



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

December 2007

what's happening here
Newsletter of the Berkeley Public Library

Berkeley Rent Board will offer free counseling at the Berkeley Public Library

Beginning December 8, 2007, **Housing Counselors** from the **Berkeley Rent Board** will offer free, one-on-one counseling sessions in the **Berkeley History Room** on the second floor of **Berkeley's Central Library, 2090 Kittredge Street (at Shattuck Avenue)**. On the **second Saturday of each month from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** counselors will assist both tenants and landlords by answering questions and making referrals on housing related topics-- including security deposits, rent control, evictions, unpaid rent and other difficult issues. This free service will last a total of one hour on the second Saturday, with individual counseling sessions lasting approximately 10 minutes each. Patrons interested in participating are asked to arrive at the 2nd floor Reference Desk between 10:30 a.m. and 10:55 a.m. — a lottery held at 10:55 a.m. will determine the order participants are seen. **For more information about the program, please contact Nick Traylor of the Berkeley Rent Board at 510-644-6128 (ext. 116).**

The Central Library is open Monday, noon-8p.m., Tuesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., and Sunday afternoons 1 p.m.-5 p.m. For questions and accessibility info, call 510-981-6107, TDD 510-548-1240, <http://berkeleypubliclibrary.org>.

Teen Playreaders Program Explores Hamlet at Claremont Branch Library

Berkeley Public Library invites teens to join the **Teen Playreaders** group at the **Claremont Branch Library, 2940 Benvenue (at Ashby)**. "Playreaders" do exactly what the name says: teens gather weekly to read plays aloud, changing parts frequently so everyone gets a chance to be the hero/villain. There are no auditions; all teens are welcome to come and read/listen.

This season's offerings are based on Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. First we'll read the original play. Then we'll read Paul Rudnick's *I Hate Hamlet*, a witty spoof on the play and its legendary place in theater history. Finally, we'll read Tom Stoppard's modern classic, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. This thought-provoking play is an accessible introduction to Stoppard's work, and makes one see Shakespeare's play in a whole new light. Playreaders meet on **Friday afternoons, from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m., on November 30, December 7, 14 and 21,**

and January 11 and 18. No need to register! Scripts and snacks provided.

For questions regarding this program, call 510-981-6121. This program is sponsored by Berkeley Public Library's Teen Services and the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library. **For accessibility info, call 510-981-6107, TTY 510-528-1240, <http://berkeleypubliclibrary.org>.**

Berkeley Public Library Hosts Edward Jones Financial Advisor and Wells Fargo Bank Business Banking Specialist To Present a Program for Adults on Children's Financial Literacy

On Saturday, December 8, 2-4 pm, in the Central Library's 3rd floor Community Meeting Room, Lu Vazquez, Edward Jones Financial Advisor, and John Abrate, Wells Fargo Bank Business Banking Specialist, both of whom serve the Berkeley community, will make presentations on the financial literacy of kids and youth, valuable topics for parents and grandparents and all adults who work with and care for children.

So much depends on financial literacy, and these two local experts will provide adults with the tools they need to teach children and youth the basics of handling money, a lifetime skill. Both will provide participants with free handouts and giveaways that can help with these important tasks.

"As business leaders, we share collective responsibility to help our youth avoid the pitfalls that financial illiteracy brings," said Vazquez. "We want to help parents and grandparents teach children the skills of basic finance so that they are empowered to take control of their financial lives and, in turn, their futures." For more information on Edward Jones, please go to www.edwardjones.com.

"Everyone – kids, teens, young adults, and adults – is interested in money and how to be a better money manager," added Abrate. "It's never too early, or too late, to gain new knowledge and skills to create a brighter financial future." For more information on Wells Fargo's programs, please visit www.handsonbanking.org or www.efuturoentusmanos.org.

Please join us for this exciting program – a program that can make a difference for you and your kids.

For questions and accessibility info, call 510-981-6107, TTY 510-548-1240, <http://berkeleypubliclibrary.org>.

*Berkeley Public Library presents
Photoimager Don Melandry's
THE SUBLIME SERIES:*

Playing with Adobe Photoshop using Filters or

How I stopped worrying and learned to love Photoshop

Head down to the Central Library and check out an exhibition of Berkeley **Photoimager Don Melandry's THE SUBLIME SERIES**, on display until **December 10, 2007** in the exterior Kittredge Street Exhibit cases and in the flat cases inside on the 2nd and 5th floors of the downtown Central Library, 2090 Kittredge Street. On **Sunday, December 2, 2007, 2-4pm**, Melandry will present a **free program about how he does his photoimaging work in the Central Library's 3rd floor Community Meeting Room**. Come watch the magic.

