

April 2022 Newsletter

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## Celebrate Spring As A Legacy Donor!



With each commitment to make a legacy gift, an inscribed leaf is added to the Legacy Tree located in the library garden. We would like to include you, so please notify us if you have made provisions in your estate plan to leave a legacy gift. But if you haven't yet made that move and would like more information, you can leave a message at 206-866-1250 or at [legacy@bainbridgepubliclibrary.org](mailto:legacy@bainbridgepubliclibrary.org). You can also visit the website, [bainbridgepubliclibrary.org](http://bainbridgepubliclibrary.org). Click on *A Lasting Legacy* under the *Support BPL* tab to download a Legacy Leaf Form.

It would give us enormous pleasure to thank and to honor you now.



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## Art in the Library!

No fooling around here but April 1 is First Friday Art Walk and our April artist, Mark Johnson will host an opening reception for his exhibit, "Constructed Concepts" from 5-7PM in the library meeting room. Mark

describes his work:

### **CONSTRUCTED CONCEPTS**

People ask me what kind of art I create. I suppose my art is mostly sculptural assemblages, classified as a cross between Folk and DADA. I am a late bloomer, becoming inspired about 8 years ago. Representative pieces of recent work are "Palouse Wires," "Choson Moon" and "Desert Hair"



Palouse Wires

I have degrees in Architecture and Construction Management, and I have long appreciated building design and art. Being self-taught, naïve and having no contact with the art world, I am an Outsider. Compositional inspiration for new pieces often comes from items found at construction sites, salvage yards and the like. The inspiration for a theme or meaning comes from current events, 60 years of watching TV and from random thoughts in my brain at 3 AM, while I am just trying to sleep.



Choson Moon

The joy I find in my art is being able to use tools and applications in diverse ways, which is about extending brain activity slightly beyond an 8-hour day.





Desert Hair

You can view this exhibit all of April during regular library hours and on the library website, [www.bainbridgepubliclibrary.org](http://www.bainbridgepubliclibrary.org). And as always, thank you for supporting your Bainbridge Public Library and local artists. (A portion of sales is donated back to the library.)

~ Linda Meier, art coordinator

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## What's Up with Facilities?

After many months of behind-the-scenes activity, the Facilities Team is optimistic that the community will begin to see signs of activity very soon! There will be a set of projects taking place on the outside of the library that will:

- improve safety
- repair/replace and/or renovate weather-compromised materials
- extend the life and functionality of our outdoor facilities, and
- honor our Donor Legacy Tree by improving its visibility

We apologize in advance if there are temporary sidewalk or path closures or detours as the work proceeds; our contractor will try to keep the gardens and grounds as accessible as possible, but please expect some disruption. There will also be intermittent restrictions on portions of the parking lots to facilitate construction vehicles. Thank you for your patience.

We are happy to highlight and honor the many artisans and volunteers who played pivotal roles in the design, construction, and installation of the two handsome Torii Gates at the entrances to the wonderful Japanese Haiku Garden located on the west side of the library. Although the gates were installed a year ago, a brass plaque recognizing those involved was only recently added. A big, Big, BIG! thank you to everyone who gave of their time and skills so generously!! We could not have done it without you!



Care to join our team of volunteers on the Bainbridge Public Library's Facilities Committee? For information about what we do and how you might fit in, please contact me, Kip Bankart, at [kipbankart@comcast.net](mailto:kipbankart@comcast.net) or by phone 206-931-0693.

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## Community News

As part of their ongoing support of the nonprofit sector, Bainbridge Community Foundation convenes local organizations to survey them on their missions, their successes, and their challenges over the preceding year. BCF compiles this information and produces a comprehensive "State of the Sector Report: A View of Our Community" which they will present at the library later this month. Mark April 20th on your calendar to learn more about the many groups who work so hard to support and enrich our community.



## A View of Our Community

Join us to discuss the results from  
BCF's 2022 NONPROFIT SURVEY AND SECTOR GATHERINGS  
April 20th  
10 - 11:30 a.m.

