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Vol. 1, No. 4

Bainbridge Public Library, P.O. Box 11219, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Spring 1999

Mark your calendar

Laps for the Library, a fun and fitness fund-raising event, and another in the Inquiring Mind series of lectures are highlights of spring events at the Bainbridge Public Library. Unless otherwise noted, events are held in the library meeting room on the main floor.

MONDAY, APRIL 4

Easter holiday, library closed.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

Friends of the Library Book Sale, downstairs, 10-2.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

Inquiring Mind Series: "The Secret Operation: Racism, Genocide, and Resistance in the Holocaust". Thomas Blatt will share his experiences as a young Jewish boy in Poland during World War II. A video clip from the feature film "Escape from Sobibor", which portrays his role as a 15-year-old boy participating in the revolt, will be shown. 7:30 p.m. Free admission.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

Play Readings at the Library: "Six Degrees of Separation" by John Guare, 7:30 p.m. Free admission.

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

Nancy Pearl of Seattle Library's Center for the Book will review new books. 4 p.m., Free admission.

SATURDAY, MAY 8

Friends of the Library Book Sale, downstairs, 10-2.

SUNDAY, MAY 23

Laps for the Library, Bainbridge High School track. Noon to 2 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 31

Memorial Day, library closed.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

Friends of the Library Book Sale, downstairs, 10-2.

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

Play Readings at the Library: "The Dining Room" by A. R. Gurney, 7:30 p.m. Free admission.

ONGOING EVENTS

Each Friday: The Tidy Friday landscaping crew with Ann Lovejoy works from 9 a.m. to noon. All volunteer gardeners are welcome.

Toddler Storytimes, for ages 18 months to 3 years. Registration required. Mondays, April 19, 26, and May 3, 10, 17, 24. 10:30-11 and 11 to 11:30, downstairs.

Preschool Storytimes, for ages 3-5. Wednesdays, April 21, 18, and May 5, 12, 19, 26.

Free Tax Help and Electronic Filing Through April 15, downstairs. Mondays, 10-5, Fridays, 10-2, Saturdays by appointment. Call 842-2776 for details.

VIP Resource Group

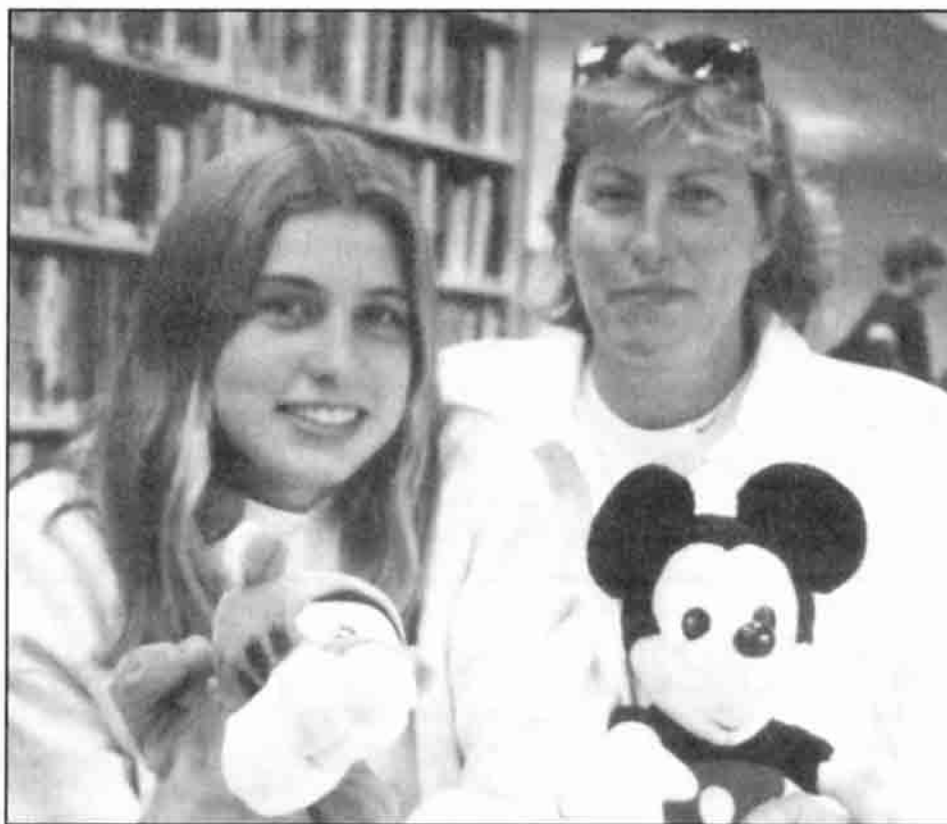
Second Wednesday, every month except August and December, 1-3 p.m.

SCOTT-Free Senior Computing

Tuesdays, 9-10 a.m.

Laps winner treats family to vacation

At the Bainbridge library last week, Lee Maloney and her mother, Vickie, recalled their family's visit to Disneyland in 1996, after Lee won the first Laps for the Library challenge. Lee, then 10, completed 28 laps of the high school track to top all student walkers and runners in the event, which raised \$13,000 for the library's building campaign.



Laps II to raise funds for library

Laps for the Library II, the first library fund-raising event of 1999, will be held Sunday, May 23, from noon to 2 p.m. at the high school track.

Walkers, runners, joggers, stroller pushers, and wheelchair athletes are all invited to turn out for fun and fitness — and to raise funds for maintenance and operation of the Bainbridge Public Library.

More than 100 runners, joggers, and walkers of all ages raised over \$13,000 for the library's building campaign at the first Laps for the Library in June 1996. Library board members hope many more will participate in the 1999 event.

