

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND LIBRARY NEWS

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Vol. 3, No. 3

Bainbridge Public Library, 1270 Madison Ave., Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Winter 2001

Mark your calendar

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

New Year's Day. Library closed.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

Library Book Group. *Letters from Yellowstone*. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

Visually Impaired Persons (support group). 1 to 3 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

Friends of the Library book sale. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

Martin Luther King Day. Library closed.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

Experience Music Project. Historian's discussion on the impact of popular music on the American character. (Bainbridge Island Arts & Humanities Council) 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Kitsap Reads. A Conversation with Molly Gloss at The Playhouse. 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Speakers Forum. Richard Baker: The Wellness Paradigm. 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Library Book Group. *Searching for Yellowstone*. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Friends of the Library book sale. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Greg Palmer speaks on Vaudeville. (BI Arts & Humanities Council) 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Visually Impaired Persons (support group). 1 to 3 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Island Theatre play reading: *The Heidi Chronicles*. 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Opening reception for *Ghost Tiger*.

Three artists interpret a work of fiction. 3 to 6 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Presidents' Day. Library closed.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Inquiring Minds series. Leonardo da Vinci: Renaissance, Biography, Genius. 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

Finding your family tree. KRL genealogy specialists show how to use the internet. Free, limit 6, preregister. 1-3.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

Library Book Group. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

Friends of the Library book sale. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

Visually Impaired Persons (support group). 1 to 3 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 20

Laps for the Library fundraiser. 12 to 2, high school.

BI Historical Society: I Dig Bainbridge History. Researching the book *They Like Noble Causes*, by Barbara Winther. Strawberry Hill Center. 4 p.m.

ONGOING EVENTS

Library Book Discussion Group. First Wednesday each month, 7 p.m.

Friday Tidies. Every Friday, 9 a.m.

Senior Computer Hour. Every Tuesday, 9-10 a.m.



Newsmakers You saw them at the library this past year. How many do you recognize? For their names (and library contributions) please turn to Page 2.

For library, 2000 is record year

The year 2000 was the biggest yet for the Bainbridge Public Library.

More books were circulated, more people used the library than ever before.

Although final statistics are not yet complete, branch manager Cindy Harrison estimates that usage was up as much as 10 percent over 1999, when over 400,000 items were circulated.

You've noticed, perhaps, that the parking lots are frequently full. And the new building, remodeled and expanded just three years ago, sometimes seems almost too small today.

What's the big attraction?

For many, it's the steadily increasing collection of books, periodicals, audio-visual aids, and other materials. For others, the easy access to computers. Still others come often to enjoy the library gardens (especially the unique Haiku Garden and Hardy Fern Garden) and the paintings and sculpture by local artists.

And increasingly, special programs and services draw visitors to the library. The large meeting room on the main

floor is frequently filled for special events open to the public, usually free or for very small admission charges.

The variety of events presented this year drew rave reviews from Bainbridge Islanders and their guests. (If you missed any of them, keep watching for similar programs throughout 2001.)

This year, thanks to the Friends of the Library, the Inquiring Mind series presented two special programs: Edgar Allan Poe, *The Poet's Journey* (an interactive presentation by Paul Edward Smith which recreated an 1849 literary salon featuring Edgar Allan Poe), and *Whale Tales* (in which Peter J. Fromm shared stories of human/whale interaction through a slide/video show).

The Library Speakers Forum, now in its third year, drew capacity crowds for four outstanding speakers this fall and a fifth is scheduled for February. In the most recent forum (December 10), Sharon Ott of the Seattle Repertory Theatre shared her views of the "Theatre of the New Millennium."

For younger library users, a Storybook Science week was a big hit, and the children's summer reading program drew over 1,000 participants.

Many Islanders went cruising vicariously, thanks to a program (*Cruising with S. V. Adagio and S. V. Halcyon*) in which Kitsap Regional Library staff members told tales of ocean sailboat cruising.

A celebration of poetry, *An Island's Stored Magic*, brought over 100 poets and creative writing students together to share their poetry. Islander Linda Bierds led the group.

A four-week book collecting workshop with Bainbridge Island's own Bob Fortner drew beginning and more advanced book collectors and raised funds for the library.

Kitsap County Recycling Coordinator Dave Peters organized some composting workshops in the library gardens (in cooperation with the library's volunteer gardeners).

(Continued on Page 2)

Also in this issue:

Molly Glass opens Kitsap Reads Page 4

Children's section: New books and bookmarks Pages 6-7

Greist sculpture exhibit ends in January Page 12

Thanks to the library board

By Steve Olsen

Outgoing President, Bainbridge Library Board

As we start another new year, the Bainbridge Public Library Board of Directors is undergoing its annual miracle of transformation and renewal, as we bid farewell to members who have completed their terms and welcome new directors to our ranks.

Like many non-profit organizations in the community, the library depends heavily on the talents and generosity of numerous volunteers. In the case of our library, the contributions of our volunteers are so extensive and so varied that it is almost impossible to name them all. Just to suggest the flavor of this diversity, I might mention Friends of the Library, Friday Tidies gardeners, volunteer shelf maintainers, computer tutors, and VIPs readers. There are many others whose contributions are equally essential.

The board is a category of volunteers that is ordinarily not very visible. But, as a group and as individuals, they are constantly working behind the scenes to set policies, respond to problems, and raise money to keep our library open. As many of you know, our books, computers, and professional staff are provided by the Kitsap Regional Library (KRL), of which Bainbridge Public Library is a branch. However, the library building itself is owned by the people of Bainbridge Island, who have, in effect, delegated responsibility for this vital community resource to the board of directors.

It is the job of the board to make sure that all the physical facilities of the library and its grounds continue to function well now and into the future and that all its operating expenses — currently totaling almost \$100,000 per year — are adequately provided for. The board acts as the steward of physical and financial assets that have been built up by the community over time. Sometimes this means abstract policy discussions and decisions, sometimes just making sure that a leak gets fixed promptly.

With a substantial annual operating budget, the board of directors also has to be very proactive in making sure that income matches expenses. To this end, the board works with other organizations in the community, such as Bainbridge Foundation, as well as planning and carrying out several fund-raising events of its own. I am happy to say that these events (the Speakers' Forum, the Gala, and Laps for the Library) have been very successful this last year, both in the sense of raising respectable sums toward the library's bottom line, and in encouraging a wide spectrum of the community to get involved in supporting their library.

I have been privileged to serve as a member of the library board for the last three years, and I have seldom seen a more dedicated and creative group of people. All are supremely interested in making Bainbridge Public Library the best local library possible, and have worked hard to achieve this goal.

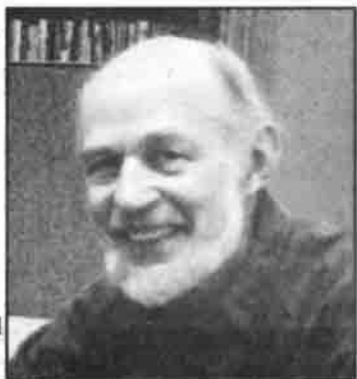
With a round of applause, I would like to commend all board members, old and new, for their many contributions to our library.

Retiring Board Members: Jane Brand, Sarah Griffiths, Judy Karr, Steve Olsen, and Kay Theobald.

Continuing Board Members: Verda Averill, Janet Brookes (representing the KRL Board), Don Harrington, Dick Hassell, Steve Larson, Marlene LeMire, Bruce Martin, Hans Rotherth (president-elect), and Marty Sievertson.

