

# BAINBRIDGE ISLAND LIBRARY NEWS

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Vol. 8, No. 3

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

Winter 2006

## Mark your calendar

These events take place in the library unless otherwise stated.

- MONDAY, JANUARY 2**  
Library closed. New Years Day
- WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4**  
Library Book Group. *Enemy Women* by Paulette Jiles. 7 p.m.
- SATURDAY, JANUARY 7**  
Opera preview with Norm Hollingshead: *Die Fledermaus* by Johann Strauss. 2 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11**  
Low vision support group. 1 p.m.
- SATURDAY, JANUARY 14**  
Friends of the Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- SUNDAY, JANUARY 15**  
Speakers Forum: Mark Trahant, "Lewis and Clark Remembered as a Family Story." 4 p.m.
- MONDAY, JANUARY 16**  
Library closed. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- TUESDAY, JANUARY 17**  
Field's End Writers' Roundtable. Jonathan Evison, presents "What factors define a great character?" 7 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18**  
Travelogue: "Bella Italia" with Matthew Brumley of Earthbound Expeditions. Co-sponsored by The Traveler Bookstore. 7:30 p.m.
- FRIDAY, JANUARY 20**  
Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society 10 a.m.
- SUNDAY, JANUARY 22**  
Fourth Annual William Stafford Birthday Celebration co-sponsored by the Bainbridge Library, Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council and the Friends of William Stafford. Celebrate with videos and open mic reading of Stafford's poetry. 3 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1**  
Library Book Group. *Excellent Women* by Barbara Pym. 7 p.m.
- SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5**  
Sharing the Wild. Wildlife rehabilitator, Elena Fox, will bring two non-releasable crows to the library and explore our relationship with the wild creatures who share our neighborhoods. Appropriate for elementary age and up. 3 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8**  
Low Vision Support Group. 1 p.m.
- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11**  
Friends of the Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11**  
Opera Preview with Norm Hollingshead. *Così fan tutte* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. 2 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15**  
Travelogue: Tour Central Europe with Matthew Brumley. Co-sponsored by The Traveler Bookstore. 7:30 p.m.
- SATURDAY & SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 & 19**  
Island Theatre Play Reading at the Library. 7:30 p.m.
- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20**  
Library closed. Presidents' Day.
- TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21**  
Field's End Writers' Roundtable. Children's author, Nancy Blakey. 7 p.m.
- FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24**  
Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society. 10 a.m.
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1**  
Library Book Group. *Martyr's Crossing* by Amy Wilentz. 7 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8**  
Low Vision Support Group. 1 p.m.
- SATURDAY, MARCH 11**  
Friends of the Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15**  
Travelogue. Co-sponsored by The Traveler Bookstore. 7:30 p.m.
- FRIDAY, MARCH 17**  
Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society. 10 a.m.
- SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MARCH 18 & 19**  
Island Theatre play reading at the library. 7:30 p.m.
- TUESDAY, MARCH 21**  
Field's End Writers' Roundtable. Editor and fiction author, Tamara Sellman. 7 p.m.



Photo by Karyn Carpenter

## Reading with dogs

Campbell Hawk and Elena Rowe take turns reading aloud to Arayo as part of the Reading to Dogs literacy program at the library.

Arayo and other certified dogs will return to the young people's area in February 2006. (See story on Page 11.)

## Registration is now open for winter writers' classes

Registration is now open for this winter's three new writing classes for adults offered by Field's End, the writers' community affiliated with the library.

The very popular returning instructor Priscilla Long will teach "The Art of Paragraph: Creative Nonfiction" to a maximum of 12 students on four Tuesday evenings at Pegasus Coffee House, January 17, 24, 31 and February 7 from 6:45 to 9:15 p.m. Cost is \$210, including a packet of materials.

Experienced writers with work in progress will benefit from noted instructor, novelist and short story author Carole Glickfeld's "Beyond Nip and Tuck: Advanced Revision in Fiction". The class will meet over six consecutive Saturday afternoons, February 25 through April 1, from 2 to 5 at the library.

Enrollment is based on an evaluation of a writing sample that must be submitted before February 12. Cost of this intensive workshop is \$360.

Finally, writers of all genres are frequently mystified by the marketing process. Alle C. Hall and Waverly Fitzgerald, both experienced authors, will teach "Crafting Your Pitch" with the aim of developing a two-minute persuasive answer to the question, "What is your book about?" The one-day class will meet February 4 from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the library. Cost is \$100.

Tuition assistance is available for all Field's End classes through the Jack Olsen Memorial Writers' Assistance Fund. Registration forms are in the library lobby or may be downloaded at [www.fieldsend.org](http://www.fieldsend.org). They include details of how to submit manuscripts for Glickfeld's class and how to apply for financial aid.

This winter's classes mark Field's End's conclusion of four years of professional-level classes for adults, whether they are beginners or practiced writers. Both Long and Glickfeld have received high praise from previous Bainbridge students.

Long says of her class "Art of the Paragraph": "In this intense craft course we will scrutinize virtuoso paragraphs by first-rate writers and deepen our craft skills by writing or revising our own paragraphs using analogous moves. The weekly assignment will be to compose two, or sometimes three, paragraphs, working to get them as close to brilliant as we can, using all we know."

Glickfeld explains that her workshop is designed to help writers re-imagine and hone their work from plot to prose. "The more a writer revises, the better she or he is likely to become," she says.

Hall and Fitzgerald's goal in "Crafting Your Pitch" is to help writers develop a two-minute spiel conveying characters, plot, setting, hook and climax.

## Coming soon to the library

The year 2006 will bring outstanding speakers and special events to the Bainbridge Public Library. (Check the calendar at left for details.)

Norm Hollingshead's popular Opera Preview series resumes January 7 at 2 p.m.

The first book sale of the new year will be January 14, from 10 to 2.

And on January 15 Mark Trahant, editorial page editor for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, will address Speakers Forum ticketholders on "Lewis and Clark Remembered as a Family Story".

Trahant's talk is the last in this season's Eighth Annual Library Speakers Forum. (The series was sold out, but a few single seats may be available at the door for \$15 to those arriving 15 minutes or more before the 4 p.m. event.)

The popular library travelogue series continues on January 18 with "Bella Italia", and the fourth annual William Stafford Birthday Celebration is set for January 18.

A highlight of January events will be a lecture by Dorothy Allison Saturday, January 28, from 7 to 8 p.m. at Bainbridge High School. (See story on Pages 6-7.)

February and March bring more special events and then, on April 22, Field's End (the writers' community affiliated with the library) will present its most ambitious undertaking yet.



Dorothy Allison

A special writers' conference at Kiana Lodge on Agate Passage will bring a slate of internationally acclaimed writers to the area for a day of instruction in the writing process, along with a wine and cheese reception and book signings.

Registration opens February 1, and because of the expected large turnout, early sign-up is encouraged. Discounts are available to writing groups and book clubs (see schedule on Page 2).

Islander David Guterson, Field's End co-founder, will give the first keynote address and Erik Larson, the second.

Among the noted authors leading workshops will be Karen Joy Fowler, Elizabeth George, Gail Tsukiyama, Anjali Banerjee, Bharti Kirchner, Craig Lesley, Claire Rudolf Murphy, Sheila Rabe, George Shannon, Elsa Watson, Kelli Russell Agodon, and Susan Wiggs.

For details, please turn to Page 2 or check the website [www.fieldsend.org](http://www.fieldsend.org).

Writers—and readers—planning to attend the conference should note that registration forms must be postmarked or received by April 12. There will be no day-of-conference registration.

## Ring in the new year with:

- What's new at the library ..... Page 2
- Young people, Children's Corner..... Pages 8, 9
- Books, books and more books ..... Page 12, 13

# About our contributors. . .

By VERDA AVERILL  
Library News Editor

You'll find many familiar bylines in this issue, especially in the section on books, books, and more books. There members of our library staff have combined forces to bring you lots of good reading ideas for the dreary gray days of winter. Reference librarians **Julie O'Neill** and **Meg Hughes**, collection managers **Martha Bayley** and **Gail Goodrick**, as well as young people's librarian **Sharon Snyder** have come up with some old favorites as well as many new offerings for your enjoyment. There's something for almost every taste, and if you don't see a favorite author listed here now, keep looking in the next issue. You've told us you'd like to have more suggestions for good reading, so we'll continue the list in the spring. You thought Bumbershoot was over

now that winter is officially here? Not necessarily, if you're a music lover who would like to hear more from the bands featured in Seattle's fall arts fest. Music man **John Fossett**, Kitsap Regional Library's audio-visual collection manager, has acquired more than a score of offerings by Bumbershoot music groups. He lists them for you on Page 14. **Susan Wiggs** is back, this time with a compelling interview with the distinguished Dorothy Allison, who will speak here early in 2006. Don't miss this feature on Pages 6-7. **Eleanor Wheeler**, the longtime children's library staffer who retired this fall, has written a farewell column to children and adults. (Who knows? Perhaps we'll hear from her again as she makes the transition from staff member to library patron and volunteer.) **Channie Peters** is no newcomer to the library—she's been a volunteer for several

years and is now a library board member—but she's new to these pages. On Page 4 she shares some ways she's found to enjoy Kitsap Regional Library services from the comfort of home, using her computer. **Barbara Winther** is back with another travel article, including some great reading for armchair travelers (Page 3). **Suzanne Selfors** returns with another author interview, this one a Bainbridge Islander many of you know (Page 5). And **Nan Wooldridge** keeps us up to date on the library's art scene (Page 16). **Pat Miller** reports on the Friends of the Library, **Susan Bottles** keeps us up to date on Field's End activities, and photos from the annual volunteers' brunch were taken by **Paulette Rhoades** and **Sharon Snyder**. We hope you enjoy this year-end Library News, and join with your library staff, board members, and volunteers in wishing you a very Happy New Year. See you at the library in 2006.

# What's new at the library

By CINDY HARRISON  
Bainbridge Branch Manager

**Island Theatre is reading plays** for packed houses at the library. The October reading of *Omnium Gatherum* attracted a standing-room-only crowd. The theater's board of directors decided to build on this enthusiasm. They are soliciting donations from the audience at each performance and these funds will be used to purchase new play scripts and other theater-related books. Over \$200 has already been raised and new books for the Bainbridge library theater collection should be arriving soon. Island Theatre's play readings take place on the third Saturday of alternate months at 7:30 p.m. in the library's meeting room.

**Kitsap Regional Library's** nonfiction collection manager, Gail Goodrick, is buying more foreign language books for the KRL libraries. The majority of those purchased have been Spanish language books but library patrons can also check out books in German, Japanese, Tagalog, Korean, French and other languages. (Catalog search tip: Search "books in Korean" to locate books in that language. For books and media that provide assistance in learning a language, try: "Italian language instruction.")

**The KRL video collection** has evolved into a "floating" collection rather than the former fixed branch collections. Videos that are placed on hold by a library patron are sent to that patron's branch of choice via the library courier van. When that film is returned, it remains in the branch where it was returned until it is checked out or retrieved by another hold request. The best way to obtain library videos is to place holds on those items as one would place holds on books. Catalog search tips: (DVD) to search the entire DVD collection or (DVD and feature films) to locate entertainment films. Search for (DVD and Harrison Ford) to locate DVDs featuring this actor or (DVD and Hotel Rwanda) to search for a particular film title on DVD. Search (feature films not DVD) to identify VHS video recordings.

**By the beginning of 2006**, Kitsap Regional Library will have a new program in place called CLICK! The library will be recruiting volunteers to teach classes in basic computer use and introductory Internet searching for library patrons. We're looking for people with excellent computer and people skills to serve as one-on-one tutors or small class teachers. The classes are intended to help library patrons successfully access the library's electronic catalog and other resources. KRL volunteer coordinator Mary Louise Ott provides more information on Click! in this issue of the Library News.

## Field's End slates writers' conference at Kiana Lodge on April 22

Field's End's first writers' conference, April 22 at Kiana Lodge, promises writers—and readers—insight, inspiration and instruction about the writing process from a full slate of best-selling and award-winning authors.

A waterfront setting on Agate Passage, a salmon or vegetarian buffet lunch, an afternoon wine and cheese reception, and book signing are all included.