Bainbridge Public Library Meeting Room  
1270 Madison Ave  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

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## Showcasing Our Local Authors! Carol Cassella





### **The Benefit of Bad Times**

On December 11, a two hundred- and thirty-year-old Douglas fir tree crashed into our house while our family lounged on a Mexican beach. How funny that the night before I had mapped out all our adventures for my first year of retirement. So, I called a friend in the insurance industry, and he said we had to get home that day—wise advice, no doubt. My husband and I looked at each other, ordered another margarita, and enjoyed our next six days in the sun with even more gusto. Catastrophes often have an upside. For example, even if that tree and our smashed home did not make the Bainbridge Review, they will certainly end up in one of my books.

Fiction, by definition, is not strictly truth, but the grace notes that make fiction believable often are. Never shy away from flipping your worst bad luck into a good metaphor. I am currently writing the loosely fictionalized story of a friend of mine, Asmaa, a Syrian refugee who abandoned her home and escaped to Jordan with the few things she and her family could carry. It is a scary venture these days to write the “other,” and moving out of an insured house crushed by a tree is nothing compared to fleeing a war. But when I told Asmaa about it, she patiently listened and consoled me, and we huddled in the narrow common ground of our individual displacements. With full respect for cultural identity, I do not like seeing humanity as divided groups of “others.” Our overlaps are not complete, for sure, but that common ground is where the magic of two strangers’ imaginations get to meet, play, quarrel, and sometimes agree, all on the pages of a book and the shelves of a library.

So now back to my tree, who was here before Vancouver or anyone who looks like me arrived. She might get no more than a few well-placed sentences, but I will try to describe her grand finale, the moment her roots lost the fight against gravity, with the all the dignity it deserves.

Carol Cassella is the national bestselling author of three novels: *Oxygen*, *Healer*, and *Gemini*. She is a recently retired anesthesiologist, eternally grateful that she landed in a forest on Bainbridge Island twenty-six years ago.

Bainbridge is home to many distinguished and hugely popular authors. In this column, we will profile a local author each month. Many will already be favorites, but we may just introduce you to a new author whose profile will send you right to the library to pick up a new read! Happy reading and thank you to Delight Willing for her assistance!

## Have You Seen This Library?

This is the seventh in a series of photo essays on the libraries of New York, collected by Kevin Manion, the new co-chair of the BPL CoFun Committee. We thank him for sharing his photography and fun facts about the many libraries of the great City of New York!

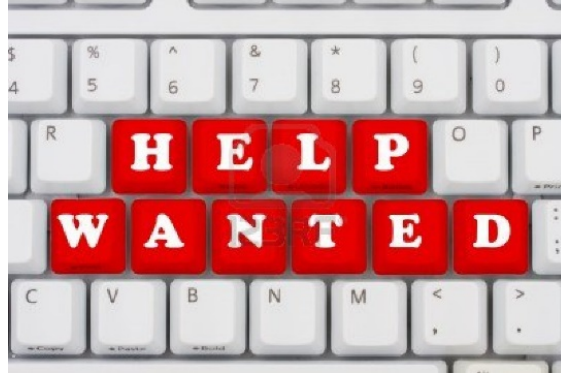
### Chapter Seven – Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture



Originally the 135th Street Branch Library, this jewel of a library was built by Carnegie in 1905. Now the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture it is a research library of the New York Public Library (NYPL) and an archive repository for information on people of African descent worldwide. Located at 515 Malcolm X Boulevard (Lenox Avenue) between West 135th and 136th Streets in the Harlem neighborhood of Manhattan, New York City, it has, almost from its inception, been an integral part of the Harlem community. It is named for Afro-Puerto Rican scholar Arturo Alfonso Schomburg. The resources of the Center are broken up into five divisions, the Art and Artifacts Division, the Jean Blackwell Hutson General Research and Reference Division, the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division, and the Photographs and Prints Division. In addition to research services, the center hosts readings, discussions, art exhibitions, and theatrical events. It is open to the public. [See more.](#)

If you have photos and or stories of libraries that you would like to share email [Susan Braun](#).

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The CoFun Committee of BPL is looking for volunteers to assist with social media. If you have skills in Facebook and Instagram and would like to increase the library's impact in our community please contact Kevin Manion [kpmanion@gmail.com](mailto:kpmanion@gmail.com) or Brian McKenna [brian.emckenna@comcast.net](mailto:brian.emckenna@comcast.net). Time commitment is flexible, and creativity is greatly appreciated!