Major prizes, such as trips and exercise equipment, will again be awarded to the top five fund-raisers in both youth and adult categories. Random prize tickets will be awarded for each mile that entrants complete. This will provide greater flexibility in prize selection and also increase the already considerable odds of winning a prize, said Laps coordinator Jim Whiting. Free refreshments will be available for participants.

The elementary school raising the most money will be treated to an ice cream party with a celebrity host.

"Entrants are encouraged to seek

donations per lap from family, friends, neighbors, relatives, co-workers, and anyone who supports the outstanding library facility we have here on Bainbridge Island," said Whiting.

"Here's a great chance to have fun, work on fitness, and raise funds for the library all at the same time," said Peter Harris, library board Laps volunteer.

Laps will be run (or walked, jogged, or pushed) rain or shine on May 23. (Neither Whiting nor Harris would hazard a weather forecast.)

Also on the Laps committee is Kay Jensen of the Island Striders.

(Continued on back page)

Islanders' books project:

Bainbridge to Belarus and beyond

By VERDA AVERILL

You may have seen them at library book sales or the Rotary Auction.

Theo and Olga Ruys arrive as the sales wind down, pack up the unsold

books by the carton, and haul them away quickly and quietly.

Perhaps you've wondered where all those books end up. A recycling plant? A large landfill somewhere?

For nearly a decade now, many of the

books have found their way to libraries and reading rooms in Belarus, thanks to this Bainbridge Island couple with roots in Eastern Europe and a desire to help the people there.

Their remarkable people-to-people, books-across-the-pond project began a decade ago, when they traveled to Brest, Belarus, to visit an uncle of Olga. (Olga was born in Chicago, but her father came from Grodno and her mother from Brest, in what was then Poland but is now Belarus.)

They returned again in 1990 and 1991, when Theo, an architect, and Olga, an art teacher, lectured in Brest. They discovered that many local residents wanted to learn English, but almost no books in English were available. They surveyed the five largest bookstores in that city of 350,000 and found many books in German, a fair number in French, but only three children's books in English.

When they returned home they shipped several mailbags of books to a professor of English in Brest. The shipment arrived, after a year and a half,

(Continued on back page)



Olga and Theo Ruys at Bainbridge home, with books bound for Lithuania

Balance and stewardship guide decisions

By MARY ANN CAMPBELL
President, Bainbridge Library Board

Enlibra. What is it?

Izusu's new model SUV? A super-strong grease cutter? The name of a new foot ferry?

Actually, enlibra is the name given by the governor of Utah to a philosophy used by Western governors in making environmental decisions. This approach to decision making is based on two equally weighted principles, balance and stewardship.

Balance and stewardship also guide the ongoing decision-making process library personnel employ in the expenditures of your tax dollars. What percentage to books vs. what percentage to technology? How much gets spent on children's literature and how much on large print?

Balancing the needs and the desires of the community while preparing for tomorrow at the same time is a tightrope act.

Stewardship, the preservation and maintenance of what we have, has become more complex but no less important. Compact discs, videos, books on tape, the ever-increasing book collections, frequently used reference books, and high-tech computer equipment all require care.

Enlibra also describes our responsibilities as citizens. Bigger and better schools, bigger and better ferries, a bigger and better pool, library, city hall and more have us all doing a fiscal balancing act. At the same time, we must balance meeting the desires and needs of a growing population with retaining the Island's very character which attracted us in the first place.

Much of the charm of the Island exists because of the stewardship of our friends and neighbors. Bloedel Reserve, Bainbridge Gardens, the Grand Forest, and the Bainbridge Historical Museum are just a few of the places which make our community special. Your library, built through generous donations of time and money, occupies a special place in our lives and contributes to our Island's character. Your stewardship, your donations provide the funds necessary to operate and maintain your library and its grounds.

Just as two legs help us stay upright, enlibra's two guiding principles can help us make balanced decisions for our community. Stewardship of the worthwhile things we have is as important as adding the new and exciting.

Won't you become a steward of your library?

(Mary Ann Campbell was installed as president of the Bainbridge Library Board at its January annual meeting. A 21-year resident of the Island, she has served on the library board for more than five years. She and her husband, Earl, have practiced stewardship as volunteers in Island schools, their church, and other organizations. And yes, she's been a soccer mom, too. — Editor)

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND LIBRARY NEWS

P.O. Box 11219, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

The Bainbridge Island Library News is published every quarter by the Bainbridge Library Board, a non-profit organization, and distributed to all Island residents and library users. Verda Averill is editor; Peter Harris and Steve Olsen are associate editors.

Board members are: Mary Ann Campbell, president; Verda Averill, Peter Harris, Judy Karr, Jane Brand, Sarah Griffiths, Diane Hamilton, Steve Olsen, Marty Sievertson, Steve Larson, Bruce Martin, Sandra Martin, Hans Rothert, Don Yockey; Cynthia Harrison, Bainbridge branch manager.



Board members honored

Seven retiring board members were honored at the January 26 annual meeting of the Bainbridge Public Library Board of Directors. Gayle Seyl, Pat Putman, Dave Boyce, Betsy Lawrence (back row, from left) and Jo Schaffer, Tom Olson, and Rick Blumenthal (front) received golden-quill awards and warm thanks for their average of six years of service each. At right Tom Olson, outgoing president, hands over the keys to the library to his successor, Mary Ann Campbell. (Photos by Verda Averill)



Board elects new members

At their annual meeting January 26, Bainbridge Library Board members honored seven of their own who were retiring after years of service.

President Tom Olson and Dave Boyce, Rick Blumenthal, Betsy Lawrence, Pat Putman, Gayle Seyl, and Jo Schaffer were all active in planning, fund-raising, and overseeing construction of the new \$2-million addition to the local library. They had worked an average of six years each on the project, and for their efforts received warm appreciation from the present board and golden-quill certificates; they will also be honored with permanent plaques on shelves throughout the library.

