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Joyce Columbia Book of Berkeley Leaves \$77,000 to the Berkeley Public Library

Joyce Columbia Book of Berkeley, who died February 6, 2007, has very generously bequeathed \$77,000 to the Berkeley Public Library. Joyce Book, formerly "Joyce Columbia Bernur," changed her name to "Book" because of her great love of reading.

Book's favorite branch library was the North Berkeley Branch. She was once heard to say that she wished she could just move into that library and live there for the rest of her days. As a very independent person, she used the library on her own until late in her life; and, in her later years, Book was frequently a patron of Berkeley Public Library's Outreach home delivery program and often requested "cozy" mysteries or mysteries with cats in them.

Joyce Book was the daughter of Duke Kahanamoku, a famous swimmer and cliff diver from Hawaii in the early 20th century. She lived in Berkeley all of her adult life and besides her love of reading and of libraries, she was an early supporter of Animal Rights. This interest began when Book worked as a technician at the University of California, Berkeley.

Another of Book's special interests in reading and book collecting was in the area of Astrology. Having grown up in abject poverty and having moved many times during her early life, Book's last years were not always easy or comfortable for her and reminded her of her earlier difficult times, but she managed to make important friends, including her attorney Bonnie Bishop and her neighbor Sam Siegel, who helped her to make the last years of her life easier. Bishop remembers Book calling the last years before she died, the "happiest time of her life," and remembers what a pleasure it was to help Book.

Joyce Book has left the Berkeley Public Library a wonderful legacy of her life with her generous gift, and the Berkeley Public Library is, indeed, very grateful to her.

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