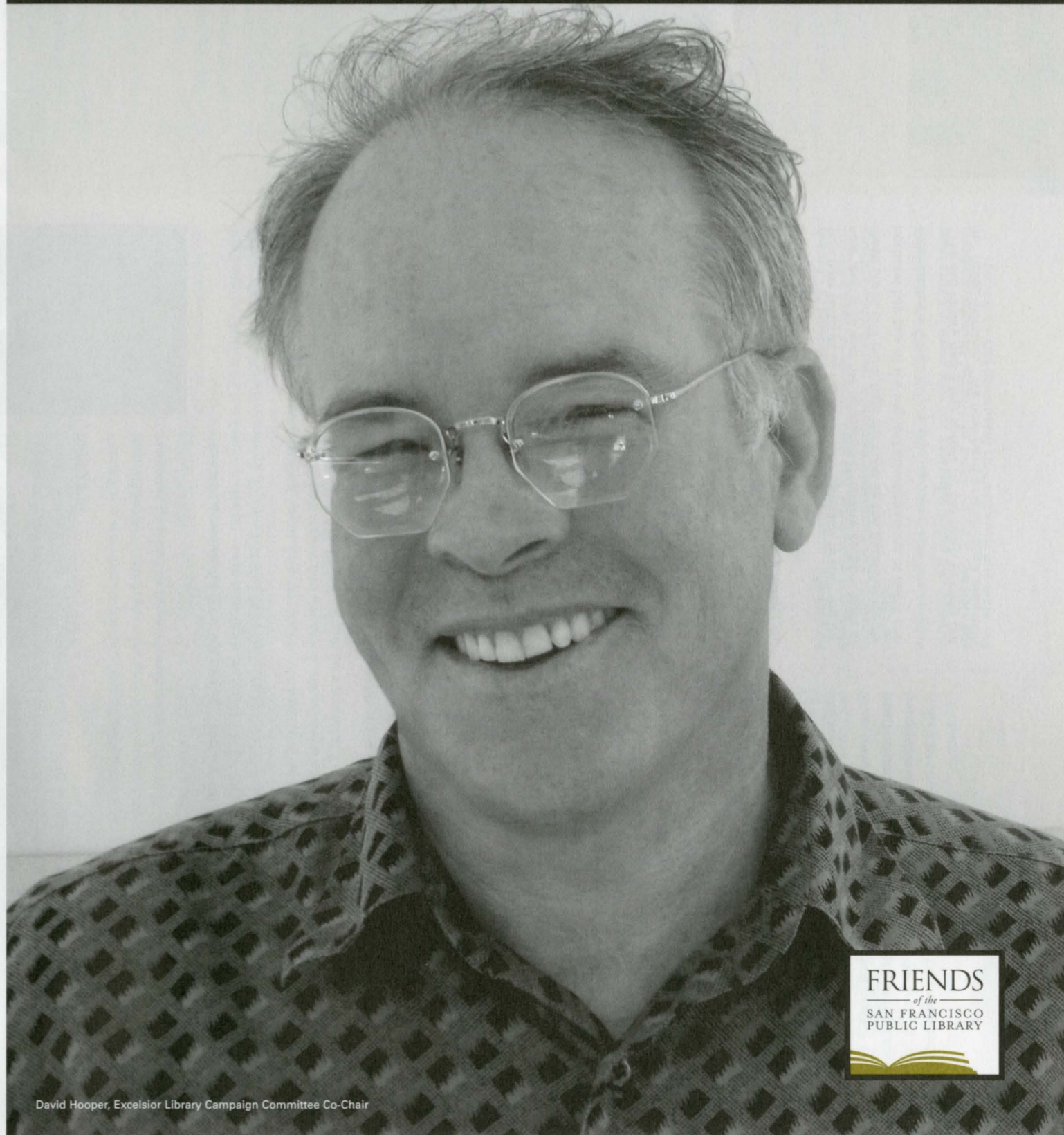
OUR BOARD

- CHAIR**
Rea Campbell
- VICE CHAIR**
Nancy Farese
- SECRETARY**
Ellen Heffelfinger
- TREASURER**
Darin Buchalter
- DIRECTORS**
Eleazar Aramburo
Matt Bissinger
David Duncan
Peter Ginsberg
Steve Harris
Douglas King
Forest Koenig
John Maccabee
Steve Martinez
Anthony J. Moore
Greg Pennington
Janice Gow Petty
Hilary Pierce
Rona Sandler
Bob Shultz
Camilla Smith
Martha Sullivan
John Templeton
Mark Vogel
Richard Walsh