**Registration opens February 1. Pricing is set to encourage early sign-up, with discounts given to writing groups and book clubs who sign up together (see sidebar).**

Islander David Guterson, the co-founder of the Field's End writers' community affiliated with the library, will set the tone for the day with the first keynote speech, "Gathered at the Fire: The Storyteller's Art."

Guterson has written three novels, including the international bestseller *Snow Falling on Cedars*. He will speak of the novel in our traumatized post-9/11 world, and will address the vital social and cultural role of the storyteller.

Following lunch, Seattle resident Erik Larson will give the second key-note speech, "Breathing Life into the Dead."

Larson's nonfiction book *The Devil and The White City: Murder, Magic and Madness at the Fair that Changed America* has now spent more than 90 weeks on the New York Times Book Review best seller list. His book *Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time and the Deadliest Hurricane in History* was also a best-seller. Originally a journalist, Larson continues to write for a variety of nationally-distributed publications.

The conference will feature two

breakout sessions in the morning and two in the afternoon. Participants will choose among four workshops during each session. Topics cover everything from craft, poetry, memoir and biography to nonfiction, multicultural fiction and the writing life.

Among the authors committed to lead workshops are Karen Joy Fowler (*The Jane Austen Book Club*), Elizabeth George (the Inspector Thomas Lynley novels), Gail Tsukiyama (*The Samurai's Garden*), and Larson.

Other award-winning presenters include young adult and "chick lit" novelist Anjali Banerjee, children's author Brenda Z. Guiberson, novelist and cookbook author Bharti Kirchner, novelist and Pulitzer-prize nominee Craig Lesley, young adult writer Claire Rudolf Murphy, novelist and non-fiction author Sheila Rabe, children's book author George Shannon, historical fiction writer Elsa Watson, poet Kelli Russell Agodon and women's fiction novelist Susan Wiggs.

While writers of every experience level will glean some "how to" tips, readers will also gain an insider's perspective on the work behind the books they love from such sessions as Fowler's "Telling lies: what successful liars have to teach fiction writers," George's, "Where do ideas come from?" and Wiggs's "The sense of place—the importance of setting." Larson will present, "Why every day in an archive is like a detective story."

Books of participating authors will



Anjali Banerjee

be sold throughout the day, with book sales arranged through the generous support of Eagle Harbor Books. Most of the authors will be available to sign their books during the concluding wine and cheese reception.

The premiere sponsors of "Writing in the Garden of the Gods" are Winslow's

Gilbert Thomes Jewelry and Prudential Northwest Real Estate. In addition to the Bainbridge Chamber of Commerce, other supporting local businesses include Glass Onion CD and Tape Works, Harbor View Guesthouse, Julie's Frame Gallery, Port Madison Home Furnishings and Design, and the Lynwood Historic Theater.

**Further information about the conference, "Writing in the Garden of the Gods," including details of schedule and registration, may be found on the website [www.fieldsend.org](http://www.fieldsend.org).**

**Cost:**  
\$125 from February 1 to February 28  
\$135 from March 1 to April 12  
\$120 each for members of book clubs or writing groups of five or more who sign up together

**Registration must be postmarked or received by April 12. There will be no day-of-conference registration.**

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# Australia's opposite cultures

By BARBARA WINTHER  
Photo By GRANT WINTHER

Much of Australia is outback country, as dry and hot as any place in the world. Learning how to live in such a harsh land can only be accomplished by hardy, tenacious people.

The earliest Westerners to settle in Australia were British. They came in the 1780s to establish a penal colony. Formerly, Britain sent their criminals to the American colonies, but after the Revolution this was no longer possible. British jails grew packed with petty thieves, poachers, forgers, pickpockets and highwaymen. Often magistrates handed down sentences of "seven years transportation" in lieu of the death penalty or long imprisonment.

The First Fleet, consisting of 11 ships, sailed into Sydney Cove in 1788 with 780 criminals, about a quarter of them women, 211 marines and an untold number of ex-convicts and ship crew—around 1500 people in all. The original convicts were treated like animals, forced to labor hard clearing land, planting crops, constructing roads and cutting and shaping sandstone for building purposes. They were fed little, slept in makeshift quarters and wore only the clothes they had on their backs when they arrived.

Ex-convicts were granted small parcels of land. Soldiers and other free persons were given aid and encouragement to motivate them to settle. Convict James Ruse was pardoned in 1789 and given several acres along with farm implements, livestock and convict labor. He became Australia's first settler.

**It wasn't as though these early Westerners came to a land where nobody lived. Similar to the Native Americans in this country, Aborigines were the first inhabitants of what became known as Australia. For 40,000 years, perhaps even longer, Aborigines had the continent to themselves.**

Deep in the outback, at Alice Springs, Grant and I hired a guide by the name of Lindsey. Although he considered himself an Aborigine, he was only half that, his mother a Scot. He drove us to places where outsiders were not allowed unless accompanied by an Aborigine.

One such sacred place was at Emily Gap. (A gap is a cut in a cliff-like formation, usually created by a river.) As we drove past ironwood and gum trees and the prickly spiniflex bushes, a large lizard ran across the road and into the bushes.

"They don't run that fast in the daytime unless something's after them," Lindsey said. "Too hot."

Just then a Western Brown Snake, the second most poisonous snake in Australia, writhed out of a ditch. These snakes are aggressive and will strike at you even if you aren't bothering them. The snake struck at the side of our van. Luckily, we were inside. After the snake wriggled away, we left the vehicle and hiked into Emily Gap, keeping alert for any more predators.

Stone cliffs of a pale, reddish hue rose high on either side in uplifted



Australian Aborigine playing the didgeridoo.

layers, indicating thousands of years of deposited sediment and earth movement. Although a river had once flowed here, now it was dry.

We saw two freshly dug holes in the riverbed. "Hill kangaroos finding water," Lindsey said.

While we walked, he told us legends about the place.

"Caterpillars are important in the Dreamtime stories of this area," he said. "Dreamtime is a spiritual quest in a place, at a time before and beyond memory."

We arrived at the sacred site, where ancient paintings made of red ochre and white lime represent mythical caterpillars. Lindsey told us that at this spot, an ancestral spirit cooked and ate caterpillars on his Dreamtime journey.

At Jesse Gap, we visited another sacred site: Emu Rock, where white sand "weeps out" of the cliff. In a Dreamtime story, Emu was hurt here and his fat (sand) ran out.

Lindsey and his family live at Undoolya (shadow) Cattle Station, which is on Aboriginal land.

**In an outdoor shelter made of tree posts with a wire mesh roof covered by spiniflex plants, Lindsey's wife and another family member served us the mainstay of outback cooking: Billy tea, brewed in a tin can, and Damper bread, baked in the coals of an open fire still burning outside the shelter.**

To honor us, Lindsey roasted a kangaroo tail, considered the premier meat of the animal. After it was done, he cut the tail into chunks, cooled them under eucalyptus twigs to keep flies away, then skinned and presented them to us on a knife blade. Although he claimed the fat part was the good kind, we couldn't stomach it. However, the meat itself tasted somewhat better than the other kangaroo served to us the night before at Bojangles, an old restaurant saloon in Alice Springs.

Lindsey told us how to hunt kangaroo with a *woomera* (a spear thrower). His family had killed four large kangaroos the day before and distributed the meat among family members and friends, since they had no way of preserving it.

"Nearly all the meat was gone in a day," Lindsey said.

His wife explained how women use the *coolaman* (an oval, flat, wooden dish) and the way to operate a digging stick to retrieve grubs and roots for food. And we learned how water can be extracted from the root of a tree. And how tasty were roasted grasshoppers and lizards. And about bush medicine: to cure a cold, you boil the leaves of wild fuchsias and rub them on your chest; to get rid of a boil, place the fat from a kangaroo tail on the boil and wrap to leach out the poison.

Australian Aborigines have a difficult time being accepted by and surviving in the modern world. Poverty, alcohol and drugs are prevalent among those who live in towns and cities. Except in a few outback communities and museums, little recognition is made of their culture. Yet the Aborigines know how to exist in harmony with a harsh land so that they scarcely leave a footprint, whereas the typical way of Westerners is to struggle with the land until it is subdued.

Two opposite cultures; two approaches. One tough continent.

## Books on Australia

Berra, Tim M., *A Natural History of Australia*.

A comprehensive look at the natural history of the country, describing the geography, geology, flora and fauna as well as the Aboriginal people.

Blackburn, Julia, *Daisy Bates in the Desert*.

Daisy lived for 30 years with the Aborigines, where she was known as Kabbarli, "the white-skinned grandmother." A fascinating reconstruction of the life of a mysterious woman.

Bryson, Bill, *In a Sunburned Country*. A charming book about the author's travels through the vast, empty continent of Australia.

Caruana, Wally, *Aboriginal Art*.

Covers the indigenous arts of painting, engraving, weaving, sculpture, printmaking and textiles.

Chatwin, Bruce, *The Songlines*.

In searching for meaning to his life, Chatwin relates his exploration of the Aboriginal "songlines." A bit overdosed with quotations that interrupt the narrative, but worth reading.

Conway, Jill Ker, *Road from Coorain*.

An autobiography of Conway's early life on a sheep farm in the outback. Eventually, she moved to the United States and became the first woman president of Smith College.

Davidson, Robyn, *A Woman's Solo Trek Across 1700 Miles of Australian Outback*.

With a dog and four camels, the author travels across the outback, courageously facing challenges that transform her life.

Hughes, Robert, *The Fatal Shore: The Epic of Australia's Founding*.

A scholarly, well-researched account of the tragic story of Australia's penal colony, told in highly readable prose.

Lonely Planet, *Australia*.

An excellent guide with authoritative coverage of the country. See also their special guidebooks, *Bushwalking in Australia* and *Outback Australia*.

Pike, Jeffrey (editor), *Insight Guide to Australia*.

Essays that explore the country's history, people, environment and art as well as reveal places of interest. Packed with hundreds of color photos that bring the country to life.

## OOPS!

In the article on *Changing China* (Fall Library News) photo captions of the Beijing street scene and Hutong were transposed. Did you notice?

—Editor

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## Winter's a great time to visit our local library

By ANN LOVEJOY  
Library Board President

Chilly winds and soggy days make winter my favorite time to read. I always feel like a kid at a candy store when I visit the library. Where else can we choose a weekly armload of novels and poetry, knitting and gardening books, cookbooks and mysteries, all for free?

Our library is blessed with an abundance of books of all kinds, covering a huge range of topics and interests. When I have time to browse, I explore less-familiar stacks. I've found fascinating travel books, local and world histories, and biographies of amazing people I'd never heard of, as well as specialty books about oddball things like dyeing with native plants or building my own electric car.

All this bounty is available to us every day but holidays, and our terrific staff is working with Kitsap Regional Library to expand our open hours as much as possible. Indeed, we are doubly blessed; not only are our shelves groaning with new and beloved classic books, but our library staff is exceptional. Well trained and warmly courteous, our librarians contribute to a powerfully pleasant atmosphere.

Some of you have commented that the library feels a bit crowded. Well, yes. With over 350,000 patron visits each year, we are serving nearly 1,000 people a day. That's a lot of foot traffic and it also represents a very healthy demand for books, videos, music, and more.

Though Bainbridge Islanders enthusiastically embrace all these various media, we really love our books. Every year, as KRL asks patrons what additions or changes they'd like to see, our steadily growing population overwhelmingly answers, "Books! We want more books!"

The librarians valiantly struggle to balance the need for comfortable seating, study space, and computer access with the voracious demand for still more bookshelves. Although the library is indeed increasingly crowded, we strive to make room for everyone and everything and maintain a welcoming ambiance.

Personally, I love being surrounded by books, but I do appreciate that easy navigation through the library with a stroller or a wheelchair is vitally important. As always, if you have ideas about how to ease the space crunch, please let me know.



Photo by Sharon Snyder

Kristin Sherwin reads a story to her daughter, Alison, in the library.

## Seeking...and finding, at krl.org

By OI-FAN (CHANNIE) PETERS  
Library Board Member

Have you ever started to read a magazine article while waiting for your dentist, and then halfway through this fascinating article, your dentist is ready to torture you - but you haven't finished the article? What to do?

Or you're standing in the checkout line at Safeway trying to speed read a juicy article in Cosmopolitan magazine before it's your turn to pay. (Heaven forbid anyone should see you actually buying the magazine.) You know you can't possibly finish the article. What to do?