New Board Members: Susan Bottles, Susan Bray, David Guterson, Wyman Johnson, and Dave Thompson.

The annual meeting of the Bainbridge Public Library Board of Directors will be held at the library on Tuesday, January 9 at 7:15 pm, at which time all new board members and officers for the upcoming year will be formally elected. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please join us in bidding thanks and best wishes to retiring, continuing, and newly-elected board members. They deserve your most heartfelt appreciation.



Steve Olsen

Millennium newsmakers

You saw them at the library this year. You applauded their efforts. How many do you recognize?

Top row, left to right: Thomas Cronin, Whitman College president and political scientist specializing in the U.S. presidency, spoke two days before the November election on "Election 2000." Islander Aaron Elkins, best-selling mystery writer and forensic anthropologist, delighted listeners with his talk "Old Bones: Notes from the Skeleton Detective's Casebook." Romance writer Susan Wiggs published her 22nd novel. And Sharon Ott, Seattle Repertory Theatre executive director, spoke in December on "The Theatre of the New Millennium."

Middle row, left to right: Barbara Winther wrote and Sharon Abrams coordinated production of the Bainbridge Public Library's lavishly illustrated

history, *They Like Noble Causes*. Sam Sellers, 11, won the young people's trophy at this year's Laps for the Library (see Page 5); and Kay Jensen co-chaired the Laps and turned out for the fund-raising Gala.

Bottom row, from left: Lorraine Ferra of Port Townsend encouraged young poets at Ordway School's poet-in-residence program. Paper engineer Linda Costello gave a pop-up art workshop. The Rev. Robert V. Taylor of St. Mark's Episcopal Church challenged listeners with the question, "Do Communities of Faith Have a Place in a Time of Change?" And Eliza Silverman, then a second grader at Wilkes Elementary School, won the young people's poetry-writing contest in April.

(From Page 1)

For library, 2000 is record year

"Artwords" attracted many children to the young people's library.

Playgoers were enthusiastic about the Island Theater's play readings at the library: *A Thurbur Carniyal*, *Interview*, and *Night, Mother*.

An open house celebrating Island-produced periodicals, including *Yes!* magazine and the new high school newspaper, drew writers, editors, and readers.

"John Muir Lives," a slide show by Graham White sponsored by the Friends of the

Library, attracted nature lovers and others.

A first-of-its-kind community forum on end-of-life issues provoked some lively discussion and questions on two consecutive Sundays. Sponsors were the Hospice of Kitsap County, The Bremerton-Kitsap County Health Department, and Grace Episcopal Church.

Another Friends-sponsored program was the popular Opera Preview with Norm Hollingshead.

A pop-up book workshop led by paper architect Linda

Costello was a big hit with pop-up book fans.

And these are just a few of the happenings at the library in the year 2000.

If you missed out on some of this year's library events, take heart. The year 2001 will bring more programs. The Library Speakers Forum, Children's Storytimes, Friends of the Library sponsored events, and more play readings continue. Keep watching this newspaper and the announcements posted at the library.

News Briefs

THE LIBRARY ART exhibits, which change every two or three months, feature local artists, many of whom are represented in the building's permanent collection. The artworks on display are for sale, and the artists have offered to give 25 percent of the sale price back to the library. Interested art patrons are urged to call the

artist directly, or inquire of Joanna Newnham, who coordinates the art displays. (See Page 12 for current exhibits.)

DOCENTS are available to conduct tours of the library art collection and gardens. Interested groups should inquire about available dates from branch manager Cindy Harrison

or Ann Sievertson, who heads the docents committee.

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 a one-stop library location for young families.

At the Gala

Paige Boren and Tinka Hall (top), and Diane Thompson, Jan Willsey, and Mitch Thompson were among those attending the Fourth Annual Library Gala. (Story on Page 3)



BAINBRIDGE ISLAND LIBRARY NEWS

1270 Madison Avenue, 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: Hans Rotherth (president-elect), Verda Averill, Susan Bottles, Susan Bray, Janet Brookes (representing the KRL Board), David Guterson, Don Harrington, Dick Hassell, Wyman Johnson, Steve Larson, Marlene LeMire, Bruce Martin, Marty Sievertson, and Dave Thompson.

Cindy Harrison is Bainbridge branch manager.

They make a difference

Gala, donors help library pay bills

By Verda Averill

It takes a lot of money — about \$100,000 per year — to maintain and operate the Bainbridge Public Library building.

And not a dime of taxpayers' money goes for that purpose.

(Taxes paid to Kitsap Regional Library cover the costs of staff salaries and books, computers, and other materials. But the library building itself is owned by the people of Bainbridge Island through a non-profit corporation which cannot levy taxes.)

So fund-raising events like the annual Gala and Laps for the Library are more than pleasant social occasions. They're key elements in funding the library's annual budget. Along with those important annual gifts through Bainbridge Foundation's annual One Call for All in October, the library fund-raisers cover roughly half of the building's expenses.

Other valuable sources of income are the Library Speakers Forum, advertising in the Library News, rent of the public meeting room, and gifts and bequests from Island residents. Friends of the Library book sales provide for many special needs beyond regular operating expenses.

The Gala grows

This year's Gala, with its Western theme, featured bluegrass music, cowboy poets, an abundance of Western art, and a popular chuckwagon buffet. Over 200 library boosters turned out for the fun and raised an estimated \$20,000, making this the most successful Gala yet. (Final accounting had not been completed at the *Library News* presstime.)

Co-chairs for the Gala were Jane Brand, Judy Karr, Marlene LeMire, and Kay Theobald, and they were delighted by the response from the community.

"We had terrific participation from library users," said Brand. "Some who could not come bought tickets anyhow; in fact, money was still coming in after the event."

"The sponsors were a great help," added Karr. "Their participation covered most of the expenses, so that the money from ticket sales went almost entirely to library maintenance and operation."

For a complete list of Gala participants, see story on Page 5.

Memorial gifts

One of the most personal ways to give to the library is through commemorative shelves. For \$250 or more, individuals or families may celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and other special events by labeling a shelf in the library with a loved one's name.

"Even if you never write a book, you or a loved one can be represented on a library shelf," said Trese Williamson, a former Bainbridge library board member now on the Kitsap Regional Library staff.

Several library shelves have been "bought" recently in the names of loved ones, said branch manager Cindy Harrison, and plaques are placed on shelves in areas of special interest to the honorees.

Alice Smith

Alice Hotson Smith died last August at the age of 85.

A longtime resident of Rolling Bay, she was an occupational therapist who came to the Northwest to help in the



Fund-raising at the library

Among the hundreds of library boosters and art lovers at the Fourth Annual Library Gallery in October were (clockwise from above) Anna Greist, Eileen Droge, and Dolph Droge; Marlene LeMire and Jim Moore; Kay Theobald, Jane Brand, and Cindy Harrison. Funds from the Gala will go to maintenance and operation of the Bainbridge library building, which is supported entirely by local library users and donors.



Alice Smith

establishment of the Seattle Children's Spastic Clinic. She was an active participant in school and community affairs, and known for her devotion to family, her creative spirit, and her love of natural beauty. She was also a lifelong reader, devoted to the Bainbridge Library, and an avid reader of audio-books.

Friends of Alice Smith have remembered her with a generous gift in her honor, and a shelf plaque with her name will be placed, appropriately, in the audio-book area of the library.

