JUST IMAGINE!
OUR BIGGEST BOOK DONATION EVER . .

If you follow the entertainment business, you know Imagine Entertainment as a major player. This Beverly Hills based powerhouse has produced or distributed 234 high-profile movies and TV shows and has another 51 titles in development, including the highly-anticipated new series “Genius,” starring Oscar-Emmy-Tony award winner Geoffrey Rush as Einstein. Now meet Imagine Entertainment the philanthropist. This very good neighbor just donated 80 cartons of books, a windfall sure to raise a tidy sum for the Library, once it hits the shelves of The Friends bookshop. At press time, about 30 cartons have been unpacked, and the single biggest donation of books in our history looks very promising, so far – an intriguing array of best-sellers, classics, reference works, classics, curiosities, and screenplays. Robin Barris, Executive VP of Administration and Operations for the company, explained the surprising diversity.

In addition to a steady stream of books they receive as candidates for development, “We do our own research. We might collect 20 books on the Renaissance or 30 books on the Crusades.” After 19 years in the same Beverly Hills offices, the company was preparing to move to new quarters (still in Beverly Hills). Time to lighten the load. So how did they choose Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library for the donation?

We’ll let Ms. Barris tell the story: “I went to a two-room schoolhouse in Western Pennsylvania. The first time I walked into the Beverly Hills Public Library, I thought I was in a palace. And the resources – you have resources people don’t even know about! Imagine Entertainment has been in Beverly Hills since 1997. Before Google was ubiquitous, we just sent everybody to the library.”

THE FRIENDS WELCOMES CHARLOTTE RAE

On May 3, The Friends is inviting the community to join us at our Annual General Meeting. As in past years, the meeting features an appearance of a guest celebrity. This year, we welcome Charlotte Rae, comedienne, actress and star of the long-running series, The Facts of Life. Charlotte will read from the book co-written with her son, author Larry Strauss. Charlotte’s career spans more than 70 years, from the Golden Age of television, to Shakespeare in the Park, to the New York Cabaret scene of the ’40s & ’50s to her noted television and film career. Please join The Friends at our Annual General Meeting. It promises to be entertaining.

When: Wednesday, May 3, 2017 • 5:00 pm–7:00 pm • Where: Municipal Gallery, 2nd floor • BH City Hall
Many Beverly Hills High students either don’t have a library card or else don’t know of the power this card holds. Roughly half of the students I’ve asked have said they don’t have a library card and the majority of those who are card-carrying library members didn’t know that, among other things, their library card gives them access to audiobooks on Overdrive! Although Audiobooks are one of the most-requested items at Beverly Hills High Library, many of our students don’t know they can get audiobooks simply by registering for a library card.

That’s why I’m working with the wonderful staff of Beverly Hills Public Library, including Marilyn Taniguchi and Alice Kuo, to help encourage all Beverly Hills USD students to “get carded”. We’re working on spreading the word to our K-8 schools as well as our high school by coordinating a registration drive. Our goal is to have 100% of the students in all our schools registered for a library card.

Even if an adult, child or teen never actually visits the library, their library card can still be used to borrow e-books, download audiobooks, use databases for homework, and even watch videos on IndieFlix. The BHHS student library advisory group is brainstorming ideas to publicize our campaign for all students from kindergarten to seniors to “get carded” and unlock the power of a library card. Among our efforts is handing out registration forms, flyers, along with making posters supporting a word-of-mouth campaign to let everyone know the benefits of registering for a library card.
Hello from the President

Dear Friends,

As I sit down to write my final letter as President of the Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library, I think about how invaluable the library and its staff are to our community. As a young child and teenager, I used the library for school projects and relied on the librarians for good book recommendations. In my adult years, I still rely on the librarians to recommend books. I'm also pleased to see how my children have grown up using the library, from participating in Storytime as toddlers to using the library for their own school projects and reading books during their teenage years.

I hope that you, too, have found much to enjoy in our library during the past two years. Perhaps you've participated in one of our monthly adult book clubs, so ably moderated by Judith Palarz. Or maybe one of your children or grandchildren has participated in one of the wonderful programs offered by our Children's Library staff, like the Summer Reading Program. We've also hosted special lectures, such as an armchair trip to the British Isles, or a workshop on child-rearing techniques, or an extra special visit by nationally renowned sportscaster Joe Buck.

All these great programs are in addition to all the wonderful services offered by the Library and sponsored by the Friends, including home-delivery for our homebound readers or literacy classes for individuals who need those skills strengthened. And let's not forget our wonderful Bookstore in the Library Lobby, where you can find a great book at a bargain price! All these programs can only exist with your support. I hope you will consider joining the Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library. If you are already one of our supporters, we thank you.

I have been honored to serve as the President for the past two years.

Sincerely,

Monique
Monique Maas Gibbons
The Library’s Literacy Program
Writer-to-Writer Contest

This year, over 80 entries were received in the Annual Writer-to-Writer Contest. Among them, five adult learners from our Library’s Literacy program took part in the annual Writer-to-Writer contest. With the aid of their volunteer tutors, each wrote a heartfelt letter to the author of a book which they had read and enjoyed. In their letters, they expressed their appreciation to the author for writing the book.

One of our students, who chose to enter the contest anonymously, was selected as a runner-up in the Advanced division. We are proud of all the students who entered the contest. This represents a positive achievement for each, and they along with their tutors are to be commended and congratulated.

Storytime at Winter Tales program, Nov. 29, with Children’s Librarians Danea Fatatid and Toby Omens;

Two participants at Winter Tales program, Nov. 29, proudly displaying their crafts.

Author program, Dec. 5, with sportscaster Joe Buck in conversation with Rich Eisen

IT WAS A GREAT FALL/WINTER SEASON

Children’s librarians, along with Library Managers Marilyn Taniguchi and Alice Kuo, representing the Library at the Community Services Showcase at the Farmer’s Market, Feb. 26. Watch for us at the Farmers Market on the 4th Sunday each month near the Petting Zoo.

The Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library is a non-profit organization that supports the Library. Funds from membership fees and bookstore revenues, as well as donations and tributes, support many of the Library’s best-loved and most needed collections and programs.

The Friends’ book store is open
Mon - Sat from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tues. till 8:30 pm
Sun from 12 noon to 4 p.m.
For info: 310.288.2209.
For volunteering: 310.288.2286.

Please visit our website: friendsofbhpl.org