Have you ever needed to do some research on a drug your doctor has just suggested or look up an article from last year's Travel and Leisure about a distant destination at the top of your vacation list? What to do?

**Did you know that with no more than a Kitsap Regional Library card, you can search electronic resources containing thousands of magazines, journals and newspapers archived from up to 10 years ago, in some cases longer? And you can do this any time of night or day from the convenience of your home computer. Who knew?**

You can download articles from any of these newspapers and magazines, print them out, save them to your computer or email them to friends or colleagues. This can facilitate collaborative research projects or research on a family vacation. And once you've booked your family's vacation, you can use the Reading Recommendations databases to find just the right book for every member of your family by searching for authors, titles, categories and even favorite plots.

If you've been bitten by the genealogy bug, the genealogy database provides extensive information on family histories, genealogical magazines, local histories, invaluable tools for digging deep into your origins.

If you need homework help, whether on history, literature, biography or SAT interactive practice exams, you can find it online from any computer, anywhere that is connected to the internet (while you're at a café, perhaps, with wireless connectivity). How about viewing full-text and full-image articles for the New York Times from 1851 to 2005, while sitting on your bed (with your wireless laptop)? Or imagine sitting at a café, sipping your cappuccino, logged into krl.org, researching your next great novel or just an Atlantic Monthly article to email your sister in Racine, Wisconsin.

### How to do it

Just go to [www.krl.org](http://www.krl.org) and click on "search electronic resources" at the left side of your screen. You will then see a listing and description of the many databases available to you. After clicking on one, you will be asked to enter the barcode number on your library card. Then, the sky's the limit - you can search to your heart's content, and you will know everything!

If you want some hands-on instruction, the librarians at the Bainbridge Public Library are available to help. Ask at the reference desk, where you can also pick up a handout on the library's electronic resources.

## New year-end giving opportunities

By MARITE BUTNERS  
Library Board Member

When Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and the surrounding areas, Americans responded as they always do with gifts of their talent, time and treasure to meet the needs of those directly affected by the devastation.

Congress responded as well by quickly passing KETRA, the Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act. This act provided certain increased tax benefits between August 28 and December 31, 2005. Under existing law donations of cash have been limited to 50 percent of the donor's adjusted gross income (with a five-year carryover for any excess deductions.) Under KETRA that deduction limit for cash donations made to qualified charities (and made before the end of the year) has been increased to 100 percent.

Also, qualified gifts made before the end of the year will not be subject to the deduction rules applicable to itemized deductions. (Single taxpayers with adjusted gross income exceeding \$145,950 generally must reduce their itemized deductions by 3 percent of the excess amount.)

These tax benefits may provide some unique planning opportunities for donors to accelerate outstanding pledges. The library has a free year-end gift planning brochure available upon your request. Each individual's planning considerations are unique, however. Your own attorney or tax adviser will be able to provide you with the best information.

### 10 reasons to volunteer

1. Altruism
  2. A way of giving back to an organization
  3. To meet people
  4. Learn new skills
  5. To be with people who share interests
  6. Gain insight into an organization
  7. Looking for a job
  8. Career sampling
  9. To use skills developed in the workplace
  10. To keep busy
- ... and some folks are just looking for some fun!

— MaryLouise Ott, KRL volunteer coordinator

## 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.

# All about Jonathan Evison

By SUZANNE SELFORS

A writer friend recently told me about a man she had met at a Field's End class who claimed to have buried his first three novels. Literally.

**"He dug a hole and stuck them in the ground," she said. "Gave them final rites. He didn't keep any copies."**

The permanence of his decision intrigued me, for many writers view their creations as life forms unto themselves, comprised equally of sweat and angst as of words and paper. It is one thing to allow the novels to gather dust on a shelf—it is another entirely to invite the worms to feast.

Had this been an act of catharsis, frustration, or both?

Curious to find out, I sat at Pegasus Coffee House with Jonathan Evison—Bainbridge Island resident, writer, and alleged hole-digger.

"It's true," he said matter-of-factly, his eyes twinkling beneath the brim of a wool cap. "But it was three holes, to be exact. I buried one novel behind a mobile home in California, another in Southern Oregon, and another in Los Angeles—all places I'd lived before moving back to Bainbridge. Those first novels were part of a process I had to go through. It was



Jonathan Evison

really cathartic. I never harbored any illusions about writing coming easily."

Evison started his writing career in third grade when he entered a story in a young author contest and won. Representing Wilkes Elementary, he attended the Young Author Convention with other winning Washington state kids. Their books were bound and placed in local libraries.

"It was a great experience. I'll never forget it," he said. But then came what

he calls "his 20-year drought"—a time in which he graduated from high school, worked as a telemarketer, tomato sorter, busboy, tree surgeon, and social worker but had no real writing success.

**The drought ended when he wrote a comedy show called *Shaken Not Stirred*. It played on the BBC and won a Silver Mic award and earned a Peabody nomination.**

He went on to write screenplays but knew that what he truly wanted to write were novels.

"When I began my first novel I discovered that with all the screen writing I had lost my figurative language. I didn't have enough exposition, it wasn't literary."

So he started experimenting with the short story format.

Many of his short stories found homes in journals such as *The Orchid Literary Review*, *Stringtown*, *Knock* and *The Wandering Hermit Review*.

"For me, stories are an exercise. They make me a better writer. By the time I was writing my third novel, I found my style growing. I had fused the literary with the screenwriting."

When we spoke, Evison had just returned from a jaunt to New York City, where he had met with his agent to

discuss publishing plans for his fourth novel, *All About Lulu*. He went about the agent search with a query letter bombing campaign that yielded no results. Then he did some research and decided that he wanted the same agent who had represented Saul Bellow.

"She found my letter in her slush pile and offered me representation. I feel very fortunate to have her."

About *All About Lulu*, author Natalia Rachel Singer wrote, "This novel will invite its readers to redefine love and the functional family and the promise of America all at once. I loved this comic, lyrical, moving novel from start to finish."

The theme Evison returns to time and time again in his writing is that of a family being tested by crisis.

"What happens to people who care about each other when tragedy strikes? When something momentous happens to a family, the members are forever sorting it out."

Hollywood is also a continuing theme; he's lived and worked there. "Hollywood provides a great vehicle to explore the modern world," he says.

Evison is a fifth-generation Californian whose family moved to Bainbridge when he was 10. He graduated from Bainbridge High School in '86. He lives with his wife, two dogs and eight rabbits, in a home that is surrounded by quiet woods.

"My yard is a great place to sit and read or work revisions."

**He tries to write four to seven hours a day. "Successful writing takes three things: talent, discipline and luck. The only one that the writer can control is discipline. Getting published is often all about falling on the right desk at the right time. So, you've got to be able to let stuff go."**

Which brought me back to the whole burial thing. Did he regret doing it?

"No. Not at all. Funny though. They'll call *All About Lulu* my debut novel, but really, it's just the only one to see the light of day."

(Jonathan Evison will be teaching at the January 17 Writers Roundtable. His topic will be, "What factors define a great character?")

## Writers' Roundtables slated for winter

All Island writers, aspiring or experienced, are invited to join Field's End writers' community at this winter's Writers' Roundtables at the library.

The Writers' Roundtables meet the third Tuesday evening of every month, from 7 to 8:30, in the library's large meeting room. Newcomers are always welcome; the evenings are structured to include everyone. There is no charge.

**On January 17, Bainbridge short story author and broadcast and film writer Jonathan Evison introduces the question, "What factors define a great character?"**

A former nationally syndicated talk radio host (as well as telemarketer, tomato sorter, busboy, tree surgeon and advice columnist known as Johnny Seattle,) Evison created the award-winning *Shaken,*

*Not Stirred* comedy hour. He is currently converting his story "Mostly About Lulu" into a novel. His short stories have appeared most recently in *The Orchid Literary Review*, *Stringtown*, and *Knock*.

**Columnist, essayist, children's author and another Islander—Nancy Blakey—discusses "How can writers find a personal voice?" on February 21.**

Blakey's *Mudpies* column for Seattle's *Child* magazine evolved into the *Mudpies* series of project books for children.

**Returning Roundtable presenter Tamara Sellman tackles "How do writers submit work on line?" on March 21.**

Sellman specializes in literary fiction, magical realism, food and garden writing freelance feature journalism, online publication and teaching workshops for writers. Among her several professional

achievements are a Pushcart Prize nomination and second prize for poetry in 2004 from the Northwest Cultural Council.

Following established format, participants break into small discussion groups after the introduction. When the groups report back, the guest author summarizes all the 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](mailto:info@fieldsend.org) (please put Writers' Roundtable in the subject line), or write to Field's End at the library, 1270 Madison Avenue, Bainbridge Island 98110.

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.



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# Naked in the world

## Author Dorothy Allison to visit Bainbridge

By SUSAN WIGGS

"I wear my skin as thinly as I have to, armor myself only as much as seems absolutely necessary. I try to live naked in the world, unashamed even under attack, unafraid even though I know how much there is to fear.

"I tell myself that life is the long struggle to understand and love fully. That to keep faith with those who have literally saved my life and made it possible for me to imagine more than survival, I have to try constantly to understand more, love more fully, go more naked in order to make others as safe as I myself want to be."

"I want to live past my own death, as my mother does, in what I have made possible for others—my sisters, my son, my lover, my community—the people I believe in absolutely, men and women whom death does not stop, who honor the truth of each other's stories." [An excerpt from *Skin*, by Dorothy Allison]

**Born to a 15-year-old unwed mother who quit the seventh grade to work as a waitress, Dorothy Allison learned the power and perils of storytelling at a young age.**

She recalls "hiding out under the porch" and listening to her aunts tell stories, and entering a library or bookstore "with a sense of desperate passion."

Books were her escape from the world. She told *Salon Magazine*, "To find a way out of the world as I saw it, I read science fiction. To sustain my rage and hope, I read poetry and mainstream novels with female heroines. And I read books by Southerners for ammunition to use against Yankees who would treat me mean."

**The library has long been important to Allison.**

"My most profound library memory was the shock I got after we moved to central Florida and I went to the school library there. I was 13 and had gotten used to the South Carolina school libraries which were pitiful—full of biographies of generals and judges but not much else. The central Florida Library was enormous and had a world of books I could borrow—novels, poetry and theologies, history books, and my favorite section of the Dewey Decimal system—with all those books on the occult. I tried to check out everything—which earned me a quick note from the librarian to my mama asking if she knew what I was reading."

"'Let her read anything she wants,' my mama told the lady. But it took a signed letter to get me the access I wanted."

"I think I scared most librarians—because I wanted to read the books they thought I should not read—the grown up fiction and those plays by Tennessee

Williams and Carson McCullers. But the librarian I worked for when I was in my junior and senior years was a marvel. Mrs. James was fearless and just assumed all young women were like her and wanted to read everything. She was the one who told me about inter-library loan. Suddenly I wasn't just stuck with what was in the Maynard Evans High School Library. I could request books from other High Schools or even the main library downtown.

"By the time I got to the 11th grade, I had pretty much exhausted the new books, but Lyndon Johnson's war on poverty got me an after-school job at the school library where I got to record all the new books. That meant I got to read them first. I am still grateful to Lyndon Johnson, and always will be. He may be known to everyone else for his role in the Viet Nam war, but to me he will always be the man who helped me save money for college and made it possible for me to first read the collected poems of Muriel Rukeyser."

For Dorothy Allison, the library was "the secret world where I could go hide and fall out of this world and into that other one where anything was possible. It had solid wooden tables, sturdy chairs, carpets and air conditioning. If I could have, I would have moved in and lived there. As it was, it was my home away from home—a refuge and a promise. I used to sit on the floor and lean against the bookcases, lean back and dream about having my own place some day—a place where books would be stacked just as high—novels and anthologies and blank books in which I could write my own poems. The library made me think all that was possible, and it was.

"I think the best thing about the library is and was how it always felt to me—not just that it was the repository of what I loved—books themselves—but that it was a place in which a reverence for the word was implicit. Libraries have always seemed to me temples of wisdom—places where study and quiet concentration were honored, and where wanting to read was admired, not held in contempt.

