



BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY
510-981-6100
www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org

March 2008

what's happening here

Newsletter of the Berkeley Public Library

Jazz at Sunset

The Kaspar/Sherman Quartet presents a free jazz concert on Tuesday evening, March 25 at 7:00 PM in the Art & Music Department on the 5th Floor of the Central Library. Featuring Nancy Kaspar on bass, Pat Kaspar on drums, Laura Sherman on keyboard and Jamison Smeltz on sax, the quartet will play music by Duke Ellington, Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock and others. For more information, call 981-6241.

**Splendid Poets: James Scully and Peter Everwine
Read Their Poems at the Berkeley Public Library**

Berkeley Public Library is proud to present two splendid poets, **James Scully and Peter Everwine, at Berkeley Public Central Library's 3rd floor Community Meeting Room on Saturday, March 8 at 2pm. This program is free and sponsored by the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library.**

James Scully is the author of nine books of poetry, three book-length translations and the seminal essay collection, *Line Break: Poetry As Social Practice*. He has been a key figure in the movement to radicalize the theory and practice of American poetry—in how it is lived as well as in how it is written. His numerous awards include an Ingram Merrill Foundation Fellowship, the Lamont Poetry Award, a Guggenheim fellowship, NEA fellowships and the Islands & Continents Translation Award. Recently he participated in an international literary conference in Serbia and Kosovo. About *Donatello's Version*, his most recent poetry collection, Richard Wilbur writes, "James Scully's splendid new book . . . is a social poetry which arises not from opinionation and facile protest, but from clear-eyed witness, hope, and *saeva indignatio*. His art is impatient of art, yet handsomely honed and phrased; it demands that we see and face injustice." Adrienne Rich says, "James Scully's fierce moral intelligence, poetic craft, and grim humor are all alive and well in this long-awaited collection."

Peter Everwine was born in Detroit and raised in western Pennsylvania. Among his books are *Collecting the Animals* (Atheneum, 1973, reprinted

as a Carnegie Mellon Classic Contemporary, 2000); *Keeping the Night* (Penumbra Press and Atheneum, 1977); and, most recently, *From the Meadow: Selected and New Poems* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2004). He is a recipient of the Lamont Award and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. He retired from California State University, Fresno, in 1992. "For nearly five decades, readers have been enthralled and enchanted by Peter Everwine's calmly dazzling poems. He's never been a writer clearly aligned with any single school or style, yet adherents of all schools and styles admire his graceful turns of phrase and intense vision. *From the Meadow* features selections from four previous collections, along with a group of new works. The poems, which include Everwine's deft translations from Hebrew and interpretations from Nahuatl, vibrate with the intensity of small truths distilled to their very essences."

<http://www.upress.pitt.edu/BookDetails.aspx?bookId=35488>) Philip Levine recommends Everwine's *From the Meadow: Selected and New Poems*: "This collection presents all of Everwine's poems that he still regards with affection in a career that spans forty years or more, many of the poems never collected before. It includes a few of his remarkable translations from the Hebrew as well as some of his interpretation of Nahuatl poems. For me the true gems are his own poems, which are like no other in our language: they possess the simplicity and clarity I find in the great Spanish poems of Antonio Machado and his contemporary Juan Ramon Jiminez but in contemporary American English and in the rhythms of our speech, that rhythm glorified. He presents us with poetry in which each moment is recorded, laid bare, and sanctified, which is to say the poems possess a quality one finds only in the greatest poetry."(<http://www.pshares.org/issues/article.cfm?pr mArticleID=8146>)

For questions and accessibility information, please call 510-981-6107, TTY (510) 528-1240, or <http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org>.

