**Speakers Forum opens with a look back at Watergate**

The eighth annual Library Speakers Forum opened this month with an insider’s look at Richard Nixon’s White House and the Watergate scandal. Egil Krogh’s riveting talk, “Lessons from Watergate”, was just the first in a varied series that subscribers are calling “the most exciting Speakers Forum yet.”

He’ll be followed on October 9 by Steven Hanson, speaking on “Russia: Strategic Partner or Evil Empire?” On October 30, internationally renowned artist Lillian Pitt appears in a special bonus talk sponsored by Grant and Barbara Winther (See Page 2: “Spirits Keep Whistling Me Home”).

**Writing conference planned**

Prominent authors have promised to be presenters and Gilbert Thomas Jewelry and Prudential Northwest Real Estate have signed on as premier sponsors for Field’s End’s first writers’ conference. Now, organizers are seeking volunteers to support the event. A second keynote speaker will set the tone with his kick-off discussion of “Why We Write.” Authors Karen Joy Fowler, Elizabeth George, Gail Tsukiyama, Bharti Kirchner, Craig Lesley, George Shannon, and Susan Wiggs will be among the nine-member core team. A second keynote speaker will talk January 16 on “Lewis and Clark Energy Independence?”

The final speaker, Mark N. Trahant, will talk January 16 on “Lewis and Clark Remembered as a Family Story”.

The first speaker, Mark N. Trahant, will talk January 16 on “Lewis and Clark Remembered as a Family Story”.

If you are interested in volunteering or wish to support the conference through a tax-deductible donation or through purchasing advertising, please e-mail info@fieldsend.org.

**Also in this issue:**

- Changing China: Travel with the Winthers...
- Young people, Children’s Corner...
- Field’s End’s full fall calendar...

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**Bainbridge Island Library News**

Vol. 8, No. 2 
Bainbridge Public Library, 1270 Madison Ave., Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 
Fall 2005
In the early 1980s, when Lillian Pitt was a college student, she worked as a hairdresser. She took her first class in ceramics in the early 1980s. Pitt uses clay, silver, gold, bronze, copper, wood, wool, glass, shells, leather and feathers to create masks, sculpture, jewelry and drypoint prints. Since she is always looking for new ideas, the show she appears at the Speakers Forum, most likely she will be using other materials to tell her tribal stories.

Lillian Pitt will present a slide lecture of her work at the library on Sunday, October 30 at 4:00. Tickets are $15 at the door, free to Speakers Forum subscription members.

What’s new at the library?

By CINDY HARRISON Bainbridge Branch Manager

There are several series that would assist home-schooled and other students including the Standard Deviants School series on Anatomy. Several DVDs in the arts area support our young artists of tomorrow including Digital Video Editing and Building Your Music Career.

Music lovers will enjoy performances by Duke Ellington at Tivoli Gardens or Luba Boheme at the Met. Coaches and sports fans will gain tips from Basics of Skateboarding to Championship Basketball Drills. DVDs throughout the Kitsap Regional Library branches are listed by title and subject in the library’s online catalog (KitCat).

They may be reserved at the library or from home using your library card and pin numbers. (“A reminder—your number is normally the last four digits of your telephone number.”

Anonymous donation

The Bainbridge Library is the fortunate recipient of a generous anonymous donation of art. Jenny Andersen, recently named an “Island Treasure,” installed her stunning ceramic work as a part of the library’s outstanding art collection. “The Pilgrim,” an animal figure draped in ceremonial robes, is at once beautiful, mysterious and spiritual. As Jenny expressed it: “I prefer to represent animals as having a more ancient wisdom. In a way, the figures express transformation from this world into other realms.” Jenny’s son, with funding from the BI Friends of the Library, created the fine mahogany base supporting Jenny’s sculpture. The sculpture is located near the new Teen Scene structure on the upper floor of the library.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Public Library

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Changing China

By BARBARA WINTHER

When I was a little girl, my Great Aunt Betty, a nurse in Shanghai in the 1930s, told me tales about what China was like in those days. "You could smell it 10 miles out to sea," she said. "A musky odor mixed with the pungent smell of open sewers. Rickshaws jostled everywhere on narrow streets, crowded with people wearing pajama-like clothing."

When Grant and I visited China in 2002, the smells were gone, rickshaws were only available for tourist rides--bicycle-driven not hand-pulled--and, except for special occasions, everyone in cities wore western-style clothes.

In the countryside, not as much change had occurred. Farmers still hand-plowed fields, people in traditional peasant dress carried huge loads on their backs and ancient looking houses made up villages.

But in the cities, there seemed to be a mad dash to go modern: fancy hotels, skyscrapers, large department stores, automobiles galore and a blanket of pollution that forced many citizens to wear masks.

In Beijing, a hutong is the best place to find a bit of old China. Originally, the word meant village well (derived from the Mongolian word hottog). Now the word means place of old homes. There are many hutongs in Beijing, most built in the Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties (1279-1911).

A visit to a large hutong is best done with a guide.

Otherwise, you are likely to get lost in the confusing maze of narrow, crosstown streets tightly lined by homes and shops. Our tour included lunch at a home in the area.

We started our walk at a tree-lined track, crisscrossing lanes tightly lined by homes and shops. Our tour included lunch at a home in the area.

In the Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties (1279-1911), hutongs brought a cooling breeze to the hot summer day. Two temples rose from the neighborhood like stalwart trackers on the Yangtze.

Along the river, picturesque old towns and cities were in final stages of demolition, scavengers searching through concrete chunks for pieces of metal. Since the dam will cause the river to rise above the tallest building on shore, new settlements, mostly box-like structures, are being constructed high above the river. Soon the ugliness of the wrecked towns will be under water. Hidden as well, the fertile farms, tilled on the banks for many generations.

We arrived at the Three Gorges Dam Project on the third day of our cruise. The massiveness of it was mind-boggling--the world's largest dam, nearly the height of the Empire State Building.

The three reasons given for building the dam are to produce energy, control floods and allow passage of large ships.

After winding through lanes, noting how many homes had red doors and drum-shaped stones on either side, we stopped at a compound.

Our guide knocked on a door. Immediately a young girl opened the gate and welcomed us with a nod of her head. Stepping over the raised stone lintel (to keep spirits out) and skirting the screen wall (another spirit deterrent) we entered the compound.

The family, Mrs. Fong, her two children and her mother and father, the elderly couple in traditional dress, came out to greet us in Chinese.

For the next hour, with limited translation from our guide, we smiled and nodded and ate plates full of dumplings, pantomiming how delicious they were and shaking our heads when we were so stuffed we couldn't possibly eat another one.

You cannot compare a hutong in Beijing to a huge dam project on the Yangtze River, but the wide disparity between them symbolizes old and new China. We felt compelled to examine them both.

Our cruise down the Yangtze began at smoke-filled Chengdu. The river itself wasn't much to see, muddy brown from the swift, silting current. However, the steep cliffs of the gorges were magnificent.

Now and then we glimpsed carved paths on which in earlier times trackers, as many as 42 on a rope, hauled junks upstream.

Books on China

Chang, Jung, Wild Swans—an epic story of three generations of Chinese women from the last of the dynasties through Mao.

Cheng, Nien, Life and Death in Shanghai—a western-educated widow's brutal experiences during the Cultural Revolution.

Fairbank, John K. and Merle Goldman, China: A New History—a concise account of China and its people for 4,000 years.

Hersey, John, A Single Pebble—a wonderfully symbolic novel about trackers on the Yangtze.

Kevin, Sinclair, Culture Shock! China—a guide to Chinese customs and etiquette with traditions explained.

