

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND LIBRARY NEWS

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Vol. 1, No. 3

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

Winter 1999

Mark your calendar

Special events and ongoing series make the coming winter months an especially interesting time for Bainbridge library users. Unless otherwise noted, events are held in the Bainbridge Public Library meeting room on the main floor.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

New Year's Day - Library closed.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

Inquiring Mind Series, Ted Hutchinson: "African American Song and Story", 7:30 p.m., free admission.

MONDAY, JANUARY 18

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Library closed.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

Annual meeting, Bainbridge Public Library Board of Trustees, 7:15 - Open to public.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

Bainbridge Public Library Speakers Forum, Andrew Ward: "Chota Sahib - An American Boyhood in India", 4 p.m. For tickets call 842-4156.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Inquiring Mind Series, "Theodore Roosevelt: Soldier and Statesman". Robert Overholser portrays Theodore Roosevelt, 7:30 p.m., sponsored by Friends of the Library. Free admission.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Washington's Birthday - Library closed.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Bainbridge Public Library Speakers Forum, Dr. William P. Reinhardt, "Chaos - A New Science". For tickets call 842-4156.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

Friends of the Library Book Sale, 10 - 2 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

Book reviews by Nancy Pearl of Seattle Center for the Book, 4 p.m. in library. 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

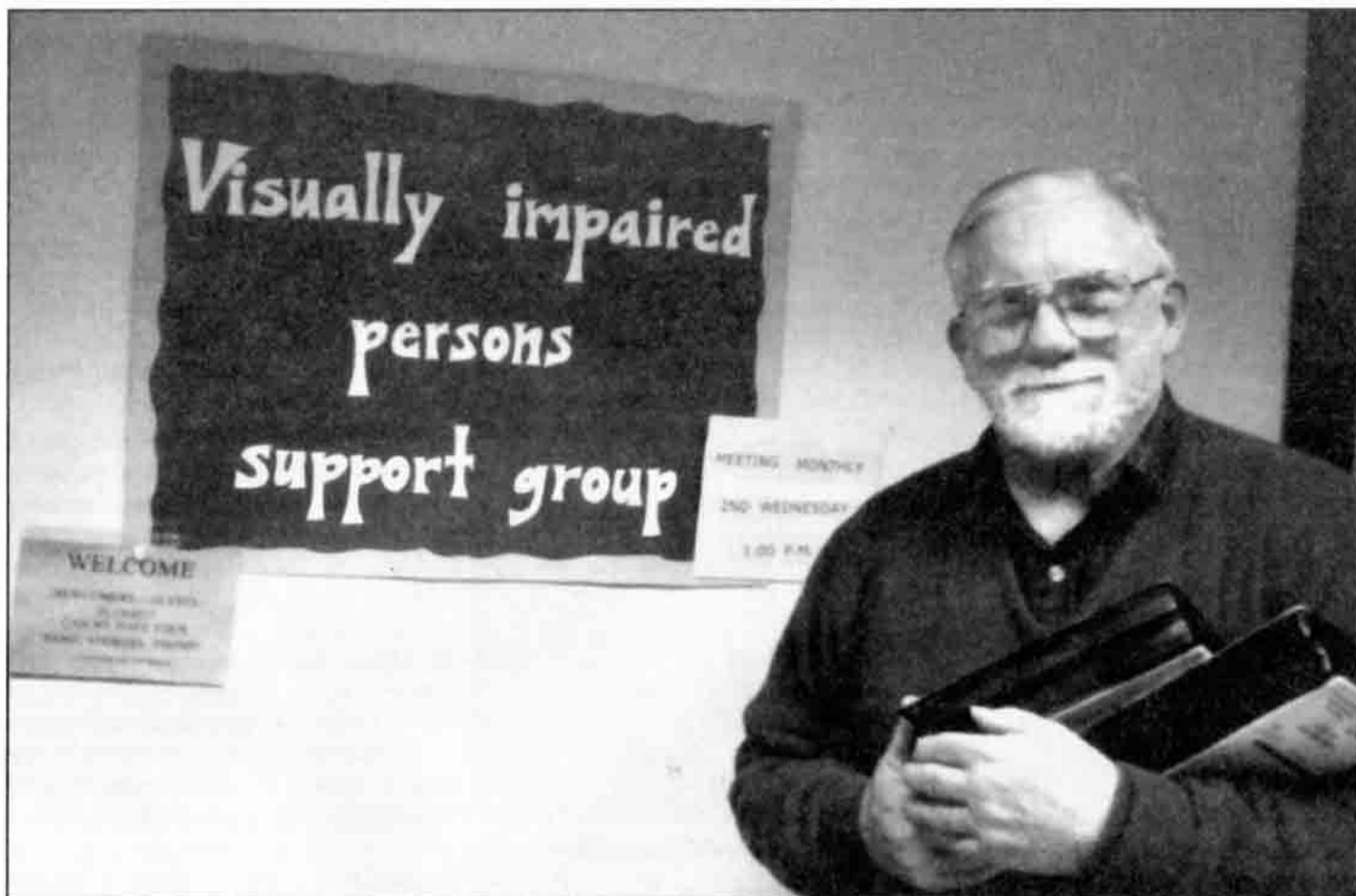
Mondays, January 11, 25, February 1, 8, 22
10:30-11 and 11-11:30, downstairs.

Preschool Storytimes, for children 3-5

Wednesdays, January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24

VIP Resource Group

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



Dick Hassell, president of the local Visually Impaired Persons group, in the VIP room downstairs

Blindness is an attitude, says Hassell

By VERDA AVERILL

Dick Hassell believes being blind is an attitude.

"You can have a good attitude or a bad attitude," he says. "If you have a good attitude you don't have a problem."

Hassell should know.

Although he has very low vision caused by diabetic retinopathy, he walks 10 miles a day, is active in church and community service groups (including the Bainbridge Library Visually Impaired Persons Support Group), and regularly checks out stacks of books from the local library.

The books he borrows are audio versions of classics, best sellers, and absorbing mysteries by writers like J. A. Jance and Agatha Christie. And thanks to the library's growing collection of books on tape, his frequent visits to the library may become even more frequent during the coming year.