Read With Me Springtime Reading Program

Introducing the Read With Me Springtime Reading Program at the Berkeley Public Library for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their parents. **Newborns through children entering kindergarten are eligible to participate.** The Berkeley Public Library has traditionally had a Summer Reading Program that allows children entering 1st grade -8th grade to win prizes for reading the books they love. Now younger children get a chance to have their own reading program as well! **This program will run during the month of March, to coincide with interactive child/parent “Family Playshops” that will allow children to learn through the magic of play and give parents an opportunity to ask questions of a community resource person.**

It's never too early to start reading and sharing rhymes and songs with your child. Even the youngest children will benefit from time spent having fun with a parent or caregiver while reading, talking, singing and playing. These simple, unstructured activities are building blocks that will help foster literacy development and love of reading, which can influence their future success in school.

Sponsored by the State Library through an Early Learning with Families grant and the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library, this free reading program at the Central Library will run from March 1-31. Read With Me will be offered to young children and their families. For questions and accessibility information, call 510-981-6107, TTY 510-548-1240, <http://berkeleypubliclibrary.org>.

Early Learning with Families

Brings Family Playshops to Berkeley Public Library

Self-directed and unstructured play is an effective way for young children to develop their imagination and a variety of skills. Thanks to Early Learning with Families (ELF), a grant from the State Library of California, **the Berkeley Public Library will offer informal Family Playshops at the Central Library in March. These Playshops will allow young children from 0-5 years to have time and space to interact with their first and best teachers – their parents and caregivers.** The involvement of these loving adults serves as the catalyst for critical early learning that's essential for later success in school and life. **Family Playshops will also allow parents to interact with community partners on topics such as literacy, health and child development.**

The Family Playshops are a free program offered at the Central Berkeley Public Library and sponsored by the California State Library's Early Learning with Families Initiative (ELF). The first of these programs will be on Thursday, March 6 at 4:00 pm, in the Children's Story Room. Please check www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/children or call 981-6223 for additional dates and times.

The Berkeley Public Library's ELF program is creating stimulating places for families to play and learn together. The Early Learning With Families grant has already sponsored a series of Animal Homes Family Playshops facilitated by the Lawrence Hall of Science at various library branches, and the creation of family-friendly spaces at several Berkeley Public Library locations. For questions about accessibility information, call 510-981-6107, TTY 510-548-1240, <http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org>.

South Branch to Host Sisters in Crime, Again!

The South Branch of Berkeley Public Library presents its **Second Annual Mystery Writers Panel Discussion** with four local 'Sisters' and one 'Brother' in crime. The authors will share their mystery writing experiences in a free exchange on Thursday evening, March 20, 2008 from 6-7:30 pm.

Sisters in Crime author **Rita Lakin** writes the Gladdy Gold series: *Gladdy Gold, the Oldest Living Private Eye in Florida, Death Takes a Holiday* and *Women in Chains*. She also created the TV show *Flamingo Road*. **Peggy Lucke** was nominated for an Anthony Award for Best First Mystery Novel for *A Relative Stranger*. She also writes scripts for mystery weekends, short stories, feature articles and book reviews. **Penny Warner** has written over 50 fiction and non-fiction books for adults and children. Her newest mystery is *Dead Man's Hand* featuring Connor Westphal, a deaf reporter who solves mysteries in the California gold country. **Simon Wood**, a male member of Sisters in Crime, is an Anthony Award winner. He has written four books and over 150 published stories and articles. His mysteries include *Working Stiffs, Accidents Waiting to Happen* and *Paying the Piper*. As Simon Janus he also writes thrillers and horror fiction.

Sisters in Crime are a world-wide organization for female mystery writers and their supporters. Their mission is: to combat discrimination against women in the mystery field, educate publishers and the general public as to inequities in the treatment of female authors, raise the level of awareness their contributions to the field, and promote the professional advancement of women who write mysteries.

For questions regarding this program, please email dcerkanowicz@ci.berkeley.ca.us or call 510-981-6260. For accessibility information, call 510-981-6107, TTY 510-548-1240.

