

# BAINBRIDGE ISLAND LIBRARY NEWS

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Vol. 3, No. 2

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

Fall 2000

## Mark your calendar

These fall events will appeal to library users of all ages. Unless otherwise indicated, they are held in the library.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

**Public forum:** "On Our Own Terms: A time to change" (Free), 4 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

**Library Book Group:** *Lasso the Wind*, by Timothy Egan, 7 p.m.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

**Speakers Forum:** *Old Bones: Notes from the Skeleton Detective's Casebook*, by Aaron Elkins, 4 p.m.

### MONDAY, October 9

**Columbus Day.** Library closed.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

**Visually Impaired Persons** (support group), 1 p.m.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

**Friends of the Library book sale,** 10-2.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

**Laps for the Library,** fund-raiser. High school track. All welcome, Noon-2 p.m.

**Island Theatre play readings.** *Night Mother*, (Free), 7:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

**Annual Library Gala,** 6:30-9 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

**Library Book Group,** 7 p.m.

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

**Friends of the Library book sale,** 10-2.

**Pop-up Workshop** with Linda Costello (for children 9-13), ASL signed. Pre-register (Free), 1 p.m.

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

**Library Speakers Forum:** "Election 2000", by Thomas Cronin, 4 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

"The Artist's Book: Artists of the Northwest", by Sandra Kroupa, 1pm.

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

**Veterans Day.** Library closed.

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

**Inquiring Mind Series:** *Whale Tales* by Peter Fromm, 7:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

**Thanksgiving.** Library closed.

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

**Thanksgiving.** Library closed.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

**Library Book Group,** 7 p.m.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

**Friends of the Library book sale,** 10-2.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

**Island Theatre play reading** (Free), 7:30.

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

**Christmas Day.** Library closed.

### MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2001

**New Year's Day.** Library closed.

### ONGOING EVENTS

**Library Book Discussion Group**

First Wednesday of each month, library meeting room. All welcome.

**Friday Tidies** Every Friday, 9.

**Senior Computer Hour** Tues. 9-10.



Phil and Vivian Williams (left) and Harley and Shera Bray will bring their original old-time and bluegrass music to the Fourth Annual Bainbridge Public Library Gala October 28. Also on the program will be Gus Julian, 11-year-old Island fiddler.

## Two for the money

### Laps for the Library set for Oct. 15

Laps for the Library III, the first library fund-raising of the fall, is set for Sunday, October 15, at the high school track.

Come rain or shine, the event will get under way at noon and continue until 2 p.m.

"We're expecting good weather," says Kay Jensen, of the Laps planning committee. "October is usually a warm time here. But no matter what the

weather, the Island Striders (walking group) will be out in force."

Also on hand, if the first two Laps events are any indication, will be lots of families, especially those with children, from toddlers to teenagers.

Major winners of the two previous Laps were young people from local schools.

"We're hoping lots of young people will turn out," says Dick Hassell, Laps

chairman. "We have some great prizes from local businesses. Besides, it's fun."

Fun, funds, and fitness are the theme for the day. Music and entertainment will be provided, there'll be snacks (and plenty of water) for the participants, and popular announcer Nick Nickum will call the Laps.

With health professionals stressing many Americans' lack of fitness, library  
(continued on back page)

### Annual Gala slated for October 28

You can't get any more west than Bainbridge Island without getting wet.

That should be reason enough to dust off your hat and your boots and reserve a spot for the 4th Annual Bainbridge Library Gala, Saturday, Oct. 28 from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

The Annual Library Gala is open to the entire community and has become one of the community's most popular social events. Invitations have been mailed to those attending last year's event and are available to the public at the Bainbridge Library's first floor circulation desk.

The evening promises to set the Island social scene back about 150 years — to a simpler time in the Old West.

Musical entertainment will be provided by the Williams and Bray Bluegrass and Western Band, featuring

Vivian Williams on the fiddle; Phil Williams on mandolin, bass and guitar; Harley Bray on banjo; and Shera Bray, guitar. An added musical attraction will be young fiddler Gus Julian, an 11-year-old classical violinist who is a member of the Seattle Youth Orchestra. He's been known to play a mean fiddle when his conductor isn't looking.

A special literary treat for the evening will be a line-up of readings by local cowboy poets. Bob McAllister, recently retired English teacher from Bainbridge High School, offers this insight into why cowboys make good poets: "The west is a poetry of horses, the outdoors, rivers, fields, the sky. What writers do is honor those revelations occurring every day we live."

McAllister will share some of his own poetic revelations and will be joined

by Dolf Droge, whose father was a European immigrant to America who settled on a Montana Ranch. Dolf's own journey of cowboy discovery includes work for the US Information Agency overseas and in the White House as a part of the National Security Council team under three presidents. The third cowboy poet is Sally Robison, Bainbridge Island visual artist and writer. She will offer up the Bainbridge Cowgirl perspective for Gala guests.

Gala organizers are also arranging a special exhibit and silent auction of western-theme photographic prints by local photographers Chuck Kuhn and Pete Saloutos. Kuhn, an Island resident, has spent considerable personal time documenting the modern cowboy. His work has received critical acclaim and  
(continued on page 11)

# Islanders help people and organizations

By Steve Olsen  
President, Bainbridge Library Board

On Bainbridge, the crisp fall weather brings not only the yellows and reds of falling leaves to our yards and streets, but also the big red Bainbridge Foundation "One Call for All" envelopes to our mailboxes.

"One Call for All" provides us a convenient way to give to over 60 Island and regional charities. It also is an opportunity to consider what kind of a community we want, and how we can shape that community by our giving.

I'd like to take this opportunity to urge you to give generously to the "One Call for All" campaign and also to explain how your support of the Bainbridge Foundation helps to keep the Bainbridge Public Library in operation.

Your red envelope will include information on each of the organizations supported by the Bainbridge Foundation, and you may designate exactly how much you want to give to each. I urge you to study this information, think about your priorities, and give accordingly.

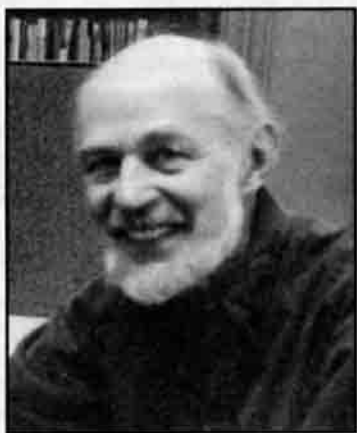
**We at Bainbridge Public Library very much need your support, since all operating expenses for the Library (other than books, computers, and library staff) must be paid for locally.**

Right now those expenses add up to roughly \$100,000 per year. Of that amount, as much as one third has been received from the Bainbridge Foundation in recent years, making the Bainbridge Foundation our largest single source of support. So, if you see the Library and its activities as an important part of your life, we urge you to help sustain it through your contributions to the Bainbridge Foundation, **designating the library as a specific recipient.**

You may wonder why running the Library costs so much, and how the remaining two-thirds of our income is generated. Operating the library is expensive for some of the same reasons that you may experience with your home budget — electricity usage, insurance, maintenance and repair of the building, upkeep of the grounds, and so on. Many of these expenses increased substantially when the library was expanded several years ago, and continue to increase as new needs are identified. All of this is true despite the fact that volunteers provide a very significant portion of the library's labor needs, and local businesses often donate services to the library.

The all-volunteer Bainbridge Library Board of Directors struggles on a day-to-day and month-to-month basis to make ends meet, by controlling operating costs and looking for additional sources of income. Some of these sources are ongoing, such as meeting room rental, book sales by the Friends of the Library, and advertising in the Library News. We also have a series of events that both promote the mission of our library and bring in some additional funds to support its operation. Elsewhere in this issue of the Library News, you'll find information on upcoming events: the Speakers Forum, Laps for the Library, and the annual Library Gala.

We hope you'll mark your calendar for all three and join us in both enjoying and supporting your Bainbridge Public Library.



Steve Olsen

## 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; Dave Thompson, production manager.

Board members are: Steve Olsen (president), Verda Averill, Judy Karr, Jane Brand, Sarah Griffiths, Marty Sievertson, Steve Larson, Bruce Martin, Hans Rothert, Don Harrington, Dick Hassell, Marlene LeMire, and Kay Theobald; Cindy Harrison is Bainbridge branch manager.

# Volunteers, library users say farewell to Knodel

By Verda Averill

For years, Dianne Knodel has served cheerfully as the Bainbridge Public Library's lead volunteer, contributing over 100 hours per month helping library users learn more about computers and coordinating the work of other volunteers.