"The library has purchased over 200 books on tape," says branch manager Cindy Harrison, "and we've ordered more. . . . During this next year we will be ordering only the unabridged versions,"

she adds, because Bainbridge readers prefer unabridged to abridged volumes.

Hassell's attitude is so good he rarely uses a white cane. ("Only when I'm traveling," he says, "and then it's just to warn other people.") Walking about the library with him, a companion forgets about his low vision. He navigates easily and confidently through the building, climbing the stairs without hesitation. (Why take the elevator when he walks miles every day?)

He does come occasionally with a sighted friend who helps him check out the listings of new titles on the library's computerized catalog. Out of a list of 35 books on tape, he may order as many as 21 to "read" in the near future.

Hassell, a retired advertising executive, lived in New York and California during his long career with J. Walter Thompson and other national companies. Two and a half years ago he came to Bainbridge Island to be near his son Jeffrey, a chief petty officer on the USS Camden at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. He's delighted that the ship, and Jeffrey, will remain at PSNS until the year 2000.

"I love this island," he says with enthusiasm, adding that when Jeffrey's ship arrived here friends suggested he move to Bainbridge rather than Bremerton. He's never regretted his choice.

He is enthusiastic about the Bainbridge library's services for the visually impaired, especially the VIP support group, and he can't say enough about the helpful staff.

"I think Cindy Harrison and the staff here are sensational. . . . They act as if they are here just for us," he says.

The VIP group meets in the library's upstairs meeting room 10 months of the year, "but not in August and December, when we get together for potlucks," he says with a smile. He urges people with vision problems, or friends and family members of the blind, to attend the meetings, which are held the second Wednesday of the month from 1 to 3 p.m.

About 35 or 40 people attend every meeting, and more are welcome.

"The library is centrally located, convenient to reach," he says, adding that the Kitsap Transit 100 bus now makes regular stops there.

(Continued on back page)

Speakers forum continues through winter

The Bainbridge Library Speakers Forum continues this winter with talks by two acclaimed speakers.

Andrew Ward, author of "Scattered Bones" and "Out Here", will speak Sunday, January 31, on "Chota Sahib - An American Boyhood in India". Ward has been a contributing editor to Atlantic Monthly, a commentator on National Public Radio, and a regular contributor to The Washington Post. He appeared

with other Bainbridge Island writers at a fund-raising program for the library during the recent building campaign.

Dr. William P. Reinhardt will talk Sunday, February 28, on "Chaos - A New Science". Using simple, familiar examples, such as the difficulty of weather forecasting, and aided by computer graphics, he will introduce the essential ideas of chaos theory. Reinhardt is a professor of chemistry at the

University of Washington, a Fulbright Senior Scholar, and the author of "Chaos in Atomic Physics".

Both series lectures begin at 4 p.m. in the library's upstairs meeting room. Although the series is sold out, a few seats are usually available at the last moment. Anyone interested is invited to inquire at the library or call Susan Bray at 842-4156. Admission is \$10.

(Continued on back page)

Your donations make our library work

By VERDA AVERILL

As the holiday season draws to a close, I think it's appropriate to say a warm thank you to all those who have made our library such an inviting place during the past year.

I can think of no library anywhere which has a more dedicated staff or more enthusiastic volunteers. Our beautiful new building would be a cold and sterile place without the work of these talented and caring people.

It's time also to thank the people of Bainbridge Island who have supported the library so generously, by giving through the Bainbridge Foundation, through memorial donations, and in countless other ways.

A special thank you goes this month to our Library News advertisers, local businesses and professionals who help support the library while advertising their services.

Although this is only the second issue of the News which has accepted advertising, we've had a tremendous response. A limited number of advertising spaces are still available, and we expect those to be filled with the next issue. (Please call the library or any board member if you're interested.)

Charter advertisers include, in no particular order: Charlie Michael's Salon, The Travel Exchange, Safeco and the Independent Insurance Group, Hill Moving Services, Winslow Hardware & Mercantile, Eagle Harbor Books & Cafe, KMS Financial Services, Inc., Blumenthal Construction Inc., Tyszko/Hayward Insurance, Bainbridge Photo Lab, CFA Mortgage and Financial Services, Inc., Mary Cameron, M.Ed., Esther's, Inc., Drury Construction Co., Inc., Deschamps Realty, Inc., Alan Simcoe Guitar Studio, Apple Tree Cove Animal Hospital, Highpoint Resources, Bainbridge Net, and Harris-Zommers Interiors.

If you don't know all of these friendly folks, you might like to get acquainted. They're nice people, expert at what they do, and civic-minded too. They deserve thanks from all of us.

I've mentioned before that our beautiful new library is twice the size of the previous building and quite likely, when all the bills have been tallied, to cost twice as much to maintain and operate. And not a penny of taxes goes for that purpose. (Taxes do go to the Kitsap Regional Library, which pays staff salaries, but not a cent is directed to pay for the building itself.) So it's up to all of us who use the building to pay for its use, as we paid for its construction.

Advertising is just one way this can be done.

Another is with memorials and donations of library shelves in the names of loved ones, family members, and others we wish to honor.

Elsewhere in this paper you'll see an article about the ongoing shelf and memorials project. Do read it, think about it, and consider giving to your library in the name of a loved one.

The giving season doesn't have to end with the winter holidays. Your gifts will be appreciated by all of us who use and depend on our library for so many services.



Verda Averill, a library board member, is a former editor and publisher of the Bainbridge Review.

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: Tom Olson, president; Richard Blumenthal, Jo Schaffer, Gayle Seyl, Don Yockey, Verda Averill, Mary Ann Campbell, Peter Harris, Judy Karr, Pat Putman, Jane Brand, Diane Hamilton, Steve Olsen, Marty Sievertson, and Sarah Griffiths.



Speakers in the continuing library series include William P. Reinhardt on February 28 and Andrew Ward on January 31 (See story on Page 1)

Norm Rice opens lecture series

Former Seattle mayor Norm Rice opened the 1998-99 Bainbridge Library Speakers Forum in October with a challenging question for his audience:

"How is the citizen-government relationship changing?"

