

## Mark your calendar

These events take place in the library unless otherwise stated.

### MARCH 1-31

- On exhibit in the meeting room: Peg Deam, "Suquamish weavings and masks"

### MARCH 1-31

- AARP Tax Assistance: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday evenings 5:30-7:30 p.m.

### MONDAY, MARCH 8

- A Good Yarn knitting and book group 7-9 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

- Low Vision Support Group 1-3 p.m.
- Island Film Group: "A Streetcar Named Desire" (1951) Film & discussion 7 p.m.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 13

- Friends of the Library book sale 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 16

- Senior Center book discussion (370 Brien Dr.) *River of Doubt* by Candice Millard 1 p.m. Copies available at the library.
- CLICK! Computer Class: Internet 201. 2-3:30 p.m. Pre-register at the Bainbridge Library.
- Field's End Writers' Roundtable: Anthony Flacco presents "From the Screen in Your Mind to the Page in Your Hands." 7 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

- Travelogue: "Peru" with Anne Greeott. Co-sponsored by The Traveler Bookstore. 7:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 19

- Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society: Lesa Barnes, from the Jefferson County Genealogical Society, presents "Working with the Census." 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 20

- Great Decisions at the Library "U.S. and China Security Relations" 9-10:30 a.m. Co-sponsored by BIAHC.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 23

- Friends of the Library Book Sale 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 25

- Club Cervantino de Lectores (Spanish Book Club) *La Nada Cotidiana* by Zoe Valdez (Cuba) 7 p.m. Inland Way Building.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 26

- Job Search Workshop, presented by Jeannie Ream. 10-11:30 a.m.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 27

- Great Decisions at the Library "The Persian Gulf" 9-10:30 a.m. Co-sponsored by BIAHC.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 30

- CLICK! Computer Class: Open Lab. 2-3:30 p.m. Pre-register at the Bainbridge Library.

### APRIL 1-30

- On exhibit in the meeting room: Alan Rudolph, paintings.

### APRIL 1-14

- AARP Tax Assistance: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday evenings 5:30-7:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 1

- Friends of the Library Book Sale 1-4 p.m.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 2

- First Friday Art Walk. Reception with Alan Rudolph 6-8 p.m.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 3

- Great Decisions at the Library "Kenya & R2P" 9-10:30 a.m. Co-sponsored by BIAHC.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 4

- Library closed for Easter holiday.

### MONDAY, APRIL 5

- National Poetry Month special event: Book discussion with Cindy Harrison, "The Wild Braid" by Stanley Kunitz, 1 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

- Bainbridge Library Book Group: *Ursula, Under* by Ingrid Hill 7 p.m. Copies available at the library.

Continued on page 2

## Stefanie Graen joins staff as teen services librarian

Stefanie Graen, the new teens' librarian for Bainbridge Island, has been on the job only a few weeks, but already she feels at home on the Island.

"I'm looking forward to meeting more of the Island teens and getting to know them, hearing about library programs they are interested in, and of course, what they are reading," she said. (For what she's been reading, and more, see page 7.)

Stefanie grew up in Minnesota and moved to Seattle almost four years ago. During that time she received her master's degree in library and information science at the University of Washington and worked for the Seattle Public Library as a student librarian.

She's worked as an assistant to Nancy Pearl, researching reader requests for Nancy's radio show, and in the King County Library System in their outreach department.

While studying to



Stefanie Graen

—Photo by Rebecca Judd

become a librarian, she also helped to organize a successful iSchool youth conference.

Now she's getting to know the Kitsap Regional Library system and the area it serves.

"I absolutely love this area, and can't wait to explore more of Kitsap County," she said.

Meanwhile, of course, she's reading, checking out the latest books for young people. Among her favorites for teens are *The Luxe* series by Anna Godbersen, *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, and anything by Chris Crutcher.

Her first impression of Bainbridge Island?

"It is clear that the Bainbridge community loves its library, and I feel so lucky to be working here."

Stefanie is replacing Susan Thorsteinson, who has retired after years of service in the Kitsap Regional Library system.

## What's your favorite poem?

# Share it with others on April 10

April is National Poetry Month and to celebrate, the Bainbridge Public Library will host a Favorite Poem Reading Saturday, April 10, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Favorite Poem Readings were begun in 1997 as a national project led by then U. S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky. Throughout the country individuals gather to share favorite poems with each other, often revealing personal ties to specific poems.

"Even those of us who profess no real passion for poetry probably have a favorite poem lurking within – the one you were forced to memorize in third grade, the lines that pop into your head in times of intense grief or joy, the words that come back to you amidst great natural beauty. . . or just make you laugh," said Kathleen Thorne, library coordinator for the event.

The public is invited, and

each selected reader will have up to five minutes to read a poem and explain its personal connection.

Three well-known local poets will describe their favorite poems.

John Willson, a bookseller at Eagle Harbor Book Company, conducts poetry workshops for the park district and his poems are widely published in literary journals and anthologies. He has won

a Pushcart Prize, awards from the Academy of American Poets, and an excerpt from a Willson poem appears on the mural at the Bainbridge Island Aquatic Center.

He said he has many favorite poems, and cited as one example Theodore Roethke's "In a Dark Time".

"This is a poem for anyone who has faced a dark time—and that's all of us, to varying degrees—a poem that serves as a balm and source of courage. . . From time to time I give this poem to people who have lost a friend or loved one."

Nancy Rekow, long-time Islander and widely published poet, works as a freelance teacher, editor, private tutor, and editorial consultant. She leads a long-running workshop for poets and prose writers and has self-

Continued on Page 11



Photo by Micha Rice

Bob McAllister



Photo by Susan Willson

John Willson

## Also in this issue:

Welcome spring with books about gardens ..... Page 9

Children's and family books and activities ..... Pages 6 & 7

Jordan Taylor: Her muse has a wet nose ..... Page 8

# Register now for Field's End Writers' conference

By CINDY VANDERSLUIS

Registration is under way for the 5th Annual Field's End Writer's Conference to be held Saturday, April 17, at Kiana Lodge, on the shores of Agate Passage.

This year's keynote speaker is Bruce Barcott, 2009 Guggenheim Nonfiction Fellow and author of *The Last Flight of the Scarlet Macaw*, named one of the best books of 2008 by *Library Journal* and a finalist for the Washington State Book Award. In his address, "Perseverance Isn't Pretty," Barcott will tackle the topic of determination and what it takes for a writer to see a book through from inspiration to publication. Barcott's previous book, *The Measure of a Mountain: Beauty and Terror on Mount Rainier*, received the Washington State Governor's Award and was recently reissued in a 10th anniversary edition.

Award-winning poet and performance artist Dr. Gloria Burgess will be the opening speaker, discussing "Creative Perseverance: For Such a Time as This." Founder and Principal of *Jazz, Inc.*, her books include *Legacy Living* and *Dare to Wear Your Soul on the Outside*. As an author, speaker, executive coach and consultant, Burgess helps individuals and organizations find the vital core of their creative selves.

Attendees will have many choices of workshops to choose from throughout the day. Nonfiction workshops include "A Dozen Steps to Find a Literary Agent or Publisher,"

led by Alice B. Acheson, a marketing specialist and publishing consultant with decades of experience. In this class, Acheson will discuss elements of a cover letter and synopsis, the pros and cons of approaching an agent versus going to the publisher directly, and how to research likely candidates. Other nonfiction sessions include "Capturing an Oral History," presented by Kit Bakke, covering tips and techniques for conducting interviews and writing in this specialized field.

Several workshops will focus on writing for children and young adults. Author Alma Alexander's session, "It's Not Just Harry's World," will examine a variety of inventive stories of magic and



Bruce Barcott



Dr. Gloria Burgess

enchantment. Carmen T. Bernier-Grand, author of seven books for children and young adults, will talk about writing vivid biographies for children. Joni Sensel will lead a

with Wayne Ude, author and director of the Whidbey Writers Workshop MFA Program, and "Dramatic Moments in Fiction" with Dickey Nesenger, a playwright who worked in the film business as editor and script supervisor for many years before turning her attention to her own writing and teaching.

Rounding out the program is a workshop covering "What If? What Then?," led by David Patneau, in which he will examine what happens when a writing project is "finished" and what keeps us writing. Humorist and satirist Peter H. Fogtdal will bring levity to the program with his workshop about humor in fiction.

Other features this year include a professional panel of three industry experts examining the topic "Writing Outside the Lines: State of the Industry," a "Writing Aerobics" hands-on workshop that will jump-start your writing by using all of your senses, and an open mic session. The event also includes a continental breakfast, delicious salmon or vegetarian lunch, and a cheese and wine book signing reception.

Register now!

Individual Registration is \$165.00.

Group Registration (5 or more persons): \$135.00 per person

Please visit [www.fieldsend.org](http://www.fieldsend.org) to register.

Continued from front page

## Mark your calendar

### SATURDAY, APRIL 10

- Friends of the Library Book Sale 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- National Poetry Month special event: Favorite Poem Reading. 2-3:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 11

- Behind the Score: "From the New World" with Bainbridge Symphony Orchestra Music Director David Upham and musical excerpts from the spring program. 5 p.m. Co-sponsored by BPA.

### MONDAY, APRIL 12

- A Good Yarn knitting and book group 7-9 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

- Low Vision Support Group 1-3 p.m.
- Island Film Group: "Adam's Rib" (1949) Film & discussion 7 p.m.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 16

- Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society: Workshop on "Working with the Census" 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 17

- Island Theatre at the Library presents "Yellowman" and "My Red Hand/My Black Hand" by Dael Orlandersmith. 7:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 18

- Island Theatre - Repeat performance 7:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 19

- National Poetry Month special event: The Poetry of Sharon Olds, moderated by Neil Baker. 7 p.m.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 20

- Senior Center Book Discussion (370 Brien Dr) *Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon 1 p.m. Copies available at the library.