Neighbors participating in the memorial gift include Jacqueline Sekits, C. E. and D. P. Berg, Joe and Elinor Ringland, Tony and Shari Jacobellis, Paula and Philip Schmidt, Janet and William Reese, Arlene and Jim Van Drimmelen, and David and Bonny Danielson.

Don Nakata

The late Don Nakata, Bainbridge Island community leader who died unexpectedly last summer, was devoted to the Bainbridge Public Library.

He was a guiding force in many Bainbridge Island civic improvements, and was instrumental in the Bainbridge Island Japanese-American Community's decision to donate the beautiful Haiku Garden to the library during the 1996-97 building expansion.

He presided over the dedication ceremony at the opening of the garden.

Don Nakata also gave quietly to the library in many other ways.

When the library's public meeting room became available (after the 1997 expansion), he frequently rented the space for meetings of Town and Country Thriftway executives and staff.

And in 1998, he showed up unexpectedly with daughter Susan Allen to walk Laps for the Library during that summer fund-raising event. (Don Nakata and his wife Ellen were also longtime participants in Seattle's gigantic Race for the Cure to combat breast cancer, and were honored last year for their efforts in that event.)

When the *Library News* began to accept advertising from civic-minded businesses, he was invited to participate. "Of course, we want to be included," he said. "Be sure to see that we're in every issue. You know how I feel about our library."

The library board and staff know how

people feel about him, too. A generous anonymous check in his honor — "for general operation fund" — was received at the Gala.

Other gifts

Memorial gifts honoring others continue to arrive.

A recent gift by Bill and Betsy Lawrence comes in memory of the late Phyllis Young, the mother of Dallas Shaffer.

Gifts in honor of Pauline Deschamps, a longtime library benefactor, have come from several sources, most recently from Scott and Cynthia Anderson and an anonymous friend.

And a major gift from the estate of Janet West, the late mayor, teacher, and library board member, has recently arrived with a note from her son Duncan West, executor of the estate.

This is the second sizable check from the West estate; it will be added to the library's growing endowment fund.

News Briefs

BOOK PRICE CUT After-Christmas sales have inspired a cut in the price of *They Like Noble Causes*, the Bainbridge Public Library hard-cover history of the community and its library. It's now just \$35 a copy, and available at most local book and gift shops. The book, written by Barbara Winther, is crammed with full-color photos by four Island photographers.

NEWCOMERS looking for a book group to join are welcome at the library book group, which meets the first Wednesday of every month, at 7 p.m., at the library. Books are paired, non-fiction and fiction on the same topic on consecutive months. Yellowstone is the

featured subject on both January 3 and February 7.

GARDENERS are always welcome to join the volunteers who weed and maintain the library grounds. The Friday Tidies meet every Friday at 9, in the garden. (Bring your own tools, and dress warmly.)

GARDENERS who would like to support the library, and perhaps take home a few starts from library plants, are invited to join the committee now organizing a spring plant sale for the library. For more information, call Ann Sievertson, or inquire at the library information desk.

Molly Gloss leads off 'Kitsap Reads' authors series

By Martha Knappe

Fiction collection manager

After having read a good book, do you ever wish that you could ask the author a question or hear him or her speak about writing?

Well, here is your chance.

The Independent Booksellers of West Sound and Kitsap Regional Library have joined together to sponsor **Kitsap Reads**, a series of free author programs for adults and children that will occur throughout 2001.

The tentative schedule for the programs is as follows:

MOLLY GLOSS - January 28th (Sunday) 7 p.m. - Bainbridge Performing Arts Center

TOM BODETT - March 7 (Wednesday) 7 p.m. - Sons of Norway Hall, Poulsbo

JONATHAN RABAN - April 9 (Monday) 7:30 p.m. - Givens Auditorium, Port Orchard

SHERMAN ALEXIE - Sept. 12 or 19 (to be determined) - S'Klallam Tribal Center Auditorium, Port Gamble

Noted children's authors **Lemony Snicket** and **Jack Prelutsky** will also be giving readings in June to kick off Kitsap Regional's summer reading program for children (date and time to be announced in the spring).

Portland native Molly Gloss's program on Bainbridge Island is the first in the series. Gloss will be speaking at



Author Molly Gloss

the BPA Playhouse, January 28 at 7 p.m. Nancy Pearl, director of the Washington Center for the Book, will host the event. There will be time for audience questions after Ms. Gloss has spoken.

Molly Gloss has written a number of short stories and books, including a

science fiction novel, *The Dazzle of the Day*, which won a Whiting Writer's Award as well as a New York Times Notable Book Award. However, Gloss will focus the program mainly on her two popular novels of the West, which feature strong female characters.

The Jump-off Creek, a Pen/Faulkner finalist, won the Oregon Book Award as well as the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award in 1990. It is a stark and moving portrait of hardship and survival and has as its central character Lydia Sanderson, a widow who attempts to homestead in the Oregon Blue Mountains during the 1890s. This novel has been the most popular book group choice in Kitsap Regional's Book Group collection. Reading guides (including book group questions) for *The Jump-off Creek* are available at all Kitsap Regional branches.

Wild Life, which was published this summer by Simon & Schuster, has received universal critical acclaim. This novel features another strong female character, Charlotte Drummond, a writer of dime novels and mother of five. In the story, which takes place in 1905, Charlotte manages to survive nearly six weeks in the wilderness around Mount St. Helens after becoming separated from a search party that had been looking for a missing child. As Sybil Steinberg states in *Publishers Weekly*: "The writing is gorgeous, the characters real and vivid, and the story transforming." Come find out how Charlotte managed to survive. Better yet, read this wonderful book which so exquisitely evokes the myths and mysteries surrounding the wilderness of the great Northwest.

Library adds to collection of travel books

By Gail Goodrick

Nonfiction collection manager

If you haven't checked out the library's collection of travel guides recently, you should! We devoted a good portion of our nonfiction book budget to updating our travel collection during 2000. Some of the titles are still finding their way to the shelves but the majority of the new titles are already in the library catalog.

Everyone who travels probably has a favorite travel guide. For just getting the facts you need about a country —

temperatures, travel details, a list of hotels — I like the *Fodor's* guides. However, if you are heading for an out-of-the-way locale like Thailand or India, you probably want to use *Lonely Planet* guides. These guides originated in Australia and originally covered the areas of the world traveled by wandering Australians on their way to Europe. They have expanded into other areas of the world now but still have the hip attitude of the originals. Other guides for the budget conscious are the *Let's Go* guides, which originated with the Harvard Student Agencies. All of us in

the Northwest are familiar with *Rick Steves'* guides, which are well suited for first time travelers.

Meanwhile, other publishers are moving into the field with attractive guides — the *DK Guides* are beautifully designed while the *National Geographic Traveler* and *Discovery Travel Adventures* are producing wonderful guides with tons of color photos and maps. In addition, there are all kinds of specialized guides, such as: *Wild Guides* (currently we have these for Britain, France, Ireland and Spain); *Traveller's History Guides* for those readers who

like to have some historical background before or after their trip; *Traveller's Tales*, which bring the more unusual titles to print whether they are classic adventures being reprinted or new titles covering a different aspect of travel; or a series called *A Place Apart*, listing Christian houses and monasteries where you can stay (currently we have titles covering Europe from Ireland to Turkey). If you love to travel or like to dream about travel to far-away places, check out Kitsap Regional Library for an excellent collection to stir your imagination.



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Laps winner donates prize to Helpline

By Verda Averill

Some people think Dick Hassell, with his trim white beard, looks a bit like Santa Claus.