But no more.

In September, Knodel packed her bags, hugged her friends at the library, and joined her husband in a new home in Texas.

To say she'll be missed is a huge understatement.

**"She'll be impossible to replace," said Paulette Rhoades, the staff computer whiz.**

"Not everyone can donate the time she has," said branch manager Cindy Harrison, "and few people have her skills. We'll miss her terribly."

Dianne's friendly smile and "I can help" button had become, over the past three years, almost as familiar to library patrons as the banks of computers where she could usually be found.

She helped Islanders of all ages learn how to use the electronic resources of the system: how to order books and do research online, how to send e-mail, how to find specific information about health, travel, and various specific interests.

So popular was her person-to-person, one-to-one instruction that individuals sometimes had to sign up weeks in advance.

She loved helping people, whether they knew a little about computers or nothing at all. She worked patiently with young people, but many of her favorite pupils were older. Two of them



Dianne Knodel at farewell brunch

were 82 years old.

"My favorite person to work with is the one who has absolutely no knowledge about computers," she said. She particularly liked seeing grandparents, to whom the machines were once mysteries, learn the joys of communicating with their grandchildren through e-mail.

No matter how long her hours — and she worked more than some part-time paid staffers — she never lost her enthusiasm for the job. She is a former teacher with a lifelong interest in libraries dating back to her student days at Ball State University, where she worked in the library.

And she gained familiarity with computers while her three children grew up with them. (Now adults, all of them are professionally involved with computers.)

Knodel has the gifted teacher's knack of communication with all students. She especially enjoyed working with the physically challenged. One of

her favorite stories concerned a hearing-impaired person who exclaimed with delight after mastering computer skills, "Do you realize that for the first time I can see what I'm supposed to hear?"

Under Knodel's supervision, a special hour Tuesday mornings was set aside for senior citizens to come into the library and use the computers before the building's official 10 a.m. opening. Knodel and other volunteers were on hand to lend assistance and answer questions. (The senior hour from 9 to 10 Tuesdays is expected to continue with other volunteers.)

And during that special hour, the last Tuesday in August, dozens of library staff, volunteers, and computer users turned out to share memories, exchange hugs and smiles, and shed more than a few tears. As they said their reluctant farewells, it was clear that Knodel cannot be replaced. And even clearer, that she will never be forgotten.

## News Briefs

**THE LIBRARY SPEAKERS FORUM** is sold out again this year. But single event seats are occasionally available when series subscribers fail to show up. Susan Bray, director of the series, says anyone interested in standby admission should arrive at the library at 3:30 p.m. and register at the door. Admission will be on a first-come, first-served basis. The lectures are at 4 p.m., five Sundays throughout the year. (See calendar.)

**OLD MAGAZINES** on a variety of subjects sell for 10 cents a copy at racks near the library's main entrance and near the elevator on the lower level. Funds from the periodical sales are used by the Friends of the Library for library improvements.

**NEXT SPEAKER** in the Library Speakers Forum series will be Aaron Elkins, award-winning mystery writer and

Bainbridge resident, speaking on "Old Bones: Notes From the Skeleton Detective's Casebook", Sunday, October 8, at 4 p.m.

**DATE CHANGE:** The November book sale by the Friends of the Library has been moved from the usual second Saturday to the first, because the library will be closed the second Saturday in observance of Veterans Day.

**A NEW WHEELED WALKER**, a Cruiser Deluxe by Nova, has been purchased by Friends of the Library for use within the building by any library patron. It has a big basket for collecting lots of books and a comfortable seat for browsing; "Patrons love it," says branch manager Cindy Harrison. It's here now and ready for use.

**A SPECIAL COMMUNITY FORUM** based on the PBS television

series "Moyers on Dying" began September 24 and concludes October 1 at 4 p.m. at the library. Co-sponsors are Hospice of Kitsap County, the Bremerton-Kitsap County Health Department, Grace Episcopal Church, and the Bainbridge Public Library.

**VISUALLY IMPAIRED** persons wishing help with the new equipment in the library's special VIP room, are urged to inquire of any staff person. Help is available; calling in advance is suggested. Phone 842-4162 for information.

**THE SUMMER READING** Club attracted 1070 participants in the young people's library, and 453 completed the program and received free books. Winners of the drawing for copies of the book *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* were Laura Miller, 13, and Hannah Robinson, 8.

They make a difference

# Memorials, group gifts help library

Gifts to the library benefit many people: the librarians, staff, and most of all the people of Bainbridge Island.

Family members often give to the library in memory of loved ones, and recently a book group purchased a memorial plaque honoring a former member.

And some gifts honor the living, those who are very much part of the community and enjoy the library today. One such gift is a group of books known as the Kephart Collection, a large collection of award-winning titles donated by John and Rosalind Kephart to honor his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall B. Kephart.

"It includes some really fine books, and they're all identified with a special sticker and displayed in a bookcase in the New Titles area," said branch manager Cindy Harrison as she showed several of the books at a recent library board meeting. A sign on the bookcase identifies the books as the Kephart Collection.

The collection will be housed at the Bainbridge library, but individual books may be circulated throughout the Kitsap Regional Library system as requested.

Another Kephart gift is a donation to enhance the library fern garden in honor of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Garrett P. Horder.

Still another major gift came this summer from the late Richard Walker, who remembered the library in his will. A generous check was received soon after his death, and recently the attorneys handling his estate forwarded a second large gift to the library. Richard Walker and his family, like many Islanders, have been regular library users for years.

Don Harrington, library board treasurer, reports that unsolicited, surprise gifts to the library turn up frequently, and these donations, whether for \$25 or \$2,500, make a real difference in the library's operation.

At the \$250 level, gifts to the library are acknowledged with a plaque on a library shelf. This is a nice way to



**Shawn Otorowski, Nancy Zbaren, Nancy Lobisser, Maureen Meslang, Linda Jewett, Kaye Carner, and Kathy Gore (top) donate a library shelf in memory of their late book club member, Joan Bourne. Richard Walker (left) remembered the library with two bequests; William Kuhlman, Jr. places a plaque in memory of his late father, an engineer, in the aeronautical engineering section.**

remember a loved one or acknowledge a special group, says Jane Brand, library board member.

Several recent gifts have been received in memory of the late Pauline Deschamps, an enthusiastic library booster who died unexpectedly early this year.

Gifts in memory of William Kuhlman and book group member Joan Bourne have resulted in shelf plaques in their memory.

Book group members gathered at the library recently to remember the late Joan Bourne and place a plaque on a shelf in her memory. Those attending

were Sharon Otorowski, Nancy Zbaren, Nancy Lobisser, Maureen Meslang, Linda Jewett, Kaye Carner, and Kathy Gore.

For more information about donations to the library, see branch manager Cindy Harrison or any library board member (listed on Page 2).

## Jax Donnelly will lead Friends this year

By Verda Averill

Friends of the Library elected Jacqueline "Jax" Donnelly as their new president at the group's annual meeting in June.

She's taking over from Susan Richards, longtime president and 14-year member of the local Friends, who is looking forward to spending more time with family and other interests.

Donnelly, who was born and raised in Oxford, England, met and married an American and moved with him to Bainbridge Island. After 11 years here she still has a bit of an English accent, which adds a pleasant emphasis as she speaks with enthusiasm of the Friends' activities.

**Donnelly expects the group to carry on much as it has in the past, especially with the increasingly popular book sales, which now sometimes raise as much as \$2,000 a month for special library needs.**

In fact, she'd like to see the group consider expanding the sales schedule, perhaps offering an occasional Monday evening sale for the benefit of people who have other Saturday commitments.

(She reminds library patrons that while the October book sale will be held on the usual second Saturday, the library will be closed the second Saturday in November in observance of Veterans

Day. For November only, the sale will be held the first Saturday.)

Growing up in England, where she still has family (mom and dad, two sisters, two nieces, and two nephews), Donnelly learned to love books and libraries. In college, she studied arts and humanities and developed an interest in a wide variety of subjects. Today, when she's not busy with family and volunteer activities, she loves to read for pleasure and information.

"I think my favorite books are English history and biography," she said. "That's because I've been away for 20 years, and reading brings back places and things to me.

**"I try to read American history, but it's so vast I can't quite grasp the territory..."**

She and her husband Tuck, chief executive of a non-profit

organization, have two children: Rachel, 12, a seventh grader at West Sound Academy, and James, 8, a third grader at the Island School on Bainbridge.

She became interested in the local Friends group through a friend.