AMONG FRIENDS

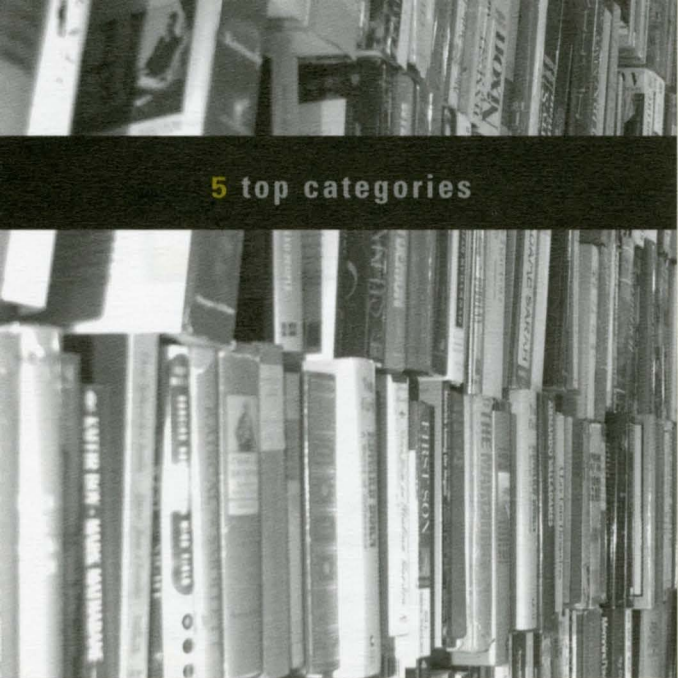
SUMMER 2005

WHAT'S INSIDE: EXCELSIOR! • GREAT GRANTS • ONE CITY ONE BOOK



David Hooper, Excelsior Library Campaign Committee Co-Chair





5 top categories

FRIENDS IN THE COMMUNITY

Supporting a Superior, Free Library

“Without a library, how can you have a community?”

Claire Zvanski, Excelsior Library Honorary Campaign Committee

FRIENDS RAISING FUNDS

Library Laureates 2005



The 2005 Library Laureates Dinner honored over thirty outstanding authors, including Andrew Sean Greer, Jane Hirschfield, Deborah Santana (left) and Tobias Wolff. The unique night allowed readers the opportunity to dine and converse with their favorite authors, while also raising much-needed funds for the San Francisco Public Library. This year’s event has been a great success, raising over \$220,000 for vital Library programs!

from the executive director



Dear Friends,

What a summer!

A revitalized and renewed Excelsior Branch Library is now open for business. It looks amazing and it will be the first of many new

and improved branch libraries that will help reinvigorate our neighborhoods.

Many thanks to our Excelsior Branch Library Campaign Committee who did a wonderful job of energizing the Excelsior community and raising significant funds to provide their branch with new furniture and computers.

We are also pleased to announce that, starting in July, Friends will begin to disperse \$750,000 in new grants to the San Francisco Public Library to fund programs and services for the coming fiscal year. These dollars help fill the gap between what San Franciscans need from their libraries and what the city can provide and ensure that vital programs like Summer Reading, High School and Beyond and Project Read continue.

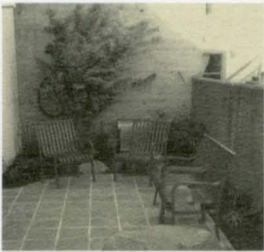
When combined with our Neighborhood Library Campaign support, Friends will provide the San Francisco Public Library with \$2.5 million in direct funding over the next twelve months. This critical support is made possible through the generosity of our members and donors.

And don’t forget to pick up your copy of *China Boy* by Gus Lee, the One City One Book choice for 2005. It’s the one book that everyone will be reading this fall. It’s moving, funny, and heart-breaking all at once, and it takes place in San Francisco. You can purchase a copy now at one of our two bookstores or check it out from your local library.

