



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

April 2008

what's happening here

Newsletter of the Berkeley Public Library

Environmental Impact:

Evolution of the Berkeley Landscape

Chuck Wollenberg, noted Berkeley historian, will present five programs featuring local experts on Berkeley's environmental history. Beginning **Monday, April 21st at 7pm, and continuing for 4 Monday evenings with the last class held on Tuesday evening, May 20th**, programs will include lively discussions about Building with Nature, Environmental Perspectives on Development, the New Deal in Berkeley, and Environmental Justice.

The FREE programs will be held at the Berkeley Public Library's Central Library Community Room, 2090 Kittredge, at Shattuck, and are sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Guest speakers include authors Richard Walker, Gray Brechin, Save the Bay's Sylvia McLaughlin, city planning activists Zelda Bronstein and Erin Rhoades, with Shyaam Shabaka, Raquel Pinderhughes, and Beck Cowles looking into Berkeley's environmental future.

For more information, call 981-6233, 981-6100, or visit: www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org. All programs are wheelchair accessible.

If You Were Born between 1946 and 1964, Berkeley Public Library Wants to Talk to You

Berkeley Public Library is one of California's public libraries chosen to participate in the exciting California State Library initiative, *Transforming Life After 50*. As a first step in providing library programs and activities that truly suit the needs of the "Boomer" population, the Library is currently engaged in surveying patrons and in inviting them to participate in focus groups to give Library feedback.

Fill out a survey online at berkeleypubliclibrary.org or at your local branch, and join us at a focus group. We need your feedback! Two focus groups will be held:

- Claremont Branch Library, 2940 Benvenue Avenue at Ashby

Thursday, April 10, 6:30-8:00pm

- Downtown Berkeley YMCA, 2001 Allston Way at Milvia

Saturday, April 12, 2-3:30pm

In July 2007, Susan Hildreth, State Librarian of California, announced the launching of the statewide *Transforming Life After 50* initiative for 2007/08. The purpose of this Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), federally grant-funded initiative is to assist public libraries in redefining, creating and delivering new and innovative services to our state's growing population of active, older adults – a population expected to grow more than twice as fast as California's total population, increasing 112% from 1990 to 2020, or 8.5 million people. As early as 2010, one in five Californians will be 60 years of age or older; yet research has shown that the current paradigm of library services for "seniors" does not match the characteristics and/or interests of this baby boomer generation.

Help us provide you with programs and services better matched to what you want!

For accessibility information or questions, call 510-981-6195, TTY 510-548-1240.

The **Berkeley Public Library** is participating in the **Bay Area National Dance Week, April 25th through May 4th**.

To get inspired, watch the academy award nominated film, "Mad Hot Ballroom" on Friday, April 25th at 3:30 in the Community Meeting Room at Central. Tie on your dancing shoes Sunday, April 27th at 4:00 for **Boogie around the Books**: Free dance lesson in the Historic Lobby of the Central Library, taught by professional dance instructor, Gale Robinson of the Danceasy. The lesson will feature the fun dance, mergengue, followed by an hour of dancing. For more information on other events go to the web site www.bayareandw.org

Friday Western film retrospective for teens continues
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.

***Teen Playreaders Program at
Claremont Branch Library***

Berkeley Public Library's Teen Services invites teens to join the **Teen Playreaders** group at the **Claremont Branch Library, 2940 Benvenue (at Ashby)**. "Playreaders" do exactly what the name says: teens gather weekly to read plays aloud, changing parts frequently so everyone gets a chance to be the hero/heroine/villain. There are no auditions; all teens are welcome to read, or just listen.

We encourage teens to bring ideas for plays they would like to read together- plays are selected by vote. The program also offers teen playwrights a chance to hear their work read aloud.

Playreaders meets on **Tuesday afternoons, from 4:30 – 5:45 p.m.** No need to register! Scripts and snacks provided.

For questions regarding this program, call 510-981-6121. This program is sponsored by Teen Services and the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library. **For accessibility information, call 510-981-6107, TTY 528-1240, berkeleypubliclibrary.org.**

Teen Knitting Circle at Central Library

Berkeley Public Library's Teen Services invites all teens to our **knitting circle** at the **Central Library, 2090 Kittredge (at Shattuck)**. If you don't already know how to knit, we'll teach you- if you're an experienced knitter, come learn new tricks and share your knowledge with others. Learn how to interpret knitting patterns, and even how to knit without a pattern! Individualized instruction is available. Bring your own knitting needles (size 8 recommended for beginners). Sample yarns are provided.

We'll meet on **Saturdays, March 15 and 29, April 19, May 3 and 24 from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. in the 4th floor Story Room of the Central Library**. No registration is required.