"I was the child of a truck driver and a waitress, a girl who lived in a claustrophobic house where both the television and the radio were playing



Dorothy Allison

loud all the time. The only books in our house—other than the few that were my own—were the big illustrated Bible and my mama's collection of Mickey Spillane and Ross MacDonald. It worried my family that I tended to hide in a corner and read so much. I was constantly being told to 'put down that book and go out and play'."

**"But at the library, no one interrupted me, or if they did, they did it softly and with respect. At the library, reading was holy—which is how it felt to me, how it still feels to me.**

"In my house now, I limit my son's access to computer and video games, but the house rule on books is simple. If he wants to read it, we will try to find it. And we not only go to the library frequently, we donate books to our local libraries all the time. I want the children in my county to have what I always wanted—new novels on the shelves waiting to be read. It's just lucky that now publishers actually send me many of them, so that I, in turn, can pass them on."

The Greenville, South Carolina native describes herself as a Southern novelist, feminist, confirmed flirt, femme, expatriate rebel, and born-again Californian.

In a 1999 *Salon* interview, Dorothy Allison says, "I was born to a very poor,

violent family where most of my focus was purely on survival, and my sense of self as a lesbian grew along with my sense of myself as a raped child, a poor white Southerner and an embattled female. I was Violet Leduc's Le Batard much more than I was Le Amazon, that creation of upper-class Natalie Barney. People tell me that class is no longer the defining factor it was when I was a girl, but I find that impossible to fully accept. Class is always a defining factor when you are the child one step down from everyone else."

At the age of 13, the young writer "...was always calculating how to not kill myself or how not to let myself be killed. That tends to stringently shape one's imagination. I did not plan to fill up a hope chest and marry some good old boy and make babies....I was a smart, desperate teenage girl trying to figure out how to not be dismissed out of hand for who I was. I wanted to go to college, not become another waitress or factory

worker or laundry person or counter-help woman like all the other women I knew. Everywhere I looked I saw a world that held people like me in contempt."

**After winning a National Merit Scholarship, Allison attended college and went on to study anthropology at the New School for Social Research. But storytelling was in her bones, and**

*Continued on Page 7*

### Some of Dorothy Allison's favorite books

*Rubyfruit Jungle* by Rita Mae Brown.

*Sula* by Toni Morrison – "I remember...how this great grinding noise went through my brain. Of course, I thought."

*Member of the Wedding* by Carson McCullers.

*My Antonia* by Willa Cather.

*The Persian Boy, Fire From Heaven* and *The Friendly Young Ladies* by Mary Renault.

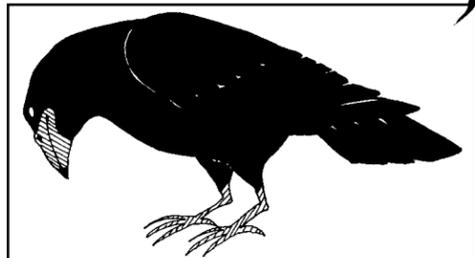
*Odd Girl Out* and *Beebo Brinker* by Ann Bannon.

*Patience and Sarah* by Isabel Miller.

*The Female Man* by Joanna Russ.

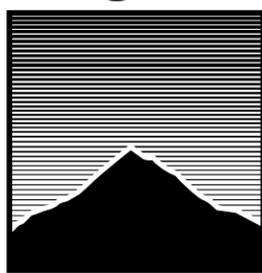
*The Life of Poetry* by Muriel Rukeyser.

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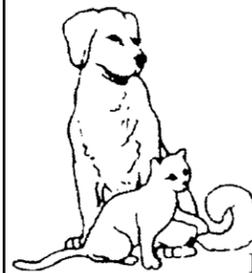
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Continued from Page 6

## Dorothy Allison

that, combined with an awakening feminist spirit, informs and inspires her award-winning work.

For Allison, feminism "...was like opening your eyes under water. It hurt, but suddenly everything that had been dark and mysterious became visible and open to change."

The author believes her first book, *The Women Who Hate Me*, (1983) "wouldn't have happened if I hadn't gotten over my own prejudices, and started talking to my mother and sisters again."

The *Boston Globe* proclaims Dorothy Allison as "one of the finest writers of her generation."

Allison's literary influences are surprising. One was Flannery O'Connor—"that astonishing, brave visionary who told hard truths in a human voice—an outsider holding a whole society up to a polished mirror. She was as ruthless as one of her own characters, and I loved her with my whole heart...If I set aside Flannery O'Connor, I would have to say that science fiction made me who I am today. I spent my childhood buried in those books. Every science-fiction novel I fell into as a child...widened my imagination about what was possible for me in the world.

Dorothy Allison won two Lambda Literary Awards for *Trash* (1988), a collection of short stories. Her novel, *Bastard Out of Carolina* (1992),

skyrocketed her to fame, boosted by a full page in the *New York Times Book Review* which proclaimed the novel "as close to flawless as any reader could ask for," lauding the author's "perfect ear for speech and its natural rhythms."

The novel was a finalist for the National Book Award and won both the Ferro Grumley and Bay Area Book Reviewers Awards for fiction. It rose to the top of national best seller lists

Allison will speak January 28 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Bainbridge high school.

and has been translated into more than a dozen languages. It was adapted and made into an award-winning and controversial movie, directed by Angelica Huston.

While *Bastard* was a book about leaving home, *Cavedweller* (1998) was about coming back. The novel was inspired by rock star Janis Joplin's "whole complex of working-class self-hatred and female masochism and self-destruction and great talent." The book won the Lambda Literary Award for fiction and was a finalist for the Lillian Smith Prize. It was an international bestseller, an off-Broadway play adapted by Kate Moira Ryan for The New York Theater Workshop, and a film starring Kyra Sedwick and Kevin Bacon.

"In my family," Allison says, "...we all commit some unforgivable sin and then spend the rest of our lives trying to redeem it in some fashion. And the romance of self-destruction: I truly do not know why some of us can resist it and some of us can't, why some of us kill our children and some of us try to send them whole into the world."

Dorothy Allison is known for her performance work as well. A chapbook of *Two or Three Things I Know for Sure* was selected as a notable book of the year by the *New York Times Book Review*, and adapted as a documentary film, which took prizes at the Aspen and Toronto film festivals, and premiered on PBS.

Allison gives equal attention to small press. She is the author of *Skin: Talking About Sex, Class and Literature* (1995), which won the American Library Association Gay and Lesbian Book Award, and numerous volumes of poetry.

In 1998, Allison founded The Independent Spirit Award, a prize given each year to an individual whose work with small presses and independent bookstores has helped to sustain them.

The award, administered by the Astraea Foundation, is designed to encourage the people and institutions which support new writers and to introduce readers to works that might otherwise go unheard and unread.

Allison serves on the boards of PEN International, the National Coalition Against Censorship and Feminists for Free Expression, and the advisory board of the James Tiptree Jr. Memorial Award, presented annually to a science fiction or fantasy work that explores and expands on contemporary ideas of gender.

Her advice to writers is succinct: "You learn to live with uncertainty and poverty if you are going to be a writer. I'm still very blunt: if you want to be a writer, get a day job. The fact that I have actually been able to make a living at it is astonishing. I know so many great writers who can't and, oh, it is not about justice. I am trying to carry it off with grace and a sense of humor."

"Understand me," Allison writes. "What I am here for is to tell you stories you may not want to hear....And to scare hell out of you now and then. I was raised Baptist, I know how to do that."

Please mark your calendar to hear Dorothy Allison's very special lecture, entitled "Scaring the Horses: How and Why Writers Write Those Big Mean Hard Stories" for Fields End on Saturday, January 28, 2006, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Bainbridge High School LGI. For more information, please call 842-4162, e-mail [info@fieldsend.org](mailto:info@fieldsend.org) or see [www.fieldsend.org/events.html](http://www.fieldsend.org/events.html).

(Susan Wiggs is a Bainbridge Island writer, and a volunteer for the library and Fields End.)

## Friends looking for book sale volunteers

By PATRICIA MILLER

The Friends of the Library are always on the lookout for projects that make your visits to the library more pleasurable and rewarding.

The tropical fish tank in the children's section, the new tables for computer users and the new teen center are just a few services made possible by those of you who donate books and those who purchase them through our monthly sales.

The sales conducted on the second Saturday of every month will remain a constant, but we would like to conduct more regularly scheduled sales and we need volunteers to help prepare for them and conduct them.

If you're interested in working with the Friends, please ask for a volunteer form, available at the front desk, and fill it out.

In the meantime, look for short notice sales on the swing board outside the library



and in notices posted in the library window.

Last summer, board member Dominique Bemis volunteered to investigate the utility of online sales. Donated books were screened for value, and those demanding a higher than average price were placed on sale through Amazon.com.

Several months of online sales proved to be rewarding, so the board is investigating the possibility of going forward with these sales.

Funding is also provided by the magazine and book racks located in the entryway upstairs and near the elevator downstairs.

Hardworking Friends' volunteers replenish the shelves daily, and this has become a very popular service. The magazines cost .25 each and the books

are priced individually from .25 to \$1.00 or \$2.00. Please note that there is a slot provided in the middle of both racks for your payment.

Thank you for your donations, for your participation in sales and for your purchases from the magazine racks. Through your help, we are able to provide support for what we think is the finest library in the county.

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By SHARON SNYDER  
Young People's Librarian

# Children's Corner

Activities of interest to young people and their families

## Two full years

January 2006 marks my second full year of work here at Bainbridge Public Library.

What a ride.

I can remember trembling through my first few storytimes. Actually, I think I trembled my way through a lot of things during those first months.

You were patient while I learned the ropes. You shared a sense of humor. You were often kind.

Thank you.

The adventure continues.

## Volunteers

Volunteers help make Bainbridge Public Library the magic place it is.

We would not have been able to offer our upcoming winter reading volunteer program without the time and talent offered by Carrie Klein.

We would not have been able to offer our upcoming reading to dogs literacy program without the innovative and artistic skills offered by Karyn Carpenter and her Newfoundland pup, Arayo.

We would not have been able to introduce children throughout Kitsap County to the joy of reading through the media of television without the time, equipment and skills offered by Kit Spier and Cameron Snow.

Thank you all.

## A difficult goodbye

Wendy Jackson Hall introduced herself and her artistic talents to our teen anime club earlier this year. She had a way with animation. She also had a way with people. The teens and I were saddened to hear of her recent death and will miss her.

Her bright generosity made a difference.

## Family reading opportunities

By CARRIE KLEIN

Curl up with a good book at storytime.

The short, chilly days of winter are upon us but that doesn't mean you need to hibernate! Come to the library for storytime beginning the week of January 23 to hear a few stories, be with other families, and share the joy of reading together. Please note winter storytime schedule.

### Winter reading volunteers

In addition to storytime, we're going to bring our summer reading volunteers back on Wednesday afternoons in February to read aloud with younger children. Every Wednesday between 4 and 5 pm, you are invited to bring your toddlers and preschoolers to the young people's area of the library. Older kids will be available and ready to read with them. This offers our reading volunteers great practice and your kids a great reading role model. This is not a drop-off program, but it may give you a little bit of a break on a long, dark afternoon.

### Calling all summer reading volunteers!

If you were one of our great volunteers this past summer who spent time at the

library reading with younger children, we want you to consider signing on as a winter reading volunteer.

Your time commitment will be for one Wednesday afternoon in February 2006, between 3:45 and 5:00 pm. The summer program that matched volunteer readers between the ages of 9 and 17 with young children was such a success that families have asked us to offer it again this winter.

If you participated in the program last summer and are interested in signing up to read this winter, come in and talk with Sharon the librarian on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday afternoon before January 18. She'll take your picture for an official reading volunteer display, give you a nametag and make sure you're on the schedule.

If you are someone between the ages of 9 and 18 who wants to be a reading volunteer, but wasn't with us last summer, look for our announcement in the Spring issue of the Bainbridge Island Library News. We will announce plans for summer volunteer programs in that issue. Stay tuned.



Sharon Snyder

Photo by Gail Christensen

## The power of one

By SHARON SNYDER

Kit Spier can't remember a time when he could not read. Books and reading have always been a fundamental part of his life. Even now, he reads an average of three books a week.

