



Friends of the Brentwood Library Newsletter

January 2020

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3rd Vice President, Book Sales

Charlotte Allison

4th Vice President, Newsletter

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President's Message

The Brentwood Library will be celebrating its 105th birthday on January 11, 2020, in the library's Community Room. I am proud to have been involved with the Brentwood Library for the past thirty-nine years. The Friends have always been an active part of those years.

I'm also proud of the Friends' involvement with the Brentwood CityRead event. The author, C.W. Gortner, was an excellent speaker. The Friends provided refreshments, his books for sale, and other programs to expand the book's Russian theme.

I am glad to report that Bill Harms has joined the Friends' Board in the new position of Publicity. Bill is also on the Foundation Board, where he has done an excellent job with publicity. He has been promoting the Friends' book sales on Facebook and writing articles for "The Press".

I look forward to another productive year in 2020!

Diane Alexander

Reach Diane at dapa@comcast.net

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:



Second Story Book Sales

Reflecting Back - 2019 Book Sale Activities

Special Book Sales

Special sales have been held on Saturdays in 2019, coordinated by Kathy Mount and our book sale team. An amazing amount of preparation is involved for the sale. It takes several days of organizing a very large inventory of books. The proceeds of the sales were approximately \$2,800. Kathy and her team are already planning book sales for 2020. The first sale will be on Saturday, February 1st, from 10:00-3:00 p.m. in the library Community Room. You don't want to miss the "Fill our Bag" sale which runs the entire time from 10:00-3:00 p.m. at \$7.00 per bag.

Amazon Sales

Special news from our Amazon coordinator, Sue Block. In July of 2014, the Amazon team was organized. Even though they have had challenges thru the years, they are a resilient group of volunteers. Recently we received an email from Sue Block stating:

Chairs

Book Sales
Charlotte Allison

Newsletter
Sharon Garrison

Library Commission
Thuy DaoJensen

Contact Us

Email:
friends.brentwood.library
@gmail.com

Board Meetings

January 15th
10:15 am
Brentwood Library
Upstairs Conference Room

Book Sale

February 1st
10:00 – 3:00 pm
Brentwood Library
Community Room



Friends' Book Bag, available
at the Second Story Book
Shop

“We finally broke \$22,000!” Impressive accomplishment and especially the programs that are sponsored because of the Amazon project. Thank you team!

Working Wonders Team

Early in December, we took time out to say thank you to the *Working Wonders* team who help us weekly in the Book Shop. This team helps us by transporting boxes of books to and from our book shop, and dusting and straightening the book shelves. We had an appreciation pizza party with twelve in attendance, including supervisor Christine.



Volunteer Ilene Foster expressed appreciation for the job they do for us. She gave each of them a coupon for a free book from the Second Story Book Shop as well as a 2020 calendar. They enjoyed the special party and gift. We are very fortunate to have them help our volunteers.

Volunteering

Volunteering for Friends of the Library means different things to each of us. We have a team of 31 volunteers. They are knowledgeable about books, hardworking, flexible, have good customer service, and a willingness to suggest new ideas. Our volunteers contributed 2,684 hours from January through November of 2019. These hours include working in the Second Story Book Shop handling Amazon book sales, special book sales, selling books at the CityRead event, satellite donation management, and other projects. Their hard work has contributed to many programs at the library this year.

Book Bags

I am pleased to announce that we are selling handcrafted book bags displayed at the Second Story Book Shop. We are showcasing the bags made by Diane Alexander, Friends President. The bags are made from a variety of fabrics are available.

If you are interested in exploring volunteer opportunities, stop by the Second Story Book Shop in the Brentwood Library for information or
Contact Sharon Ellingson, Training Instructor, at (925) 634-1160

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

Librarian's Corner

2019 Library Highlights

Whew! This has been a huge year both for the Contra Costa County Library system and for Brentwood. The big changes that happened system-wide include going fine free on January 1st, 2019, introducing new library card designs in the fall, and unveiling our new website to round out the year. Each one of these things by themselves would be a huge



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.



undertaking, but we like to challenge ourselves in CCC. I know the first two initiatives have been extremely successful, with scores of people bringing in books they'd held onto figuring they had too many fines to make it worth their while returning them. We have recovered a lot of material, which is one of the goals of going fine free. The other goal is to have people able to use the library again. I can't tell you how many times patrons at the desk have expressed relief, joy and literally tears at finding out their accounts had been cleared, and that they can once again check out material. The new cards have been a big hit as well, with literally thousands of people coming in to either get a card for the first time, or two swap their old one out for one of our cute new designs. I've played with the new website and catalog, and think the public is going to love it! It is clean, easy to use, and has a mobile app on the way – what more can I say?

