

# The BOOKMARK

of the Redwood City Library Foundation

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Photo courtesy of Lorene Lederer

## TRAVELING STORYTIME HIGHLIGHTS RESULTS

**T**raveling Storytime was the first large project the Redwood City Library Foundation funded. Its continued existence has been the result of ongoing support through generous donations from the community, from several grants from the Peninsula Community Foundation, and from general library funds. In the letter below from JoAnne Wetzel and Jan Pedden (Traveling Storytime staff) to area caregivers, it is obvious that their program is producing results. We are pleased to share this letter with our supporters.

*Dear Childcare Provider:*

*Thank you for your support of our assessment of the Traveling Storytime. We deeply appreciate you allowing us to meet with your children, or letting us know that the children at your site were too young to be included in the study we designed. We thought you would all be interested in the results of the effectiveness of the Traveling Storytime program.*

*Jan and JoAnne went to nine sites and met with 77 children entering kindergarten this summer or fall. Each child they met with had been read to by a volunteer for six*

*months or longer. We were primarily interested in two things: seeing how the children engage with books and their self-regulation capabilities as indicated by their ability to listen while being read to. We based our questions on similar studies that have been conducted in San Mateo County.*

*First we observed each child during the regular storytime. The children that had received the services of a volunteer from the Traveling Storytime program displayed a 91% proficiency in the area of self-regulation, as indicated by their ability to display appropriate social behavior, stay focused, and react appropriately during the storytime. A 2005 study of kindergarten students in San Mateo County reported that 68% of entering kindergartners met or exceeded their teachers' expectations in the area of social regulation abilities.*

*Jan and JoAnne then met individually with each child. Helsbe was given a book bag with two books in it and asked to pick one of them. By encouraging each child to remove the book from the bag it was possible to observe if the child knew how to hold the book correctly, if helsbe knew the front and back of the book and where to begin reading. Giving the child the opportunity to share with book with*

*Jan and JoAnne also revealed if the child could demonstrate left/right directionality and interact with the book in a positive sequential manner. The child's responses to these criteria were recorded and scored (one point for each appropriate action).*

*We compared these results with a similar 2002 county-wide assessment of how children already in kindergarten demonstrate proficiency in engaging with books. 40% of the children in the 2002 assessment were proficient in engaging with books. 92% of the children read to by Traveling Storytime volunteers were proficient.*

*We knew the Traveling Storytime volunteers were making a difference in the lives of the children they read to. Now we can put a figure on how big a difference they're making. WOW!*

*This wouldn't be possible without your support. One of the things we notice that made a difference in the attention level of the children was the active participation of their care-givers in the storytimes. Thank you for welcoming our volunteers into your homes and classrooms and supporting their reading.*

*Sincerely,  
Jan Pedden and JoAnne Wetzel*

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Redwood City  
Library Foundation

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Well, it's that time of year again: fall, the change of seasons, and soon the time for giving. As City employees we are underway in our annual giving campaign, and it has made me realize how many worthy organizations there are in our community. I gave to the Library Foundation and Project READ, my two favorite non-profits!

The Library Foundation, Friends of Literacy, and the Friends of the Library all provide opportunities to donate to vital projects that enhance our library services. However, the library also provides many important non-monetary volunteer opportunities that enrich the lives of our community. You can teach someone to read, help kids with their homework, adopt a preschool or daycare to read stories to every week using books picked out by our librarians, help with fundraising for our new Redwood Shores library, or work in our Friend's book store. Volunteering at the library is good for the soul and helps the library, our neighbors, and families. Contact me at 780-7060 or [dgenesy@redwoodcity.org](mailto:dgenesy@redwoodcity.org) if you are interested!

We are planning our next One Book, One Community event for March of 2007. Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* will be our book; a great read and a story that is highly relevant today. Community partners and volunteers are welcome to get as many of our residents reading and talking about it!!

A Library Archives Committee project, *The History of Redwood City*, has been written by 12 local authors and is currently being edited for a summer 2007 publication date. The Committee is fundraising to offset the publishing costs of this exciting new book. Please contact me if you are interested in supporting this great addition to our Redwood City legacy.

