Mark your calendar

These events take place in the library unless otherwise stated.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 1**
Library closed - New Years Day

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2**
Bainbridge Public Library Book Group: An Infinity of Little Hours by Nancy Kline
Maguire 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 5**
Opera Preview with Norm Hollingshead: "Pagliacci" by Ruggero Leoncavallo 2 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9**
Low Vision Support Group 1-3 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 10**
Bainbridge 2nd Thursday Readers: The Highest Tide by Jim Lynch 1 p.m.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 15**
Field’s End Writers’ Roundtable: Matt Smith presents “How can improve your writing” 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16**
Friends of the Library Meeting 4 p.m.
Travel program: Living on an African Shamba: 4 months with the Kikuyu, discussed by Samuel and Masai presented by Barbara and Grant Winther. Co-sponsored by The Traveler Bookstore. 7:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 18**
Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 21**
Library closed - Martin Luther King Day

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 27**
Symphony Preview with Bernard Jacobson: “Love & Tragedy—the music of Brahms and Schubert” 4:30 p.m.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 29**
Bainbridge 2nd Thursday Readers: Celebration: poetry readings and open mic 7:30-9:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 31**
Cavalo de Lectores Iberoamericanos (Spanish Book Club)
La isla de los amores infinitos, by Darna Chaviano 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6**
Bainbridge Public Library Book Group: Madame de Launay by Leopold Zunz 2 p.m.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9**
Great Decisions at the Library. Sponsored by the Bainbridge Arts and Humanities Council. 9:30-10:30 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13**
Low Vision Support Group 1-3 p.m.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14**
Bainbridge 2nd Thursday Readers: Catherine de Medina by Leon Frida. 1 p.m.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15**
Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16**
Opera Preview with Norm Hollingshead: “Tosca” by Giacomo Puccini 2 p.m.
Island Theatre Play Reading at the Library: A reading in honor of The Big Read’s Fahrenheit 451 7:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17**
Island Theatre – Repeat performance. 7:30 p.m.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18**
Library closed - President’s Day

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19**
Field’s End Writers’ Roundtable: Pagliacci by Giacomo Puccini 2 p.m.
Island Theatre Play Reading at the Library: A reading in honor of The Big Read’s Fahrenheit 451 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20**
Friends of the Library Meeting 4 p.m.
Travel program: Norway, an insider’s guide: a virtual tour with native Norwegian and travel expert. Karen Larsen. 7:30 p.m.

Looking back, looking ahead

Library notes 10 years of change

By VERDA AVERILL
Library News Editor

What a difference a decade makes. Ten years ago, as 1997 drew to a close, Bainbridge Islanders were just settling in at their recently enlarged library.

Strolling around the spacious main floor, they admired the work created by local artists, reflected on the sentiments of the Haiku Garden, and scheduled public events in the large main floor meeting room.

In the children’s library, nearly 1,000 youngsters turned out for the summer reading program. The Friends of the Library drew large crowds to their Saturday book sales every month. An upgraded computer system was just a hint of things to come.

Today’s library, so new and spacious in 1997, was built entirely by donated funds – over $2 million given by individuals and groups – without any tax money. That’s the way the first small central library was built in 1962, and enlarged in 1982. And that’s the way Islanders said they wanted to create the expanded library of 1997.

If the building which seemed so spacious at its first open house a decade ago now seems a bit crowded, it’s not that the building has shrunk. Rather, the Island’s population has grown – to an estimated 23,000 – and for many residents the library building has become the cultural center of the community.

Islanders still flock to the library for books and CDs, to study reference collections on hundreds of local families. Many others have not read a single book all year.

Bainbridge Islanders turn out for Bainbridge and Beyond Reads programs and discussions featuring Greg Mortenson’s book Three Cups of Tea, the story of one man’s mission to promote world peace one school at a time.

Another major reading event comes to the Island early in 2008. The Bainbridge Public Library is one of 127 organizations nationwide to receive a National Endowment for the Arts grant to participate in The Big Read project. Kitsap Regional Library’s Bainbridge branch will work with other community organizations to celebrate reading by focusing on one major work of American fiction, Ray Bradbury’s prophetic Fahrenheit 451, throughout the month of February.