This year he got to play Santa — while helping the library.

Hassell, who co-chaired the October Laps for the Library fund-raiser with Kay Jensen, was so determined to make the event a success that he joined the walkers and pledge collectors. Circling the high school track 23 times, he raised \$520 for the Bainbridge Public Library, more than any other contestant.

But as a member of the race committee he was, of course, ineligible for the grand prize, a trip to Disneyland donated by the Travel Exchange. So he donated the prize to Helpline, where the staff selected a boy and his father as recipients. Hassell has never been happier.

"It just gives me the greatest pleasure to know that this young man, who has never been to Disneyland, and his father will get to enjoy the trip together," he said this week. "What a Christmas present — for me, as well as for them."

Runner-up at the Laps event, and a clear winner in the young people's division, was Sam Sellers, 11, a Hyla School student, who ran 47 laps on a cold, wet Sunday. And not far behind him was his younger

brother Tom, 8, an Odyssey student who turned in 28 laps. The boys were joined by their mother, Lucy Ostrander, who declined to say how many laps she chalked up; but race observers noticed that she was running alongside Sam for much of the way.

The Sellers boys were participating for the second straight year, and finished among the top participants last year, too.

As the top finisher among the young entrants, Sam Sellers was awarded the race trophy. Tom took a close look at it, and the two posed for a couple of family snapshots with the trophy. (Will Tom claim his own trophy in a future Laps? Wait and see.)

The third annual Laps for the Library, though run on a cold, blustery day which discouraged many would-be entrants, still raised nearly \$3,000 for library operating funds. And in 2001, the library board has decided, the event will be held in late May, when chances of good weather are better.

"We want to extend our warmest thanks to all who turned out on that cold Sunday afternoon," said co-chair Dick Hassell. "It takes a lot of events like this to pay for maintenance and operation of our beautiful new library building."

Among those on hand to support the library, and get a little exercise at the same time, were Bainbridge Mayor Dwight Sutton; several talented musical

groups, including the Bainbridge High School jazz band, a folk music quartet, and a clarinet duo, and popular sports announcer Nick Nickum.

All entrants received T-shirts with a Laps for the Library logo and a variety of gifts were provided by local merchants. Friends of the Library donated books to all young people who entered.

Participants ranged in age from 2 to over 70. A few went part of the way in strollers. Brad Barquist, Bainbridge Island's own Olympics runner, broke the tape and set a blistering pace by circling the track at top speed for a lap or two.

Whether they walked, ran, or strolled, all who turned out admitted the event was fun. The big winner was the library.



Sam Sellers, 11, won the young people's trophy for most laps (47) at the October Laps for the Library. He received the trophy, in time for Christmas, from Dick Hassell and Kay Jensen, laps co-chairs. Sam's parents, Don Sellers and Lucy Ostrander, were on hand for the presentation.

Many people contributed to success of Gala

It takes a lot of people to make a successful fund-raising event. For the Fourth Annual Library Gala, some contributed money, others provided services. Many shared their talents — in art, music, food preparation, and other ways.

Together they made the Gala a big success. The committee thanks the following for their help:

Sponsors:

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Briefly

GLASS ARTIST Ben Philips, whose work was displayed recently at the library and featured in the last *Library News*, is the youngest artist selected for representation in the building. Still a teenager, he attends Strawberry Alternative School on the Island and credits the faculty there for encouraging his love of art and helping to develop his natural talents.

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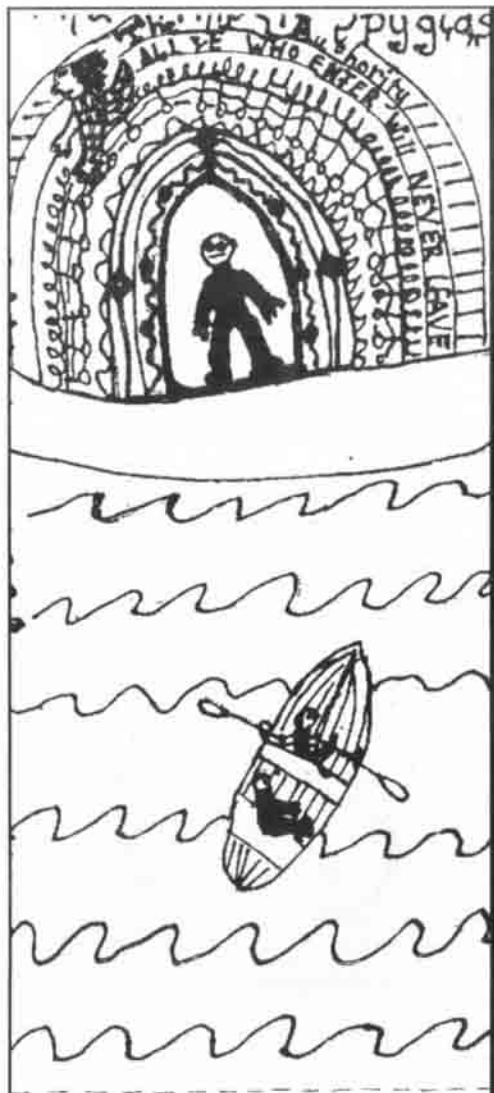
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Su 1:00-5:00

Professor McGonagall Here? Better get reading!



first name: Emma
age: 10

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Su 1:00-5:00

first name: Joel
age: 11

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In the young people's library

Bookmarks by children are available free

by Mary Curtis and Peggy Hughes

In celebration of Children's Book Week (Nov. 13-19), we asked children to

draw bookmarks depicting favorite storybook characters. Nearly 50 children participated, and as a result we now have delightful new bookmarks for library visitors.

We're pleased with the results of this project. It allows us to showcase the work of local young artists, reminds us of some of our favorite literary characters, and assists in recommending

great books to read. Look for Clifford, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Professor McGonagle and others on display in the children's library. And help yourself to a bookmark.

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New books celebrate cultural diversity

By Mary Curtis
Children's news editor

The Bainbridge Public Library's collection of young people's books grew substantially this year, thanks to the Bainbridge Island Japanese-American Community (BIJAC).

The new books celebrate cultural diversity, and funds for them came from the premiere last winter of *Snow Falling on Cedars*, the film based on David Guterson's best-selling book of the same title.

Hundreds of Bainbridge Islanders bought tickets to the film showing and dinner sponsored by BIJAC, Guterson, director Scott Hicks, and Universal Studios. And the library was one of four beneficiaries of the event. There was only one stipulation; money given was to be used to foster multi-cultural understanding.

Dr. Frank Kitamoto, BIJAC president, said "We wanted to make a substantive and lasting contribution to the Island."

(Other organizations receiving BIJAC grants are the Bainbridge Island Historical Society, Bainbridge Performing Arts, and the Multicultural Advisory Board of the Bainbridge School District.)

At the library, branch manager Cindy

Funds for 45 books came from movie premiere of *Snow Falling on Cedars*

Harrison and her staff divided the grant evenly between the adult and children's sections. For the young people's library they selected 45 new books celebrating many different cultures in the United States and around the world. These books have been purchased and added to the library's permanent collection.

Each volume is marked with a bookplate indicating that it was purchased as a special donation to the library.

"Young people's librarian Peggy Hughes and her staff had a wonderful time selecting these books," said Harrison. "They made some outstanding choices."

Some of the young people's books in the new collection include:

My Name Is Jorge, Poems in English and Spanish, by Jane Medina, a series of poems (printed side by side in English and Spanish) told from the point of view of a Mexican child coming "across the river" to the United States.

