

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND LIBRARY NEWS

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Vol. 8, No. 1

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

Summer 2005

Mark your calendar

These events take place in the library unless otherwise stated.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29

Summer tales: Storytelling at the library 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 4

Library closed. Independence Day
Join friends at the parade!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

Library Book Group. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 9

No Friends of the Library Book Sale this month.

SUNDAY, JULY 10

Batik - A Collaborative Art; a slide lecture by internationally acclaimed batik artists from Indonesia, Agus Ismoyo and Nia Fliam. 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13

Low Vision Support Group 1-3 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 19

Field's End Roundtable: Darryl Ponicsan discusses "The pros and cons of writing in the present tense." 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 29

Genealogy Group 10-12 noon

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3

Library Book Group. *A Very Long Engagement* by Sebastien Japrisot 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10

Low Vision Support Group 1-3 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16

Field's End Roundtable: Potluck and party to socialize and preview what's ahead at Field's End. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19

Genealogy Group 10-12 noon

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

Island Theatre Play Reading: *Getting Out* by Marsha Norman 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Library closed. Labor Day

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Library Book Group. *Cross Creek* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Low Vision Support Group 1-3 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Field's End Roundtable: Kristin von Kreisler discusses "How can a writer gain confidence?" 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Travel program co-sponsored by The Traveler Bookstore 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Speakers Forum. Egil Krogh presents "Lessons from Watergate: an insider's story." 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Autumn tales: Storytelling at the library 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Genealogy Group 10-12 noon



Photo by Eleanor Wheeler

Youngsters celebrate summer at a recent pre-school story hour. For news of children's and teens' summer activities, see pages 8, 9 and 14.

Upcoming Field's End attractions for fall

Field's End is expanding its usual offerings of courses, lectures and Writers' Roundtables with two new programs for islanders interested in the art and craft of writing.

More details will be published in the September Library News, but you may wish to add them to your calendar now.

On Oct. 8, children's author and lecturer George Shannon helps adults explore ways to dismantle a child's resistance to writing and revising, as

well as help develop a deeper sense of the story as play. The course is titled "Nurturing Children's Writing."

This class is offered twice, morning and afternoon, for an hour and a half each time. The fee of \$30 will go to the Jack Olsen Memorial Writers Assistance Fund. The fund provides tuition assistance for Field's End classes. Each session is limited to 25 participants.

Continued on Page 14

Field's End begins year with three new classes

Field's End, the writers' community affiliated with the library, begins its fourth year of classes with three new offerings this fall: instruction for polishing the opening of your novel, help forming or finding a writers group, and a craft class for prose writers.

Bharti Kirchner (see article on Page 6) will teach the one-day class "How to Write the First Page of Your Novel" on Saturday, Oct. 15.

The course is meant for anyone who has started a novel, or has even just seriously contemplated writing one.

Kirchner will seek to answer such questions as how do you hook the reader into a story with a stunning beginning? What should be left out for later? How can the opening page serve as a cryptic "road map" for the journey to come?

Besides exploring the methods behind successful beginnings of published novels, you will produce several versions of your own first page in the classroom.

The class will meet from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the library. Cost is \$80.

Many writers find a writers group helps them not only polish their work but pushes them to practice, practice, practice.

Island author Sheila Rabe, herself a member of two critique groups, will teach a one-day workshop on Saturday, Nov. 5 that will provide all the tools you need to put together a writers group from the ground up.

Come prepared to connect with other writers, set up initial meetings and possibly find the right group for you.

Continued on Page 2

Eighth year: Speakers Forum set

The popular Bainbridge Library Speakers Forum begins its eighth year this fall with a lineup of distinguished speakers. Known for expertise in their chosen fields, all are also renowned for their ability to captivate audiences.

The leadoff speaker, Egil Krogh, will share his "Lessons from Watergate: An Insider's Story" on September 25 at 4 p.m. With the new interest in Watergate spurred by the recent announcement of Deep Throat's identity, the Krogh lecture is expected to be a sellout.

Other speakers will be

•Steven Hanson, "Russia: Strategic Partner or Evil Empire?", October 9.

•Lillian Pitt, "Spirits Keep Whistling Me Home", October 30.

•P. Dee Boersma, "What Can Penguins tell Us about Our World and Theirs?", November 6.

•Thomas R. Jarboe, "Controlled Fusion a Route to Energy Independence", November 13.

•Mark N. Trahan, "Lewis and Clark Remembered as a Family Story", January 16, 2005.

All lectures begin promptly at 4 p.m. Sunday afternoons. Five of the speakers are sponsored by the Bainbridge Library Board. A sixth, bonus feature is the appearance of Lillian Pitt, an artist working in many media, her work rooted in her native tribal heritage. Her appearance is sponsored by Grant and Barbara Winther.

Tickets for the six-part Library Speakers Forum will be mailed by September 7 to annual subscribers. Order forms will be mailed this month to previous season subscribers. General series tickets are again \$45. Patron series tickets are \$60. All profits go to support the community-owned library.

Seating is limited to 110, and every year several speakers draw standing-room-only crowds.

Susan Bray, who first proposed the idea of a speakers' series eight years ago, continues as director of the program. She's enthusiastic about the group of distinguished experts who will speak this year.

"Our purpose is to promote the discussion of issues and ideas in a variety of fields," she notes. "Speakers are selected not only for their knowledge but for their ability to communicate with the audience."

Each lecture is followed by a question-and-answer session involving the audience.

Continued on Page 14

Special summer travel issue:

Visit Vietnam with Grant and Barbara Winther page 3

Great reads for armchair travelers, by Bayley and Goodrick.. page 13

The Indonesian connection: Batik comes to Bainbridge page 16

About our contributors. . . .

By VERDA AVERILL
Library News Editor

This summer issue of the Library News brings a lot of good reading for lazy summer days.

Many of your favorite writers are back. Look for informative and entertaining features from Nan Wooldridge, Martha Bayley, Gail Goodrick, Susan Wiggs, Julie O'Neill and Barbara Winther, among others.

A new feature is a column by **John Fossett**, Kitsap Regional Library's audio-visual collection manager. Fossett, a Bainbridge resident, is an excellent music man, who does his best to keep us supplied with CDs for our listening pleasure. He also promises to see that we have an update on the library's audio-visual offerings in every issue of the Library News.

Another rather new contributor is **Suzanne Selfors**, back again with an interview with **Richard Davis**, author of the New York Times bestseller, *Growing Up Catholic*. Both Selfors, a long-time Islander and popular freelance writer, and Davis are gifted wordsmiths. You'll enjoy her article on Page 5.

Since this is summer, the traditional travel season for families, our special theme for this issue is travel. You'll find lots of reading suggestions for armchair travelers; I especially like some of the books suggested by **Martha Bayley** and **Gail Goodrick** on Page 13. (My own long list of favorite travel books was cut sharply, because of the volume of articles



Suzanne Selfors

submitted for this issue. But you'll find a few editor's picks on Page 13 -- and more in the fall issue.)

Barbara Winther is well known as a Bainbridge historian, children's book author, and Native American art expert. (Her book on the Bainbridge Public Library, *They Like Noble Causes*, is a classic and copies are still available through the Friends of the Library.) For several years her Library News stories have featured long-time library patrons reflecting on Bainbridge history. But recently, she and her husband, Grant, have been traveling extensively around the world, so with this issue she takes a break from local history to share some of

their experiences as visitors in Vietnam. A list of good books on Vietnam is included since this is, after all, a library publication.

One of the most popular library programs for years has been the travel lecture series co-sponsored by The Traveler bookstore and the Bainbridge Library Board. Judging by the standing-room-only crowds this series draws, I expect Winther's travel articles, in this issue and beyond, to have wide readership.

Travel involves visitors to this country, and **Nan Wooldridge** writes on our arts pages of batik art that has traveled from Indonesia to Bainbridge as well as local history and environment (Queen Elizabeth's strawberries). You'll find those stories on Pages 16 and 15.

Susan Wiggs, best-selling Bainbridge author and Field's End activist, has written a terrific article on **Barti Kirchner**, the multi-talented author who will appear in an upcoming Field's End series. I recall meeting Kirchner at a writers' conference about a decade ago. Her versatility amazed me then, and she gets better as the years go by. Don't miss Susan's article (on Page 6).

Sharon Snyder's young people's pages (center spread) have lots of good reading. **Pat Miller** has provided some thoughtful book reviews, and **Julie O'Neill** has come up with summer reading ideas and a list of medical databases that will be of interest to everyone.

There's more, much more. So keep turning those pages, and enjoy your summer.

What's new at the library?

By CINDY HARRISON
Bainbridge Branch Manager

Dedicated Friday Tidy Volunteer Jean Atwater (who passed on her remarkably green thumb to daughter, Ann Lovejoy), is preparing a map of the library's gardens. Library patrons will soon have a handy identification guide to their favorite plants.

Over 80 new art and architecture books were recently added to the branch collection thanks to a generous grant from the Fletcher Bay Foundation in partnership with Bainbridge Arts and Crafts.

Just in time for your vacation, staff members can suspend your library holds (reserved items) while you are away. Your requests will be automatically reactivated on the date you request. Ask for more information at the checkout desk.

There were 136 entries for the Kitsap Regional Library Winter Reading drawing. Teresa Gann was the lucky winner of the book bag full of treasures including books, coffee, and chocolate. Bainbridge branch distributed 61 coupons to readers who completed the reading challenge and earned a prize latte. Bainbridge Bakers, Pegasus Coffee House and Blackbird Bakery donated drinks.

Bainbridge Friends of the Library funded 10 new computer tables that made it possible to move all computers closer to the one networked printer at the front of the library. This has created a "quiet zone" at the back of the library. Wireless users will also note upgraded connections in the study carrels.

Learning Express Library, an Electronic Resource linked from the Kitsap Regional Library home page, now offers the newest SAT full preparation course including an essay evaluation.

In recognition of the changing profile of our information world, ProQuest, another Electronic Resource, is adding translation capabilities to the thousands of articles in its database. It is now possible to instantly translate an English full text article to Spanish. Several more language options will soon be available.

Continued from Page 1

Fall Classes

You'll get hands-on experience with group procedures, participate in a sample critique session and end the day with a social mixer and a plan for your first group meeting.

Rabe has been a presenter at Field's End's monthly Writers' Roundtable series, and is known as a dynamic, creative workshop leader. She is the author of 16 novels, two works of book-length non-fiction and a series of gift books. She also has one recorded song to her credit.

"Care and Feeding of a Writers Group will meet from 10 to 3 p.m. at the library. Cost is \$100.

Cheryl Slean will be the instructor for the final fall class, "Craft for Prose Junkies," which will meet for six weeks on a weekday night. This is a class designed to empower writers to be their own best editors.

The class will consider three essential skills for both fiction and non-fiction writers: strong beginnings, balance of scene and summary, and the movement of time and transitions.

You will study how published authors have skillfully worked in these areas, and practice improving your own skill through in-class exercises. You will generate new work or revise an ongoing project, and leave the class with insights and editing techniques that will serve your writing forever.

Slean began her writing career in the Los Angeles theater where her gender- and genre-bending work "inspired both critical acclaim and contempt and collected a few awards along the way," she says.

She relocated to Seattle to complete an MFA in fiction writing; her prose has since appeared in many publications. She also writes and directs films; her work has screened at festivals worldwide and broadcast on public TV: "The Art of Waiting" won a Golden Knight award for best short at the Malta International Film Festival.

A 2003 Artist Trust/Washington State Arts Commission fellow, Slean has taught fiction, play- and screenwriting at the University of Washington, Seattle

University, UCLA Extension and the Hugo House in Seattle.

At Library News deadline, dates, time and tuition for Slean's class were not final. Information will be posted at www.fieldsend.org as it becomes available.

Field's End classes are open to writers of every skill level. Class flyers and registration forms will be available in the lobby of the library by the beginning of August.



One Call for All



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John L. Scott
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Visiting Vietnam:

A welcoming country where creativity abounds

By BARBARA WINTHER

We landed in Hanoi, northern Vietnam's largest city, in the middle of an unexpected cold spell that swept down from Siberia. Since the only clothes we had brought were for hot weather, we were forced to layer up with everything we had.

Then we set out to hunt for a shop that sold woolen hats and gloves.

We were lucky. Vendors popped up all over the sidewalks, balancing racks of warm clothing. We located one who

and avoid you."

The first time I tried it, I was petrified. It was all I could do not to freeze in the middle of the street. Motorbikes whizzed around me. But I kept going, slowly, steadily. Sure enough, I wasn't hit. However, I never did get over that sinking feeling each time I stepped into the maelstrom.

We were glad to leave the city and drive into the countryside. Fields were everywhere, people in them hard at work, many wearing peaked straw hats.

In a muddy rice paddy two oxen pulled a plow, operated by a man who walked behind with a whip. Nearby, women knelt in a dry field, pulling weeds.

In another dry field a woman hand-pumped a well, filling two

watering cans. She smiled and waved at us. Although she spoke no English, it was apparent she wanted us to watch and understand her job. Measuring what we assumed was fertilizer from a bag, she added it to the cans of water and then set the cans on a pole across her shoulders. As she walked over the field, she tipped the cans to nourish sprouted seeds.

We continued driving south, the weather growing warmer. One day we stood beside a flooded rice paddy where bent-over, barelegged women planted rice plants into evenly spaced rows. Even farther south, in a much warmer climate, we watched men and women harvest rice. We learned that here they could grow two crops a year.

