

Grand Opening Celebration

for the

Wilshire Branch

Los Angeles Public Library

149 North St: Andrews Place

Thursday, August 8, 1996

11:00 a.m.



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

HISTORY OF THE WILSHIRE BRANCH LIBRARY

The Wilshire Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library opened December 6, 1920, in a tiny storefront building on Second and Hobart Streets, across from the Cahuenga School. It was the smallest building ever occupied by any of the city's branch libraries -- a 12-by-24-foot space, length unbroken by doors or windows, with shelf space for only 1000 books. A scant 900 books started the branch's collection, with loans from the Central Library "saving" Wilshire from collapse when a demanding, book-loving public checked out all the branch's volumes within the first week of opening.

The area's growth made it clear that a permanent site for the Wilshire Branch needed to be acquired quickly. In 1922, the Board of Library Commissioners approved a motion to purchase a lot on the southwest corner of St. Andrews Place and Council Street at a cost of \$7,350, to ensure that there would be a place for a new facility when funds became available to build one.

Passage of the 1925 Library Bond measure provided \$500,000 to build facilities for fourteen new libraries, including the highly popular Wilshire Branch. Architect Allen Ruoff was chosen to design the new facility, which was scheduled for completion in 1927. But even with the prospect of a new building, it became necessary in 1926 for the Wilshire Branch to move to larger quarters. Two stores were rented on Western and Council to house the library until the new building could be built.

On August 1, 1927, the new Wilshire Branch Library was opened at a cost of \$56,000. Italian Renaissance in style, the building was constructed of stone tile with tufa stone trimming. The carved doorway featured an elaborate pattern of mythological animals, which was fashioned after the Portal of Costanzo, the famous cathedral of Perugia, a province in Italy. With a large club room, the library now provided a place for community meetings. During World War II, the Wilshire Branch Library took an active part in community war interests, offering a hospitable meeting place for the Red Cross Production Unit, nutrition classes, a children's Victory Club and many other groups.

Through changing neighborhood demographics, the Wilshire Branch continued to serve the community at its St. Andrews Place location until October 1, 1987, when it was closed as a result of the Whittier Narrows earthquake. For the first time in 50 years, library service was interrupted. On July 28, 1988, the branch moved to temporary quarters at 316 N. Western Avenue, when the opening of the area's new post office made it possible for the Library to move into the post office's former quarters. Service to the community was restored, and efforts to rebuild the now-historic St. Andrews facility were begun.

Proposition 1, the 1989 bond issue, and grants from the Community Development Department, have provided for the renovation of the historic facility. Now air-conditioned and accessible to the physically challenged, the building also has increased electrical capacity to accommodate modern library technology, such as LAPL's new automated circulation system and computerized catalogue, which provides information about books available within the entire Los Angeles Public Library system. These renovations, designed by Barton Choy Associates, bring the building up to code and ensure that the facility has the capabilities to meet the demands of a new century.

Husband-and-wife artist team Ed Pinson and Debrah Ware provided the library's public art component: a painted frieze with a diamond motif, inspired by the Italian Renaissance style of the building's exterior. Architect Allan Ruoff's original 1925 plans called for the frieze, which was never completed. The renovation made it possible for his original design vision to emerge. The artwork's central interest is the inspirational quotation of Andre Malraux, which surrounds the lobby enhanced by gold detailing. It reads "Culture is the sum of all the forms of art, of love and of thought, which, in the course of centuries, have enabled man to be less enslaved."

The Wilshire Branch Library is located in the Fourth Council District represented by John Ferraro.

PROGRAM

PRE-CEREMONY ENTERTAINMENT

Crenshaw High School Cougar Band -- Musical Director, Al Tarver
Diversity Dance Group, Cahuénga Elementary School , Ms. Bin Rieger, Director

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

Marissa Castro, Past President, Advisory Council Member,
Asian Pacific Women's Network

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Belmont High School JROTC Color Guard -- Sgt. Major David Correia