An eighth retiring board member, Wayne Nakata, was out of town and will receive his award upon his return home. Nakata was a key member of the fund-raising board and liaison between the board and the Bainbridge Island Japanese-American Community, which donated the award-winning and much used Haiku Garden.

Also at the annual meeting, five new board members were elected and introduced: Steve Larson, Bruce Martin, Sandra Martin (no relation), Hans Rothert, and Trese Williamson.

Treasurer Don Yockey was re-elected to the board for a one-year term. Three new officers were selected: Mary Ann Campbell, president; Steve

Olsen, vice president, and Judy Karr, secretary.

Farewell thoughts

In his farewell address, Olson recalled his first board meeting six years earlier.

"Bill Ostling presided in a business-like manner," he said. "Drawing together two round tables in a space just to the left of the librarian's counter created the meeting room."

One of the first tasks of the 1993 board was to create a special committee to study the need for an expanded library. A fund-raising consultant, Olson recalled, said "we could not do what we were setting out to do without a 50 percent match of public funds."

(Six years later, board members gathered in the large meeting room of an expanded and remodeled building constructed completely with donations — with not a dime of matching public funds.)

"Nevertheless, the board pushed forward. Thanks to the encouragement of Jim and Frances Hodges we took the risk of falling flat on our faces. The Hodges were instrumental in the construction of the first phase of the library and had set aside funds for what they saw as the inevitable need to expand," Olson added.

"We pushed forward. Decisions were not easy, and certainly no member of the

board took them lightly," he said.

A fund-raising consultant, an architectural firm, and a contractor (Drury Construction of Bainbridge Island) were selected. "Looking back, I don't see how we could have improved on any of our choices," Olson said.

Each step was phased to cost no more than the funds the board had on hand.

"We took the risk that we would accomplish some but not all of the project with the available funds," he said. "It wasn't until the grand opening of July 1997 that we began to breathe more easily, with a sense that we could in fact pay for what we had undertaken."

Today, Olson and the retiring board members look back with satisfaction on a capital campaign that was a huge success.

"We raised nearly \$2.2 million dollars," Olson said.

"The experts told us to anticipate a 10 percent default rate in pledges. It now looks like our default rate will be about .002 percent. We have art, thanks to the inspiration of the Tony Hall Fund of Bainbridge Arts and Crafts; we have beautiful gardens, thanks to BIJAC and a community of gardeners. We have a skilled and caring staff, books and computers, thanks to KRLS (the Kitsap Regional Library

(Continued on back page)

Nancy Pearl will speak here April 18

Nancy Pearl, popular KUOW book reviewer, will make a rare appearance on Bainbridge Island Sunday, April 18.

Pearl, the director of Seattle Public Library's Center for the Book, will review a wide variety of recently published books in the Bainbridge Public Library's main-floor meeting room beginning at 4 p.m.

There is no admission charge for her talk, which is sponsored by the Bainbridge library staff and board.

The Sunday afternoon time was chosen because of the success of the recently finished 1998-99 Library Lecture Series; those talks were also Sunday afternoons at 4.

The April 18 talk will be the third appearance on the Island for Pearl, but the first time her talk is open to the public. She last appeared here over a

year ago, at a gathering of Bainbridge Library Foundation members. The rave reviews of that talk prompted the library board to schedule her return — this time for a larger audience.

Nancy Pearl, who is heard Monday mornings on KUOW, is also director of collection management for the Seattle Public Library. In that capacity she reads and scans hundreds of books every year, and her informal but informed reviewing style has won legions of fans.

"The nice thing about her is that she has a wide variety of interests, and she covers memoirs, non-fiction, mysteries, thrillers, biography — a wide variety of books," says Bainbridge branch manager Cindy Harrison.

One of her specialties, Harrison adds, is literary fiction.



Nancy Pearl: She'll review new books

1999-2000 Speakers Forum brochures due in April

The first season of the Bainbridge Library Speakers Forum has been a resounding success, Susan Bray said this week.

The series of talks ended February 28 with an appearance by Dr. William Reinhardt. Earlier speakers were Norm Rice, John Paul Jones, and Andrew Ward.

"They all spoke with eloquence and wisdom of their life experiences and intellectual pursuits to capacity crowds," Bray said.

For the 1999-2000 series, four more distinguished speakers will appear. Three have already accepted invitations and speaking dates are now being scheduled. When the fourth speaker is scheduled, brochures will be designed; they will be available by the end of April.

The series will include appearances by Dr. Gary Lagerloeff, a satellite oceanographer who will present an

audiovisual program of Nova quality; Dr. Jay Patrick Dobel, a University of Washington ethics professor; and John Henry Browne, criminal defense attorney.

Tickets for the complete series are \$35 at the regular subscriber level and \$50 for patrons. All profits go to the library, and some of the funds are used to stock books recommended by the speakers in their areas of expertise. (These books are part of the Bainbridge library collection, and do not circulate to other branch libraries.)

Because of limited seating in the library meeting room, interested people are urged to sign up early. The 1998-99 series was sold out just days after it was announced. All regular subscribers will receive announcements of the new series; others who would like to receive brochures should leave their names and addresses at the library reference desk.

For more information call Susan Bray at 842-4156.

Speakers draw SRO crowds

Even Superbowl Sunday couldn't cut into attendance at the winter lectures on the 1998-99 Bainbridge Library Speakers Forum.

Writer Andrew Ward on January 31 and chemistry professor William P. Reinhardt on February 28 drew standing-room-only crowds and kept their fascinated listeners asking questions long after the lectures ended.

Ward, a former Island resident now at home in Seattle, shared some very personal memories of his boyhood in India, which he described as "a bizarre overlapping of the familiar and the strange. . . It's no more scrutable now than ever."

He moved to India from Chicago in

1954, when he was eight years old, and has visited the country recently.

"I miss India when I'm here and miss (this country) when I'm there," he said.