Brentwood has also seen a lot of activity in 2019. The year started with us having opened just two months before. We started off with a bang, and it hasn't let up much throughout the year. We are still checking out over 50% more material than we were three years ago when we were in the old library. Program attendance is way up, with more being offered and more people taking advantage of those offerings. Some of the stand-out programs this year included our Chinese New Year program, the controversial Drag Queen Storytime, Dinosaurs Rock! Free Comic Book Day, our Exploration Stations with the Bay Area Discovery Museum, Magical Nathaniel and our CityRead author event with C.W. Gortner. Attendance was at least 150 for these, with three of them attracting more than 400. But even more than numbers, these programs were rich in content, generated enthusiasm in those who attended, and provided a diverse and multi-layered experience for all.

Excitement Ahead in 2020

It will be hard to top 2019, but we aim to try. Since it's both an election year and the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote, Contra Costa County Library will be doing a series of programs around civic engagement. We will again host candidate forums throughout the county, and will partner with the League of Women Voters to host informational programs about the propositions on the ballot. Going in an opposite direction, the teen services group of library staff will be organizing several Comic Cons (Library Cons?) throughout the county in the spring. Special focus for kids will be on Kindergarten Readiness from February through April, Family Literacy Nights in the spring, and picture book month in November. You will see these themes reflected in Brentwood as well as we incorporate these bigger ideas into local programs. Fasten your seatbelts, everyone!

From Liz Fuller, lfuller@ccclib.org



Brentwood Library Foundation

Another successful Banner Up! event was completed in September by the Art Guild of the Delta. Fifty-nine banners painted by local artists were hung downtown and later auctioned in in a free Gala at the Brentwood Community Center. At our November meeting, the Guild presented us with a check for \$3,072 to be used for art in the library. The last three years of Banner Up! have resulted in a total donation of \$11,820.00. We should be seeing more art purchased with those funds in the library soon.

DO BOOKS
BELONG TO ME
OR
DO I BELONG TO
BOOKS?

THAT IS THE QUESTION.

We were also thrilled to receive a \$13,000.00 donation from the Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation. In the next newsletter, I will report how we spend it for the betterment of the library.

You can follow us on our Facebook page or our website:

www.brentwoodlibraryfoundation.org

Diane Alexander, President
dapa@comcast.net

Brentwood Library Commissioner

September 19, 2019 meeting

Effective September 1, 2019, Contra Costa County Library has discontinued its subscription to Lynda.com. The company that owns Lynda.com, LinkedIn, has created new usage rules for access to their platform, renamed LinkedIn Learning. It would require library users to share their personal information. Citing privacy concerns, the California State Librarian has recommended that our public libraries not provide LinkedIn Learning.

November 21, 2019 meeting

We are happy to announce that the new website preview and online catalog was released on November 19, 2019! The new website preview has an attractive, modern appearance and is formatted for smartphone viewing. It has something for everyone so please familiarize yourselves with stronger search capabilities as well as the ability to create reading lists, rate books, and find recommendations.

Here is the link to the new platform: <https://ccclib.bibliocms.com/>

Once you create a username you can login with either the username or your library card number and your last name.

At our November meeting of Library Commissioners, there was a presentation on Libby, the one tap reading app. Anyone interested in reading eBooks and eAudiobooks will enjoy this easy way to access books on your smartphone or tablet. To access instructions on how to use Libby, go to:

<http://guides.ccclib.org/commission>

In the November meeting box, click on Agenda Attachment #1 to access straightforward instructions on how to use Libby.

Other News

The El Sobrante Library had a grand re-opening on November 23, 2019.

Thuy DaoJensen, PhD, Email: tdaojensen@gmail.com Thuy DaoJensen, PhD, Email: tdaojensen@gmail.com

Membership Update

Our Library Can Never Have Too Many FRIENDS!

Thank you to all who have joined the Friends or have donated funds to the Brentwood Library. All funds raised through membership dues and donations and from the sale of used books help the library staff to provide programs that provide opportunities for the very young, school age students and adults in our community.

During the week of January 6, 2020, we will have a membership drive downstairs in our library for those who wish to join or renew their membership to the Friends of the Brentwood Library.

Membership - 195
as of December 15, 2019





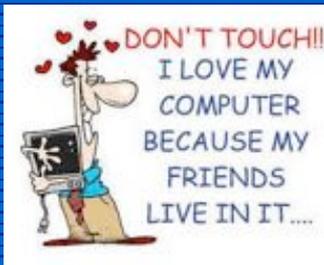
Brentwood Library's 105th Birthday

January 5, 1915 – January 5, 2020

The first Brentwood Library opened on January 5, 1915.

We will be celebrating 105 years of service to the local Brentwood community in January 2020.

We have come a long way...
1915 to 2020.



The first Brentwood Library was opened on Jan. 5, 1915, so we will be celebrating 105 years of having a Brentwood Library available to our Brentwood area community. We have come a long way from January 1915 to 2020.