"Barb Ferrin involved me," she recalls. "I was doing the library at the Island School, and she thought I might be interested..."

Jax — she doesn't like the nickname

Jackie — was indeed interested.

And she spreads the word about the book sales. (At the September library book sale, a West Sound Academy teacher was delightedly buying art books at a bargain for that new school's still-limited library.)

Money from the Friends book sales has funded many special things since the Bainbridge library was expanded three years ago: the periodical wing of the building, the gazebo in the fern garden, the aquarium in the young people's library — just to name a few of the major gifts. And each year the group works closely with staff members to provide smaller needs on their wish lists.

### Other Friends officers

Donnelly will work closely this year with three other Friends officers and, of course, the members of the group who staff the monthly book sales.

Officers include Elaine Moline, vice chair; Carolyn Peterson, secretary; and Bill Iulo, treasurer.

Library users wishing to support the Friends receive, for a \$5 membership fee, the group's newsletter containing information about its purpose and activities.



**Jax Donnelly at booksale**

# Spur Award winners, finalists are named

By Gail Goodrick and Martha Knappe

Do you have an interest in reading about the West, but don't know where to start? Look no further than the "Spur Awards", given annually since 1953 by the Western Writers of America Association ([www.readthewest.com/booksSpur.html](http://www.readthewest.com/booksSpur.html)).

The Spurs have honored some of the most popular fiction and non-fiction authors in the U.S., including Larry McMurtry, Jane Smiley, and Stephen Ambrose. This year's finalists and award winners appear to be quite promising.

## Non-fiction

**The Real Wild West: The 101 Ranch and the Creation of the American West**, by Michael Wallis. Founded by the Millers of Kentucky, the 101 Ranch (a 100,000 acre+ ranch in Oklahoma) was the site of a rodeo held for the National Editorial Association in 1905. The rodeo's success led to the founding of a Wild West show that rivaled Buffalo Bill's show. Many of the early Hollywood Western stars started out at the 101 Ranch (Tom Mix, Will Rogers and Yakima Kanutt for example). This is a fascinating tale of the real West meeting the mythic West.

**Rush for Riches**, by J. S. Holliday. This book tells not only the story of the great California Gold Rush but also the stories of other ambitious people who carved out great wealth in California in

silver mines, forests, railroads and finally farming. Holliday suggests that California's founding by risk-taking entrepreneurs led to its present image as free, open, and unconstrained.

**Stephen F. Austin: Empresario of Texas**, by Gregg Cantrell. The first critical study of Austin in 75 years, this book is a very readable biography of a complex individual who supported democracy but often despised men of lower social status and who believed that slavery was a curse but essential for Texas' survival.

## Fiction

**Jesse: A Novel of the Outlaw Jesse James**, by Max McCoy. What if Jesse James really did cheat the assassin's bullet and survived to tell his remarkable tale to Missouri's other famous son, Mark Twain? This dust-in-your-throat novel puts a surprising spin on the legend of the West's most feared gunman.

**Masterson**, by Richard S. Wheeler. In 1921, legendary gunfighter Bat Masterson, his life overblown by dime novels, decides to travel with his wife Emma to the old towns where the stories began in one last attempt to straighten out his own history.

**Mine Work**, by Jim Davidson. Markus Cotton, attempting to unravel a family mystery, finds himself caught up in a shameful tale of race politics and 1950's era union troubles as he travels through Colorado mining towns and the

Navajo reservation.

**Murder at Medicine Lodge**, by Mardi Oakley Medawar. During an 1867 peace treaty signing, Kiowa Chief White Bear is accused of murdering a U.S. Army bugler. Tay-bodal, healer among the Kiowa, must find out the truth before his Chief is convicted of the crime.

## Other recent works

If the above titles have sparked your interest you might also consider some recent works that are receiving outstanding reviews, and are likely to be nominated for the Spur in 2001:

**Dreamers: On the Trail of the Nez Perce**, by Martin Stadius, is a vivid account of the author's quest to follow the 1,200 mile retreat taken by Chief Joseph and his people (now the Nez Perce National History Trail). Part travel book and part history, this is a must for Northwesterners who want to

understand the region's history.

In the fiction category, **American By Blood**, by Andrew Huebner, tells the simple yet simply haunting story of the American soldiers who, by being one day late to the Battle of Little Big Horn, must confront both the carnage of the battlefield as well as their desire for vengeance.

**In Gates of the Alamo**, author Stephen Harrigan weaves a fresh tale of this epic battle by focusing the story on Mary and Terrell Mott, a mother and son caught inside the fortress with their friend and unlikely hero, Edmund McGowan, a botanist who had tried to stay out of the conflict.

Last but not least, read Diane Smith's **Letters From Yellowstone**, a delightful, slyly humorous 19th century tale of an all-male scientific expedition into Yellowstone National Park that gets saddled with a young naturalist who also happens to be a woman.

## News Briefs

**THE LIBRARY'S BOOK GROUP COLLECTION** now includes 20 titles, for use by independent and library-sponsored book groups. Specific titles may be reserved at the Bainbridge branch or by calling the collection management department at 360-415-6728. Each set consists of 12 copies of the book and a reading guide. They can be checked out for six weeks.

**PARENTS** of young children are reminded that the new parenting center in the young people's library is filled with helpful books for parents as well as children. It's truly a one-stop library location for young families.

**LIBRARY DOCENTS** are now available to lead tours of the library art collection and gardens. Call 842-4162 to reserve a time for your group.

# Islander's 22nd novel is based on Chicago Fire

By Verda Averill

Bainbridge author Susan Wiggs's 22nd historical romance novel, **The Mistress**, will be released — and on local shelves — sometime during October.

Described by one reviewer as a "compelling" historical romance, the book is the second in a trilogy featuring three young women who learn the truth about life and love in the aftermath of the devastating Chicago Fire.

"If everything were taken from you in one night," asks the author, "how would you begin again? If you lost all you hold dear, what is the one thing you would fight to keep? These are the questions faced by the people of Chicago on the night of Oct. 8, 1871, and by the fictional characters in my novels **The Hostage**, **The Mistress** and the **The Firebrand**.

"When fire sweeps everything away, the stage is set for one of the most enduring fantasies in the human imagination: who would you become if you could start all over again?"

Wiggs describes herself as a "feminist, guilt-ridden mother and perfect wife who grows mutant

Christmas trees, speaks French, and plays the cello."

Although she has convinced her family that toiling away at a writing career makes her a candidate for martyrdom, she secretly believes it's the second most fun to be had.

Wiggs began writing when she was expecting her first child. After all, she reasoned, how hard could it be for a teacher (of math) with a graduate degree in education from Harvard to write a bestseller?

Since she had attended school in Brussels and Paris, and some of her best childhood memories involved poking around in castles and ruins, a historical romance ought to be a snap!

Ten years and 18 published novels later, she admits that it was a lot more difficult to write a book and get it published than she had anticipated. (MIRA Books has published her last six volumes.)

The successful author now calls her first attempt, a somewhat obscure novel about the Dutch Revolt, "a practice book... as was its sequel."

Her initial experience convinced her

that writing romances that would actually sell was very hard work.

Luckily, she was "a quick study and an overachiever." She wrote fast and furiously, carefully read and dissected



Author Susan Wiggs

each rejection letter, studied intensively, and taught herself the craft.

"My third try was the charm," she says. **Texas Wildflower**, her first published novel, was a rousing adventure about a female Pinkerton detective and a brooding cowboy in old Texas.

Wiggs has won many awards for her work, including the RITA Award from the Romance Writers of America for Favorite Book of the Year; two Career Achievement Awards from *Romantic Times* magazine; the Colorado Award of Excellence, and the Holt Medallion. She is a member of The Authors Guild, Romance Writers of America, and Novelists, Inc.

When not writing she enjoys reading, Fair Isle knitting, and traveling the world with her husband and daughter.

(Editor's note: The News staff welcomes information on recent publications by Bainbridge Island authors. Reach us by mail at Bainbridge Public Library, Attention: Library News, 1270 Madison Ave. No., Bainbridge Island, WA 98110. Or drop off news items at the library's main circulation desk.)

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# Paper engineer will demonstrate craft

By Susan Bottles

As an architect and historical preservation advocate, Linda Costello may value permanence and stability, but as a paper engineer she just loves things that pop up, push out or otherwise simply refuse to lie quietly inside a book's covers.