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The Big Read: Bainbridge Library receives NEA grant to celebrate reading

The national media are wringing their collective hands.

Americans, they tell us, are reading less than ever – especially young people. Some people haven’t read a single book all year.

Clearly, Bainbridge is bucking a trend. Islanders from toddlers to senior citizens are checking out more books than ever and buying them by the thousands at library book sales.

The media may report that the building which seemed so spacious ten years ago now seems a bit crowded.

Continued on page 3

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Cindy Harrison to retire as branch manager......................... Pages 4, 16
Young People’s Library: 10 years of growth...................... Pages 8, 9, 10
Field’s End slates winter events............................... Page 2

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Where are they now?

These youngsters with then Young People’s Librarian Peggy Hughes attended a story hour soon after the library was expanded in 1997. Where are they today?

(The Library News staff would like to know what they’re doing now, as teenagers. Let us hear about them; we’ll update readers in a future issue.)

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Field's End offers winter classes

By KERRY SMITH

You don’t have to be an experienced author to learn from some of the area’s accomplished writers. Field’s End is offering classes this fall that will help you explore the essay, short story, or book ideas that you have, and get you organized and motivated.

Registration is required for each course. Forms may be found in the lobby of the Bainbridge Public Library or downloaded at www.fieldsend.org. For questions, write the Field’s End Registrar at registrar@fieldsend.org. Tuition assistance is available for all Field’s End classes through the Jack Olsen Memorial Writer’s Tuition Assistance Fund.

Brenda Peterson will teach a five-week course, “Memoir,” on six consecutive Thursdays—January 17, 24, 31, and February 7 and 14, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the library’s large meeting room. Tuition is $200. Registration opens on December 1.

Garrett Bennett’s class, “Dialogue,” meets on two consecutive Saturdays—February 2 and 9, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in the library’s large meeting room. Tuition is $100. Registration opens on December 1.

Finally, Garth Stein offers “Truth or Consequences: Keeping Fiction True” on four consecutive Mondays—February 11, 18, 25, and March 3, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the library’s large meeting room. Tuition is $160. Registration opens on December 1.

About the classes

Peterson’s five-week course will explore narrative techniques to give one’s own story the same drama, character evolution, and epiphany as any good novel. Memoir is an intimate comedy of discovery and memory. The narrator’s growth is the plot that drives the story, yet that story contains characters that rival the writer’s own reality. The class will include strong guidelines and individual exercises to help the participant find his or her own voice.

Her two collections of essays, *Living by Water,* and *Nature and Other Mothers* established Peterson as a leading nature writer and she was extensively profiled in the two-volume reference work, *America’s Nature Writers.* Peterson is the author of three novels, *River of Light,* *Duck and Cover,* which was selected as a New York Times Notable Book of the Year. Her creative non-fiction work, *Sister Stories,* was hailed by the New York Times as “an inspiring, thought-provoking and strong book.” Peterson’s non-fiction has appeared in the New York Times, Seattle Times, and magazines such as New Age Journal, Sierra, Orion, and The Utne Reader.

In addition she was featured in *Edge Walking on the Western Rim: New Works by 12 Northwest Writers.* She has lived in Seattle for more than 20 years.

Utilizing various exercises and examples, Bennett’s class will illuminate the power of natural dialogue that reveals character, carries subtext and tension, and moves your plot and story forward. Participants will examine noted playwrights, authors, and screenwriters such as David Mamet, John Irving and Quinten Tarrantino, in order to understand the different styles and uses of dialogue. Each participant will be required to write an opening exchange of dialogue or one of dialogue that sparks enough interest and mystery to warrant the exploration of an entire new story.

A graduate of the American Film Institute, Bennett received his master’s degree in film directing. Known for creating stunning visual and imaginative worlds in motion pictures, he developed his visual style in the theatre. He founded Annex Theatre, which has become well known across the country. Bennett’s stage credits include *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory,* which he co-wrote, produced, and directed. He wrote, produced, and directed three award-winning films including *End of the Icon* and *Farwell to Harry,* which won the Best Film award at Worldfest Houston.