Paludan, Ann, Chronicle of the Chinese Emperors—a history of all of the Chinese emperors, spanning 2,000 years.

Salisbury, Harrison Evans, The New Emperors—the vividly written biographies of Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping.

Short, Philip, Mao: a Life—a biography by a journalist in China in the '70s and '80s based on interviews and documents.

Winchester, Simon, River at the Center of the World—the essence of China in his adventures exploring the Yangtze.
Have you visited our terrific new teen reading area yet? Located on the main level of the library, this elegant glass-enclosed space has been a magnet for young people since the day it was completed. As funding permits, computer facilities in the teen space will be refined and teen artwork will embellish the walls and shelving.

Just outside the door of the teen space, a moving and magical piece of sculpture by islander Jenny Andersen makes a powerful link to the Japanese garden ellipsed through the nearby window. Donated by a generous (if anonymous) patron, this evocative artwork provides another potent attraction for our younger readers.

Outside the main doors, good things are happening as well. Night lighting is being added to the new parking lot, thanks to Don Eklund of Don Eklund Fund Electric. Don has volunteered many hours of troubleshooting on the library’s electrical system and is now helping us illuminate the parking lot while keeping the night sky dim for our neighbors.

Irrigation system problems stressed some of our plantings this summer, but many of the drought-tolerant plants came through the summer looking splendid. Our goal is to landscape entirely with drought-tolerant plants, so that as each bed becomes well established, we can eliminate irrigation or reduce it to a minimum.

The new parking lot also took a beating in the summer heat and will be reseded in fall (and again in spring) with dense, low-mow turf grass so it can stand up to traffic better next summer. We will be feeding the new turf with homemade compost, some of which contains recycled used books.

Looking splendid. Our goal is to landscape entirely with drought-tolerant plants, so that as each bed becomes well established, we can eliminate irrigation or reduce it to a minimum.

Literate Compost

When the Friends of the Library asked the Friday Tidies whether they could help reduce the huge volume of library trash, we came up with the idea of Literate Compost. Rather than pay to have elderly books hauled away, we developed new lighting for the gazebo by the Children’s Library entrance, an area which had become a trouble spot at night. Now, new and brighter motion-sensitive lights are helping to keep the library safe and serene through the night.

By MARITE BUTNERS

Marite M. Butners, JD is a volunteer and board member of The Bainbridge Public Library. Her background includes over 30 years in estate and charitable planning. She may be reached at 206-842-5783.

By SHARON SNYDER

Newcomers will find a $100,000 CD that she had been planning on leaving to her favorite charity, the Bainbridge Public Library. The income from this CD has declined steadily in the past several years. She decides instead to have her attorney create a charitable remainder annuity trust. The trust will pay her $8,000 (an amount she selected) a year for life, then at the time she passes away, the remainder in the trust is to pass directly to the Bainbridge Public Library. Because the trust is irrevocably for the benefit of charity after Mrs. Smith passes away, she will also receive a current income tax charitable deduction of over $51,000 that she may use in computing this year’s tax liability, with any excess deduction carried forward for up to the next five years.

There are other arrangements as well! The Bainbridge Public Library has free brochures available for your request that describe these and other charitable gift arrangements and a board member volunteer would be happy to meet with you in confidence (and at no obligation).

I couldn’t have said it any better.

The Pilgrimage

Jenny Andersen’s work entitled The Pilgrimage is an islander Jenny Andersen makes a powerful link to the Japanese garden ellipsed through the nearby window. Donated by a generous (if anonymous) patron, this evocative artwork provides another potent attraction for our younger readers.

Friends of the Library at work

Friends of the Library hard work every week to support library programs and building improvements. Here, four Friends—Tilly Warren, Marie Spearman, Pat Miller, and Kathy Gross—prepare for one of the frequent Friends book sales. (See Friends column on Page 5.)

Time for year-end tax planning

By MARITE BUTNERS

It’s that time again! Time for year end tax planning! (Think of it as winterizing your financial plans.)

Taking the action steps to review now can make for a happier day on April 15 when our accounts are due to Uncle Sam.

So why take it? First of all, decide if you will be taking the standard deduction, or itemizing those deductions. If you are close to itemizing, consider “grouping” your deductions this year. If you have a pledge to a charitable organization, for instance, prepaying that pledge this year might make sense to ensure a tax benefit for your generosity.

Delaying income receipt into later years, a tried and true technique of tax planning, is still important today. Delaying receipt of bonuses and making full use of deferred compensation and retirement programs should all be considered.

Look at balancing gains with losses. Selling appreciated securities (some lucky folks still have some) or real estate? Look also at those securities you may want to transition from your portfolio and take losses that may be reflected in the current year. Remember also that contributing appreciated property to charity will provide a tax deduction based on its fair market value and not subject your balance sheet to capital gains tax. However, for securities with losses, it is generally better to sell the security, take the loss deduction, then contribute the proceeds to the charity.

Speaking of charitable gifts, don’t forget the available life income arrangements that can both boost your disposable income currently and provide tax benefits as well.

HERE IS AN EXAMPLE: Mrs. Smith (age 81) has a $100,000 CD that she had been planning on leaving to her favorite charity, the Bainbridge Public Library. The income from this CD has declined steadily in the past several years. She decides instead to have her attorney create a charitable remainder annuity trust. The trust will pay her $8,000 (an amount she selected) a year for life, then at the time she passes away, the remainder in the trust is to pass directly to the Bainbridge Public Library. Because the trust is irrevocably for the benefit of charity after Mrs. Smith passes away, she will also receive a current income tax charitable deduction of over $51,000 that she may use in computing this year’s tax liability, with any excess deduction carried forward for up to the next five years.

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Marite M. Butners, JD is a volunteer and board member of The Bainbridge Public Library. Her background includes over 30 years in estate and charitable planning. She may be reached at 206-842-5783.

NEWS BRIEFS

THE LIBRARY Speakers Forum is now in its eighth year. Five speakers remain (see story on Page One). Admission is $15 per talk. All are Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m., in the library meeting room on the main floor (unless otherwise specified).

THE LIBRARY maintains a large collection of books suitable for book group discussions. Looking for a good read for your group? Check with any of the librarians for available titles.
Opening up possibilities:

Author George Shannon teaches in Kuwait

By SUZANNE SELFORS

On a hot, muggy day in May, children gather in the open courtyard of their school for morning assembly. Dressed in black and white uniforms, they sing the National Anthem and teachers pass out merit awards. The principal makes a few announcements, then reminds everyone to drink plenty of water.

This could be Anywhere, USA, but it’s not. The school lies in a small country wedged between Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf. These children are members of the ruling minority—born to the only group in their country allowed to vote and own property. They are taught mostly in English, with an emphasis on International Studies because most of these kids will go on to college in England and the US. They are Kuwaitis.

On this particular day, a special guest stands in the courtyard with them. Bainbridge Island children’s author George Shannon has come to teach creative writing. He is one of many international guests the school will invite throughout the year, to enhance the curriculum.

“I didn’t know what to expect,” Shannon said. “This was my first time in a Muslim country.”

Before leaving, a storyteller had advised Shannon not to tell any stories about pigs or dogs, so as not to offend. This worried Shannon, because one of his books, Wise Acres (2006), has a pig on the cover. To his surprise, he found it prominently displayed at the school.

“What I quickly realized was that I knew very little about the religion or customs of these people. But each Islamic country is as different from one another as each Christian country — as the US differs from France or Germany. But we get so much negative press, we tend to blanket them all. We’re a very varied group, we have tried to assess and at least partially dispel the image people have of Muslims,” he said. “This was my first time in a Muslim country.”