**Paper engineer is an actual publishing term used to describe the person who designs the amazingly intricate set of cut-outs, tabs, and glue that make up the moveable parts of the ever-popular pop-up books, panoramas, and cards. You'll find his or her name listed right next to the author and illustrator.**

If you don't happen to have a pop-out book of your own to check, perhaps Costello will let you peek at one of hers. She owns about 900 of them. Twenty-one are her own creations.

In August she was in the process of moving the collection from the condo she shares with her husband Bruce Wallace and son William to her new studio in the old red farmhouse on the corner of Wyatt and Madison Avenue (the 1896 Hoskinson House).

Eyeing the crammed bookshelves, she admitted, "It's a sickness, just a sickness."

*'It's a sickness... 'an obsession young children can understand.'*

But it's an obsession almost anyone can understand, especially young children who often love their pop-up books to a tattered death.

On Saturday, Nov. 4, Costello will teach a 1 p.m. class for young people ages 9 to 13 at the library. The time is too short to produce a book, of course, but participants will gain insight into the techniques paper engineers use and will leave with some sort of project of their own.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

The class will be funded by the money the library received, courtesy of the Bainbridge Island Japanese-

studied American Sign Language. She learned, she said, "I can still stay in my world."



Linda Costello with pop-up art

American Community, from the local premiere of the film *Snow Falling on Cedars* last December.

The grant has allowed purchase of many multicultural resources for the library, and Costello's class is a creative way to further expose youngsters to diversity within this community.

Since 1992, Costello has been very hard of hearing.

That was the year she woke up with what seemed to be massive congestion in her head, and tinnitus. She kept expecting it to go away, but in the end she was left with an 80 percent hearing loss in one ear, a 92 percent in the other and a continual roaring sound in both.

"The best way I can describe it is, it's like plugging both your ears and then having hairdryers running on your shoulders," she said.

She spent a year more or less withdrawing from the world, not because she was depressed, she said, but because things became so much more difficult.

However, she has since learned to read lips (and the face, which she said is a major part of communication) and

**She added she hopes some of the hard of hearing and deaf children on the island will attend the pop-up class, and she intends to use sign interpreters to help communicate with them.**

As a member of the board of trustees of the Bainbridge Island Historical Society, very involved with preservation of Island historical structures, she herself regularly requests an interpreter at public meetings she attends. Bainbridge Performing Arts and Eagle Harbor Books will also provide an interpreter on request for their programs.

Costello's fascination with paper engineering began in 1985 after her family moved to Bainbridge. A friend was importing small pinch dolls and she asked Costello to design fold-away backgrounds a child could clip them to for play.

The University of Idaho-trained architect responded by tearing apart other books and playsets to see how they were made. A series of six books followed.

Locally, she also collaborated with Bainbridge artists Denise Harris and Nancy Cote on two other books.

"There's no college degree in pop-ups," she said. It's learn by doing, although there are some workshops. There are only a few dozen professional paper engineers in this country.

(At presstime, she was scheduled to attend a pop-up convention in New York, populated by fellow "maniacs," collectors, dealers, producers and eight paper engineers. At one such event she was able to examine what is believed to be the oldest surviving "movable book," a hand-made astrology tome from the 1620s.)

Pop-up and similar style books are still all hand made, typically in a developing country. A book usually contains five or six moving pages, and budget constraints will dictate how many glue points will be used. The more used, of course, the more complex the effect can be.

*'There's no college degree in pop-ups. 'It's learn by doing.'*

Costello said that, as an architect she was "very good at angles," but that doesn't mean, she said, that even now she never glues down the final piece in a sample and finds the pages won't open fully. As her proficiency grows, so does the complexity of the effects she tries.

But success is measured in many ways. She said one of the biggest thrills she gets is when she sees a child or adult she doesn't know with one of her creations.

"I remember the first time it happened, aboard a ferry. They actually had chosen that book and paid money for it," she said, laughing.

A recent diagnosis of multiple sclerosis means that Costello has had to be wary of making too many commitments for projects. However, she added she is considering a new career move into making stand-alone pop-up or similar craft pieces for individual display and sale.

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# Here's help for those school reports

By Gail Christensen and the Library staff

With school come reports and projects. Your library has answers in book, magazine, and web forms. Over the summer we have updated items to assist you.

If this is the year of state reports, you might look at the new series called *Celebrate the States*. Geography, history, government, people are some of the areas covered. If you need more information, there is a list of sources, including web sites and videos. *Celebrate the 50 States!* by Lorean Leedy is an eye-catching and fun-filled tribute to the 50 diverse states.

Maybe your report is about countries. You need to look at the *Countries of the World* series: Argentina, Indonesia, Ireland are recent additions. This, too, covers a broad range of information. Cultures and islands are covered by the series *Cultures of the World*: Latvia, Uganda, Barbados, Cyprus, Côte d'Ivoire, Paraguay, Guyana, Malta,

Bahamas, Moldova are new additions.

If your report deals with immigration, a recent series called *The Immigrant Experience* (A Land of Immigrants, Illegal Aliens, The Irish American, The Amish) has been added. The introduction by Daniel Moynihan is full of quotable lines to use in a report.

"Nothing so defines the North American nation, as the motto on the Great Seal of the United States: E Pluribus Unum — Out of Many, One."

The *Building History* series, which includes The Panama Canal, The Roman Colosseum, The Parthenon of Ancient Greece, and The Viking Longship, discusses the origin, construction, uses, and history of each building.

Contemporary issues are represented by several new books. *Into Thin Air*, by J.S. & Renee Kidd, is a discussion of the problem of air pollution. *Legalized Gambling: Solution or Illusion?* by Andy Hjelmeland examines the arguments in favor of and in opposition to legalized gambling. *Saving the American Wilderness* by Ann Malaspina

discusses preservation and conservation, environmental activism, recreation in the wilderness, and the future of wilderness management. *Debated: Gun Control* by Herbert Levine provides information on both sides of the gun control issue.

*Talking Point: Homelessness* by Kaye Stearman looks at some of the causes and experiences of homelessness.

The series *Science Discoveries* can help with writing a research paper. Some people included are Louis Pasteur, Guglielmo Marconi, Galileo, and Charles Darwin. There is a section called the *World in [person's name] Time* that covers highlights of science, exploration, politics, and art.

*The Living Science* series includes science of soil, plants, water, animals, birds, insects, air, energy, senses, human body, magnets, and sky. These books have a glossary, web sites, and short informative chapters.

On the reference shelf there are *Science Encyclopedia*, *700 Science Experiments for Everyone*, *Wildlife of the World*, *Endangered Species*,

*Encyclopedia of Mammals*, *Encyclopedia of Technology and Applied Science*, *Encyclopedia of Health, Culturgrams, Lands and People*, *Encyclopedia of North American Indians*, and *Dinosaurs of the World*.

On [www.krl.org](http://www.krl.org) there are available sources for help with homework. You click on "kids" which brings up more links — one being "homework help". If you are a teen, there is a special page for you that once again connects you to a super homework center. The reference button brings you to a table of internet resources listed by subject. Click on "databases", and have your library card handy. They include **Electric Library** [full text of magazines, newspapers, reference books, maps, pictures, and TV/radio transcripts], **Health Reference Center** [articles from health magazines, medical journals, reference books, covering all topics of consumer health], and **Biography Resource Center** [with profiles of 185,000 famous people].

# Artwords program brings new approach to learning

By the staff

The Library Summer Artwords program debuted this July, introducing a unique approach to connecting visual and verbal literacy through a series of multidisciplinary craft-based workshops for children ages 6 to 8.

This program, conceived of by island artist and former Bainbridge Island Library page Kristin Tollefson and funded through the Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Fund, ran at the Bainbridge Island Library as an enhancement to the Kitsap Regional Library's summer reading program.

The Artwords Workshops took place at the Bainbridge Island Public Library in the library's upstairs meeting room on three consecutive Wednesday mornings (July 5, 12, & 19). Each workshop opened with an introduction of the week's topic and a presentation of books from the young people's library that correlated with that topic.

The art project followed and emphasized the connection between visual art and language, two related but often distinct disciplines. Children were exposed to ways in which words and images work together and complement each other in a variety of narrative contexts, and gained firsthand experience working with a range of art media.

Mary Ann Tollefson, an Island artist and resident for the past 23 years, was the lead artist for the workshop series. She took the concept for each week and made it real, teaching new art techniques related to books to a total of over 50 participants. High school program assistants Kelly Swenson and Amanda Johncock contributed their art experience as well as an ease with and interest in working with kids.

