

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 2009

President Jennifer Barton, Vice President Beth Shedden, Secretary Frances McCullough, Treasurer Kari Sousa, Members-at-large: James Moehrke and Kathleen Ramos. Board members: Andy Anderson, David Balmer, Janet Blegen, Tim Burkhart, Georgia Chun, Darlene Frankel, Betty Homer, Steve Huddleston, Patty Jansen, Shauna Manina, Earline Murray, 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

*outgoing Executive Director, retiring in December.

Dilenna Harris has been appointed Executive Director effective December 22, 2009.

Library projects and programs we supported this year

- Reach Out And Read Clinics in Solano County: \$21,818 for books that were distributed at eleven pediatric clinics in Fairfield, Vacaville and Vallejo
- Library Adult Literacy Programs: \$1,930 for teaching and learning materials
- Solano Kids Read program, featuring Gordon Korman's *Schooled*: \$6,568 for books (2,700 copies of the books given out to 47 schools throughout the county.)
- Rio Vista Library Children's Program: \$1,000
- Adult Literacy student prescription glasses program (funded by a grant from Travis Credit Union with free eye exams provided by Katherine M. Severin, OD who provided the inspiration for this program): \$333

Events

Our events not only raise money to support Library projects and programs, but by encouraging literacy and a love of reading they fulfill our mission as well. This year's programs



Photo by Teresa Willis

Belle Yang signing books at Authors Luncheon 2009

included:

- The **Jeanne Houston** (author of *Farewell to Manzanar*) program presented free of charge by Solano County Library at Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre with funds raised by the 2008 Women's History Luncheon which we co-sponsored
- Co-sponsored the **Women's History Luncheon** in March and invited Nicole Hollander (cartoonist for *Sylvia*) as speaker
- Presented thriller author **Andrew Gross** in a program and book signing for National Library Week at Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre in April
- Hosted **Wine & Cheese Pairing and Tasting** with award-winning cookbook author **Janet Fletcher** at Frank H. Buck Estate in June
- Hosted bestselling author **Franz Wisner** for a program and book signing at Winterhawk Winery in July
- **Toured Eastern Pennsylvania and environs** in our third annual fall Literary Tour. This year's group visited Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin's historic printing shop, had cocktails with author Ru Freeman, dined with an Amish Family, toured Gettysburg, and much more.
- Hosted award-winning cookbook author **Georgeanne**

Brennan at a program and book signing at Winterhawk Winery in October

• **Authors Luncheon 2009** was our most successful ever. The featured authors this year included: Peter Grandbois, author of *The Gravedigger*, a work of magic realism; bestselling cookbook author and founding chef of Greens Restaurant in San Francisco, Deborah Madison, whose new book is *What We Eat When We Eat Alone*; Dan Millman, former world champion athlete whose autobiographical novel *Way of the Peaceful Warrior* was the basis of the film *Peaceful Warrior*; Dr. Patricia A. Turner from UC Davis and her latest book *Crafted Lives: Stories and Studies of African American Quilters*; Ayelet Waldman, author of the bestselling *Bad Mother: A Chronicle of Maternal Crimes, Minor Calamities and Occasional Moments of Grace*; and artist Belle Yang with her latest beautifully illustrated children's book *Foo the Flying Frog of Washtub Pond*.

Membership Program

Some of the membership benefits these Solano County Library Foundation supporters have enjoyed during 2009 include:

- Discounted ticket prices for the Andrew Gross program at VPAT, the Wine & Cheese Pairing with Janet Fletcher, and the Wisner and Brennan programs at Winterhawk Winery

- Invitation to an open house at our new offices at 601 Kentucky Street
- Early email notice about upcoming events and mailed invitations for Authors Luncheon 2009
- Receipt of the quarterly Solano County Library newsletter, *Check It Out!*

Plans for 2010

Some of our plans for 2010, under the leadership of the new Executive Director Dilenna Harris include:

- Co-sponsorship of the Third Annual Women's History Luncheon on March 12 (Tickets will be available in January for \$25 and sponsorships begin at \$50. See our website after January 1 for the details or call the Foundation office).
- National Library Week Speaker, on April 16 at Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre (tickets will be available in March).
- Literary tour of Savannah, Georgia and Charleston, South Carolina area in mid-September (call the Foundation office if you would like to be on our mailing list for the details).
- Authors Luncheon 2010 on November 7 (tickets will be available on Sept.15).
- Continuing support of Solano County Library literacy programs and Solano Kids Read

Our Supporters

Thank you to all our supporters who contributed time and funds to our 2009 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 2009.

- Frank H. & Eva B. Buck Foundation
- First Northern Bank
- Margaret Beelard Community Foundation
- Potrero Hills Landfill
- Kiewit Pacific Company
- Solano Garbage Company
- Anderson & Associates
- Travis Credit Union
- The Reporter
- Times-Herald
- AT&T – California
- Bounty Books
- The Clubhouse at Rancho Solano
- Daily Republic
- Genentech
- PG&E
- Wetlands Construction, Inc.
- Bricks Florist & Gifts
- Ann Cousineau
- Monica Espinosa and Vera Godwin
- Friends of the Fairfield and Suisun Libraries
- NorthBay Healthcare
- Kathleen Ramos, Realtor for Kappel & Kappel
- Beth and Gerald Shedden
- Sheldon Gas Company
- Solano County Library
- Solano Magazine
- Valero Benicia Refinery
- David Balmer
- Jennifer Barton and Alice Carmack
- Ruth and Rick Begell
- Tim Burkhart
- Steven and Georgia Chun
- Credit Bureau Associates
- Friends of the Vacaville Public Libraries
- Literary Ladies of Rio Vista
- Leo and Frances McCullough
- Earline Murray
- Parsons Brinckerhoff
- Solano County Counsel
- Solano County Office of Education
- Soroptimist International of Vacaville
- UC Davis
- Vacaville Sunrise Rotary

I would like to thank all of the generous people and organizations who have supported the Solano County Library Foundation in so many ways during my four years as Executive Director. You have all played an important role in the growth of the Foundation and given me good reason to revel in my good fortune for this opportunity to serve the community in the cause of literacy.