Most communities and villages in

the countryside focus on a particular enterprise. The village of Tho Ha, for example, is known for making rice paper, the thin, round material used in spring rolls, a common food at nearly every meal. Large bamboo screens, propped up against walls along narrow streets hold precise rows of drying rice papers. As I walked along a street, the noontime sun reflected on the translucent papers in such a way that I seemed to move inside a lighted sculpture.

To make rice paper, spread a thin layer of rice gruel on a hot griddle, cook it just so, then peel it off. When I tried to do this, I failed miserably, my gruel too thick, the paper peeling off in a blob. The paper maker, who had allowed me to try the process, held her hand over her mouth as if to hide her laugh.

Vietnam is a welcoming country where creativity abounds.

One of the loveliest art forms is painting scenes with embroidery so delicate that when you stand back you swear it is an actual painting. Water puppetry is a unique art form, found no place else in the world. The puppets, operated by long rods, perform on the water's surface, dancing and cavorting in an amazing manner. A visit to the Thang Long Water Puppets Theatre of Hanoi is a must.

There is so much to tell you about Vietnam: Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), the Mekong Delta, the Champa ruins, the Cu Chi tunnels, Halong Bay, weddings, funerals...but my space is running out. I'll end with a list of library books that will give you more information about this fascinating Southeast Asian country.

Books on Vietnam

Butler, Robert Olen, *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*—a Pulitzer Prize book of short stories about Vietnamese people.

Gargan, Edward, *The River's Tale: a Year on the Mekong*—a travelogue of the 3,000-mile long river from China to Vietnam.

Kamm, Henry, *Dragon Ascending: Vietnam and the Vietnamese*—written in 1996 by a Pulitzer Prize winning correspondent.

Karnow, Stanley, *Vietnam: a History*—an excellent review of the country's history.

O'Brien, Tim, *The Things They Carried*—one of the best novels about the Vietnam war, wrenching and personal.

Sachs, Dana, *The House on Dream Street*—in the 1990s an American woman goes to live in Hanoi.

Sheehan, Neil, *After the War Was Over: Hanoi and Saigon*—in 1989 a journalist returns while the economy is still down.

Sullivan, James, *Over the Moat: Love Among the Ruins*—a bicycle-riding American falls in love with a Vietnamese woman.

Templer, Robert, *Shadows and Wind: a View of Modern Vietnam*—a journalist's well-researched look at today's Vietnam.

My husband, Grant, and I travel often to foreign countries to learn about other cultures and interact with the people. Beginning with this issue, I'll share our travel experiences and suggest library books that tell you about each country.



Harvesting rice.

spoke English. When I asked if he always sold this kind of merchandise, he shook his head.

"I adapt to the times," he said. **What we noticed as we walked along Hanoi's streets was the lack of cars and the overwhelming presence of motorbikes. Thousands of them.**

Most female riders wore bandannas over nose and mouth; males preferred surgical masks. They roared past, weaving in and out, bike horns constantly honking—a wild scene. We searched for crosswalks, stop signs, traffic lights. None.

"How do we cross the street?" I asked back at the hotel. "Slowly and steadily," was the reply. "Don't run and don't stop until you are completely on the other side. The drivers will judge your pace

Photos by Grant Winther



Fertilizing fields.

Facts about Vietnam

About 83 million people and 53 ethnic groups live in this long, narrow, S-shaped country, 60 percent under the age of 30. Although considered a Communist republic, only 2 million Vietnamese are Party members. The Chinese ruled for 1000 years, the French for 80 years. Add to this the devastation caused by wars, typhoons, floods and famines, and it is easy to see why Vietnam has had a difficult time catching up economically with the rest of Southeast Asia. Over the last 10 years, however, the economy has flourished: Vietnam is now the second greatest exporter of rice in the world (Thailand first, U.S. third); the middle class is growing; and 3 million tourists have visited the country.

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Your gifts help library to thrive

BY ANN LOVEJOY
Library Board President

Thank you all for the generous and ongoing support which helps us keep our doors open despite a challenging economy. The library board is profoundly grateful for donations of all kinds, whether they be cash, bequests and legacies, or daily gifts of time and talents.

Such gifts allow the library not just to survive but to thrive, providing well-attended programs like children's story times and the stimulating Speaker Forum organized by Susan Bray. Indeed, our library is so thoroughly loved and well-used that it is beginning to show wear and tear. With some 350,000 user visits a year, it is not surprising that carpets and furnishings will soon need replacement. While we are painting and refurbishing, we are also starting a program of repairs for aging equipment and facilities (including minor earthquake damage). Other current projects are designed to expand library use, such as replacing clunky old study tables with trimmer new ones that allow more users in the same space.

We are especially pleased with the progress of our new teen space which is transforming the Young Adult section on the main floor of the library. I hope you will take a look at the handsome timberbuilt structure designed and installed by Salisbury Hardwood Floors, using sustainably harvested woods and sound-resistant glass. Many young people contributed time, ideas, and energy to this still-unfolding project, which promises to be a fun place for teens to enjoy the library.

The initial phase of the teen space was made possible by a significant donation from the Friends of the Library, a tireless and energetic group that provides year-round support for many of the library's popular programs. Any library lover who would like to participate will find a warm welcome with the Friends, whose To Do list is varied enough to tempt anyone.

One of the library's most recent donors is Guadalupe De Luna, whose terrific crew installed the permeable pavers in our new parking lot last fall. This spring, his crew put in a low retaining wall at the far end of the parking lot. Lupe refused payment for this job because, as he put it, the library is good for *bambinos*.

The library certainly IS good for *bambinos*, and for islanders of all ages. Thanks for all the help in keeping it that way!

New entry for parking lots

This summer, watch for signs indicating a change to entry and exit patterns for library traffic. The terms of our parking lot permit require us to close off the old two-way entrance and replace it with a single entryway and a single exit. Once crews reconfigure the entries, the old entrance area will combine garden beds and more parking stalls. The new entrance into the new parking lot will become the only entry, while the only exit will be the exiting exit near the main library doors.

At the same time, we will be re-striping the parking stalls to help make our parking lot safer to use. To minimize problems, please respect the new lines and ignore the painted-out old ones.

We are also forced to ask that library patrons use the library parking lot only when actually visiting the library. Although the new lot is helping to relieve parking pressures, we don't have room for commuters and high school parking.

Mother-daughter garden project

The Friday Tidy Team has made thriving new gardens around the parking lots and is poised to install still more beds when the library entrances and exits are reorganized. To help you identify what's in bloom at any given time, the Friday Tidies are creating a scrapbook of plant portraits with names and brief descriptions of each one.

The scrapbook will be organized by bloom period, so patrons can look up flowers month by month and discover their favorites. The sketches and paintings are being done by Jean Atwater, a regionally renowned painter who retired to Bainbridge Island in 2002. The descriptions and notes are being compiled by her daughter.



Grosch joins Bainbridge Library Board

Caryl Grosch, a long-time library volunteer, was appointed to the Bainbridge Library Board early this year.

Grosch, who moved to Bainbridge from southern California nine years ago, has been an active volunteer in the arts community, her church, and many library functions. She formerly owned a small business in Winslow and now works as a volunteer at Islandwood.

As a board member she heads the busy communications committee and works closely with the fund-raising committee, which finds ways to maintain and operate the community-owned building without imposing any taxes on residents.

—At left, Caryl Grosch assists at a recent library thank-you party for donors.

Planning your giving

We Americans are among the most generous people on earth!

Perhaps you are one of these generous individuals and are considering a gift to charity. If so, a few moments of planning and a brief review of your personal and financial assets may be helpful in making the best gift choice. Here are some options:

Cash. (From checking, savings, money market accounts etc). Gifts of cash to qualified charities are easy to make and provide you with tax deductions (up to 50 percent of adjusted gross income.)

Appreciated Securities and Real Estate. Often a gift of appreciated property is a smarter choice, as it not only provides a benefit to the charity, but may provide you with capital gains tax savings as well. Although capital gains tax rates have declined for assets held long term (over 12 months), selling highly appreciated assets may still result in a hefty tax payment. Instead, hold onto your cash and gift that property to charity. You will receive a deduction based on the full fair market value of the asset and no tax on the appreciation. (The deduction is generally limited to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income.)

Insurance. Has that policy outlived its usefulness? Why not gift it to charity and receive a tax deduction! Still making payments on a policy? Donating that policy could again provide a tax deduction with subsequent premium payments providing additional deductions.

Gift of a Home or Farm with a Retained Life Estate. Do you want your favorite charity to receive your home or farm when you pass away? Gifting the remainder interest currently while retaining the right to remain on the property for life can provide substantial tax benefits.

Tangible Personal Property. Do you have candidates for the Antiques Road Show? Gifts of valuable collectibles (your Ming vase, valuable artwork), that has a related use to a charities function (an art museum), can again provide a deduction based on the

full fair market value with no capital gains tax on the appreciation.

Gifts that Give Back. There are also several gift arrangements that may provide the donor with payment benefits in addition to tax benefits. Consider these options:

Charitable Remainder Unitrust. Do you have appreciated property that you would like to sell? How about the lake cottage bought for \$20,000 and now worth \$200,000. Selling this property would mean paying capital gains tax on \$180,000 of appreciation. Instead, why not place this property into an irrevocable trust that each year will pay you a fixed percentage of the value of the trust (as valued annually) for your life. When you pass away the property will pass to your favorite charity. For example: if you funded this trust at age 87 with the appreciated cottage and retained a 5 percent payout from the trust, you would receive a current income tax charitable deduction of \$155,312. When the trust sold the property to make payments, no value would be lost to capital gains tax, and the net proceeds would be available for reinvestment. Based on a value of \$200,000, the first year payments would be \$10,000. Future payments would be based on the increased or decreased size of the trust.

Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust. Very similar to a charitable remainder unitrust, but your payment will always be a set annuity amount that will remain constant for the life of the trust.

There are other arrangements as well! Where to begin? Review your assets, then consult with your attorney or other tax and financial adviser on how best to meet your personal charitable and financial planning objectives.

Marite Butners, JD, LL.M.-Tax is System Director for Providence Health System and is a member of the Bainbridge Island Library Board. You may contact her through the Library.

'Buttercup' on life support; new bookmobile is needed

Sad but true, KRL's bookmobile, 22 year old *Buttercup*, has reached the end of her long productive life. While *The Kitsap County Regional Library Foundation* has raised \$110,000 toward paying for a new vehicle, they need your help to collect \$101,000 more to complete the fund.

The new bookmobile, twice *Buttercup's* size, will offer more books (the collection would grow to include 5000 items), expanded service, five or six days a week compared to *Buttercup's* two to three days, and under-the-shelf laptops for access to the online catalogue, data bases and the internet. The new bookmobile will also

have an expanded presence in those areas of the county where residents are underserved, including retirement centers and housing for older residents.

A bookmobile like the one KRL would like to purchase will be on display during the Annual KRL Foundation Gala to be held at the Poulsbo Library on October 1, 2005. More information about the new Bookmobile is available, along with a donation form, on the foundation page of the KRL website: krl.org. Or you can contact KRL Deputy Director of Regional Services, Carol Schuyler by calling 360-405-9127.

—Patricia Miller

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 local library users. Verda Averill is editor; contributing writers are all regular library volunteers.

Board members are Ann Lovejoy, president; Marc Adam, Janet Brookes, Marite Butners, Joan Gardiner, Caryl Grosch, Kevin Hawkins, Wyman Johnson, Jim Laughlin, Marlene LeMire, Kate McDill, Channie Peters, Jenifer Shipley and Val Tollefson. Branch manager is Cindy Harrison, Kitsap Regional Library representative is Althea Paulson.

Growing Up Catholic: An interview with Richard Davis

By SUZANNE SELFORS

With all the media coverage the Catholic Church is getting these days, it seemed timely that my next Bainbridge author interview focus on someone who writes about the Catholic experience. Enter Richard Davis, author of the New York Times best seller, *Growing Up Catholic*.

"Are you sure you want to interview me?" he asked over the phone. "After all, I'm not a literary writer. I'm just a humorist."

I assured him that humorists are as welcome in this paper as those who consider themselves members of the highbrow literati, especially a humorist whose book has sold over one million copies to date and spawned two sequels. *Growing Up Catholic*, first published in 1985 and re-released after the millennium, is a proven classic.

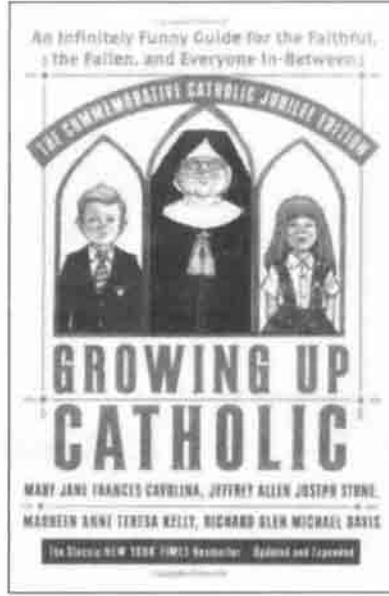
Davis's book came to fruition when he worked as a sales rep at William Morrow Publishing in New York. *The Preppy Handbook* was a huge success at the time and one of his co-workers suggested that a handbook for Catholics might be just as successful. Davis thought it a bad idea at first but after getting together with three friends who also worked at Morrow and brainstorming, the four realized that the

unique experience of Catholic schooling provided a wealth of material. Highlighting those experiences with humor turned out to be a gem of an idea.