He answered the question by focusing on four topics: race, respect, religion, and regionalism.

"These are related," he said, "though they may not seem so at first."

The issue of racism, Rice said, "boils down to the differences between African-Americans and Caucasians more than any other group."

The first step toward overcoming racism, he said, is to "admit we do harbor these feelings and it doesn't make you a bad person. The issue is what are you going to do about these feelings? Are your boardrooms bastions of white male privilege? . . . That's bad business. The minorities are moving up, and have more

money to spend."

Only when we can be open and discuss this topic in our boardrooms and relationships can we begin to make some progress, he said.

"What's happened to respect in our society?" he asked next. "We need to make an effort to understand the individual rather than the ideas."

He blamed much of today's lack of respect on hot talk radio and the ways the media approach issues under discussion.

"Gone are the days when a newspaper or radio or television felt it was important to investigate the charges before reporting them," he lamented. "Today they report anything without checking. . . the line between news and entertainment is difficult to differentiate."

"I challenge you to bring civility to your discussions in the community," he said.

As for religion, today religion and politics seem to have been melded together, Rice said.

"I believe those of us who are liberal and progressive have failed to articulate our spirituality for the issues in which we believe. . . We have left it to the far right. . . Some of us may need to become spiritual messengers."

Rice recommended two books by Jim Wallis: "The Soul of Politics" and "Who Speaks for God?" to readers interested in pursuing the issue further.

Finally, he asked, "What has regionalism got to do with all of this?"

"How do we define our community? My concern is that government is changing rapidly . . . we seem to be rushing toward regionalism, but some people talk about regionalism as a way to escape society's problems rather than a way to solve them.

"We need to work together . . . Regionalism must be based on social equity, economic opportunity, and environmental stewardship."

"If we pay heed to these four Rs I do believe we can return to a civil society," he said hopefully.

John Paul Jones: 'We are all connected'

Native American architect John Paul Jones spoke to a sold-out library audience in November. His theme: "We are all connected."

Jones, a member of the Pioneer Square firm of Jones and Jones and a long-time Bainbridge Island resident, recently received the University of Oregon Distinguished Alumnus Award. He is known worldwide for his zoo designs featuring animals in natural habitats and is now lead architect for the Native American Museum under construction as part of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C. Jones moved to Bainbridge in 1967, and says he's "watched the Island change, but it's always the same."

He joined the firm Jones and Jones, one of the first to combine architecture and landscape architecture, in the early 1970s.

"Zoos were always interesting to us, and we had our first chance to get acquainted with them at Northwest Trek," he

said. Since then he's gone on to do work at Woodland Park, in Singapore, Perth, Australia, Santiago, Chile, and the new Disney animal park in Orlando, among other places.

Then he met Yale Lewis, who involved him in the Native American Museum.

"Ideas and issues and dialogue, your purposes, interested me in your program (the new library lecture series)," he said.

The new museum design will center on the "four worlds of my Native American heritage: the natural world, the animal world, the spirit world, and the human world," Jones said.

"Indian ways and beliefs, both historic and current, are worth understanding," he added. "As a Native American architect I want to help enlighten the non-Indian community about our unique ways. . . There is more to them than battles and history books."

Jones spoke with enthusiasm of his zoo work, including

the gorilla exhibit at Woodland Park in Seattle.

"An amazing thing happens when you put animals in a natural setting. They act natural," he said, quoting a message often used in San Diego and other zoos.

"Animals can be social in zoos and it's a wonderful thing to see as they start having babies," he said.

"We all have connections with animals," he added. So in Woodland Park he designed a new gorilla exhibit where the animals could be viewed through glass. Nobody had done that before.

And at the nearby Point Defiance Zoo, he designed a polar bear exhibit where anybody could view the bears both below and above the water. That, too, was a first.

The Native American exhibit at the Smithsonian will be built on the theme "The Way of the People" and will feature the long history of Native Americans, their art, as well as the organic world and current Americans.

(Continued on back page)

Haiku Garden designers honored by ASLA

One of the first things visitors to the Bainbridge Public Library notice is the Haiku Garden donated by the Bainbridge Island Japanese-American Community. Its beauty throughout the four seasons invites library users to linger, to pause a moment (or longer) and appreciate nature.

Designed by Island residents Vicki McCabe and Doug Tanaka, the garden has been cited for outstanding design by landscape architects throughout the Northwest. Last year McCabe and Tanaka received a prestigious merit award from the American Society of Landscape Architects "in recognition of outstanding professional achievement" — an honor that usually goes to much larger projects.

The pair, who have designed gardens throughout western Washington as well as on Bainbridge Island, have appeared at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show in Seattle, where Tanaka has spoken on "Japanese Gardens - Lessons From Nature."

In designing the library's garden they started, as usual, with the rocks.

"Rocks are the spine of a garden," Tanaka says.

The plan of the garden evolved only after the rocks (granite from Fall City) had been delivered to the site. Then Tanaka worked to place them in a natural way.

"When I set rocks I think about the rocks, the composition, the way they feel to you... I'm not thinking of symbolism but the way you feel when you see the rock," he said.

"We actually sculpt the land. It's like being a sculptor, visualizing where the earth is going."

With the rocks on the site, they created the contours of the garden: here a vertical rock, there a few flat, horizontal ones for seating.

"We had noticed the crews liked to sit around on the rocks during lunch breaks while the library was under construction," McCabe said. So some flat-top rocks were placed strategically for casual seating.

McCabe says Tanaka has a gift for placing rocks.

"He's the best rock setter I've ever seen... It goes in his eyes and out his hands," she said.

McCabe, who was born in New York City and taught college courses in the East before coming to Bainbridge, has a degree in design.

"I'm the one who does the plans," she said, "but Japanese gardeners don't work off plans. They go out to pick out the rocks, and only then do they begin to plan the garden."

Tanaka, who grew up in Pasadena, also grew up with gardens. Both his father and grandfather were gardeners, and he worked his way through college as a gardener.