From this knitting circle, we hope to create and recruit experienced teen knitters who can earn community service hours by helping beginning knitters at the library's other knitting programs. This program is sponsored by Teen Services and the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library. For accessibility information, call **(510) 981-6107 TTY (510) 548-1240, <http://berkeleypubliclibrary.org>**.

***Author Ellen Sussman will discuss
Finding Truth in Writing: Fiction or Non-Fiction
at the Berkeley Public Library***

On **Saturday, April 12th at 3:00 p.m.** author **Ellen Sussman** will speak in the **Community Meeting Room** on the third floor of **Berkeley's Central Library at 2090 Kittredge Street (at Shattuck Avenue)**. Join us for an afternoon with Ms. Sussman as she reads from several of her works, talks about her

experience and discusses the choices she makes when exploring ideas in her novels and essays.

A Bay Area transplant with roots in New Jersey, Sussman has received recognition for her contributions to literature from organizations and institutions across the country. She currently teaches in private classes and at UC Berkeley Extension and lectures regularly on the creative practice and writing at conferences and seminars. She is the author of *On a Night Like This* (2004), *Bad Girls: 26 Writers Misbehave* and *Dirty Words: A Literary Encyclopedia of Sex* (to be published later this year).

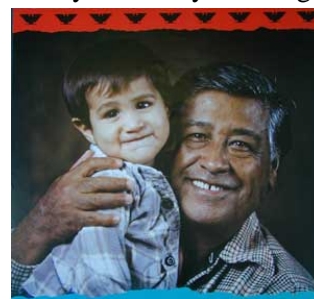
This event is part of a grant-funded Big Box program and was supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Library and is presented by Monterey Bay Cooperative Library System, the Peninsula Library System, the Bay Area Library and Information System and the Silicon Valley Library System.

For questions and accessibility information, call 510-981-6107, TDD 548-1240, berkeleypubliclibrary.org.

***Join the circle of knowledge @ your library:
Celebrate National Library Week
at the Berkeley Public Library, April 13-19***

It's National Library Week, a time to celebrate the contributions of libraries, librarians and library workers in schools, campuses and communities nationwide - and the perfect time to discover how you can join the circle of knowledge @ your library.

The Berkeley Public Library is celebrating National Library Week by offering many wonderful programs



and exhibits such as the **Cesar Chavez Reading program, Monday, April 14, 3:30-5:00 in Library Plaza in front of the Central Library** (it will be held in the 3rd floor Community Meeting Room at

Central if it rains) and will feature Sal Murillo who worked with Chavez for many years. The whole community is invited to come and participate by reading the words of Cesar Chavez out loud. There will also be a **Cesar Chavez Commemoration Period Exhibit, April 14-28**, featuring posters, books, and photos about Chavez in the Kittredge Street Exhibit Cases at Central Library and in the flat cases in the 2nd floor Historic Lobby at Central.

Other National Library Week programs & exhibits include:

What a Card!

Berkeley Public Library will present an exhibit of library cards from across the United States and across time. Examples include a Brooklyn Public Library card from 1934 and the many different versions of the Berkeley Public Library card. Presented in the display case on the West side of the 2nd floor, Central Library, 2090 Kittredge Street, downtown Berkeley. **April 15-28, 2008.**



And for teens . . .

Downtown Book Club

Monday, April 21, 4-5pm
Teen Room, Central Library
2090 Kittredge Street
A Piece of Cake: A Memoir
by **Cupcake Brown**

Friday Western film retrospective for teens continues *And then there's April:*

April 4: **Blazing saddles** (1974)
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April 25 is **Mad Hot Ballroom**, in honor of National Dance Week.



From our Berkeley READS Adult & Family Literacy Program

Berkeley READS is hosting the Scholastic Literacy Caravan visits at BAHIA Afterschool Program on Wednesday, April 16, 3-5pm, and at the West YMCA Headstart on Friday,

April 18, 10-12am, which include free children's book and bookmark distribution at these sites, only for the program's families.



Author Ellen Sussman

Speaks at Berkeley's Central Library

Author Ellen Sussman will discuss *Finding Truth in Writing: Fiction or Non-Fiction* at the Berkeley Public Library on **Saturday,**

April 12th at 3:00 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room on the third floor of Berkeley's Central Library at 2090 Kittredge Street (at Shattuck Avenue) in Downtown Berkeley.