"Part of my job at William Morrow was to talk to book buyers each week to check on sales and I was taking to a buyer at Waldenbooks and she said, 'Don't you want to hear how your book is doing?' I had no idea because there hadn't been any publicity yet, no advertising at all. It was flying off the shelves!"

Never blasphemous or inappropriate, Davis says, *Growing Up Catholic* will appeal to younger Catholics as well as the older crowd. The baby-boomer generation, to which Davis belongs, were schooled in the days when nuns still wore habits.

"We were often told that we should be soldiers of Christ and that we should be ready to lay down our lives if the Communists invaded. Many wondered if it was a sin to go to confession and make



up sins to confess since they couldn't think of any real sins they committed," he said.

At age 50, Davis currently lives half time on Bainbridge Island, where he rents a house near the Bloedel Reserve.

"My first Bainbridge rental had a full view of the Olympics. I woke up to that view every morning and it was just amazing. Add a bald eagle flying by and I was sold."

Soon after moving here, he discovered the theatre community, working as an associate producer on the Joe Bean musical and as a script consultant for Garrett Bennett's film, *Farewell to Harry*.

"There's such an amazing arts community here," he said. "Organizations like Island Theatre," of which he's a big fan.

Richard Davis was raised and schooled in Chicago. "I grew up near where Hemingway grew up and so early on I had a sense that being a writer

was romantic and important because Hemingway was locally celebrated so much. Writing just got into my head."

Working freelance, Davis has written satirical articles for the *Los Angeles Times Magazine* and for *Written By*, the magazine of the writer's guild.

He prefers to write in the late evening hours and he offers some advice to future writers. "The absolutely best way to ensure publication is to get a job with a publisher, like I did. You'll have access to everyone and that's key. It's the disconnect with agents and editors that is so difficult for most new writers."

He's currently working on a novel about everyday people who should be saints and hopes to send it off to his agent soon. During his months on Bainbridge he makes full use of the library. "It is essential in my research. I can't say enough about the library staff. I know when I go in I can ask anybody for help and they know what they're doing. Not all libraries have such a talented staff, believe me." He pulled his library card out of his wallet and waved it in the air. "I just love this card."

Growing Up Catholic, More Growing Up Catholic and *Still Catholic After All These Years* are available through the Kitsap Regional Library.

Upcoming roundtables summer 2005

Screenwriter and novelist Darryl Ponicsan will give some answers to the question, "What are the pros and cons of writing in the present tense?" at the July 19 Writers' Roundtable at the library, but you are invited to share your own ideas

The chance for local writers, professional or aspiring, to socialize and exchange insights is the goal of the free Roundtable series sponsored by Field's End, the writers' community affiliated with the library. Roundtables convene on the third Tuesday evening of every

month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the library.

August's Roundtable will be the third annual Roundtable social, an informal

Roundtables convene the third Tuesday evening of every month

good time for all members of the island's writing community. It's been a potluck the past two years, but the format may change this year – go to www.fieldsend.org for the latest update. August 17 also marks the beginning of process-

ing of applications for the fall series of Field's End's professional-level writing classes (see page one on fall classes.)

The final summer Roundtable features guest author Kristin von Kreisler, who will address "How can a writer gain confidence?"

Ponicsan is a novelist and screenwriter. Two of his books, *Cinderella Liberty* and *The Last Detail* were adapted for the

screen in 1973. He has also written or co-written many successful screenplays.

Von Kreisler is the author of several books and many periodical articles focusing on animals.

At every Roundtable, the guest author makes brief introductory remarks about the question of the evening. Following established format, participants then break into small discussion groups. After the groups report back, the authors summarize all the

Continued on Page 14

Continued from Page 6

Bharti Kirchner

Like most writers, Bharti Kirchner is a devoted fan and patron of the library. "Whenever I visit a new town somewhere, I check out the library first. That's as exciting to me as sight-seeing. Once when I was leaving a branch library with a stack of books under my arm, I ran into a man who works out in the same gym I do. He looked at me in amazement and asked, 'You not only lift weights but you read, too?'"

"To this day I am trying to figure out why one couldn't do both!"

The author believes that "In the library you're surrounded by brilliant minds. As if that's not enough, there

is the serendipity factor. Looking for a particular subject, I might pass by a shelf and something totally irrelevant would catch my eye. It might have nothing to do with what I was searching for, but could ignite a new idea or help in some other writing project later on."

This fall, Fields End will proudly feature a full-day workshop presented by Bharti Kirchner. The inspiring teacher and author will take on the writer's most daunting task of all—writing the first page of your novel. For more information about this special event, slated for October 15, 2005, please see www.fieldsend.org.

To learn more about the author, visit her web site at www.bhartikirchner.com. You can meet her in person at the Pacific Northwest Writers Conference, July 7-10 at the Airport Hilton hotel, and at the Willamette Writers Conference in Portland, August 4-7.

For your reading pleasure Bharti Kirchner recommends

Beach reads: *Beach Music* by Pat Conroy. Lose yourself in a rich, lush story that takes you from Rome to South Carolina.

Memoir: *My Invented Country* by Isabel Allende. A charming and poignant

memoir about a country (Chile) we know so little about.

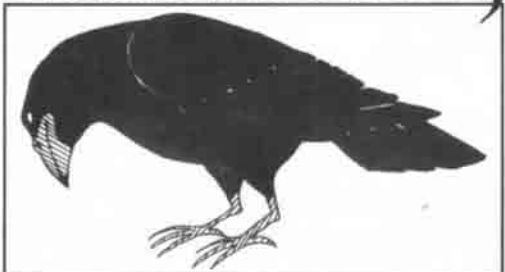
Humor: *I'm a Stranger Here Myself: Notes on Returning to America After 20 Years Away* by Bill Bryson.

This book is so humorous as to be often prescribed as a "hospital book," but can be enjoyed by anyone anywhere.

Political espionage: *Native Speaker* by Chang-Rae Lee. A literary work about loyalty and betrayal, an amazing first novel set in New York.

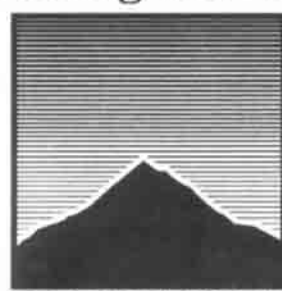
On writing: *Making a Literary Life* by Carolyn See. Told in an accessible and intimate voice, this memoir-cum-guide just might inspire you to write.

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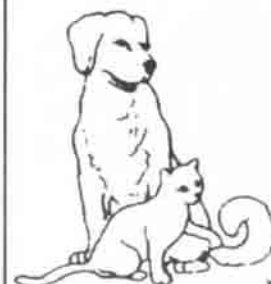
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Fun with food and fiction

Author Bharti Kirchner serves up both

By SUSAN WIGGS

Seattle author Bharti Kirchner has an appetite for both food and fiction. The award-winning cook has published four popular cookbooks, including *The Bold Vegetarian*. Her second, *Indian Inspired*, was selected among top 10 cookbooks of 1993 by *USA Today*. Her first, *The Healthy Cuisine of India*, was named by *Food Arts Magazine* as one of the best cookbooks of 1992.

The popular writer and teacher also has an appetite for fiction. Her body of work currently includes four critically acclaimed novels—*Pastries: A Novel of Desserts and Discoveries*, *Shiva Dancing*, *Darjeeling*, and *Sharmila's Book*. *Shiva Dancing* was chosen by *Seattle Weekly* as one of the top 18 books by Seattle authors in the last 25 years.

Kirchner has an international reputation. Her novels have been translated into German, Dutch, Spanish, Thai and other foreign languages. She has won two Seattle Arts Commission literature grants and a GAP grant from Seattle's Artist Trust.

The busy author has also written articles and essays for publications such as *Food & Wine*, *The Writer*, *Eating Well*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Northwest Travel*. Her personal essay will appear in the upcoming anthology: *Kiss Tomorrow Hello*. She is a freelance book reviewer for *The Seattle Times*.

Bharti Kirchner describes her latest novel, *Pastries: A Novel of Desserts and Discoveries*, as the story of "an American baker suffering career and romantic disillusionments. She decides to go to a baking school in Japan in hopes of rediscovering her love for baking and life."

"And *Darjeeling*, the novel just prior to that, is set in a tea plantation in the Himalayan Mountains. The story revolves around a family that breaks apart when two daughters fall in love with the same man."

Pastries was inspired by a trip the author made to Japan many years ago. "I happened to walk into a bakery, expecting to find bean paste-filled sweets. Instead, the showcase was crammed with beautiful French pastries – cakes, tarts, palmier, petit fours, etc. The face of a Japanese baker came into my head and I knew he had a story to tell but could figure out nothing more than that. When I came home, I forgot all about it."

"Many years later the idea came back to haunt me. And a journey began. The story started with a young American baker trying to cope with life, love, and a small business during the 1999 WTO riots in Seattle. Only later, Japan comes into play."



Author Kirchner's *Pastries* was inspired by a trip to Japan.

The author's books appeal to anyone who loves to read and wants something a little different, about characters they don't meet everyday. "Although on the surface *Pastries* seems to be about baking, it is really much deeper than that," Kirchner explains. "I go beyond the pure enjoyment aspect of consuming. And the central tension—how to lift your faith in yourself so you can withstand life's adversities – is experienced by almost anyone at some point in one's life. In the later part of the book I reveal a simple technique that, if followed, can result in a centered state of the mind, whether you're a baker or not."

She has always known that books can change lives. "At a book store reading, a man in the audience told me that the message in the book really hit him. Now that he feels calmer, he's cooking and baking more for his family."

"The book can be enjoyed on many levels. Each reader who e-mails me or speaks to me seems to discover something different. This amazes me."



The story is mostly set in Seattle's Wallingford neighborhood, and partly in Japan.

"This is the first time I have anchored a novel here," Kirchner says of her adopted neighborhood. "It's a chance for me to show my appreciation for the city that has been my home for the last 20 years. My Seattle readers seem to take delight in finding their familiar places in the book."

In both cookbooks and fiction, she writes about food with a palpable sense of realism, the result of keen observation and careful research.

"Readers also automatically assume I own a bakery and they want to visit it. I, however, never did own or operate a bakeshop. To give authenticity to the novel, I interviewed a few bakers and read volumes of trade magazines on restaurant management. I checked out many bakeries in town. At home I have always baked a lot. I have a feel for the baking processes. This is why I was able to create a fictitious French-inspired bakery, people it with bakers and customers, and make it seem like it really exists."

Bharti Kirchner is currently at work on her fifth novel, which takes place in both Seattle and India.

The author took a roundabout route to the writing life.

"My educational background is in mathematics. For many years I worked for IBM as a systems engineer. I transferred with IBM from San Francisco to Seattle in the mid-eighties. I traveled a lot in those days both for pleasure and business. Then, many years later, the writing bug bit me. I'd always read a lot and wanted to be a writer.

So I did the unthinkable: quit my lucrative day-time job to enter the risky world of publishing.

"It is as though I've lived three lives already. The software life, the cookbook writing life, and now the life as a novelist. Each stage has been fulfilling and has led me to the next."

"Seattle is a great city for writers. There are so many book people here, so much interest in the written arts. And the libraries here are user-friendly."

"My typical day starts early. I make a cup of tea and go to my home office and stay there the next two-and-a-half hours. I love the stillness. I listen to my thoughts and pay attention to the impressions on my head."

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One million words and counting:

The making of the Oxford English Dictionary

The Meaning of Everything,
By SIMON WINCHESTER
Reviewed by PATRICIA MILLER

In 1851, a committee of English gentlemen and scholars was charged with the task of writing a dictionary to include all the words in the English language.

Tentative efforts to corral what had become a burgeoning vocabulary began in the mid-1500s with brief collections of 'hard words' organized by various and obscure methods. These were followed by alphabetically arranged efforts that you and I would recognize as dictionaries, the best example of these, Samuel Johnson's.

What distinguished Johnson's dictionary from his predecessors', however, was his inclusion of examples of usage (for excerpts online, go to *the Samuel Johnson Sound Bite Page: Some of Johnson's Definitions*). This was an important acknowledgement that the English language is in a constant state of change, and that it "grows with an almost exponential joy".

Acceptance of change and growth also accounts for the great gap in numbers of words between English and other languages. In his 1986 book, *The Story of English*, Robert MacNeil estimated English vocabulary at 500,000 words (en route to a million, see below) compared to German at 185,000, and French at fewer than 100,000 words with

definitions "established, approved and firmly set by The Academie Francaise", no wiggle room allowed.

When the committee of English gentlemen gathered to plan their dictionary, they opted for Johnson's method. All words would be defined, of course, and their etymological history included, but the examples of usage would be primary in describing their meaning. Most remarkable, English speakers in every corner of the world were offered the opportunity to collect sentences from their reading, write them down on slips of paper and submit them to the committee. Their effort began in 1851, but there was no actual work done until 1860. Then in 1869, work took off in earnest under the direction of James Murray, a classic 19th century English eccentric. Murray, though his formal schooling had ended when he was 14, was endlessly curious, "a walking bank of eclectic knowledge".