The entrance to the Haiku Garden

Tanaka and McCabe enjoy visiting other gardens and observing the use of rocks. Before designing the library garden they went to Ohme Gardens in Wenatchee and took dozens of pictures of rocks from close up and from hundreds of yards away.

They speak of rocks in an almost reverential tone, and McCabe likes to quote Luke 4: "If His word is not heard the rocks will speak out..."

"We are rock people," she says with a smile. "Rocks are our history. They're basic."

After placing the rocks in a garden, they bring in the soil and place the large trees at the same time.

"Trees and rocks are the basic elements," says Tanaka. "Vicki placed all the plants, then 25 people came and actually planted the garden."

Placement of the haiku inscriptions on the rock was completed after the rocks were in place and the contours of



Vicki McCabe and Doug Tanaka in the library's Haiku Garden

the garden set.

The garden, which after a year and a half appears complete to the casual viewer, will continue to grow in beauty for years to come, McCabe says. In one spot she placed a graceful, rather large

tree which is smaller than she would have liked.

"It will look really good in 15 years," she said "It's an infant. I'm going to prune it every year."

She is known for her pruning skills. "Pruning," she says "is being true to the tree and its basic structure... With landscaping, (the important thing) is being true to what that spot is, having a sense of place."

In creating their gardens, McCabe and Tanaka try to bring a sense of order and appropriateness.

"We produce gardens that create respite from the busy world," she says.

And that, library users say, is something they've done very well in the Bainbridge Public Library Haiku Garden.

Busing it to the library

Did you know that Kitsap Transit buses can help you get back and forth to the Bainbridge Public Library?

On weekdays, the Winslow Shuttle (#100) operates nine loop trips passing the library. You can catch a bus at the ferry terminal or the Town and Country Market and be at the library in just a few minutes. The last #100 bus for downtown-bound passengers leaves from in front of the library at about 3:15. On weekends, the Poulsbo/Bainbridge bus (#90) serves a similar route.

Ordinary fare is \$1.00 per trip, but if you are a student (18 years or younger) or a senior (61 years or older), you qualify for a Kitsap Transit Reduced Fare, and can ride for 50 cents.

For more detailed information, pick up bus schedules at the library.

Volunteers work to create demonstration gardens

A group of dedicated volunteers is working to beautify the library's landscape.

Jana Jackson is providing professional coordination for the volunteer effort to create several demonstration garden areas around the facility.

Ann Lovejoy is the horticultural director of this effort. She offered two gardening classes through the Bainbridge Parks and Recreation District which trained a core group of volunteers in the creation of gardens for public spaces.

They began with a texture garden which replaced the barren and trash strewn stretch of earth along High

School Road between Safeway and the library. By this summer, the area was a vivid expanse of floral color.

The plants were donated by Bainbridge Gardens, Ann Lovejoy, Log Cabin Cooperative Nursery in Cottage Grove, Oregon and Heronswood Nursery.

Junkoh Harui and Ann Lovejoy worked together to create a children's seed garden on Madison Avenue. The cosmos in this garden continued to bloom even with the arrival of fall rains. Works in progress are a butterfly garden and a cut flower garden.

Pat Lown and a crew of student volunteers from Strawberry Hill

Alternative School have assisted with the heavy work of moving large plants and site clearing. Jana Jackson and Susan Wallace work with community gardeners every Friday morning. Susan and her husband, Cebe, have a long history of volunteering at the library. Cebe helped seal the original time capsule in the 1982 library expansion designed by John Rudolph.

The Friday morning library gardeners welcome additional garden volunteers.

"Bring your garden gloves and hand tools, work with some pros and have some fun in the dirt," says Cindy Harrison, branch manager.



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Books and cassettes at the library

These recommendations on reading and listening to audio books come from the staff, board, and volunteers at the Bainbridge Public Library. All are available from your Bainbridge Public Library, either in the branch collection or from one of the other branches of the Kitsap Regional Library system.

Adult fiction

About a Boy, by Nick Hornby (Putnam, 1998). An unexpected friendship emerges between a 14-year-old boy and a single man as the latter seeks romance with the boy's single mother.

The Evolution of Jane, by Cathleen Schine (Houghton Mifflin, 1998). What is a species? What is the nature of friendship? These questions intertwine on a tour of the Galapagos. A witty and perceptive novel that you'll especially enjoy if you've ever traveled with a group.

The Farming of Bones, by Edwidge Danticat (Soho Press, 1998). Set in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, this is a beautifully rendered tale of love and survival in the midst of political terror. Stunning, lyrical prose, despite the harsh subject matter.

Leonardo's Bicycle, by Paco Ignacio Taibo II (Mysterious Press, 1995). A mystery novel by the Spanish-born Mexican Taibo that is irreverent, revolutionary, comic, and tragic.

The Passion, by Jeanette Winterson (Grove/Atlantic, 1997). This historical novel brilliantly evokes images of the underworld of Venice at the turn of the 19th century. It tells the story of an odd love affair between Napoleon's chef and one of his courtesans.

The Poisonwood Bible, by Barbara Kingsolver (HarperCollins, 1998). Kingsolver's eagerly awaited new novel is ambitious, heartfelt, and compelling reading. Through the eyes of an American missionary family in the Congo, we see the tragic consequences of Western imperialism—for a nation and in the lives of the individuals who dwell there.

The Road Home, by Jim Harrison (Grove/Atlantic, 1998). A lyrical view of love and loss in a Nebraska family over the course of a century, as told by five of its members.

Kirinyaga: a Fable of Utopia, by Mike Resnick (Ballantine, 1998). What happens when 22nd century technology creates a terraformed Utopia, based on the culture of pre-European Kenya? This is a story about people, and their reactions to living in Kirinyaga, a new Eutopia.

Adult nonfiction

The Art of Pilgrimage: The Seeker's Guide to Making Travel Sacred, by Phil Cousineau (Conari

Press, 1998). Weaving together history, myth, literature, and personal narrative, Cousineau speaks to all travelers who wish to make their journeys more deeply meaningful.

