



## President's Message

### Mary Lou Klovee

In the May 2009 Newsletter I listed some historical facts about our Brentwood Library beginning with the formation of the Brentwood Library Association in February of 1914 and continuing until 1931, when the Library Association reorganized and became the Brentwood Women's Club.

By 1922 the Brentwood Library was located in a 717 square foot home at 648 Second Street in Brentwood. This location served until the new Library opened on April 30, 1979. This 4,074 square foot library building was located at 751 Third Street and initially contained 27,000 books. It was built in the City Park with funds from a Federal Community Grant. The first two books were checked out by Supervisor Eric Hasseltine and Major Bruce Ghiselli.

In 1980, the Friends of the Brentwood Library was organized and it continues to this day to raise funds for library programs that benefit both children and adults.

In early June 2009, the Library at 751 Third St. was closed and reopened on June 22, 2009 at a newly refurbished site at 104 Oak St. in Brentwood. The library uses one third of the building and shares the rest of the building with Brentwood City Staff.

Look for more historical information in the next Newsletter. My thanks to Kathy Leighton, Barbara Bonnicksen, and Diane Alexander for their historical information.

Mary Lou

Reach Mary Lou at 516-7484 or [kmklovee@comcast.net](mailto:kmklovee@comcast.net)

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## News from the Commissioner – Rhonda White

In September, many positive aspects of patron activity and upcoming events were discussed. The commission thanks you for your continued support in making Library-a-Go-Go is a huge success; whether at a BART station, a transit hub, or a shopping center, commuters have found an easy and convenient way to satisfy their long commuting hours. The last Contra Costa Library-a-Go-Go installation is scheduled for early 2010.

Contrary to popular belief, students are increasingly using public libraries. Contra Costa Libraries report tech savvy youth are using the Internet for many of their research needs. An increase in teen books checked-out and activities held at the libraries has made a greater demand for teen literature.

Rhonda

Reach Rhonda at 998-9694 or [rhondawhite@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rhondawhite@sbcglobal.net)

## Librarian's Message

### Leonard Roudman

A lot has happened since our last newsletter. The Brentwood CityRead started on October 12 and will run through November 21<sup>st</sup>. This year's read is Firoozeh Dumas' *Funny in Farsi* with free copies available all over town, including the library. This book is a humorous memoir of Firoozeh's growing up in southern California during the 70s. The author was born in Iran, but moved to southern California at the age seven. The Brentwood Library will host a free author program entitled *Shared Humanity Through Humor* featuring Ms. Dumas on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m., at Los Medanos College/Brentwood Center, 101A Sand Creek Road.



### The 7th Annual Brentwood CityRead Began October 12

The Brentwood Library is hosting the seventh annual Brentwood CityRead. "Brentwoodians" are invited to read Firoozeh Dumas' *Funny in Farsi*. Check out your copy of this book using the honor system – a library card is not required. When you are finished with the book, pass it on to a friend or return it to the Brentwood Library. Besides the library, various establishments in the area will also have copies available to read and pass on:

- Brentwood Chamber of Commerce 8440 #C Brentwood Boulevard
- Brentwood Press 248 Oak Street
- Gabby's Grind 729 First Street
- Panama Bay Coffee Company 4431 Balfour Road
- Peet's Coffee & Tea 5411 Lone Tree Way
- Starbucks 2530 Sand Creek Road, 8610 Brentwood Boulevard,
- 3150 Balfour Road, and 14804 Highway 4 (Discovery Bay).
- The four Summerset libraries
- Willy's Bagels & Blends 1155 Second Street, Suite D, and 390 West Country Club Drive.

On the inside cover of each book is a reading log so that you may initial your name after you finish reading. Do not forget to complete the flipside of the bookmark in each book and return it to the library.

The Friends of the Brentwood Library, the Brentwood Art Society, the Rotary Club of Brentwood, and the Brentwood Lions Club sponsor this program. I also want to thank Fran Alcorn, Diane Alexander, Donna Coker, Ron Fugazzi, Mollie Gomez, Ken and Mary Lou Klovee, and JoeyIn Rose for transporting book baskets to the various distribution sites around town.