While a change of season is apparent outside the library, our changes are taking place inside. We are half-way through our Children's Room remodel, expanding this heavily used and well-loved space to accommodate more books and seating and to provide places for cuddling up to read with a loved one. A new Teen Area is under design on the second floor; a small outside café is under construction; and the park adjacent to the Library will be made safe, welcoming, and accessible for our downtown residents and visitors.

I thank all of the great folks in our Redwood City area who have given their time or money, or simply used the library; these activities help create a vibrant community.

Have a wonderful season!

*Dave Genesy*

## REDWOOD SHORES LIBRARY CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS ANNOUNCED

Rosanne Foust and Paula Uccelli have been announced as Co-Chairs of the "Campaign for Opening Day Collection," a fundraising effort aimed at raising the remaining funds required for the new Redwood Shores Library. They will lead a large volunteer fundraising committee being assembled to enable raising the additional \$500,000 needed to purchase materials to fill the new library.

Rosanne Foust, currently Vice Mayor, City of Redwood City and Vice Chair, San Mateo County Transportation Authority, is a Redwood Shores resident. Rosanne is Executive Vice President & Treasurer of Alsace Development International. She is a current Board Member of the Redwood Shores Community Association and also involved in Redwood City Rotary, Sequoia Awards Board, School Force Advisory Board, Chamber of Commerce and numerous other community organizations.

Paula Uccelli is a native of San Jose and a resident of Redwood City for 47 years. She attended Sacred Heart

School in San Jose, Our Lady of Mount Carmel School and Sequoia High School in Redwood City, and College of San Mateo. Paula was married to Peter Uccelli, founder of Pete's Harbor in Redwood City, who passed away September 22, 2005. Paula was Director of Public Relations for Pete's Harbor and is now President. Paula has served as a member, director and/or officer for more than three dozen organizations that include Kainos Independent Living Center, Sequoia Hospital Foundation, Sequoia Awards, Peninsula Symphony, and Columbus Day Committee.

The "Campaign for the Opening Day Collection" is scheduled for November 2006 through April 2007. Businesses and residents will be provided contribution information by campaign volunteers through future scheduled events, and through special mailings. Those wishing to contribute may also make donations by visiting the campaign website: [www.rclfdn.org](http://www.rclfdn.org).

### Additional Volunteers Needed

Any Redwood Shores residents wishing to assist as volunteers for this campaign can contact Campaign Director Scott Johnson at the Redwood Shores Library Campaign Office located at 255 Shoreline Drive, Suite 200, Redwood City, CA 94065, or by calling the Campaign Office at 650-482-6455.



Photo courtesy of Lorene Lederer

# Redwood City Library Foundation

## Officers:

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*Vice-President*

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*Travel Consultant/Ticket to Travel*

## Ex-Officio:

**David Genesy**  
*Library Director*

## MEET OUR BOARD

**J**ohn H. Blake is a native of San Francisco and, apart from fifteen years during his youth, when he lived in Colorado, a lifelong Bay Area resident. His earliest "book" memories are of his father reading to John and his sisters, in winter next to the fireplace (this was 1950s Colorado), in summer in the back yard with the Rocky Mountains looming over them.

John recalls his father reading how, at the hands of a treacherous companion, Robin Hood bleeds to death; and how, faced with the choice of turning in Jim, the fugitive slave he has befriended, or becoming a criminal by helping Jim escape, Huck Finn says to himself: "All right then, I'll GO to Hell," follows his conscience and becomes a criminal.

Lawyering is the art of persuasion. John, who practices that art (never mind with what skill), practiced it on his mother as a grammar-school child, persuading her to let him spend Friday afternoons at the new public library instead of in class. (He still wonders what she told his teachers.) To enter that library was to enter a dream, a *terra incognita* peopled with ghosts and accumulated wisdom; where the very smell of books hung in the air.

The memory of that new library, and the world he entered as he walked into it, surfaced when the Foundation invited John to join their Board. They told him the Foundation's major project was to raise funds for a new library in Redwood Shores.