Week one of the workshop introduced the link between illustration and narrative storytelling. Participants used light-sensitive paper to

"photograph" objects which comprised illustrations for their own accordion folded booklet. Caldecott Award books were featured, as were assorted biographies of illustrators, ranging from the traditional — Beatrix Potter — to the contemporary — Lois Ehlert.

For week two, participants used simple binding techniques to construct small bound books or journals that could be used for writing, stamping words, and drawing images. *The Library Dragon* by Leedy connected this project with information about books in libraries and how books are made.

Week three addressed the importance of identifying characters in books. Participants used collage to decorate a treasure box using a favorite book or imagined character as inspiration. Anholt's *Come Back, Jack* and Little's *Once Upon a Golden Apple* were examples of the many books featured this week.

Artwords Workshops were free of charge and open to the general public for pre-registration through the library. Additional assistance was contributed by Helpline House staff to identify likely participants from underserved populations, and publicity for the program was provided by the Kitsap Regional Library, the Bainbridge Parks and Recreation Department, and posters at Helpline House and the library.

Many others contributed to the program's success, among them: Peggy Hughes and Gail Christensen, who conducted workshop registration, directed participants to the workshop site, and advised on scheduling and content; Sissel Feroy, Bainbridge High School art teacher, who publicized the program assistant positions; Joanne Tews, who advised on ways that Helpline House could participate; and Cindy Harrison, branch manager of the Bainbridge Library.



Students at summer artwords program



Eliza Lane and Alex Miggins decorate their treasure boxes

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# Over 1000 youngsters sign up for summer reading program

By Mary Curtis

If you visited the young people's library during the summer months, you couldn't help but notice the multicolored rocket ships flying on the library walls. Each rocket ship signified that an island child had completed 10 hours of reading time, and each star decorating the rockets represented an additional 10 hours of reading.

The young people's library had a record number of participants this summer. Over 1000 children signed up and they logged well over 12,000 hours in the program's most successful readathon to date.

"Each year keeps getting bigger and better," said librarian Peggy Hughes, with pride.

This year's program had an extra bonus. Each child was given a raffle ticket for every 10-hour block of reading time. A drawing was held September 1st, and two lucky readers, Laura Miller,

13, and Hannah Robinson, 8, won a hardback copy of *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*.

Many children took the reading challenge quite seriously, and their rockets were covered with stars. Lander Martin, Jennifer Oehlman, Abigail Wyatt, Eliza Silverman, and Morgane Guill each logged over 70 hours of reading time.

Kids of all ages enjoyed participating in the reading program, but not all the readers were Island residents — several grandparents enrolled visiting grandchildren. A significant group of young adults rounded out the age groups. Approximately 35 of these readers read books from the adult shelves upstairs, but politely declined rocket ships on the wall downstairs.

The Friends of the Library and the Kitsap Regional Library Foundation sponsored the summer reading program.



Tickets for Tomorrow was the theme for summer program

## Story hours continue through October

Weekly story times for preschoolers continue during the fall in the program room of the Young People's Library. For 2-year olds, the times are Monday mornings at 10:30 and again at 11 on September 25 and October 2, 16, and 23.

For the 3- to 5- year-old crowd, times are Wednesdays at 10:30 on September 27 and October 4, 11, 18, 25. The story times will include songs, fingerplays, flannel boards, and, of course, lots and lots of books.

# Books nominated for Young Readers Choice honors

By Gail Christensen

Young Reader's Choice Award is the oldest children's choice award in the United States and Canada. The award was established in 1940 by a Seattle bookseller who believed every student should have an opportunity to select a book that gives her or him pleasure. The books are nominated by students, school and public librarians and selected by a committee that represents each of the Pacific Northwest states and provinces.

### Junior Division (4th-8th)

*Among the Hidden*, by Margaret Peterson Haddix. In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his 12 years in isolation and fear on his family's farm until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.

*Bat 6*, by Virginia Euwer Wolff. In small town, post-World War I Oregon, 21 6th grade girls recount the story of an annual softball game, during which one girl's bigotry comes to the surface.

*Bloomability*, by Sharon Creech. When her aunt and uncle take her from New Mexico to Lugano, Switzerland, to

attend an international school, 13-year-old Dinnie discovers an expanding world and her place within it.

*Case of the Lion Dance*, by Laurence Yep. When \$2000 is stolen during the opening of a restaurant, Lily and her aunt search for the thief throughout San Francisco's Chinatown.

*Great Turkey Walk*, by Kathleen Kaer. In 1860, a somewhat simple-minded 15-year-old boy attempts to herd 1000 turkeys from Missouri to Denver in hopes of selling them at profit.

*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, by J.K. Rowling. A young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School of Wizard and Witches.

*Holes*, by Louis Sachar. As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

*Janey's Girl*, by Gayle Friesen. This is a coming-of-age novel with a twist.

*Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*, by Jack Gantos. Joey's got heart, but he's hyperactive and always seems to make

the wrong choices.

*A Long Way from Chicago*, by Richard Peck. A boy recounts his summer trips to grandmother's house in rural Illinois during the 1930's.

*Nose from Jupiter*, by Richard Scrimger. Alan is fodder for every bully for miles around. That changes the day Norbert, an alien from Jupiter, comes to earth on an exploration mission and moves into — Alan's nose.

*Sasquatch*, by Roland Smith. Thirteen-year-old Dylan follows his father into the woods on the slope of Mt. St. Helens, which is on the brink of another eruption, in an attempt to protect the resident Sasquatch from ruthless hunters.

### Senior Division (9th-12th)

*Armageddon Summer*, by Jan Yolen and Bruce Coville. Reverend Beelson told the congregation that the world will end on Thursday July 27, 2000. But "this" world has only just begun for Jed and Marina, two teenagers with more attitude than faith. Why should the world end now, when they've just fallen in love?

*Boxes*, by William Sleator. When she

opens two strange boxes left in her care by her mysterious uncle, 15-year-old Annie discovers a swarm of telepathic creatures and unleashes a power capable of slowing down time.

*Rules of the Road*, by Joan Bauer. Jenna and her employer drive to Texas to spy on the other stores and the competition.

*Whirligig*, by Paul Fleischman. Brent places a whirligig in four corners of the US in memory of a girl he killed in an accident.

*Wreckers*, by Iain Lawrence. After being shipwrecked, John realizes that his rescuers are pirates and intend to murder him.

Winners for 2000 were: Junior Division, 1st *A Mouse called Wolf*, Dick King-Smith; 2nd *Ella Enchanted*, Gail Carson Levine; 3rd *Wringer*, Jerry Spinelli. In the Senior Division, 1st *The Taking of Room 114*, Mel Glenn; 2nd *Painting the Black*, Carl Deuker; 3rd *Shade's Children*, Garth Nix

Voting for the 2001 list will take place March 15 to April 1, 2001. Find the nominated books at the library, and read a minimum of two to be eligible to vote at your school library or public library.

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# Paula Schmidt teaches initial computer class for employees of the KRL system

By Susan Bottles

All new employees of the Kitsap Regional Library must quickly get acquainted with Dynix, the libraries' computer system — and Paula Schmidt will help make the introductions.

Paula has been a public service assistant (PSA) at the Bainbridge Public Library for three years, an employee for six. In addition to her regular duties shared with all PSAs, such as checking out books and assisting patrons, Paula helps teach the initial computer class for employees throughout the system.

**Dynix is a behind-the-scenes workhorse that fully integrates the recordkeeping of the whole library system, from the initial cataloguing of books to the actual checkout procedure and the maintenance of customer records.**

Its behind-the-scenes efficiency depends on skilled operators in each branch, and library workers get comprehensive training in its many functions. Paula's introductory class may be held at either Bainbridge Library or at the Silverdale Library, which houses the system's training center.

Library work itself, much less computer instruction, was scarcely the career Paula had in mind when she graduated from Seattle's Ballard High School and began taking accounting courses at Western Washington University.

She worked in that field until she and her husband Hank moved to Bainbridge island 17 years ago and their son Johann, now 16, was born.

They were attracted to Bainbridge because they wanted to get out of the city, and did not want to commute on Interstate 5. Hank has been commuting by ferry ever since — by bike.

Raising a child and caring for a home and garden on a sunny sloping acre just east of Rolling Bay's center occupied Paula until Johann entered fourth grade. She then answered a newspaper ad, took the required tests, and began work part time at the library. She thoroughly enjoys her job.

"I love meeting all the people and helping them find an item," she said. "They sometimes are amazed we have something, and it's nice to see them so thrilled."

Currently Paula usually works three hours daily, Tuesday through Saturday. It's a schedule that allows her to pursue

her other interests, such as practicing yoga several times a week and hiking in the Olympic Mountains with a group of friends whenever possible.