His book "Chota Sahib — An American Boyhood in India" was recently published.

William Reinhardt, an Island resident, spoke on "Chaos — A New Science".

Aided by colorful slides and some simple props like shiny new pennies for the audience, he kept the crowded room listening and laughing until 6 p.m. Reinhardt, a professor at the University of Washington, is a Fulbright Senior Scholar and the author of "Chaos in Atomic Physics".

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Books and cassettes at the library

These reading recommendations come from the staff, board, and volunteers at the Bainbridge Public Library. They are available from either the Bainbridge branch collection or from one of the other branches of the Kitsap Regional Library system.

The Best Little Boy in the World, by John Reid (Ballantine, 1993). Imagine holding onto a secret into your adult years — a secret so integral to your being that you struggle alone with it every day in your personal, family, and work life. Only by using a pen name was successful business writer Andrew Tobias able to tell his honest and often humorous story of growing up gay.

Black and Blue, by Anna Quindlen (Random House, 1998). A poignant novel about a woman who flees an abusive husband and tries to build a new life while keeping her whereabouts a secret.

The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition, by Caroline Alexander (Knopf, 1998). The true story of British explorer Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic expedition — an incredible, gripping tale of human survival. This retelling of the story of 28 men trapped in Antarctic ice is made even more compelling by the inclusion of dozens of vivid expedition photographs.

Ex Libris: Confessions of a Common Reader, by Anne Fadiman (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1998). Sparkling, friendly essays about the love of books and reading, and a family that shares these passions.

Hawk Flies Above: A Journey to the Heart of the Sandhills, by Lisa Dale Norton (Picador, 1996). In this blend of memoir and nature writing, the author returns to her childhood home in the

Sandhills of Nebraska, and discovers the healing power of the land.

I Live in Music, by Ntozake Shange (Stewart, Tabori and Chang, 1997). A picture book for all ages, especially jazz lovers. Ntozake Shange — author of *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf* — combines her gift for putting music into words with a series of stunning collages by artist Romare Bearden. Beautiful and joyous.

The Measure of a Mountain: Beauty and Terror on Mount Rainier, by Bruce Barcott (Sasquatch, 1997). Celebrate the centenary of Mt. Rainier National Park this year by enjoying this fascinating exploration of the mountain that dominates our landscape.

Memoirs of a Geisha, by Arthur Golden (Knopf, 1997; library also has large print and abridged audio cassette

editions). This fictional autobiography of a Kyoto geisha in the 1930s and '40s is not just a good story; it is also an anthropology lesson, overflowing with fascinating detail about a world very different from our own.

The Moor, by Laurie R. King (St. Martin's, 1998). Fans of Sherlock Holmes take note: author King has "discovered" new manuscripts containing further adventures of the Great Detective, now accompanied by an intrepid female assistant, Mary Russell. *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* brought Holmes out of retirement to solve a murder. In *The Moor*, fourth in the series, Holmes and Russell revisit Baskerville Hall to investigate new rumors of ghostly hounds haunting the wilds of Dartmoor. Well written and lots of fun.

(Compiled by Steve Olsen, library board member)

A gardener's guide to good reading

Several local gardening and horticultural professionals recommend these books on gardening and related topics.

Ann Lovejoy has been enjoying *The Gardener's Atlas*, by Dr. John Grimshaw (Firefly Books, 1999), an exploration of the origins of all kinds of popular garden plants, from tulips to fuchsias — how they came to be discovered, and how and when each plant made the move from the wild to the garden. Ann finds this book a perfect antidote for a wet spring.

Ann Lovejoy is the author of over a dozen gardening books, writes a weekly gardening column for the Bainbridge Review, and operates a garden school here on the Island.

Jeanne McNeil recommends three basic books for garden planning: *The Color Dictionary of Flowers and Plants for Home and Garden*, by Roy Hay and Patrick Syngé (Chronicle, 1984); *Right Plant, Right Place*, by Nicola Ferguson (Crown, 1984); and *Shrubs*, by Roger Phillips and Martyn Rix (Random House,

1989). She appreciates the fabulous photos in these books, as well as the extensive information about specific plants and their environmental requirements. Jeannie also likes *Evening Gardens*, by Cathy Barash (Chapters, 1993), which delivers on its subtitle, "Planning and Planting a Landscape to Dazzle the Senses After Sundown."

Jeanne McNeil's firm, McNeil & Associates, does landscape design, consultation, and installation.

George Little favors Thomas Moore's *The Re-enchantment of Everyday Life* (Macmillan, 1997) for its lucid analysis of humankind's sacred place in nature; he says this is a book that everybody — gardener or not — should read. **David Lewis** is enthusiastic about Ann Lovejoy's *Naturalistic Gardening* (Sasquatch, 1998) as a helpful guide to using the patterns of nature in our gardens. David also confesses to be studying plant purveyors' catalogs, most especially *The Heronswood Nursery Catalog*.

George Little and David Lewis comprise Little and Lewis, specializing in architectural and garden sculpture and water garden design.

Betsy Wittick suggests *Great Possessions*, by David Kline (North Point, 1990), for its view of the natural world as seen by an Amish farmer. She also recommends *Second Nature: A Gardener's Education*, by Michael Pollan (Atlantic Monthly, 1991), as a funny and insightful exploration of what gardens say about our view of nature. *Yes! A Journal of Positive Futures* is a periodical that Betsy finds useful in both a substantive and an inspirational way.

Wittick is a horticulturist at Bainbridge Island Vineyard and Winery, and current master of the Bainbridge Island Grange.

Vicki McCabe believes that we often feel compelled to impose our own conceptions on nature as it exists in our gardens, rather than listening to what the land has to tell us. She looks to *Landscaping with Nature*, by Jeff Cox

(Rodale, 1990), and *The Miracle of Mindfulness*, by Thich Nhat Hanh (Beacon, 1992), to help her remember to respect nature for what it is, powerful and wise.

