



Friends of the Brentwood Library Newsletter

January 2019

In This Issue

- President's Message
- Second Story Book Sales
- Librarian's Corner
- Read to 2020
- Brentwood Library History
- Brentwood Library Foundation
- Membership Update
- Attitude of Gratitude
- Brentwood Library Commissioner Opening
- Opening Day Pictures

Board

President

Mary Lou Klovee

1st Vice President

Sharon Ellingson

2nd Vice President, Membership

Louise Massante

3rd Vice President, Book Sales

Charlotte Allison

4th Vice President, Newsletter

Sharon Garrison

Member-at-Large

Maxine Buxbaum

Recording Secretary

Diane Alexander

Corresponding Secretary

Vivian Faye

Treasurer

Molly Gomez

President's Message...Hello from Mary Lou

On Saturday, September 29, 2018, thousands of people witnessed a beautiful grand opening of our new Brentwood Library. What a sight! People of all ages experienced all the areas of our Library with joy and enthusiasm. Some pictures from opening day appear later in the newsletter.

Many people ventured upstairs to visit the Friends of Brentwood Library Book Store. What a treat to watch children hugging their newly purchased books. It certainly warmed this retired teacher's heart to see so many families enjoying the Brentwood Library.

When I was upstairs in the Library on opening day, I looked out a window and saw the roof line on the house behind Caps Restaurant on Second street which was the Brentwood Library when I was in 1st Grade. There was a little tug on the heart strings as I thought of all the individuals that helped keep the Brentwood Library up and running since 1915.

Hope to see you in the library. Check on the quarterly flyers listing Library programs available at the front desk or on the Contra Costa County Library website at:



Mary Lou

Reach Mary Lou at 925-516-7484 or kmklovee@comcast.net

Second Story Book Sales

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter article, the high point of 2018 would be the opening of the new Brentwood Library and moving into the Friends new Second Story Book Shop located on the second floor. As you can imagine, there was a great amount of anticipation, predictions, and expectations about the new book shop.

You can't imagine the work that the volunteers did, planning, moving books from garages, categorizing and shelving your donated books. We know that the moving of boxes of books could not have been completed without the help of the "Working Wonders" volunteer team and their leader Christine Schwab. Everyone put in a lot of time to make the Second Story Book Shop the best Friends Book Shop around. Our volunteers goal was and is about the presentation of books to the customers. A place for anyone to browse who enjoys books.

Chairs

Book Sales
Charlotte Allison

Newsletter
Sharon Garrison

Library Commissionier
Open

Contact Us

Email:
friends.brentwood.library
@gmail.com

Membership Meetings

10:00 am

**Brentwood Library
Community Room**

Dates

January 14th

March 11th

May 13th

Board Meetings

10:00 am

**Brentwood Library
Upstairs Conference Room**

Dates

February 11th

April 8th

Opening day in the Book Shop was beyond our expectations!! We sold approximately 760 books, met individuals that expressed interest in being a member, volunteer or just enjoyed seeing the new Book Shop. Throughout the day guest comments included; "your selection is great and reasonably priced; The store is very organized and is the perfect place for those that enjoy books; your presentation of the books is outstanding."

Friends will continue to present books, reasonably priced, and a variety of selections. We want the Second Story Book Shop to be the place you will want to browse and find something of interest.

The memory of the opening day of the Brentwood Library and the Second Story Book Shop will be with the volunteers and the Brentwood Community for a very long time. We continue to hear community members talk about the new library and the event.

We would like to invite you to come and visit and see our selections and possibly find your winter read at the Second Story Book Shop. We are open the same hours as the library. Volunteers may be available to assist you with book selections. Here are our current book prices: Hardcover & Trade-backs \$1.00, Paperbacks \$0.50, and Children's \$0.50.

An assortment of individually priced items such as audio books, media and Vinyl records are now available. We are proud of vinyl records selections, not only because of the variety but the way they have been prepared for sale. Theme books & Specialty books are \$2.00 and up. They are marked with an orange dot on the binding and located in the first row bookshelf as you step off the elevator.

