



## Annual Report 2008

A Snapshot of the Past Year

Prepared by Ruth Gardner Begell, Executive Director  
January 2009

### Our Mission

The mission of the Solano County Library Foundation is to support the programs of the Solano County Library and the literacy and lifelong learning needs of the community it serves.

### Board of Directors

President Jennifer Barton, Vice President Beth Shedden, Secretary Frances McCullough, Treasurer Kari Sousa. Board members: Andy Anderson, David Balmer, Janet Blegen, Tim Burkhart, Georgia Chun, Darlene Frankel, Michele Harris, Betty Homer, Patty Jansen, Jim Moehrke, Earline Murray, Kathleen Ramos, Marla Shapiro, Sharon Tucker, Jack Waltz; Ex Officio member Ann Cousineau, Director of Library Services; and Honorary members Rhuenette Alums and Sue Vaccaro

### Staff

Executive Director Ruth Gardner Begell,  
Assistant to the Director Beth Miller.

### Library Projects and Programs We Supported in 2008

- Reach Out And Read Clinics in Solano County: \$20,200 for books that were distributed at eleven pediatric clinics located in Fairfield, Vacaville and Vallejo
- Library Adult and Family Literacy Programs: \$18,000 for teaching and learning materials
- Solano Kids Read program, featuring Patti Sherlock's *Letters from Wolfie*: \$14,890 for books and author visits (2700 copies of the books given out to classrooms



Photo by Teresa Willis

### Jennifer 8. Lee signing books at Authors Luncheon 2008

throughout the county and 1,400 people attended the 18 programs)

- Rio Vista Library Children's Program: \$1,000

### Events

Our events not only raise money to support Library projects and programs, but encourage literacy and stimulate a love of reading.

- Authors Luncheon 2008 included mystery writer Laurie King, *Fortune Cookie Chronicles* author Jennifer 8. Lee, suspense novelist David Masiel, children's author Megan McDonald, *The Truth about Aging in America* author Lillian Rubin, and author/chef David Shalleck. More than 350 guests joined us at the Clubhouse at Rancho Solano to hear the authors speak, have their books signed and participate in the lively auction. Auction items included tours of The New York Times offices and a fortune cookie factory in New York City led by Jennifer 8. Lee.

- “In Defense of Food: Solutions to the Omnivore’s Dilemma,” featuring best-selling author Michael Pollan packed the Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre. This program was co-sponsored with Slow Food Solano.

- The Kitchen Sisters were this year’s National Library Week speakers and in keeping with the Solano Library’s theme of food, entertained the audience (as well as encouraging audience members to participate) with intriguing anecdotes of food ways from across America. KXJZ Capital Public Radio in Sacramento supported the program and morning host Donna Apidone served as emcee for the evening.

- “Celebrating Local Authors II” again featured Solano County Authors who participated in panel discussions moderated by Vallejo author David Corbett, inspiring the audience and each other with their stories of writing and publishing their work.

- A Literary Tour of New Mexico was our second sponsored group adventure exploring libraries, literary sites, galleries and museums. This year’s intrepid



**Mabel Dodge Luhan House in Taos featured on the 2008 Literary Tour**

travelers visited Acoma Pueblo and other places described in *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, enjoyed wine and cheese at the Galisteo Inn while listening to Deborah Madison discuss some of her cookbooks, and visited the house of Mabel Dodge Luhan in Taos as part of the tour.



**Solano County Library Foundation reception and celebration of the opening of the new Suisun City Library for Foundation members, donors and VIPs**

## Membership Program

Our membership program was launched in November 2006 at the Authors Luncheon. Some of the membership benefits these Solano County Library Foundation supporters have enjoyed during 2008 include:

- Discounted ticket prices for the Michael Pollan and Kitchen Sisters programs
- Invitation to new Suisun Library opening reception
- Early email notice about upcoming events and mailed invitations for Authors Luncheon 2008.
- Receipt of the quarterly Solano County Library newsletter, Check It Out!
- Complimentary signed copies of Fern Henry's book *My Checkered Life – Luzena Stanley Wilson in Early California* for those members who signed up for membership at the Authors Luncheon or at Celebrating Local Authors II.

## Our supporters

Thank you to all our supporters who contributed time and funds to our 2008 programs and events. We could not support Library programs or sponsor literary events without their valuable assistance. Following is a list of sponsors who contributed \$1,000 or more in cash or in-kind donations in 2008.

Frank H. & Eva B. Buck Foundation  
First Northern Bank  
Margaret Beelard Community Foundation  
Potrero Hills Landfill  
Solano Garbage Company  
Anderson & Associates  
Travis Credit Union  
The Reporter  
Times-Herald  
AT&T – California  
The Clubhouse at Rancho Solano  
Daily Republic  
Genentech  
Wetlands Construction, Inc.  
Brick's Florist & Gifts  
Bounty Books  
Ann Cousineau  
Monica Espinosa and Vera Godwin  
Friends of the Fairfield and Suisun Libraries  
NorthBay Healthcare

## Plans for 2009 include:

- Co-sponsorship of The Second Annual Women's History Luncheon on Wednesday, March 18 (Tickets are available now for \$20 and sponsorships begin at \$50. See our website for details or call the Foundation office).
- National Library Week Speaker, best-selling author of *The Blue Zone* Andrew Gross on April 15 at Vacaville performing Arts Theatre (tickets will be available in March).
- Literary tour of Philadelphia, Gettysburg, the Amish country, Chadds Ford and Bucks County, October 7 – 14 (call the Foundation office if you would like to be on our mailing list for the details).
- Authors Luncheon 2009 on November 1 (tickets will be available on September 15).
- Continuing support of Solano County Library literacy programs.

Kathleen Ramos, Realtor for Kappel & Kappel  
Beth & Gerald Shedden  
Sheldon Gas Company  
Solano County Library  
Solano Magazine  
Valero Benicia Refinery  
David Balmer  
Ruth & Rick Begell  
Steven and Georgia Chun  
Credit Bureau Associates  
Friends of the Vacaville Public Libraries  
Literary Ladies of Rio Vista  
Leo & Frances McCullough  
Millennium SportsClub Rancho Solano  
Earline Murray  
The Solano County Office of Education  
Soroptimist International of Vacaville  
UC Davis  
Vacaville Sunrise Rotary  
Gaylord Whitlock