Shannon traveled to four different schools during his stay in Kuwait and he used the same approach to teaching the writing craft that he uses with Bainbridge kids. He focused on the process and not the product.

Children’s imaginations thrive when they stop stressing about the end result and when they no longer worry about what everyone might think of their story, he said. Writing then becomes a simple, everyday exercise that anyone can accomplish—it’s not magic. For those students who complained that they had nothing interesting in their lives to write about, Shannon pointed out that each day brings new sources of story ideas.

He started with group verbal exercises, “to open up possibilities.” He asked the students to look around the room and pick out two objects, images of people or animals for example. The stories quickly developed from there.

Friends add second book sale per month

By ELAINE MOLINE

We are sorry to have missed a sale in July, but have a pretty good notion when a good housecleaning was needed. In the second room all the books were removed from the shelves, packed in boxes, the shelves taken down and the walls painted. Then the big job of replacing everything began. You may be a little lost for a while: we’ve rearranged many of the sections. Just think of it as an adventure and while you search you may find a real gem.

With a two-month accumulation of books; every section is full of “treasures”. You may be looking for gardening, but stop on the way and peruse the hobby, game and home improvement sections. They’re full of inspiration. The fiction shelves are really bursting at the seams with many 2004 and 2005 editions and many popular authors’ first editions.

With that problem taken care of we have tried to assess and at least partially correct the crowding at our Saturday sales. It’s great to be so popular and to do so well for the library, but we realize how difficult it is to shop when it is so jammed up. So, our answer, we sincerely hope it’s an answer, is to add another sale each month. Starting in September we added a second Saturday sale as well as a sale on the first Wednesday of each month from 4pm to 8pm.

Please don’t be concerned that all the “good” books will be gone by Saturday. Thanks to your generosity, we probably have enough books to have three or four sales a month.

In order to better utilize the space, we have removed the large shelving section that held the individually priced books from the middle of the room and those books are now on carts. This change makes the room much less crowded. The magazine/book rack in the main lobby has been so popular we are expanding the rack in the children’s room. Both areas are very popular and we do our best to replenish them on a daily basis.

Since our donations have been keeping very busy, we have been most fortunate in finding many volunteers to help with the sorting. These dedicated women come in every Monday and make short work of the donations that have piled up over the weekend. So far it’s only dedicated women—we’d truly like a few dedicated men to join the group. It’s not all work, it’s also becoming a fun social gathering.

We’re a very varied group, we’re friends of the Library.

Some are young parents, some great-grandparents, many retired, some still employed. Love of books and a willingness to spend a few hours a week working with other book lovers doing the behind the scenes activity to make our sales the great success they are is what makes us all Friends of the Library. This is and be our friend. Not only do we need help sorting books, but help with the sales. It takes time and effort to set up for sale, to do the cashering, and then the clean-up after the sale. Books need to be returned to their proper shelves, tables put away and general pickup completed. Volunteer applications may be picked up at the circulation desk in the adult library.
Here are some great new cookbooks and food writing available at Kitsap Regional Library. Bon Appétit! **Cooking at Home on Rue Tatin** by Susan Loomis. Loomis, a former Bainbridge resident, now lives in Normandy, France where she runs an international cooking school. This companion book to her earlier memoir, *On Rue Tatin*, includes cooking advice and recipes for traditional French cuisine, as well as dishes from Africa, Asia and the Middle East, reflecting the cross-pollination of French culture.

*Charlemagne’s Tablecloth* by Nichola Fletcher. The author meticulously researched Roman, Medieval, Renaissance, Persian, Japanese and Chinesefeasting traditions and found a universal theme in the use of banquets to celebrate life’s key events. Whether describing Kwakiutl blubber-eating contests, a 1903 English banquet on horseback, or the complexities of the Japanese tea ceremony, this is a lively, witty and learned investigation of world-wide celebrations of food.

*The Bread Bible: Beth Hensperger’s 300 favorite recipes* by Beth Hensperger. The author presents hundreds of time-tested bread recipes, both classic and intriguingly original, all foolproof, step-by-step, and easy to follow. She also includes a selection of recipes for bread machines and food processors.

*Recipes from a Very Small Island* by Linda Greenlaw. Greenlaw, swordfish boat skipper and author of *The Hungry Ocean*, *The Lobster Chronicles*, etc., shares recipes from her home on Isle au Haut, Maine. Recipes reflect the natural bounty of the island and feature lots of seafood, lobsters, crabs, blueberries and cranberries. She also includes delightful tales of life on the tiny island (year-round population about 45) with color photographs of the recipes and island scenes.

*Death by Chocolate: the Last Word on a Consuming Passion* by Marcel Desaulniers. This expanded 10th anniversary edition of a classic chocolate dessert cookbook is illustrated with glossy photos of mouthwateringly decadent desserts such as *Chocolate Espresso Fudge Cake*, Double Mocha Madness, Ivory Chocolate Truffles, Simply the Best Chocolate Brownie, and of course, Death by Chocolate. The recipes are not easy, but the instructions are detailed and step-by-step, and worth the effort for true chocoholics.

*Best American Side Dishes* by the Editors of Cook’s Illustrated. Tired of boring toasted green salad and mashed potatoes but stumped for new ideas? Here are over 500 tested recipes for appetizers, salads, vegetables, rice and grain dishes and casseroles along with well-illustrated instructions, hints on menu planning, advice on choosing ingredients and kitchen techniques.

*Daughter of Heaven: a Memoir with Earthly Recipes* by Leslie Li. This poignant memoir weaves together stories of the author’s Chinese ancestry and vignettes of her childhood in suburban New York. Her grandmother’s traditional Chinese cuisine (many recipes are included here) formed the focus of family life, as food both tied the generations together and represented the cultural divide between them.

**Eat This Book: Cooking with Global Fresh Flavors** by Tyler Florence. The author is the personable host of several cooking shows on the Food Network. Here he presents imaginative recipes in an easy-going style, with dozens of color photos. The recipes are eclectic and inspired by world-wide cuisines.

*American Sandwich: Great Eats from All 50 States*, by Becky Mercuri. Mercuri provides fun facts and stories behind such American classic specialties as Philadelphia Cheese Steak Sandwich, New Orleans Muffaletta and French Dip. The recipes offer the best from each of the 50 states; many are from cafes, delis and restaurants that reflect the variety of ethnic influences on American cuisine.

*Against the Grain: 100 Good Carbs Mediterranean Recipes* by Diane Kochilis. This is an inventive collection of low-carb Mediterranean cooking.

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### Databases: Think of them as online encyclopedias

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reference Librarian</td>
<td>Guides for famous books and plays.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electric Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biography Resource Center - World Edition</td>
<td>Includes overviews of specific topics, manageable for the student researcher.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biography Resource Center - United States Edition</td>
<td>In-depth, comprehensive coverage of U.S. history from pre-colonial times to present. Includes articles and overviews on specific topics, facsimiles of historic documents, and multimedia reference.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History Resource Center</td>
<td>Thorough, deep coverage of 20th Century world history, yet manageable for the student researcher. Includes overviews of specific topics, original documents, digitized special collections, reference sources, articles, maps, images, and chronologies for all countries of the world.</td>
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To access any of these databases, go to the library’s website at [www.krl.org](http://www.krl.org), or contact the library. You just need your library card and pin number (the last four digits of your phone number) to use them. Here are some of the databases that are great for students:

- **Biography Resource Center.** Short biographies and articles on people of all eras and occupations, from rock stars to politicians, with printable photos.
- **CultureGrams.** Concise, reliable, and up-to-date reports on history, customs, facts and figures on over 180 countries and all 50 states. Includes recipes, photos, maps, famous people, flags, timelines, economy, geography, population and more!
- **Electric Library.** Full-text articles from magazines, newspapers, books and encyclopedias. Monarch Notes study guides for famous books and plays.
- **Historical New York Times.** Full-text and full-image articles from the New York Times from 1851 to 1999. See exactly what the original readers saw, complete with photos and graphics. (Articles after 1999 are included in our ProQuest database.) Searchable by keyword.
- **History Resource Center - Modern World Edition.** Thorough, deep coverage of 20th Century world history, yet manageable for the student researcher. Includes overviews of specific topics, original documents, digitized special collections, reference sources, articles, maps, images, and chronologies for all countries of the world.
- **History Resource Center - United States Edition.** In-depth, comprehensive coverage of U.S. history from pre-colonial times to present. Includes articles and overviews on specific topics, facsimiles of historic documents, and multimedia reference.