Programs listed in this newsletter are supported by the **Friends of the Berkeley Public Library**. For information on the **Friends of the Berkeley Public Library** or to join them and/or for volunteer opportunities with them, phone 841-5604 or visit http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/about_the_library/support_the_library.php

Misako Akimoto's "Tonal Words"

Award-winning international photo-journalist, **Misako Akimoto**, exhibits black and white gelatin silver prints from her series *Tonals Words: Portraits of Women Artists* at **Berkeley Public Library's** Central Catalog Lobby, **2090 Kittredge** at Shattuck, downtown Berkeley, **from March 3rd through April 30th**. These stunning original portraits feature local Bay Area women artists working in a range of art forms including sculpture, dance and music. Access to the exhibit is available during the library's open hours: Monday 12 – 8; Tuesday 10- 8; Wednesday - Saturday, 10 – 6; Sunday 1 – 5.

A native of Japan, **Misako Akimoto**, studied at the Tokyo Art Institute of Photography. Since the 1960s Akimoto has created a range of photographic essays including portraits of women artists, artists with disabilities, wheelchair athletes and community church groups. She has received numerous awards including the Gordon Parks Photography Award and the W. Eugene Smith Humanistic Photography Award.

All are invited to meet **Misako Akimoto** and the artists represented in the exhibition during a FREE reception on **Saturday afternoon, March 22nd, at 2:00 pm** in **Berkeley Public Library's** Central Catalog Lobby.

Wheelchair accessible. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. For more information, call **510-981-6100** or connect berkeleypubliclibrary.org

SAVE THE DATES! Look out for

SPECIAL FREE EVENTS AT THE BERKELEY PUBLIC CENTRAL LIBRARY

- **LECTURE AND HIGHLIGHTS from *Bluebeard's Castle* and *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges***
In the Community Room (3rd Floor)
Thursday, April 24, 12:15 p.m.
- **A NOON CONCERT of highlights from *Puccini's Tosca***
In the Art & Music Room (5th Floor)
Thursday, June 26, 12:15 p.m.

From the Berkeley Opera <http://berkeleyopera.org/>

***Berkeley A City in History* by Chuck Wollenberg**

Chuck Wollenberg, beloved Berkeley historian, author, and professor at Berkeley City College, will talk about his new book, *Berkeley, A City in History*, Monday night, March 31st, at 7pm, Central Library Community Room. "Anyone who cares about Berkeley—and there are many—will devour it with pleasure", says Richard Walker, Geographer, UCB. Join us to celebrate Chuck's work, which includes a section of images from the Berkeley Public Library. Mayor Tom Bates will present a proclamation honoring **Chuck Wollenberg, Berkeley's Historian**.

Friday film retrospective for teens

Heath Ledger retrospective:

March 7: **Lords of Dogtown**

Westerns retrospective:

March 14: **Serenity** (2005)

March 21: **The searchers** (1956)

March 28: **True grit** (1969)

And then there's April:

April 4: **Blazing saddles** (1974)

April 18: **Unforgiven** (1992)

April 25 is **Mad Hot Ballroom**, in honor of National Dance Week.

"Contemporary Art in Cuba"

Terry McClain Lectures on contemporary Cuban art at Berkeley Public Library Event

Art educator **Terry McClain** will present two **free Sunday afternoon lectures** on contemporary Cuban art in the **Berkeley Public Library's Central Community Room on March 9th and March 30th at 2:00 p.m.** (2090 Kittredge Street at Shattuck, downtown Berkeley). Terry McClain teaches surface design on paper and fabric at the Art Institute of California - San Francisco. She visited Cuba and Louisiana in 2007 to research paper and sugar cane and has received a three month sabbatical this spring to continue the research. Her first lecture at the Berkeley Public Library on March 9th includes a discussion of the book *Cuba Avant Garde* by Abelardo Mena complimented by an exhibit of catalogs from Galeria Casona in Havana and photographs of public art. McClain's second lecture on March 30th discusses the processes and materials used by cooperatives to create artists books. This lecture accompanies an exhibit of photographs and examples of book art from Papiro and Promotoraliteria, the offset press in Holguin, Cuba. All exhibited materials are on display in the Kittredge Street window display cases from March 14th – March 31st.

