LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

LIBRARY NEWS

HISTORIC MEMORIAL BRANCH LIBRARY TO REOPEN MONDAY, JULY 22

RENOVATED BUILDING FEATURES LATEST IN ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY WITH WEINGART FOUNDATION GRANT

The newly renovated Memorial Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL), a historic-cultural monument, has been equipped with state of the art information technology made possible by a grant from the Weingart Foundation, and will re-open its doors to the public Monday, July 22, 11 a.m., at 4625 W. Olympic Blvd.

Established in 1930 in commemoration of 20 Los Angeles High School alumni who died in World War I, the English Tudor style building was closed six years ago because it did not meet seismic code, and has operated in a temporary facility at 4801 Wilshire Blvd.

Among those participating in the grand opening ceremony are Mistress of Ceremonies Jane Gilman, editor and co-owner of the Larchmont Chronicle, and Councilman Nate Holden, in whose Tenth District the branch is located.

Holden, expressing enthusiasm for the day's festivities, said, "The grand opening of the renovated Memorial Branch Library celebrates the reopening of one of the most beautiful and historic libraries in the Los Angeles area. Dedicated to Los Angeles High School alumni who served and died in World War I, the Library has great significance to area schools and residents."

A virtual electronic library, the facility provides workstations with electronic access to an array of information resources which would otherwise not be available in the building, creating, in essence, a library without walls. It offers databases found in the LAPL's Central Library via microcomputers to a wide area network, including indexes and articles from hundreds of magazine and newspaper titles; abstracts related to business, science and general interest topics; Internet access to the World Wide Web and its international public, private, and scientific libraries; and LAPL's WEB Home Page with information about Central Library collections and resources, locations and hours of all branch libraries, and descriptions of library events and programs.

Designed by the architectural firm of Miralles & Associates, Inc., the Memorial Branch renovation provides seismic reinforcement and full accessibility for the disabled. The 10,500-square-foot building is carpeted, air-conditioned, and has a multi-purpose meeting room and homework center, which provides youngsters with the latest computers and software designed to improve reading, math and study skills. The facility will also utilize LAPL's computerized catalog, which provides information about books available within the LAPL system.

Bill Judson provided the public art component, which is a stained glass installation at the end of each aisle of the library's main bookstack ranges. Judson is the great-grandson of Walter Horace Judson of the renowned Judson Art Studio, which designed and fabricated the historic building's existing stained glass window. The original installation incorporates the names of the 20 Los Angeles High School alumni and an inscription stating hope for "peace among nations."

Joining Jane Gilman and Councilman Holden at the dedication ceremony will be Olivia Cueva-Fernández, President, Board of Library Commissioners; City Librarian Susan Goldberg Kent; Noel Irwin-Hentschel, Chairman and CEO, Americantour International, Inc., and a member of the Board of Directors, Library Foundation of Los Angeles; the Honorable H. Randolph Moore, President, Los Angeles High School Alumni Association; and Marvin Choi, a third grader from Hankook School. John Burroughs Middle School Band, Los Angeles High School Choir, Forbidden Fruit Jazz Band and the Folklorico Dancers from the Rosa Garcia Day Care Center will be on hand to entertain; refreshments will be served.

The project is funded by Proposition #1, the 1989 Library Bond Issue, and the City's Capital Improvement Program.