(Continued on Page 7)
Many hands make light work

By MARYLOUISE OTT

Question: What does a teenage boy just entering high school have in common with two retired librarians?

Answer: A love of books and a willingness to lend a hand as a library volunteer.

During the summer, these three enthusiastic volunteers along with nine others worked in two-hour shifts over three days to prepare more than 2,000 trade paperback books for the Kitsap Regional Library’s new Books2Go program. Because they had such a good time we will probably see some of them as ongoing volunteers helping with the Northwest History collection, mending and cleaning books, assisting with children’s programs, teaching computer classes, and more.

Kitsap Regional Library is blessed with many loyal volunteers who give freely of their time to enrich the programs and services at all nine branches. Every volunteer is appreciated, from the Board of Trustees and the Friends of the Library to those tending the gardens and tidying the shelves.

Another very successful volunteer program this summer, initiated by Bainbridge Island children’s librarian Sharon Snyder, recruited 10-18 year olds to read aloud to younger children. The young people’s library was buzzing with activity on Tuesday mornings when the “big kids” shared their love of books with excited children.

In the spring of this year, KRL demonstrated its commitment to a vital volunteer program by creating a new half-time volunteer coordinator position. The last few months have been spent interviewing staff and volunteers, researching and writing procedures, developing volunteer assignments, and planning for new programs such as Books2Go.

This fall, we are recruiting volunteers with good computer and people skills to be trainers for patrons who are interested in learning Computer Basics and Internet 101.

If you would like to find out more about the many rewarding volunteer opportunities available at the Library, contact MaryLouise Ott, Volunteer Coordinator, at 360-405-9153 or email her at volunteer@krl.org.

Cookbooks

carb Mediterranean recipes emphasizing the principles of the South Beach Diet: use of whole grains, lots of fresh seasonal vegetables, and generous use of heart-friendly olive oil. Recipes include Asparagus, Basil and Tomato Frittata; Roasted Red Pepper Hummus; Balsamic-Honey Glazed Chicken; and Spanakopita Soufflé.

The Rustic Table: Simple Fare from the World’s Family Kitchens by Constance Snow. Snow presents authentic but easy-to-make ethnic dishes, peasant food at heart, from around the world. Chapters include “Global Grains and Beans,” “Slow-pot Specials” (ranging from Bahamian Conch Chowder to Quaker Meeting Bean Soup), and “Humble Pies” both main dish and dessert.

Garlic and Sapphires by Ruth Reichl. Reichl is editor-in-chief of Gourmet magazine and was the New York Times restaurant critic for most of the 1990s. This third volume of her memoirs (Tender at the Bone and Comfort Me with Apples were the previous delightful volumes) recounts her elaborate disguises, which included wigs, makeup, thrift store dresses and credit cards in other names, as she went undercover in New York’s finest restaurants. This is a fascinating look at the competitive restaurant rating business. She includes many of her restaurant reviews and recipes.

12 Best Foods Cookbook: over 200 delicious recipes featuring the 12 healthiest foods by Diana Jacobi. This award-winning food writer and chef selected 12 “superfoods” that are especially high in nutrients and antioxidants: black beans, blueberries, broccoli, chocolate, oats, onions, salmon, soy, spinach, sweet potatoes, tomatoes and walnuts. She provides specifics behind each food and information on buying, storing and turning them into mouth-watering dishes.
Spanish stories with Elsa Quintanilla Trail
This program proved so popular last spring we are happy to offer it again this fall at 10:30 on Wednesday mornings through October 5.

About the instructor
Elsa is a wife, mother and business consultant here on Bainbridge Island. Spanish is Elsa’s first language; she was born and raised in Mexico. She studied marketing as an undergraduate student and went on to earn her MBA in International Management at the Monterey Institute in California. It was there she met and married her husband, Mike. Elsa worked as a professor in international business administration, teaching courses for undergraduate students in both English and Spanish for a few years before serving as a business development manager with the Washington State Office of Trade and Economic Development. She left that position to spend more time with her growing family.

It was at Hazel Creek Montessori, where her daughter attends preschool, that the need for sharing Spanish stories with children became clear. The children at Hazel Creek take instruction in Spanish as a second language. Whenever Elsa came to volunteer, the boys and girls would eagerly try out some of their Spanish with her. This led to her sharing stories in Spanish at the school and now at our library.

We are muy afortunados to have Elsa with us.

Lapsits: Storytime for babies
This is new. Parents or caregivers are invited to bring their babies to a special storytime series beginning on Tuesday, October 18, at 1:30 pm. Grownups get to hold babies while singing songs and sharing stories. Babies a special storytime series beginning on Tuesday, October 18, at 1:30 pm.

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Summer reading volunteers
Thirty-six young people between the ages of 9 and 17 volunteered to read aloud to young kids in the library several mornings throughout the summer. Officer Carla Masotti joined in as well. Little kids and big kids shared some of their favorite stories, puppets and puzzles with each other. A big thank you goes out to the volunteers who came forward to offer their time and talents with others. Another big thank you to the families who brought little ones and helped coax them through their initial shyness. Magic happened.

One dad’s view
By RICK BECKER
Bainbridge Parent
Reading is a valuable gift we can give our children. Kids are not born reading. Like many valuable things in life, reading takes work. It also brings the reader a lifetime of learning and pleasure. So, how do we share this gift? We read.

My boys and I share books and read aloud almost every day. Encouraging kids to read takes a little time and planning. The time involves reading to yourself and to your children. Finding time is easy if you carry a book or two or three with you and read during spare moments. Turning off one TV show gets you 30 minutes of reading time at least. It really helps for your children to see you read—whether it is books, magazines, papers, letters, or even manuals.

The planning involves where, when and what to read. Where and when can be on the ferry or in line for one, waiting for an appointment, sitting in a cozy chair on a rainy night, spread out on a blanket in the sun, or in bed before turning out the lights. This last is a personal favorite at our house and has been part of the bedtime routine since our oldest was 3 months old. He is 12 now and we still read for 30 minutes before lights out.

Finding what to read is easy with so many resources available to us. Begin by reading what you liked as a kid. Ask our librarians for suggestions. They are rich with ideas and information on books and authors. Kathleen Odean’s Great Books for Boys has started my family and me on many wonderful reading adventures. Not to worry, she also wrote Great Books for Girls.

Other parents present another great opportunity for title and author recommendations. Watching what other kids were reading had gotten us started on more than one new series. Good book sellers can be truly helpful in your search for books as well. And don’t forget to browse used bookstores. Good books get sold to used book dealers; poor ones don’t make the cut.

Remember these points:
• You are the greatest reading role model for your children.
• You don’t have to finish a book you dislike, when reading for pleasure, your kids shouldn’t either.
• Read together every day. It builds readers and families.
Let’s read and find out

By KIM WEINDORF

When I became a mom, I knew I was supposed to read to my kids, but found myself overwhelmed by the many books available. Over time, I developed strategies to find the best books for our family. Today, my kids LOVE books and have their 8-year-old and 4-year-old noses in books even now as I write.