In the years that followed, he and his associates, including his 11 children, labored over the dictionary in a "small shed-like structure" in his back yard. The expectation had been that the dictionary would be complete within 10 years, but it was not until 1928, long after Murray's death, when the first edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary* was published. Inside the "unbelievably big—fat, heavy, shelf-bendingly huge"

tome were 415,825 words along with their etymologies, definitions, and literary quotations mailed in from thousands of English speakers.

Sixty years later in 1989, a newly revised edition defined 615,100 words, and a current revision now in process will define more than one million words.

If Winchester's *The Meaning of Everything* inspires you to delve deeper into the origins, varieties and vagaries of the English language, you might want to read *The Madman and the Professor*, another of Winchester's books about the OED. Robert MacNeil (formerly of PBS News fame) has a new book titled *Do You Speak American*, along with its companion PBS production, but his earlier book *The Story of English*, written in conjunction with Robert McCrum and William Cran, is my favorite of the two, and is perhaps more reader friendly than Winchester's. All three books are available from the Kitsap Regional Library.

Reviewer Patricia Miller is facilitator of the Library Book Group.



Patricia Miller

Four looks back at 'the good old days'

By PATRICIA MILLER

The late William Manchester characterized Medieval Europe as "a mélange of incessant warfare, corruption, lawlessness, obsession with strange myths, and an almost impenetrable mindlessness". No wonder the era generates so much interest among modern readers. Manchester's book, *The World Lit only by Fire*, one of four discussed here, provides a broad overview of the times, while Ross King's *Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling* focuses on medieval politics and the explosion of art that began the Renaissance. *Over the Edge of the World*, Laurence Bergreen's book on Magellan, concentrates on exploration, and *Out of the Flames*, by Lawrence and Nancy Goldstone, explores a lesser known corner of The Reformation.

The first stirrings of the Renaissance came in the early 1400s, when, says Manchester, "the artists began to arrive—led by the greatest galaxy of painters, sculptors and architects ever known," including, of course, Raphael and Michelangelo, the subjects of Ross King's *Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling*.

The Pope in question is Julius II, the warrior pope, a man of manic energy and of broad, though not necessarily spiritual interests.

Michelangelo was an ill-tempered, homely fellow, says King, harassed by his impecunious father and a ne'er do well brother, and, strangely, a loyal follower of the radical monk Savonarola of *Bonfire of the Vanities* fame. His personal hygiene was considered appalling even by his contemporaries; he slept, the author tells us, in his clothing, including his boots, and washed so infrequently that when he removed his boots the skin from his feet came with them. As he labored unhappily on the ceiling

of the Sistine Chapel, his rival and opposite number in almost every way, the handsome, charming Raphael, illuminated the walls of Pope Julius's apartments.

King's book includes details of the artists' craft, of Julius's numerous campaigns, and of cutthroat European politics.

The shattering of the Dark Ages, and all that those times represent in excess, cruelty and ignorance, was made inevitable, says Manchester, by Magellan. In *Over the Edge of the World, Magellan's Terrifying Circumnavigation of the Globe*, Laurence Bergreen characterizes Magellan as a man of overweening ambition. His plan was to sail west to the Spice Islands, but more important, to be the first man to circumnavigate the world. When Portugal refused to support his project, he fled to Spain where he successfully petitioned King Charles the First. Author Bergreen has gleaned grandly illustrative details from Venetian scholar Antonio Pigafetta, who was hired on to "keep a record of the voyage, not the dry factual pilot's log, but a more personal, anecdotal and free-flowing account."

Pigafetta shadowed Magellan as he officiated over every detail of preparation, all the while battling Spanish and Portuguese efforts to undermine his project. But his meticulous attention to detail in no way prepared him and his men for what lay ahead.

His five small vessels were dogged by a Portuguese flotilla with orders to sink them, and he put down two attempted mutinies. He brought his ships through the terrifying seas of the Straits of Magellan only to be stunned by the realization that the Pacific Ocean was many times larger than he had planned for. All the horrors of life at sea: the stench of rotting food and close quarters, scurvy, sexual intimidation and brutal

punishment are catalogued here along with Pigafetta's detailed notes describing the bizarre customs of native tribes they encountered.

Magellan's ambitious undertaking came to an ignominious end; he was slaughtered in the Philippines when he inexplicably veered from his original goal in order to undertake an ill-conceived effort to convert the natives to Catholicism.

Only one ship of the original five returned to Spain with 18 men aboard (including Pigafetta), the last of the original 260 who had embarked three years earlier.

Devout Catholic that he was, Magellan could not have conceived of anyone, let alone an obscure German monk, challenging the Church. In *Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling*, Ross King describes 27-year-old Martin Luther's first, and only, visit to Rome in 1510.

Scandalized by the corruption he witnessed there, the idealistic young monk returned to Germany where

Continued on Page 14

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Children's Corner

Activities of interest to young people and their families

By SHARON SNYDER
Young People's Librarian

Spring and early summer always fill me with a sense of possibility. A nameless energy visits me like an old friend. It calls me out of the familiar and the known into something new and uncertain. It compels me forward.

Does this happen to you?

Some of the new features in the young people's area of the library are designed to facilitate your sense of exploration. We want to help you find what it is you are looking for and open more paths of discovery.



Sharon Snyder

Photo by Gail Christensen



Photo by Sharon Snyder

Sarah Berschinski and Rebecca Kane Skotheim share one of the notebooks found in the reader's corner on a recent visit to the library.

Reader's corner

A room full of books can be intimidating. Where does one begin? The Reader's Corner, located at the entrance to the young people's area along one side of the checkout desk, has some informal notebook treasure maps to serve as guides.

Use one to locate picture books on animals, pirates or princesses. Use another to locate lists of juvenile fiction or chapter books recommended for middle school guys or books that present girls as strong protagonists or books that are simply humorous. You'll even find further recommendations for those who like Harry Potter or Lemony Snicket. Titles found in these notebooks may be found on Bainbridge Branch shelves or through KitKat, our online catalog for Kitsap Regional Library.

There are more formal resources such as, *Best Books for Children: Preschool Through Grade 6*, by John T. Gillespie. Not all titles listed in this work will be found on our shelves or in KitKat. Our staff will be happy to help you in your quest.

New magazine display rack

You may have noticed our new magazine rack at the entrance to the young people's area across from the checkout desk. Our Friends of the Library group purchased this beautiful new piece to help streamline our collection display and make better use of existing space.

Please note the front panel opens like a cupboard door and past issues available for checkout are stacked on the shelves inside.

Juvenile nonfiction

Condensing the space devoted to magazines allowed us to shift the entire juvenile nonfiction collection. If you are used to finding books on dinosaurs, crafts or countries of the world in a certain place, you'll find they have all shifted to the left.

New area for juvenile popular series books

The space created by the above shift allowed us to create a new area for our juvenile popular series books. You'll find a number of series books such as: *Animal Ark*, *Dear America*, *Dinotopia*, *Hank the Cowdog* and more tucked into the back corner of our juvenile section between the nonfiction collection and two of our public computers.

New area for stepping up books

Shifting some of our public computers created a new space for a collection we call stepping up books. In it you will find easy chapter books like those found in the *Magic Treehouse* and *Junie B. Jones* series as well as individual titles that offer larger type and pictures. These books serve as a transition for young readers who have moved past classic easy readers like *Frog and Toad Are Friends*, but are not quite ready for the fine type and dense writing of the more advanced chapter books found in juvenile fiction.

Yes. We've been busy. The colossal volume of shifts that have taken place over the last few months would not have been possible without the generosity, creativity and hard work of our Friends of the Library group, staff and many young volunteers.

We believe the changes will introduce children and families to titles and collections they have not yet explored. We hope to encourage a journey of discovery for you and yours.

Volunteers needed

Big event volunteers

Do you like working with kids? Do you like helping out at big events?

We need some bright young people age 9 and up who would like to help with our summer reading program events at St. Cecilia's this summer. These events often attract well over 100 people each. We need volunteers to help put up signs and balloons, greet children and families and show people around.

If you are interested, please sign up at the checkout desk in the young people's area at the library.

Event Dates:

Tuesdays, July 5 & 19, August 2 & 16

Time Required: 10:00 to 11:30am

Summer reading volunteers

Do you like working with kids? Would you enjoy reading picture books aloud to younger children at the library?

We need some bright young people age 9 and up who would like to serve as summer reading volunteers (SR volunteers). Several mornings this summer, we plan to have trained volunteers ready

to read books aloud to children who visit the library with their families this summer.

If you would like to be a volunteer at the library this summer, please sign up with Sharon, the young people's librarian, before July 5. Training will be provided.

Read aloud dates:

Tuesdays, July 12 & 26, August 9 & 23

Wednesdays, August 3, 10, 17 & 24

Time: 10:30-11:30am

Kids sharing books

Families are invited to drop by the library any time we are open.

Families with young children are especially invited to drop by the library on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings during July and August.

Bright, young summer reading volunteers will be reading some of their favorite books aloud to visiting children in the young people's area. Stay for a few minutes or stay for an hour.

Dates:

Tuesdays, July 12 & 26, August 9 & 23

Wednesdays, August 3, 10, 17 & 24

Time: 10:30-11:30am



Stefani and Lilia Paul, second from left and far right, served as summer reading volunteers last summer and took turns reading aloud to Olivia Glick, left, Maeve and Jean-Luc Boon, center and second from right.

Photo by Sharon Snyder

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Dad's dilemma: Which books to pick

By ROBERT J. COMBS

I remember three things from kindergarten: Willy Hepler pouring yellow paint on my drawing of a horse, wearing pipe cleaner antlers for the Christmas play, and my teacher, Mrs. Dunn, walking our class down to the Bainbridge Library for the first time.

We all had to hold hands and wore nametags safety pinned to our jackets. I remember when we walked inside being told to find a mat to sit on and Mrs. Dunn hushing us to be quiet. I don't recall what that first book read to us was, but I do remember whispering to my best friend Jonathan, "This is neat!" It still is.

I come to the library on a regular basis and now my son, Joey, comes with me. He is 3 years old, and like a lot of 3 year olds is quite independent. What that really means is that he's picky. So how do I pick out books he'll like?

Recalling book titles from kindergarten is improbable.

I should admit that I am biased, or maybe just cheap. I don't want to pay for cable TV, so Joey and I read. We read a lot. It is because we do, that I have uncovered the first essential element for choosing books for kids: go to the library regularly. We walk into the building, on average twice a week for about 20 minutes each time.

I aim for the scheduled storytimes so I can look for books while Joey is engaged. I look for books the way most of us do, by scanning the cover and flipping them open. A good way to get the good ones is to ask myself if it looks interesting to me. Children's authors are generally under appreciated for talent, but that doesn't mean the stories aren't fantastic. If I like it, then Joey probably will too.

Read *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimb*, by Robert C. O'Brien, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, by Scott O'Dell, *The*

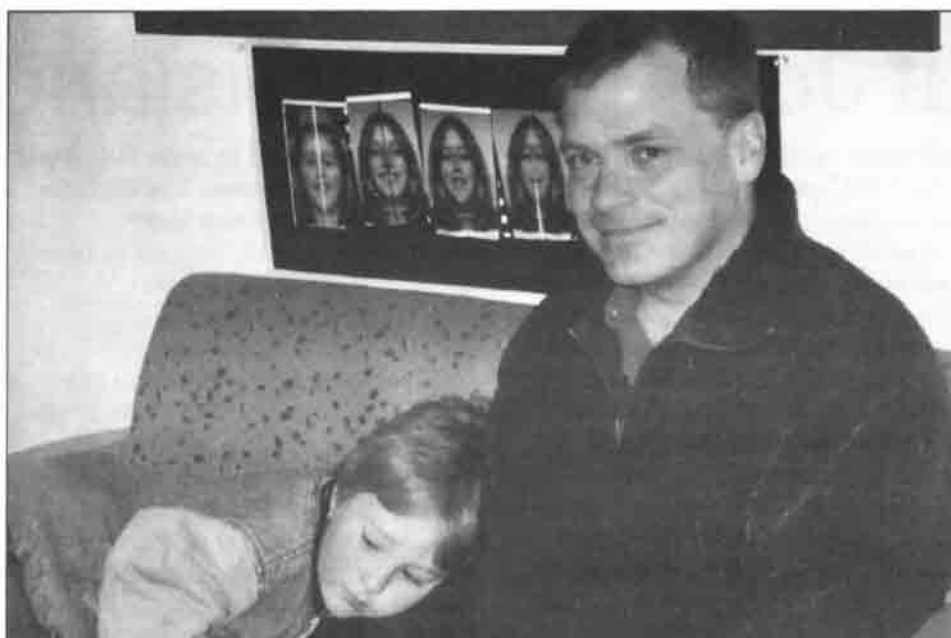


Photo by Sharon Snyder

Robert Joseph Combs, guest writer, with son Joe James, age three.

Mouse and the Motorcycle, by Beverly Cleary or any Beverly Cleary book for that matter; *Cricket in Times Square*, by George Selden, any of the 27 Tintin titles by Herge, and you'll see what I mean.

Stuart Little, by E.B. White, *Henry Climbs a Mountain*, by D.B. Johnson are some others. The Arthur series of picture books, by Marc Brown offer intelligent storylines that parents can enjoy as much as kids do.

I pick books with silver and gold stamps on the covers. In case you were wondering, these are awards for excellence called the Caldecott and the Newbery. Any of these is a sure winner and the library has title lists available.