Hank and Paula were both once sailboat enthusiasts. They even lived aboard their former boat, an Ingrid, for six months while enlarging and remodeling their home. Johann first learned to walk on its decks.

Hank continues to race dinghies, but spring and summer now will usually find Paula enjoying their expansive garden. The couple maintains a large vegetable garden of 16 beds and seven big blueberry bushes, which they must share with deer and birds.

"This year, for the first time, the deer are even eating the nasturtiums," she reported.

Still, the animals left enough to meet the needs of the family, plus that of plenty of friends and neighbors who share the surplus.

**Footnote: This is another in a series on Kitsap Regional Library employees involved in the Bainbridge Public Library's operation.**



Paula Schmidt

# Foundation members dedicate garden

By Verda Averill

Members of the Hardy Fern Foundation, local gardeners, and library staff and board members gathered September 12 to dedicate the new fern garden on the east side of the Bainbridge Public Library grounds.

Island residents John van den Meerendonk and Jack Docter talked briefly about the origins of the garden and the Hardy Fern Foundation, which provided its original funding.

Clearing and planting for the garden was coordinated by van den Meerendonk, who received applause from Fern Foundation visitors for creating "something really unique here."

Van den Meerendonk, in turn, said that "a lot of people were involved here... I certainly could not have done it

without them..."

Then, speaking of the Hardy Fern Foundation, he said, "We are affiliated with 18 botanical gardens throughout North America. This (the library garden) is an official display garden of the Hardy Fern Foundation... We also have satellite gardens from Alaska to Florida to New York. They are primarily research gardens."

The library garden, he explained, is maintained by volunteers, the Friday Tidies who work in it every Friday, rain or shine, throughout the year.

"Without these volunteers' help I couldn't have even attempted this garden," he said.

He went on to thank the Bainbridge Public Library staff and board, Friends of the Library, Ann Lovejoy, and Jack Docter for their help. And he cited the

Japanese-American community of Bainbridge Island, who created "our wonderful Haiku Garden," which set a precedent and inspired the development of other garden areas surrounding the library.

"Looking around today, it's hard to believe that there were blackberries all over back here," he said.

"We started in February and chipped off brush for three weekends, six to 12 volunteers working each week. It took six months to prepare, and we started planting in June..."

"This is only a start. The next thing is to get into an educational phase. We plan to put the garden on the computer so that people can go to the screen and see

what's there... We only have 60 different ferns here now, but in the next few years we hope to have as many as 200 varieties."

Before visitors scattered to browse through the garden, Jack Docter spoke briefly on the role played by the late librarian Thomas Daniel Gillies in inspiring the garden, and van den Meerendonk introduced longtime Islander Marshall Majors, who "took me to my first meeting of the Hardy Fern Foundation... Without him I would never have gotten involved."

**For more about The Hardy Fern Foundation, inquire at P. O. Box 166, Medina, WA 98039-0166 or go to its website:**

[darkwing.uoregon.edu/~sueman/](http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~sueman/)



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# A room for the visually impaired

## 'We're imploring people to make use of it'

By Nan Wooldridge

It's beautiful. Up-to-the-minute technological equipment fills a specially designated room across from the lower level stairway.

Outside the door of this Visually Impaired People Room, a plaque reads "Literature is my Utopia," by Helen Keller. Genevieve Brindle, the modest woman who donated money to create the specific space inside, chose this inscription on the plaque in lieu of her own name when the Library expanded in 1996.

At first, the space had just a counter and a chair. Then Michael Schuyler, computer guru and Kitsap Regional Library supply director of support services, waved his wand and implemented a

\$31,000 award from MCI for adaptive hardware/software for the use of the visually impaired.

What a boon.

Some of the largess went to other Kitsap branch libraries, but the portion allocated for Bainbridge made possible the transformation of this room. There's a monitor that magnifies any text, a scanner that processes all kinds of material, a voice synthesizer (JAWS) that reads text aloud to the user, and more.

So why does the room stand empty day after day?

It's strange territory to many. Imagine that you had just been diagnosed with macular degeneration by your doctor. A blow, and you need help. But when you come to

the VIP Room, you're greeted by an array of unfamiliar equipment, now seen foggily in the middle of your vision. Literature is no longer your utopia, you decide in dismay.

It was clear to the library staff that to make users comfortable with the equipment, a training program and easy-to-use manuals were essential. Thanks to receipt of a grant directed to this end, Mary Lewis and Darson La Pan, writer of the grant, will serve with three others and the library staff as the first trainers. They, in turn, will receive instruction from Marlaina Lieberg, a professional trainer on adaptive technology throughout the country. To eliminate barriers is their goal as they work, free of charge,

on a one-on-one basis, starting with the particular needs of each individual.

The library is no stranger to the VIP resource group begun back in 1991. The brainchild of Nancy Humleker, it is geared to provide aids and education for those with limited sight. Lewis and La Pan are two of the 35 to 40 visually impaired members who meet once a month at the library. Two sighted facilitators, Jackie Cain and Joan Smith, provide the programming, paper work, and other services.

Eager always to help more people, Virginia Hardy, one of the founders of VIP says, "I wish I could wave the banner. Here is this lovely room, all magnified. We are imploring people to make use of it."

## Mary Buffington keeps the mysteries in order



Mary Buffington

By Susan Bottles

Some addictions start early. Mary Buffington still fondly recalls the old brick library of her New Jersey childhood, with its strict librarian and special library smell, and she's been hooked on libraries ever since.

For the past two years Mary has volunteered for a few hours every week at the Bainbridge Island Library, the latest in a long string of volunteer service in libraries.

She worked in her high school library, and later volunteered in all the libraries of the schools her two now-grown children attended. She had "retired" from teaching primary grades once her children were born.

Naturally, it didn't take her long to find her way to the Bainbridge Library after moving here in July, 1997, most

recently from Anchorage.

Now every Tuesday when she's in town, you will find her going through the mystery section, from A to Z. Literally. A major part of her duties is making sure the books are arranged alphabetically by author.

The mystery section is one of the most well-used parts of the library, and it requires regular attention to remain in shape. Although it takes up a full wall in the fiction area and recently spilled over to additional shelving, the shelves are full, sometimes too full, and sometimes must be completely rearranged.

It's no coincidence Mary spends her time in mysteries. They are her favorite reading material. She especially recommends the list that the library staff has prepared of several dozen

authors.

She had never read local authors J. A. Jance or Earl Emerson before moving here, but has since become a fan of both. In fact, she has a list a dozen books long still awaiting her attention.

Mary considers a good mystery novel an ideal traveling companion, and fortunately she has recently had the opportunity to travel frequently around the Northwest with her husband. "He's working, but I get to have the fun," she said.

In the last few months, the couple has been back to Alaska, over the North Cascades Highway, to Spokane, and to the Redmond/Bend, Oregon area.

Next on their itinerary is a trip back to Illinois to visit their son, his wife, and the first grandchild, a boy now aged 7 months old.

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# Here's what readers say about library book

You've heard about it. You've read about it. And now you can see it for yourselves.

The book *They Like Noble Causes: How a Community Built a Library* is now available here, both at Eagle Harbor Books on Winslow Way and through Fortner Books online.

Early reviews reflect the enthusiasm of local readers who have purchased the first few hundred copies. Here's a sample of what they're saying.

**• Author David Guterson:**

"*They Like Noble Causes* purports to be about how a community built a library. In fact it is about far more than that and is, perhaps, the most significant document produced in years on the history of Bainbridge Island. In this book, the history of our library clarifies our communal history and serves as a touchstone for our sense of civic purpose. This is a book to bring us together in the service of future noble causes — a noble achievement in itself, finally, and one for which its readers will be grateful even as they are edified and thoroughly entertained."

**• Mayor Dwight Sutton:**

"Here is a work that goes far beyond a mere chronicle of events and achievements in the evolution of a

library. Indeed, it is a narrative showing the inner workings of a community where a succession of people with a sustained purpose converted a dream into reality. Within this narrative we are given glimpses of the character of individuals dedicated to that purpose...how they planned — strategized — and coped with challenges. The application of selfless energy of those individuals is described in episodes showing their success within a community receptive to visionary leadership. For those whose tenure here is long-duration, there are numerous 'flash-backs' that rekindle warm appreciation for the wonderful people who persevered to bring us this cultural gem."