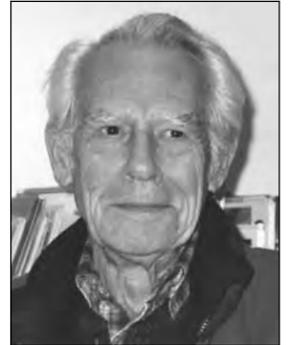
He wants to help make sure kids throughout Kitsap County are introduced to books and reading, too.

Kit's background is in television and theater. He worked for King TV, directing the Wunda Wunda storytelling show that ran successfully and entertained countless children for more than 15 years. Some of us can still sing the theme song.

Several months ago, Kit came forward with the idea to film young people's librarians conducting storytime for children in several branches of Kitsap Regional Library and broadcasting them on BIB and BKAT local cable TV.

He hoped this would enable children throughout the county to experience the joy of reading and the fun of traditional storytime in their own homes. Children

in daycares, hospitals and homes where English is a second language might also be introduced to public library services for the first time.



Kit Spier

Kit continues to offer his time, equipment, and expertise. Cameron Snow has come forward to serve as associate producer and now Story Time television program is on the air. Check local BIB listings for broadcast schedule.

In November, the Kitsap Regional Library Board recognized Kit's extraordinary contributions to our community with a special Certificate of Appreciation.

He deserves it.

## Books about real things

By JIM WHITING



Jim Whiting

Children's non-fiction is somewhat analogous to Dennis Kucinich in the 2004 Democratic primary: It represents a minority viewpoint among young

readers, yet it will endure to the very end.

In many libraries—especially school libraries—non-fiction titles far outnumber works of fiction. History, biography and the natural world are endlessly fascinating.

For example, I've discovered that much of the inspiration for Romeo and Juliet came from a barroom brawl. That the attack on Pearl Harbor was by far the worst mistake Japan made during World War II. That British Prime Minister Tony Blair was nearly kicked out of school as a teenager and soon afterward became the shaggy-haired lead singer in a rock band. That one of the crimes for which Joan of Arc burned at the stake was wearing men's clothing. That Julius Caesar was insulted by what he termed a paltry ransom demand after being kidnapped by pirates and ordered them

to nearly triple it. That Irving Berlin—a Jew—not only launched the holiday music industry with "White Christmas" but also lost his infant son on Christmas day. And so on. And on. And on.

Moreover, many non-fiction authors are gifted storytellers who do far more than simply recite facts. They vividly show why their subjects are important and meaningful. Their passion for their subjects shines through on every page. It's easy to get caught up in their excitement. Kids close the book with the same satisfaction that the best fiction provides.

Henry Ford was famously wrong. History is NOT bunk. Unfortunately, some of the stuff on the shelves lends credence to his assertion.

So how do you (and your youngsters) separate the wheat from the chaff? Pick out a book that looks like it may match your interests. Start reading. If after a few pages, you're not caught up in the saga, put it back. Try the next book on the shelf. And the next, if necessary. It shouldn't take long to find a book that sweeps you along.

*(Librarian's note: Bainbridge author Jim Whiting has written or edited nearly 200 children's non-fiction titles, many of which are available in the Kitsap Library system. His Web site is located at www.JimWhiting.com.)*

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Open House - Jan. 28th

New Parent Information Night - Feb. 1



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# A fond farewell

By ELEANOR WHEELER

Saying goodbye is hard, but being retired is delightful. Being bored is definitely not a problem. I miss seeing my library friends, but I love running into you at the pool, or Town & Country, or even the library!

Working in the Bainbridge Library has to be one of the best jobs ever. People are definitely the best part - fellow employees, volunteers, and patrons! Seeing young people learn to love books reassures me that there are generations of intelligent, caring adults in our future. And the books - how could I not like being surrounded by all the new books, as well as fresh copies of the classics?

When I first saw the Bainbridge library, it was small. The Young People's Department was downstairs, but the space was shared with a dark and depressing meeting room, and an even darker hallway. The meeting room doubled as storage space for anything that needed to be saved but did not fit elsewhere. (Remember that there was no online library, so often volumes of government publications found their home in the meeting room.)

As we were moving to the Island, the building was expanded by a small addition. This at least provided handicapped access on both levels. But to go from one level to the other, a person had to go out to the sidewalk and wheel around the entire building. A

new stairway connected the two levels, but the old stairs in the northwest corner were retained. This made for interesting problems locating people when parents and children were going around in circles looking for each other.

Finally, thanks to the generosity of the community and a lot of hard work by some dedicated volunteers, the library was expanded to its current size. How fortunate we are!

And with each addition, there was room for more books and other materials. Videos joined the collection, and vinyl records were exchanged for tapes, and then discs. As the library acquired larger collections, it was no longer necessary to limit how much could be checked out. No more trying to explain that a person could have two of those, and three of something else. (And no more trying to remember which format allowed two and which three.)

As for the good old days when there was a card catalog—well, it was in East Bremerton. For the most part, the information was stored in people's heads. The system was definitely based on what you see is what there is. If something was not there, either we didn't have it or it was checked out. By the time I started working, there was an online catalog, but it was far less user-friendly. Patrons could place holds, but only by filling out request slips. (Only three at a time, though. Remember someone will need to enter the data.)

The internet opened up new sources of information for all of us. I was working at the library when it was still a novelty. With very little chance to learn, we were suddenly providing the service to the public. At first, most people did not have access from their home, so we were the teachers. It was a sink or swim environment, and we quickly found that we could learn. Now, part of the library service is providing access to databases that are only available through subscription. Electronic resources are very much a part of the access to information provided by the library.

I have many fond memories of people that have come past the desk. I remember one young lady who set, and met, a personal goal of reading every Newbery Medal winner. Another young person made it his goal to read every Eyewitness book. Often, young adults who for the most part had graduated upstairs, came downstairs to visit or to check out an old favorite for a relaxing summer read.

Another of my favorite memories is the toddler who had just moved to Bainbridge, and was delighted to find that we also had a copy of his favorite book. The joy changed to tears when I reached for the book to scan it. He sobbed, "Don't take Harry!" We were able to compromise, and he helped me scan the book.

To my library friends that I have not seen since my retirement, I would like to say goodbye. I very much enjoyed working in the Bainbridge library, but I am glad to report that retirement is just as much fun!

*(Eleanor Wheeler, longtime library staff member, retired last fall.)*

## Calling all teen sleuth wannabes

Mark your calendars for Friday, January 13, 2006. 6:30 pm

Come examine the scene of the crime at the library, examine evidence, read accounts from witnesses and suspects and help solve the mystery. Costumes encouraged.

Pre-registration is required and begins January 2.

Age: teens

Bainbridge Public Library offers this special late night event through funding provided by the Kitsap Regional Library Foundation.



Kids from the First Years Children's Center wait with their teacher, Debbie Leader, for storytime to begin.



Alison Sherwin introduces her favorite zebra puppet to the library.

## Young people's calendar

**MONDAY, JANUARY 30**  
Toddler storytime, 10:30 am

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 31**  
Lapsit storytime for babies, 1:30 pm  
Pajama storytime for little ones, 7 pm

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1**  
Preschool storytime, 10:30 am

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6**  
Toddler storytime, 10:30 am

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7**  
Lapsit storytime for babies, 1:30 pm  
Pajama storytime for little ones, 7 pm

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8**  
Preschool storytime, 10:30 am

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13**  
Toddler storytime, 10:30 am

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14**  
Lapsit storytime for babies, 1:30 pm  
Pajama Storytime for little ones, 7 pm

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15**  
Preschool storytime, 10:30 am

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21**  
Lapsit storytime for babies, 1:30 pm  
Pajama storytime for little ones, 7 pm

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22**  
Preschool storytime

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27**  
Toddler storytime, 10:30 am

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28**  
Lapsit storytime for babies, 10:30 am  
Pajama storytime for little ones, 7 pm

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1**  
Preschool Storytime, 10:30 am

## Children's and family programs

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28**  
Winter tales: family storytelling at the library, 7 pm

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1**  
Winter reading volunteers at the library  
Read to a dog at the library, 4 pm

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8**  
Winter reading volunteers at the library  
Read to a dog at the library, 4 pm

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15**  
Winter reading volunteers at the library  
Read to a dog at the library, 4 pm

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22**  
Winter reading volunteers at the library  
Read to dogs at the library, 4 pm

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29**  
Spring tales: family story-telling at the library. 7 p.m.

## Teen program

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 13**  
Teen mystery event: late night at the library, 6:30 pm

Pre-registration required and begins January 2

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## Library staff fetes volunteers

The Bainbridge Public Library staff honored dozens of hard-working volunteers with an early December brunch featuring musical entertainment by staff members, the Friday Tidies, and book reviews by Martha Bayley. (Faces in the crowd were photographed by Sharon Snyder, Paulette Rhoades, and Verda Averill.)



# Bainbridge businesses, professionals support library

Bainbridge Island business and professional people have been strong supporters of the local public library since it was first built in the 1960s.

Today the business community continues its library support in many ways—one of them as advertisers in the Library News.

Those whose advertising has appeared in these pages during 2005 include:

McCabe/Tanaka, master pruners; dentists Todd H. Adams and Harmon F. Adams; Bay Hay & Feed; William S.

McGonagle, trial lawyer; Eagle Harbor Books; The Churchmouse, yarns and teas; Modern Collision Rebuild; Julie's Frame Gallery; Bainbridge Gardens; Eileen Black and Julie Kozich, of John L. Scott Real Estate; New Motion Physical Therapy; Town & Country Market; Island Electronics, Inc. Radio Shack; Stephanie, Of Course! Catering; The Farm Kitchen; Family Dentistry (Drs. MacFarlane, Bell and Thompson); Paper Products, Etc.; Voyager Montessori Elementary School; The Traveler; CFA

Northwest Mortgage Professionals; Flowering Around; Blumenthal Construction Inc.; Ace Hardware; Coldwell Banker/McKenzie Associates; Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.; Harris-Zommers Interiors; Blackbird Bakery; Blue Sky Printing; Winslow Animal Clinic; Island Church; Vicki Fazzini and Jenifer Shipley of John L. Scott Real Estate; Bainbridge Island Vineyards & Winery; Skookum; RAFN General Contractor Services; and new in this issue, Sherri Snyder of Coldwell Banker.

Two former businesses, Winslow Hardware and Madison Ave. Photo, were also regular advertisers until closing their doors some months ago.

Library board and staff members extend their thanks and holiday greetings to the above civic-minded members of the community.

(For information about advertising in the Library News during 2006 phone Verda Averill at 842-2865.)

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# Gifts from Islanders make a difference

*Editor's note: In 1962, when Bainbridge Islanders planned their first centrally located library (where it still stands today), they were determined to do it their special way—without imposing any taxes.*

*They did it. All the funds for that first library came from donations. And so it was when the library building was first expanded, in 1982, and again in 1997, when its size was doubled.*

*Today Bainbridge residents maintain and operate the Bainbridge Public Library and Gardens as they always have, with contributions from generous residents and friends—but no property taxes.*

*Gifts from the generous Islanders listed below were received in 2005 through October 27. (Gifts received from October 28 through the end of the year will be reported in the next Library News.)*

*The Bainbridge Library Board, staff, volunteers, and patrons are grateful for these gifts and wish the following library benefactors a warm and happy new year.*

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## Island dogs are looking for children to read to them

By KARYN L. CARPENTER

Reading to dogs, a literacy program aimed towards children who struggle to read, will be offered during the month of February at the Bainbridge Public Library.

This program has been highly successful at motivating reluctant readers because the dogs are nonjudgmental and quite friendly.

A certified therapy dog with handler will be on hand (and paw) in the young people's area each Wednesday afternoon in February between 4 and 5 p.m.

No pre-registration required. Please bring your reading child or children to Sharon's desk during any of the scheduled times to sign up on a first come, first served basis.

Think your dog would like to participate? For certification information contact Karyn Carpenter at 206-780-2214.

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# Books - Books - Books

## Mysteries offer escape from dark, dreary days

By JULIE O'NEILL,  
Reference Librarian

Mystery readers surely are familiar with the best-selling authors of mystery series: J.A. Jance, Nevada Barr, Tony Hillerman, Sue Grafton, James Patterson, Elizabeth George, Jonathan Kellerman, Sara Paretsky, Robert B. Parker, Patricia Cornwell, Ed McBain, P.D. James, John Grisham, etc.