Young Heroes in World History, by Robin Kadison Berson, a book of stories chronicling the courage and imagination

of young people who "seized control of their lives, shaped themselves with commitment and integrity, and found a vital fulfillment of self through recognition, respect, and service to others." The anthology contains stories of 17 men and women, age 12 to 23, from 10 nations.

My Herds My People, African Americans and Native Americans in the West, by Morgan Monceaux, striking portraits of men and women with accompanying biographical sketches and historical notes.

Fancy Fretwork, the Great Jazz Guitarists, by Leslie Course, stories of musicians who have mastered the intricacy of the jazz guitar. The book traces the evolution of the jazz guitar from its beginnings at the turn of the century to today, and includes blues guitarists and singers, rhythm players in the '20s and '30s, the swing era, and amplified acoustic jazz guitarists.

Stone Bench in an Empty Park, by Paul B. Janeczko, who has selected Haiku poetry and black and white photographs to illustrate how poetry and

nature abound in cities as well as in the country.

Girls: A History of Growing Up Female in America, by Penny Colman, a history from the point of view of the girls themselves. Its power lies in the collective voice given to true stories of girls from different races, ethnicities, religions, and classes.

Kids Around the World Celebrate: The Best Feasts and Festivals from Many Lands, by Lynda Jones, illustrates the fact that although different cultures have their own unique feasts and festivals, we all share the same reasons to celebrate life.

Dogs of Myth: Tales from Around the World, by Gerald and Loretta Hausman, illustrates the mythic proportions of man's best friend through tales from differing cultures.

Hands on Asia: Art Activities for All Ages, by Yvonne Y. Merrill, uses rich Asian cultures reflected in art forms like traditional dance, ancient musical instruments, fine arts, and theater performances for art projects children can do themselves. She focuses on four religions: Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism, and Shintoism.

(Editor's note: Adult books purchased with BIJAC grant money will be featured in a future edition of the Library News.)

More new titles in the children's collection

Picture book fiction

Comes a Wind, by Linda Arms White. While visiting their mother's ranch, two brothers who constantly try to best each other swap tall tales about big winds and are surprised by the fiercest wind they have ever seen.

Harry Hikes to Fitchburg, by D. B. Johnson. While his friend works hard to earn the train fare to Fitchburg, young Henry Thoreau walks the thirty miles through woods and fields, enjoying nature.

Island Magic, by Martha Bennett Stiles. When Grandad comes to live with David and his family on their island, he and David enjoy sharing the wonders of the natural world.

Juvenile fiction

Amber Brown is Feeling Blue, by Paula Danziger. Nine-year-old Amber Brown faces further complications because of her parent's divorce when her father plans to move back from Paris and she must decide which parent she will be with on Thanksgiving.

Regular Guy, by Sarah Weeks. Because he is so different from his eccentric parents, twelve-year-old Guy is convinced he has been switched at birth with a classmate whose parents seem more normal.

The Secret Journey, by Peg Kehret. In

1834 when a storm at sea destroys the slave ship on which she is a stowaway, twelve-year-old Emma musters all her resourcefulness to survive in the African jungle.

Thimbleberry Stories, by Cynthia Rylant. Nigel Chipmunk shares a pleasant life with his friends Dipper the hummingbird, Little Owl, Copper the butterfly, Claudius the garter snake and

Mudpuppy the salamander.

Waiting for Odysseus, by Clemence McLaren. Odysseus's epic journey is told through the eyes of his faithful wife Penelope, the sorceress Circe, the goddess Athena, and his old nanny Eurycleia.

White Fox Chronicles, by Gary Paulsen. Having been imprisoned when the Confederated Republic, a foreign

power, conquered Los Angeles in 2056, fourteen-year-old Cody escapes and endures hardship to become the underground hero The White Fox.

Wrango, by Brian Burks. When young George McJunken leaves his home in Texas and joins a cattle drive along the Chisholm Trail, he experiences the hardships of being a Black cowboy after the Civil War.

Storybook character



Pippi Longstocking, depicted by Sidney Mattocks, was photographed by a young people's librarian October 31 in the library.

Young people's storytime programs

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Please pre-register. Sign up at the young people's checkout desk or by calling 842-4162, extension 9816.

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January 22, 29, February 5, 12, and 26. (Library closed February 19.)

PRESCHOOL STORYTIMES

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Gibney helps seniors master computers

by Susan Bottles

Barbara Gibney's library memories stretch back decades to hours of childhood spent at the Queen Anne Public Library in Seattle.

But her current weekly volunteer effort at the Bainbridge Library couldn't be more 21st century: helping seniors master computers.

Gibney spent 30 years teaching youngsters aged preschool to eighth grade, including a stint as fifth grade teacher at Egledeale's old MacDonald School in 1959. In 1964, she also became one of the first teachers at Bainbridge Island Cooperative Nursery School, then housed at the Wing Point Clubhouse.

But she became a student herself several years ago when she took a senior computing course from Dianne Knodel. Knodel was the super volunteer who set up the computer instruction program that now serves patrons of all ages, before leaving recently to follow her husband to Texas.

"Dianne taught me how to use the Internet, and she also became a friend," Gibney recalled. Soon she was recruited to the ranks of volunteer instructors.

"We help people with all levels of experience," she said. "It's wonderful for people who don't have a computer at home, or who don't want one. It's a chance to practice. Some people don't realize they can get a free e-mail account



Barbara Gibney

here. I love to send Blue Mountain greeting cards to my granddaughter Katie over the Internet."

She said all a senior citizen need do is ring the bell on the staff door between 9 and 10 a.m. Tuesday mornings (before the library opens at 10), and help will be available. One-on-one appointments may be made through the reference desk.

"It's so much fun, and so easy," she said.

Volunteer library instruction comes naturally to Gibney. "I've always loved

libraries," she recalled. "I still remember the wonderful Queen Anne librarian Miss Graves. When I turned 14, she introduced me to the adult section and suggested I read Green Mansions, my first adult novel. We lived crammed together with my grandparents, and books enlarged my world."

Gibney returned to Seattle when her children were small and later followed her military husband Jack overseas. When he was a brigade commander in Germany, she volunteered in the library there.

But on retirement 10 years ago, the couple was drawn back to the Puget Sound area to be close to her aging parents.

"I knew from moving about in the military that to fit into a new community, you have to make some effort, do some volunteer work, take a class," she said.

She followed her own advice, becoming an active member of the knitting subset of Bainbridge Islanders. She now often regularly reserves unabridged books on tape from the library to accompany the click of her needles.

"The library has a really good selection, and I find I check out tapes of books I might never pick up to read. I'll sometimes buy them at Costco and then donate them to the library, too, so I don't feel guilty," she said.

Gibney also volunteers regularly at the Bargain Boutique as part of her commitment to the Children's Orthopedic Hospital Guild.

"Both my sons spent time at Children's as youngsters, one for appendicitis and one following an accident," she recalled "The money we raise goes to pay for the care of children who can't afford it."

That computer class she took from Knodel in turn led to volunteering, but the circle is not complete. It keeps enlarging as more and more seniors are welcomed into the larger on-line community.

Young library users



Preschoolers from Bainbridge Island Child Care Center visited the young people's library November 21. At left are Drew, Laura, Julianna, and Nathan. At right, twin brothers Nicholas and Josh show off their brand new library cards. (Photos by library staff.)