I'm not sure if the librarians want us to pick books off those carts that are always parked on the floor somewhere, but I figure if somebody liked it enough to check it out, I might too. (Librarian's note: the whole staff is happy for you to select books from the parked carts.)

Don't be shy about pulling books off the shelves. If you don't remember where you got one, you can always put it on a table or on one of the carts.

The single most effective way I've found to pick great books for my son is to check out in **volum**e. We get a lot of books every time we visit the library.

I encourage you to make the printout you receive at the check out desk resemble the one you get from Costco. Checkout all books that even remotely interest you. Sure your kids might not like some, but you've got another 10-15 to choose from. Just remember where they all are so you can get them back on time. Having a bookshelf that is my son's alone helps with this.

My last bit of advice, **read**. Read to your kids every single day. One of the strongest connections you can make with your kids can come from reading. Besides, aren't you tired of *Bob the Builder* and *Thomas the Tank Engine*?

'FUNdamental reading' for kids

By ELEANOR WHEELER
Young People's Library staff



Eleanor Wheeler

With abundant free time, summer is perfect for reading just for pleasure. And - don't tell the young people - summer reading also reinforces and strengthens reading skills.

We hope your entire family has fun reading this summer.

To make it easier to find many of our most popular books in series, we have rearranged our juvenile fiction. We now have books that are part of a large series, such as the Hardy Boys, against the wall next to the two public computers. If you are in a hurry, this is an easy place to find an enjoyable read.

Or, perhaps you will look on the juvenile fiction shelves for some of these new books that I recently enjoyed.

The Boxes, by William Sleator

If your favorite uncle went on a trip and left you with two boxes that you were absolutely not supposed to open, what would you do? Find out what

Annie does in *The Boxes*. This is a science fiction novel, and it is scary! It should appeal both to boys and girls.

Wild Ride to Heaven, by Leander Watts

This is another scary story, but this one is firmly rooted in reality. Combining historical fiction and suspense, *Wild Ride to Heaven* is an action story about good and evil, and about courage and

meeting challenges. Because Hannah's eyes are strange, many people believe she is a witch. At first, you speculate that they may be correct. But as the story develops, you realize that nothing is supernatural.

101 Ways to Bug your Teacher, by Lee Wardlaw.

Kids will enjoy reading about some of the creative ways to bug a teacher. Parents and teachers will be reassured that "Sneeze" Wyatt is really an outstanding student who is under a great deal of stress and who returns to being a super student as the book winds down. Kids, and their parents and teachers, should find this book very funny!

Millicent Min, Girl Genius, by Lisa Yee

Continued on Page 14

Young people's calendar

Storytime

- WEDNESDAY, JULY 6
Storytime for Little Ones, 10:30am
- WEDNESDAY, JULY 13
Storytime for Little Ones, 10:30am
- WEDNESDAY, JULY 20
Storytime for Little Ones, 10:30am
- WEDNESDAY, JULY 27
Storytime for Little Ones, 10:30am

Children's and Family Programs

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29
Summer Tales: Family Storytelling at the Library, 7:00 - 8:00pm

TUESDAY, JULY 5
Summer Reading Program Event: Cowboy Buck, 10:30am
Location: St. Cecilia's Catholic Church across the street from Bainbridge Public library.

TUESDAY, JULY 19
Summer Reading Program Event: Jonathan Drake, 10:30am
Location: St. Cecilia's Catholic Church across the street from Bainbridge Public Library.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2
Summer Reading Program Event: Bob Bailey III, 10:30am
Location: St. Cecilia's Catholic Church across the street from Bainbridge Public Library.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16
Summer Reading Program Event: Eric Ode, 10:30
Location: St. Cecilia's Catholic Church across the street from Bainbridge Public Library.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31
Popsicle Party, 10:30am
Location: Bainbridge Public Library

Continued on Page 14

Popsicle Party

Popsicles and good conversation are a great way for children and families to celebrate the end of summer and the summer reading program before jumping into fall. All ages are welcome.

Wednesday, August 31
10:30am - 12:30pm



Photo by Sharon Snyder

Jane and Charlotte Bunch at the popsicle party last summer.



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For easy summer listening:

Check out John's desert island disc list

By JOHN FOSSETT
Audio Collections Manager



Musicman
John Fossett

While on vacation I had time to read the April 2005 issue of *Guitar Player* magazine. The featured article was "The 101 Greatest Moments In Guitar History".

The author discussed significant moments in the evolution of the guitar. I found it quite informative and thoroughly enjoyable. It seems many of the music magazines are using a similar ploy to sell their issues.

In its April '05 issue *Spin* magazine has "The 66.6 Greatest Goth Moments", *Rolling Stone* issue # 972 features "The Immortals: The 100 Greatest Artists of All Time". I question the legitimacy of that list because the author places Prince and Nirvana above Eric Clapton and The Allman Brothers Band.

In fact nearly every new issue of *Rolling Stone* magazine features a version of some "Best of..." list. All of them are flawed for what they omit as well as what they include.

With so many lists available to the public, I decided to add my own to the mix.

I used the "Desert Island Disc" (DID) format. For those of you who remember

the weekly music magazine *The Rocket*, which was available at any Puget Sound record store, you would be familiar with the term DID. Every issue of *The Rocket* included reader submitted DID lists. The idea is you are stuck on a desert island and have to choose 10 discs to listen to. Please don't ask how you'd play the discs on a desert island. That's another problem.

I was sitting on a rather secluded beach when the whole DID idea came back to me. As I lazed near the coconut palms on white sand, by the gentle surf, being cooled by the ocean breeze, I began to compose my list. A word of caution dear reader. While the core composition of this list doesn't change, some titles move onto the list and others move off from time to time.

I've listed the titles alphabetical by artist:

The Allman Brothers: Eat A Peach
The Band: The Band
The Beatles: Abbey Road
The Clash: Sandinista
Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young: Four

Way Street

Miles Davis: Kind of Blue
Derek & the Dominos: Layla and Other Assorted Love Songs

Bob Dylan: Blood On the Tracks
The Grateful Dead: Europe '72
Jimi Hendrix: Electriclady Land
It's A Beautiful Day: It's A

Beautiful Day

Led Zeppelin: II & IV (tie)
Van Morrison: Poetic Champions

Compose

Pink Floyd: Dark Side of the Moon

Rolling Stones: Exile On Main Street
Bruce Springsteen: The Wild, The Innocent & the E Street Shuffle
Ten Years After: A Space In Time
U2: Joshua Tree
Doc Watson: Memories
ZZ Top: Tres Hombres

You've probably noticed that I have more than 10 titles. In fact I have 21 titles. Just think of my list as two DID's. I feel a need to clarify the tie for *Led Zeppelin II & IV*. I couldn't choose between the two because "Stairway to Heaven" is *Led Zeppelin*'s greatest composition as well as one of the greatest Rock'n'Roll songs of all time. I must admit, when I heard the opening arpeggios drifting up from my family room last fall, as my son was learning the song on his Stratocaster, it brought a tear to my eye. However, *Led Zeppelin II* is full of great songs with thick rhythm guitar and juicy licks that most aspiring guitarists attempt to duplicate at one time or another. Didn't every 14 year-old boy, from my generation, want to be Jimmy Page?

After compiling the list I checked the catalog to make sure the library had the discs in the collection. I wasn't surprised to see that several titles from my DID list were "missing". It's sad that the borrowing concept is wasted on some of the people who use the library. It spoils it for the 99.9% of our patrons who are responsible. I guess it could be taken as a left-handed compliment in that we buy stuff worth stealing.

Either way, you'll see nearly all of

the branches taking preventative action by keeping Rock'n'Roll discs (and some other genres depending on which branch you visit) behind the circulation counter. The cases you see displayed on the shelves are empty. You get the disc when you check the item out.

In closing I must confess that it is difficult for me to say where my professional life stops and my personal life begins because two of my passions, music and movies, are things I get to explore both at work and at home.

In my job I get to read about, preview, watch, and listen to a wide variety of movies and music. That's not to say the library pays me to watch videos, quite the contrary. My movie watching is done on my own time, but they do pay me to purchase for the library's entertainment and non-fiction video collection as well as the music collection. Keeping an eye on trends and reviews, I try to make Kitsap Regional Library's audio-visual collection the best possible by staying on top of what's available for all genres of music and movies. I love this job!

So go out and build your own DID's. I have replaced the missing titles so look for them soon and support your local musicians.

PS. Check out www.ruxtontowers.com an up and coming rock band from Bremerton and Olympia. Their songs have a maturity that betrays the band members' ages. Go to their site to hear their music. It's worth the trip.

Audio books turn chores into pleasures

By JOAN PEARSON
Library Patron

All my life I have wanted someone to read to me. Then along came audio books. Before long I was reading 35 to 40 audio books a year.

When I talk to people about audio books, they usually mention enjoying audio books on a cross-country driving trip or - less often - how audio books have enhanced their commute. Audio books and driving seem linked in people's minds. But I work from home and most of my audio reading is done while walking the dog, doing laundry or the dishes and gardening. And audio books - believe it or not - have turned these chores into the most pleasant parts of the day.

How can a task be onerous if you are listening to Elizabeth Bennet's reading the letter from Darcy that began her change of heart toward him or to John F. Kennedy's deft handling of the Cuban Missile Crisis?

There is something of a trick to listening to audio books while doing chores. You need to be confident that the cassette player will stay on while walking, or stooping or kneeling. I've rigged up a waist carrier that

clips on to belt loops. The carrier has zippers so that the cassette or CD player fits snug inside. The earphone cord needs to be between two layers of clothing or secure in some other way. Otherwise the cord can catch on doorknobs or stove knobs.

Neither cassettes nor CDs are without their flaws. But, over time, I have found ways to fix most problems that arise. Cassettes sometimes start sounding like they are playing under water. When this happens, remove the cassette and slap it hard against a hard flat surface. Not too hard, though, cassettes are plastic and can break. If this doesn't work, you may need to fast forward the tape to the end and back to the beginning. Generally these "fixes" can be done when you are out on a walk. There have only been one or two occasions when I was unable to "fix" a tape using one of these methods. With CDs, the problem is dirt. If the CD starts to skip, wipe it with a clean dry cloth and it should be fine.

Listening to books is different than reading them. It's almost impossible to resolve confusion that may arise about an earlier event that turns about to be pivotal to the story. So, initially, you might want the hard copy

available to get back to the place that can answer your question. You may also develop a sense for these events and replay parts you suspect may be important later on.

While there are some challenges to listening to books, there are also delights unavailable in the written word. A good narrator transforms an audio book into an artistic performance, akin to the days of radio programs of the 1930s and 1940s. Lisette Lecat's narration of *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency* has the rhythm of English spoken by Africans; Julie Harris' narration of *West with the Wind* conveys the breathtaking magic of Beryl Markum's flights over Africa, reminiscent of Karen Blixen's first flight with Denys Finch-Hatton in the film *Out of Africa*; Frank McCourt's reading of his book *Angela's Ashes* alters the misery and sorrows of the written version into a tale filled with many laugh-out-loud passages.

If you like to read and feel that there are "too many books, and too little time," audio books offer a way to shorten your "to read" list. And, who knows, your list of chores may become welcome opportunities to parachute back into a tale and a time that you are eager to resume!

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Internet search can be tricky

Where to find reliable health information

By JULIE O'NEILL
Reference Librarian

Finding reliable health and medical information on the internet can be tricky. Search for "diabetes" on Google and you will be deluged with over 30 million websites. And while you can be pretty sure that the first hit, the American Diabetes Association, will have good, relevant information, what about hit number two, Diabetes.com? Just who sponsors this and is the information up-to-date and reliable? And hit number 10, Diabetes Mall, turns out to be an advertisement for medical products.

Here are a few suggestions for zeroing in on the best health information.

Kitsap Regional Library provides access to the [Health and Wellness Resource Center](#), a subscription database containing consumer health articles from major journals and newspapers, personal health assessment tests, consumer drug and herb information, lists of clinical

trials and sources for information on alternative therapies. You can access this database from home or at the library: go to the library's homepage www.krl.org, click on "search electronic resources" and choose the Health and Wellness Resource Center.

Google isn't a bad place to start if you are looking for specific health organizations such as the American Heart Association, or the Mayo Clinic, or Harvard Medical School, and this may be a good way to find support groups and local resources, as well as specific alternative therapies.

Because evaluating other consumer health websites is so hard, the Medical Library Association has selected and recommends the following "best medical websites" for the general public:

MedlinePlus (<http://medlineplus.gov/>) Most experts suggest starting your search with MedlinePlus, a service of the National Library of Medicine. MedlinePlus provides easy-to-use, up-

to-date information on over 300 specific diseases, conditions and wellness issues, and includes patient information on symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, drug information and complications. There are links to authoritative websites for each topic as well as drug information by generic or brand name, and clinical trials.

Healthfinder (<http://www.healthfinder.gov/>) Sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services, Healthfinder is a gateway to online journals, medical dictionaries, prevention and self-care issues as well as many major health topics.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/) Of special interest to the consumer are "Health Topics A-Z" and "Travelers' Health" with recommendations for worldwide travelers.

Health Web (<http://healthweb.org/>) Sponsored by major medical institutions in the Midwest, Health Web offers a searchable list of medical topics.

Mayo Clinic (www.mayoclinic.com/) Over 2000 physicians, scientists, writers and educators at the Mayo Clinic provide health information for patients and the general public.