THE SUBLIME SERIES is a venture for local retired commercial photographer Don Melandry into the realm of Photoshop Land. Melandry writes: "Ten thousand years of art techniques have been distilled into a computer program. With a mere click of a mouse you can alter any aspect of an image. You can play with it, you can change the colors, you can be wildly creative. How different from film negatives!"

For 23 years Don Melandry was a commercial photographer photographing weddings, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and other special events. In a way he was a family historian or documentarian, preserving images of family members, friends and guests of the celebrants on print film.

The goal of the documentarian is to capture the true story of the event. The style is called "straight" photography because there is little or no enhancing or manipulating of the image. His role was to capture the image as "real" as possible. Of course, he manipulated the image by the location he chose, the type of film, the shutter speed, the lighting or the poses of the subjects. This is how professional photographers' skills enhance reality and it is why professionals are used for important events. In this way he could create beautiful images of reality for the pleasure and enjoyment of my clients.

Nevertheless, there was a part of Don Melandry that yearned to play with the image, to create something more than, or other than, the original image. Adobe Photoshop gave him the tools to explore new ways of creating the world.

For this project he photographed a dual-colored glass object. It is the size of a baseball. Then in Photoshop, via filters, he manipulated the image. He didn't change the structure of the image, just the way it was rendered. For Melandry the effects are startling and intriguing! You can see an object in many different and entrancing forms and move away from what started as reality to a new world.

We hope you enjoy looking at his work as much as we do, and as much as he did in creating it! **For more info, please call 510-981-6107, 510-548-1240 (TTY) or go to berkeleypubliclibrary.org**

*American Literature Seminar,
An Introduction to 20th Century American Fiction*
(In Mandarin only; no English translation provided.)
**Central Library 3rd floor Community Meeting Room
December 15, 2007, 1:45 to 4:30 pm**

This program seeks to help the Asian immigrants in the community develop their interest in, and understanding

of, Western literature and culture. Professor Frederick Hsia will focus on important American writers of the 20th century, their lives, representative works, cinema (if they made movies based on those books), and more. For more info, call program organizer Amy Kuo at 510-981-6136.

*Berkeley Public Library's Cinema Central
December 2007*

Animate Your Holidays

Dec. 7 *Chicken Run*

Dec. 14 *Wallace and Gromit: Curse of the Were-Rabbit*

Dec. 21 *Nightmare Before Christmas*

Dec. 28 *Yellow Submarine*

All showings are free and begin promptly at 3:30, in the Central Library Community Meeting Room (3rd floor), 2090 Kittredge Street.

For more information, please call 510-981-6139.

Wheelchair accessible. To request a sign language interpreter, real-time captioning, materials in large print or Braille, or other accommodations for this event, please call (510) 981-6107 (voice) or (510) 548-1240 (TTY); at least five working days will ensure availability. Please refrain from wearing scented products to public meetings. Sponsored by the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library.

Topical Teen Book Club at Claremont Branch

Berkeley Public Library's Teen Services invites teens to join the **Claremont Teen Book Club**, where we'll talk about books previously read that relate to specific topics, such as: derivative titles, awesome characters, tearjerkers and more. The group will meet on **Thursdays from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.** at the **Claremont Branch Library, 2940 Benvenue (at Ashby)**.

At the first meeting on **November 29**, we'll talk about **derivative titles**. **December 6** will be devoted to **post-apocalyptic futures**. **December 13** is reserved for **"potato chip" books**- light reading. On **December 20**, we'll share our favorite **tearjerkers**. After a two week break, we'll resume on **January 10** with a look at **awesome characters**. **January 17** will be a **self-pity party**, where we'll discuss overly "emo" titles. Finally, on **January 24**, we'll have a good long look at **Harry Potter**. Participants are urged to bring book titles they want to share, and read aloud from them to prove their points. All teens are welcome, and those who attend these meetings will have a chance to select topics and titles for the next round of book discussions. Each program stands alone, and no registration is required.

For questions regarding this program, call 510-981-6121.

This program is sponsored by Teen Services and the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library. **For accessibility information, call 510-981-6107, TTY 510-548-1240, <http://berkeleypubliclibrary.org>.**

*Survey Of Unmet Library Needs in Southwest Berkeley
Launched by Berkeley Public Library*

Berkeley Public Library has launched a **Community Survey of Unmet Library Needs in Southwest Berkeley**. The survey will be available in both Spanish and English online at berkeleypubliclibrary.org as well as at all library locations in written paper format. The Library will also engage in Community Outreach in the Southwest Berkeley area to get survey participation from that area. **For more info, call 510-981-6107.**