In the Children's Library:

- **Tuesday, April 8, 3:00pm – Make Your Own Fantastic Journal, Part I.** Ages 8-13. Make a journal to bring with you to the Marissa Moss Creative Journaling program! **Central Library, Fourth Floor, Children's Department.**
- **Tuesday, April 15, 3:30pm – Meet Marissa Moss,** author of the *Amelia* books (and others!) and learn how to make your own cool, creative journals like *Amelia's!* (Make Your Own Fantastic Journal, Part II) If you decorated a journal with us last week, bring it along! If not, that's okay. We'll have a blank journal for you to get started with. Ages 8-13. **Central Library, Fourth Floor, Children's Department.**
- **Sunday, April 13, 2:00-4:00pm. Jazz Art** - don't miss this chance to make art inspired by live jazz musicians. This is a fun and popular program every year! For families of all ages. Materials will be provided. **Central Library, Third Floor, Community Meeting Room.**

"Everyday, libraries in big cities and small towns, colleges and universities, in schools and in businesses help transform their communities," says Berkeley Public Library Director of Library Services Donna Corbeil. "At our library, people of all backgrounds can come together for community meetings, lectures and programs, to do research with the assistance of a trained professional, to get a job or to find homework help, to see or check out a movie or to find a great CD."

This is the 50th Anniversary of National Library Week! First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April.

SAVE THE DATES! SPECIAL FREE EVENTS **AT BERKELEY PUBLIC'S 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/>

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

**Author Lisa Lutz will speak
at the Berkeley Public Library**

On Saturday, May 3rd at 2:00 p.m. author Lisa Lutz will speak in the Community Meeting Room on the third floor of Berkeley's Central Library at 2090 Kittredge Street (at Shattuck Avenue). Join us for an afternoon with Ms. Lutz as she reads from her new book, *Curse of the Spellmans*, the sequel to her comic masterpiece and international publishing sensation, *The Spellman Files*. Lutz's Spellman books are witty and peopled with interesting oddballs. Her latest book is set in the other city by the bay, San Francisco and has received many rave reviews, including a starred review from *Publisher's Weekly* which called it a "sparkling sequel."

This event is part of a grant-funded Big Box program and was supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Library and is presented by Monterey Bay Cooperative Library System, the Peninsula Library System, the Bay Area Library and Information System and the Silicon Valley Library System.

For questions and accessibility info, call 510-981-6107, TTY 548-1240, berkeleypubliclibrary.org.

KRCB ANNOUNCES

**"THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE FESTIVAL,"
HIGHLIGHTING LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH
MOBILITY DISABILITIES**

Berkeley Public Library is hosting KRCB's
**"THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE FESTIVAL"
FREE PROGRAM!**

**Sunday, April 6 at 2 pm at the Berkeley Public
Central Library: "Kiss My Wheels"
2090 Kittredge Street, Downtown Berkeley 3rd
floor Community Meeting Room**

Synopsis of "Kiss My Wheels"

You've never seen basketball like this. Kiss My Wheels follows the Zia Hot Shots, a nationally ranked junior wheelchair basketball team, through a season of training and tournament competition. Along the way we get glimpses of some of the players' personal histories. The team's coach, Pat, is also a district court judge—and a wheelchair user himself. This is a great film about living with a disability, but it's an even better film about living with yourself.

Wheelchair accessible. To request a sign language interpreter, real-time captioning, materials in large print or Braille, or other accommodations for this event, please call (510) 981-6107 (voice) or (510) 548-1240 (TTY); at least 5 working days will ensure availability. Please refrain from wearing scented products to public meetings.

KRCB is working with the diverse community of wheelchair users here in the Bay Area, including

Culture! Disability! Talent!, Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (B.O.R.P.), Through the Looking Glass, and the AXIS Dance Company, along with the Oakland Public Library System, the Berkeley Public Library, the Sonoma County Libraries and the Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, to host "The Best Seat in the House Festival" and creatively use film, television, radio, and the Internet to challenge stereotypes, promote dialogue, and envision a universally accessible future.

The festival will take place during the first two weeks in April in a variety of locations. Anyone who has ever been curious or wanted to learn more about the lives of people with disabilities is encouraged to attend and ask questions. As of press time, film selection and panel composition is still being finalized, so go to www.krcb.org or www.BestSeatFest.org for more information. Questions can be directed to KRCB Outreach Coordinator Robin Metalitz, at 707-584-2005.

COME CELEBRATE AT THE LIBRARY!

**El día de los niños/El día de los libros
(Children's Day/Book Day)**

The celebration emphasizes the importance of advocating literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds. **Book giveaways and treats!**



West Branch, 1125 University Ave.

Wednesday, April 30 – 6:00-7:30pm
From 6:00 to 6:30pm - **Pee Wee Mariachi** from the Mexican Heritage Plaza/Centro Cultural de San Jose - Learn Children's Games and Music from Mexico for ages 0-5 & their caregivers. Please come early as space is limited.

**Central Library, 2090 Kittredge at Shattuck
4th floor Children's Library**

Saturday, May 3 - 10:00-12:00

- Origami with Nga Trinh of the Berkeley Public Library
- Songs from Around the World in English and Spanish with the magnificent Juan L. Sanchez



- The Energy Filled Fun of Magic of Andrew!