Thank you so much for your support of Friends and the San Francisco Public Library, and have a wonderful summer. See you at the library!

Donna Bero
Executive Director

We did it! From generous individual gifts to wonderful events to penny jars at neighborhood businesses; we left no stone unturned to help raise funds and awareness of the Excelsior Branch Library renovation. It is now time to celebrate the historic opening of our first renovated branch library!



“We are beginning a great renaissance for the San Francisco public library system,” said Donna Bero, Friends executive director. “The Excelsior branch is the first in what will be many renewed and improved libraries that will help revitalize our neighborhoods and benefit so many in our community.”



Since its closure in November 2003, the Excelsior branch has received a complete makeover including improvements for seismic safety as well as Americans with Disabilities Act compliance. The children and teen sections have been relocated and expanded and there is a new, flexible program room for after school homework, computer training, small group meetings or other programs.

Thanks to Friends and a generous outpouring of community support, the Excelsior branch’s interior has also been completely revitalized with all new furniture and new computers with access to the internet and library online resources.

People Make it Happen



Volunteer Extraordinaire Richard Colin

For fifty years Richard Colin has lived in the Excelsior and for most of those years he spent his time working hard at San Francisco General Hospital. Since his retirement four years ago though, Richard has been working hard for his neighborhood—especially the renewed and improved Excelsior Branch Library.

“I became involved because I wanted to help create something modern and new for the neighborhood,” Richard said. “Every neighborhood needs a nice library. I’m really happy with how ours turned out.”

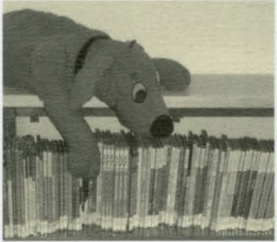
Richard is a member of the Excelsior Branch Library Campaign Committee, a collection of fourteen dedicated individuals who have worked tirelessly on their own and as a team for the past two years to raise the private funds needed to pay for the new furniture, fixtures and equipment in the branch.

“I’ve met a wonderful group of people,” Richard said. “Everyone has worked very hard to make this happen.” Richard’s hard work included—with help from his sister Delia—small things such as providing refreshments for almost all the committee meetings to generous acts like buying forty Excelsior calendars for his friends and neighbors.

“Richard rocks,” said Marian Chatfield-Taylor, Friends’ capital campaign manager and staff liaison to the committee. “He’s quiet about his support for the library, but he’s steady and generous with his time and contribution. It’s the hard work of unassuming people like Richard that makes this campaign so special and so successful.”

Ultimately, Richard says he will be happiest when he sees the results of his efforts first hand. “I used to see so many kids in the old library,” he said. “It gives you a good feeling to help reopen a wonderful library that kids and seniors and all the people in the neighborhood will be able to use and enjoy.”

A Great Place for Young People



The reopening of the Excelsior Branch has generated some serious buzz from an unlikely source. “I’ve had a lot of teens in the neighborhood ask me when the Library is going to open,” said Dominic Scappaticci, the Excelsior teen librarian.

“They are very excited about the new branch. It will be a great place for them to hang out.”

Two new features of the renovated Excelsior Branch are the new teen area and the relocated children’s section. Both of these areas will be in high demand as the Excelsior neighborhood has one of the highest concentrations of teens and children in the City.

“The old library had a tiny corner for the teens to hang out in,” noted Dominic. “We now have a much larger area with

teen books and magazines and plenty of computers near by.” An Excelsior Teen Advisory council will help select the materials for the new space and Dominic anticipates plenty of activity in the Teen Area this summer including a new DJ program and book groups.

While teens will be at one end of the library, younger children have their own new space at the opposite end. “I’m probably most excited about the new children’s area,” said Terry Gwiazdowski, the Excelsior branch manager. “We moved it from the front of the library to the back, right next to our new program room. It can accommodate more kids and we’ll be able to keep an eye on them.”

Close proximity to the program room will make it easier for kids and parents to attend library programs like Lapsits and Storytimes and other special events at the branch. Terry concluded by saying: “It’s really going to be a wonderful space for children.”

