



Betsy's Big Benefit and Bash

A conveyancer for many years, **Betsy Shimokura**, able Assistant to **Wayne Braid**, Executive Director of The Society, also worked for lawyers in corporate securities before leaving for Japan with her husband in the early '80s—the start of BC's "Pacific Rim" era. During her 17 years in Japan, Betsy learned Japanese and worked for Hilton International as Executive Secretary for the Tokyo Bay Hilton. Ironically, she won that job because she could take shorthand and minutes in English!

Soon after Betsy and **Al** returned to the comforts of life in BC, in 1998 Betsy discovered she was close to end-stage renal failure. Friends and family came forward as potential kidney transplant donors. After 15 months of dialysis, she had a successful kidney transplant in January 2004.

In January 2005, Betsy joined the staff of The Society of Notaries Public. She says everyone has been helpful and patient in getting her up and running to add her experience to the office team's expertise.

In March 2005, Betsy hosted a fundraiser event to celebrate her life with a new kidney and to recognize all who made it happen. Betsy's Big Benefit and Bash was held at Nikkei Heritage Centre in Burnaby. <http://www.stratcomm.ca/kidneybenefit/story.htm>

Through the fundraiser, Betsy was able to give something back. "My experience made me realize how important it is to raise awareness about organ donation and to support local kidney transplant-related organizations like the Kidney Foundation, that do so much for hundreds of people like me."



***Rick Evans** and his wife **Carol** have recently returned from a month in Italy. "Italy is a magical place for Carol and me, especially the Tuscan hills. It's like living in a Leonardo Da Vinci painting."*



Ambur Braid, Wayne Braid's daughter, volunteered to work in the slums of Haiti when her school year ended in May. Led by her former professor, the group focused their efforts on an orphanage in the worst slum in the Western Hemisphere. We will run Ambur's letter to her dad in our Fall *Scrivener*. It will touch your heart. That young lady has already done what a lot of us think we should do or would like to do.



*Scrivener graphic artist **Marilyn MacDonald** and her husband **Hugh** relax in Mexico between issues.*