There usually are long waiting lists at the library for the latest books by these popular authors. While you are waiting (or if you are just looking for something new) why not try a few "undiscovered" mystery writers, who are as good, if not better, than some of the big name authors.

**My requirements for this list of recommended mystery series are:**

1. **Appealing main characters who develop throughout the series.**
2. **An interesting setting, anywhere from Rio de Janeiro to southeast Alaska, or wilderness Wyoming to 18th century London.**
3. **Intelligent whodunits with satisfying solutions.**
4. **Well written.**
5. **No cutesy gimmicks or corny titles, just solid detecting, great suspense and an imaginative plot. A bit of humor is allowed!**

This list includes many types of mystery series: police procedures, "cozies," noir, historical, legal thrillers, forensic, hard-boiled private eyes and amateur detectives.

I hope you'll find a few new favorite authors here. I've listed the first title in each series.

*Blind Justice* by Bruce Alexander.

Sir John Fielding, a real historical figure, was a legendary British magistrate who, despite his blindness, helped create London's first police force, the Bow Street Runners, that later became Scotland Yard. In this series, he and his assistant, Jeremy, conduct murder inquiries in both the rough criminal world and aristocratic society of 18th century London. The author deftly captures the flavor of the period.

*Evans Above* by Rhys Bowen. Evan Evans is the young constable in Llanfair, a quiet Welsh village, where he must solve the occasional murder. The strengths of this light-hearted series are the staples of the British cozy: village ambience, eccentric but likeable characters, simple straightforward plots, and humor.

*Open Season* by C.J. Box. Joe Pickett is the soft-spoken, honest, occasionally bungling game warden of Twelve Sleep County in Wyoming. He faces high-stakes crises involving murder, local political corruption, endangered species, and environmental damage by big corporations. Booklist called this a "superb" series with "remarkable suspense and "impressive complexity." The portrayal of rural Wyoming's natural beauty and eccentric characters is outstanding.

*Cast in Order of Disappearance* by Simon Brett. An under-employed London actor and ladies' man, Charles Paris, frequently finds himself playing detective in theater-related murders. Humorous. The inside look at the theater world is lots of fun.

*The Thin Woman* by Dorothy Cannell. British interior decorator Ellie Haskell finds herself involved with murders, mysteries and dotty characters. With laugh-out-loud lunacy and smooth narration, this series is a cross between Dorothy L. Sayers and P.G. Wodehouse.

*Killing Floor* by Lee Child. Ex-military policeman Jack Reacher has cutting edge-investigative and killing skills, and never hesitates to get involved in messy situations. This series is definitely hard-boiled, violent and noir, but is brilliantly plotted with nail-biting suspense.

*The Last Kashmiri Rose* by Barbara Cleverly. Scotland Yard Detective Joe Sandilands is called to India to help investigate unexplained deaths in the declining days of the British Raj. This award-winning series has appealing and plausible characters, is deftly plotted, and captures the exotic sights and sounds of 1920s India.

*Black Echo* by Michael Connelly. Harry Bosch, lone wolf cop detective in contemporary Los Angeles, gets involved in dark, complex plots, often involving police corruption.

*The Man Who Liked to Look at Himself* by K.C. Constantine. Small town America churns up murders, mobsters, complications and suspense for Rocksburg, Pennsylvania Chief of Police Mario Balzic and his long-suffering aide, Ruggiero Carlucci, in this hard-boiled, police procedural series.

*In the Last Analysis* by Amanda Cross. English professor Kate Fansler solves campus mysteries at her New York university with a literary style that is witty yet crisp in its social commentary. Amanda Cross was the pseudonym of Carolyn Heilbrun, herself an English professor at Columbia University. Like Heilbrun, her fictional sleuth is an outspoken feminist who constantly struggles for equality for women in academic positions.

*Booked to Die* by John Dunning. Denver cop turned antiquarian book dealer, Cliff Janeway is erudite but down-to-earth. The inventive, suspenseful plots in this series center on rare books and the people who print, collect and sell them—sometimes at murderously high prices.

*The Silence of the Rain* by Luis Garcia-Roza. This Brazilian writer sets his atmospheric, hard-boiled crime series in the steamy neighborhoods of Rio de Janeiro. Inspector Espinosa stars in this intriguing mix of psychological suspense, sophisticated police procedure and exotic setting.

*A Clubbable Woman* by Reginald Hill. Detective Superintendent Andy Dalziel of the Yorkshire police is blunt, fat, politically incorrect and relies on his intuition. He's the complete opposite of his second-in-command, the elegant, intellectual, moody, methodical Peter Pascoe. Together they make the perfect team for solving baffling murder cases, and their personalities and private lives often take center stage in this long-running, well-written police procedural series.

*The Beekeeper's Apprentice* by Laurie King. Teenaged Mary Russell is the protege, and ultimately the partner of Sherlock Holmes. Mary proves herself to have detecting skills that compliment her mentor's, and their relationship is almost as important to the plot as the cases they investigate. Set in the 1920s, the series is more in the historical genre, less strictly like the legendary Conan Doyle series.

*The Last Detective* by Peter Lovesey. Superintendent Peter Diamond resigns from the Bristol, England police force when his investigating techniques irritate his colleagues and the press. He operates as a private detective to redeem himself, then is reinstated as a homicide detective in this award-winning series full of dark humor, quirky characters and strong suspense.

*Bootlegger's Daughter* by Margaret Maron. Deborah Knott, surrounded by her huge family of 12 brothers, their

families, her bootlegger father, and a slew of kissing cousins, is elected judge in small-town North Carolina. Spunky Deborah manages to solve murders that involve local politicians, land developers, and occasionally her own family. The folksy southern local color is authentic and delightful.

*The Salaryman's Wife* by Sujata Massey. Rei Shimura, an English teacher from California now living in Tokyo, is trying to resolve the conflicts between her American and Japanese heritages. Rei also deals in Asian antiques, and often finds herself challenged by mysteries and murders related to the antiquities she sells. Her relationship with a Scottish lawyer, Hugh, provides humor and romantic interest.

*Sick of Shadows* and *If I Ever Return, Pretty Peggy-O* by Sharon McCrumb. Author McCrumb writes two different series. The Elizabeth MacPherson books have elements of the cozy and forensic genres, and are steeped in the lore and traditions of the Appalachian setting. The Spenser Arrowood books, also set in the Appalachian Mountains of Tennessee, take titles from folk ballads and are darker in tone. Both series capture the rural mountain setting beautifully.

*From Doon with Death* by Ruth Rendell. Rendell has transformed the classic police procedural by combining psychological insight into the characters with thoughtful concern about social issues. Inspector Reginald Wexford and his assistant Mike Burden apply their investigative talents to dark secrets and difficult crimes in Kingsmarkham.

*Gallows View* by Peter Robinson. Inspector Alan Banks and his family leave London for the quiet countryside of Yorkshire only to find disturbing murders and violence just as challenging as big city crime. Well-delineated characters, a superb sense of place (the barren, windy moors) and great dialog make this award-winning series satisfying.

*China Trade* by S.J. Rozan. Chinese-American private investigator Lydia Chin and her partner Bill Smith alternate as the primary detectives in this unique series set in Chinatown and the greater New York city area. Details of Chinese-American culture provide a fascinating perspective on society, family and crime.

*The Woman Who Married a Bear* by John Straley. Cecil Younger is a hard-drinking, world-weary, impoverished private eye in Sitka, Alaska. The author blends wonderful descriptions of the coastal area with realistic characters from a cross section of southeast Alaska inhabitants—Indians, hunters, loggers, fishermen—then ties it all together with suspenseful action.

*Maisie Dobbs* by Jacqueline Winspear. Spunky and intelligent, Maisie opens an office in 1929 dedicated to "discreet investigations" in this delightful mix of mystery, war story, human drama and romance.

A few other authors you might want to try: Jeff Abbott, Robert Barnard, Jo Bannister, Jan Burke, Margaret Coel, James Doss, Carola Dunn, Ann Granger, Kerry Greenwood, Michael Gruber, Jamie Harrison, Sue Henry, Donna Leon, Gillian Linscott, Val McDermid, Jill McGowen, Brent Monahan, Dana Stabenow, and Charles Todd.

## Beat the blues

### Books to banish the SAD syndrome

By MEG HUGHES and JULIE O'NEILL  
Reference Librarians

The winter solstice is past, but dark, dreary days will be with us for several more months.

Here are some humorous books to help you combat the winter blues.

*Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency* by Douglas Adams

*My Less than Secret Life* by Jonathan Ames

*The Company of Cats* by Marion Babson

*Big Trouble* by Dave Barry

*The Clothes They Stood Up In* by Alan Bennett

*To Err is Divine* by Agota Bozai

*A Walk in the Woods and In a Sunburned Country* by Bill Bryson

*Little Green Men and No Way to Treat a Lady* by Christopher Buckley

*Confessions of a Teen Sleuth* by Chelsea Cain

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky

*The Quality of Life Report* by Meghan Daum

*Wanderlust* by Chris Dyer

*Killer Diller* and *Walking Across Egypt* by Clyde Edgerton

*Metro Girl* by Janet Evanovich

*Bridget Jones's Diary* by Helen Fielding

*Otherwise Engaged* by Suzanne Finnamore

*The Big Over Easy* and *The Eyre Affair* by Jasper Fforde

*Switcheroo* by Olivia Goldsmith

*Home to Harmony* by Philip Gulley

*We Are All Fine Here* by Mary Guterson

*Sis Boom Bah* by Jane Heller

*Skinny Dip* by Carl Hiaasen

*About a Boy* by Nick Hornby

*Me and Orson Welles* by Robert Kaplow

*Lucy Sullivan is Getting Married* by Marian Keyes

*Continued on Page 14*

# Great non-fiction for those long winter days

By GAIL GOODRICK  
KRL Non-fiction Collection Manager

**Queen Isabella: Treachery, Adultery and Murder in Medieval England** by Alison Weir. A new examination of Isabella, a princess of France, who married England's Edward II in the 13th century. According to tradition, Edward was murdered most horribly and Isabella has been vilified for her role.

**Champagne: How the World's Most Glamorous Wine Triumphed Over War and Hard Times** by Don and Petie Kladstrup. History of this bubbly product from ancient times to the present with fascinating characters like Dom Perignon, the father of champagne, Louis XIV, who rarely drank anything but, and Napoleon, who introduced it to the world.

**The Fated Sky: Astrology in History** by Benson Bobrick. Explores the history of astrology and the controversy about its influence in history.

**The Naming of Names** by Anna Pavord. Traces the search for order in the natural world of botany from third century BC Athens through the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, Islamic Culture and early expeditions and the first settlers in the new world. Sumptuously illustrated.

**Being Caribou: Seven Months on Foot with an Arctic Herd** by Karsten Heuer. Starting out as a wildlife research project, the author and his wife became more closely attuned to the earth and the caribou's world.

**Trail of Feathers: Searching for Philip True** by Robert Rivard. Story of the search for the truth about a Texas reporter's disappearance in a remote corner of Mexico.

**The Narnian: The Life and Imagination of C.S. Lewis** by Alan Jacobs. There are lots of books coming out this fall because of the film about to be released. This biography is best appreciated by someone familiar with the Narnia series.

**Travels with My Chicken** by Martin Gurdon. Gurdon, who wrote a book titled *Hen and the Art of Chicken Maintenance*, takes his companion on the road for book promotion around Southeast England. By the way, his chicken's name is Tikka!

**She Got Up Off the Couch and Other Heroic Acts from Mooreland, Indiana** by Haven Kimmel. Further Indiana adventures from the author of *Zippy*.

**The Empty Tank: Oil, Gas, Hot Air and the Coming Global Financial Catastrophe** by Jeremy Leggett. A gloomy look at our future written by a geologist and energy expert.

**Heavy Words Lightly Thrown: The Reason Behind the Rhyme** by Chris Roberts. A librarian by night and a London tour guide by day (!), Roberts takes familiar nursery rhymes and shows us what they really mean.

**Art of Gaman** by Delphine Hirasuna. A celebration of human striving for beauty even in extreme circumstances. Gaman presents more than 150 examples of art created by Japanese internees.

**A Fool's Gold: A Story of Ancient Spanish Treasure, Two Pounds of Pot, and the Young Lawyer, Almost Left Holding the Bag** by William E. Merritt. An eccentric true crime caper that does for Coastal Oregon what *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* did for Savannah.