A constant presence

Books are a beloved, constant presence in our family. We read with the kids and are passionate, frequent, high-volume users of our library. I learned early on that I couldn’t answer all the questions my kids could ask. Thanks to the discovery of a great kid’s science series by the same name, I adopted an expression heard often in our family, “Let’s read and find out.” This has given my kids a powerful sense that they have the ability to learn about whatever interests them.

I keep a running list of the topics, books, and authors my kids are interested in. When I have a moment I sit down at the computer and go to www.krl.org to do some book hunting. I search in the catalog by Words or Phrase, Author, Title or Subject. Illustrators are often classified as Authors. One of my favorite search strategies in the library catalog Power Search is to specify Location, which allows me to find the nine Easy Picture Books about ladybugs. More by This Author, More on These Topics and More Nearby Items on The Shelf are other options I often use.

Suggestions for nurturing a love of books in kids:

Visit the library regularly. Scan the “New Titles” shelves, flip through the basket on the children’s library counter, and scan the books set up on display.

Consult the experts

Consult the experts. Librarians are a great source of information.

Take a look at some of the many guides to children’s books, book catalogs, and book lists. One of my favorite resources is the Chinaberry Books catalog, www.chinaberry.com. It is a selective collection, divided by developmental level, with very detailed descriptions.

Another fabulous resource is the PBS show, Reading Rainbow. Search for Reading Rainbow in Words or Phrase on the KRL online catalog and you get a list of all their videos, recommended books and Twila Christensen Liggett’s Reading Rainbow’s Guide to Children’s Books.

Another resource is the Chinaberry Books catalog, www.chinaberry.com. It is a selective collection, divided by developmental level, with very detailed descriptions.

One of my favorite search strategies in the library catalog Power Search is to specify Location, which allows me to find the nine Easy Picture Books about ladybugs. More by This Author, More on These Topics and More Nearby Items on The Shelf are other options I often use.

Suggestions for how to communicate with infants before they can speak are found in the book Sign with your Baby, by Joseph Garcia.

A familiar question when you are traveling with children is “Are we there yet?” The parenting collection has a book of that title located on its shelves. It is by Eileen Ogenty.

Another book of interest might be 125 brain games for toddler and twos by Jackie Silberg. It has a collection of simple games to promote early brain development. Plus, we have the Parents and Parenting magazines available for checkout.

Pull out the cushioned chair in the parenting corner to look for that special book while your child plays nearby with puzzles, stuffed animals, or books.

One Call for All

Remember the Library!

Our parenting corner is full of answers

By GAIL CHRISTENSEN

What do I do now? What can I expect of my child? Is this normal?

These questions, and others that come to mind, can be answered in the parenting corner, located next to the story room on the lower level. Here you will find books concerned with childhood development, potty training, feeding your child, games to play, and school.

So this is normal too? A book by Deborah Hewitt provides information about behaviors that are common to childhood.

Growing up reading, by Jill Frankel Hauser shows a familiar question when you are traveling with children is “Are we there yet?” The parenting collection has a book of that title located on its shelves. It is by Eileen Ogenty.

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Fall 2005 page 9 Young people
Stephanie’s legacy: A storytelling collection

By SHARON SNYDER  Young People’s Librarian

Stephanie Price died unexpectedly in October 2002. I have come to know her through the reminiscences and recollections of some who knew her well. Stephanie’s brother, Kevin, has donated a generous sum of money to the library for the purchase of a storytelling collection. As many of you already know, Stephanie made a difference in the lives of young people and families on our island.

Stephanie was the oldest of 14 children and began caring for children at an early age. She was a storyteller by nature. Sometimes after she came to Bainbridge Island she opened a daycare in her home called, Storyteller Hollow. Over 80 kids spent time at her daycare on a regular basis. Each child had a clear sense of Stephanie’s love and respect. Brad Girtz, now 19, spoke of Stephanie’s unlimited patience. She took time to listen to each child, no matter how young or challenged. Stephanie had a gift for encouraging the best in children, in their families, and for creating community. Her special-event sleepovers were legendary. She invented interesting things for the kids to do and they loved being included. Television was forgotten.

Brad, told me of special needs children that Stephanie took on and nurtured to physical and emotional health. He spoke of her clarity and decency while speaking to him on the days he was acting out. She empowered him to be more. He said she has been the single greatest influence on his life.

Stephanie’s brother, Kevin, made his generous donation to Bainbridge Public Library in Stephanie’s name. It is for a special storytelling collection for use by both children and grownups. Our staff can let you know where it is.

For Steph’s bookplate on the inside cover, read and enjoy. This is her gift to you now.

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Opera previews set

He’s back.
Norm Hollingshead, the charismatic Opera Previews speaker, returns this fall with a full schedule, including three programs on Gershwin.

As you already know, Hollingshead’s appearances are the best way for those unable to attend an opera. He’s been coming to Bainbridge for more than five years, and those who fill the library meeting room for his appearances say they’re invaluable as previews to the actual operas and the next best thing for those unable to attend an opera.

Hollingshead’s appearances are sponsored by the Bainbridge Friends of the Library.

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Register now for Field’s End classes

Registration is now open for writing classes offered this fall by Field’s End, the writers’ community affiliated with the library. Registration forms are available at the library, or may be downloaded from the classes page of www.fieldsend.org. Field’s End is entering its fourth year of offering professional-level classes for adults, whether they are beginners or more practiced writers. The three fall offerings are all-new: instruction for polishing the opening of your novel, help forming or finding a writers group, and a craft class for prose writers.

Novelist, non-fiction journalist and cookbook author Bharti Kirchner 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. The course will seek to answer such questions as how do you look the reader into a story? 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 push them to practice, practice, practice.

The Writers’ Workshop class for adults, whether they are beginners of offering professional-level classes or more practiced writers. The three fall offerings are all-new: instruction for polishing the opening of your novel, help forming or finding a writers group, and a craft class for prose writers.

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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. 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.

“Care and Feeding of a Writers Group will meet from 10 to 3 p.m. at the library. Cost is $80.

Prose, screen- and playwright Cheryl Sloan will be the instructor for the fall full class, “Craft for Prose Junkies,” which will meet for six Wednesdays, Sept. 28 through Nov. 2 from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m., at Pegasus Coffee House in Winslow. 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.

The cost for the class is $240. As always with Field’s End courses, tuition reflects the professional caliber of the instructor. Tuition assistance for this or any class is available through the Jack Olsen Memorial Writers’ Assistance Fund at Field’s End. Information about how to apply is available on the registration form.

The Field’s End website also features biographies of each instructor.

Briefly, Kirchner is the author of eight books, four novels and four cookbooks. Her first novel, Shiva Dancing, was named by the Seattle Weekly among the top 18 books published by Seattle authors in the past 25 years. Her cookbooks have also won awards.

A former computer systems specialist holding advanced degrees in mathematics, she is a frequent speaker at writers’ conferences and universities throughout the nation. Rabe writes both fiction and non-fiction. Her first Regency romance was published in 1989, but she now writes contemporary single-title novels, with an emphasis on romantic comedy. She also writes songs and plays in a band with her husband.

Sloan 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, Sloan has taught fiction, play- and screenwriting at the University of Washington, Seattle University, UCLA Extension and the Hugo House in Seattle.