- Field's End Writers' Roundtable: Kelli Russell Agodon presents "What constitutes a good poem?" 7 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

- Travelogue: "India" with Pam Perry. Co-sponsored by The Traveler Bookstore. 7:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 23

- Job Search Workshop, presented by Jeannie Ream. 10-11:30 a.m.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 27

- Friends of the Library Book Sale 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 29

- Club Cervantino de Lectores (Spanish Book Club) *Cuando era Puertorriquena* by Esmeralda Santiago (Puerto Rico) 7 p.m. Inland Way Building.

### MAY 1-31

- On exhibit in the meeting room: Mary Rowland, whimsical garden paintings.

### SATURDAY, MAY 1

- Seattle Opera Preview with Norm Hollingshead: "Amelia" by Daron Aric Hagen. 3 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

- Bainbridge Library Book Group: *March* by Geraldine Brooks 7 p.m. Copies available at the library.

### FRIDAY, MAY 7

- First Friday Art Walk. Reception with Mary Rowland 6-8 p.m.

### SATURDAY, MAY 8

- Friends of the Library Book Sale 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- "Here's to the Women" with performer Linda Allen. At Island Center Hall. 2p.m. Co-Sponsored with Bainbridge Metro Parks & Rec.

### MONDAY, MAY 10

- A Good Yarn knitting and book group 7-9 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

- Low Vision Support Group 1-3 p.m.
- Island Film Group: "The Lady Eve" (1941) Film & discussion 7 p.m.

### THURSDAY, MAY 13

- Friends of the Library Book Sale 1-4 p.m.

### TUESDAY, MAY 18

- Senior Center Book Discussion (370 Brien Dr) *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford 1 p.m. Copies available at the library.
- Field's End Writers' Roundtable: Carol Cassella presents "Ways to Make Your Writing Group Really Work" 7 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

- Travelogue: "Walking in France" with Neil Baker. Co-sponsored by The Traveler Bookstore. 7:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY, MAY 21

- Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society: Case studies by BIGS mentors Sara Scribner, Claire Smith, and Linda Sewright 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

### TUESDAY, MAY 25

- Friends of the Library Book Sale 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

### THURSDAY, MAY 27

- Club Cervantino de Lectores (Spanish Book Club) *La Voragine* by Jose Eustasio Rivera (Colombia) 7 p.m. Inland Way Building.

### MONDAY, MAY 31

- Library closed for Memorial Day



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# Sumimasen goes a long way in Japan

By BARBARA WINTHER

One spring we traveled to the small town of Okitsu and stayed at the Minaguchi-ya, a Japanese inn (*ryokan*) that dates back to 1592. It was our first trip to Japan. We had chosen this inn to experience the traditional culture that had disappeared in most of the country.

Located on the old Tokaido Road, the inn was one of fifty-three stages where travelers could rest during the 310-mile journey by palanquin, horseback or foot between Tokyo, known then as Edo, and Kyoto. The road became world famous after Japanese woodblock artist Hiroshige created exquisite landscape prints of all stages.

In modern times, travelers reach Okitsu from Tokyo by automobile or a local train. We opted for the train. Although Grant and I had studied the Japanese language for a year before taking this trip, we couldn't read the characters on Japanese signs. A gentleman standing next to us on the crowded train suggested we count the number of stops from Tokyo to Okitsu. We weren't sure how many to count. Was the first stop where the man spoke to us included? We were too embarrassed to ask. Besides, not being fluent in the language, often when people replied in a flood of Japanese, we lost it all.

As we reached what we hoped was the town, Grant shouted, "*Sumimasen*, (excuse me) *Okitsu*?" A number of passengers answered, "*Hai*" (yes). We jumped off the train into a pouring rainstorm.

We must have looked funny—obviously confused Americans with no umbrellas or raincoats, wearing grungy looking backpacks and baseball caps.

Not knowing the location of the Miniguchi-ya, we thought it best to take a taxi. Nearby was a car with the back door open. We ran for it, leaped inside and Grant cried, "*Minaguchi-ya, okudasai*" (Minaguchi inn, please). "*Hai, hai*," said the man in the driver's seat.

In less than ten minutes we were in front of the establishment. Leaning forward, Grant said to the driver, "*Ikura des' ka?*" (How much is it?).

"I not taxi," the man replied. He rushed out, opened our door and stood there in the rain, bowing to us.

We stumbled from the back seat, realizing we had jumped into a private car, assuming it was a taxi. Perhaps the man had been at the station waiting for a friend. Maybe his friend still stood on the platform, dripping wet, wondering why he hadn't been picked up.

"*Sumimasen*," we both said in unison, feeling sheepish. Although we offered him money, he would not accept it. We bowed profusely, backing into the inn's entrance.

He smiled, gave us a final bow, climbed into his car and drove away.

As we started to walk into the inn, an old man with a face like carved leather rose majestically from a corner bench. Beside him were rows of shoes arranged neatly on shelves. The old man gestured at our feet.

I whispered to Grant, "We're supposed to remove our shoes."

"Oops, *Sumimasen*."

"*Sumimasen*," I echoed and bowed.

The shoe guardian bowed back and handed each of us a pair of slipper-socks (*tabi*).

A kimonoed lady led us to a *tatami*-floored room with a view of the garden. Hot, wet towels, a pot of green tea, two cups without handles and two almond cookies awaited us on a low table. She indicated the neatly folded *yukatas* (cotton robes) on nearby cushions. Then, after kneeling and bowing outside our *shoji*-screened room, she disappeared.

That night, dressed in our *yukatas* and feeling part of another world, we ate an elegant Japanese dinner served in our room. Afterwards we took baths in an extremely



Dinner is served in our room.

hot, deep, wooden tub and went to bed on *futons*, the mattresses laid on the straw-matted floor. Before we fell asleep, we heard the "clackity-clackity" sounds of storm shutters being rolled around the outside of the inn, an ancient tradition from Tokaido days.

We have returned three times to Japan, always lodging at *ryokans* where floors are *tatami*-matted, doors *shoji*-screened and beds *futons*. Unfortunately, the Minaguchi-ya closed a few years ago, but other traditional inns can still be found through the Japan Ryokan Association.

We try to be careful when visiting Japan not to make cultural blunders as we did on that first trip. Even so, whenever unsure of the etiquette we say *Sumimasen* and always make certain to bow.

## Books about Japanese traditional life

*A Year in Japan*, by Kate Williamson—as a post graduate student, this New York illustrator and writer drew pictures and kept a diary detailed with Japanese customs and sights.

*Back Roads to Far Towns*, by Bash Matsuo—English translation and explanatory notes by Cid Cormon and Susumu Kamiuke of the poet Bash's travel journal written in Edo times.

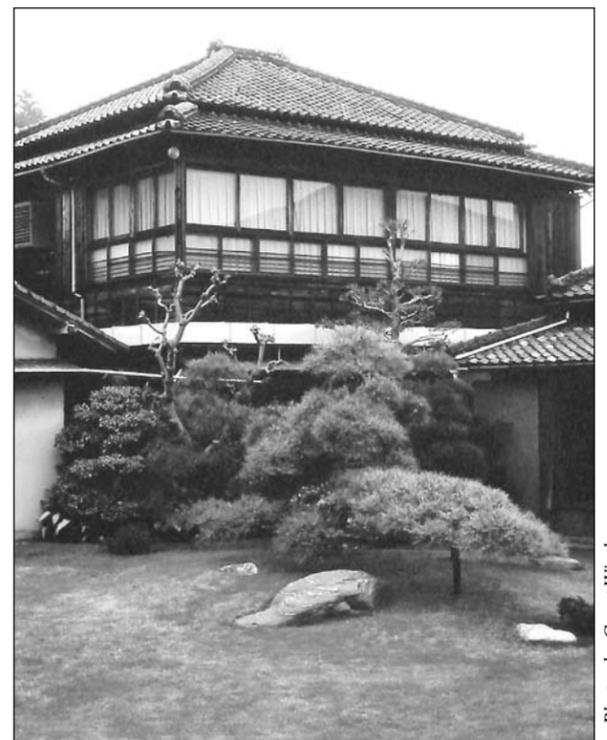
*Hiroshige: Japan's Great Landscape Artist*, by Oka Isaburo—about the famous *ukiyo-e* (woodblock) artist with color reproductions, including "Fifty-three Stages of the Tokaido."

*Japanese Inn*, by Oliver Statler—a wonderful account of the history of the Minaguchi-ya. Although not in Kitsap Library's catalog, the book can be obtained on inter-library loan or copies purchased via the internet.

**The Bainbridge Public Library has a large selection of books on Japanese art (dewey number, 709.52), history (952), and travel (915.2). For help finding these and other titles, stop by the information desk and the librarians will be happy to get you started.**



Garden view is framed by shoji screens.



The Minaguchi-ya

—Photos by Grant Winther

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# Welcome spring with books starring special gardens

By VERDA AVERILL  
Library News Editor

With spring just days away, this seems a good time to celebrate the beauty of our gardens with some new, or old favorite, books.

Not just how-to-garden books, though you'll find plenty of them at our library, but books in which gardens play a key role – if not as stars, at least as supporting players.

Reference librarian Julie O'Neill has found some fascinating volumes that focus on both people and gardens. Any of them would provide a great escape from rainy spring days. (No matter how much we may love pruning and scooping up soggy leaves, sometimes spring rains do discourage us from sloshing around outdoors.)

By the way, on your next library visit, take a good look at the building grounds.

You'll see lots of new color and, if you arrive on a Friday, hard-working garden volunteers. The Friday Tidies turn out year 'round, rain or shine.