**The Coldest Winter: A Stringer in Liberated Europe** by Paula Fox. At 23, Fox was a young stringer in post-war Europe and lived through many unforgettable experiences.

**Zioncheck for President: A True Story of Idealism and Madness in American Politics** by Phil Campbell. Tells the story of a Seattle activist, part-time poet and punk rocker by the name of Grant Cogswell. Campbell compares Cogswell's political fortunes to a Depression-era congressman by the name of Marion Zioncheck (who eventually went mad and killed himself).

**The Last Cato** by Matilde Asensi. Spanish author Asensi's international bestseller involves a secret brotherhood that is protecting the whereabouts of the True Cross – sound familiar?

**Life All Around Me: by Ellen Foster** by Kaye Gibbons. This sequel to the much acclaimed *Ellen Foster* finds Gibbons's heroine at age 15 trying to make sense of the world, while making a place for herself that feels right.

**Masque of the Black Tulip** by Lauren Willig. Willig continues the tale that she started in *The Secret History of the Pink Carnation*, following modern day graduate student Eloise Kelly as she attempts to discover the identity of the Black Tulip, a French spy during the Napoleonic wars.

**Old Wine Shades** by Martha Grimes. Richard Jury finds himself once again on the trail of murder, when a stranger at a pub relates the strange story of his friend's missing wife, son (and dog).

**Pale Horseman** by Bernard Cornwell. This sequel to the *Last Kingdom* follows the fortunes of a dispossessed Northumbrian noble in the ninth century who is caught between warring factions of Saxons and Danes.



Branch manager Cynthia Harnson with several new volumes on art.

## Children's fiction

By SHARON SNYDER  
Young People's Librarian

**Brave Norman** by Andrew Clements. Illustrated by Ellen Beier.

Easy reader. True story of an abandoned dog that thrives with the love of a family and becomes a hero. A personal favorite.

**The Hello, Goodbye Window** by Norton Juster. Illustrated by Chris Raschka

Picture book. The kitchen window at Nanna and Poppy's house is a warm and wonderful gateway to the joy of common family life and love. Sweet.

**Blueberry Mouse** by Alice Low. Illustrated by David Michael Friend.

Picture book. Blueberry Mouse believes a blueberry pie is the best place to live, especially when she begins to nibble the floor and walls.

**This Little Pirate** by Philemon Sturges. Illustrated by Amy Walrod.

Picture book. Two feisty bands of pirate pigs spot a treasure box on a deserted island that they first fight over and then cooperate to open together. Warm, humorous tone with thoughtful vignettes in each picture.

**Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus** written and illustrated by Mo Willems

A very funny picture book that proved a hit with our pre-school crowd and parents. Published in 2003.

**The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog!** Published in 2004.

### Chapter books for children 7 and up

**The Legend of Spud Murphy** by Eoin Colfer

Popular author of the *Artemis Fowl* series for young adults has this new book for a younger crowd. Will and his brother Marty are mortified when their parents decide to drop them off at the library a few times a week. They believe Spud Murphy, town librarian, hates children. They are wrong. The boys accidentally discover reading is fun. Their angst and wry humor make this a crowd pleaser.

**Hachiko Waits** by Leslea Newman  
Based on the true story of a dog in Japan who continued to meet his master's train every afternoon at the station for 10 full years after his master death.

**Ricky Ricotta's Mighty Robot vs. the Uranium Unicorns from Uranus**. Ricky learns about friendship while helping his friend the mighty robot save the world. Bonus section has instructions on how to draw Ricky, Rickys's robot and other characters from the story.

### Chapter books for children 9 and up

**Molly Moon's Hypnotic Time Travel Adventure** by Georgia Byng

Molly is a kind hearted 11-year-old mastermind with wild hair, who eats ketchup sandwiches, defeats seemingly invincible adults with her amazing abilities and yearns for a family of her own. Story has warmth and decency as well as action.

**MVP** by Douglas Evans  
A bright 10-year-old girl just brought this title back with her enthusiastic endorsement. It is the story of how Adam Story competes in the Great Global Game to race around the world in forty days. No flying allowed.

**Eager** by Helen Fox  
The Bell family's new robot, Eager, is programmed to obey as well as to question, reason, and exercise free will. This is a warm, Jetsons-style novel that explores some of the dangers of technology.

**Ida B: And Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World** by Katherine Hannigan

This story has humor, joy, anger and the poignancy of grief. The characterization and evocative prose are unforgettable. Read this one aloud.

**Cabin on Trouble Creek** by Jean Van Leeuwen

Daniel, 11, and his brother Will, 9, are left alone to finish building a cabin in the Ohio wilderness while their father returns to Pennsylvania for the rest of the family. When Pa doesn't return in time, the boys are left to survive the winter on their own. Based on a true incident.

## Coming soon to the fiction shelf

By MARTHA BAYLEY  
KRL Fiction Collection Manager

**Arthur and George** by Julian Barnes. This novel follows Arthur Conan Doyle's attempt to clear the name of George Edalji, a half-Indian who has been falsely accused of a crime (short-listed for the 2005 Man Booker Prize).

**Blindfold Game** by Dana Stabenow. Edgar-winning Stabenow tries her hand at thriller writing in this story of a CIA analyst and his estranged wife who are thrown back together when the Alaskan Coast Guard cutter she is on becomes involved in an international terrorist incident.

**Capitol Murder** by William Bernhardt. Oklahoma trial lawyer Ben Kincaid travels to Washington, D.C. to defend his home state's senator, who has been accused of murdering an intern.

**Ghost Orchid** by Carol Goodman. A literary crime novel/ghost story that alternates between 1893 and the present, as a novelist at a writer's retreat attempts to unravel the mysteries of the mansion where she is staying.

**In the Company of the Courtesan** by Sarah Dunant. This new title by the author of the bestselling "Birth of Venus" follows the travails of a courtesan who flees Rome in 1527 for Venice.

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# A bumper crop of titles from Bumbershoot

By JOHN FOSSETT

Music man John Fossett, Kitsap Regional Library's audio-visual collection manager, spent the Bumbershoot weekend working the concert scene at Seattle Center—for the benefit of music-loving library patrons.

Here he shares his memories of the music, the crowds and the whole festival scene with you. His venue visits resulted in more than a score of acquisitions featuring Bumbershoot artists. Check out some of these CDs and you too can relive the Bumbershoot weekend during the gray winter days.—Editor



John Fossett

## Friday

I missed the 11:30 am ferry and the "Gruff Mummies" at EMP's Sky Church. However, saw them in July at Waterfront Park and was impressed with the music and showmanship.

2:45 pm "Mangoson", a salsa band based in Seattle, at the Bumbrella Stage. The music was fantastic.

4:25 pm "Altered States of Funk", a Seattle based R&B/funk band, at the Bumbrella Stage. Infectious beats, very danceable.

6:15 pm "The Donnas", a Bay-area, all-girl quartet (none of whom are named Donna) at the Memorial Stadium. Guitar-centered, three chord band with catchy tunes, nice licks, lots of bouncing hair and posturing.

7:45 pm "Mavis Staples" at the Mural Blues Stage. Great music! What a show!

8:45 pm "Maktub", Seattle based R&B combo helmed by Reggie Watts, at the Bumbrella Stage. Jaw-dropping vocal acrobatics augmented by a tight backing band. I danced non-stop for 90 minutes.

## Saturday

I had a previous commitment and was unable to attend.

## Sunday

2:00 pm "Math & Physics Club" at EMP's Sky Church. Seattle based quintet playing mellow-pop, two guitars (one acoustic and one electric), a violin, solid vocals, anchored by a bass and drums.

3:15 pm "Mary Gauthier" at the Backyard Stage. Louisiana born, but Nashville based, a warm, smoky voice made for telling stories through songs, accompanied by a guitarist playing a threadbare Stratocaster and adding rich vocal harmonies.

5:00 pm "The Duhks" (pronounced ducks) at the Backyard Stage. Canadian quintet playing a mix of Bluegrass, Celtic, French Canadian and Folk music. Amazing guitar, banjo, fiddle, percussion and vocals!!! The crowd suffered a steady 50 minutes of rain, no one left. How's that for dedication!

6:15 pm "Mofro" at the Mural Blues Stage. Quartet from Jacksonville playing blues and R&B like they invented it.

7:00 pm "The Posies" at the Backyard Stage. The posies have been around for over two decades. The band was tight and the mix was good.

7:30 pm "Midual Pundits" at the Bumbrella Stage. Electronica combined

with the raga sound of Northern India, wow! Wish I'd been able to hear more.

9:00pm "Israel Vibration" at the Bumbrella Stage. Old school reggae, "Ya mon".

9:45 pm "Elvis Costello" in Memorial Stadium. Solo effort lost in big venue. I left before the encore to catch the boat home. Kept thinking, I missed "Son Volt" at McCaw Hall for this?

## Monday

2:45 pm "The Be Good Tanyas", Canadian folk trio, at the Backyard Stage.

Mellow but good. The artists were so soft-spoken that the between-song banter was drowned out by a few inconsiderately chatty concert-goers.

4:45 pm "The Waybacks" at the Backyard Stage. A Bay Area, newgrass, jam band. They played some great original songs and nice renditions of tunes by other performers.

6:00 pm "Sonny Landreth" at the Mural Blues Stage. Blues tinged mix of Rock, Blues and Cajun music. His band was tight and the performance was excellent.

8:00 pm "Flogging Molly" at the What's Next Stage. Irish music from a punk perspective. The house was full so I wandered back through the Center grounds where I stumbled upon the tail end of "The Brazilian Girls".

6:45 pm "Brazilian Girls" at the Bumbrella Stage. A mix of reggae, bossa nova, electronica, pop & jazz. The performance was worthy of the highest of the New England accolades, "Not bad!"

8:00 pm "Buckwheat Zydeco" at the Mural Blues Stage. Great band, great music! At this point my son called to say he'd been crowd-surfing at the "Mudhoney" show and tried to convince me that life, as he knew it, would end if we left before "Iggy & the Stooges" finished. I told him that we'd be on the 11:15 boat as planned. It takes a lot of love to ruin your child's life.

9:30 pm "Iggy & the Stooges" at Memorial Stadium. My son called to say he wasn't feeling well (seasick from crowd surfing?). We met at the Broad Street gate as Iggy took the stage. We were able to hear the first couple of songs before catching the bus to the ferry.

Bumbershoot '05 was over for us.

## Library offers discs from these Bumbershoot artists

**Altered States of Funk** – Live in Seattle  
**The Be Good Tanyas** – Blue Horse  
**The Be Good Tanyas** – Chinatown  
**Brazilian Girls** – Brazilian Girls  
**Buckwheat Zydeco** – Jackpot  
**The Donnas** – Gold Medal  
**The Donnas** – Spend the Night  
**The Duhks** – The Duhks  
**The Duhks** – Your Sons and Your Daughters  
**Flogging Molly** – Within a Mile From Home  
**Flogging Molly** – Drunken Lullabies  
**Flogging Molly** – Swagger  
**Mary Gauthier** – Mercy Now  
**The Gruff Mummies** – Fogged Nights and Porcelain Eyes  
**Iggy Pop** – Nude & Rude: The Best of Iggy Pop

**Israel Vibration** – This Is Crucial Reggae  
**Sonny Landreth** – The Road We're On  
**Maktub** – Subtle Ways  
**Maktub** – Khronos  
**Maktub** – Say What You Mean  
**Mangoson** – Los Revueltos  
**Math & Physics Club** – Movie Ending Romance  
**Math & Physics Club** – Weekends Away  
**Mavis Staples** – Have a Little Faith.  
**Midual Pundits** – Midual Times  
**Mofro** – Blackwater  
**Mofro** – Lochloosa  
**The Posies** – Every Kind of Light  
**Reggie Watts** – Simplified.  
**Son Volt** – Okemah and the Melody of the Riot  
**The Waybacks** – Way Live

## Lend a hand at the library

Whatever your reasons for volunteering, the library offers a variety of interesting and challenging volunteer assignments.

MaryLouise Ott, a Bainbridge Islander and Kitsap Regional Library's volunteer coordinator, cites just two of the current openings.

