

# Beloved high school volunteer retires



Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

Ethel Goldberg, 95, is greeted by instructor Scotty Correa-Mickel during a surprise luncheon at Renaissance High School Thursday to honor Goldberg for her 20 years of volunteering at the school. *RP 12-106*

## *Volunteer Services* Renaissance High library named after 95-year-old Ethel Goldberg

By JENNIE TEZAK

OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

A huge grin spread across 95-year-old Renaissance High School's retired volunteer Ethel Goldberg's face as she saw the plaque reading "Ethel Goldberg Library" over the doorway of the school's library at a special surprise luncheon Thursday in her honor.

About 24 current and former staff members turned out to watch the dedication and then munched on cheese tortellini, vegetarian lasagna, Caesar salad and garlic bread for Goldberg, who retired from the school this week.

"You don't realize until someone is not here what an influence they are," said independent studies teacher Susan Wisotsky. "Ethel is perky and a good example of how to be."

Goldberg was born in New Jersey in 1911 and has lived in California for the last 62 years. She worked as a nurse in a rural and impoverished area in West Virgin-

ia where she quarantined people with infectious diseases and made sure children had vaccines. She also worked as a school nurse in Los Angeles.

Goldberg worked for two hours once a week at Renaissance High for 20 years making lesson plan copies for teachers until her legs began to bother her from standing up too much.

She plans to relax and do some reading with her spare time.

"I'm feeling pretty good," Goldberg said, who turns 96 in January. "I enjoyed working here very much."

Goldberg plans to relax with her spare time. "I'm going to loaf and do a lot of reading," she said. "I like to read mysteries and historical novels."

Goldberg's daughter-in-law, Sandy Kaplan, attended the luncheon.

Tears welled up in her eyes as she talked about her mother-in-law.

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Ethel Goldberg unveils a plaque for the new Ethel Goldberg Library at the Renaissance campus.

## GOLDBERG

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"She's an incredible inspiration," Sandy Kaplan said. "I'm in awe of her life. She means the world to me."

Goldberg's son, Marc Reinig, smiled as he talked about his mother.

"She raised me as a single mom when it was a lot tougher than it was now," Reinig said. "She also traveled in Egypt and Palestine in 1920 when camels were the way of transport."

Beth Tozier, a language arts teacher, talked about how Goldberg helped her during her years

as a volunteer.

"Ethel has helped me a lot," Tozier said. "She filed, she Xeroxed copies and she even taught a couple lessons."

Sam Bertuca, a retired Renaissance High teacher, attended the luncheon.

"She's an inspiration and a remarkable person," Bertuca said. "She has a great sense of humor."

Renaissance High principal Tom Tatum also talked about how much he admired Goldberg.

"I love Ethel," Tatum said. "What's not to love? She's one of the most reliable people on campus. And she is our reality check and link to the past. She has done more in her life than most of us combined."