FRIENDS RAISING VOICES

Library Legislative Day 2005

One of Friends’ many charges is to increase the amount of government funding directed toward the City’s libraries. On April 20th, more than twenty Friends traveled to Sacramento to meet with State officials as part of Library Legislative Day, sponsored by the California Library Association. Friends met with Assemblymember Leland Yee and representatives from Mark Leno’s office as well as representatives from State Senators Jackie Speier and Carole Migden’s offices. We let them know about the great things happening in our neighborhoods and we thanked them for their successful support of our Proposition 14 applications last fall, which resulted in \$9.7 million in restoration funds for San Francisco’s libraries.

FRIENDS OF THE LITERARY COMMUNITY

Remembering Hunter S. Thompson



In May, Friends and the San Francisco Public Library hosted a special tribute for the late, great journalist and author Hunter S. Thompson (left). Friends, colleagues, and fans flocked to the Koret Auditorium of the San Francisco Main Library to praise, vilify and memorialize the life and the work of Hunter S. Thompson. Thanks to all who attended!

FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

Volunteer Close Up



After 10 years of dedicated work (and many more years as a volunteer), Patricia Coyle (left) has retired from her role as volunteer manager at Friends. Patricia will spend her well deserved

free time traveling and tending to her garden. She might even be back as a volunteer one day. Patricia’s last act for Friends was to hire her replacement, Mozetta Jackson. Thanks to Patricia for her years of outstanding service to Friends and welcome Mozetta!

“The Excelsior branch is the first in what will be many renewed and improved libraries that will help revitalize our neighborhoods and benefit so many in our community.” –Donna Bero

Private funds were needed to furnish and equip the branch as they were not paid for by the Branch Library Improvement Program, the 2000 bond measure that provides for the branch’s structural renovation. Friends partnered with a group of neighborhood residents who formed the Excelsior Branch Library Campaign Committee to raise the needed funds.

“I’m proud of our partnership with Friends and the neighborhood,” noted Terry Gwiazdowski, the Excelsior branch

manager. “And I really appreciate their efforts in spearheading the Excelsior campaign.”

The community also played a key role in the development of the new branch by participating in a needs assessment analysis, taking a vocal and active role at several community design meetings, and helping to ensure appropriate interim services for the community while the branch was closed.

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF OUR RENEWED AND IMPROVED EXCELSIOR BRANCH LIBRARY!
SATURDAY, JULY 9TH, 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. EXCELSIOR BRANCH, 4200 MISSION STREET WWW.FRIENDSSFPL.ORG

Friends Provides \$750,000 in Grants to the San Francisco Public Library

Friends is dedicated to supporting creative, high-quality programs at our public libraries and to fill the gap between what San Franciscans need from their libraries and what the city can afford to provide. In that spirit, Friends announces an award of \$750,000 in new grants to the San Francisco Public Library for their coming fiscal year.



City Librarian Luis Herrera accepts Friends' grants

“The support of the Friends of the Library makes all the difference in enhancing the programs and services offered by the San Francisco Public Library,” said new City

Librarian Luis Herrera. “Both the Library and the people of San Francisco are truly fortunate to have this strong and dedicated group of citizens who work so hard on our behalf.”

With these funds the Library will continue to respond to a wide range of community and Library needs—including the ability to offer free programs and services not funded by the City’s budget. The majority of the funding will sponsor educational programs and services for children and teens including the Summer Reading Club and High School and Beyond. Funds also support unique, community-based

branch programs and events and museum-quality exhibitions that focus on literary-arts and the San Francisco community. The grants will also provide training and events for Library staff.

“We are delighted to offer this funding to the San Francisco Public Library,” Friends executive director Donna Bero said.

“The support of the Friends of the Library makes all the difference in enhancing the programs and services offered by the San Francisco Public Library.”

–Luis Herrera, City Librarian

“But this support is only made possible thanks to the generosity of our members and donors who share our belief that public libraries build stronger communities.”

These grants are part of Friends’ ongoing grantmaking program for the Library and they support programs and services that will occur in the Library’s next fiscal year (July 2005 to June 2006). When combined with Neighborhood Library Campaign support, Friends will provide \$2.5 million in funds to the Library in the coming fiscal year.