Medem (<http://medem.com/>) Sponsored by many leading medical societies such as the AMA, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, this site was developed to provide "a trusted online source for credible, comprehensive, and clinical healthcare information."

Oncolink (<http://oncolink.upenn.edu/>) Cancer news, book reviews, disease information and patient support links makes this the leading cancer website. It's maintained by the University of Pennsylvania Cancer Center.

Check out the Medical Library Association's other website

Continued on Page 14

Friends' book sales help library in many ways

By TEGAN WALLACE

If you've ever been to a Friends of the Library book sale at the library, you know it's a great place to find bargains. You may also know the sales are run entirely by Friends' volunteers. But what you may not know is just how much the sale proceeds do for so many different areas of our library. Through funds raised from book sales, and also from the upstairs magazine rack, Friends have been able to give to many programs, including:

- \$15,000 to the Library Board for bills, repairs, and other expenses. This is up from the \$10,000 given last year.
- Up to \$10,000 in matching donations with the Library Board for a teen center. This sound-proof glass building was constructed off-site and is being installed on the upper floor of the library over Memorial Day weekend.

- \$6874 to purchase 10 custom-built computer tables for the upstairs section of the library.

- Over \$4,000 annually to the Children's Library. This includes nearly \$2,000 for care and maintenance of the aquarium and its occupants, \$725 for a custom-built magazine rack, and \$600 to bring in readers, as well as cover the cost of snacks and publicity, for the children's story time.

- \$1,000 to Kitsap Regional Library to support the Children's Summer Reading Program.
- \$721 for new and continuing magazine subscriptions. So far this year,



25 new titles have been added to the racks, including *American Photo*, *Alternative Medicine*, *Home Education Magazine*, *Sky & Telescope*, *Wooden Boat*, and *Checkbook*.


•\$485 to support the opera series with Norm Hollingshead. This popular program began several years ago with only a small audience. Now Norm's talks draw up to 50 attendees per session, including a core group of regulars.

Friends also provide lunch for the annual library staff meeting, decorations during the holidays, and many other things that ensure the library, its employees, and its patrons, are well cared for.

Please keep in mind that the success of library book sales and magazine rack sales depends on the quality of the books and periodicals received. With

sales booming, there is always need to replenish the shelves. This is especially true of the magazine rack, which brought in \$700 last month. Monthly, specialty, and women's magazines are always in high demand. As always, please ensure donations are clean, free of any odd odors, and do not have loose pages.

In addition to donations, Friends of the Library always have a need for volunteers to sort books and cashier at sales. Anyone interested in donating their time can contact Kathleen Bullivant through the library at 842-4162. It should be noted that Kathleen is not only the Friends' volunteer coordinator, but is also the organization's new president. A hearty thanks is owed to Dave Hill, Friends' president for the last several years. He will remain active in the organization as a volunteer at large.



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Summer reading: Something for every taste

By JULIE O'NEILL
Reference Librarian

Here's a summer reading list with something for every taste: mystery, intrigue, humor, romance and exotic settings. With a few exceptions, this is light-weight reading, perfect for curling up with in the hammock on a lazy summer afternoon.

Last Days of Summer by Steve Kluger. In Brooklyn in the 1940s, Joey, a lonely 13-year-old, begins a correspondence with Giants baseball star, the tough talking Charlie Banks. This laugh-out-loud, but poignant coming-of-age story is told through letters, notes, postcards, newspaper clippings, telegrams and even a letter from FDR.

Summer By the Sea by Susan Wiggs. The summer season has begun in Winslow, Rhode Island, a seaside resort town, and restaurant owner Rosa's life takes an unexpected turn when her childhood sweetheart arrives back in town. Wiggs, a Bainbridge resident, combines summer love, seaside atmosphere and Italian recipes for a light-hearted read.

Mr. Lucky: A Novel of High Stakes by James Swain. After a death-defying jump from a burning casino hotel window, losing gambler Ricky Smith begins a Las Vegas winning streak. Ex-cop Tony Valentine is called in by desperate casino owners to prove that Mr. Lucky is a cheat. Booklist said "quirky characters... who surprise us with just the right mix of comedy, violence and humanity."

Nights of Rain and Stars by Maeve Binchy. Four strangers and local residents cross paths in a tiny Greek seaside village and are drawn together in unexpected ways when fire strikes a tourist pleasure boat. Booklist said "Binchy fans will enjoy this summery page-turner."

4th of July by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro. While awaiting trial on a police brutality charge, Lt. Lindsay Boxer escapes to the lovely seaside town of Half Moon Bay. She pursues clues in a new killing that seems to have links to an old unsolved murder. This is the fourth in the popular series about Lt. Boxer and her friends, the Women's Murder Club.

We Are All Fine Here by Mary Guterson. Bainbridge resident Guterson's first novel is a funny yet heartfelt look at meeting up with an old first love. Julia, approaching 40, has been pining for her college boyfriend and after meeting up with him again, becomes pregnant - by him or her husband, she isn't sure. Guterson's first person narrative captures the dark comedy of the situation with subtle acerbic wit.

Frankland by James Whorton. John Tolley, a pompous but oddly likeable amateur historian, sets off to make a name for himself by locating President Andrew Johnson's lost scrapbook. His car breaks down in eastern Tennessee (a region Johnson once suggested should become an independent state called Frankland) where Tolley becomes entangled with a cast of eccentric rural characters. Kirkus Review says "this comedy of misunderstandings blooms to perfection."

Freddy and Fredericka by Mark Helprin. Helprin departs from his usual sober storytelling with this comic fable. Freddy, the hapless Prince of Wales and the empty-headed Princess Fredericka are sent to reconquer a strange and barbarous former colony, America. They parachute into New Jersey, steal a Hell's Angel motorcycle and head west, incognito, becoming enmeshed in a presidential campaign. Booklist said "replete with slapstick and hilarious misunderstandings... a combination of Don Quixote, Mark Twain and Monty Python." (Due for release in July 2005)

In the Company of Cheerful Ladies by Alexander McCall Smith. Botswana sleuth, Precious Ramotswe, the "traditionally built" and newly married owner of the No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency, is back with several challenging cases and a few personal crises. There has been an intruder in her home, a man from her past reappears with a disconcerting demand, her husband, mechanic J.L.B. Matekoni, loses his best apprentice, and her assistant, Grace, takes a dance class and meets a salesman with two left feet. As always, Precious solves all problems with calm sensibleness and a cup of bush tea, along with poetic descriptions of Botswana. Booklist said "by turns laugh-out-loud funny and quietly profound, these life-affirming mysteries are fine company."

By the Grand Canal by William Riviere. The atmosphere of Venice in the 1920s is richly captured in this delicately nuanced novel. Hugh Thorne visits old friends in their crumbling palazzo on the Grand Canal, dallies with a young opera singer, and falls in love with the widow of his best friend. Moody and evocative, this novel is decidedly somber but the Venetian setting sparkles.

Alice in Jeopardy by Ed McBain. McBain is still at the top of his game after 50 years of great crime writing. In this departure from his long-running 87th Precinct series, a young widow tries to rescue her kidnapped children. Publishers Weekly said "swift, cleverly plotted story line, sassy dialogue and a well-drawn, resilient heroine."

Zorro: a Novel by Isabel Allende. Allende's retelling of the Zorro legend is a page-turner with vivid characterization and a high-speed plot. Diego de la Vega, son of an aristocratic Spanish father and a Shoshone mother, grows up in California, is educated in Spain and returns to California to reclaim his family's estate.

As a member of the secret society La Justicia, he is dedicated to fighting all forms of oppression, and assumes his alter ego, the dashing Zorro. Allende anchors this tale with real historical figures and events and makes this a compelling read.

Gardenias for Breakfast: a Women of Faith Novel by Robin Jones Gunn. This prolific author of inspirational fiction takes a look at intergenerational relationships of women. Abby wants her 12-year-old daughter to spend some time with her beloved great-grandmother, but the "Grand Lady" doesn't live up to expectations. Nice southern regional details and an angel or two round out this story of family and forgiveness.

The Narrows by Michael Connelly. Connelly combines characters from two of his popular series, retired cop Harry Bosch and FBI agent Rachel Walling. Harry is called on to investigate the death of an FBI profiler and quickly picks up the trail of a serial killer nicknamed the Poet. Rachel, who had previously investigated the Poet, is called in to be the bait in an attempt to capture the killer. Publishers Weekly said "a dynamite plot, fully flowered characters and a meticulous attention to the details of investigative procedure."

Ya-Yas in Bloom by Rebecca Wells. Local author Wells brings back the Ya-Ya Sisterhood, a group of childhood friends, now grown and with children and grandchildren of their own, and tells the story of the Ya-Yas early years in the 1930s. While some reviewers felt this sequel doesn't measure up to its predecessors (*Little Altars Everywhere* and *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*) these southern ladies still have charm and wit, and Ya-Ya fans will delight in their antics through 60 years of friendship, marriage, child-rearing and family secrets.



Winter reading drawing winner

Teresa Gann (left) was the lucky winner of this book bag full of reading treasures, the drawing prize for winter reading challenge entrants. Her name was drawn (by a library volunteer) from those of 61 readers who completed the challenge (reading three or more books).

Gann is an avid reader, often checking out a dozen or more books at a time. Her widespread interests include fiction and non-fiction, especially biography. In her quest for knowledge, she frequently works her way through entire sections of library shelves, one book at a time. She estimates that she reads several hundred books in a year.

Guterson will teach course for high schoolers

Next winter, those talented kids in every high school class who like to write fiction and want to get better at it will have a new opportunity thanks to a pilot program offered by Field's End and its co-founder, novelist David Guterson.

Guterson plans to teach a nine-week course for eight promising high-school-aged writers drawn from Bainbridge and Kitsap County. Participants will be admitted based on samples of their writing.

Guterson says the class is modeled on that of a college Master of Fine Arts program workshop. The first week's session will cover generalities about writing. Students will critique one another's work during the following weekly two-hour class meetings.

Since its inception three years ago, Field's End, the writers' community

affiliated with the library, has focused on adult writers. Guterson and other Field's End volunteers decided to attempt also to meet the needs of younger writers. If the pilot succeeds, the youth program might then expand.

Before his award-winning novel *Snow Falling on Cedars* became an international bestseller, Guterson taught English at Bainbridge High School for 10 years, 1984-1994. He was also advisor to *The Rock*, the school's literary publication.

"I am very excited to get back in the saddle after all these years," says Guterson. "I've missed the classroom. And even more, I've missed the give and take with young people that made being a teacher so rewarding. I think the eight kids in the class are going to have a good time, and I also think they're going to have a valuable experience that will help them move forward as writers."

The details about class time and location are not final. However, the class will probably meet Wednesday evenings during February and March, 2006. Tuition will be charged, with scholarship help available.

Parents, teachers, and young writers may read more information about the class as it becomes available on the Field's End website, www.fieldsend.org. Printed material is being developed. Prospective students may wish to start working now on writing to submit.

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Armchair travels via fiction

Paradise is never 'perfecto'

By MARTHA BAYLEY

Libraries have always attracted armchair travelers—people who enjoy taking a journey via the pages of a book.

When one combines armchair traveling with fiction, however, we get the best of both worlds; what I would call an imaginative story combined with a sense of "place".

These recent titles are an example of the genre. However, be sure to hold on to your teacup because they'll also make you laugh out loud.

A Good Year, by Peter Mayle. Peter Mayle, who eats, drinks, writes and lives in Provence has produced another light-hearted winner in this tale of a beleaguered Brit who escapes to France. Max Skinner has inherited his uncle's vineyard at the right moment; he's just



Martha Bayley

lost his job and is tired of London. Of course our intrepid hero must deal with an obligatory change in lifestyle, potential romance, mysterious wine and rival inheritor to the estate before all is well.

The Food of Love, by Anthony Capella, refashions my favorite

story, that of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, but sets it in Rome. Laura Patterson, a 22-year-old student of art history, is seduced by handsome Tomasso's culinary skills. Laura thinks Tomasso is a chef; what she doesn't realize is that he's just a waiter. It's his best friend Bruno, a big-nosed, passionate and poetic cook who is creating the delectable treats for her.

In *Tuscany for Beginners*, Imogen Edwards-Jones introduces a female

Basil Fawty in Belinda Smith, who is attempting to live la dolce vita while running a downtrodden guesthouse in Tuscany. Belinda's world gets turned upside down when a sophisticated American widow buys a neighboring villa and opens a rival bed and breakfast. To make things worse, Belinda's daughter soon falls for you know who's son.

Last but not least, we have *A Year in the Merde* (translation: *A Year in the *****), by Stephen Clarke. It's the story of a self-assured Brit with an eye for the ladies and a tenuous grasp of the language who spends some time in Paris overseeing the creation of a chain of British tearooms. Think of a male counterpart to Bridget Jones and you've got the picture...

(Bainbridge resident Martha Bayley is fiction collection manager for Kitsap Regional Library.)

Non-fiction for armchair travelers

By GAIL GOODRICK

Look for these outstanding new titles in travel:

Foreign Babes in Beijing: Behind the Scenes of a New China by Rachel DeWoskin. DeWoskin moved to Beijing shortly after the events of Tiananmen Square and spent over five years there working as a PR consultant and then on a television program called Foreign Babes in Beijing. Playing a sexy American college student who falls in love with a married Chinese man, the author helped bring American style soap TV to millions of people—who ate it up. DeWoskin lived through the years of rapid change in China and reports the clash of cultures vividly. She also laments the passing of more traditional Chinese culture.