Terry McClain received an MFA in fiber from the University of Oregon, with an emphasis on Japanese papermaking and fiber techniques. She was artist in residence in 1998 and 2003 at the Asian Art Museum.

This event is wheelchair accessible. For more information, **call the library at 510-981-6100 or connect to www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org**.

For a Berkeley Public Library program, to request sign language interpreter, real-time materials in large print or Braille, or other accommodations, call 510-981-6107 or 510-548-1240 (TTY) 5 days before the program. Please refrain from wearing scented products to public meetings.

**BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY
INVITES THE COMMUNITY TO DISCUSS
BRANCH LIBRARY BUILDINGS & SERVICES**

The Berkeley Public Library has undertaken two major overlapping planning initiatives in 2008:

1. The development of a *Branch Library Master Facility Plan*, which will include assessing the current physical condition of the four branch libraries and the tool library and making recommendations concerning upgrades and modernization needs.
2. The creation of a three-year *Library Strategic Plan* that will describe Berkeley Public Library's needs, goals, and service priorities.

At their last Board of Library Trustees Meeting on February 13, the Berkeley Public Library Trustees instructed staff to continue to gather community feedback on their branch libraries by holding a series of neighborhood meetings open to all community members, one at each Berkeley Public Library branch. At these meetings community members will be able to discuss the condition of the branch buildings as well as the library services and programs offered within them. In January 2008 those visiting their neighborhood Berkeley branches were able to fill out a Facilities Master Plan survey about the Berkeley Public Library branch buildings. As a continuation of this process, the Branch Library Meetings will be held:

Wednesday, February 27, 6:00-8:00pm at the North Branch, 1170 The Alameda at Hopkins

Wednesday, March 5, 6:00-8:00pm at the South Branch, 1901 Russell Street at MLK

Thursday, March 6, 6:00-8:00pm at the West Branch, 1125 University at San Pablo

Saturday, March 8, 2:00-4:00pm at the Claremont Branch, 2940 Benvenue at Ashby

Following these Branch Meetings, there will be a presentation of the results of these discussions of library branch buildings, services, and programs at the next Board of Library Trustees Meeting, March 12, 2008, 7:00 pm at the West Branch, 1125 University Avenue (at San Pablo).

Related to the Library Strategic Plan, there will be a general community discussion of library services and programs to be held in the 3rd floor

Community Meeting Room at Central Library on Saturday, March 22, 1-3:00pm. The primary focus of this meeting will be on services and programs throughout the library system.

At the Board of Library Trustees meeting on February 13, a Workshop was held during which the local firm Noll & Tam Architects presented their study of branch libraries in Berkeley. Noll & Tam Architects were hired to complete a **20-year Library Facilities Master Plan (LFMP) feasibility study** for the Berkeley Public Library. Noll & Tam offered evaluations of each branch and several scenarios for solving the structural, mechanical, electrical, and architectural (including ADA access), as well as public and work space considerations. Their initial findings and the branch library surveys confirm the 1996 Branch study that all branches are in serious need of upgrading and expansion to truly serve the needs of all neighborhood branch library patrons.

The final plan, to be presented to the Board in Spring 2008, will provide relevant information to allow Library Administration and the Board of Library Trustees to set priorities and develop vital implementation scenarios. As with past library projects, extensive public involvement related to the public's service needs will be vital to the success of the project. These open public meetings are being held in order to relate the results of the studies and to get feedback all along the way.

Berkeley's branch libraries must be flexible enough to address not only current, but also future, public service needs; therefore this project is focused on the capacity of the facilities themselves. The goal of the project is to develop pertinent facility information and knowledge that will further the ability of the Library to make solid strategic decisions regarding facility expenditures useful in the short term, and that will be considered a significant asset in developing plans for the future.

For more information on these studies and meetings, phone (510) 981-6195, (510) 548-1240 (TTY), or go to http://berkeleypubliclibrary.org/about_the_library/our_organization.php

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