In addition to his law practice, there is always one thing or another John must do before he can read. Soccer (coaching, refereeing, running a local AYSO chapter) has had a claim on John's time since 1985, when his first child turned five and began playing. Another activity close to his heart was tutoring children for Redwood City's Catholic Worker House, which he did in 2001-2002 and needs to resume.

John doesn't mind fly fishing once in a while or simply walking in some quiet place. But, if he had an empty week, John would probably spend it at the Abbey of New Clairvaux, a Trappist monastery near Chico that operates a fruit farm, help them harvest and sort the crops, and share their liturgy (starting at 3:30 a.m.). He spent a month there in 2002 living their life and feels a faint but persistent tug in their direction.

Oh, and what books does he like? The all-time favorite, which he discovered at age nine, rediscovered when he had children and keeps a copy nearby, is William O. Steele's *The Spooky Thing*, an Appalachian folk tale about two brothers who have a life-altering adventure in one night. It has two of the best ghost stories ever told around a fire.

Another recurring favorite is Gerry Spence's *How to Argue and Win Every Time*. Please ignore the dreadful title; the book is indeed about argument, but argument as

affirmation of self, argument not as attack, but as persuasion through empowering those you would persuade, by putting yourself in their hands. Other favorites are the writings of Thomas Merton (Trappist monk) and Robert Kennedy [a Jesuit priest and Zen master (!)].

**C**heryl Angeles is a native Californian, born and raised in Fremont. She was an avid reader in elementary school and was a member of the Bookworm Club. She loved Nancy Drew mysteries and read the entire series.

SafKeep Storage has been Cheryl's employer for over 15 years. Cheryl is the incoming Chair for the Redwood City-San Mateo Chamber of Commerce and will take the reins as the Chair in January, 2007. In 1995 she was named the Athena Businesswoman of the Year and in 2003 was named Person of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce. She is also a board member for the Sequoia Awards, and SafKeep was recently awarded the prestigious award for Business of the Year. She has been a board member for the Library Foundation for several years and was recently elected Vice-President. Other organizations she has been involved with are Soroptimist International of Redwood City, Center for Employment Training, and Whole Access.

This past year she joined a book club, which meets every month. She has read *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*, *Running with Scissors*, *A Million Little Pieces*, *Year of Magical Thinking*, *Known World*, *Good Grief*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, *Good Night Nobody*, *Time Off For Good Behavior*, and is currently reading *Housekeeping*. Cheryl says that each book was enjoyable in a different way.

Cheryl is married to Ted Angeles, a local photographer, and has one daughter, 24, who is in medical sales. Cheryl's hobbies include reading, traveling, cooking, and playing with her cat. The Redwood City community is very important to her and she plans to stay active through her varied and yet to be discovered activities.

## DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND WHO WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US?

**W**e are always looking for names of those who might like to know about the activities of the Redwood City Library Foundation and would enjoy receiving the *Bookmark*. You can give this information by emailing us at [boyson@plsinfo.org](mailto:boyson@plsinfo.org) or leaving a voice mail message at 650-780-7033.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

We are very fortunate in Redwood City to have a wonderful treasure – the Redwood City Public Library and its two community libraries, Fair Oaks and Schaberg. And as part of the Peninsula Library System, Redwood City Public Library patrons have access to books and materials at 34 city or community college libraries throughout San Mateo County. That rivals the capacity of libraries in major cities!

Libraries have always been a special place for me. I still remember the first time my father took me to the Sunnyvale Public Library, in my childhood hometown. I had never seen so many books in one place! I applied for and received my very first library card on that visit, and unlike our modern computer scan system, the librarian actually stamped the due date on the inside of the books. The thought that I could borrow just about anything on the shelves was daunting.

Whether it was exploring Greek mythology, supporting an endless fascination with astronomy (and by extension science fiction), finding new recipes with which to dazzle the family, or discovering classical music, my father always took me to the library to find answers and learn more. My father instilled in me a passion for reading, and over the years through various hobbies, interests and milestones, our mutual love of books has served as a strong bond. I can't think what my life would be like without books.