## Pets make a difference

This is the first Library News of 2010 and we're still working our way through the piles of books received during the holidays.

One that I couldn't miss – I actually received two copies – is the touching story of *Dewey, The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World*.

You may recall that Martha Bayley reviewed this winner briefly in a recent talk, but even her enthusiastic recommendation didn't prepare me for the heart-warming, five-handkerchief story. It's non-fiction that reads like riveting fiction, a page-turner you won't be able to put down – even to feed your own cat, dog, or bunny.

We don't have a library cat on Bainbridge, but more than once we've had gentle dogs here to make reading even more fun for children. The photo on this page was taken last year, but I wouldn't be surprised to see more dogs visiting this year. (We'll keep you posted on summer reading in our June Library News.)

## Recent authors lost

The end of 2009 brought the usual news of notable authors passing, too many to list.

But already this year, we've lost two of my favorites: Robert B. Parker and Dick Francis.

Like many readers, I've grabbed every new Parker book as it hit the shelves and find it hard to believe that there'll be no more tales of Spenser, the tough, funny PI, and his pals Susan and Hawk. (I'm not the only one who'll miss him. On a recent visit to the Little Boston Library I noticed a small memorial exhibit of his books.)

I will also miss Dick Francis, who wrote dozens of books on horse racing in England. I don't ride horses, or attend many races. But there was something about Francis's clean, spare prose and carefully constructed plots that hooked me every time.

They will be missed.

READING WITH A DOG in the young people's library are Campbell Hawk (left) and Elena Rowe. The dog, Arayo Carpenter, was a familiar presence in the library last year. Will this summer bring a return of the popular reading-with-dogs sessions? Check the summer Library News to find out.

—Photo by  
Karyn Carpenter



## To our readers:

# Many thanks to all our donors

The Bainbridge Public Library is able to exist because of the generous donors in our community. To each of you, I want to give thanks.

Our books, computers, and staff are all provided by Kitsap Regional Library, which receives our library tax dollars for this purpose. But the building itself was built and is maintained by donations from the Bainbridge community. Your support makes it possible for the library to keep the lights bright, the heat on, the

custodians employed, and the gardens maintained, either through One Call for All gifts or donations given directly to the Bainbridge Public Library.

The One Call list is being gathered as this issue of the Library News goes to press. Please look for our complete listing of all 2009 donors to BPL in the summer issue. In the meantime, our sincere gratitude for your support.

**Delight Willing**  
Bainbridge Public Library Board President

# 2010 brings new staff to the Bainbridge Library

By REBECCA JUDD  
Bainbridge Branch Manager

Islanders know that when they come to the library, they're likely to see someone they know. It might be a neighbor from down the street, a friend from a book group, or a library employee who always knows your name (and what you like to read!). This year, we are pleased to introduce you to three *new* members of our public library team:

**Stefanie Graen** comes to us as a recent library school graduate with a special passion for teen library service. You'll see her often in the teen area and also at the upstairs information desk, researching your question or helping you find your next book.

**Kip Bankart** is a long-time Islander, a member of the Bainbridge chorale, and our new Bainbridge Library custodian. If your meeting room event is set up just the way you like it, you'll know that Kip has been there. We love the way our library looks clean and spotless since

he's been with us.

**Tressa Johnson**, the recent recipient of the Cindy Lord Harrison scholarship fund is currently in library school at the University of Washington. When she's not busy writing papers or studying for exams, you may spot her at the information desk in her new position as a library associate substitute. Tressa also maintains our outside reader board, changing events up to three times a week.

Next time you are at the library, please extend a warm welcome to our new library staff.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**THE FRIDAY TIDIES** have been taking care of the library grounds for over ten years. New volunteers are always welcome and are sure to learn many new gardening tips from Ann Lovejoy, Anne Seeley, and the rest of the crew. To volunteer, bring your gardening gloves and trowel and come to the library parking lot at 9:30 a.m. on any Friday. Professional landscaping groups who would be willing to donate one Friday morning of work each year are also needed. For more information, contact Rebecca Judd at 842-4162.

**DID YOU KNOW** that you can download e-books, audiobooks, and music using your library card with the library's new Overdrive service?

**HAVE YOU TRIED** the express checkout now at the Bainbridge branch library and throughout most Kitsap Regional Library branches?

## Watch for these book sales

The Bainbridge Island Friends of the Library have scheduled three book sales each month for 2010.

Spring sales (after your spring Library News is delivered) are set for: Saturday, March 13, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Tuesday, March 23, also from 10 to 3.

April sales will be held on Thursday, April 1, from 1 to 4 p.m.; Saturday, April 10, from 10 to 3, and Tuesday, April 27, from 10 to 3.

May sales are set for: Saturday, May 8, 10 to 3; Thursday, May 13, 1 to 4; and Tuesday, May 25, from 10 to 3.

June sales are: Thursday, June 3, from 1 to 4; Saturday, June 12, from 10 to 3; and Tuesday, June 22, from 10 to 3.

## BAINBRIDGE ISLAND LIBRARY NEWS

1270 Madison Ave. N, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

The Bainbridge Island Library News is a community newspaper produced quarterly for the Bainbridge Public Library by professional writers who volunteer their time, in cooperation with members of the Bainbridge Library staff, Bainbridge Public Library Board, and Friends of the Library. Printing and mailing costs are funded by the Kitsap Regional Library Foundation, local advertisers, and individual donors. The publication is mailed to all homes and businesses on Bainbridge Island, is available at the library and other Bainbridge locations, and is reproduced in full on the Kitsap Regional Library, Bainbridge Public Library, and Friends of the Library websites.

# The Gentleman from Finland comes to KRL

By VERDA AVERILL, Editor  
The Library News

Bob Goldstein isn't exactly your typical chief financial officer.

He may be, in fact, better known in this county full of published writers and active book groups as *The Gentleman from Finland*, author of an award-winning, best-selling, non-fiction travel book.

But he is also the chief financial officer of the Kitsap Regional Library, with nine branch libraries serving the citizens of Kitsap County from Hansville on the north to Manchester in the south.

Kitsap library patrons give him much of the credit for the county library system's sustainable budget with minimal cutbacks (and no staff layoffs)—even during a recession which has caused massive cuts in larger regional libraries' services. (See KRL director Jill Jean's column on Page 5.)

Goldstein and Jean have worked together before—at the Seattle Public Library, where he was chief financial officer from July 1999 to May 2005 and oversaw the financial management of the \$165 million downtown central library, four new branch libraries, and the renovation and expansion of 21 branch libraries.

"After substantial completion of the

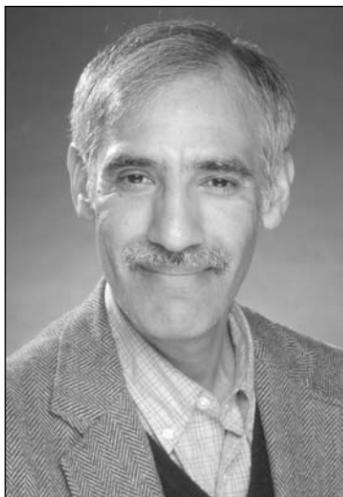
capital program I retired to devote more time to volunteer activities, my consulting business, and writing," he said.

The result was publication of *The Gentleman from Finland*, a long-delayed account of his adventures in 1987 on the Trans-Siberian Express.

As a child growing up near the railroad tracks in Santa Clara, California, Goldstein fell in love with trains, and 25 years later, set off on a trip through Russia holding a voucher that mistakenly identified him as a Finn. A short, dark-skinned Mexican-American, Russian Jew, he spoke only enough Russian to identify himself as Bob, a tourist from America. But to those he met along the way, he remained "the gentleman from Finland".

The trip, which began as fulfillment of a childhood dream, became a journey with a cast of characters worthy of a Russian novel.

Historical anecdotes are blended with stories of his family's past in czarist



Robert Goldstein

Russia, in a tale that is sometimes laugh-out-loud funny and sometimes poignant.

Book reviewers were generous with their praise. Lorian Hemingway wrote, "Goldstein's witty, artfully observed memoir of an amazing journey illustrates not only the stark beauty and 'invisible menace' of Siberia but the often conflicted heart and mind of the author himself, who is as much a character as the

toughish black-marketeers, hyperactive bureaucrats, and eccentric fellow travelers he describes so well."

Nancy Pearl, librarian and author of *Book Lust: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment, and Reason*, said, "I loved meeting the gentleman from Finland, Mother Russia, and all the other curious and compelling characters Bob encountered on this surely epic journey. A perfect read for fans of Paul Theroux and Bill Bryson's travel memoirs."

Goldstein had postponed writing the book for years, while he was CFO

of the Seattle Public Library. With more time for his writing, he not only completed the book, but established his own publishing company—and *The Gentleman from Finland* was both a critical and a financial success.

He gives great credit to his writers' group for keeping him focused on the writing and rewriting necessary to complete the book. Personal appearances at bookstores helped sell it, and a Pacific Northwest Writers Association award didn't hurt sales.

Today, *The Gentleman from Finland* is part of the book group collection of the Kitsap Regional Library. Groups interested in checking out copies may do so through any of the branches.

For those readers who have enjoyed reading, and rereading, Goldstein's first travel book, there's good news ahead. His second adventure story set in the north, *Riding with Reindeer*, is due out soon—probably early in 2010.

Meanwhile, he's crunching numbers and working at familiar tasks, guiding the county's libraries through budgets and long-term development plans.

(Editor's note: As the Library News was going to press we received word that Goldstein's new book was in its final proofreading and scheduled for a press run of its own. Look for it soon in bookstores and the library.)

## A puzzle for library patrons:

# What links Verdi's Il Trovatore, The Economist, and long-time support for the library?

By CHARLES BROWNE, President  
Bainbridge Island Friends of the library

The common link among the above three seemingly unconnected items is your Bainbridge Island Friends of the Library (FOL).