**• Joan Piper, executive director, Bainbridge Island Historical Society and Museum:**

"Precious and few indeed are books on Bainbridge history. Barbara Winther's history of Bainbridge libraries is a valuable addition to this limited and exclusive body of material. Researchers will thank her for her diligence. But the average Islander will enjoy this beautiful publication, too. What does *They Like Noble Causes* have in common with a Grisham page-turner? Lots of lively dialogue, as Winther's skill as a

playwright brings a dramatist's eye to scenes of distant and recent events. It's fun, too, to see photographs of familiar faces, the movers and shakers and volunteers who made our wonderful library the envy of many a town."

**• Carolyn J. Marr, librarian, Museum of History & Industry, Seattle:**

"As a person whose love of libraries runs deep, I was particularly impressed by the way this book documents the efforts by so many individuals and groups to keep the ideal alive. The creative blend of oral history and narrative, including dramatic presentation, along with the combination of historical and contemporary photographs make a multi-layered, engrossing story. My congratulations to all the Bainbridge Island community members, past and present, who contributed to the evolution of their library."

**• Cynthia Harrison, branch manager, Bainbridge Public Library:**

"*They Like Noble Causes* is both a lively history of Bainbridge Island and a celebration of community. With its focus on the Island's century-long commitment to its beloved library, the book presents a model of a small town's vision and

creativity. Sharon Abrams assembled a remarkable group of professional artists to tell this inspiring story. Barbara Winther's dedicated research and entertaining writing, the unique graphic design, and the outstanding photography merge in a fine work of art and history."

**• Liz Murray, Bainbridge City Council member:**

"I was just delighted... This book is truly a masterpiece."

Sharon Abrams, who conceived the idea for the book and coordinated the efforts of the artists, says that copies of the book are selling well now that Islanders have had a look at the volume.

Sharon suggests that it's time to think ahead and reserve copies for holiday giving. Printed on top-quality paper, with excellent photographic reproduction, the book comes handsomely boxed and makes a special gift for artists, historians, and book lovers of all ages. Order forms are available at the library and other strategic locations on the Island, and copies of the book are on display at the library circulation desk and at Eagle Harbor Books. Visitors to the Annual Library Gala October 28 will have a chance to look through copies of the book at leisure.

## Island Theatre presents free play readings

By Nan Wooldridge

We had just moved from the Midwest to the Seattle area in 1972 when we saw our first live theater. Clayton Corzatte and Susan Ludlow performed Thurber's *Carnival* in the foyer of the Opera House at Bumpershoot for FREE. (Bumpershoot was free too.)

I was dizzy with delight. Seattle was a wonderful town. No price on culture.

Times have changed. But, incredible as it may seem, you can still get high class drama for free — right here on Bainbridge Island. *Pygmalion*, *The Rose Tattoo*, *Lost in Yonkers*, and, yes, *An Evening with James Thurber* are only a few of the plays that have been presented by Island Theater in their play reading series at the library every other month.

**The seed was planted for these readings back in 1994, right after Louise Mills produced *The Play's the Thing*.**

That cast, comprised of Michele McCrackin, Bob McAllister, Steve Stolee, Steve Buechler, Bob Zinn and Dave Allen, was the genesis of Island Theater. They sat around afterward wondering what to do with the leftover money. They wanted to learn and experiment in theater. Brainstorming became the name of their game.

Out of those brainstorming sessions came not only full-length productions, but four one-act plays, radio shows, and play readings.

The play readings started in Steve Stolee's studio, then moved now and then to the library. The library's building expansion, with its big meeting room, gave them more food for thought — theater as literature — and they asked, why not?

**They received a grant from the Arts and Humanities Council which allowed them to perform on a regular basis. George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* launched their formal readings in 1998.**

Why play readings?

"Readings may give you a jump into a literary piece that you've never seen or read," says Steve Stolee, a pivotal member of Island Theater. "We're committed to free readings in order to expand our audience. We can reach out further in choice of material, and don't have to adhere to limitations a stage often presents."

He cites *Six Characters in Search of an Author* by Luigi Pirandello and *Street Scene* by Elmer Rice as examples. "If you have to make money, you have to go safe," he says.

Stolee points out that the acting is "voice acting," as opposed to stage acting. Some people are good at both, but a noted actor may be a terrible reader and vice versa. Without the costuming, staging, and character posturing, your imagination can roam free in play readings. It's kind of like the difference between radio and television, or reading a fairy tale and seeing the Disney video.

It's simpler too. Library readings take only two to five rehearsals.

The Island Theatre board finds an experienced producer, who selects the play with the approval of the play reading committee: Nina Echols, Marilyn Goad, Tracy Vancura, Bonnie Wallace, Hanette Allen, and Keri Hadfield. The producer chooses the cast, edits the stage directions into narrative fashion, and makes aesthetic decisions at rehearsals.

Always evolving, always exploring new channels to involve more people, Island Theater's latest venue is their Pot Luck Play Reading series. These are cold readings held in private homes, to which guests bring their favorite dish. Anyone is welcome. You may or may not decide to read. In September at Hanette and Myron Allen's home, the plays *The Devil and Daniel Webster* by Stephen St. Vincent-Benet and *A Happy Journey* by Thornton Wilder were read.

**The next Library Play Reading, *Mother Night*, by Marsha Norman, will be October 21.** Bring your friends.



Cast and audience during the April 15, 2000 performance of "Interview" from *America Hurrah* by Jean-Claude van Itallie

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# Jean Barrow has her own private library

By Barbara Winther

In 1990, when Jean Barrow moved into Virginia Villas, she donated several hundred books to the Friends of the Library.

Some volumes ended up on the shelves of the Bainbridge Public Library, a number were integrated into the Kitsap Regional Library System, and many were sold at the monthly book sales of the Friends of the Library.

"The reason why I donated them," Barrow stated, "was because at the Villas you can't attach shelves to walls. So what was I going to do with all those books?"

The decision was a hard one for Barrows, since many of the volumes were classics she had owned for a long time.

In the end, however, she concluded that the lack of shelves might be a

*From page 1*

blessing, that at age 80 it wasn't terribly important to own things any more.

**Then came a wonderful realization. Since her new home was close to the Bainbridge Public Library, she would think of it as her own private library. And for her that's what it's been over the last 10 years.**

Since moving to the Villas, Barrows has developed a foot problem. Now she drives around in a motorized scooter with a red flag on her antenna and a basket on the handlebars for her books and her groceries.

The 1996 remodel and expansion of the Bainbridge Public Library gave her complete access to the building. She presses the buttons that automatically open the two entry doors; her scooter travels up the wide book aisles; and, if she wants to go to the lower level, she uses the elevator. Even the rest room is equipped for the handicapped.



Jean Barrow

"I'm glad I didn't have this foot problem until after they built the new library," Barrow quipped.

Jean Barrow's Northwest roots go back to the late 1800s. Her grandfather

and grandmother were pioneers in Tacoma. Her mother, Elizabeth Wiard Harris, was one of Seattle's first policewomen, a beautiful red-headed detective with green eyes. As a child, Jean summured on Bainbridge Island. Then, she married Ray Barrow.

"I was a Depression bride," she said. "Those were tough times. My husband was a magazine man: *Delineator*, *Time*. He monitored sales agents in six states and three provinces. I never saw him." At the age of 75, Barrow returned to Bainbridge, where her son, Realtor Bill Barrow, and more recently her daughter, Julie Callahan, live.

"I am a dedicated library user," Barrow stated. "It's my thing. Everybody does something. I like books."

(For Barrow's relationship with cake and the library staff, see page 97 of *They Like Noble Causes*.)

## Annual library gala

has been exhibited in major galleries on both coasts. Island residents are likely to know Pete Saloutos's photographic studies of Island people, which are often exhibited locally. The photography will be shown along with an exhibit of Western sculpture by the late A. Phimister Procter, who is best know for larger-than-life works that grace public squares and buildings throughout the nation. The evening's exhibit is made possible by Sandy Church, Procter's grandson and director of the A. Phimister Procter Museum in Poulsbo. One of Mr.

Procter's sculptures will be available in the silent auction. The Procter sculpture, along with the Kuhn and Saloutos photography, will be on display at the Bainbridge Library during the week prior to the Annual Library Gala.

With all that poetry, music, and fine art, guests are sure to work up a healthy appetite, so a hearty barbecue dinner will be included.

Admission to the Annual Library Gala is \$60 per person at the Wrangler level and \$120 per person at the Rough Rider level. Proceeds from the evening,

including the silent auction, will go toward on-going maintenance and operation of the new library building, opened just three years ago.