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## Friends of the Library

# Book Sale



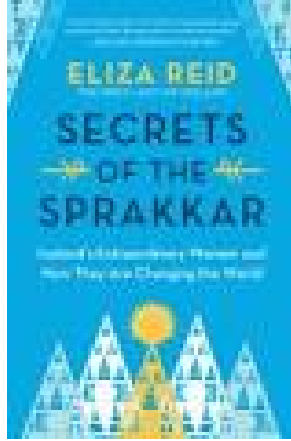
The Friends of the Library are having book sales on Sunday, April 3, 12-4 pm, Thursday, April 14, 10 am -4 pm and Sunday, April 24, 12-4 pm. The Friends' room can be accessed from its outside entrance. Attendees will be allowed in as space allows and must be masked. The time per visit is thirty minutes. Books are plentiful and the sale is a wonderful way to give back to... and support the library! If you have any questions, please send us an email at [books4all@bifriends.org](mailto:books4all@bifriends.org)

Friends of the Library continue to welcome donations of books in clean, undamaged, re-saleable condition during library open hours. (Damaged books just get recycled....at our expense.) Smaller quantities may be deposited in bins behind the hold shelves on the main floor. Larger quantities should be left inside the Friends door adjacent to the children's library downstairs. Friends can assist if present and a hand truck is available. You can also request assistance at [www.bifriends.org](http://www.bifriends.org). Please do not leave donations outside, in the drop box or request staff to assist.

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## Books Worth Sharing!





**Secrets of the Sprakkar**  
**By Seamas O'Reilly**

Sprakkar is Icelandic for extraordinary women. Part memoir, part cultural commentary, this marvelously insightful and inspiring look at one of the world's most gender equal countries is a joy to read! Eliza Reid, Iceland's First Lady, leads the reader on a journey through her adopted homeland from medieval legend to the day in 1975 when Iceland's women went on strike, to the stories and voices of contemporary athletes, artists, poets, musicians, corporate leaders, farmers, and the survivors of domestic violence. In what could be a blueprint for the world, Iceland took a practical, principled, and progressive path to giving women the equity that would benefit the entire country. By supporting health care, childcare, education and job equity, Iceland has created cultural and economic stability that has benefitted all aspects of life. In relating her own story of adapting to life in a new country, with a new language, a young and growing family, a career, and a meteoric rise to the governmental hierarchy Reid gives us a unique view into the extraordinary life of this small but mighty country. Her voice is warm, thoughtful and leaves the reader feeling like they have just spent an afternoon chatting by the fire with a strikingly intelligent new friend.

~ Susan Braun

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## Useful Community Links



As a community service for our newsletter readers, we are introducing a list of links to important local resources. We invite our readers to send us additional links to include in this list. If you have a link that you would like to suggest for inclusion, send it to [susangb01@aol.com](mailto:susangb01@aol.com).

- [Bainbridge Community Foundation](#)
- [Bainbridge Island Historical Museum](#)
- [Bainbridge Island Museum of Art](#)
- [Bainbridge Island Native Food Forest Field Guide](#)
- [Bainbridge Island Senior/Community Center](#)
- [Bainbridge Youth Services](#)
- [BARN \(Bainbridge Artisan Resource Network\)](#)
- [Boys and Girls Club of Bainbridge Island](#)



- [Helpline House of Bainbridge Island](#)
- [Housing Resources Bainbridge Island](#)
- [Island Volunteer Caregivers](#)
- [PAWS of Bainbridge Island and North Kitsap](#)
- [Raising Resilience](#)

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## Did You Know?

- **Bainbridge Public Library**, a separate nonprofit organization, owns, operates, and maintains the Library building and grounds through community donations and grants.
- **Kitsap Regional Library** provides the library staff, collection, classes, and a virtual library at KRL.org with funding from property tax revenues.
- **Together** we provide the quality library our community wants and has come to expect.

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## Be safe... Be well!



*"A library is a cross between an emergency exit, a life-raft and a festival—a cathedral of the mind; hospital of the soul; theme park of the imagination." ~ Caitlin Moran*

Find us on 

