



BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY
510-981-6100
www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org

July 2006

what's happening here
Newsletter of the Berkeley Public Library

Literacy Corner: Student Profile
Berkeley Reads Adult and Family Literacy

Will Wright

My name is Will Wright. The reason I started to come to **Berkeley Reads** was because I couldn't read or write. When I was a kid I didn't get a chance to go to school.

Before I couldn't write my name. Now I can sound out some words. Reading helps you express yourself. Reading to me is a thrill. I'm going to keep trying to learn more.

From "Another Leaf Has Fallen"

(**Berkeley Reads** publication)

Thirteen years have passed since Will Wright came to Berkeley READS asking for help to learn to read and write. Will's inability to read weakened his self-esteem. "When I first came to **Berkeley Reads**, I was shy and ashamed. I couldn't read or write. I felt that I was a grown man and it was embarrassing that I couldn't read."

This past year, Will has been hospitalized with a serious illness and unable to meet with his weekly tutor and attend his writing group. Recently, Will has stopped by the office several times on his road to recovery and met with the Student Advocate to receive assistance on his personal applications and to complete his absentee voting ballot. Through Will's perseverance and hard work, he has progressed tremendously since he first came to **Berkeley Reads**. We wish him good health and can't wait for him to return to our program. You are missed, Will!

*Submitted by Jean Shields, Student Advocate
and former Adult Student*

For teens this summer

Cover to Cover, our annual reading program for teenagers, continues. This year we have fortified **Cover to Cover** with a series of interactive programs. On July 15th **Blöödhag**, a heavy metal band that features songs based on science fiction, plays the Central Library. On July 18th Berkeley's own **Youth Radio** will show teenagers how to make a public service announcement. On July 29th **Colored Ink, the Troupe That Makes You Think**, introduces participants to **Hip-Hop Theater**. And on August 10th **Sisterz of the Underground** presents **The Art of Emceeing, Rhyming and Poetry – a Workshop for Teens**. For those who like to talk about the books they're reading, we're running three bookgroups - Serious Science Fiction and Fantasy, Book Talk::Urban Style, and Comix.@\$#! For more info on all these events, please call 510 981-6133 or go to <http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/weblog/teens/>

Intellectual Freedom Program

ACCESS IS EVERYTHING: If it's public information, why can't we get to it?

On Monday, July 17, 2006, 7pm, 3rd floor Community Meeting Room, Central Berkeley Public Library, 2090 Kittredge Street, Downtown Berkeley, come hear **Dan Noyes, Center for Investigative Reporting, Barbara Newcombe, author of Paper Trails, and Barbara Snider, Santa Cruz Public Libraries**, address the disappearing access to government information sources and related issues and problems. This is the 1st in a series of occasional programs on *Intellectual Freedom* co-sponsored by the **Friends of the Berkeley Public Library** and the **California Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee**. For access information and other questions, call (510) 981-6107 (voice) or (510) 548-1240 (TTY).

New Berkeley Public Library Catalog Features

A number of new features were recently added to the Berkeley Public Library Catalog when the Library was closed on Sunday, May 28, 2006, and Monday, May 29, 2006 (for Memorial Day). They make the Catalog easier and friendlier to use and include:

- **Icons** (pictures) next to each title letting patrons know at a glance that an item is a book, a CD, a DVD, large print, or etc. It will now be easy to distinguish which item a patron is looking for, and these **Icons** will be visible as soon as items are on order. As an example: search for *The Bluest Eye* (Toni Morrison) and note the **Icons** designating and labeled by **Book**, **Large Print**, **Spoken Tape**, or **Spoken CD**.
- **Multiple select for "Limit/Sort" search:** When patrons narrow down a search that produces many results, by using the "Limit/Sort Search" button on a results screen, they can now select more than one location and/or more than one format for the item they are searching for, all in the same search. For example: Search on the Subject *Mystery*. On the results display screen, click "Limit/Sort Search" and then choose *Spoken CD and Spoken Cassette* to find books-on-tape and CDs in this subject area of *Mystery*.
- When patrons login under **My Library Account**, they can put on more than one reserve (hold) since the system knows the patron from the login. No need to login repeatedly as one had to previously!
- **Book Cart:** All saved records now go into the **Book Cart**. Login is not necessary. When patrons click on the **Book Cart** icon from any search screen, patrons will be brought to a page that allows them either to request all the items in the Book Cart at once, or to email them to their own email accounts. Of course, either option allows them to remove items from the list.

In the near future look out for **faster speeds** when using the Berkeley Public Library catalog and **scoping**, which will allow patrons to limit searches to, for example, only materials for kids. If patrons have questions on any of these catalog improvements, please come to any information or reference desk in any Berkeley Public Library location.

Berkeley Reads Together...again!

California Stories is the theme of our upcoming citywide reading event. Thanks to the **Friends of the Library**, copies of **Firoozeh Dumas' book, *Funny in Farsi***, will be given away beginning at 1pm on Wednesday, July 19, at all Berkeley Public Library locations. Look for publicity about this book and upcoming programs related to ***Berkeley Reads Together: California Stories***. Also, lovely, blue buttons with ***Berkeley Reads Together: California Stories*** imprinted on them will be available at all library locations.

Local Poets' Program

Sandra M. Gilbert (*Death's Door, Modern Dying and the Ways We Grieve - A Cultural History*) and **Phyllis Stowell** (*Arc of Grief*) present their new books, Saturday, July 29, 2006, 3-5pm, in the 3rd floor Community Meeting Room, Berkeley Public Central Library, 2090 Kittredge Street, Downtown Berkeley. For more info, call 510-981-6107, 510-548-1240 (TTY).

Berkeley Public Library Staff Art Show

Central Library, 2090 Kittredge St., at Shattuck
June 28 through August 7, 2006

Come and see what the talented employees of the Berkeley Public Library do when they're not working! The Berkeley Public Library Staff Art Show will take place from June 28th through August 7th, 2006, in the historic Central Library. Displays will be set up in the Display Windows on Shattuck Avenue, in the Historic Lobby on the second floor, and in the Art and Music Magazine area on the 5th floor.

The idea for the show developed after Nga Trinh, a library worker in the Processing Unit, had a show of her collage work at the library last year. She realized that there were many other talented people working at Berkeley Public Library and discussed with co-workers in her department the idea of having a show of Berkeley Public Library staff work. It sounded like a fun idea, so a call was put out for artists via the staff newsletter.

The variety of work offered for display was surprising. In addition to the more traditional art media -- painting, sculpture, and ceramics -- there will also be some other unique media such as jewelry, collage, quilting, paper mache, comics, and handcrafted dolls.

All are invited to enjoy the creativity of our staff on your next visit to the Central Berkeley Public Library! Central Library hours are Monday & Tuesday 12-8, Wednesday through Saturday 10-6, and Sunday 1-5.

For more information please call 510-981-6100.