This past summer brought a number of changes to the Brentwood Library. We moved to a new location at 104 Oak Street, which is at the corner of Oak Street and Third Street, across from Brentwood Park. We also have a new phone number: 925-516-5290. I would like to thank the Friends for hosting our grand opening on Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Our new facility has some extra bells and whistles. The new library has 5 more Internet computers than the old library for a total of 12, so you will not have to wait so long during busy afternoons. We also offer 2 computers that are strictly for word processing, PowerPoint, and Excel. For the first time, we offer color printing as well.

The new Brentwood Library is a **self-service** library, so our customers are able to check-out and return their own library materials. We also offer self-service holds. You do not have to wait in a line at the Circulation Desk any more to pick up your holds. If you do not want to use our SelfCheck machines, we will check out your materials for you.

We have combined our Circulation and Reference Desks and created a Help Desk, where you can check your account or receive help placing a hold.

And do not forget to view artist Lance Crannell's photomural, *The Brentwood Experience*, which depicts the essence of the City of Brentwood.

Our customers enjoy the new facility and I have the statistics to prove it! Library use is on the increase in the United States and the Brentwood Community Library is no exception. Our July 2009 circulation (what customers checked out) increased 29.79% over July 2008 and the August 2009 circulation increased 43.63% over August 2008. Also, on average 90% of our customers are using the SelfCheck machines to check out their materials.

Leonard

Reach Leonard at 516-5290 or lroudman@ccclib.org



### A Letter of Thanks from the County Librarian

On the occasion of National Friends of the Library Week, Anne Cain extended her thanks to the Friends of the Brentwood Library and all County Friends groups for their support in 2008. She listed the following achievements:

- Raised over \$198,000 to provide funding for furniture and equipment and to sponsor programs for children and adults.
- Donated nearly \$316,000 towards the purchase of new library books and materials.
- Contributed 57,770 volunteer hours valued at \$1,127,093.
- Reported nearly 6,000 Friends of the Library and Library Foundation members countywide.

## Youth Services Librarian's Message

Lindsay duPont

Daylight is dwindling and sleeves are lengthening, so it must be time for another Fall Newsletter from the Friends of the Brentwood Library. The Library has been bustling since its grand reopening—it seems like everyone in town has stopped by to check out our new digs. And some books as well!

Past programs have gone smoothly, most notably Captain Jack Spareribs, a Johnny Depp impersonator who kept a crowd of over 150 people entertained for nearly an hour. Summer Reading also drew many participants of all ages. I am currently immersed in plans for our October 21st Halloween Party, which will happen at the Brentwood Senior Center off of Balfour. My enthusiasm for Halloween always shines through at these little shindigs, which often tend to resemble a 3-ring circus. Activities will include volunteer face-painting, crafts (edible and non edible), ghoulishly-entertaining games with hair-raising prizes, and creepy boxes with horrible surprises inside. But don't worry... it's all trickery, and the adventurous will find that disembodied ears turn out to be apricots, vampire fangs are really only candy corn, and even dragon poop has a hidden identity. (But that secret is between me and the dragons.) This year our Halloween event is even more beholden to the Friends of the Brentwood Library, since they graciously offered to pay staffing and rental fees for the Senior Center, in addition to the purchase of prizes, decorations, crafts materials, and refreshments. That's what I call Halloween spirit!

Later this month, the Library is going green at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28th, when Oliver Samonte, also known as "Dr. Recycle," will be conducting a program called "Junkology for Teens." Oliver usually works his recycling magic in Canada, where he resides, and we are very excited to have him stop by during his visit to the Bay Area. "Junkology" will be held in the Brentwood Senior Center, courtesy of the Friends.

The Brentwood Library will provide two programs this November. At 4 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17th, local Vietnam veteran (and library user) Phil Ehrhorn will be at the Senior Center to relate tales of his war experiences to children in grades 3 and up. Phil was a fighter pilot during the war, and survived a deadly plane crash. He has spoken at many Brentwood schools, and the Library is very pleased to host his visit in honor of Veteran's Day. Our second event will take place the next day, at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, November 18th, when the local Tosh Karate Academy will be on hand at the Mt. Diablo Region YMCA's Delta First 5 Center, at 760 First St, to give children a crash course in the martial arts. Karate Master Dan Tosh is doing a special class for children 3 and up, so all ages can join in the fun.