Carnivorous Nights: On the Trail of the Tasmanian Tiger by Margaret Mittelbach, Michael Crewdson and Alexis Rockman. The authors fell

in love with a stuffed example of the Tasmanian Tiger in the American Museum of Natural History. The tiger, also known as a thylacine, was dog like in appearance and a pouched predator. Rumored to be extinct, though sightings continue to be reported in Tasmania, the tiger inspired the authors to make an expedition to Tasmania to see for themselves. This book is reported to be part science and part Bill Bryson, with wonderful illustrations by Alexis Rockman.

Honeymoon with My Brother: A Memoir by Franz Wisner. Jilted by his bride just days before his wedding, the author decides to make the most of a bad situation by conducting a mock wedding and embarking on a two-year, 53-country "honeymoon" with his estranged brother. The result is a warm memoir of travel experiences, re-connecting with his brother and musings about the meaning of life.

True Brits: A Tour of Great Britain in all its Bog-Snorkeling, Shin-Kicking and Cheese-Rolling Glory by J. R. Daeschner. The focus of this travelogue are the odd local sporting traditions that have survived around Britain into modern times. From gurning (making the ugliest facial expression) in Egremont to riding bicycles through the bogs in Llanwrtyd Wells, Wales, Daeschner explores how these sports came to be. By providing local history and interviews with residents and participants, the author creates a charming travel narrative.

And be sure to look for this title coming in July: *Rat Scabies and the Holy Grail: Can a Punk Rock Legend Find What Monty Python Couldn't* by Rat Scabies and Christopher Dawes. Join these two intrepid explorers as they attempt to find the Holy Grail!

(Gail Goodrick is non-fiction collection manager for Kitsap Regional Library.)

Visit Venice with Donna Leon as your guide

By VERDA AVERILL
Library News Editor

Ah, Venice. The Serene One. A romantic city-state since the year 425. Home of the Grand Canal, the Doge's Palace, the Rialto Bridge, Piazza San Marco, the Murano glass factories—and so much more.

If you've always longed to visit Venice but won't be able to make the trip this summer, here's a tip: See the city and its citizens through the eyes of Donna Leon, whose mysteries immerse you in Venetians' lives while police Commissario Guido Brunetti solves puzzling crimes.

In two recent books, *Death in a Strange*

Country and *Acqua Alta*, Leon expands her popular Brunetti series to include American soldiers stationed at a nearby U. S. Army post (Death) and a moody chase of bad guys through the rugged Venetian winter of "high water" (Acqua Alta). Both books, though fiction, vividly portray the real Venice behind its beautiful but superficial tourist-dazzling mask. Leon's rich characterizations and descriptive details make the reader feel immediately that both the people and the place are old and dear friends.

Still in the mood for more Venice? Try *A Very Venetian Murder* by Haughton Murphy. It's lighter, different, another look at the city of many islands.

For those who would venture beyond Venice

—indeed all over the world—in their armchair travels, I'd suggest a remarkable little book of non-fiction. *A Sense of Place*, by Michael Shapiro, is billed as a volume in which "great travel writers talk about their craft, lives, and inspiration". Shapiro interviews Bill Bryson, Frances Mayes, Paul Theroux, Isabel Allende, Pico Iyer, Simon Winchester, and many others—including local favorites Jonathan Raban and Rick Steves—about their travels. His chatty manner turns up some surprising facts about the writers as well as their favorite places.

(I received *A Sense of Place* as a Christmas gift, purchased at a Bainbridge bookstore. I believe it's now a part of the library collection. If not, it surely will be soon.—Ed.)

Land purchase provides options for future needs

The library board took a confident step into the island's future in January when it purchased an adjacent commercial building and land, securing the library's need to expand as that need arises far into this century.

The property at 1100 Madison Ave. is a fully-leased income-producing office building that will provide a monthly return on the investment to the library. Leases to the current tenants, which include Pacific EyeCare, Farmers Insurance, Bainbridge Learning Center and a resident, will continue.

But buying the property now means future library leaders will have many more options as they search for space or income.

Two years ago the board established a long-range planning committee in order to continually evaluate the library space needs. As it does its work, this committee will build on a long tradition of islanders making the library a priority for the community.

The library was first built 43 years ago and has been enlarged twice, both times entirely with donated funds. This time, too, generous gifts from islanders made the purchase possible.

In 2002, the library unexpectedly learned it had been bequeathed the estate of a long-time resident. The only conditions were that the donor remain anonymous and that the money be spent on Bainbridge Island. This gift covered most of the down payment.

The property's former owner, long-time library supporter ophthalmologist Dr. Franklin Chu, offered a bargain sale to the library.

Several professionals either reduced or donated their professional fees during the transaction. They included Chris Ugles for the property inspection; Anthony Gibbons, MAI appraiser and his office staff; and Amy Waldrip of CFA Property Management, the firm which will handle the day-to-day operations of the building.

The transaction was first suggested to the library board by fellow board member Bob Linz of the brokerage firm Investment Assets Management. When board members enthusiastically supported the idea, Linz approached Chu. Linz represented the library's interest throughout the sale, charging no fee.

The last library expansion was completed in 1997. Then, in 2001, the library board used the remaining capital fund contributions from the expansion to buy land for the new parking lot, located between the original building and the former Chu property. At the time, the library board thought that purchase secured the library's future for at least 30 years.

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New teen scene at the library

By SHARON SNYDER

One year ago Lynn Stone, young people's librarian, submitted a grant request to the Kitsap Regional Library Foundation to fund the creation of teen spaces in all the branches. The foundation approved and funded the request.

A survey went out to the teens of our community and came back with a range of opinions on how the public library can better serve this age group. The top priority was for the creation of a teen space within the library.

A group of teen volunteers came together and formed our first teen advisory group (TAG) last summer. I worked with them to select and purchase the cushions, coffee table and lime green flokati rug that would begin to define a space for teens. In September, a number of teens spent a few hours moving the young adult collection of books and magazines to its current location and setting up the new furnishings.

Several names were suggested for the new space and a final vote christened it as the Teen Scene @ the Library. Our library staff and volunteers saw an immediate increase in the number of teens and young people browsing the collection, lounging on the cushions to read or work on homework at the coffee

table. The circulation figures for our young adult collection went up. Teens and young people were checking out more books and magazines than they had in the past.

The Bainbridge Public Library Board and Friends of the Library voted to fund and support the construction of a sound-tempered structure to house the Teen Scene.

Salisbury Timberbuilt, a local company, conceived and designed the new structure to function well within the existing building and still be flexible enough to be moved if required in the future.

The teen advisory group made a field trip to Winslow Paint Company and selected a beautiful shade of blue, called Bewilder.

As we go to press with this issue of the Bainbridge Library News, the Teen Scene



Sharon Snyder photo

Elizabeth McGonagle finds a comfortable place to read in the Teen Scene above and discusses some books she has recently enjoyed.

is under construction off site to mitigate disturbance to library users and guests. Set-up on site will take place during evening hours after we are closed. An open house is scheduled for Wednesday, June 22, to welcome all members of the community to come see the new Teen Scene and thank its supporters.

When all the hoopla comes to an end the Teen Scene will get back to what it does best: welcoming teens into the library and encouraging them to explore and use resources available.

Continued from Page 9

Fundamental reading

I laughed from the opening sentence, "I have been accused of being anal retentive, an overachiever, and a compulsive perfectionist, like those are bad things." As the story developed, I also realized that I liked Millie and was glad when she developed a more rounded personality and made friends. This is the story of her struggle to be accepted for herself. Her challenge was to accept that she was different from her peers, but that she could not make friends with her contemporaries unless she was honest about herself.

The Princess, the Crone, and the Dung-Cart Knight, by Gerald Morris

This novel with such an improbable title is the sixth book in the series, *The Squire's Tales*. Based on the Arthurian legends, these books combine adventure and fantasy in a way that will appeal to today's readers. In *The Princess, the Crone, and the Dung-Cart Knight*, 13 year old Sarah seeks to avenge her parent's death. On her quest, she witnesses the kidnapping of Queen Guinevere and is given a sword with supernatural powers. From there, she is drawn into a perilous adventure, joining forces with many of the famous Knights of the Round Table. The Author's Note at the conclusion explains the background of the saga of King Arthur, and provides a brief historical context.

The Singer of All Songs, by Kate Constable

If you are looking for a beautifully written fantasy, this is your book. The main characters, Calwyn and Darrow, are brave and likable. The world they inhabit is unique, but feels very real and fully developed. As they venture beyond the wall that previously defined their world, they find a wider world of beauty and danger. As in most fantasy, *The Singer of All Songs* revolves around the struggle between good and evil. It is also a testament to the power of working together.

Bicycle Madness, by Jane Kurtz

If you have ever wondered what

school was like 100 years ago, *Bicycle Madness* by Jane Kurtz will put you into the world of a schoolgirl in the late 19th century. After the death of her mother, Lillie is struggling to come to grips with moving to a new neighborhood. She is also finding it hard to accept that girls are not allowed to do many things that boys - especially her brother - are allowed to do. Her next-door neighbor, Miss Frances Willard, is trying at the same time to master her "safety-bicycle". This book has just enough pictures to help the reader fully visualize daily life. Quotations from Webster's *American Spelling Book* will make today's students grateful for modern schoolbooks. Readers will enjoy knowing that there was a real Miss Frances Willard. She was active in fighting for women to have the right to vote, and she also lobbied for child-labor laws, and for better working conditions for all workers. In this book, the friendship between Miss Frances and Lilly allows the reader to explore these themes.

An Ocean Apart, a World Away, by Lensey Namioka

This is a coming-of-age story that takes Xueyan, or Yanyan, from China in 1921 to Cornell University, in Ithaca, New York. It takes a great deal of courage for Yanyan to follow her dream of learning western medicine. She must also adjust to life in a new country with far different traditions. Understanding the two worlds she lived in will help today's young people appreciate the changes that make their life easier.

The Assassins of Rome, by Carol Lawrence

This new addition to the *Roman Mysteries* series follows a group of young friends as they band together to rescue their friend Jonathan. The trail leads to the Golden House of the Emperor Nero. Set in A.D. 79, the time of the destruction of Jerusalem, this exciting book leaves the reader with a better sense of history along with enjoying a good read.

Continued from Page 7

Good old days

he ultimately, though inadvertently, set the stage for the Reformation.

One year later, in 1511, Michael Servetus, the subject of Lawrence and Nancy Goldstone's *Out of the Flames*, was born in Spain. A brilliant man, Servetus postulated his theory of pulmonary circulation 75 years before William Harvey received credit for the discovery. He was also a freethinking theologian; in his book, *Christianism Restitutio (Christianity Restored)* he "redefined Christianity in a more tolerant and inclusive way".

John Calvin had by then fashioned himself the final authority of the Protestant movement, and neither tolerance nor inclusion was in his vocabulary. When Servetus challenged the validity of Predestination and Trinitarianism, Calvin reacted with the all the speed and brutality of the Spanish Inquisition. In a show trial, Servetus was condemned to death by burning at the stake "with the last known copy of the *Restitutio* chained to his leg". Unknown to Calvin, however, three copies of *Christianism Restitutio* survived and Servetus's kinder and gentler theology lived on to influence other great thinkers, including Voltaire and Jefferson, and laid the foundation for the Unitarian Church. Three more good reads about the times: *The House of Medici: Its Rise and Fall*, by Christopher Herbert, *Brunelleschi's Dome* by Ross King, and Roland H. Bainton's, *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther*.

—By Patricia Miller

NEWS BRIEFS

LIBRARY PATRONS will turn out in droves for the annual Rotary Auction and Rummage Sale Saturday, June 25. Don't miss it. Rotary Auctions have been a huge part of the Bainbridge Public Library's growth since the first auction funded the first Bainbridge Library, built in 1962.

Continued from Page 11

Health

recommendations for cancer, diabetes and heart disease at www.mlanet.org/resources/userguide.html.

Keep in mind that Kitsap Regional library buys many new books each year on individual diseases and medical conditions. These books cover diagnosis, symptoms, living with the disease, family concerns, and treatment. The library tries to provide material representing different treatment approaches, from mainstream to alternative.

The library also has new editions of many standard medical reference books such as *PDR (Physicians Desk Reference)*, *PDR for Nonprescription Drugs and Dietary Supplements*, *Merck Manual*, *AMA Family Medical Guide*, *Conn's Current Therapy*, *Encyclopedia of Complementary and Alternative Medicine*, *Johns Hopkins Guide to Medical Tests*, and *Consumer Drug Reference*.

For further help or information, please contact the Information Desk at Bainbridge Branch Library, 842-4162.

Continued from Page 1

Speakers Forum

Single-lecture tickets are sometimes available for \$10 at the door before the lecture. But to guarantee seating, interested Islanders are urged to order tickets soon. Those who have not received order forms in the mail may pick them up at the library later this month.

Continued from Page 5

Roundtables

ideas. Light refreshments and a chance to mingle conclude all Roundtables.

If you have an idea for a Writers' Roundtable topic or guest author, send an e-mail to info@fieldsend.org (please put Writers' Roundtable in the subject line), or write to Fields End at the library, 1270 Madison Avenue, Bainbridge.

Roundtables are supported in part by a grant from the City of Bainbridge Island's Arts and Humanities Fund, administered by the Arts and Humanities Council.