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Library lures liveaboard Christensen

by Susan Bottles

Her 40-foot sloop riding at anchor in some Caribbean port, Gail Christensen would find time to run a flag sporting the official white and green library icon up to the boat's spreaders. Fellow cruisers would know it was book trading time.

Christensen and her husband David have not exactly swallowed the anchor since completing their seven-year sailing adventure in 1997. They still live aboard their boat *Adagio* at Eagle Harbor Marina.

But now her love of books, young people and libraries finds an outlet in her

Their decision to settle here was based in part on the great library.

twin professions as part-time personal service assistant at the Bainbridge Public Library, and part-time substitute teacher in the Island's public schools.

Christensen raised three sons and a daughter in addition to teaching while she followed her military husband from their original Oregon home to various posts. They eventually settled in Anchorage, Alaska. But he had a dream: to cross an ocean aboard his own sailboat.

They bought *Adagio* — which aptly means "slow dance for two" — new in 1986. Four years later, with the support

of their children, they left Prince William Sound, spending that winter on Bainbridge Island. While here, Christensen took time to earn a library endorsement to her teaching certificate.

While most West Coast cruisers turn right and circle over to the Pacific South Seas, once underway, the Christensens transited the Panama Canal, visited South America, and then cruised up to east side of Central America to Florida. At the Fort Lauderdale library, she purchased the library flag.

Next it was over to Bermuda and from there across the Atlantic to the Azores. They made their European landfall in Portugal.

"In 1993 we rented a car and drove to Norway," Christensen said. She had always been more interested in seeing Europe than in visiting tropical isles.

They sailed back across the Atlantic by way of the "gorgeous island" Madeira and the Canary Islands, arriving in Barbados on Dec. 24, 1993.

After visiting Martinique and Grenada, the couple decided to work for three years as a charter crew for Moorings in the British Virgin Islands. But in 1997, they retraced their course and came back to Bainbridge Island, this time to stay.

Part of their decision to settle here was based, she said, on the fact that the "library is so great. Wherever we have been, access to a good library has been very important to me."

Books were also an important part of their cargo during their passages. Some were vacuum-packed to protect against



Gail Christensen works in the young people's library

moisture and stored in every spare niche, including the inch or two under the floorboards and above the tanks.

They proved worth their extra weight on the long ocean passages, when Christensen said she mostly read, wrote, or sewed (including 13 hours of hand sewing a ripped sail at one point).

While the books had lessons to teach, so did the real life adventure of the lengthy cruise. For one thing, Christensen said, long hours in a small space, sometimes facing "good storms," teach you to know yourself and learn you are stronger than you may believe. Confidence and competence increase one step at a time.



Getting to know you



Board member Don Harrington celebrates Halloween in the library. Harrington is treasurer of the non-profit corporation managed by the Bainbridge Public Library Board.



Reference librarian Julie O'Neill instructs a student from Northwest College of Art in use of the library computer system. Fourteen students toured the library November 20 to get acquainted with library resources.

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He's been a volunteer since first grade

By Barbara Winther

Dave Thompson started using the school library in the first grade, and within a few months, he became a library volunteer in Wauwatosa ("Firefly" in Potawatamie Indian), Wisconsin.

"My involvement with the library started," Thompson said with reverence, "because Miss Smith, bless her, the school librarian, treated children as grownups."

Even though Thompson was only 6 years old, Nellie Smith showed him how to organize library shelves, and allowed him to do it. After all, he knew how to read before entering kindergarten.

By second grade, Thompson was allowed to shelve returned books, as high as he could reach.

In third grade, he was allowed to stamp books. Thompson smiled in remembrance. "I was supposed to do it delicately, 'like a butterfly alighting,'" he said.

When he was in fourth grade, the librarian taught him about the card catalog and showed him how to insert cards for new books, including cross reference cards.

When he reached fifth grade, the librarian had so much confidence in his work that when a book was taken out of the collection, she allowed him to remove the cross reference cards from the card catalog — by ripping them out!

Thompson grew up, delved deeply into computers, graduated from college, and moved around a bit before going to work in Washington D.C. on the space shuttle program. In the US Virgin Islands, he married Jan Breyer, his long-time friend and fellow computer wizard. The couple has two children, Kelly, now 17, and Elliott, 13.

Thompson first visited Bainbridge



Dave Thompson

Island when he attended an Earthstewards workshop in 1986. He drove around, noted the green landscapes, and was impressed with the mountain views, the water, the nice people he met, the friendliness of Town & Country Market employees, and the caution to stop for pedestrians. It seemed to him that Bainbridge would be a far better place to bring up two children than a hectic, crowded city. He returned to the other Washington, convinced Jan to move, and sojourned across country in a beat up van. Jan found a job at Microsoft, and Dave became a househusband.

This changed when Kelly's teacher noted that Kelly's handwriting needed some work, and implored Dave to find some handwriting fonts so she could use the computer to give Kelly extra help. When he couldn't find them, he made them himself and gave them to her.

In 1994, the teacher urged, "All my friends want these fonts. You should start a company." Educational Fontware, Inc. was formed as a home-based business, manufacturing and selling handwriting

fonts across the country.

Today, the company has 11 different styles of handwriting and two fulltime employees in addition to Dave and Jan, now working at home also.

Teachers can finally integrate handwriting practice into the other curriculum units. Over 12,000 elementary schools nationwide are using the fonts.

The Thompsons built their home on Bainbridge 11 years ago. One of the first things they did was to get library cards. (Not Elliott, though, as he was still in diapers, but he applied as soon as he could write his name.)

Each member uses the Bainbridge Library in a different way. Jan likes to check out music CDs. Elliott uses the reference materials, Internet, and video section. While Kelly now mainly reads mysteries and science fiction, in fourth grade she read the entire Newbery series (72 books), with the assistance of the Bainbridge librarians and inter-library loan. As for Dave, he has over 200 library sale books "waiting to be read," even though he reads two to three hours per day. His main current use of the library is to check out videos.

Thompson continues to volunteer at the library.

With an easy smile and a nod of his head, he explains why. "When you give a child responsibility through working in a library, actually meaningfully contributing to its operation, this often establishes a long-lasting bond with the library system. To say nothing of improving organizational skill."

And how does he help out these days? He has served as the production manager for the *Library News* and is a new member of the library's board of directors.



Kelly, Jan, Dave, and Elliott

Humor is very important to the whole Thompson family. When Dave attended his first library board meeting in December, after having been elected in absentia, he was dressed in his full clown outfit, including frizzy red wig, orange jacket, purple pantaloons, and rubber chickens.

"Now, don't you wish you had conducted interviews before the election?" he quipped to the stunned board, who burst into laughter.

The entire family went on a clowning trip to Russia this year with 30 other clowns, to entertain in orphanages, nursing homes, and hospitals.

"We wanted to bring joy into the lives of people who could use some. And we did. You've got to get out and help others," he said.

Grandparenting 101 begins at the library

By Eleanor Wheeler of the library staff

The Bainbridge Public Library and grandparents are a natural partnership. The young people's library, downstairs, offers a comfortable and inviting place for young people of all ages. If you are lucky enough to have grandchildren living nearby, you may be one of our regular library grandparents.

If your grandchildren are only here for occasional visits, the library can help make their stays even more enjoyable.

Grandparents can be instrumental in helping their grandchildren learn to love the world of books. Grandmom and Granddad may enjoy reading to their grandchild from an early age. And a trip to the library with a grandparent is a wonderful excursion for a young person.

In today's busy world, grandparents may have more time than others in the family, and what a great gift to use that

time for an unhurried trip to the library.