Do you have a passion for books and volunteering?

Volunteering is enjoyable and there are varied opportunities available. Some examples are managing donations by categorizing and shelving books. Promotional ideas, and marketing. Partnering with local business, and educators at varied settings. Working with the book sale team either online sales or Second Story Book Shop sales. There are opportunities to work with the high school students to achieve their required volunteer hours.

Book Sales of course in 2019. We have a new volunteer, Kathy that will be working with a team of volunteers to plan successful sales that you will enjoy.

At our new setting the logistics of a sale will be coordinated between Kathy, Liz Fuller and Charlotte. Advertising to follow in the Brentwood News and flyers.

Another of idea from the volunteers is "Theme of the Month"

Currently our team has decided to have a designated area, watch for signage.

Upcoming months:

January -Health & Wellness, Martin Luther King's Birthday

February- Romance - President's Day - Black History Month

We invite you to stop by and browse the Specialty selections.

Book Donations - Accepting books, two boxes or bags per visit. Larger donations require coordination by contacting library staff or Charlotte at 925-513-9415.

For all types of questions, sharing your ideas or meeting the team, please stop by the Second Story Book Shop to talk with volunteers.

You may contact Charlotte Allison by calling (925) 513-9414 or email: charlotteallison@sbcglobal.net.

Book Sale Coordinator-Charlotte Allison

Librarian's Corner

Opening Day

Opening Day of the new library was a great day for Brentwood. About 4,500 people streamed through the building to check out the beautiful architecture, get a library card, watch some amazing programs and – oh yeah – check out some books and other material. Shelves of books in the children's section, packed on opening day, looked barren at the end of the evening. It has been a whirlwind since, with many new faces coming in to see what all the fuss is about. One of the best treats staff has is watching newbies come through the front door, and seeing their faces light up at the first glimpse. The typical response from kids is “WOW!!!”, and adults offer a more subdued “wow!” We continue to pack folks in, especially after school, as teens spread out in the group study rooms, and at the tables throughout the library. The laptop lending machine is getting heavily used, as people check them out and perch at the many laptop bars both upstairs and downstairs. We have had field trips from Garin, Krey, Mary Casey Black, Ron Nunn, Timber Point, Liberty High School's AP English class, home school groups, several ESL classes from Liberty Adult Ed, Chamber of Commerce members, P.E.O. International, and a dozen seniors from Cortona Park Assisted Living. If you haven't been in yet, you're in for a treat.

Programs on the Horizon

Staff has been planning programs we will be offering in 2019, and have several new things in the lineup. We will continue our monthly beading classes and book club for adults, but will also offer a weekly English as a Second Language conversation class, monthly sewing, genealogy and 3D printing classes, a monthly meetup for adults with all abilities called the Insiders, and a Teen Insiders meetup as well. We have a new TAG, or Teen Advisory Group, for teens who want to help plan programs for other teens, and plan to have monthly teen programs, and a teen book club. We are back to our full slate of story time sessions on Monday evenings, and Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Homework Help has been expanded to Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00-6:00, with an amazing group of volunteers who help kids from K-12 with math, language arts, science and history. For all of our events, please check our events calendar online at ccclib.org/programs, or pick up our quarterly flyer in the library.

Say Goodbye to Fines

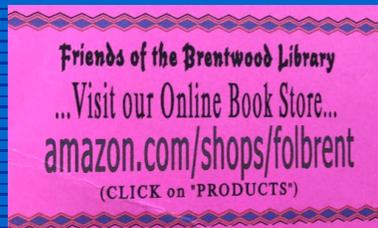
Beginning January 1, 2019, the Contra Costa County Library will eliminate overdue fines on all library materials. The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors voted December 11 in favor of the proposal to eliminate daily fines on overdue books, magazines, DVDs and other materials. By eliminating fines, the library is removing barriers and making access easy, equitable and enjoyable for everyone.