In 2009, in sharp contrast to the national economy, the Friends had a great year, generating more income than ever before to support the Bainbridge Library. And those three items in the title are examples of the many things for which FOL provided funding.

Ever since there has been a public library on Bainbridge Island, people have banded together as volunteers to work in support of our library. A most interesting read is the Rolling Bay Library Association meeting minutes from 1931 onwards. Those community-minded individuals provided support to that library with Silver Teas, book discussion groups, lectures, and rummage sales.

Today, in the midst of difficult economic times, the idea of community volunteers in support of the library hasn't changed.

Have you ever attended one of Norm Hollingshead's opera programs? If not, you may have wondered why the parking lot on some Saturdays is completely packed. Norm is known as an "opera expert and a wonderful story-teller" who brings opera to life. Library patrons would agree. The music and laughter floating from the conference room tell you that all are enjoying themselves. The Bainbridge FOL has sponsored these programs for years.

One of the unfortunate results of the tightening finances of the Kitsap Regional Library (KRL) system has been the necessity to cut spending on a number of magazine subscriptions. While the Bainbridge FOL has long supported the library by funding the subscriptions of a number of magazines that Islanders requested that were not in the KRL offering, in 2009 your FOL substantially increased its support and bought more than 50 subscriptions, such as *The Economist*. Many of these subscriptions would have been cancelled had we not stepped up to meet the need.

Did you realize that the physical "house" for our community library is owned by the community, maintained and managed by a dedicated volunteer board of directors, and supported solely by community donations? Like most non-profit organizations, Bainbridge Public Library is subject to the ups and downs of donations, which are influenced by many factors out of their control. To bring a small measure of constant funding to BPL, the Bainbridge FOL in 2007 used part of their income and savings to establish a perpetual endowment with an initial donation of \$100,000.

Throughout 2008 and 2009 the Friends continued to contribute to the endowment adding an additional \$110,000. It is perhaps the single item

the Friends are most proud of.

How can each of you in the community help our small group of enthusiastic volunteers generate income

to continue these and many other programs? First, if you haven't been to one of our book sales (three times each month), please drop by and browse for the wonderful bargains we have. Second, when your book shelves at home are overflowing, bring us your gently used books (or DVDs, music CDs, VHS tapes, and recent magazines).

That's what we do.

We take the generous donations of a wonderful community and recycle those valuable books, tapes, music and movies right back out into the community. Everything we make goes



Norm Hollingshead

Continued on Page 8

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Books and activities  
for young people  
and their families

## Storytime calender

### Winter session

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 9

Baby storytime, 12:30pm  
Pajama storytime, 7:00pm

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

Preschool storytime, 10:30am

#### MONDAY, MARCH 15

Toddler storytime, 10:30am

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 16

Baby storytime, 12:30pm  
Pajama storytime, 7:00pm

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

Preschool storytime, 10:30am

### Spring session

#### MONDAY, APRIL 5

Toddler storytime, 10:30am

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 6

Baby storytime, 12:30pm  
Pajama storytime, 7:00pm

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

Preschool storytime, 10:30am

#### MONDAY, APRIL 12

Toddler storytime, 10:30am

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 13

Baby storytime, 12:30pm  
Pajama storytime, 7:00pm

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

Preschool storytime, 10:30am

#### MONDAY, APRIL 19

Toddler Storytime, 10:30am

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 20

Baby storytime, 12:30pm  
Pajama storytime, 7:00pm

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

Preschool storytime, 10:30am

#### MONDAY, APRIL 26

Toddler storytime, 10:30am

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 27

Baby storytime, 12:30pm  
Pajama storytime, 7:00pm

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

Preschool storytime, 10:30am

#### MONDAY, MAY 3

Toddler storytime, 10:30am

#### TUESDAY, MAY 4

Baby storytime, 12:30pm  
Pajama storytime, 7:00pm

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

Preschool storytime, 10:30am

Continued on Page 7

## Follow the Reader:

# A storyteller's treasure chest

By ED SHERIDAN

I don't really know how I became a storyteller. I have three theories.

\*My ancestors were Irish and it's in my blood.

\*My mother introduced me through the world of books to exotic characters, such as Per Gynt and the Bremen Town Musicians. That's where my love of folktales began. Later as a young father I read the old stories and made up new ones for our three children.

\*Then there was that mysterious treasure chest of books that I found in my branch library in Providence, RI. Each story I discovered was worth its weight in gold.

Once I moved to Bainbridge Island 15 years ago I carried within me a dream of becoming a storyteller. I had the passion and vision, but my collections of storybooks had all been given away to our grown children. As I slowly began to tell stories in elementary schools on Bainbridge and North Kitsap and found teachers that shared my passion for this ancient way of learning, I found a new treasure chest of books at our

Bainbridge Island Library.

Here are some of my favorite authors.

#### Margaret Read

**MacDonald:** Type in her name in the online catalog and you'll find scores of books. There are several collections of participation stories for younger kids, spooky stories for older children, a parent's guide to storytelling, and many storybooks from other cultures. A great favorite of mine is *Little Rooster's Diamond Button* (K-2).

**Verna Aardema:** The author is a master storyteller and has a great passion for collecting and retelling folktales from Africa. She has written and illustrated storybooks about buzzing mosquitoes, Anansi the spider, and so many more. *Misoso: Once Upon a Time Tales from Africa* is my favorite. The illustrations are vibrant, and the 12 stories provide a fascinating introduction to African culture. It contains the story of "Leelee Goro" and I often tell it to younger audiences. Its main character is a little girl with superhuman strength who got the best of leopard, elephant



Photo by Mira B. Kitterer

Ed Sheridan

and the rest of the animals, except for the wise snail.

#### Joseph Bruchac:

There are a number of story collections and environmental books that have been written by this Native American author and storyteller of Abenaki heritage. In fact there are 58 of them in the KRL collection. One that I often reach for is a collection of Native American tales of terror, *When the Chenoo Howls*, and the title story is one that I enjoy telling to third graders. I also am quite impressed with

*Keepers of the Animals, Native American Stories* and *Wildlife Activities for Children*. I would describe this as a reference book for families that interweaves 24 animal folktales with specific wildlife activities for children.

Each family creates its own treasure chest of stories. Why do we love these stories so much? They are certainly part of our early family life and in important ways bind us together through memories and ancient wisdom.

## Children and family programs

#### MARCH 12, 3:30 PM

Movie matinee

#### MARCH 19, 4 PM

Super seventies party

#### MARCH 29, 10:30 AM

Toddler dance party

#### MARCH 31

Book bingo at 10:30 am  
West Sound Animal Shelter crow program at 2 pm

#### APRIL 1, 2 PM

I-Spy program

#### APRIL 9, 3:30 PM

Movie matinee

#### APRIL 22, 2 PM

Recycled crafts

#### APRIL 23, 3:30 PM

Orca program

#### APRIL 25, 1 PM

Spring stories and crafts (at IslandWood)

#### MAY 7, 3:30 PM

Movie matinee

#### JUNE 12, 1- 5 PM

Summer reading program kick-off

## Caldecott and Newbery winners

By CARMINE RAU  
Youth Services Librarian

January is book awards time for the American Library Association and causes a great deal of excitement, fanfare and hoopla. Admittedly, I get giddy in the weeks running up to the announcement of winners. There are many different awards given for many different categories, but the two big youth awards are the Caldecott, for best picture book of the year, and the Newbery for most distinguished juvenile book.

This year I had a chance to share some of my giddiness with the 5-8th graders at Carden Country School where we held a 'Mock-Caldecott' election to select the best illustrated book of the year. This astute bunch selected their winner and days later it was announced that the national Caldecott committee was in agreement. The award for best illustrated picture book of the year goes to Jerry Pinkney's *The Lion and the Mouse*. It is a gorgeous

wordless version of the classic Aesop's fable in warm-hued watercolors.

Not to be missed are two runners up this year, *All the World* by Elizabeth Scanlon and *Red Sings from Treetops* by Joyce Sidman.

And for the older crowd, this year's Newbery winner was *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead, in which 12-year-old Miranda navigates 1970s New York, changing friendships and strange occurrences including mysterious notes that have the disturbing coincidence of foretelling the future and that hint at the impossible—that time travel might actually be possible.

This year four Newbery honor awards were given: *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice* by Phillip Hoose; *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* by Jacqueline Kelly; *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin; and *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg* by Rodman Philbrick.

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# Teen Readers' Corner

## New and notable books for young adults

By STEFANIE GRAEN  
Teen Services Librarian

### *The Big Splash* by Jack Ferraiolo.

Ignore the ugly cover, and check this book out if you like a thrilling (but very funny) Whodunit. Seventh-grade P.I. Matt Stevens has tried to stay away from Vinnie Biggs, Franklin Middle School's eighth-grade version of Al Capone. (Kids who cross Vinnie will get the front of their pants soaked by one of his watergun-toting assassins.) But when Vinnie offers Matt big bucks for a seemingly easy case, Matt takes it and suddenly finds himself in the line of fire. Grades 5-9.