This is why my volunteer work with the Redwood City Library Foundation is so important to me. The same way the Sunnyvale Public Library opened a whole new world for me, I want to make sure all the children (and adults too!) in our community have that same magical opportunity. Through the Foundation, we can help fund and support those programs that make the Library a little more special.

In the coming months you will read and hear more about the Foundation's Campaign for the Opening Day Collection at the new Redwood Shores Library. The new library will be an asset, not just to Redwood Shores, but also to all of Redwood City, because the new collection will be available to everyone. Think about all the children that will be able to walk with their parents to check out books and the lasting memories that will be created.

Your support of the Foundation is critical to ensure that our Library remains vibrant and continues to meet the needs of our community. As we enter into the Holiday Season, I hope you will think of the Foundation. Your gift isn't just to us, but to the entire community.

Mario Rendón

## BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

Last May the library sponsored Redwood City Reads – One Book, One Community. *The Kite Runner*, a coming of age story set in Afghanistan before the war with the Soviets, stimulated panel discussions, literary presentations, and related events throughout the community. If you enjoyed reading *The Kite Runner* and would like to read other books primarily set in Afghanistan here is a sampling of some you will find at our local libraries:

*Come Back to Afghanistan: A California Teenager's Story*, Said Hyder Akbar  
*West of Kabul, East of New York: An Afghan American Story*, Tamin Ansary  
*Torn Between Two Cultures: An Afghan-American Woman Speaks Out*, Maryam Qudrat Asseel  
*The Warlord's Son*, Dan Fesperman  
*Mulberry Empire*, Philip Hensher  
*Kabul in Winter: Life Without Peace in Afghanistan*, Ann Jones  
*The Swallows of Kabul*, Yasmine Khadra  
*The Sewing Circles of Herat: A Personal Voyage Through Afghanistan*, Christina Lamb  
*Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Fight Terrorism and Build Nations... One School at a*

*Time*, Greg Mortenson  
*The Storyteller's Daughter: One Woman's Return to Her Lost Homeland*, Saira Shah  
*Winter in Kandahar*, Steven E. Wilson

## FOUNDATION FUND-RAISER

The Redwood City Library Foundation is participating in the Simon Day of Giving, 2<sup>nd</sup> annual fund-raiser at Stanford Shopping Center on Sunday, November 19, from 11 AM to 6 PM. Tickets may be purchased at the central area in front of Macy's for \$10. Three dollars of that purchase price will go to the Simon Youth Foundation and the rest of the proceeds will be distributed evenly between all the participating non-profit organizations. With your ticket you will receive a wrist band that will entitle you to special discounts at participating merchants. There will be food sampling, family entertainment, and more at the all-day event plus a chance to win a \$1000 Stanford Shopping Center Visa Giftcard. This is an easy way to support the Foundation while doing your holiday gift shopping.

### Redwood City Library Foundation and Ticket To Travel Mexico Cruise Vacation April 20-24 2007

#### 3 Night Baja Mexico Cruise

From Los Angeles, California - aboard *Monarch Of The Seas*

#### While onboard enjoy:

Rock-climbing wall  
Jade sushi bar and Asian-fusion restaurant  
Latté-tudes<sup>SM</sup> coffee house featuring Seattle's Best Coffee®  
Ben & Jerry's® ice cream • Casino Royale<sup>SM</sup>  
Themed bars and lounges, including Boleros Latin lounge  
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#### All of this and more for only:

Interior Stateroom - **from USD 250.00\***  
Oceanview Stateroom - **from USD 265.00\***

#### For information and reservations contact:

**Rouslana Yaroslavsky, TICKET TO TRAVEL**

722 Newport Circle, • Redwood City, CA 94065  
Phone: (650) 592-4415 • Fax: (650) 592-4542  
www.aticket2travel.com • rouslana@aticket2travel.com

\$100 per cabin will be donated towards Opening Day Collection of Redwood Shores Library