Vicki McCabe is a principal in McCabe/Tanaka, landscape designers, arborists, and pruners.

Richard Brown has a number of favorite books that deal with the relationship of people to the environment, particularly gardens. *Green Nature/Human Nature: The Meaning of Plants in Our Lives*, by Charles A. Lewis (University of Chicago Press, 1996), shows the importance of human interaction with green plants to both physical and psychological well-being. Dick also recommends several books by Julie Messervy, including *The Inward Garden: Creating a Place of Beauty and Meaning* (Little, Brown, 1995).

Richard Brown is executive director of the Bloedel Reserve.

(Steve Olsen, library board member, compiled the above information.)

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Meet the staff

Paulette Rhoades likes the 'upbeat people'

(One of a series on Bainbridge Library staff members.)

Paulette Rhoades, a nine-year veteran of the Bainbridge library staff, wasn't at her post for a week this winter. Instead, she was welcoming a granddaughter, little Molly Kirsten Gretsich.

She's back on duty now, as one of the two full-time librarians on the Island. (The other is branch manager Cindy Harrison.) And both staff members and readers are glad to see her.

Rhoades is familiar with all aspects of the library, and is the first person many staffers turn to when a computer malfunctions. She's worked with computers for years, beginning with the days when her children were small and her sons played with computers.

"We all learned a lot as the boys took apart the older computers and put them back together," she laughs. Today, her sons both have careers in the computer field.

Rhoades joined the library staff nine years ago, working just one day a week. Her children, two sons and two daughters, were growing up. She'd volunteered a lot in the schools, had a little more time to work elsewhere, and answered an ad for a part-time library staffer (to work just one day a week).

"It was never really just a day a

week," she laughs. And beginning with her second year here the library job became really full-time.

Building on her experience in school libraries in Idaho Falls, she soon became familiar with the Bainbridge library routines. Today her major responsibilities include the circulation desk, training of new staff members, helping with hiring, overseeing the paging staff, and of course, troubleshooting with the computers.

She's watched with interest and enthusiasm as the Bainbridge library computer population grew from just one when she started to the dozens now scattered throughout the new building. She keeps up with the latest technology as an active member of the Kitsap Regional Library's PC tech group, which includes a representative from each branch in the system.

Asked what she likes best about her job, she answered quickly, "I like the people. The people who come into the library here are so upbeat."

When she's not at work, she focuses on her family. She and her husband, Steve, lived on the Island for 13 years, but have moved to North Kitsap to be closer to his work in the construction field. In addition to her two sons and two daughters, she now proudly claims three



Paulette Rhoades is nine-year library veteran

young granddaughters, and is expecting a fourth in June.

One of her hobbies is refurbishing dollhouses for the granddaughters.

"They love to have tea parties," she says fondly.

She also enjoys camping, especially in the Olympics and Cascades.

"We do a big family camping trip every year," she says.

But that will come later, when the weather warms up.

Meanwhile, she's concentrating on spring services at the library, which include tax assistance for library users on Mondays and Thursdays. Help is available on a first come, first served basis on those days through April 15. Tax forms are also available for library users to reproduce.

At young people's library

New books appear on shelves; summer reading program set

New books and a new summer reading program will appeal to Bainbridge schoolchildren of all ages, says young people's librarian Peggy Hughes.

It's time for parents to start thinking of the library's summer reading program as a vacation activity for their youngsters.

Last year nearly a thousand young readers participated in the program; many of them completed the 10 hours of reading required to win a free paperback book.

This year's summer reading program

officially begins June 15, when children may come in and sign up. They'll receive reading logs and be introduced to the program, which runs until Labor Day.

The theme for this year's program is Reading Is a Picnic.

Programs for school-age children will be presented Wednesday mornings throughout July: July 7, 14, and 21 programs will begin at 10:30.

Special puppet shows, always popular with local youngsters, are scheduled for

July 28 at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. To be assured space in the audience at the always-full puppet shows in the meeting room, parents are reminded to sign up their youngsters in advance.

New books

A constant supply of new books for young readers makes frequent trips to the young people's library rewarding, Hughes says.

She recommends three recent arrivals

that will appeal to 9-12-year-olds:

Running Out of Time, by Margaret Peterson Haddix (Simon & Schuster, 1995).

Thirteen-year-old Jessie lives in Clifton, Indiana, in the year 1840, or so she thinks until she makes the shocking discovery that it's really 1996 and Clifton is actually an historical preserve where tourists can observe inhabitants through hidden cameras. When diphtheria breaks out within her

(Continued on back page)

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Walking journeys begin at the library

By NANCY OLSEN

Climbing a mountain, learning to meditate, seeing the world, improving your health — walking can take you where you want to go. Whether your goal is fitness, travel, spiritual practice, or just plain transportation, take the first step by walking into the library.

Walking to Health and Fitness

Walking is a low-impact fitness activity that works for just about everyone. Some recommended introductory books are *Walk Aerobics*, by Les Snowden and Maggie Humphreys, *Walk to Your Heart's Content*, by Norman D. Ford, and *Fitness Walking*, by Therese Iknoian.

Alternatively, *We're Walking Now* is a fine video guide. Among audiotapes, *Walk to the Beat!* offers music with tempos geared to various walking speeds.

Advanced, high-performance walkers will find good advice in *Walking Fast*, also by Iknoian. *Walking Magazine* is another useful resource.

(For an excellent training/support group here on the Island, suitable for walking enthusiasts of all ages and fitness levels, contact Island Striders c/o Bainbridge Parks & Recreation, 780-9519.)

Take a Hike

From gentle strolls to rugged ascents, local family outings to international adventures — trail guides to every sort of hiking are plentiful at the library. Look for them on the Travel shelves of the Nonfiction section, or consult the online catalog.