It is fun to share with grandchildren the books that were their parent's favorites! If *Curious George*, *The Little House* or *The Wump World* bring back fond memories of reading to your child, you will have an even better time sharing them with your grandchild. And some of your childhood favorites are still on our shelves. *Angus and the Ducks*, *Millions of Cats* and *The Little Engine That Could* are among the classics that have been reprinted over and over again, because they still appeal to young people. Plus there will be wonderful discoveries waiting for you, as new books, and new editions of old books, arrive every week.

Some grandparents come to the library before the grandchildren visit so they will have books on hand to welcome the family. When you come in, the young people's staff will be happy to help you make some great selections. In addition to books, they can show you

CDROMs (computer games or interactive learning programs), recorded books, magazines, and music on either a CD or a tape.

For the smallest children, you may prefer to choose some board books. They are almost indestructible and the themes are chosen to appeal to the youngest of the younger generation. You may also pick up a magazine or two for the visiting adults. We have a great selection! (See stories on Page 11.)

One of the major changes in the world has been the Internet. Many grandparents stay in touch with their family through e-mail, or check on family web pages that have current pictures and family news.

For grandparents (and others who do not have their own Internet connection), the library has free accounts that can be used from home or from the library. We even offer tutoring! Check at the reference desk upstairs to schedule a slot,

or come to Senior Tuesday, from 9am to 10am) where help is available.

Do you need ideas for things to make for the grandchildren? We have a library full of ideas. One of my favorites is Carolann Palmer's *Quilts for Kids*, which is in the adult non-fiction section. Whether you are looking for knitting patterns, directions on making a bird house, or a refresher book on origami, the library can help.

Briefly

VISUALLY IMPAIRED

persons who want 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.

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The collection is growing

Library now stocks over 150 magazines

by Susan Bottles

Looking for a low-cost dude ranch? How about a perfect gift for that special martial artist in your life? Perhaps you'd be grateful for a test to tell whether your pooch really is psychic.

Or, on the more serious side, how should a budding genealogist deal with boundary changes in Eastern Europe? What's the latest on how vigorous exertion may trigger sudden death from cardiac causes? What are the implications of the looming worldwide fresh water shortage?

The answers to these and hundreds of other questions await your discovery inside the covers of recent additions to the 150-plus magazines now on the racks of the Bainbridge Public Library. (Try *Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel*, *Black Belt*, *Dog Fancy*, *Genealogical Helper*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, and *Civilization* for these specific topics.)

The scope of the library's serials collection is vast, although all subscriptions are meant for the general interest reader. The current edition of every magazine may be read only in the library — comfortable

chairs are nearby — but all back copies circulate. (Lift the tilt shelf to find the older issues.)

The collection is in a state of constant flux, as well as steady expansion. Thanks to the computer checkout system, Kitsap Regional Library is able to send our branch an annual report detailing the circulation history of each title, meaning those seldom used may be dropped.

"However, last year every magazine was checked out often enough for us to renew it," said serial specialist Paulette Rhoades.

Library patrons often make welcome suggestions for new titles. Rhoades suggested bringing in a copy of the magazine to help librarians evaluate it.

Eight of the library subscriptions are gifts from Bainbridge residents, and another 27 are gifts from the Friends of the Library group.

The following subscriptions are recent additions to the Bainbridge collection:

The Advocate — the Gays and Lesbian Newsmagazine: a broad review of the arts and current events from a homosexual perspective.

American Rhododendron Society: the journal of this specialist gardening group.

Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel: an outgrowth of the popular travel guides series, bills itself as about "vacations for real people."

Birds and Blooms: a dual interest publication with an emphasis on hands-on, backyard participation.

Black Belt: subtitled "the world's leading magazine of self defense."

Cat Fancy: covers all aspects of "cat care for the responsible owner."

Civilization: a publication of the Library of Congress, wide-ranging topics, generally sober.

Computer Gaming World: previews and reviews and "inside" commentary.

Country Living: lifestyle coverage of cooking, decorating, entertaining and such, with a country flare.

Dog Fancy: the canine equivalent of *Cat Fancy*.

Genealogical Helper: a jam-packed compendium of hands-on, how-to tips.

Foreign Affairs: scholarly articles with a "broad hospitality to divergent ideas" in all areas of international

relations.

Herb Companion: how to grow and utilize "the useful plants."

Interview: youth-oriented what's-hot, what's-not look at personalities in fashion, popular entertainment.

Mode: covers the youthful "new shape in fashion" and beauty.

New England Journal of Medicine: the ultimate source of many, if not most, of those newspaper and TV current medical news reports. (This is a gift from a Bainbridge resident.)

New York Review of Books: bedrock intellectual forum for discussion of ideas arising from reviews of latest books.

Science: a publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, mixture of accessible news, book reviews and more technical research articles. (This was also a gift.)

Smart Computing in Plain English: seeks to bring computing topics to the non-nerds.

Ziff Davis Smart Business for the New Economy: now found on the far-right, bottom shelf, this is the new title for the old, popular *PC Computing*.

For a dime or two, you too can add to your own periodical collection

The growing periodical collection in the library's main-floor reading room attracts many readers during the library's regular hours.

From the time the building opens until closing, readers thumb through the latest newspapers, read about investments, and bone up on their hobbies and interests. The brightly-lit reading area, donated by Friends of the Library, is furnished with comfortable armchairs and work tables.

But for the library user who would rather take home old magazines to keep and clip, there's another source of periodicals. Just inside the main entrance is the magazine recycling center, maintained by library volunteers.

For a dime or two each (honor system, no cashier) visitors are invited to skim through and take home previously-owned magazines. And the thrifty shopper will find an astonishing variety

of titles to choose from.

"I think this provides an interesting portrait of our Island and the fascinating people who live here," said branch manager Cindy Harrison, sorting through some recent acquisitions.

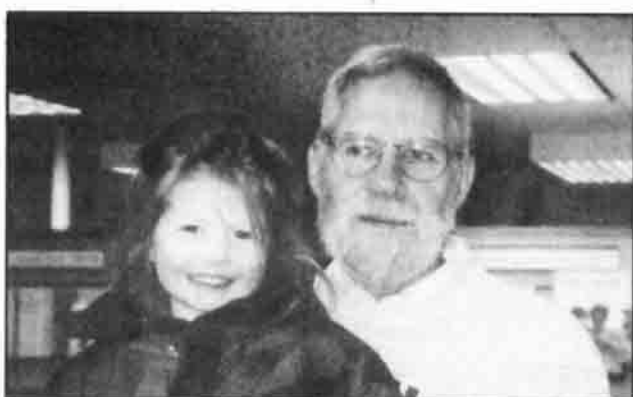
Some of the titles included *Northern Pilot*, "a magazine for aviation enthusiasts"; *Civilization*, the magazine of the Library of Congress; *Wired*; *Spin*; *Discover* (the world of science); *Pasta Press*, the magazine for connoisseurs of fine pasta; *Popular Mechanics*; *Working Mother*. And then there were *Workbench*, "the do-it-yourself magazine"; *Gray's Sporting Journal*, *The Fly Fishing Book*; and *Dance Magazine*.

That's just the beginning, of course. Travel magazines come and go. So do professional publications on hair styling, small business management, and other topics. The collection changes constantly.

The volunteers who staff the racks

work quietly and anonymously behind the scenes, but their efforts produce big benefits for many readers — and big

bucks for the library. Those dimes add up, and all of it goes to maintain the library.