**CLICK!** Computer Literacy volunteer: If you have a moderate level of computer experience and excellent people skills, you could be a one-on-one tutor or small class teacher for patrons who want to understand how to navigate the library catalog and access other electronic resources. Volunteers will learn how to teach Computer

Basics and Internet 101 in a specially designed three-hour training session. You will be provided with everything you need including lesson plans, handouts, and support from the staff. Classes begin in January 2006.

Teen Mystery Night volunteer: Do you take pleasure in working with young teens and enjoy dressing up in costume? This might be the volunteer opportunity you are looking for. You can help set up and chaperone an engaging after-hours mystery night for teens on Friday the 13th of February 2006.

For more information call MaryLouise Ott at (360) 405-9153 or e-mail at volunteer@krl.org.

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## Beat the blues

*A Girl Named Zippy* by Haven Kimmel  
*Last Days of Summer* by Steve Kluger  
*The Bear Went Over the Mountain* by William Kotzwinkle  
*The Funnies* by J. Robert Lennon  
*The Mammy* by Brendan O'Carroll  
*Miss Julia Speaks her Mind* by Ann B. Ross  
*Straight Man* by Richard Russo

*I Capture the Castle* by Dodie Smith  
*Fool's Gold* by Jane Smith  
*Penrod* by Booth Tarkington  
*The Queen and I* by Sue Townsend  
*God Bless You, Dr. Kervorkian* by Kurt Vonnegut  
*Mama Makes up Her Mind* and *Quite a Year for Plums* by Bailey White  
*To Say Nothing of the Dog* by Connie Willis

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Meet Millie Smith:

# Her father taught her to love books and libraries

BY VERDA AVERILL

I first met Millie Smith four or five years ago, when the City of Bainbridge Island was planning its roundabout near the library.

She was concerned about the effect the traffic circle would have on pedestrians and didn't hesitate to ask questions until she heard reassuring answers. (I suspect her determination was at least partly responsible for revision of the roundabout plans to be more pedestrian-friendly.)

Soon after that, Millie began communicating with our representatives in Olympia over some pending legislation. She's an activist, I learned, and enthusiastically supports causes she believes in.

She is especially enthusiastic about Yes! magazine, where she volunteered until she was well past 80. (In fact, it was Yes! which attracted her to Bainbridge from her previous home on the Olympic Peninsula.)

Today her enthusiasm is focused on a new project, the creation of a group of Paradigm Shifters, who meet the second Saturday of every month in a sort of conversation cafe format. (For more information on the group, watch the Bainbridge Review calendar listings or the new Paradigm Shifters website.)

Though it's just a few months old, the group has already attracted more than two dozen participants to its lively sessions. Millie, the founder, is delighted.



Millie Smith

"I feel as if I have 25 children. It's wonderful," she exclaimed at the last session. (Her own two children and grandchildren do not live nearby.)

But Millie Smith would rather talk about her father than herself.

James Howard was a dedicated librarian, and he passed on his love of libraries and books to his daughter. An only child, she visited libraries and read voraciously from early childhood on. (An early edition of Pinocchio is a treasured keepsake today.)

Howard was the chief librarian of the city of Hammond, Indiana, for 25 years, until his death at the age of 60 in 1953. During his years there the Hammond library grew from three branches to eight and annual circulation jumped from 300,000 to 800,000.

But he was best known for introducing an intra-library loan service, with deliveries and pickups between the main library and branches three times a week. Patrons could borrow from any branch and return material to any one of them. Sounds a lot like the Kitsap Regional Library System today, doesn't it? But in the 1930s and '40s this sharing of resources was a major groundbreaking effort.

Millie's love of libraries is as strong today as ever. She visits the Bainbridge branch frequently, and prefers thought-provoking non-fiction to fiction. (For example, she referred this writer to *Ervin Laszlo's Science and the Akashic Field: An Integral Theory of Everything*.)

Now that she's in her mid-80s, Millie Smith's enthusiasm for life and learning continues to grow. I can hardly wait to hear about her next project.

(This is one of an occasional series on Bainbridge Library patrons.—Editor)

## Susan Bisnett joins library staff

Susan Bisnett, the most recent addition to the Bainbridge Public Library staff, fits easily into the young people's department.

The mother of two teenagers (15 and 13), she's also worked with young adults in her previous position with the King County library system.

She was delighted when an opening appeared on the Bainbridge library staff, since she lives just a few blocks away. Now her commute is just a matter of minutes.

You'll find her behind the counter downstairs Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings and all day Thursday. She also works one weekend a month.

Like most library workers, Susan is an enthusiastic reader. She especially likes fiction, she says.

"I really enjoyed *A Fine Balance*," she notes, adding "The television is usually off, so I do a fair amount of reading for pleasure."

She knows the children's literature well, and admits to having some favorite writers.

"I like the old classics a lot," she says, citing Betty McDonald's *Mrs. Piggle Wiggle* series as examples.

Though she's only been here a few weeks, Bisnett already feels at home in the library and is enjoying meeting the local children and their families.



Susan Bisnett joins library staff.

Photo by Sharon Snyder

Continued from Page 13

## Children's fiction

### Young adult fiction

*The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom

You'll find this title in adult fiction. Told in flashbacks, we are shown how simple choices, events, and relationships affect our own lives and so many others.

*Sleeping Freshman Never Lie* by David Lubar

A typical freshman year in high school? Maybe. Scott has a new baby brother on the way, a serious crush on a girl and a new position on student council. You decide.

*I Was a Non Blonde Cheerleader* by Kieran Scott

Will Annisa, a brunette from New Jersey, find happiness among the all-blond cheerleaders at her new school in Florida?

### Children's non-fiction

*D is for Dahl: a glorumptious A-Z guide to the world of Roald Dahl* by Wendy Cooling. J823.914 D is Fo 2005  
Collection of odd facts and anecdotes

about author, Roald Dahl, and his literary creations. Aficionados will love this one.

*Zoo's Who: poems and paintings* by Douglas Florian. J811.54 Florian 2005.

Mr. Florian takes delight in creating verse and bold imagery and encourages readers to do the same. "I'm not a seagull./I'm royal./I'm regal./All birds are not/Created eagle."

*Marooned: the strange but true*

*adventures of Alexander Selkirk, the real Robinson Crusoe* by Robert Kraske. J996.18 Kraske 2005.

A grand, poignant tale that brings another place and time to life.

*The Train of States* written and illustrated by Peter Sis E973.02 SIS 2004011101

The train of states is rolling by and the first car is the very first state,

Delaware. Antique circus style boxcars introduce factual information and some interesting trivia. Fun to browse.

*Young Person's Occupational Outlook Handbook*. J331.702 Young P 2005

This is a great way to explore what a young person wants to be when he or she grows up. Nice format. Very readable and interesting to browse.

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## Water color artist

# Joanne Harnagel brings dahlias alive

BY NAN WOOLDRIDGE

*Way back in the heart of the woods in a rustic log house above Indianola lives a pretty, merry-voiced Goldilocks with her five cats and husband. She sits all day in her orange and gold print gown at her studio table painting beautiful flowers.*

The beginning of a fairy tale?

Maybe, but I didn't feel like I was in a fairy tale as I drove up and up, around three hairpin turns beyond the Road Ends sign on to a narrow stretch of gravel and down a long, dirt driveway through the trees to Joanne Harnagel's house.

This Singhlog home, designed by Joanne and built largely by her husband, Noel, was the answer to her dreams.

"I lived in a city, Sacramento, California, almost my whole life," she says. "My husband and I camped nearly every weekend at Lake Tahoe, and I just really wanted to live in the woods."

They looked in many different states before they decided Washington was the place they could have both water and woods. She pointed out that when the leaves fall from the trees in winter "from the top of the driveway you get a peek-a-boo view of the water, and you see where the train goes by in Edmonds."

**They'd come as far as Indianola and were renting a little cabin next to the post office when one day Joanne was walking to the home where she tutored Italian and noticed a For Sale sign. That was their spot—smack dab in the center of the forest. With help, they cleared, terraced, made a road, and constructed their log house in less than a year.**

Curled on the couch, cozy from the wood stove that sits in front of a wall of rocks that they hauled from Indianola beach, she hugs herself saying, "I wouldn't have it any other way."

Life wasn't always a fairy tale for Joanne. When she was 2 1/2, her family was in a fatal car crash that killed her mother and father, and left her with both arms paralyzed. A number of surgeries restored some mobility and the use of her hands. She and her sister, Vicki, were raised by her 19-year-old half-sister, Ramona, who was Mom to her from then on.

When I marvel at her accomplishments, she laughs and says, "I can do a lot of things. Kids are pretty adaptable. As long as you don't tell them they can't do something, they don't know any differently."

Her independent streak and taste for travel were first whetted when, at 16, she lived for a summer as an AFS (American Field Service) exchange student with a large family on their pig farm in Italy. She was shy then and could speak no



Artist Joanne Harnagel

Italian, so she rarely ventured by bus into the nearby medieval town of Mantova with its castles and stories of intrigue from the family Gonzago days.

She says, "I had romantic notions in my head of Venice and Florence, and here I was in the middle of nowhere, so I wanted to go back and see more."

See more she did. Two years later she traveled with friends to Switzerland, France, Greece and Italy, where she spent five weeks in Florence indulging in its culture and history. She rented a tiny apartment then in the little known coastal village of Riomaggiore.

"Now, everyone knows where it is." She rolls her eyes. "It's in the area called Le Cinque Terre. Rick Steves discovered it too."

But at that time, 1983 and 1984, "it was just a little fishing village from which all the young people my age had migrated to the big cities for the winter. I had lots of hours on my hands those cold, rainy days with no television and no radio, so I started drawing and painting."

She loved it. She painted market places, horses, and things she'd seen in her travels. She made cards and painted wooden Christmas ornaments as gifts for family and friends.

Training in art came only after she graduated from college at California State University (CSU) in Sacramento, where she majored in Italian and minored in French. Uncertain what to do next since she didn't want to teach, she took a water color class in junior college.

"I actually learned what water color paper was, what paints and brushes were

good to use, how to dredge water color paints. All these things I didn't know." Her paintings before that class have faded and lost their vibrancy, she claims, but she's learned to use acid free 100% rag paper.

**She's happy she has the basics now, but says, "I didn't want to have a professional art education because I'm the type of person who will follow a rule if I know there is one. There are a lot of rules in art, and I just didn't want to know them because then I would have to spend a lifetime learning how to break them."**

Joanne almost seems to blossom in the sunny studio she designed with its great picture windows framing the rhythms of nature outside. Her workspace spills over with the medium of her trade and art experiments, and the walls are alive with images of her flowers. Seduced by the beauty of the northwest when they moved here in 1998, she has found flowers her favorite subject.

"I can paint them, and they will last on my walls throughout the year," she says.

Right now, for a library exhibit, she's concentrating on a series of dahlias.

"I love anything that's bright and colorful, but I do tend to get bored easily. There are too

many different kinds of dahlias and too many different colors that I knew I would never get bored."

She's tried all kinds of art, but likes best "the flow of water colors, the brilliance of color (she can achieve) and its transparency. I don't want to wait for days and days for something to dry before I can work on it again. I like to just sit down and paint until my back is sore. Each of these dahlias probably took me about a month."

First, she takes lots of photographs. Inspiration for her dahlias came mostly from the Dahlia Farm of Big Valley Road. "It's very picturesque. . . rows and rows of dahlias, so many to decide from."

After choosing a photo, she makes a pencil sketch. The time length stretches when she individually wets each petal and slowly brings in the color. She says, "When you put the water on the paper, you look at it sideways watching the glare to see how much water is still there. When there's just a bit of glare, the water has soaked into the paper enough that you can start allowing the color in." This method is called Wet into Wet (wet paint into wet water).

Joanne shows me other paintings in her art room, a detailed oil painting of an owl by her grandmother and a lovely tole-painted plate by her real mother. Her Scandinavian heritage plays a role in her talent.

She walks everywhere, always with camera in hand, looking for scenes of beauty.

"I go to the Dahlia Farm because I can't grow dahlias myself. I take pictures from other people's gardens. That's where I get my inspiration, being out and about."

**Her dahlias and other floral paintings will be on exhibit at the library from mid-January through March, of 2006. Some may be for sale. Call 360/297-1781.**

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