Take advantage, too, of the library's direct access to the World Wide Web. For example, try the Trailfinder page on Seattle Sidewalks' website, or www.wta.org, the webpage of the Washington Trails Association, with its wide range of outdoorsy links.

More generally, the Hiking and Walking Homepage provides a comprehensive index of relevant online websites. It can be accessed directly at www.teleport.com/~walking/hiking.html or via Yahoo (click on Recreation, then Outdoors, then Walking) or Mining Co. (walking.miningco.com/).

Exploring the World On Foot

When traveling, there is no better way to experience the charms of your destination than one step at a time, and guidebooks to walking tours abound at the library. The series that includes *Viennawalks* and *Jerusalemwalks*, covering all the major cities of Europe, is just one example.

If, like me, you are torn between curling up with a good book and stretching your legs in the great outdoors, you'll especially appreciate books that link walking and literature. *Literary Landscapes: Walking Tours in Great Britain and Ireland* is one of the best.

You can also enjoy *Walks in Gertrude Stein's Paris*, *The Mystery Readers Walking Guide to London*, and many other bookish outings. There are even audio guides, such as *Poets and Painters of Greenwich Village: A Literary Walking Tour*.

In the Footsteps of Writers

As much fun as it is to actually hit the trail, there is also considerable pleasure in reading about walking. A

current favorite is Bill Bryson's hilarious account of hiking the Appalachian Trail, *A Walk in the Woods*.

Other first-rate walking narratives include *The Man Who Walked Through Time*, recounting Colin Fletcher's trip through the Grand Canyon; the classic, *My Journey to Lhasa*, by Alexandra David-Neel; and *Songbirds, Truffles, and Wolves*, naturalist Gary Nabhan's observations while walking the Franciscan Way through the Umbrian countryside in Italy.

Jack Hitt is another modern pilgrim; *Off the Road* is his entertaining tale of trudging the ancient route to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Bruce Chatwin doesn't do much walking himself in *The Songlines*, but in reflecting on Australian walkabouts, has much to say about the urge to be footloose.

Walking a Spiritual Path

Walking can be a journey to personal and spiritual growth, and not just for the long-distance pilgrim. In *The Spirited Walker*, Carolyn Scott Kortge reveals the many ways walking and the spiritual life are intertwined.

Thich Nhat Hanh offers a pocket-sized guide to the Buddhist practice of walking meditation in *The Long Road Turns to Joy*. A similar approach from a Christian perspective is *Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Sacred Tool*. To read about an individual who devoted her life to walking for a spiritual cause, look for the autobiography of *Peace Pilgrim*.

Pedestrian Power

Walkers of all ages, from schoolchildren to the elderly, need safe roads, sidewalks, and pathways. Additionally, policies that encourage walking rather than driving are good for the environment.

The library's Internet access is a way to learn about pedestrian activism. Partnership for a Walkable America—www.ncs.org/walkable.htm—is a good place to begin.

Walking lifts the spirits each time you lift your feet. Get a lift from the multitude of walking resources at the Bainbridge Public Library.

(Nancy Olsen is a library volunteer, and a member of Island Striders.)

New book clubs blossom at library

By CINDY HARRISON

Are you a reader in search of fellow bibliophiles? Are you a new arrival on Bainbridge Island? Are you getting just a little tired of trying to improve yourself with those self-help books and are ready to delve into something new?

A couple of new book clubs are blossoming at the library. There will be a sign-up sheet at the library information desk and the groups will take off once there are eight members. Time and date will be determined by the participants. Kitsap Regional Library staff members will provide reading lists and prepare a book group kit for the first meeting of each group.

#1 - Who, what, where and how???

This group might choose Edward

Wilson's autobiography, *The Naturalist*, or Amanda Vaill's story of Gerald and Sara Murphy, *Everybody Was So Young*, or maybe Edward Ball's *Slaves in the Family*. The world of non-fiction and biography reading is fascinating and often left out of the book club menu. This would be a chance to share some of those great books you just never seem to find the time to read.

The first selection for this group will be Simon Winchester's *The Professor and the Madman*, the story of the relationship between the scholar who led the effort to create the *Oxford English Dictionary*, and the "certified lunatic" who was a major contributor to the project.

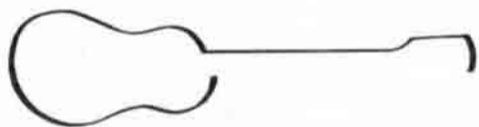
#2 - History viewed through fiction

Were you one of the many who loved

the film *Elizabeth* but wished you had brushed up on your British history before you had entered the theater? Fine writers do an awesome amount of research before producing their works and there is no more intriguing way to delve into our human past than reading historical fiction. Choose one book to share or select a historical period and come with several titles. There is an excellent new reference tool at the library, *World Historical Fiction*, if you need a place to start. It includes a Place and Time Index as well as subject, genre and even Young Adult indices.

This group will start with a New York Times Notable Book, *The Black Flower* by Howard Bahr, which follows a group of young men during one of the last battles of the Civil War.

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Hardy Fern Foundation donates funds for garden

The mud and bulldozers of winter will be replaced later this spring by a new fern display and study garden on the east side of the Bainbridge Public Library.

The unique garden is funded by the Hardy Fern Foundation, and its members have provided a basic design and will implement the installation of the garden on the east side of the library facing the Safeway.

The larger part of the area is covered by a canopy, predominantly large Douglas firs, which will provide the foundation for the garden.

Plans call for a covered reading shelter and a natural water feature that will encompass the existing drainage ditch.

The garden will have 500 feet of walking paths connecting the two parking areas on either side of the library.

"The purpose of the garden is first to provide a relatively quiet, peaceful, and beautiful area for reading, study, and contemplation," said John VanDenMeerendonk of the Hardy Fern Foundation.