Crossing Paths: Uncommon Encounters with Animals in the Wild, by Craig Childs (Sasquatch, 1997). Wonderfully evocative, descriptive prose and excellent pacing gives naturalist Childs's account of cross-species encounters both excitement and poignancy, and enlightens the reader on hot buttons like the spotted owl and lesser known species. A great read, whether done one chapter at a time or in one big gulp!

The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary, by Simon Winchester (HarperCollins, 1998). One of the most prolific contributors to the original OED turns out to have been an American, a Civil War surgeon, a paranoid schizophrenic, and a murderer. From his rooms in a British asylum, he submitted many of the original annotations still



visible in the OED. For a quick and quirky read, this one has it all.

Brother Cadfael's Herb Garden: an Illustrated Companion to Medieval Plants and their Uses, by Rob Talbot and Robin Whiteman (Little, Brown, 1997). A beautifully illustrated compendium of medieval plants, many still familiar. Of particular interest to gardeners, Anglophiles, lovers of historical mysteries, and anyone interested in folk medicine.

Juvenile fiction

Johnny Tremain, by Esther Forbes (Dell, 1979). Events leading up to the American Revolution come alive in the story of Johnny Tremain, a silversmith's apprentice who takes part in the Boston Tea Party. Young people and adults alike will gain a fresh appreciation of life in colonial Massachusetts.

For younger readers

Hairy Maclary Scattercat, by Lynley Dodd (G. Stevens, 1988). Charming illustrations, humor and action make this a pre-school favorite. Hairy Maclary, a cute and very believable dog, learns a lesson about teasing and bullying that also applies to people in the real world.

Audiobooks

The Mistress of Spices, by Chitra Divakaruni (BDD Audio, 1997). A

mythic story about an Indian healer/spice merchant in California's Bay Area. Simply told but mesmerizing.

Speakers' choices

Norm Rice recommended two books in his October talk at the Library.

The Soul of Politics: Beyond Religious Right and Secular Left by Jim Wallis (Harcourt Brace, 1995).

Who Speaks for God? : an Alternative to the Religious Right — a New Politics of Compassion, Community, and Civility by Jim Wallis (Delacorte, 1996).

John Paul Jones recommended:

My Heart Soars, by Chief Dan George and Helmut Hirschall (Hancock House, 1989).

The Living Planet: a Portrait of the Earth, by Sir David Attenborough: 12 videocassettes (BBC/Time-Life, 1991).

A great website

<<http://www.sjmercury.com/archives/dilbert>> A very funny site detailing "Misson Impertinent", in which Scott Adams, the creator of Dilbert, poses as a management consultant and convinces a real corporation to rewrite their mission statement. The final result is an impossibly complicated and pretentious statement that is essentially meaningless.

(Compiled by Steve Olsen, library board member.)

Here's what local writers are reading

By STEVE OLSEN

Bainbridge Island is home to a remarkable array of highly talented writers. What do THEY read for pleasure and inspiration? We asked a small sample of our local authors to let us know what they've been reading and enjoying.

Linda Bierds recommends Cormac McCarthy's *Cities of the Plain*, Jane Smiley's *Moo*, and Andrew Hudgins' *Babylon in a Jar: New Poems*. Linda herself is at work on a new volume of poems which she hopes to complete during her upcoming sabbatical from the University of Washington.

Nancy Blakey has been reading Barry Lopez's collection of essays, *About this Life*, Sue Hubbell's *A Country Year*, and Barbara Kingsolver's *The Poisonwood Bible*. Nancy is known for her children's activity books, the most recent of which is *Lotions, Potions, and Slime: Mudpies and More!* (Tricycle Press).

David Guterson is enthusiastic

about Jose Sarmago's novel, *Blindness*, calling the Nobel laureate's latest work a "flawless, incredible book." David has also been reading *The House of Sand and Fog*, by Andre Dubus III, and Patrick Dillon's *Lost at Sea*, a non-fiction work about crabbing off the Washington coast. David, author of *Snow Falling on Cedars* (Harcourt Brace), has completed his second novel, this one set in the apple-growing country of eastern Washington.

Brian Herbert has been re-reading Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*, and often enjoys the novels of Dean Koontz. Brian is a writer of science fiction and fantasy, and is currently collaborating with Kevin Anderson on a series of three prequels to Frank Herbert's Dune series, starting with *Prelude to Dune: A House Atreides* (Bantam).

Jack Olsen has a number of favorite authors to whom he frequently returns "to stoke up my boiler." These include Raymond Chandler, Graham Greene, and Anne Tyler. Jack's wide-

ranging non-fiction books include his latest publication, *Hastened to the Grave* (St. Martin's); a recent re-issue about mountain climbing, *The Climb up to Hell* (Griffin); and his current project, a miscarriage-of-justice story involving defense attorney Johnny Cochran.

Sheila Rabe speaks highly of the recent biography of the Bronte family, Juliet Barker's *The Brontes: A Life in Letters*. Sheila, known for her Regency period romance novels, has recently published a parenting book, *I Hate Whining Except When I'm Doing It* (Christian Publishers).

George Shannon recommends Paul Fleischman's historical novel about the Civil War battle, *Bull Run*, as "absorbing for all ages." And on a practical note, George is a fan of Anna Thomas's inspiring cookbook, *The New Vegetarian Epicure*. Most recent among George's many popular books for children is *This Is the Bird* (Houghton Mifflin).



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Eleanor Wheeler likes kids and computers

(One of a series on Bainbridge Library staff members)

Eleanor Wheeler likes working with kids. And as readers of this publication know, she likes computers.

"I did start (adult) life as an elementary school teacher," she says with a smile. "But I like the library better because it gives you a chance to work one on one with the young people."

Wheeler, who grew up in Baltimore, attended a small liberal arts college in Maryland, taught school on the East Coast, and then became an Army wife. She moved to Bainbridge 21 years ago; she and her husband built a house near Wilkes and have raised their daughter and son here.

Wheeler was a soccer mom before the term became popular. She "did a lot with youth soccer" when her children were small.

"My daughter Kate took it seriously," she said. "She was an All-American player/athlete and played on two national



Eleanor Wheeler at work

championship Pacific Lutheran teams."