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INTERIORS

Bainbridge Island. Curious?
Field's End’s monthly Writers Roundtables this fall pose three questions:

“Can personal memories be translated into savvy prose?” with Greg Atkinson Nov. 15; and “How do you keep going?” with Mary Guterson Dec. 20.

All three island authors will follow the established format of the free Roundtable series, held at the library the third Tuesday of each month from 7 to 8:30 pm.

The guest author makes brief introductory remarks about the question of the evening. Participants then break into small discussion groups. After the groups report back, the moderator summarizes all the ideas. Light refreshments and a chance to mingle conclude all Roundtables.

Shannon offers class for parents, educators

Join children’s author and lecturer George Shannon in a Field’s End class for parents and educators on Saturday, Oct. 8, titled, “Writing as Play: Nurturing the Young Writer.”

The class will help adults explore ways to build children’s (ages 4 to 13) sense of story and expand their use of the written word. It will include tips for ways to dismantle the child’s resistance to writing and revising, and emphasize the wisdom of keeping a child’s writing as play rather than pressuring it toward the level of chore and resistance.

The class is the first offering of Field’s End Young Writers, a program dedicated to developing the skills of school-aged writers.

 Islannder Shannon is the author of the recent White is for Blueberry, as well as Tomorrow’s Alphabet and Lizard’s Song, among many other children’s books.

Earlier this year, he taught a very well-received Field’s End class for adults wishing to write for children. He also recently joined the Field’s End core team, the all-volunteer group that oversees this affiliate of the library.

Conferences, workshops, and author visits to schools have taken Shannon from Japan to Kuwait, Thailand to the Arctic Circle.

“Nurturing creative writing does far more than help students improve their skills,” Shannon says. “It opens the door to the classroom, and to a world of possibilities that can make the day-to-day seem more magical.”

The class will meet on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Pegasus Coffee House in Winslow in February and March. Admission is by a juried 20-page fiction manuscript, due Dec. 12. The class fee of $500 will go to the Field’s End general fund to assist the mission of the writers’ community, which Guterson co-founded at the library three years ago. Tuition assistance is available.

Students in the nine-week course will be drawn from Bainbridge and greater Kitsap County. They may be in high school grades 10 through 12 or home schooled.

Novelist Dorothy Allison to speak in January

National bestselling novelist Dorothy Allison is scheduled to speak Saturday, Jan. 28, as the fifth guest in the author series offered to the public by Field’s End, the writers’ community affiliated with the library.

Allison, born to a 15-year-old unwed mother in South Carolina, is a southern feminist novelist whose semi-autobiographical, Bastard Out of Carolina (1992), was a finalist for the National Book Award. It was made into an award-winning movie directed by Angelica Huston.

This fall, Guterson and other Field’s End volunteers decided to also attempt 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 adviser 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.”

Guterson says the class is modeled on that of a college Master of Fine Arts program workshop. It will address the central question of theme in fiction and the primary conventions of the storyteller’s craft.

Guterson’s intention is that students will leave with a deeper formal knowledge of the elements of fiction, stronger critical skills, and valuable concrete suggestions for improving future work.

In keeping with the mission of Field’s End as a writers’ community, he also hopes the students will jointly build a foundation for a community of like-minded peers that will extend well beyond the end of this course.

Since its inception three years ago, Field’s End has focused on adult writers.

This spring, Guterson and other Field’s End volunteers decided to also attempt to meet the needs of younger writers. If the pilot succeeds, the youth program might then expand.

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A downloadable registration form for this and other Field’s End classes is available at www.fieldsend.org. Parents, teachers or students with questions about the application process may contact the Field’s End registrar at registrar@fieldsend.org.

Continued on Page 10

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Two fiction or two non-fiction
Four books for discussion groups

By PATRICIA MILLER

The Living, by Annie Dillard, is a wonderfully complex story about the lives of pioneers in 19th century Whatcom County. The book burgeons with flesh and blood characters: sinister, mentally disturbed giant Real Obenchain; the Lummi Indian Chowitzit, “a smooth-bodied, almost naked man” wearing a plug hat; stolid Ada Fishburn, who, after six months of commerce with the NW Indians had “acquiesced herself to the sight of men’s bare buttocks”; her husband Rooney “whose bushy red beard seemed to grow straight down out of his hat”; their excitable son Claire, “tall and thin as a lathe”.

Many of these folks are around just long enough to endear themselves to the reader before they become victims of disease, accident or violence, all too common hazards of the times. So many of Dillard’s characters are killed off in The Living, one reviewer suggested it should be titled The Dead.

The Northwest setting is no less a distinctive character than the people. The story opens with Ada, still mourning the death of her 3 year old son Charley, disembarking on “the rough edge of the world” — the death of her 3 year old son Charley, disembarking on “the rough edge of the world” where the trees came smack down when she disembarked on “the rough edge of the world” where the trees came smack down to the stones”; the shore was like “a corner of the continent had got torn off right here—and the dark trees kept on growing—the ocean just filled in the tear and settled down.”

It would seem that a book about pioneers in the Northwest would have little in common with a book about slavery in the pre-Civil War South. Nevertheless, it does, and that’s why it’s slavery in the pre-Civil War South. Nevertheless, it does, and that’s why it’s slavery in the pre-Civil War South.

Jones’s novel, The Known World, is a fine story, but some readers may be initially confused by his abrupt, sometimes mid-sentence switch in time.

If, however, you recall summer sleepless evenings from your childhood when you listened to aunts and uncles, parents and grandparents retell stories about family members, both living and dead, you will discover much the same flow in Jones’s novel and find yourself piecing together the details of a narrative just as you did the random stories of your relatives.

Jones’s book is available from the KRL Book Group Collection; Dillard’s isn’t, but you can check out a number of copies on library shelves. It can also be ordered through book stores and online.

Victoria’s Daughters is yet another book well-stocked with remarkable characters, and a prime example of non-fiction so engrossing that it reads like fiction. The time is late 19th century; Queen Victoria, in addition to the required heir and (three) spares, also produced five daughters who were used as political pawns in marriage or, as in the case of baby sister Beatrice, designated her mother’s lifetime companion.

Author Jerrold M. Packard traces the lives of the royal family forward from the time of Queen Victoria’s marriage to Prince Albert, but his focus is on the five princesses and the limitations imposed on their lives by royal duty. Princess Vicky married into the Prussian royal family who disapproved of her English independence and never fully accepted her. She gave birth to Willy (Kaiser Wilhelm), considered by his English cousins, righty, as it turned out, to be boorish and stupid.

Afflicted with breast cancer at 60 and allowed by her German doctors “just enough morphine to ease the pain for a few minutes”, Vicky died an agonizing death. Willy, off on his summer cruise at the time, would not allow her English doctor to see her. “It would create a most deplorable feeling here—”, Vicky’s socially conscious sister, Alice, a royal, married into the ruling family of Hesse-Darmstadt, where her progressive ideas were as unwelcome as her sister’s independence was in the Prussian Court.

She died at 35 of diphtheria contracted as she nursed her afflicted children. Throughout their lives, the daughters were peppered with harsh criticism and advice by Victoria, a woman rarely given to loving praise. Only one daughter, Louise, was able to slip out from under her mother’s domination, and much to Victoria’s shock and disapproval, actually dabbled in women’s rights.

While Princess Vicky was living out her final tragic years in a dark German castle, life in Vienna shimmered with fancy dress balls and the music of Brahms and Strauss. But the clashing countermelody of new music by Schonberg, Bruckner and Mahler signified increasing disarray in the decaying Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Federic Morton catalogues these events in A Nervous Splendor: Vienna 1888-1889.