Continued from Page 1

Upcoming

Information about this class may be found at www.fieldsend.org on the classes page. The website includes a downloadable registration form. Registration forms are also available in the library's lobby.

Also, Field's End has reserved Kiana Lodge in Poulsbo for Saturday, April 22, 2006 as the site of its first writers' conference. This full-day event will feature author/speakers, break-out classes and a salmon lunch.

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Calendar

Teen Programs

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6
Joust Read! Bainbridge Movie Knight for Teens, 6:30pm
Location: Bainbridge Public Library

Continued from Page 16

Batik art

who are now core artists of her gallery. Next, the two artists confided to her they would like to collaborate with Northwest Coast Indians.

True to form, Swannack-Nunn is making this happen. Armed with advice from Seattle Art Museum, she contacted Susan and Michael Pavel, Coast Salish Indians from the Snohomish Indian Reservation, who are trying to promote understanding of the weaving tradition and the symbols of the Coast Salish traditions.

The four of them will collaborate on an art piece, a welcoming figure carved from red cedar with a textile draped over its shoulder that will be Coast Salish weaving combined with Indonesian batik.

They will work together at Island School from July 5 to 12 with the last day open to the public to view the finished piece. From July 14 to 16, they will teach a three-day workshop on batik at Islandwood.

Swannack-Nunn's husband, Jack Nunn, has set up the non-profit Institute for Cross Cultural Art, which is sponsoring the two-week visit of Fliam and Ismoyo to the Island, and is co-ordinating activities on their behalf. Besides Starbucks, one of their corporate sponsors, they are seeking other corporate funding with hopes of having similar exchanges.

James Bennett, Curator of Asian Art in the Art Gallery of South Australia, referred to Fliam and Ismoyo not only as "being among the most significant textile practitioners of our time," but as "a model of the bilateral communication and shared inspiration possible between artists working closely together in an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding."



**Susan Swannack-Nunn in gallery (above).
Batiks of Fliam and Ismoyo (right).**

Photos by Nan Wooldridge

Continued from Page 16

Queen Elizabeth's strawberries

totally reshaped the island. Port Blakely Mill Company became the largest sawmill in the world, and Port Madison Mill Company flourished as well.

With the demise of the lumber mills, mostly manned by Japanese immigrants, the Marshall strawberry came into its own, and became a thriving industry due to the perseverance and hard work of the island Japanese. Championed as bigger, sweeter and more tender than ordinary strawberries, it became famous when Queen Elizabeth visited Vancouver, B.C. and 800 crates of Bainbridge Island Marshall strawberries were ordered for her royal banquet.

Then came World War II. Oddly enough, although few of the Japanese returned to farming on Bainbridge Island, the berry farms continued, Marshalls mixed with other varieties, under the new management of the Filipinos in the 1940s and 1950s.

Protecting our farmland and holding onto our heritage is the subject of the last panel. The Comprehensive Plan, with its sale and transfer development rights, is trying to address this issue, as are farmers who raise and sell their products in creative ways that won't leave them financially destitute.

What better means of portraying these plants than through monotype prints in which the actual plant, an etching plate, and ink are the tools for the process?

"First, I play with the plant," Marjorie says. "It can't be too thick or too thin."

Once she finds the right plant, she inks a big flat surface, then places the plant down with paper over the top. Last, it goes through the Takach etching press.

"Sometimes the plant prints right onto the paper." She points out the purple in her irises on the wall,

the green in her cedar branch. "It's like a happy experiment," she says. "You never know how things will come out. There's no control."

She throws out her arms, black curls bobbing on her head.

Marjorie's artwork covers the gamut. A ceramist, a metalworker and a print maker, she holds a degree in weaving from California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, California. Her work is visible in many public and private art collections. Boeing recently purchased for its plant her woven map of the flight patterns into Seattle.

She sees the beauty in all plants, even the weeds, dandelions and wild peas. While weeding away in her garden she'll think, "Okay, this is for me to print; this is for the weed bin." She particularly savors walking in the woods, a compelling reason for moving to the island seven years ago.

"As war began in Iraq," she says, "I began to see the importance of every single strand of grass and moss... of every stage of life, be it seed, bud, blossom, berry, emerging or maturing, dead or decaying. Most of my art is about remembering."

Robin shares with Marjorie a love for living close to nature, for being inspired by walks in the woods. All she has to do is walk out her front door.

She's glad that their original plan of making ten panels was discouraged when they only received half of their grant fund request. With only six panels in the Winslow Hardware Store windows for the Arts Walk, she was amazed and gratified to see that people actually stopped to read her text. A teacher suggested it was so instructive and creative that it should be revised to fit into the school curriculum.

Robin did much of her research at the Bainbridge Historical Museum Library, where file drawers were chock-full of original documents and newspaper clippings from the Bainbridge Review. Jack Swanson's book, *Picture Bainbridge*, and Elsie Frankland Marriot's book, *Bainbridge through Bifocals*, were valuable sources, as were conversations with many people eager to contribute their knowledge and talk about their plant passions.

Her career has taken two directions. After graduating in Art History from Brandeis University in Boston, she found herself working at the Children's Museum in Boston, the Children's Museum in Denver, and finally, with the Smithsonian, she became head consultant for the National Gallery for the Arts in Washington D.C. An illustrious career in itself. But next came the seven non-fiction books she wrote, all on different subjects. She is about to start writing a new book which tells the story of two people who have climbed the seven summits of the world's highest mountains.

This exhibit will be on display at the library from mid July to October. From sales of the original prints and text the library will receive 25 percent. Call Robin Simons at 780-4353 or Marjorie Rubin at 842-9439 if you wish to make a purchase. Prints will be made of the originals to be placed in the Historical Museum.

NEWS BRIEFS

MEET YOUR LIBRARY friends at the Grand Old Fourth. You'll see many of them in the parade. (The library will be closed for the holiday.)

TO DONATE to future Library Book Sales, please bring your books to the library as soon as you have them collected. It takes time for volunteers to sort and shelve the books. They're working now on next month's sale.



*Deep in their roots,
all flowers keep the light.*

—Theodore Roethke

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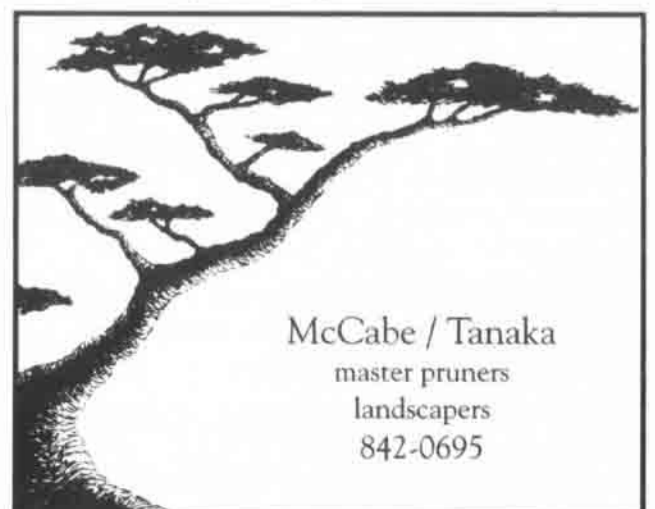
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Artists from Indonesia will lecture

Batik: A collaborative art

By NAN WOOLDRIDGE

You have done this. Thrown a pebble into a pond. Watched as one concentric ring breaks the water surface, then another, and another until a broad pattern stretches out into an encompassing whole.

Collaboration is like that. Batik artists Nia Fliam and Agus Ismoyo tell us that the unity in this process "provides a central point, an essence . . . the structure for the exploration in the creative process."

One or two persons will design a fabric, but someone else applies the wax; someone else dyes the cloth; someone else removes the wax; and someone else might finish the cloth with filler motifs. Each person works according to that crafts person's own skill.

Working together, called 'gotong-royong,' is an integral part of the Javanese culture as this husband/wife team will attest to in their free lecture, BATIK: A

Collaborative Art, at the library on Sunday, July 10, at 4:00 p.m.

Using the logo, ISNIA, Fliam and Ismoyo established the Brahma Tirta Sari Batik Studio in Yogyakarta in 1985. Twenty years later it is recognized for its innovative work as the leading center of contemporary fine art "batik" in Indonesia.

They met when Fliam, an American, traveled to Indonesia to learn about batik making after having studied textiles at the Pratt Institute in New York. She happened to stay with the family of a philosopher whose son was a young artist. Their friendship blossomed, they married, and sought in their collaborated batik style "to articulate the essence of ancient Javanese aesthetics in a contemporary idiom."

As their own studio thrived, they became interested in collaborating with other cultures. Funded by the United States and the Australian governments,

they connected with Aboriginal artists from the bush who were learning the batik process. In 2 years they produced 20 museum quality textiles. One, 'Cabaya,' hangs on the back wall of the Island Gallery. This collaboration whetted their zeal for more, especially as they discovered the many commonalities of symbols among artists of different ethnicity.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the world, Susan Swannack-Nunn decided to open the Island Gallery on Bainbridge Island. Retired early from the World Bank in Washington D.C., she was particularly drawn to Indonesian textiles, her primary subject when she was a graduate student in Asia.

Before moving here with this new venture in mind, Swannack-Nunn had consulted with Mattiebelle Gittinger,



Nia Fliam and Agus Ismoyo

an acknowledged authority at the textile museum in Washington D.C., who advised her not to go with established artists of the past but to support the talented contemporary artists. In particular, Gittinger said, she should get in touch with Fliam and Ismoyo. She made more than a phone call. She hopped on a plane to Indonesia to meet this couple

Continued on Page 15

They are "among the most significant textile practitioners of our time"

Queen Elizabeth's strawberries and other plant tales of Bainbridge Island



By NAN WOOLDRIDGE

Both women had met at the Sunday school their daughters attended at the Chavurah (a Jewish congregation).

When Marjorie Rubin, an artist, read about the grants available through Bainbridge Island Arts & Humanities Council for projects relevant to Bainbridge Island, she thought that Robin Simon, a writer, might want to work with her.

Robin knew that Marjorie liked to print plants and immediately suggested the obvious: How about a series of panels with pictures and text representing plants that shaped the history and culture of the island?

Done. Having written grant proposals before, Marjorie now applauds their collaboration. "It was so nice for me to do this with a writer who had that natural talent," and Robin chimes in, "Working together made it seem less like work and more like fun . . . most of the time." Researching to decide which plants to use, paring down from "tons" of material, and encouraging each other along the way, enriched the project for both of them. Marjorie cites an example: "I'd bring over to Robin's my prints and say, 'Oh, I don't like this branch,' and she'd say, 'Turn it a bit. I think it looks great.'"

"I really loved being able to bring a challenge to someone else and problem solve together," says Marjorie.

Created in less than a year, the exhibit consists of six panels that offer "a quick glimpse into our island's past, to the way a small number of plants have had an indelible impact on how the island has developed . . . a paean to the physical place we have chosen to make our home."

These are Robin's words in the introductory panel.

Each of their four selected plants has its own tale to tell.

The cedar tree was,

of course, first "the super market of the natives who lived here before the white people came and chopped down all the trees." It provided the necessities of life—canoes, cradles, logs for houses, toys, baskets, bowls, mattresses of shredded bark, twine nets, clothing, etc. Named "Long Life Maker," it is still sacred to Northwest Coast Indians.

Indigenous also to Bainbridge Island was the fir tree which, when clear cut,

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Library Board begins Annual Appeal

Early this month the Bainbridge Library Board launched its Annual Appeal for funds with a letter to individuals and families who have supported the library in the past.

But because many regular library patrons may not have received that letter and the donor card enclosed with it, we're reproducing the card here. We hope Library News readers will be moved to clip the form below and drop it off (or mail it) with a check to the Bainbridge Public Library.

This library—its beautiful building, the exquisite gardens, and art within—has been built and nurtured

for 45 years without a penny of tax money. It is YOUR library, paid for by you and your neighbors, without any tax levies. Your library board wants to keep it that way.

It takes about \$120,000 per year to maintain and operate your library. Can you contribute a few dollars for another year's operation of this special facility?

No gift is too small—or too large—to help. Please join your friends and neighbors in responding to our Annual Appeal.

(If you'd rather not clip the coupon, donor cards and an accompanying letter are available at the library.)

—Your Bainbridge Public Library board and volunteers



Robin Simons and Marjorie Rubin look over their panels.

Bainbridge Public Library
1270 Madison Avenue North, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 • (206) 842-4162

YES! I'd like to help the library.

Here's my gift of:

\$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$500

\$1,000 \$5000 Other \$ _____

Donations of \$1,000 and more are recognized on the lobby wall.

Please send me information on Leaving a Legacy.

Donations of securities are welcome.

Name (please print) _____ Date _____
(as you would like it to appear in any recognition)

Address _____ Phone _____

If you do not wish name recognition, please check here.

ANNUAL APPEAL

PAYMENT METHOD

Every library gift is used where it is most needed. All gifts are tax deductible.

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed

Charge my gift of \$ _____

Visa Mastercard

Card # _____ Exp. date _____

My company will match my gift.

Name and address of company _____

(See other side for some companies matching funds.) Ask your company to participate.

LIBRARY HOURS

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

KRL WEBSITE ADDRESS
www.krl.org

LIBRARY PHONE NUMBERS

Bainbridge Island Branch 842-4162

For Computer Support..... 1-877-883-9900
and Other Departments or 1-360-405-9131