December will bring Benny Bendini's Magic Hat Show, a hilarious combination of music, physical comedy, and comic creativity. Benny will be at the Delta First 5 at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, but be sure to get your ticket early, since space is limited. Tickets are free, and will be available in the library starting November 16<sup>th</sup>.

While I have your eyes, don't forget to mark your calendar (or those of children and grand kids) for our Winter Reading Program, which will run from January 25-March 29th. Like last year's program, kids in grades K-12 will be asked to read and review 3 books. Finishers will win prizes, and an entry into a raffle for a deluxe edition of a children's classic.

I'll end my article with a review of a book that I recently read and enjoyed immensely. *Possession*, by A. S. Byatt, should probably be classified as mandatory reading for English majors. At any rate, it is certainly deserving of its spot on the "100 Best English Language Novels," as rated by *Time Magazine* at <http://www.time.com/time/2005/100books/>. *Possession* is a love story within a love story, alternating between skilled prose and surprisingly authentic poetry in several different styles, including that of Emily Dickinson. When researcher Roland Michell stumbles upon undiscovered love letters from a well-known poet, he keeps them a secret from the entire literary world, with the exception of feminist scholar Maud Bailey. The things they discover will alter the literary landscape – and their own lives – forever.

If you made it through that review, you're truly one of the literati. At any rate, you're certainly a library lover. Goodbye for now, and thanks for supporting your local Library!

Lindsay

Reach Lindsay at 516-5290

### EXPERIENCE THE NEW BRENTWOOD LIBRARY



**Brentwood Library**  
**NEW 104 OAK ST., BRENTWOOD CA**  
**PHONE: 516-5290**  
a branch of the Contra Costa County Library  
ccclib.org

**Branch Librarian** Leonard Roudman  
**Youth Services Librarian** Lindsay duPont

**Friends Officers:**  
President Mary Lou Klovee  
Vice President Fran Alcorn  
Secretary Diane Alexander  
Treasurer Molly Gomez

**Chairpersons:**  
Book Sales Marilyn Millis, Diane Lee  
Membership Donna Coker  
Newsletter Ron Fugazzi

**Library Commissioner:** Rhonda White

## Membership Chairperson's Message

**Donna Coker**

Your membership renewals continue to provide funds that the Friends need to support the many programs the Library sponsors each year as well as for helping to purchasing new books. This year, we also used funds provided by you to help with the Library move to 104 Oak Street and to provide funding for the current CityRead.

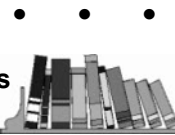
We appreciate all you who renew annually and ask whose memberships have lapsed to renew.

I would also like to acknowledge Ardel Burt and Ron Fugazzi whose volunteer in-home computer support has resulted in donations to the Friends.

The Friends are very grateful to all who donate their time, talent, and funds to help our Library provide their wonderful programs.

Donna

Reach Donna at 513-0654 or [djcoker@att.net](mailto:djcoker@att.net)



**Book Sale Continues  
In Library Lobby**

**Hardbacks \$1.00  
Paperbacks \$ .50**

### Important Meeting Dates and Times to Remember

The next Friends of the Brentwood Library meeting will be held on November 4th, 4-5 p.m., in the new Brentwood Library.

The East County Writers Group meets each Thursday of the month. On the second and fourth Thursday it is a morning meeting, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Round Table Pizza Parlor, on the corner of the Highway 4 Bypass and Sand Creek Road.

There is also an evening meeting on the first and third Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. For information on the evening meetings, contact Mel Stolhand at 634-3805.

We welcome anyone interested in writing, no matter the subject. Our group is friendly and encouraging, and consists of writers at every level. Some are published authors, while others are beginners.

If you are unsure of your writing ability, we welcome you to come and listen to our stories. Maybe you will get the bug too. Come and join us. We are interested in your story. For more information call Melba Stolhand at 634-3805.

The Brentwood Arts Commission meets on the third Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 101B Sand Creek Road. For more information on the Arts Commission, contact the City of Brentwood at 516-5444.