*A Relative Thing* received numerous film festival awards, including Best Film at the 2005 Sedona International Film Festival. The Spy and the Sparrow, Bennett’s latest film, is in post production. He is completing his first screenplay set in the horror genre. Bennett resides on Bainbridge Island and is the president of Hat Factory Studios, a feature film and commercial production company located in Seattle and Bainbridge Island.

Using in-class exercises and discussion, Stein’s four-week class will explore story mapping, structure, cause-and-effect, character voice, and thematic arcs, all of which are crucial in creating and maintaining dramatic truth. Just because it’s fiction, doesn’t mean it isn’t true. As a writer, you have an obligation to maintain the dramatic truth of your work. Fail, and you will lose your reader. Students will be encouraged to offer their own work for group deconstruction.

A former filmmaker, Garth Stein was co-producer of the Academy Award-nominated *End of the Icon.*

Field's End offers winter Roundtables

On January 15, Bainbridge Island-based improv artist and actor, Matt Smith opens with the question, “How can improv improve your writing?”

Paul Hanson, a local writer and bookseller, introduces the session on February 19 by asking, “How necessary are guidelines and individual exercises to help?”

Brenda Peterson, manager of Eagle Harbor Books, co-producer of Seattle TheatreSports, a founding member of Seattle Improv, and co-founder of Stark/Raving Theatre, opens with the question, “How can structure, cause-and-effect, and character voice, and thematic arcs, all of which are crucial in creating and maintaining dramatic truth. Just because it’s fiction, doesn’t mean it isn’t true. As a writer, you have an obligation to maintain the dramatic truth of your work. Fail, and you will lose your reader. Students will be encouraged to offer their own work for group deconstruction.

A former filmmaker, Garth Stein was co-producer of the Academy Award-nominated *End of the Icon.*

Join local writers at winter Roundtables

Continued on Page 15

Cain Mutiny, directed by Robert Altman. Matt’s message for writers: “Improvisers learn tools that they can use to be creative even when they’re not inspired. If you embrace certain improvisational principles, you’ll never be blocked again.”

You may know of Hanson as the co-producer of Eagle Harbor Books, co-editor of the store newsletter, and host of the Eagle Harbor Readers Circle. He has been in the bookselling business since 1989 and with Eagle Harbor Books since 1995. In 1999, Hanson and local writer Anna Lovejoy founded the Science Fiction Writing Cooperative (SFWC), where, under the aegis of speculative fiction, writers of all experience levels hone their skills in fantasy, science, horror, mystery, and local realism. Tuesday Night Publishing, the publishing arm of the SFWC, produced its first anthology, *Off the Eco-Electric," in 2005, which included a short story by Hanson. Following that they published a short story collection, *Obliquity: Speculative Fiction from the Pacific Northwest,* which includes the work of 14 area writers including Hanson’s story, “Lodestone: An Orphan’s Tale.”

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Winter 2008

Brenda Peterson

Garrett Bennett

Matt Stein

Paul Hanson

Lynn Brunelle
The author recalls:

**By ROY Blount**

One afternoon I was in the library of a small town in Mississippi, in need of some information, so I went up to the lady behind the desk there. Ahead of me were an elderly white man and a young black woman. The white man was saying: “...just hit me suddenly, you know, that I wanted something,” and then “...it hit me what it was. That it was pie.” “Well,” said the lady behind the desk. “A piece a pie. It’s funny cause usually I don’t want pie, this time a day. But I did, that’s exactly what it was, that I wanted. But I couldn’t think who would have pie...this time a day.” “Uh-humm,” said the librarian. “Miz Boyd a course serves extremely fine pie. But a course Miz Boyd wouldn’t be open...” “I was gon’ to say,” said the librarian, “this time a day. So I said to myself, I said, ‘Now Wasn’t, where in town would they be liable to know...where a body could get a piece of pie?’” “Mm-hm,” said the librarian, looking thoughtful “This time a day.” “I said, ‘Well I tell you where somebody is liable to know. At the herry.’ So I told myself that what I would do would be to just come on over here and...”

