



January 3, 2006

Dear Poets, Writers, Artists, Performers, and Community Members,

West Oakland Public Library and Wanda Sabir, college professor, long-term library supporter and founder of this annual event, invite you to join us for the 15th ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN CELEBRATION THROUGH POETRY from 1:00-4:00 on Saturday, February 4, 2006 at the West Oakland Branch Library. In the tradition of this event community members of ALL AGES participate by reading their poetry, performing, dancing or/and displaying their works of art. The artwork displayed by local artists adds an important, interesting and colorful element to the celebration.

As always, we especially encourage all hidden and "closeted" poets who have not read formally in public before. Often such writings can be among the most moving works shared. Although we welcome all themes, this year we encourage writers and artists to consider an overall theme: "Resistance Movements: Black Panther Revisited at 40 years."

Past participants ranged in age from 8 to 80, including published writers, award winning authors and some reading their work in public for the first time. Music, dance and costumes have enhanced past performances as each participant shares her or his unique style. Those involved thoroughly enjoy the diversity of presentations in this setting.

Those interested in being featured in the program need to let us know by Friday, January 27 and participate in a rehearsal on Saturday, January 28 from 10AM to 1PM at the West Oakland Branch Library - 1801 Adeline Street (across from DeFremery Park.) The library is near AC Transit bus lines, which stop at the corner of 18th and Adeline Street and 15 blocks from City Center BART station. Call 238-7352 for more information.

We have invited KTOP to film the event for future broadcast. According to former KTOP staff, this has been one of the most popular broadcasts produced.

Friends of the Oakland Public Library will again sponsor this free event, including refreshments donated by many local vendors. The event takes place in the wheel chair accessible Multi-purpose Room and we hope the bathrooms will one day be wheel chair accessible too. Accommodations can be made for the hearing impaired, but advanced arrangement is required; please phone by January 19 for such arrangements.

We look forward to your participation!

Sincerely,

Wanda Sabir
Program Coordinator and
Library Commissioner,
Oakland Public Library -

Christine Saed
Senior Librarian
West Oakland Branch Library