The library building was built entirely with donations from local residents and businesses, with no tax monies. The non-profit library board, comprised of local residents who volunteer their services, funds ongoing operation of the building from private contributions rather than taxes.



Fiddler Gus Julian

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# Glass artist Ben Phillips displays his work

By Verda Averill

When the expanded, remodeled Bainbridge Public Library opened to the public three years ago, one of its most appealing features was a collection of fine art by Northwest artists.

Much of that art is an integral part of the building, commissioned during the 1996-97 construction, and designed for use in specific locations.

**A catalogue at the reference desk describes this art and profiles the artists who created the works.**

The library's public meeting room and a few key locations on the main floor (near the elevator, for example) serve today as the locale for an ongoing, rotating art show featuring recent works by these local artists.

Joanna Newnham of the library art committee manages the ever-changing show, and it is open to the public at all times, except when a meeting is in progress. (If the room is locked, simply ask at the desk for the key.) Art displayed in the library is for sale, and a percentage of each sale goes to the library. For more information about any piece, viewers may contact the artist or Newnham.

**The current exhibit of etched glass panels is by Ben Phillips, whose work encloses the story hour room in the young people's library downstairs.**

Phillips, just 12 years old when he

entered the competition for building art, was selected at 13 to create glass panels that would appeal to young readers' imaginations. Working closely with art coordinator Michele Van Slyke, the library board, and staff librarians, he created fanciful, imaginative art which appeals to parents as well as children.

His current exhibit includes pieces done especially for this show, and shows his increasing skill and maturity. Phillips, now 17, became interested in glass while working in his father's studio. (Al Phillips and his Dolphin Glass studio are well known through the Northwest, and his art graces many Island homes.)

Ben, who has enjoyed drawing since he was a toddler, is largely self taught as a glass artist. But he credits Hyla Middle School, for encouraging his interest in art. He hopes to go on to study at a major art school.

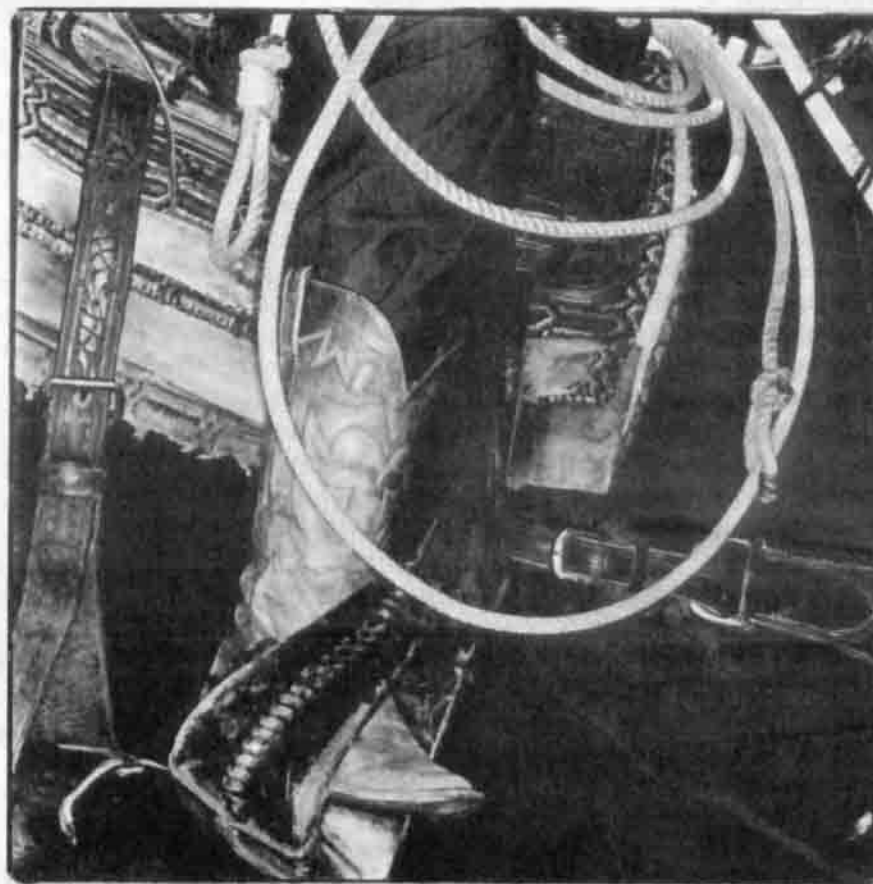
"Rhode Island School of Design would be nice," he says with a smile.

**The glass pieces will be shown until October 22. For the next week (until the Library Gala on October 28), the featured works will be photographs by Chuck Kuhn of Western subjects. These photos will be followed in November by an exhibit of work by Molly Greist, the noted Bainbridge sculptor who has created several pieces for the library.**

**Greist's work will be on exhibit through the end of the year.**



Glass artist Ben Phillips



Chuck Kuhn's photos will be shown at the Library Gala

## News Briefs

**THE SENIOR HOUR** Tuesday mornings between 9 and 10 continues by popular request. During that quiet time before the library opens to the public, senior citizens may use the library's computers without interruption.

**THE FRIDAY TIDIES** welcome all gardeners Friday mornings at 9, to help with the weeding and care of the library grounds. Come with gardening gloves, tools, and enthusiasm. There's plenty for all to do.

**LOCAL AUTHORS** will be featured at several fall events at the Eagle Harbor Book Co. On Sunday, October 29, at 3 p.m., author Barbara Winther will present a dramatic reading from the book *They Like Noble Causes: How a Community Built a Library*. She'll cheerfully autograph copies of the book.

**POET BOB McALLISTER** will present a Halloween warm-up Thursday, October 26 at 7:30 p.m., with a dramatic, lights-out, reading of *The River Boys*.

From page 1

## Laps for the Library

board members think the Laps will present just the right opportunity for everyone to get out and stretch a bit. Walking, jogging, and running all count as exercise, and they all count for the library as long as they're accompanied by a pledge card.

**The grand prize will be a family visit to Disneyland provided by the Travel Exchange. Winner of Laps I for the Library, which was held during the 1996 library building campaign, was Lee Maloney, then 10. She completed 28 laps of the high school track to top all student walkers and runners in the event, and took her family to Disneyland.**

Winner of the 1999 Laps II was Scott Sandridge, also 10, who won a trip for his family to San Diego.

Will the 2000 winner also be a 10-year-old?

There are no age restrictions. Participants in the 1999 Laps included toddlers and at least one walker over 85. A small terrier also made the rounds energetically, accompanying his owner, who was one of the top finishers. Wheelchair-bound entrants are also welcome, as are the visually impaired and hearing impaired. There are no limitations; everyone is welcome to circle the track, individually or with a group.

More than 100 participants turned out

in each of the first two Laps, but Hassell is hoping for a bigger turnout this year. Laps II raised almost \$8,000, a good start toward the library's annual operating budget of \$100,000. The goal this year:



Merrill Robison with trophy

\$12,500.

"We think if the community gets behind this we can increase the total by about 50 percent," said Hassell. "Our new building is twice as big as the old library, and not surprisingly, it takes twice as much money to operate. And not a penny of tax money goes to support our beautiful new building." (Library tax dollars pay only for salaries, books and circulating materials, and computer services — not for the building.)

**Hassell is challenging various city service departments (firefighters, police, public works, and others) to a competition. The winning department gets bragging rights and a trophy.**

In addition to the grand prize and the trophy, there'll be plenty of other awards for those who participate. All entrants will receive Laps for the Library T-shirts, courtesy of North Sound/Frontier Bank. And all entrants will be eligible for a drawing, in which more than a dozen prizes will be awarded.

Prizes include a gift certificate from Lindsley's, four guest passes to Bainbridge Cinema, three gift certificates to Eagle Harbor Books, a surprise gift from Bainbridge HMC, subscriptions to Ann Lovejoy's newsletter and the Bainbridge Review, four guest passes to Bainbridge Racquet Club, a jacket from Island Sports, a Power Ranger Walkie Talkie, and gifts from Bainbridge Island

Cycle, the Calico Cat, It's Casual, and Gabrielli Deli.

The Friends of the Library are providing several dozen popular books of fiction for young walkers.

Whether or not they take home prizes, all who enter will be winners, healthier for the exercise. Library users and staff will win, too; funds raised pay a portion of the building's maintenance and operation costs for the year.

Working with Hassell and Jensen on the Laps planning committee are Kathy Cole, Sarah Griffiths, Sandy Martin, Steve Olsen, and members of the library board and staff.

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(See calendar on page 1 for closures.)

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