

Reading Time

■ Westwood Branch opens.

Story by Bev Haro, Club Counselor
Photos by Sammy Lam, Club IT Business Analyst

LIBRARY DEPT. — On May 7, the City celebrated the opening of the Westwood Library branch at 1246 Glendon Ave.

The opening festivities included the reading of the Pledge of Allegiance by Fairburn Avenue Elementary School Girl Scout Troop, and entertainment by the UCLA Brass Quintet and Spirit Squad with mascots. Cheryl Collins is the Senior Librarian.

The new Westwood Branch is the 71st branch in the City's system and the last of four new branch libraries to be opened by the Los Angeles Public Library in communities without prior public library service. The other new branches are Edendale, Pico Union and Playa Vista. The passage of Proposition DD in 1998 made it possible for the Los Angeles Public Library to finance these new building projects and rebuild or renovate 28 other branch libraries.

The new 12,500-square-foot state-of-the-art Westwood Branch Library facility provides covered parking and features multiple computer workstations that link patrons to the Los Angeles Public Library's Website, catalog, a vast array of databases and the Internet. Other features at the branch include special areas for children, teens and adults, and a multipurpose meeting room.

"The opening of the new Westwood Branch Library along with three others in areas that previously did not have library service demonstrates our ongoing commitment to ensuring a positive future for the children of Los Angeles," said Mayor Jim Hahn. "The state-of-the-art Westwood Branch Library provides the community with free

access to 21st-century technology and access to millions of books, CDs, DVDs and other materials. This is just another step we're taking to improve the quality of life for families throughout our City."

"The new Westwood library will benefit the entire community, and the library will truly be part of the community," said Councilman Jack Weiss. "I applaud the Friends of the Westwood Library and the Library staff who have helped to ensure that Westwood Library's modern and welcoming facilities will make learning fun in a comfortable and relaxed environment as a vital educational and community resource."

Steve Ehrlich Architects designed the building. Artists Will Nettleship and John D. O'Brien created the art projects. O'Brien's sculpture Asterisk is located in the entryway and consists of triangular prisms made of aluminum frames and two-way mirror plexiglas panels which hang below a mirrored ceiling segment. Nettleship placed his creation — a set of eight red, yellow, black and white butterfly images — in the windows of the children's area to catch the sunrise from the east.

The Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest urban population of any library in the country. Its Central Library, 71 branch libraries, six million books and state-of-the-art technology provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning. For further information, visit the Library's Web site at lapl.org.

The Westwood Branch Library is in the Fifth Council District represented by Councilmember Weiss.



The Westwood Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library.



Councilman (at the time) Antonio Villaraigosa addresses the crowd.



Councilman Jack Weiss, District 5.



Robert Chick, President, Board of Library Commissioners.



From left: Councilman Jack Weiss; Councilman (at the time) Antonio Villaraigosa; and Robert Chick, president, Board of Library Commissioners.



Gaynell Massey, Clerk Typist, greeting visitors.



From left: Kelly Tyler, Teen Librarian; Catherine Royalty, Adult Librarian; and Heather Daugherty, Children's Librarian.



Councilman Jack Weiss cuts the ribbon.



From left: Officer Bernard Wilder, 4 years; Officer Massey, 27 years; Officer Walter Williams, 4 years; Sgt. Jean Childs, 30 years; and Officer Pryor, 6 years.



The Westwood Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library.

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