Mary Lou Klovee
Membership Committee Chair

“LET’S BE FRIENDS” JOIN US!

Art Guild of the Delta Donation



Representatives of the Art Guild of the Delta presented a check for \$3,072 on November 13, 2019, to the Brentwood Library Foundation.

Library Volunteer Brings Computer Help

The Brentwood Library has a new volunteer dedicated to helping the public with computer questions. Joep (pronounced Yoop) Kerske hails from the Netherlands, and has a background in software engineering. Joep will be available to help on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 2:00-4:00, and Thursdays and Fridays from 12:00-2:00.

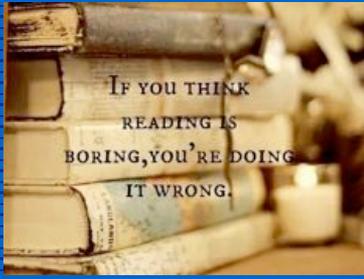
Typical questions we get at the library range from getting help downloading free library eBooks and eAudiobooks to a tablet or phone, to setting up documents in Word, and setting up email accounts. The library has a new website, and Joep has studied it closely and can help navigate it as well.



Spotlight on Classes and Events Supported by You

Makerspace

For Years the Friends have paid for entertainers for children and adults. With the addition of the Makerspace room in our new library, they are helping to pay for the materials for some of the programs there, such as 3D printing. Materials donated by the Delta Quilters Guild and the Friends support the sewing classes taught by Diane Alexander and Librarian Teresa Raines. Other classes offered include the ancient craft of Quilling and Genealogy research. You can find a complete schedule of library programs at: www.ccclib.org/programs



Makerspace Project for 105th Anniversary

Class in Makerspace

Booksale



Hard working Friends volunteers getting ready for the Booksale; Booksale.

Sewing

Our newly-minted sewing classes created a lot of buzz in the community this year. The projects were easy and popular -- so popular that we found a need to increase from two classes, those taught by Diane Alexander and Basic Sewing, to a third class called Open Studio. While Diane's classes attract sewers of all levels, the Basic Sewing classes are focused on the beginners: those that just need the confidence to use their own home machines, or need access to our sewing machines. The Open Studio presents an opportunity for any sewer to come in with their projects and questions. Our volunteers, Susanne and Lisa, have been a tremendous help in making this class work with their expertise.

In the coming year, we will continue with our existing sewing class schedule, with a focus on creating projects that encourage sustainability; that will help keep our clothes looking their best, and adding fashionable accessories to our wardrobes. Sustainable sewing will include items like reusable snack bags, dish covers and replacing paper towels with cloth. We also encourage mending clothing for longevity and beauty. It's also been nice to have teens come to class to learn how to mend, hem and replace buttons on their own clothes. For our basic sewists that have spent most of the year on easy projects, we will be adding projects that will add value to their wardrobe. We will tackle scarves, hats and handbags. I know there will be excitement for these kinds of projects.

While we have had no difficulty filling classes through our reservation system, we have decided to stop taking reservations and have sign-ups at the door before class begins. We are hoping that people who are interested will not be deterred by having to make a reservation. We know from community members' comments that they enjoy this type of programming and would like to see more. We will do our best to continue to provide quality programming.

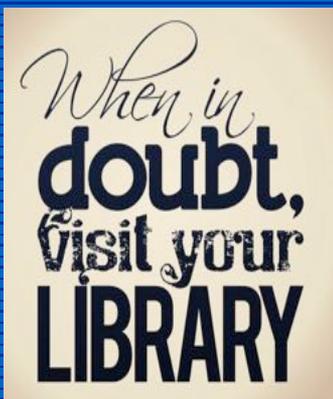
Teresa Raines, Adult and Team Services Librarian

Finding Hidden Treasure

Imagine a half hour in the Second Story Book Shop and the hidden treasure you might find hiding. Imagine the almost new books you want to purchase for reading adventures. Imagine that big and impressive "Collector's Guide to Antique Fishing Tackle" by

MAKERSPACE

The library's Makerspace on the second floor, patrons of various ages can work on creative projects. The Makerspace allows community members access to tools, technology, and social connections that may not be easily accessible otherwise, such as the 3D printer. The goal of the makerspace is to allow patrons to learn through direct experimentation and from each other.





*I Feel
the **NEED**...*

*...the **NEED**
to **READ***

Celebrate Brentwood Library's

105TH BIRTHDAY

Saturday, January 11
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Library Community Room

Brentwood Library
104 Oak St., Brentwood 94513 | 925.516.5290



CONTRA COSTA
COUNTY LIBRARY
Bringing People and Ideas Together
cclib.org

Friends of the Brentwood Library

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Brentwood, CA 94513
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FIRST CLASS