Maddie Branson-Meyer visits the library with her grandfather, Terry Branson. (See grandparenting story on Page 10.)

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Sculptor Molly Greist shows Viking Collection

By Nan Wooldridge

The scotch tape crackles as Molly Greist tears open the package that has just arrived from Denmark.

"These are my new tools," she tells me, "point chisels for inscribing and lettering." Her blue eyes dance as her fingers caress the fine blades. "You can see the carbide steel set in there for strength."

She holds them out across her kitchen table where we sip hot, ginger-spiced cranberry juice.

The best tools for stone carving come from Bavaria and Denmark, Molly learned when she spent time in Sweden and Denmark last year with her 16-year-old daughter, Anna.

"It was like a treasure hunt," she laughed.

Besides visiting old friends from school days and having two exhibits of her own, she met other stone sculptors who gave her leads — to quarries, to a one-of-a-kind handwork school for carving granite, and to a marvelous place for special tools.

Like a little girl telling a secret, Molly almost whispers, "They let me go in back of this factory, and there were all these stone-carving tools. I was like a child in a candy store."

From this factory's catalog, she ordered the chisels she holds — siblings to the ones used for carving her "Viking Collection Ltd.," an exhibit inspired and influenced by a form of ancient Viking/Celtic artwork referred to as "knotwork."

Five Viking stones

Molly has carved five Viking stones from Wilkeson Sandstone, which was part of the original batch used for pavers in the library's Haiku no Niwa Japanese Garden. The sandstone fragment on which is carved the prow and sword of a Viking long ship sits, couched in black cloth, in the center of the main room. Titled "Helle," this regal piece is named for a talented Danish friend who recently passed away, but ran an artist's co-op farm and gallery where Molly worked and exhibited. Molly thinks of her "like a ship on the horizon — there, then gone, then there again."

Each stonework, placed as if rising from the ground against the dark blue wall in the meeting room, is named for a Danish friend with the Viking Rune

alphabet's inscription for that name on the back. "Marie" runs an apple farm on the Isle of Flyn, works from dawn till dusk and still boils (koka) her laundry in a great cauldron over an applewood fire. Her daughter, "Rie", was Molly's best friend when she spent two years there in the early 1970s. "Rune" is Rie's 12-year-old son, a musician who plays the accordion on Danish radio. "Ida", called 'Princessa' by her father, is the 9-year-old daughter of "Rolf" who has been like a brother to Molly.

The designs reflect Molly's "intrigue and enchantment with the inherent beauty" of this ancient work. The "knotwork" forms, also used in knitting, embroidery, and lacework, offer "a kind

construction of a building. Found in the present basement area and placed in its new corner location, it was scored by Molly, and glass was made (an inverted cut) to fit over the stone. Rigging a tent around herself to keep dust from flying, Molly carved the inside protrusion in the middle of the night to avoid disturbing the other workers.

Molly never dreamed of becoming an artist. Although her mother was an art teacher and a painter like her own mother, and Molly's father was a geophysicist (she always had stones in her pocket), Molly said she couldn't draw and thought herself "fairly incompetent."

But unexplainable things happen.

After the tragic loss of their baby son, Peter, in an automobile accident in 1989, Molly and her husband, Steve, devastated and shattered, found themselves gravitating to a large boulder in a wooded corner of their lot. Here they would talk and share their pain. Molly started digging around that stone. She said, "Peter — Petra — means Rock. The stone came alive for us. I was digging down deep in myself to find a connection...to the earth...to my beginning...There had to be a reason why I was still here. I knew the next step was to start carving stone."



Molly Greist examines new tools

of meditation, an adventure in inner exploration."

The medium of sandstone is a departure for Molly.

At the library, her indoor/outdoor Cornerstone, perhaps her best known and most beloved piece (I can't keep my five-year-old grandson from lying on it), is a glacial erratic, the kind of granitic fieldstone common in this area. Quite a feat to execute, this work is a prime example of art integrated with the

Her inspiration

Three months later, in September, she was inspired by noted a stone sculptor, James W. Washington Jr., who spoke at the dedication of his "Twin Bear Cubs" sculpture at Wilkes School. They met, and later, in a fit of frustration over a hedgehog she was working on, Molly called Washington for advice.

"He said the best thing anyone ever said to me: 'I can't tell you how to carve

stone. It has to come from within.'"

He sent her to the Bible, to Job 5:23: "for you shall be in league with the stones of the field, and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with you."

That same Christmas, Molly suddenly got up from the dinner table, announced that she must put something on Peter's rock. It was a star. Soon after, a piece fell off the rock. She struggled with it, feeling she had to break it open somehow; then she started carving. A French curve emerged. Continuing, she saw it was a baby, an unborn baby. She gave this piece to Virginia Mason Hospital, where Peter was born.

A beautiful video, *Grief Is More Than Crying*, the story of Molly's emergence as a stone carver, is available at the library.

Molly is often amazed at the synchronicity that reigns as countless images surface from her chisel that speak to the viewer. She mostly carves "found" stones, the "stones of the field." She says, "I love thinking about the journey the stone has been on — how it got here, where it came from, how it's been tossed and turned, or how the glacier pushed and rolled it."

Memorial pieces

Memorial pieces now comprise much of her work. She tries to glean as much information about the memorialized loved one as she can. As she works she thinks about that person's qualities, and "often something about them comes through me into the stone so that the stone is truly for them."

What started out being therapy became Molly's vocation. She has transformed her loss into a gift. Gifts for herself as well as for others, her pieces have brought solace and joy to many as they speak to the heart.

Greist exhibit to be followed by Ghost Tiger

"Viking Collection Ltd." is on exhibit in the main library room and meeting room through January 12. Ask for a key to the meeting room at the desk. The artist will add more fragments to the collection in December. All work is for sale, with 25% of sale price returned to the library coffers. Prices range \$200-\$600. Call Molly Greist, 842-8599, for information.

"Ghost Tiger, Three Artists Interpreting a Work of Fiction," by Sally Robison, Sue Christiansen, and Cameron Snow, will be featured January 17-March 31. Preview for librarians, January 17. Reception for public, February 18.

Tigers are coming to the library in January

Tigers will roam the library this winter.

From mid-January through March, Sue Christiansen, Sally Robison, and Cameron Snow will present their Ghost Tiger project for readers, artists, families, and children.

Inspired by a children's book written by Sally Robison, three friends decided to illustrate the story with three interpretations.

"This is a chance to collaborate with other artists on a project," said Snow. "We discovered that the appeal to school children validated the work."

"We have had a grand time," said Robison. "It has been such an honor to have two fine artists tackle my book and raise the material to a level I could only hope for."

Christiansen's concept was "to picture the story through the eyes of the child."

All three artists agree that the shared inspiration benefited their work.

The Ghost Tiger show opens January 15 in the library's large public meeting room and runs through March. An artists' reception is scheduled for Sunday, February 18, from 4 to 6. The artists will present their work, elaborate on their concept for the book, and answer questions from the audience.

"This is an in-depth reading

experience," said Cindy Harrison, branch manager. "It's also a family exhibition," said Robison.

Displays of resources from the library collection and the Web, along with mock-ups of the books, will be featured at the reception.

February will bring other tiger events, discussions with school children, and tours of the exhibit with the artists, Robison added.

The Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council has provided funding for the two-and-a-half-month exhibit.



Her Tiger was a bright horse, pastel drawing by Sally Robison

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(See calendar on page 1 for closures.)

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