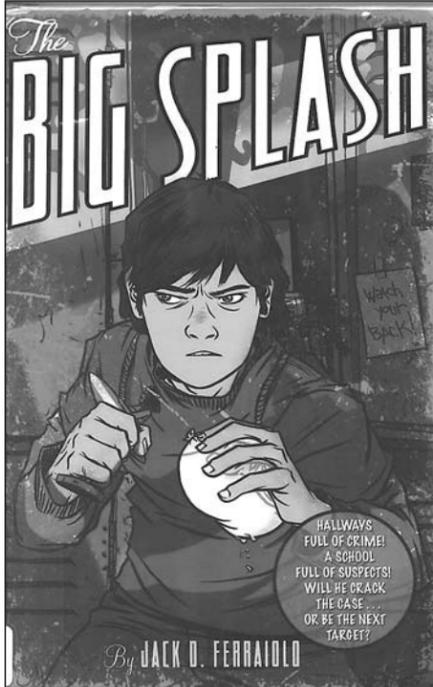
*Columbine*, by Dave Cullen, is topping all of the charts and according to Sarah M, teen volunteer extraordinaire, this is one of the best nonfiction books she's ever read. Cullen, an award-winning journalist, looks past all the well-known media stories to tell what drove Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold to murder their classmates and teachers and the effect the killings had on the town. This is a nonfiction book that reads like fiction

—but unfortunately isn't. Grades 9/10-Adult.

### *The Killing Sea*,

by Richard Lewis, is a fictional account of two teens thrust together in the wake of the devastating 2004 tsunami. Sarah, an American tourist visiting Indonesia with her family, fails to notice Ruslan, a local boy, in their first encounter. But when the tsunami hits, tragedy strikes both of their families and the two join together on a horrifying journey for survival to search for their loved ones. A great pick for fans of survival adventures. Grades 6-12.

*Life Sucks* by Jessica Abel, Gabriel



Soria, and Warren Pleece.

Even if you're one of those people who's tired of hearing about vampires, *Life Sucks* is a new spin that will have you laughing. The main character is a vampire named Dave, whose life sucks—his boss (Dave's vampire master) thinks Dave is pathetic because he gets his blood from a blood bank. Plus, he's in love with a human Goth-girl who he can't

have for obvious reasons. This graphic novel is full of witty, nicely-written characters and illustrations that perfectly complement the story. Grades 8-12.

*Skulls* by Noah Scalin.

A few years ago, Scalin, a skull-lover and artist, decided to design a skull each day for one year. This book is a photographic collection of many of those skulls, which were made from household materials, art supplies, or weird things found on the street. Scalin has a talent for taking elements from everyday life and transforming them to make fun, unique pieces of art. All ages.

*Impossible* by Nancy Werlin.

For generations, the women in Lucy's family have been under a horrible curse when they turn 17. Without exception, they became pregnant and were forced to complete three seemingly impossible tasks or fall into madness after the birth of their children. So far, none of them have succeeded—and Lucy has just turned 17. This captivating novel will appeal to lovers of suspense, romance, and fantasy. Grades 9-12.

### Teen Advisory Board

The library is starting a Teen Advisory Board, which will be a group of 7th-12th graders who advise the library staff on teen programming, books, and trends. The group will meet once a month. Please contact Stefanie (sgraen@krl.org or 842-4162 x9805) or talk to any of the librarians if you have questions or want to join.

*Students from the Commodore homeschool resource center's service learning group created this bulletin board to promote the picture book recipe collection they put together at the library. Standing, left to right, are Mariel Gale, Sabrina Lashmet, Anna Banyas, Elliot Hesselink, Peter Footh, Chloe Cook, Chris Wing-Kovarik, and Carter Daniels. Kneeling are Colby Daniels and Savanna Walker. (Photo by Susan Bisnett)*

Continued from Page 6

### Storytime Calendar

MONDAY, MAY 10

Toddler storytime, 10:30am

TUESDAY, MAY 11

Baby Storytime, 12:30pm

Pajama storytime, 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

Preschool storytime, 10:30am

MONDAY, MAY 17

Toddler storytime, 10:30am

TUESDAY, MAY 18

Baby Storytime, 12:30pm

Pajama storytime, 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

Preschool storytime, 10:30am

MONDAY, MAY 24

Toddler storytime, 10:30am

TUESDAY, MAY 25

Baby Storytime, 12:30pm

Pajama storytime, 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

Preschool storytime, 10:30am

\*No storytimes in June



## Teen Tech Week comes to Bainbridge Library

Teen Tech Week 2010 is March 7-13! The 2010 theme — Learn Create Share at your library — fosters teen creativity and showcases the many types of technology available at the library, including DVDs, music, gaming, video production, online homework help, social networking, tech workshops, audiobooks and more.

The library will host an open gaming night for teens, March 11 from 3-5 p.m. Free snacks! Any teens interested in volunteering for the event should contact Stefanie Graen at sgraen@krl.org. *You can get service hours!*

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# Meet Jordan Taylor: Her muse has a wet nose

By SUSAN WIGGS

Jordan Taylor is a self-proclaimed binge writer and an expert on dogs in film. Her collection of canine movie memorabilia includes over 400 pieces dating from the 1920s to current releases. She trains dogs for film and print media as well as producing her own shorts.

Bainbridge has been her home for the past 10 years.

At 23, she is the youngest published author to be profiled in these pages. She sounds like a born writer.

"I was homeschooled and grew up in North Bend with the King County Library System. Our library was my classroom. We were there nearly every day and had so many library books and audiobooks at home we had a dedicated bookshelf for them."

Surrounded by all those books, she naturally gravitated to writing.

"My writing background is all fiction. I wrote my first novel when I was 16. I'm now 23 and have written two more novels, as well as several novellas and screenplays. *Wonder Dogs* is the only nonfiction project I have ever attempted and it was a challenge, though ultimately very rewarding."

Her beautifully-illustrated book is a fascinating and detailed compendium of 101 movie dogs, from 1921 to the present. Her one-of-a-kind project is a labor of love.

"Inspiration came from the dogs themselves," Jordan explains. "I started researching dogs in movies when I was 11 years old and decided I wanted to train dogs in film for a living. German Shepherds had long been my favorite breed and they have also been in more films than any other dogs. By the time I actually sat down to begin writing the book, I already had much of the research material on hand."

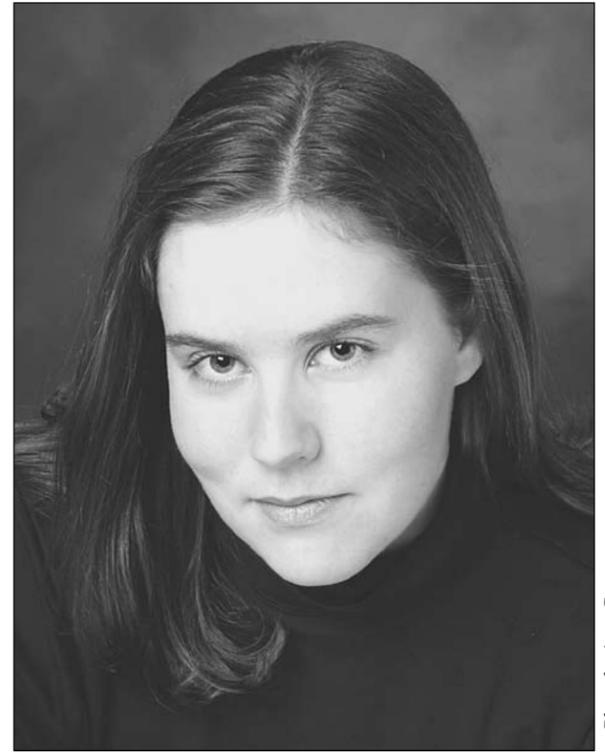
Her favorite dog movie is *Fluke*, from 1995.

"It's not a German Shepherd movie," she points out, "but the performance by the dog, a Golden Retriever named Comet in real life, is really phenomenal. *The Journey of Natty Gann* would be a close second. My favorite of the films featured in *Wonder Dogs* is probably *We Think the World of You*, which is a British movie from 1988."

Jordan's favorite dog books include *The Plague Dogs* by Richard Adams.

"It changed my life, and it's still my favorite book. The books that shaped my own training and the way I think of dogs more than any others are *The Dog Who Loved Too Much* by Dr. Nicholas Dodman, and *The Hidden Life of Dogs* by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas. Also, *A Good Dog* by Jon Katz, and *Puppies, Dogs, and Blue Northers* by Gary Paulsen.

Readers can learn much more about Jordan at her web site: [www.jordantaylorbooks.com](http://www.jordantaylorbooks.com).



Jordan Taylor

Photo by Amy Cooper

Book review:

## He's catching a frigate to LaMancha

By JOSE O. GONZALEZ

Someone, somewhere said there is no frigate like a book to take us to faraway lands.

When I first read it years ago, this line was just that – a line without a hook.

That was before I invested 50 cents at a local library book sale and met Don Quixote. Then I understood. (Don Quixote was a store of proverbs and sayings, just like my peasant kinfolk back in the old country, Texas.)

Don Quixote turned out to be one madman with mojo. Never in my life have I had so much fun, nor laughed so loudly and unexpectedly.

Don Quixote was very kind to me. He took me to parties, taverns, treks across the sierra. He included me in countless debates, trysts, and bloody altercations. He taught me to square off to life, to smile through the tears. Somehow, somewhere down the pike, he earned my unabashed respect.

After all, deep inside, all of us have a bit of a quixotic strain. I think those who don't, wish they did.

It's been said that the brain confers life to words. Don Quixote confirms this. He could deploy words like nobody I know. He owned every silver lining in every dark cloud. No matter what the buffeting, he never stayed down.

"When one door closes, two windows open," I can almost hear him say. (His creator, the courageous Miguel Cervantes, also lived a life fraught with incidents.)

Imagine my surprise, 20 years later, when last month I ran into Don Quixote once again in a similar paperback by the same talented translator, Samuel Putnam. God bless the Friends of the Library. (I paid a dollar this time.)

I'll cut this short, because I have a frigate to catch. I'm headed for the plains of La Mancha, for a second time.

*(Editor's note: The Library News welcomes stories from readers who have discovered favorite authors' works at library book sales. Please keep the length to 300-400 words, and drop off at the Library News mailbox in the library.)*

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Travel talks continue in spring and fall

The library's popular travelogue series continues this spring and will be resumed in September. (No lectures are planned for summer, when many Islanders are traveling.)