Of more than 650,000 cardholders countywide, 118,450 (18%) currently have their cards blocked due to fines. Forty-three percent of youth accounts currently owe a balance and approximately 21,000 youth cards are blocked at a critical time in their lives.

Amazon Smile

Friends and Foundation have accounts on Amazon Smile.

If you shop on Amazon, you can help by starting your shopping at Amazon Smile and choose either one as your charity. This won't cost you anything extra and .5% of the sale will go to support the Brentwood Library.



Brentwood Library History

Additional information on the history of the Brentwood Library. In our August Newsletter we had a little history of the Brentwood 1901 to 1915. Now we continue...

1915 – January 5th. New Library and Reading Room opened to the public at 3rd and Oak Street.

1919 – July 8th. Library building at 3rd and Oak Street burned to the ground.

1920 – September 20th. The Brentwood Library Association purchased the Domestic Science Building from Liberty Union High School District (LUHS) for \$850 using insurance funds.

1922 – April. Building purchased from LUHS was relocated to 648 2nd Street. It was 717 Square feet and served Brentwood as it's free library until April 30, 1979 (57 years)

1926 – Letitia Gregory, co-owner of Gregory Nursery, donated trees and plants to landscape library grounds.

1926 – September. Balfour-Guthrie Investment Co. deeded theion for the property located at 648 2nd Street to the Brentwood Library Association for the compensation of \$10.00.

1931 – Brentwood Library Association reorganized and adopted the name Brentwood Women's Club as it had been in 1901.

Overdue library material fines and library material replacement charges make up approximately 2 percent of the library's revenue. Since 2013, revenue from fines and charges has decreased by 31 percent. During this same period, circulation of eBooks and other e-resources have increased 128 percent. E-resources are already fine free and benefit those with greater access to technology.

Eliminating overdue fines will also result in more positive customer interactions and allow staff to focus on creativity and exceptional service.

The Contra Costa County Library is the first county library in California and largest in the state to eliminate fines for everyone. The Library joins others across the country that have gone fine-free.

Patrons will still be expected to return library materials on time. Checkout periods on materials will remain the same and patrons will incur a replacement charge if materials are not returned 30 days after the due date.

Volunteers Needed

Many of you have asked about volunteering in the new library. We will definitely be needing help, and here are some ideas to think about:

Router – Every day we pull items that have been requested by people all over Contra Costa County. These items get delivered to other libraries to fill the requests. To find out which books to pull, staff prints a router list that shows Brentwood items available for holds. As a router volunteer, your job is to find these items. The work is done before we open, which will be from 9:00-10:00 or 10:30 or so. It's like a scavenger hunt, and is a favorite activity of our volunteers.

Shelving Holds – Another related function is to shelve the incoming holds that Brentwood patrons have requested. These get shelved alphabetically by the patron's last name and placed on our hold shelves. This work is done after we get our daily delivery and have had time to check in all of the holds, generally from 12:00-1:00 or so.

Homework Help – We are expanding our after-school Homework Help program in the new library, and will offer the service on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00-6:00. Anyone 18 and older will need to be fingerprinted before they can start volunteering for this program. We will start offering Homework Help on Tuesday, October 16th this year. We'd love to get some Spanish speakers to help us this year.

Arts and Crafts – We have a Maker Space upstairs in the new library, dedicated to, as you might guess, making things. If you have a skill that you think can be shared with the public I'm open to suggestions. This could be experience with knitting, crocheting, sewing, quilting, painting and drawing. We will also have a 3D printer and I would welcome someone's help who already knows how to operate one.

There are many more possibilities available. Please talk to staff if you think you'd like to dedicate some time in the new library.

From Liz Fuller, lfuller@ccclib.org

Read to 2020, A Reading Challenge

1931 – October and November. Debate arose on whether to deed the library building to Contra Costa County so that the County would be responsible for the upkeep. A vote was taken and the outcome was in favor of County ownership.