Today Kate, who studied exercise science, manages a YMCA in Bellevue. Son Jamie, now at Oregon State University, is majoring in physical

oceanography and atmospheric science, and plans to go on for his doctorate. Husband Phil is now retired, from both the Army — he was much decorated for his service in Korea and Vietnam — and from the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

Eleanor Wheeler is well known on the Island for her years of work with the League of Women Voters; she was co-president.

She joined the library staff about seven years ago, when her children were in high school and college.

"I've always loved books," she said. "I don't remember not loving books."

She also likes working with computers, and has seen the interest in them "really explode in the time I've worked here. . . We've evolved from e-mail. . . We saw the World Wide Web in its infancy."

Most of the kids are comfortable with computers today, she says, but she cautions parents that the youngsters can use some guidance.

"One of the challenges parents have is teaching kids how to put a computer in perspective. The fact that something is on a web page doesn't mean that it's true. You have to evaluate. . . After a while kids get the excess out of their systems and realize that computers are just another tool."

She'd like to see parents teach children early that books are fun, though she knows all youngsters won't grow up to read for pleasure.

"There are some kids who really love books and read for recreation and others who read for information. . .

"Some kids love reading books more, others love computers more," she says. All can enjoy the children's room of the library, which has both books and computers for youngsters' use.

Wheeler is one of three staff members who work regularly in the young people's library. She also enjoys working upstairs, and serves as a member of the Kitsap Regional Library Council.

Reading aloud can become a family tradition

By GAIL CHRISTENSEN
Library staff member

Winter is upon us. It is time for family read-alouds. Nothing is more warming than having children cuddle up as you read. In my family, my mother made up wonderful stories, then read to us from the classics. Soon we were devouring books on our own.

My children had their own favorites. Dr. Seuss's *And to Think I Saw it on Mulberry Street*, *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis, and the *Raggedy Ann Stories* by Johnny Gruelle were among the books that captured their imaginations.

Today the choices are immense, and there are many ways to begin. From wordless books, like *Anno's Counting Book*, parents and children can take turns making up stories to go with the pictures. Jill Sardegna's *K is for Kiss Goodnight*

is a bedtime story that introduces toddlers to the alphabet through their nighttime routines. *Read to Your Bunny*, by Rosemary Wells, invites parents to spend at least twenty minutes each day reading to their children.

For older children, there are many wonderful authors that can be read aloud; E.B. White, Jean Craighead George, James Howe, and Judy Blume are examples.

Books of poetry are best read aloud. You can begin with *Read-aloud Rhymes for the Very Young*, by Jack Prelutsky, and there are many to follow up with. *Hailstones and Halibut Bones*, by Mary O'Neil, explores the imagery of color through verse. *Auntie's Knitting a Baby*, by Lois Simmie, is a humorous set of four line poems telling about Auntie knitting bonnet, booties, and suit. And finally, for older kids, Prelutsky's *New Kid on the Block* is also a winner.

Two recent books, both published posthumously, are good read-alouds. Dr. Seuss's *Hooray for Diffendoofer Day* (finished by Jack Prelutsky and Lane Smith) is about a teacher who helps kids to think, a school threatened with closure, and lots of good silliness with a typically Seussian lesson to it all.

J.R.R. Tolkien, creator of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, left behind a short manuscript originally written for his own son. *Roverandom* involves a real dog turned into a toy dog, rival wizards, adventures on the moon, giant spiders, dragon moths, and more. I recommend this very highly as a read-aloud for intermediate kids.

One more thought on reading aloud. Grandparents may not have contact with their grandchildren as often as they wish, but they can record stories on cassette to send to them. At almost any age, a book and an accompanying tape read by the



Peggy Hughes, young people's librarian, reads to a group of pre-schoolers.

grandparent would be a priceless gift.

Winter is a great time to visit the library to select books to read aloud with your children. It may become a family tradition.

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To climb your family tree start at the library

By NANCY OLSEN

More Americans than ever before are finding satisfaction in learning about their family heritage.

Are you among those interested in tracing your ancestry? Recording your family's stories or your own memoirs? Discovering ways to build ties with the far-flung members of your extended family?

Come to the library for a boost.

Here are a few examples of books and other resources you might find useful as you begin to climb your family tree.

Digging for your roots

Genealogical research is a fast changing field, with new resources becoming available all the time. Two good recent introductions are *Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide to Family History and Genealogy*, by Jim and Terry Willard, companion to the PBS series, and *Unpuzzling Your Past: A Basic Guide to Genealogy*, by Emily Anne Croome. You might also enjoy viewing *The Genealogist's Video Research Guide* and the video version of *Ancestors*.

There are many well-regarded advanced reference works, too, including *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*, by Val D. Greenwood, and an edited volume, *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*.

The library's access to the World Wide Web opens up a wide array of research possibilities. To get started, consult a guidebook such as *Genealogy Online: Researching Your Roots*. Or, when working on one of the library's graphical display terminals, use the Reference Works page of the Web, and click on Genealogy. You'll find a list of some very useful sites.

For information about primary sources, such as the U.S. Census of Population, ask at the reference desk. These are often available on microfilm through interlibrary loan.

Finally, pick up a copy of *Genealogical Resources*, compiled by the Kitsap Regional Library. Although several years old, this listing is still very valuable in showing the many ways the library can help you search for your ancestors.

A nation of immigrants

To gain insight into the experience of your immigrant ancestors, consider borrowing *Ellis Island Interviews: In Their Own Words*, by Peter Morton Coan, or *Coming to America: A History of Immigration and Ethnicity in American Life*, by Roger Daniels. There are many books that focus on specific nationalities and regions, too. Janet Rasmussen's *New Land, New Lives: Scandinavian Immigrants to the Pacific Northwest* is a good example.

Your family's story

An excellent all-purpose guide to getting your research into words is *Writing Family Histories and Memoirs*, by Kirk Polking. *For All Time: A Complete Guide to Writing Your Family History*, by Charley Kempthorne, is another choice. Don't forget the library's many general reference books on writing, and if you need an encouraging jumpstart, have a look at Anne Lamott's *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on*

Writing and Life.