In “London, Paris and New York all bristled with engineers and pragmatists” complained Habsburg heir Crown Prince Rudolf, while “on the sidewalks by the Danube sauntered nothing but cavaliers, courtiers, epicures, estheticians, atittudinizers.” As the Habsburgs approached their final days amidst the glitter of concerts, parades and festivals, Queen Victoria’s grandson, the aforementioned Kaiser Wilhelm (Willy), trundled and posed in military uniform as he sought to advantage of the growing power vacuum.

Summer reading program breaks all records

More than 1,300 young people enrolled in the Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds summer reading program at the library, while 87 teens registered for the Joust Read. The nearly 1,400 total enrollment breaks all records for summer reading programs at the Rainier Beach Branch Library. Here, Officer Carla Masotti, a summer reading volunteer, works a puzzle with Sonia Rapada.

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FACTORIES

A Nervous Splendor

Nervous Splendor, 1913/1914, through not as lyrical as A Nervous Splendor, is an interesting read. It finds Stalin “colliding with Trotsky”, Adolph Hitler “daubing watercolors”, and the storm clouds of WW I building on the horizon. A Nervous Splendor and Victoria’s Daughters allow the reader two different views of a tumultuous time in Europe when history was about to witness a major turning point. Though neither of these is in the KRL Book Group Collection, both are money well-spent, and Martha Bailey would be happy to accept the donation of such books to the Collection.

Patricia Miller is facilitator of the Library Book Group, which meets the first Wednesday every month—Editor

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The Western:
A brief look at its long history

By JOHN FOSSETT

The Cowboy Code (abridged): A cowboy behaves responsibly and has a strong work ethic. He is truthful, respectful of all creatures, never takes advantage of people and he’s ready to come to the aid of those in need. The cowboy is willing to die for his principles.

I watched a lot of Westerns last winter in preparation for a staff-training module I was to present in February. I never considered myself a fan of Westerns. Sure I had the shirt, boots, hat and six-guns in first grade. As a matter of fact Shawn Mahaney and I got in a lot of trouble that year for busking out my father's barn windows with the butts of our air rifles to shoot at imaginary bad guys. Anyway, after watching some of the greatest Westerns ever made, I've come to the conclusion that it is a wonderful genre of film. After all, Westerns were the first action-adventure movies. For those of you scratching your heads and saying, "Is he talking about the horse operas with John Wayne?" The answer is an emphatic, "YES!"

Very quickly, the film genre we know as "The Western" is a product of America but its origins are not. The cowboy hero is based on Arthurian legend, Greek tragedy and tales of Samurai. The story lines are simple, featuring easily identifiable moral themes: civilization versus wilderness, man against nature, good versus evil. Westerns tend to glorify the past values and simplicity of life. The setting is usually west of the Mississippi in a period between the Civil War and the turn of the century. The protagonist, with or without a sidekick, usually faces insurmountable odds but is willing to risk near certain death for the principles he believes in. You're able to tell the good guys from the bad guys and you know justice will be served, it's just a question of when.

A brief chronology of the Western

1903: Edwin Porter, a former merchant mariner, made The Great Train Robbery his most popular film, the first Western and turned cinema toward the narrative or story films.

1931: Cimarron became the first western to win the Academy Award for Best Picture.

1939: John Ford's Stagecoach raises the status of the Western from second-tier filling to a respectable genre.

1940s: My Darling Clementine (1946), Red River (1946), She Wore a Yellow Ribbon (1949).

1950s: Westerns' Golden Age: Winchester '73 (1950), High Noon (1952). Shane (1953), Gunfight at the OK Corral (1957), The Tin Star (1957), Last Train From Gun Hill (1959), Rio Bravo (1959). During the '50s & '60s Westerns were a hit as TV series: The Lone Ranger, The Roy Rogers Show, Wild Bill Hickok, Hopalong Cassidy, Death Valley Days, Gunsmoke, Rawhide, Bonanza, The Virginian, The Wild Wild West and Have Gun Will Travel to name a few.

The late 1960s brought moral ambiguity into the genre. The cowboy code wasn't necessarily being followed, e.g., The Wild Bunch (1969), Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid (1969). And we were blessed with the European offshoot, the Spaghetti Western, e.g., A Fistful of Dollars (1964), For a Few Dollars More (1965), The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (1966) all directed by Sergio Leone. After 40 years in Hollywood John Wayne won an Oscar, his only, as Rooster Cogburn in True Grit (1969, Henry Hathaway). I would be negligent if I failed to mention The Magnificent Seven (1960), a favorite based on Kurosawa's film Seven Samurai (1954). The 1970s led to a series of so-called "revisionist westerns" which attempted to present historical events and attitudes in more realistic terms. Examples include: Little Big Man (1970), McCabe and Mrs. Miller (1971), Jeremiah Johnson (1972), The Outlaw Josey Wales (1976), Arthur Penn's Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid (1973), no DVD yet and The Missouri Breaks (1976, no DVD yet).


The library should have all of the previously mentioned titles. So check a few out, take the phone off the hook, draw the shades, pop a little corn, crack open your favorite beverage to get the trail dust out of your mouth and watch 'em ride off into the sunset.

(John Fossett is Kitsap Regional Library’s manager of audio–visual collections and a Bainbridge Island resident—Editor)
Islanders Paul Lewis and Bonnie Wallace are looking for poems -- by Bainbridge poets of all ages -- to include in a unique performance piece, Last Poem on Earth: A Jazz Requiem. Seven to 10 selected poems will be transformed into songs and woven into a song cycle. The work will then be performed by vocalists backed up by a chorus and a small jazz ensemble. The poems may also be included in a small chapbook and a CD. Each poet will retain the copyright on his or her work.

"All that you say to me, and only one more poem in which to say it, describes the type of poetry we are looking for," Lewis said. Lewis will compose the music and Wallace will act as curator, editor and co-creator of the project.

"We originally pictured a specific scenario providing context and urgency to the poems: Earth is passing through the dense tail of a comet and as the night sky fills with meteors, a poet, unsure if she’ll ever see another morning, writes down what may be her last poem. We’re not wedded to this particular vision, however, and look forward to seeing how other writers might premise their work and, more importantly, what they might say," Lewis explained.

Paul Lewis, an award-winning songwriter whose work has been performed and recorded by jazz vocalists around the world. His musical The Recollection of Flight was first staged at Bainbridge Performing Arts as a workshop production in 2002 and received a full staging there in January 2005.

Bonnie Wallace, president of Island Theatre, is a poet whose work has been published throughout and beyond the Northwest. She is now finishing a poetry collection tentatively entitled Chop Wood, Carry Water and is also working on a fiction book about play readings. She believes in the words of Naomi Shihab Nye: "When you send your poems out into the world you have no idea what friends they might find."

Poems may be sent to: Last Poem on Earth Project, c/o Bonnie Wallace, 16181 Agate Pass Road NE, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110. Or e-mail them to: bwallace@aol.com.

Deadline for contributions to the Last Poem project is October 15. Poets whose works are selected for inclusion will be notified by December 1.

In the eye of the beholder: Two views of Wyoming

By PATRICIA MILLER

Anne Proulx, of Shipping News fame, moved from the East Coast to Wyoming in 1995. Four years later, she published Close Range, a collection of short stories whose characters bear little resemblance to people I know and grew up with. Proulx lives outside Laramie near Sheep Mountain, part of an area that also provides the setting for James Galvin’s book The Meadow. The landscape itself is the Meadow’s central character, and Galvin brings it to life with poetic, often elegiac prose: the stunning winter cold and the breathtaking beauty of spring, the never-ending wind and the snow that often falls without regard to season. Against this unpredictable and often unforgiving backdrop, the author traces the lives of App Worster and his sons, famous for their hard luck, of rancher Frank Lilley, dying of cancer, and of oldtimer Lyle, whose life is the very definition of quiet courage and perseverance.