The evenings are co-sponsored by The Traveler bookstore and the Bainbridge library.

Spring topics include "Peru" with Anne Greeott (March 17); "India" with Pam Perry (April 21), and "Walking in France" with Neil Baker (May 19). Watch for the fall schedule in the September Library News.

#### Continued from Page 5

#### A library puzzle

to support the library. Of course we're more than happy to take your financial donations (cash, check, or online at [www.bifriends.org](http://www.bifriends.org)) but 99 percent of our income is generated by selling your used books.

If you'd like to work with us, drop by and see Jeannie Ream (volunteer coordinator) at the library reference desk.

#### Tax-aid offers free tax return help

The IRS and AARP jointly sponsor a free program staffed by volunteers to help taxpayers prepare and file income tax returns electronically. Although intended for elderly and low-income families, all taxpayers are welcome. However, returns requiring the reporting of significant business income or loss, rental income, or First-Time Homebuyer credits are beyond the scope of this program.

Taxpayers must bring:

- 1) photo identification
- 2) social security cards for all persons on the tax return
- 3) all 2009 tax documents, such as statements of income from wages, retirement, social security, interest, dividends and brokerage statement
- 4) your checkbook or other document from a financial institution that shows the routing & account numbers for direct deposit of refunds.

If in doubt about the paperwork, bring it all and the tax-aid volunteers will sort it out.

Please plan to arrive early; no advance registrations are taken for this popular program which runs through

April 14, 2010. Days and times for the service are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Monday evenings 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., in the downstairs conference room.

#### Behind the score

Bainbridge Symphony Orchestra music director David Upham will present a free "behind the score" sneak preview of the orchestra's spring concert on Sunday, April 11, from 5 to 6 p.m. The concert is titled "From the New World" and musical selections will showcase America's influence on the music of the Western world. This program is co-sponsored by Bainbridge Performing Arts and Kitsap Regional Library.

#### Free job search

A free job search workshop is conducted by librarian Jeannie Ream each month at the Bainbridge Public Library. Participants receive a guided tour of the library's databases, discuss job search websites, share tips, and network with other job seekers. Upcoming workshops are March 26, April 23, and May 21 from 10 – 11:30 in the large meeting room.

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# Garden books can represent hope and renewal

— Check out these famous gardens in literature —

By JULIE O'NEILL  
Reference Librarian

This time of year there are sorry patches of mud lingering in my yard and bedraggled hydrangeas.

But the first mild days and new green shoots send an irresistible message: "There is hope, make a new start. This year your garden can look like Martha Stewart's."

**In books, too, gardens can represent hope and renewal. A garden can be a literary metaphor for just about every aspect of life: rebirth, growth, solitude, refuge, passage of time, death, wildness, beauty, nurturing, healing, and sustenance.**

There are some famous gardens in literature. Remember the childhood classic *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett in which three children discover and tend an abandoned garden, helping an invalid boy to recover?

In *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter, Mr. McGregor's garden is forbidden and dangerous, but Peter can't resist the temptation.

Then there is Voltaire's *Candide* who, after a series of misadventures, discovers that the secret to happiness is "to cultivate one's own garden."

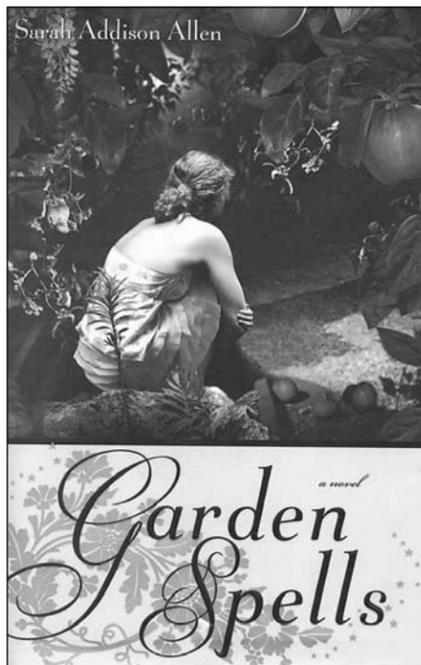
If you would rather read about gardens than dig in the dirt, here are some intriguing novels in which gardens play a significant role. All titles are available at Kitsap Regional Library.

***The White Garden: a Novel of Virginia Woolf*** by Stephanie Barron. In this literary mystery, landscape designer Jo Bellamy arrives at Sissinghurst to study the famous White Garden created by Vita Sackville-West, friend of literary icon Virginia Woolf. Jo's grandfather had been the estate gardener decades earlier. She finds herself digging into archives, looking for clues that will explain not only the reason for her grandfather's suicide, but also the strange events surrounding the death of Virginia Woolf.

***In the Garden of Papa Santuzzo*** by Tony Ardizzone. This is a beguiling novel about family and the immigrant experience in the early 20th century. Papa Santuzzo sends his seven children off to America while he remains in Sicily with his patch of garden. But what was intended to save his family from a life of poverty, inevitably drives them apart; the siblings scatter and reunite only when fate and an unexpected funeral pull them together.

***Garden Spells*** by Sarah Addison Allen. This charming novel, which has strong elements of magic realism, is set in a small town in North Carolina. The Waverley women have always had unusual talents: Claire manifests her talent in cooking, using edible flowers that grow behind the Waverley mansion. She creates dishes that "affect the eater in curious ways." The Waverleys also have an old tree whose apples are so special that a locked fence encloses their garden.

***Quakertown*** by Lee Martin. In a

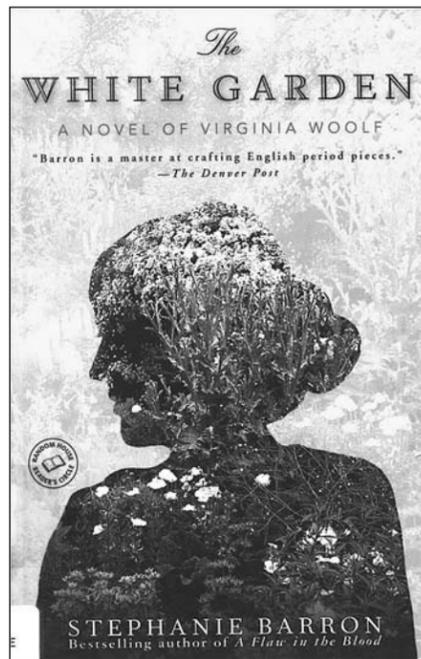


north Texas town in the 1920s, "Little" Washington Jones is a gardener of exceptional skill, able to make nearly anything grow in the dry Texas soil. But Little, an African-American, can't propagate harmony in his racially divided town. Quakertown is the all-black neighborhood. The whites who reside nearby decide they want to move Quakertown, houses and all, further away. Little is asked to help smooth the way in the black community. Then the Ku Klux Klan comes to town and racial tensions erupt. Based on a true historical event, this novel portrays an ugly time in a town's—and the nation's—history.

***The Forgotten Garden*** by Kate Morton. Abandoned as a child on a 1913 voyage to Australia, Nell is raised by a dock master and his wife who tell her when she is an adult that she is not their child. Nell returns to England to search for her true ancestry and eventually hands down her quest to her granddaughter. Shifting back and forth over a span of 100 years, this is a sprawling, old-fashioned novel, full of family secrets, stories-within-stories, and an overgrown garden with a mysterious maze.

***The Samurai's Garden*** by Gail Tsukiyama. During the Japanese invasion of China in the late 1930s, a 20-year-old Chinese painter named Stephen is sent to his family's summer home in a Japanese coastal village to recover from tuberculosis. He is cared for by Matsu, an introspective houseman and master gardener. Over the course of a remarkable year, Stephen learns Matsu's secret and gains not only physical strength, but also profound spiritual insight.

***The Savage Garden*** by Mark Mills. Assigned to write about a famous Renaissance garden at Villa Docci in Tuscany, scholar Adam Strickland visits the garden only to discover tantalizing clues in the garden's intricate design. Was the 16th century woman to whom the garden was dedicated murdered? Is there



an even greater danger still present in the garden? Mysterious inscriptions on marble benches, clipped geometric hedges, formal watercourses and pathways, ancient statues, gloomy grottoes, and sunlit glades make this novel wonderfully atmospheric.

***Elizabeth and her German Garden*** by Elizabeth von Arnim. This classic, written in 1898, is the memoir of a young middle class English woman who married Count von Arnim, a land rich, cash poor Prussian aristocrat. Her description of her life on a country estate, trying to recreate an English garden in the unforgiving climate and soil of Northern Germany is revealing of the rigid society in which she lived.

***The Lost Garden*** by Helen Humphreys.

Gwen Davis is a shy horticulturist in England during WW II, who leaves her laboratory to direct a team of "Land Girls" who grow vegetables at a country estate for the war effort. A group of young Canadian soldiers lives nearby awaiting orders to be sent into combat. Gwen discovers a hidden, overgrown garden and begins to piece together the story the garden has to tell, which is entwined with her own awakening to love, longing and loss.

***Consider the Lily*** by Elizabeth Buchan. In post-World War I England, two women, wealthy Mattie and the vivacious Daisy, become attracted to and compete for the same man. This romantic, nostalgic tale of passion, dark family secrets, and the gentle solace of gardening is interspersed with brief allegorical chapters about flowers and gardens.

***The French Gardener*** by Santa Montefiore. Leaving city life to move to a beautiful house in the country, Miranda and David find their family sliding slowly apart. Their decision to restore the once-famous garden on the estate introduces them to a mysterious French gardener who brings a healing energy, drawn from nature. The magic of the garden brings an unexpected reward for their family.