Other people's families

In researching your family's history, you may find inspiration in the stories of others. Some notable examples: *Family*, by Ian Frazier; *On Gold Mountain: The One-Hundred-Year Odyssey of My Chinese-American Family*, by Lisa See; *The Shadow Man: A Daughter's Search for her Father*, by Mary Gordon; and of course Alex Haley's fictionalized classic, *Roots*.

Your extended family

Relatives often do not live in close proximity, but there are many ways to stay in touch and build family bonds. Look for ideas in such books as *Family Reunion Handbook: Keeping Family Stories Alive: Creating Family Newsletters*; and *More Than Memories: The Complete Guide to Preserving Your Family's History*.

Involving the kids

Children, too, love to know more

about their families. Some recommended titles for young readers: *My Backyard History Book*, by David Weitzman; *Do People Grow on Family Trees?: Genealogy for Kids and Other Beginners*, by Ira Wolfman; *Journey to Ellis Island*, by Carol Bierman; and the Tracing Our Roots series, which includes *Tracing Our Japanese Roots*.

And just for fun

Two entertaining mystery novels based on family history research: *Killing Cousins*, by Gene Stratton, and *Murder Runs in the Family*, by Anne George. Who says genealogy doesn't have its light moments?

These suggestions are just a sampling of what the library has to offer. For more ways to climb your family tree consult the on-line catalog or the helpful staff of the Bainbridge Public Library.

(Nancy Olsen is a library volunteer. Steve Olsen, a member of the Library's Board of Directors, helped compile these recommendations.)

Young adult book collection grows

The young adult paperback collection (designed for young people 12 years and older) is growing and improving, says young people's librarian Peggy Hughes.

Located on the main floor of the Bainbridge Public Library, next to the windows overlooking the garden, it has recently been freshened up with the addition of approximately 120 newly purchased books.

Teen-age volunteers have assisted with the project, working from booklists such as the American Library Association's "Best Books for Young Adults" and "Popular Books for Young Readers," as well as the list of nominees for the Evergreen Young Adult Book Award.

Included in the young adult collection are lists of adult books for young adults as well as reference books such as "What Do Young Adults Read Next?" There is also a binder of young adult book lists which contains copies of bibliographies pulled from young adult literature websites and magazine articles.

"In 1999 more booklists will be developed and displayed in the young adult paperback area," Hughes said. "These should further assist young adults in their selection of fiction. Eventually, we may include an opportunity for young adults to recommend good reads to one another."

Young people are encouraged to participate in building the collection by donating paperbacks from their personal libraries or by suggesting that the library purchase specific titles, authors or series for the collection.

"There has been some interest in developing a library-sponsored young adult book discussion group," Hughes said. Interested young people may call



Hughes at 842-4162, extension 9806.

"We need to decide on a date and time for the initial organizational meeting," she said.

The new young adult collection includes books in contemporary, historical fiction, mystery, and science fiction categories.

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Trese Williamson has always loved books

(One in a series on Bainbridge Public Library volunteers)

Mention volunteers to any group of Bainbridge Public Library users, and one of the first names to come up will be Trese Williamson.

Williamson was the hard-working coordinator of the recent building campaign which raised \$2 million for the library expansion completed over a year ago.

As campaign coordinator she spent long hours in a small office tucked away under the stairs at the north end of the building, recording pledges, answering questions from donors, working closely with the Collins Group in Seattle and with Bainbridge Library Board members on the Island.

But her involvement with the library began long before that.

She belonged to the Friends of the Library for years, served on the library board for several years beginning in 1991, and was actively involved in the preplanning for the new building.

The building campaign "became my passion," she said with a smile. "None of us was expert at fund-raising, and we took on a lot of things we hadn't done before. . ."

Trese grew up in the Seattle area, attended the University of Washington and Sofia University in Tokyo, and then

went to work as a flight attendant.

She and her husband Frank, a pilot for United Airlines, lived in New Jersey for a while, and moved here in 1978. They have three children. A grown son, Scott, works at a computer firm in San Francisco; another son, Matt, attends Evergreen College; and daughter Rebecca is in high school.

Williamson can't remember not loving books.

"I've always been a reader," she says. "As a kid my girlfriend and I would spend hours at our neighborhood library in Burien."

She went on to study comparative literature in college, and reading is still one of her chief interests.

She has fond memories of her years of work with the Bainbridge library.

"Virginia Mudge was the librarian when we came here," she recalls.

And she'd encourage newcomers to get involved as volunteers with the library (or other local institutions).

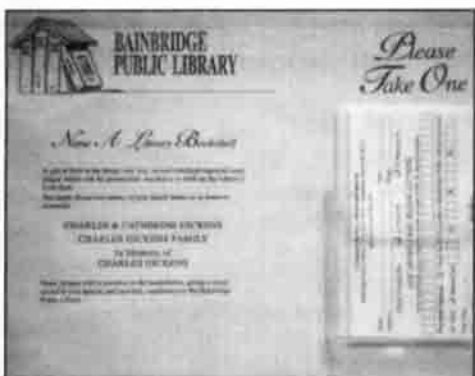
"When we first moved here we went to a Little League pancake breakfast. . . The volunteers were having such a wonderful time, we thought it was a good way for a newcomer to be involved, she recalled."

She's been volunteering ever since, to the library's benefit.



Trese Williamson: 'Volunteers have a wonderful time.'

Name a shelf: It's a special way to honor a loved one



The Bainbridge Public Library's collection of named bookshelves has grown.

Four new plaques were added recently, thanks to donations by several Island residents. Sharp-eyed library users may now observe the following shelf markers:

- In memory of Melvin Eremic, from Mildred;
- In memory of Addison Eames Fenton, from Dana Berg;
- Jim and Amanda Devine;

- Truscott Family, from Don and Melody.

The designated shelf program at the library was begun during the recent fund-raising campaign for the enlarged building. It is designed to honor friends and families of library users as well as to raise necessary funds for library maintenance and operation.

"For \$250 you can appear on a shelf, even if you never write a book," said Trese Williamson, campaign coordinator.