I declare, Mr. Owsley, I don’t believe I know...” She raised her voice: “RITA?” “DO YOU KNOW WHERE MR OWSLEY COULD GET A PIECE OF PIE?” “You mean...this time a day?” At that point the young black woman stepped forward and said, “Scuse me, do you have anything about the Army? Cause I got to get out of this damn town.”

---From Long Time Leaving: Dispatches From Up South by Roy Blount, Jr.
Library board President
Harrison, but with the staff Cindy is leaving us, and the
do just that. The new branch manager won't be Cindy
January, we will have a new branch manager, trying to
that we will always have both. The library is part of the
Cindy has steadily employed her super-powers to ensure
hundreds of nominations to be included in
Library was chosen as one of the 80 libraries selected from
limited to her performance as our librarian. At one time or
the population of the Island. Cindy has been at the center
as more than $2 million was raised solely from private
donations, and the current, beautiful facility was built.
Use of the library in its new home grew along with the
Cindy came to Bainbridge Public Library in 1990. As Kitsap Regional Library's manager of its Bainbridge
branch, in the mid-1980s, she was the public face of the
Library as more than $2 million was raised solely from private
donations, and the current, beautiful facility was built.
Use of the library in its new home grew along with the
Library's place as the cultural heart of our community.
Cindy has made the library a better place in every way.
Her stewardship has ensured that the building and grounds
have adapted to the changing needs of library users. Her
leadership has given us a skilled, professional and adored
staff. Her imagination and dedication to learning have
made the library a magnet for virtually every age and
interest group on the Island. Young people, teens, senior
citizens, technology learners, book club members, all have a
home, and a favorite place, at Bainbridge Public Library.
Cindy's dedication to Bainbridge Island has not been
limited to her performance as our librarian. At one time or
another she has served as a member of the Bainbridge Island
School Board, and has served on the boards of two of our most important social
service organizations, the Housing Resources Board and
Helpline House.
In 2006, Cindy was recognized with the New York
Times Librarian Award, cementing her place as one of the
best of the best. In the same year, Bainbridge Public
Library was chosen as one of the 80 libraries selected from
drabore of nominations to be included in Heart of the
Community: The Librarians We Love (Berkshire Publishing
2007). What's not to like about Cindy Harrison?
One of the nominators for Cindy's New York Times
Award said, "I cannot imagine my life -- or the Island --
without the library and Cindy Harrison." Fortunately,
Cindy has steadily employed her super-powers to ensure
that we will always have both. The library is part of the
DNA of Bainbridge Island, due to the efforts and dedication of a
committed and professional staff, countless volunteers,
supporters, patrons, and Cindy Harrison. There will always
be a part of Cindy in the library.
Pretty big shoes to fill, one might say. By early
January, we will have a new branch manager, trying to
do just that. The new branch manager won't be Cindy
Harrison, but with the staff Cindy is leaving us, and the
volunteer force standing ready to do what is needed, the
new branch manager should be well positioned to take
Bainbridge Public Library to the next level.
Life -- and the library -- is an adventure! Thanks, Cindy,
for being our companion and guide. Enjoy that book.

Meet your Library Board and some of the books they recommend

First of a series
Bainbridge Public Library is a non-profit
organization that oversees planning and maintenance for
the library facility and grounds. A dedicated all
volunteer board of directors represents the citizens of
Bainbridge Island as owners of the library.
The board meets monthly to discuss maintenance, future
demands on the facility, safety, fund-rising, programming
and other matters critical to operation of the library.
Below, some of the members of the current Library Board
-- and some of their favorite books -- include:
Val Tollefsen, Board President

A native Washingtonian, Val has been part of a
general commercial litigation practice (Danielson, Harrigan, Leyh
and Tollefsen) since 1986. He was co-chair of The Friends
of Pritchard Park and has been a director of BPL since
2002. He has Navy and commercial pilot credentials and
enjoys hiking, flying, winemaking and writing poetry. He
recommends Death and the Good Life, a mystery novel by
poet Richard Hugo; Blind Your Ponies, by Stanley Gordon;
Doris Kearns Goodwin's biography of Lincoln, Team of
Rivals; and Garrison Keillor's Good Poems.