There are dozens of mystery series in which the characters are gardeners. Try ***Reap a Wicked Harvest: a gardening mystery*** by Janis Harrison; ***The Blue Rose*** by Anthony Eglin; ***Death at the Spring Plant Sale*** by Ann Ripley; ***Pushing Up Daisies: a dirty business mystery*** by Rosemary Harris; ***Common or Garden Crime, an Irish Gardening mystery*** by Sheila Pim; ***An Unthymely Death*** by Susan Wittig Albert. Also try the *Rosemary and Thyme* television series available on DVD.

## BIGS group schedules programs through 2010

The Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society, better known to many as the BIGS group, has scheduled programs through 2010.

The meetings are held Friday mornings, from 9 until noon, in the Bainbridge Library meeting room (unless otherwise specified). Check the calendar to be sure. Although the group is made up largely of Island residents, others with an interest in genealogy research are always welcome.

For more information, you can reach Paula Schmidt, the BIGS publicity director, at paula@sounddsl.com or phone her at 842-6059.

The next scheduled meeting, March 19, will feature Lesa Barnes, of the Jefferson County Genealogical Society, speaking on a timely topic: "Working with the Census".

That will be followed up on April 16 with a workshop on "Working with the Census".

At the May 21 meeting BIGS mentors Sara Scribner, Claire Smith, and Linda Sewright will present several case studies.

The June 18 workshop will be devoted to "Problem Solving".

This summer the focus will be on preservation. The July 16 topic "From Box to Book: Preserving Your Family Treasures" will be presented by Anna DuPen and Margalyn Hemphill of preservingheritage.com. A related workshop on "Organizing and Preserving Your Family Treasures" will follow on August 20.

The September 17 meeting will feature Karl Kumm, director of the Fiske Genealogical Society, who will speak on "Colonial Immigration".

Following on October 15 will be a workshop on "Immigration Records and Crossing the Atlantic".

On November 19, Karen Sipe, Fiske Genealogical Society, will speak on "Working with Court Records".

The year's programs will end with the traditional holiday gathering December 17, featuring members' show and tell.

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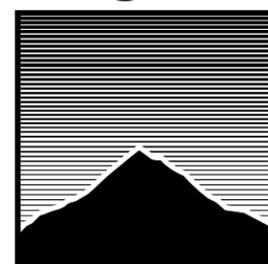
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# Kristin Hannah's *Winter Garden*: It's her favorite to date

By SUZANNE SELFORS

There are many things an author can hope for, and one of the top aspirations is to find one's book on the New York Times Bestseller List. I've been told it's a thrill.

Some authors make a brief, energetic appearance, but there are a few (ahem) who take up space on the list for months and months and months. It's like they've bought real estate or something.

Or maybe it's that they've written a book that readers love.

One of those few is Kristin Hannah, who commutes between her Bainbridge and Hawaiian homes. Eighteen novels under her belt, she knows all about bestseller lists. *Firefly Lane* spent almost 50 weeks on the NYT list and was one of USA Today's top 100 selling books of 2009. And *True Colors* is, as of this writing, No. 5 on the NYT list.

Kristin returned to Bainbridge last month to celebrate the release of her latest novel, *Winter Garden*, an intense and heartbreaking story of a stern mother and the estranged daughters who struggle to understand her. This is a story within a story, as Kristin alternates between past and present, taking us from Pacific Northwest apple orchards to war-torn Leningrad five decades earlier.

"The novel has a big, beautiful sweep,



Photo by Deborah Feingold

Kristin Hannah

both in time and place," Kristin said. As the story unfolds, the daughters discover the truth about their mother's past – a secret so terrible that it shakes the

very foundation of their family.

"*Winter Garden* is simply my favorite book to date," Kristin said. "We writers are supposed to consider our books our children, and say that each is unique and beloved in its own way. And that's true. But every once in a while, an idea comes along that sweeps you away, turns the writer into a reader. That's what happened with *Winter Garden*."

Kristin moved to Bainbridge so her then kindergarten-aged son could go to a great school. During those years, she struggled to find the time to write, grabbing nap time and late evening hours. But now, with her son at college, her schedule has dramatically changed.

"I admit to spending long hours writing on the beach. Yes, I am a

longhand writer – so I can write anywhere. I am totally inspired by the sound of the surf. Nowadays, I write in fits and starts more than I used to. I will often work compulsively for a month, then take a month off to travel -- that sort of thing. Honestly, I love what I do so much that the difficulty for me lies not in finding time to work, but rather reminding myself to relax."

She's just turned in her book for 2011, but it's not ready to be unveiled. Her tour for *Winter Garden* is under way, so please

visit her Website to get the final dates.

If you are a member of a book club, you can make a request on Kristin's Website to have her visit your group. Also on the Web, you'll find a lovely video in which she discusses her inspiration for *Winter Garden*.

Signed copies of Kristin's book can be bought through Eagle Harbor Book Co. To visit her site, log on to [www.kristinhannah.com](http://www.kristinhannah.com).

(Suzanne Selfors is herself a bestselling author and lifelong Bainbridge Islander.)

**Marcia Millican displays a giant gingerbread house which brightened the children's library this winter. Parks and Recreation Department art explorers decorated the structure.**

Photo by Carmine Rau



# Yesterday's newsmakers: What are they doing today?

By VERDA AVERILL

As we worked on this, the first Library News of a new year and new decade, your Library News volunteers wondered what some of our newsmakers of a decade and more ago are doing today.

We tracked down a few of them and discovered that they're doing new things, but one thing hasn't changed; they are as enthusiastic as ever about our public libraries and good books.

Featured on the front page of Volume 1, Number 1 were young people's librarian **Peggy Hughes** and a group of pre-schoolers at a 1998 story hour. Those children are now teenagers and the young librarian photographed with them has – believe it or not – spent more than 25 years working for the Kitsap Regional Library. Now known as **Meg** and living in Kingston, she is a reference librarian at the Poulsbo branch library. If you haven't seen her for a while, drop in and say hello.

Featured in an early 1999 article Islanders **Theo and Olga Ruys** had already been working for nearly a decade collecting and shipping books to libraries and reading rooms in Belarus and other countries which had few books in English, though books in French and German were widely available. They may have lost count of the number of

books – hundreds of thousands – their project shipped overseas. But now they're at home to stay on Bainbridge, have recently built an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) for family visitors and Bahai get-togethers, and are enjoying their eight grandchildren.

Ten years ago best-selling author **Susan Wiggs** began a series of interviews with local authors and – we're delighted to say – she's continuing her Library News features while writing on average two new novels a year. (See her interview with Jordan Taylor in this issue.)

Susan is not the only author in the family. From 1998 to 2002 her daughter Elizabeth, a student at Bainbridge High School, was our first (and to date only) high school contributor. Now **Elizabeth Wiggs Maas**, she went on to Pomona College, where she was on the swim team and the NCAA champion water polo team. She married her college sweetheart and is now in the MBA program at University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. And she's still writing. She's started a blog ([www.iamtheholder.com](http://www.iamtheholder.com)) which led to a book deal. Her humorous memoir about planning a wedding and getting a life will be published by Mira Books in January 2011.

Another young woman made our

Library News about a decade ago as a very young child contributing her saved coins to the library. **Taylor Raffa**, daughter of **Peter and Christie Raffa**, was then one of the youngest donors to the library. ("She began saving for the library even before I did," laughs Raffa, who is today executive director of the Kitsap Regional Library Foundation.) Taylor will graduate from Bainbridge High School this year and is beginning her college studies at Seattle Central Community College. She plans to become a pharmacist.

**Editor's note:**

As this issue of the Library News goes to press we pause in memory of Larry Glisten. Known world-wide as a distinguished naval architect, he lived quietly on Bainbridge with his wife Lois ("Pete") and their children, devoting spare moments to his

woodworking and holly trees, and contributed to many local causes, including the Bainbridge Library. He will be missed by many.



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# Eagle Harbor Book Co. celebrates 40th anniversary

Friends of the **Eagle Harbor Book Co.** gathered on the last Saturday in February to celebrate the store's 40th anniversary.

In the bookstore which is considered by many Islanders a sort of second home, they greeted avid readers and best-selling authors and shared memories of special times during the last four decades.

The store began as Betty's Books (managed by Elizabeth Steele) in February 1970, at the Winslow Way spot now occupied by Mona Lisa's. It became the Book Worm and after several changes of owners, moved again and again, first across the street to the spot later filled by Johansson Real Estate and then in 1980 to its present location. Steve and Nancy Olsen owned the store from 1987

to 1997, when they sold it to Morley Horder, the present owner.

The bookstore has always been a staunch supporter of the Bainbridge Public Library, and under the Olsens and Horder it has become increasingly supportive of local authors. Talks by best-selling authors continue to draw large crowds to the store, and long lists of their names read like a who's who of best-seller lists.

Eagle Harbor is just one of the local businesses and professional firms to partner with the library in various ways.

The **Town and Country Market**, now more than 50 years old (and run continuously by members of the Loverich and Nakata families), has been a strong library booster from the beginning. Staff

members volunteer in many ways; Wayne Nakata and Mari Loverich, for example, were members of the Bainbridge Library Board which led the campaign to expand the building in 1997.

Also strong library supporters for half a century and more are members of the Harui family of **Bainbridge Gardens**. The late Junkoh Harui's touch is clearly visible today in the library's Haiku Garden and Chris and Donna Harui are carrying on the family tradition.

**Harris-Zommers Interiors** is another firm that's been long involved in library activities. They've had designs on Bainbridge now for 35 years—going on 36 this summer—and were active not only in the library expansion drive of

1995-96 but remain loyal advertisers in the *Library News* today.