"It's a great way to remember someone special, or celebrate a birth or anniversary or graduation," said Pat Putman, who coordinated the campaign bookshelf project.

Anyone interested in donating for a shelf will find more information on the project in a display near the library's front desk. For specific details on the gifting process, call the library's campaign office, 780-2195, or ask a librarian or board member.

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Vanbianchi show opens in January

New work by Peggy Vanbianchi will be on display at the Bainbridge Public Library from January 8 through March 1999.

The exhibit is another in an ongoing series of informal one-person shows featuring artists whose works are part of the library's permanent collection. Joanna Newnham of the library art committee is arranging the exhibits.

Vanbianchi created the overhead art in the library's east reading room: Mandorla and Elipse and (with Emily Carlisle) Galilea, all of gut and found objects.

Her new work will include "pieces made out of cow bladders. . . human hearts with Spanish and English love poems," said Newnham. Islanders who see the show will get a preview of Vanbianchi's upcoming show in Seattle.

Most of the work will hang in the library's large meeting room on the main floor.



Vanbianchi boats hang above library's east reading area

"People who want to see the art when the room is closed should simply ask one of the staff at the front desk to open the room for viewing," said Newnham.

"People often ask where I get my ideas," said Vanbianchi when her boats

were installed overhead in the new building.

"In the best of times one idea naturally gives way to the next. Previous to my boatbuilding projects I made maps to imaginary places, particularly maps

that suggest a journey one could have taken centuries ago. My boat series seems to be a continuation of this journey, a journey that we modern humans will never take. The boats carry me on a primitive hunting trip or an exploration into unknown waters far from the shelter of my home.

"I think these pieces are part of a personal longing I have for earlier times and a way of life more directly connected to land and sea.

"As I work on the boats, the shapes that emerge often resemble cocoons, insect wings, or sea mammals. I develop these zoomorphic sculptures both consciously and unconsciously. . . I believe these images develop from another personal longing, my desire to see nature restored."

Other artists whose work will be shown at the library in 1999 include Gayle Bard, Bob Lucas, and the Mesolini Glass Studio.

News briefs

BARBARA BAYLEY, a long-time Island resident and library staff member, died December 13. She will be honored with a stone memorial created by Molly Greist in the library's fern garden now being planned.

THE ISLAND PREMIERE of the film based on David Guterson's "Snow Falling on Cedars" has been postponed until late 1999; studio officials decided to release the film in the fall rather than early this year.

BUS TRANSPORTATION to the library is available through Kitsap Transit. For information on reduced fares, help in interpreting schedules, and more information call the transit company's Customer Service desk at 242-8355.

For information on getting a Reduced Fare ID, or for help in interpreting the bus schedules, call Kitsap Transit Customer Service at 242-8355.

A NEW READERS and Literacy Collection is now on display on the main floor of the library near the Madison Ave. entrance.

Books and periodicals in the collection will appeal to new readers of all ages, including those for whom English is a second language.



From Page 1

Speakers forum

In March, Islanders will hear another popular speaker, Nancy Pearl of the Center for the Book. She'll appear Sunday, March 14, at 4 p.m. and will review a variety of new books. Pearl's reviews on public radio reach a wide audience here, and her February 1998 appearance here on the Island received rave reviews from the invited guests. Her March appearance is open to the public, and there is no admission charge.

Again this year several lectures in the

Inquiring Mind Series are being presented in the library. The talks begin at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Coming up Tuesday, January 12, is "African American Song and Story" by Ted Hutchinson. On Tuesday, February 9, Robert Overholser portrays Theodore Roosevelt in "Theodore Roosevelt: Soldier and Statesman", sponsored by the Bainbridge Friends of the Library.

(For more on library speakers, please turn to Page 2)

From Page 1

Blindness

But the VIPs don't rely on public transit alone.

"We have volunteer drivers," Hassell explains. "We call every member for every meeting and pick them up and take them home if they like."

The VIP meetings are much more than social occasions. Guest speakers discuss various eye problems and services for the blind and low-vision people, and members share their experiences and discoveries.

"We are a community resource for anyone on the Island who needs to know about low vision. . . If there are family members who need us, we can tell them

Librarians' choices

A century of good books

By ELEANOR WHEELER

To see a list of the top 100 books of the 20th century, as selected by librarians, read the November 15, 1998 issue of *Library Journal Digital*.

It will be found on the web at <http://www.bookwire.com>.

Every issue has interesting articles about books and the world of libraries. And fortunately, Bookwire keeps archives, you can browse through back issues. If you are looking for articles about a particular topic, there is a search feature to locate articles pertaining to your topic.

To help plan your reading ahead of time, Bookwire alerts you to upcoming best-sellers. Check now to see the March 1999 publication schedule of books by well-known authors.

Kitsap Regional Library will be purchasing these books, so this is one

way to be at the top of the hold list for books you will want to read. Some of the authors listed for a March publication date are Annie Dillard, John Le Carré, Anne Rice, and Robert Parker. Each book listing includes a brief review.

Closer to the publication date, Bookwire also selects a few special publications for a more in-depth review. If you are interested in finding great new internet sites, there is even a special section devoted to the World Wide Web. Editorials are sure to give you a better understanding of issues that are important in the world of books and libraries.

If this interests you, see for yourself at www.bookwire.com - Bookwire's web address. If you are not connected to the Internet at home, why not come to the library and use our computers? We even have volunteers who will tutor you on using the World Wide Web.

From Page 2

John Paul Jones

The site is close to the Air and Space Museum and near the Capitol, and "in Washington there's a lot of Greeks and Romans," Jones said. So he came up with something "a little more organic, a little more natural."

Here on Bainbridge Island "we are all connected," he said. "We're connected at the grocery store by food. Sit down for a

meal anywhere and most of the food is based on Native American foods: corn, potatoes, tomatoes, squash, beans."

Jones closed his talk with a poem by Chief Dan George. He recommended several books on Native Americans for the library's collection, and some of the funds from the series ticket sales have been used to purchase these.

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Monday/Wednesday 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Tues/Thurs/Fri/Sat 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
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(See calendar on page 1 for closures.)

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