To learn more about Friends’ grants program and the Neighborhood Library Campaign, visit www.friendssfpl.org.

Welcome New City Librarian Luis Herrera!



Left to Right: Library Commission President Charles Higuera, City Librarian Luis Herrera, Friends board member Steve Martinez

Luis Herrera joined the San Francisco Public Library in April as the new City Librarian. He is the first Latino City Librarian in San Francisco history. For the past ten years, Mr. Herrera has served as Director of Information Services for the City of Pasadena where he managed the City’s public library system that included a central library and nine community libraries. Welcome Luis!

One Great City Deserves One Great Book



Friends is please to announce it is a lead sponsor of a new San Francisco Public Library reading initiative, One City One Book: San Francisco Reads. The program, which kicks into full gear this fall, encourages all San Franciscans to read and discuss one great book. The inaugural selection is Gus Lee’s moving 1991 novel *China Boy*, about a six-year-old Chinese immigrant named Kai Ting who attempts to make a life for himself in San Francisco’s Panhandle neighborhood during the 1950s.

- Reading and discussion groups, author visits to schools and libraries, and public programs will take place in September and October. Stop by either of Friends’ bookstores—Book Bay Main and Book Bay Fort Mason—to pick up a copy.



what we’re funding

Here is a small sampling of the many outstanding programs and services that Friends is funding thanks to the generosity of our donors.

OUT AT THE LIBRARY

Friends is pleased to be one of the many sponsors of Out at the Library: Celebrating the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center. The James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center, considered to be the first archives of its kind in a public library, will celebrate its 10-year anniversary this summer with an extraordinary exhibition from the Center’s collections of artifacts, documents and photographs spanning over 100 years. This exhibition will be on display from June 18 through October 16, 2005 at three sites: Main Library, Lower Level, Jewett Gallery; James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center, 100 Larkin Street (at Grove) and Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library, 3555 16th Street (near Market).

Out at the Library will include an accompanying 144-page fully illustrated catalogue that will celebrate the Hormel Center by telling the story of how it came into existence, illustrating the Center’s rich exhibition and program history and highlighting its collection. The catalogue can be purchased at either of Friends’ two bookstores: Book Bay Main or Book Bay Fort Mason.

STORYTIME & LAPSITS

Each week at almost every branch, Friends supports Storytime readings for preschoolers aged 3-5 and Lapsits for infants, toddlers and accompanying adults that include stories, songs, and rhymes. Visit www.sfpl.org for more information.

TEEN SUMMER READING 2005

Friends will again sponsor Teen Summer Reading 2005, which will be held at 25 different locations of the San Francisco Public Library, from June 11 through July 23. Teens will read for 10, 20 or 30 hours, and record their thoughts about what they read on comment cards. Prizes are awarded for each ten hours of reading and include gift certificates to Borders Books and Music, Ben & Jerry’s ice cream coupons, free books, amusement park passes, free arts classes, and more! Plus all teens will have a chance to win grand raffle prizes at the end of the program. A special “teens only” finale party will be held on July 29th for those who read for 30 hours or more.



OUR MISSION The mission of Friends of the San Francisco Public Library is to create, steward and support a superior, free public library system in San Francisco. We are committed to raising the standard of excellence of our libraries by funding programs and services beyond what is allocated in the City's budget. We believe in free and equal access to information for all.

members' news

- Save the date! This year's members-only preview sale of our 41st Annual Big Book Sale will take place Wednesday, September 28th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Festival Pavilion in Fort Mason.
- Don't forget to use your Bonus Bookstore membership card at participating bookstores to receive a 10% discount. Participating bookstores include Book Bay Main & Fort Mason, Green Apple, A Clean Well Lighted Place for Books and over 30 more stores. Check out our website at www.friendsspl.org for a complete list or look in the next issue of *At the Public Library*.
- And don't forget to visit our website for the latest member news and information on Library and Friends' events.

book bay beat

BOOK BAY FORT MASON & BOOK BAY MAIN

We need your books! Help us continue to offer the greatest selection of books at the best possible prices. Donate your books to us. All proceeds benefit the San Francisco Public Library. Call 415-771-3777 for more information.