The characters in Close Range and The Meadow are scarred by their struggles against the harsh environment, but Proulx’s sad characters are in stark contrast to Galvin’s ranchers, men and women who face hardship with gritty courage and wry humor.

Matter of fact, it is often their failure that elevates their stories to the level of Greek tragedy and lends them the dignity that Annie Proulx’s characters lack. Wyoming’s rugged landscape and its people are also the focus of John McPhee’s book, Rising from the Plains. McPhee accompanies legendary geologist David Love across the state as Love describes the sweep of geological change over billions of years. One chapter focuses on the geology of the Medicine Bow and the Snowy Range, the high country that is home to Galvin’s Meadow. While Wyoming comprises only “one thirty seventh of the United States”, McPhee explains, it has experienced much more share of dramatic geological events. His enthusiasm for his subject allows the thoughtful reader a broad understanding of these events, and engenders some comprehension of their violence and of the great spans of time they represent: mountain ranges rise and crumble, volcanoes spew rivers of lava, inland seas and lakes fill and empty, rivers flow and recede leaving behind layers of silt and sand, the wind transports cargoes of dust and dirt to bury the landscape, rivers and streams wash it away again and disintegrate the mountains. At one time in the Ice Age distant past, it would have been possible to stub a toe on the peak of a buried mountain; today we look up in awe at its lofty height.

As McPhee and Love drive and hike across the state, the author interweaves geological description with the story of David Love’s family. Like Galvin’s ranchers, the Love family illustrates the dignity of men and women whose courage and stamina was tried against a hostile environment. Excerpts from his mother’s journal reveal an intelligent, resourceful woman, Ethel Washam, a Wellesley graduate, who worked tirelessly to get him to a rawlin, Wyoming, in the winter of 1905.

Young David, born in 1913, was on a homesteading journey north by stage and backboard to the Ward River Basin, where she became a teacher to the children of ranchers. Courted relentlessly by Scot immigrant rancher John Love, Ethel married, then juggled her own children’s daily lessons in math and history, Latin and Greek, with her ranching duties.

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By NAN WOOLDRIDGE

Her enthusiasm is infectious. She invites me into it as she opens her door, saying, “Wait, you must see something.” She disappears, returns, beaming, as she places a glossy printout in my hands. “I call it ‘Morning at Murden Cove,’” she says.

At 6 a.m. the previous Saturday morning she had walked along Murden Beach Drive, then across the cove at low tide. She didn’t anticipate anything.

“Sometimes you just go out and see what’s there,” she says, a secret smile crossing her face. What was there were four herons, vivid in dark plumage as they frolicked at shore’s edge against a pale, fog-hazed morning.

“That’s my magic of the moment.” Sue says.

Sue Hylen’s library exhibit, Sticks and Stones, a combination of poems and photographs grew from an April show at Pegasus Coffee House that owner Hazel Van Evera requested.

It is a celebration of the wilderness from visits to Mesa Verde in Colorado, Chaco Canyon in New Mexico, Cape Alava in Olympic National Park in Washington, Ghost Ranch (formerly owned by Georgia O’Keefe) in Abiquiu, New Mexico, and most recently, Yosemite National Park in California.

Considering how she would pull images of these places together, she thought of the relationship of sticks and stones, their integrity to trees, rocks — huge and small in many forms — and shells along shorelines that indicate animate life.

Each trip brings her new insights. She found on her last solo trip to Yosemite without a car that using the shuttle and exploring out of the way places on a one-speed bicycle opened new vistas for her and made possible personal contacts with people she wouldn’t have met otherwise.

“In taking a trip by myself every couple of years, I have a chance to totally immerse myself in the land and get a sense of place through my media, both poetry and photography. I can’t do one without the other,” she said.

“I think about Otztze, drowned in a mudslide… A culture reclamed with a slow gentle washing to find thousands of years. Or… With the quiet swish of my water bottle my shutter clicks and my pen writes, allowing the curve of mountain ridges to build a poem that began here 26 years ago.

Her poems emerge from her journal writing and may be about a place, current events or a personal issue with which she is grappling.

She wrote her first poems in the third grade, rhyming poems and poems she gave to her grandfather. But the finest instruction she received was in Nancy Rekow’s and Bob McAllister’s workshop.

“I learned there about the dynamics of words, how to touch the senses, and how to build scaffolding and

Sue Hylen’s photos will be on display from mid-October through December in the library meeting room.

Sue Hylen with photo from Yosemite

remove the superfluous, to revise and revise and revise again,” she said.

Comparing the two art forms, she says, “I have this love/hate relationship with poetry because it really can consume you and takes so much discipline. Whereas, photography can be more spontaneous. I knew what would pick me up this weekend was to take my camera out on the land and just shoot. In taking pictures, you can seize the moment.”

Ironically, her childhood encounters with photography were in sharp contrast. Both her father, an attorney in Nashua, New Hampshire, and her grandfather on her mother’s side, a civil engineer in Montreal, were recognized amateur photographers.

She remembers the agonized waiting: how her father would set her up with her three brothers and mother in a certain way and arrange the lighting, the furniture, the curtains, just so before he began. And her grandfather was worse. “You sat still forever while he took your picture. Then there were the endless slide shows you must watch of yourselves.”

Sue was very proud of her own first camera, a Brownie, that she bought herself with saved Bazooka bubble gum wrappers. She didn’t take photography seriously until she took a Park District class with Rosalyn McWatters who taught the basics and “really encouraged me. She saw something I didn’t see in what I had.”

Summoning courage, she had her first show in the late 1980s at Pegasus, and subsequently, exhibited at the Harbor Public House, Charlie Michael’s Salon, Eagle Harbor Books, and the Marge Williams Center.

When Kristin Henshaw asked to use some of Sue’s images for her poetry chapbook, Sifting through Stones, which Kristin published for her 50th birthday, Sue, 49 at the time, was inspired and challenged. Thus came about her own chapbook, Double Exposure, with poems drawn from near and dear experiences, and photos that she developed in her darkroom (from pre-digital era and now non-existent) of black and white outdoor scenes and plant life.

Self published, she credits Kristin with her immense encouragement. Clair Russell of Clairvoyance Graphics for her design and arrangement of the pages, and printer Ron Taggart of Island Impressions as well as many others with whom she consulted.

“It was just like having a baby,” Sue said, having collated and hand-stitched all 380 copies herself.

A great vehicle for inspiration and keeping fit is Sue’s bicycle. She rides about 15 miles a day, always to work (except for snow) where she is the Cultural Arts Supervisor for Bainbridge Island Park and Recreation Department. The main reason she rides she says is “I can think more clearly, not only to get my day job done, but so I can write poems. Sometimes I’ll come to work with a poem going through my head, and I’ll just write it down or get it started.”

Sue drove across the country from New Hampshire when she was 24, and never looked back, except for visits. She still retains a bit of that delight question mark on the ends of her sentences from her Canadian mother (now a United States citizen) when she speaks of her fondness for Bainbridge Island.

“It’s nurtured my creative endeavors as well as given me the chance to nurture other people’s creative spirit through my job. I truly believe the arts are a vital part of everyone’s life in some way. … There’s that little spark that inspires you to go Aha!, like my capturing the picture this weekend that put an extra zip in my day.”

Most of Sue’s 15 to 20 color photographs, crafted and framed in a natural finish by her husband, Stephen, will be available for sale. Call her at 842-3566. A portion of all sales benefit the library. A reading of her poems will be held in the conference room at 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 4.

Remember the library
‘One Call for All’ Pledge