Another long-time partner with the library is **The Traveler** bookstore, which as most Islanders know, is not only a bookstore but a shop filled with a wide variety of travel essentials, including luggage. Owners Barbara Tolliver and Susan Taylor have been in business here for more than 14 years, and present their very popular series of travel lectures at the library nine months of the year. (No travel talks are scheduled for summers, when many Islanders are away.)

*Editor's Note: See the summer issue of the Library News for a complete list of 2009-2010 advertisers, and more about their roles in our local public library.*

## NEWS BRIEFS

**THE KITSAP** Regional Library was established in 1955 as the Kitsap Rural Library District and now is made up of nine branch libraries plus a bookmobile, outreach services and a website at [www.krl.org](http://www.krl.org).

A **KITSAP REGIONAL** Library card can be used at all nine branches and the bookmobile, and materials checked out at one branch library may be returned at any branch in the system.

**THE ISLAND FILM GROUP'S** series of classic films continues every second Wednesday throughout the year. Check the calendar for titles.

A **HARVARD CLASSICS** discussion group meets the third Wednesday every month in the library's small conference room. Joan Ewing leads the group, which discusses a different work every month. Everyone is welcome. For more information, check with branch manager Rebecca Judd.

**NEW THIS YEAR** is a series of fund-raising dinners for the Kitsap Regional Library Foundation featuring Dinner with an Author. For details, please check the website at [www.krl.org](http://www.krl.org).

**THE BAINBRIDGE REVIEW** and the *Islander* are available on tape. Low-vision persons may request the free service by calling 780-2835.

**THE SUMMER READING** program for young people begins June 12. This year's theme for children: Make a Splash at the Library. For teens: Make Waves at the Library. Watch for all the details in the next *Library News* (coming in early June).

**ADVERTISING** and news articles are now being accepted for the June *Library News*. To request an advertising packet phone 842-2865. Advertising space is available for less than a penny per household.

**NEWS ITEMS** about special library events should be left in the *Library News* mail slot in the Bainbridge Library Building.

**BAINBRIDGE YOUTH SERVICES** has a job posting program. If you're looking for eager young people for short and long-term work, post an ad on [www.bainbridgeyouthservices.org](http://www.bainbridgeyouthservices.org). You select the worker, determine the pay, and set the terms.

**OVER 200 VOLUNTEERS** helped out with dozens of different duties last year at the Bainbridge Public Library. For more information about volunteering, see Jeannie Ream, the library's volunteer coordinator, at the reference desk.

**THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED** Persons Support Group meets every second Wednesday from 1 - 3 p.m. at the library. Jody Bryant of the Census Bureau will speak March 10. For information or transportation call 842-1324.

## Great Decisions at the Library discussions continue

Are you interested in learning more about world affairs and participating in discussions that explore such topics?

If so, Great Decisions at the Library is for you. It's a nation-wide, non-partisan program of the Foreign Policy Association to broaden public involvement with the most important foreign policy issues facing the United States. Kitsap Regional Library and the Bainbridge Arts & Humanities Council (BIAHC) are sponsoring the program. Over coffee and pastries, Great Decisions participants view a 30-minute Foreign Policy Association DVD on the topic to be discussed and then participate in a discussion led by a guest moderator.

To assist with advance preparation, relevant news articles are posted on the Kitsap Regional Library Website at [www.krl.org](http://www.krl.org) (Check the site about a week before the discussion date for material.) A copy of the *Great Decisions Briefing Book*, published by the Foreign Policy Association, is available at the library for photocopying or may be purchased from BIAHC for \$18.

The final programs for 2010 will be March 20, March 27 and April 3 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in the Bainbridge Public Library large meeting room.

**Saturday, March 20**  
**U.S. & China Security Relations**  
China's influence is growing, along

with its military expenditures. How will this growth affect China's relations with its neighbors and with the U.S.? Will China's expanding military and economic power affect traditional U.S. roles and U.S. alliances in East Asia? How will countries like Japan, South Korea and India respond?

**Saturday, March 27**  
**The Persian Gulf**

Now more than ever, the Persian Gulf region offers many difficult challenges to U.S. policymakers. How will Obama's direct appeal to Arabs and Muslims impact U.S. foreign policy in the region? What will the fallout of withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq be? Can the U.S. and its allies prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons?

**Saturday, April 3**  
**Kenya and R2P**

Post-election rioting in Kenya in December 2007 brought pressure on Nairobi, from international and regional diplomats, to end tensions and avert bloodshed on a massive scale. What lessons can be learned from the intervention in Kenya? What does it mean for the UN's emerging "responsibility to protect" doctrine?

*Information provided by Kathleen Thorne KRL adult programming coordinator.*

*Continued from Page 1*

## Favorite Poem

published several books, most recently *Minnie Rose Lovgreen's Recipe for Raising Chickens*.

She too admits to many favorite poems, but is especially drawn to "Oranges in a Blue Bowl", written in 1979 by Seattle poet Melinda Mueller. It was inspired by a still-life painting by the late Bainbridge artist Rosalyn Gale Powell.

Bob McAllister has taught poetry at both college and high school levels, along with poetry workshops, and received the 2001 Island Treasure Award. He serves as master of ceremonies for the 26-year-old San Carlos Poetry Reading,

scheduled for May 2 this year.

He admits to a preference for poems that may, in Emily Dickinson's words, "... take the top of your head off" and was therefore drawn to Anthony Hecht's "The Book of Yolek", about a 5-year-old boy at Auschwitz.

"It is a poem that, like all great poems, continues to give and illuminate as one reads and rereads..." he said.

Islanders interested in participating in the April 10 Favorite Poem Reading should contact Kathleen Thorne ([kthorne@krl.org](mailto:kthorne@krl.org)). For more details, check the Kitsap Regional Library Website ([www.krl.org](http://www.krl.org)).

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## Food for thought

# Travel as a political act

*An evening with travel writer and tour guide Rick Steves*

You've read his books, seen his programs on public television, perhaps even visited Europe on one of his tours.

Now you'll have a chance to meet Rick Steves in person, and ask those questions you've been wondering about.

Steves is coming to Kitsap County Monday, March 15, at 7 p.m. for an evening of conversation with readers.

The event, at the North Kitsap Community Auditorium, is part of the Dinner with an Author series sponsored by the Kitsap Regional Library Foundation. At this particular event, however, dinner will not be served – but there will be plenty of food for thought.

Admission is \$25, and tickets are available now on the KRL.org Website. (Advance purchase is suggested, though a limited number of tickets will be available at the door.)

Steves has been writing best-selling travel books for more than a quarter century, starting with his Europe Through the Back Door series. In recent years he's reached out beyond the popular western Europe destinations to eastern Europe and elsewhere, most recently to Iran (which has been featured several times on Channel 9).

Steves is a strong advocate of informal, independent travel in which visitors to other countries live like "temporary locals". That's what he and his family have been doing for years, and along the way they've made friends and picked up traveling tips which they've passed on to readers. At his company headquarters in Edmonds, just a few blocks – an easy walk – from the Kingston ferry's landing you may not always see Rick. But the bookstore is inviting, a good source of references, and the staff is helpful. (They also sell Steves-designed travel bags and accessories and advise about such things as European rail trips.)

Steves is a strong advocate for public television, and his personal appearances on behalf of Channel 9 (KCTS) during fund-raising times are extremely popular.

He's also a strong advocate for public libraries, and his appearance in Kitsap County March 15 will benefit the Kitsap Regional Library Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides our library system with services that the county's limited tax base simply cannot pay for. Things like outreach services to people who cannot get to the library and extra books and services for children's reading programs, for example.



*Rick Steves with a group of Iranian nuns on a recent visit to Iran*

## Meet Thor Hanson in person May 15

Another Dinner with an Author event is scheduled for May 15, at a waterfront home on Bainbridge Island.

This one is dinner and conversation with Thor Hanson, author of *The Impenetrable Forest*. This event does include dinner, plus conversation with the author in a warm and friendly, art-filled setting.

Hanson lived for two years in a remote village on the edge of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, where he worked with local people to save one of the world's most magnificent and endangered species, the mountain gorilla. He survived baboons stealing his vegetables and army ants attacking in his sleep to write the book which offers an unforgettable glimpse of the world of mountain gorillas in Africa.

Sign up now for this rare opportunity to dine and chat with Hanson. Seating is limited. Tickets are available for only \$50 each through the Website [krl.org](http://krl.org) or call Peter Raffa at (360 475-9039).

Photo courtesy of Rick Steves Website

## Library art news

The Bainbridge Public Library's rotating display of local artists' work continues this spring and summer. Peg Deam is the featured artist for March, with works by Alan Rudolph to follow in April and Mary Rowland's show "2nd Chance Dance" following in May.

### 1st Friday Art Walk at the library

This year, there's an extra stop on the 1st Friday Art Walk tour: the Bainbridge Public Library.

Every first Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. the library will host a reception in the meeting room to showcase the artist and art exhibit of the month. This

program has been organized by Linda Meier, art curator for the Bainbridge Public Library and a member of the BPL board. Upcoming receptions include Alan Rudolph (April 2); and Mary Roland (May 7).

### BAC art book drive continues this year

By SUSAN JACKSON  
Bainbridge Arts & Crafts  
Executive Director

Over the last six years, Bainbridge Arts and Crafts has raised \$7200 for the library to buy new books on art, architecture, and design for our community.

This year, we're out for more! Here's how it works: You bring your beautiful, but neglected art books to BAC located at 151 Winslow Way E, Monday through Friday, 10 to 6, or Sunday, 11 to 5. The Bainbridge Library will choose the titles it needs to go directly into its collection. The other donated books will be made available for purchase at the gallery.

All proceeds from donations will be given to Kitsap Regional Library to purchase new books for the Bainbridge Library on art, architecture, and design.

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*(See calendar on page 1 for closures.)*

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