FEATURED SECTIONS Every month, each of our bookstores provides a special selection of a particular topic. Here are this summer's upcoming sections:

BOOK BAY MAIN 415.557.4238		BOOK BAY FORT MASON 415.771.1076	
MAIN LIBRARY, GROVE STREET ENTRANCE		FORT MASON CENTER, BUILDING C	
JUL	WOMEN IN CULTURE & SOCIETY	JUL	CONSERVATION & ECOLOGY
AUG	TRUE CRIME	AUG	JUDAICA
SEP	CONSERVATION & ECOLOGY (TENTATIVE)		

JULY 2005

09	SATURDAY	21	THURSDAY	23	SATURDAY
EXCELSIOR BRANCH OPENING PARTY 4200 Mission Street 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.		LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING Koret Auditorium, Main Library 4:00 p.m.		BOOKS BY THE BAY Yerba Buena Gardens Come visit our booth! 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	

AUGUST 2005

05	FRIDAY	08	MONDAY	18	THURSDAY
LIBRARY STEPS SALE 100 Larkin Street all books \$1 or less, rain cancels 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.		ENTERTAINER RZA Koret Auditorium, Main Library Time TBD		LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING Koret Auditorium, Main Library 4:00 p.m.	

SEPTEMBER 2005

02	FRIDAY	08	THURSDAY
LIBRARY STEPS SALE 100 Larkin Street all books \$1 or less, rain cancels 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.		AUTHOR JACQUES LESLIE Koret Auditorium, Main Library 6:00 p.m.	



QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL 415.626.7500

membership

Join over 2,500 friends who are dedicated to creating, stewarding and supporting a superior, free public library in San Francisco. As a Friend, you will receive our newsletter *Among Friends*, the library's monthly calendar of events, *At the Public Library*, and two admissions to our Big Book Sale Annual Preview. At the \$50+ level, you'll receive our 10% Bonus Books Discount Card, honored at over 30 local bookstores. See our donor page for an application or call 415.626.7500 for more information.

event highlights

Friends Events

Friends and the Commonwealth Club present RZA, co-founder of the hip-hop group Wu-Tang Clan and author of *The Wu-Tang Manual: Enter the 36 Chambers, Volume One*. Monday, August 8th, Main Library, Koret Auditorium. Tickets: \$12 for members; \$18 for non-members. Visit www.friendsspl.org for more information.

Jacques Leslie, author of *Deep Water: The Epic Struggle Over Dams, Displaced Persons and the Environment* will appear at the Koret Auditorium on September 8th. Friends of the San Francisco Public Library will co-sponsor with the San Francisco Public Library. Visit www.friendsspl.org for more information.

Friends' 41st Annual Big Book Sale – Over 200,000 books for sale. September 29-October 2, 2005, Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day. Visit www.friendsspl.org for more information.

Friends Supported Events

Out at the Library: Celebrating the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center – An extraordinary exhibition from the Center's collections of artifacts, documents and photographs spanning over 100 years. On display from June 18 through October 16, 2005 at three sites: Main Library, Lower Level, Jewett Gallery; James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center, 100 Larkin Street (at Grove) and Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library, 3555 16th Street (near Market).

Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945 – Through reproductions of some 250 historic photographs and documents, this exhibition examines the rationale, means and impact of the Nazi regime's attempt to eradicate homosexuality that left thousands dead and shattered the lives of many more. On display from June 18 through August 18, 2005, Main Library, Sixth Floor, Skylight Gallery.

Born to Lose: Memoirs of a Compulsive Gambler– With author, Bill Lee; book signing follows. Saturday, July 16th at 2:30 p.m. Chinatown Branch.

Painting San Francisco – Art lecture by artist Anna L. Conti. Wednesday, July 20th at 7:00 p.m. Parkside Branch.

Round Five/Two North Beach Poets Square Off – Readings by poets Ronald Sauer & Mark Schwartz. Wednesday, July 27th at 7:00 p.m., North Beach Branch.

FRIENDS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY
391 GROVE STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102
415.626.7500 / INFO@FRIENDSSFPL.ORG
WWW.FRIENDSSFPL.ORG