Because the fern garden will be just steps from the children's library and close to the high school, it will be a place for students, as well as adults, to use.

The garden will contain a comprehensive collection of the world's hardy ferns (those that are hardy in temperate climates). It will provide an unusual opportunity for gardeners to observe ferns from all over the world.

The Hardy Fern Foundation was founded in 1989 to establish comprehensive collections of the world's hardy ferns for display, testing, evaluation, public education, and introduction to the gardening and horticultural community. There are today 17 sponsored fern gardens located throughout North America.

For the Bainbridge garden, the Hardy Fern Foundation has pledged a \$5,000 educational grant on behalf of benefactor and member Thomas Gillies, a lifelong librarian. (This grant is earmarked for information and educational signage in the garden.)

The initial planting is expected to include more than 2,000 ferns representing 80 to 100 species and varieties.

Also in the garden will be a memorial for Barbara Bayley, a beloved library staff and community member, who died this past December. Molly Greist will design the memorial.

Basic work on the garden has begun, and the actual planting will be done later this spring.



John VanDenMeerendonk describes the library fern garden, which will be planted later this spring, at a March brunch honoring library volunteers. He brought along a large sketch of garden plans and described the variety of plants that will be included. (Verda Averill photo)

Spring plans for the library grounds

This will be an active spring around the library. Ann Lovejoy, Jana Jackson, and Susan Wallace coordinate a volunteer-based public gardening effort at the library, continuing ongoing projects and starting new ones.

Shrubs that didn't thrive will be replaced by local blueberries, cranberries, lingonberries, and other edibles. The existing herb garden will be enhanced.

New projects include a butterfly garden and, for the edible garden, stepping stones made by children.

Opportunities to learn about public

gardening are available through the Bainbridge Island Parks and Recreation District and, for high school students, through Bainbridge High School or Strawberry Hill Alternative School.

To sign up for or get more information on garden volunteer opportunities, call the library at 842-4162, or send an e-mail message to Ann Lovejoy lovejoy60@aol.com.

Please leave your phone number in either case. And, if you can contribute good quality cow manure for garden soil amendments, you'll be especially welcome in this earthy group.

Spring art exhibits slated

New art exhibits scheduled for the Bainbridge library this spring include works by Jean Fleischsresser in April and Bob Lucas in May. Also in April, the library's historical quilt will be displayed, for the first time in several years.

The quilt will be hung in the large meeting room on the main floor, while Fleischsresser's new works will be exhibited throughout the building.

"This dual show will be of interest to many Islanders," said Joanna Newnham, who coordinates exhibits for the library art committee.

Although the meeting room may be locked when not in use, library staff members will cheerfully open it for interested viewers who ask at the front desk.

The colorful quilt is of interest to many Bainbridge old-timers (and newcomers, as well).

Designed as a map of the Island, it has a vivid red background and special Bainbridge spots are pictured in squares made by members of the Welcome Wagon Club in 1982.

"Each member of the group made squares for it," said art committee member Betsy Lawrence, so the quilt has sentimental as well as artistic and historical value. It was given to the library by an anonymous donor.

Works by noted Bainbridge/Suquamish artist Bob Lucas will be shown from May through July. He is producing a series of multi-layered paintings on glass that "reveal the many layers of reality," he says.

Lucas designed the bench with marine motif that is placed just outside the entrance to the young people's library. His work appears in both private and public art collections throughout western Washington.

News briefs

A NEW COMPUTING program for senior citizens, SCOT-Free (Senior Computing on Tuesdays), began last month. Tuesday mornings from 9 to 10, seniors may come to the library to work on their e-mail or Internet searching. Volunteer Dianne Knodel is on hand to help. (Other library services are not available until 10, when the library opens for the day.) For more information, or to register for SCOT-Free, call 842-4162.

THE LARGE MEETING room of the Bainbridge Public Library is available for use by local groups for a modest

fee. A meeting room policy was adopted at the last library board meeting. Branch manager Cindy Harrison and library board president Mary Ann Campbell will provide details to interested groups.

STILL WORKING on your income tax return? A set of blank forms is available for copying at the library copy center on the main floor.

GARDENERS are invited to tour the private gardens of Little and Lewis on June 4 and 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for \$4 each. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the library. The open days

are part of the 1999 open days program sponsored by the Garden Conservancy. Little and Lewis's garden and that of Islander Linda Cochran are listed in The Garden Conservancy 1999 Open Days Directory, which lists gardens in 29 states open to the public on selected days from March through October.

THE BAINBRIDGE Garden Tour later this year will include the library gardens as a brief stop. Dates and details of the annual tour will be announced soon, says Ann Lovejoy, who coordinates the efforts of library volunteer gardeners.

THE BAINBRIDGE LIBRARY subscribes to more than 100 periodicals.

The latest edition of each magazine is reserved for use in the library, but older issues may be checked out for a period of three weeks.

The library's computerized periodical index searches for information on any given subject. It includes at least an abstract and frequently the entire text of the article, and e-mail delivery is available.

Whatever news you are looking for, the Bainbridge Public Library can be your gateway to the world!

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Books from Bainbridge to Belarus

and ended up in the cupboard of the professor, under lock and key.

"At that point we decided to retire early and bring our own substantial library," they said.

Because of the shipping problems they'd encountered, they decided to send the books via Rotterdam, in the Netherlands, where Theo was born. They bought a van and a trailer and drove through Germany and Poland to Belarus, arriving in August of 1992.

They went to City Hall and, after cutting through seemingly endless bureaucratic red tape, found a newly-elected delegate to the city government who was also a professor at the Polytech Institute. With his help they opened the first English Cultural Center in Brest. It was dedicated Jan. 22, 1993.