1933 – Brentwood Women's Club completed the process of deeding the library to the Contra Costa County for use as a public library with the provision that the Women's Club could use the building as it's meeting place.

A little more history will appear in the next newsletter.

Source: East Contra Costa Historical Society. A little more history will be in the next Newsletter

I am a fan of reading challenges. I don't perhaps knock out as many books as I'd like, but I like the prospect of finding an enjoyable book on a particular theme. In the past, I've done online book challenges which sent me on a hunt for a book about death or grief, (It's Okay to Laugh, by Nora Purmort) a childhood classic I've never read, (Winnie-the-Pooh, by A.A. Milne) a book by a person of color (This is Just My Face, by Gabourey Sidibe) and a book that has been adapted into a stage play or musical (A Room With a View, by E.M. Forster.)

So, imagine my surprise when I see that my very own Contra Costa County Library is hosting a reading challenge in 2019, called Read to 2020! Each month there is a new theme which can be interpreted in many ways, and can be tracked on our website ccclib.org or on paper. For New Year, New You, you could read a book off the new shelf, a self-help book, or just a book that's new to you. For Roses are Read, pick up a volume of poetry, a book with a color in the title, or a book about gardening. Or, find a new angle to explore...part of the fun is interpreting what each challenge means to you. So, join me in reading the way to 2020!

January: New Year, New You

February: And the Award Goes to....

March: Read the Rainbow

April: Roses are read...

May: May is Mystery Month

June: Travel: Here and Beyond

July: Moon to Mars

August: Have you read this???

September: Back to the Books

October: BOOOOOOoks!

November: Family, Food, and Traditions

December: The End is Near

Brentwood Library Foundation

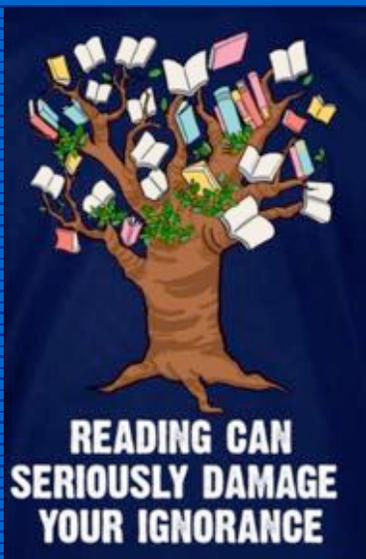
Members of the Board of the Brentwood Library Foundation were thrilled to be part of the opening day celebration at the library. The Keystone Donor plaques at the entrance were a testament to the support we have received. People still want to help equip the new library, so we will be installing a new plaque upstairs to acknowledge those donors. Supporters who donate at least \$100 to the Friends of the Brentwood Library will also be recognized there.

The categories on the perpetual plaque will be:

\$100 - \$499; \$500 - \$1499; \$1500 - \$2499; \$2500 - \$4999, \$5000 - \$9999

The most recent item we ordered is a Power Tower where patrons can charge their various devices. Soon you will be seeing a bench in front of the library that looks like a giant book.

In November, we co-hosted the Brentwood Chamber Mixer at the library with the Friends. We provided food and Liz Fuller gave tours of the library.



Survey #1

Your suggestions and opinions are important to the Friends Board. This helps the Board make decisions on how to best provide for the Library's needs for our Community.

The Friends Board would like to know what our Friends Membership would prefer as meeting times for our membership meetings. Some people have suggested 4:00-5:00pm, which is after school dismissals and less traffic. Parking at the Library may be a challenge especially during school dismissals and evening meetings. Remember that the City has a parking garage located behind the City Hall & Community Center. Some people do not like to drive in the evening and would prefer morning meetings.

We hope to have Friends membership meetings in January, March, & May 2019.

Please email your suggestions to:

Maxine Buxbaum at maxinebuxbaum@yahoo.com or call her at 925-513-7645.