INVOCATION

The Rev. Jonathan Lee , Oriental Mission Church

SONGS

The Mitchell Choirboys - Directed by Bob Mitchell

WELCOME

Susan Goldberg Kent, City Librarian

GUEST SPEAKERS

Richard J. Riordan, Mayor, City of Los Angeles

John Ferraro, President, City Council

Lucy McCoy, President, Board of Library Commissioners

Parker Anderson, General Manager, Community Development Department

Edward Petko, M.D. Community Representative

Danielle Taphanel, 6th grade student, Alexandria Elementary School

RIBBON CUTTING

POST-CEREMONY ENTERTAINMENT

Diversity Dance Group, Cahuenga Elementary School , Ms. Bin Rieger, Director

Stories and Crafts for Children, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Multi-purpose Room

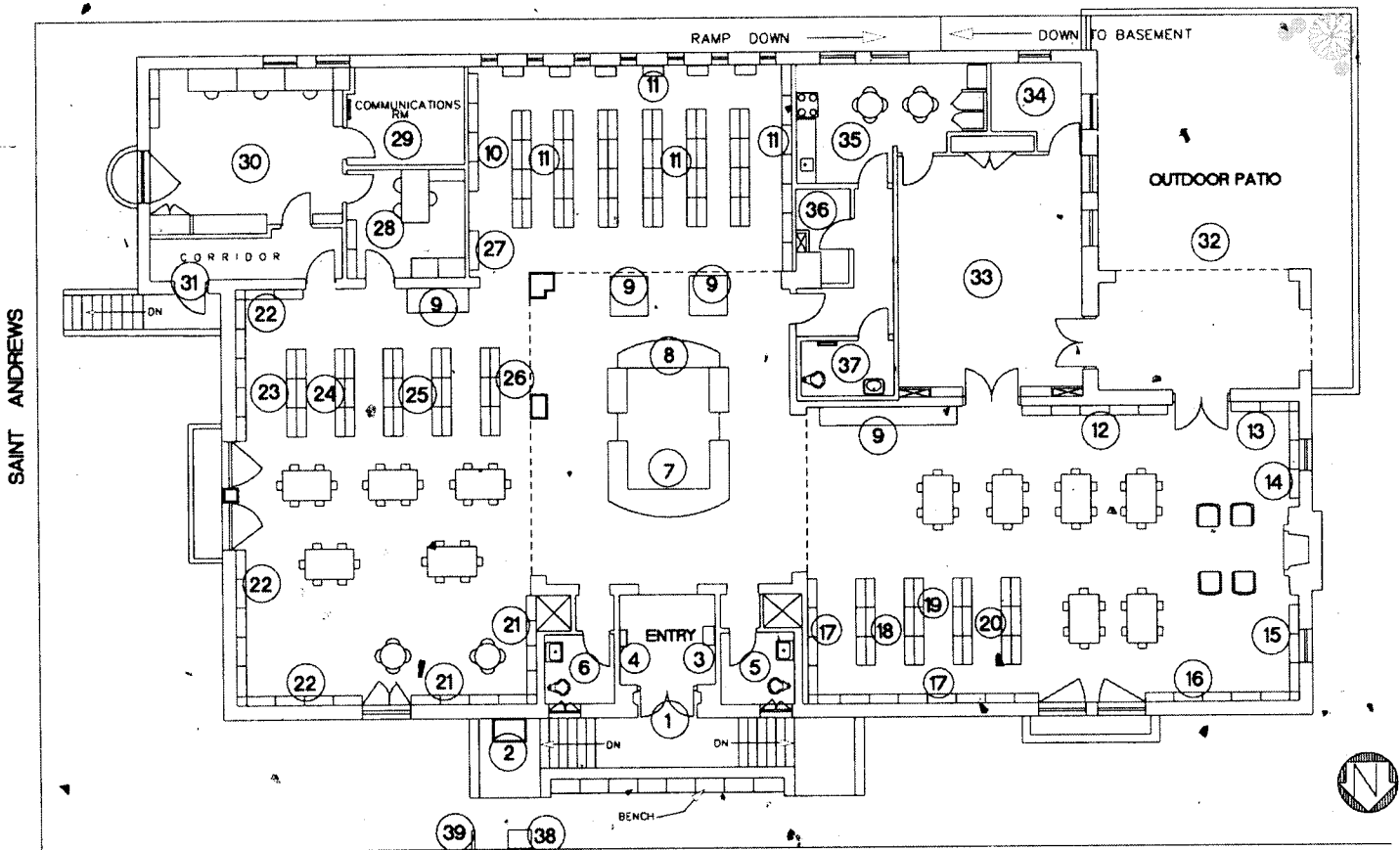
Reading Club Kick-Off, Christine Metro, Storyteller, 4:00 p.m., Multi-purpose Room