"We wanted to have the books we donated available to a broad spectrum of citizens, so we started an independent English Center for reading and discussions. . . The city decided the name English Center was too political, so it was called the English Cultural Center...

"We told the city this was a joint venture, a term they had just heard, and that we would provide the books if the city would provide the space, utilities, etc." they explained.

They set up an independent board of directors made up of volunteer representatives of higher education, elementary education, the business community, library management, an elected official, the city, and themselves.

After the first load of books, 12 additional trips to Rotterdam brought the total number of volumes to about 20,000: 12,000 of their own, the rest from friends, local schools, and Bainbridge Rotary. After just a year, the Brest center was by far the largest English-language library in the country.

Other cities became interested in the project. Theo and Olga met with mayors in provincial capitals and, over a three-year period, set up English Cultural Centers in Grodno, Vitebsk, Mogelov, and Gomel, in addition to Brest.

As the Belarussians' desire for more English books grew, the Ruyses wrote to about 50 book donation organizations in

the United States. The International Book Bank in Baltimore and the Sabre Foundation in Cambridge "responded in a positive way." In May of 1995, 20,000 volumes arrived from IBB and were distributed to 62 institutions in 14 cities throughout Belarus.

About the same time, the Sabre Foundation agreed to ship another 20,000 volumes.

For four years, Theo and Olga Ruys lived for months at a time in Belarus, and returned home for a few weeks each year to visit with their four grown daughters and their families and attend to business matters. (They built several houses which were rented out to help defray their expenses; they've spent \$80,000 of their own money on the book project in Belarus.)

During those years, they gave lectures on architecture and education and worked closely with local librarians. School English classes came to their cultural centers, and they showed English videos every Sunday afternoon.

Olga, who taught art in the Bainbridge schools for many years, found the teachers' attitudes in Belarus "similar to our teachers here. . . But there were no materials, no copy machine, books were outdated. . ."

They were touched by the people's health problems, perhaps stemming from the Chernobyl disaster. "Many of the women had enlarged thyroid glands, and the lifespan was 55 for men and 60 for women," they said.

Olga was involved in a women's conference and discovered that "the focus of women in Belarus in the 1990s is like that in our country in the '40s and '50s."

And they were touched by the gratitude of needy professors and librarians for the books received.

"Professors get \$50 a month in salary, and a book costs about \$50," they said.

During their stay in Belarus 60,000 books in English were distributed, and another 60,000 have been shipped since they left.

Now, local librarians and others have taken over management of the cultural centers, and Theo and Olga are turning to a new venture.

They left a few weeks ago for

Lithuania. After arrival in Vilnius, the capital, they will be living in Kaunas, a university town. There they'll stay with a Scottish friend who is an English teacher. And if all goes according to plan, English-language libraries or reading rooms will soon appear in Lithuania.

When I last visited the Ruyses at their Bainbridge Island home, they were busy packing English books into mailbags for their first shipment to Lithuania.

Books on business, psychology, dictionaries, encyclopedias, Book-of-the-Month Club volumes, and Al-Anon volumes are especially welcome, they said. (The market economy is new in Eastern Europe, and alcoholism is rampant.)

They'll be gone about 10 months, and are facing the new adventure with optimism and quiet excitement.

"This is a total unknown,"

In Belarus, Theo and Olga greet a local resident who resembles George Bush. Barbara Ruys (second from left below), the oldest of Theo and Olga's four daughters, poses for family photos with Belarussian relatives.



New books

community, it's up to Jessie to escape into the outside world to obtain the necessary medicine to save her friends and family.

Love Among the Walnuts, by Jean Ferris (Harcourt Brace, 1998).

Sandy Ackerman lives contentedly on

an isolated estate with his wealthy and eccentric parents. When they become comatose as a result of his greedy uncles' bungled murder attempt, Sandy finds a home for them with the unusual inhabitants of nearby Walnut Manor.

Soon the uncles extend their murderous plans to all of the Walnut Manor residents as well as Sandy and his family. Recommended for readers who enjoy romance, murder mysteries, and quirky characters.

The Wreckers, by Tain Lawrence (Delacort Press, 1998).

Shipwrecked after a vicious storm on the barren coast of Cornwall, 14-year-old John Spencer attempts to save his father and himself from the pirates who plunder the wreckage of storm-tossed ships. Reminiscent of the novels of Robert Louis Stevenson and Charles Dickens, this fast-paced adventure yarn is a spellbinding fiction debut by an author who lives on a remote radio-transmission site on an island off Prince Rupert, on the north coast of British Columbia.

The young people's library on the

lower floor of the library is home to a wide variety of books for pre-schoolers, grade school students, and young teens. Older children will want to check out the books in the new young adult section, on the main floor just to the left of the library entrance.

Board members

System). We have an endowment of nearly \$180,000 thanks to our community and the success of the campaign."

But there is more work to be done. "The quality of this facility requires a high standard of maintenance. That costs money. Ongoing fund-raising cannot be ignored.

"I am proud to have been a part of what we have accomplished. I am pleased to see the willingness of new members to assume the yoke of responsibility," he said.

Laps winner

For more information, call the library at 842-4162. Applications will be available in early April at the library and selected outlets.

Lee Maloney, who as a 10-year-old won the students' portion of the 1996 event with 28 laps around the high school track, has fond memories of that contest and what came afterward.

"We all went to Disneyland," said her mother, Vickie, "courtesy of Lee." Lee's dad, Bob, and brother, Ross, also enjoyed the Disneyland visit.

The 1996 Laps raised funds for construction of the \$2 million addition to the library.

Now, three years later, Laps for the Library II will raise much-needed maintenance and operation funds.

Library board members and other volunteers are working to make Laps II fun for all and rewarding for both the contestants and the library. It's too soon to say if a trip to Disneyland will be awarded, but planners promise lots of prizes for entrants of all ages.

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(See calendar on page 1 for closures.)

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