Banner Up! organized by the Art Guild of the Delta continued its success this year. This event is supported by the City of Brentwood and culminates in a free Gala where people bid on the banners that were displayed downtown. On December 18, we hosted a reception to receive their check for \$4,093, which will be spent on art for the library. One of the items we bought with last year's donation, was the beautiful oak tree sculpture by Lon Givens pictured here. We are grateful for the money and the donors who had bought banners to give to the library.

We look forward to 2019 being a year of growth for the library and being a part of its success. You can follow us on our Facebook page or our website:

www.brentwoodlibraryfoundation.org

Diane Alexander, President
dapa@comcast.net

Membership Update

New structure, more room, more amenities but the same feelings of contentment and happiness pervade our beloved library. Children--some lying on the floor absorbed in a book and others chatting happily together, seniors perusing the Second Story Book Store for just the right book priced just right for their budget, busy librarians taking care of customers--much the same as in the days of our previous library space. Everyone loves our library--a place to reside for a few peaceful hours here and there in our busy lives.

We started with 46 active members in July 2018. With the excitement of our grand opening, our current membership as of November 2018 is 110 and growing!

We have five membership options: Individual, Youth (5-17 yrs.), Senior (60 yrs. & over), Family, and Sponsor (Individual/Business). Application for membership forms can be found at the Second Story Book Store desk. The back of the application form lists membership benefits. Individual membership options include a membership card, newsletter subscription, a "Members Only" early entry to select book sales, and opportunities to volunteer and be a part of your local library and community. Take time to read about the options for the other categories.

Many of our members are waiting to use their membership card at our first "Members Only" early entry book sale--date to be set. At select book sales, Members will be allowed to peruse and buy books for a limited time prior to opening the book sale to the general public. Look for more information about this book sale after the first of the year.

Seniors might want to consider purchasing a Youth Membership Card for their grandchildren. What a perfect way to introduce the young ones to the benefits of the library and encourage a lifetime of library usage. A membership card for grandparents would work perfectly for their birthdays and other occasions like Mother's and/or Father's Day.

If you have not visited the new library, put it as a **"MUST DO"** on your calendar. You won't be disappointed.

Louise Massante
Membership Committee Chair

Attitude of Gratitude

The Friends of the Brentwood Library wish to express their deep gratitude to all the individuals, families, and businesses who have joined the “Friends” membership through the dues, sponsorships, donations, and/or volunteering. This helps all of us to provide programs, books, and needed materials that encourage reading and opportunities for the wide range of ages in our community.

Special thank you to the Summerset Computer Club that help many Summerset residents with computer questions and needs. They encourage residents to make a donation to the Friends of the Brentwood Library for donated services from the Computer Club.

Helps us make a positive difference in our community. Our Logo says it all **“Let’s be Friends”**

Join the Friends of the Brentwood Library



Brentwood Library Commissioner Opening

The Brentwood Library Commissioner deadline has been extended by the Brentwood City Council until filled. This is a great opportunity to be involved in the Brentwood Library and represent Brentwood’s community goals and operations with its exciting programs that help support the community.

Minutes of past commission meetings are available at:
<http://guides.ccclib.org/commission>

Reviewing the minutes will give you an idea of their involvement. The commitment requires one meeting the fourth Thursday, every odd-numbered month, except November, from 7-9:00 pm at various locations within the county.

I’ve had the pleasure to serve from 2012 to 2018 as Brentwood’s Commissioner. I will continue to serve in 2019 until another Commissioner is appointed. That involvement has inspired me to visit surrounding libraries as well as libraries in other countries. Please consider applying for the Brentwood’s Library Commissioner position. Here is the link with details about applying for the position with the City Clerk:

<https://www.brentwoodca.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=46786>

Call or email me with any questions.

Vivian Faye, 925-513-3022, email: vivianfaye@comcast.net





Friends of the Brentwood Library

35 Oak Street
Brentwood, CA 94513
Nonprofit Tax ID 47-1101372

Address Correction Requested

FIRST CLASS