

[NO.70 SUMMER  
2006  
BENE LEGERE  
NEWSLETTER OF  
THE  
LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATES](#)

- [Thousands of Quake Refugees Find Shelter on Campus](#)
- [Library café starts serving up news](#)
- [Joan Didion receives Bancroft Library award](#)
- [Rallying the Troops in Doe Library](#)
- [Bancroft Library receives vast archives of San Francisco Examiner](#)
- [Greek Government Gift Bolsters Classics Collection](#)

## The Library Associates

Join more than 6,000 other friends, book lovers, alumni, and faculty who recognize that the influence of a great research library reaches beyond the university it serves to the many communities of which it is a part.

Library Associates receive complimentary copies of the quarterly newsletter *Bene Legere*, as well as invitations to special occasions at the Library. For more information on the Library Associates

## Joan Didion receives Bancroft Library award

On April 27, The Bancroft Library presented Joan Didion ('56) with the 2006 Hubert Howe Bancroft award. Over 200 guests attended "100 Years of the Bancroft Library," which was held at the UC Berkeley Art Museum. The evening's celebrations included a gallery viewing of the Bancroft's centennial exhibition, a cocktail reception, and a delicious meal by Narsai David. The proceeds from a silent auction will benefit a documentary project being produced by Carla De Luca in collaboration with the Regional Oral History Project, "From Prohibition to Bottled Poetry."

The author of celebrated novels, memoirs, and essays, Didion's collected nonfiction, *We Tell Ourselves Stories in Order to Live*, is forthcoming this fall. She won the 2005 National Book Award for *The Year of Magical Thinking*.

In accepting the Hubert Howe Bancroft award, Didion said:

"When it was suggested that I receive this award it was pointed out that it would be unusual, because I was a writer, not a historian.

This did not put me off.

I like to think that all of us who write are writing history—the writer's very first impulse is to give an account of something that happened—to make a record—to bear witness, however imperfectly, to a truth that needs to be teased out.

So—for that reason and for some others—I am delighted to accept this award on behalf of all writers.

The others reason this makes me happy have to do with the nature of the Bancroft itself. Even as an undergraduate here . . . it represented something to me. It represented a belief in the value of the past. It represented a belief in the value of the rare, the unique, the few. It represented the continuity of those values in a culture and a state more famously



program, please write or  
telephone: The Library  
Development Office, Room  
131 Doe Library,  
University of California,  
Berkeley, CA 94720-6000;  
telephone (510) 642-9377.  
Or, [check our website](#).

focused on the future      Peter Hanff, deputy director of the  
than on the past—and on Bancroft Library, with Joan Didion,  
the many more than on      winner of the 2006 Hubert Howe Bancroft  
the few.                      award, at the Bancroft's April 27 gala.

For all these reasons I am profoundly grateful—and moved—to be  
here today—and want to thank not only Charles Faulhaber and Peter  
Hanff but all of you for making the Bancroft possible.”

[\[top\]](#) [\[prev\]](#) [\[next\]](#)

---

[HELP / FAQ](#) | [CATALOGS](#) | [COMMENTS](#) | [HOME](#)

---

[Copyright](#) © 2006 by the Library, University of California, Berkeley. *All rights reserved.*  
Document maintained on server: <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/> by the [Library Development Office](#)  
Originally published Summer 2005. Server manager: [contact](#)