THANK YOU

to the following for their support of today's festivities:

B and L Gourmet Pastries, The Knoll Family, owners, 8556 W. 3rd Street; **Burger King**, 1011 N. Western Ave., Chuck Thomas, Mgr. and **Cimm's/Burger King, Inc.**, Rosemary Evans; **Carl's Jr.**, 383 N. Western Avenue; **Rosicrucian Hermes Lodge**; **Smart & Final**, 939 N. Western Ave., Dan Crawford, Mgr.; **Sizzler**, 710 S. Western Ave., Eric Currie, General Mgr.; **Winchell's Corporation**, Patricia Whittingham, Marketing; **Yum Yum Donuts**, 716 N. Highland Ave., Miriam Revas, Mgr.; Friends of Valley Plaza Library; and Friends of the Wilshire Branch Library:

WILSHIRE BRANCH LIBRARY



COUNCIL ST

FLOOR PLAN

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|---|---|----|-------------------------------|
| ① | MAIN ENTRANCE (COUNCIL STREET) | ②0 | MAGAZINES/NEWSPAPERS |
| ② | HANDICAP ACCESS STAIRLIFT | ②1 | PICTURE BOOKS |
| ③ | DRINKING FOUNTAIN | ②2 | JUVENILE NON-FICTION |
| ④ | PUBLIC TELEPHONE | ②3 | KOREAN BOOKS FOR CHILDREN |
| ⑤ | MEN'S ROOM | ②4 | LIBROS PARA NINOS |
| ⑥ | WOMEN'S ROOM | ②5 | JUVENILE FICTION |
| ⑦ | CIRCULATION DESK | ②6 | JUVENILE AUDIO-VISUAL |
| ⑧ | INFORMATION DESK | ②7 | PHOTOCOPIER |
| ⑨ | ON-LINE CATALOG/COMPUTER STATIONS | ②8 | SENIOR LIBRARIAN'S OFFICE |
| ⑩ | REFERENCE BOOKS | ②9 | COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT ROOM |
| ⑪ | ADULT/YOUNG ADULT NON-FICTION | ③0 | STAFF WORKROOM |
| ⑫ | NEW BOOKS | ③1 | EMERGENCY EXIT |
| ⑬ | MYSTERIES, SCIENCE FICTION, SHORT STORIES | ③2 | PATIO |
| ⑭ | LARGE TYPE | ③3 | MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM |
| ⑮ | ADULT PAPERBACKS | ③4 | ELECTRICAL ROOM |
| ⑯ | YOUNG ADULT COLLECTION | ③5 | STAFF LOUNGE |
| ⑰ | ADULT FICTION | ③6 | CUSTODIAN'S ROOM |
| ⑱ | AUDIO-VISUAL | ③7 | STAFF REST ROOM |
| ⑲ | MULTI-LINGUAL COLLECTION | ③8 | 24-HR BOOK DROP |
| | | ③9 | BICYCLE RACK |

MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES
Richard J. Riordan

COUNCILMEMBER - FOURTH DISTRICT
John Ferraro

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BRANCH CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
Juliana Cheng

HOLLYWOOD AREA MANAGER
Jennifer Lambelet

BRANCH LIBRARIAN
Patricia Walker

LIBRARY STAFF

Marianna Black, Children's Librarian; **Jose Galvan**, Young Adult Librarian;
Heidi Meadows-Adagio, Clerk Typist; **Cosmo Bua**, Library Clerical Assistant; **Guia Silverio**, Messenger Clerk; **Heinar Campos**, Messenger Clerk; **Jessie-Lee Burcelis**, Messenger Clerk; **Chris Randall**, Messenger Clerk; **Rosa Maria Nuques**, Clerical, Dept. of Aging; **Marina Mendoza**, Clerical, Dept. of Aging; **Daniel Barahona**, Computer Aide/Messenger Clerk