Wyman Johnson, Board Treasurer

Wyman retired from his dental practice in 1999. He has
volunteered for the Bainbridge School District, coached
youth sports, and was a co-founder of Hoopfest for BEST.
He is a basketball fan as both player and observer, and also
enjoys fly-fishing, gardening and reading.

Janet Brooks, Board Secretary

Janet recently retired from her position at the law
firm of Pritchard, Hargreaves, Butner, and Miller.
She and husband Chris are avid sailors (in Puget Sound,
the Caribbean and the Mediterranean). She was part of
the leadership team of the 1982 Bainbridge Public
Library capital campaign, and served for years on the
Kitsap Regional Library Board. She's now reading
Nancy Horan's book Loving Frank (about the love affair
between Mamah Cheney and Frank Lloyd Wright) and
just finished Susan Susanka's Not So Big Life. For pure
pleasure, she recommends the novels of Joanna Trollope.

Lovejoy is board adviser.

Channie Peters, Former Vice President

Channie has a professional background in corporate
banking and charitable trust grant administration.
She has also worked as a professional reference librarian
and volunteers for activities that promote peace
and environmental causes. She is passionate about
knitting, Nordic skiing, and writing Haiku. She recommends
The Source by James Michener for its unique perspective on the
Middle East and Poison by S. A. Byatt for its complexity
of three interwoven story lines and beautiful writing.
No other novel has unmasked the rights of the disabled since
Channie has been a speaker
for Seattle Children's Museum, the National
Endowment for the Humanities, and the Archdiocese of
Western Washington. She likes Thornton Wilder's
The Bridge of San Luis Rey (for its character development
and insights) and, for non-fiction, The Legacy of Sacco
and Vanzetti by Louis Joughin and Edmund Morgan
(who "asks real questions about American justice."

George Edward Breck, Planning Committee Chair
George has been in private law practice with offices in
Seattle and Bainbridge since 1983. His principal focus in
life has been the rights of the disabled since he worked as
a camp counselor for developmentally disabled campers
during his senior year in high school and his founding of
Education for All. His law practice emphasizes elder law
issues. He recommends Scott Turow's Ordinary Heroes,
"a compelling and beautifully written novel based on World
War II", and Art Buchwald's Too Soon to Say Goodbye,
which tells of his facing the reality of his own dying "with
characteristic humor and perhaps less typical tenderness."

Margaret Adams, Facilities Committee Chair
Marc is a civil engineer and partner in Adam and
Goldworthy in Poulsbo. He enjoys restoring old boats and
chairs. Marc says that Michael Pollan's The Omnivore's
Dilemma "is a book that every eater needs to read."

Jennifer Shipley, Facilities Committee Chair
Jennifer has been selling residential real estate
on Bainbridge for five years but also has a multi-faceted
employment background (in everything from
rare coin dealing, travel insurance, interior design and property management).
She is a member of two book clubs, enjoys all kinds of
art and design, antiques and boating. Among her favorite
broadsides are Words of War by Heman Wouk because
"it sparked my curiosity and opened the door to my
becoming an avid reader and traveler", and the entire
Outlander series by Diana Gabaldon.

Members of the Bainbridge Library Board who were present for this recent photo in the library's Haiku
Garden include: Jennifer Shipley, Janet Brookes, Channie Peters (front row); Caryl Grosch, Wyman Johnson,
Val Tollefsen (center); and Marc Adam, George Shannon and Kevin Hawkins (back row).
At home in a Kenya shamba

By BARBARA WINTHER

Through a medical network I was invited in 1988 to Kenya to write a grant proposal for a Dr. Kanyi of the Kikuyu tribe. I jumped at the opportunity, excited about the chance to experience an African culture. My husband, Grant, and I—without any knowledge of who Dr. Kanyi was, where we would stay, where and what we would eat or what the grant proposal was about—bought a round-trip ticket to Kenya. We obtained our visas, grabbed our passports and a bottle of Pepto Bismol, and packed one duffel bag each. The polar flight from Seattle to London took about nine hours; the night flight to Nairobi, 10 hours. We arrived exhausted. Nobody met us at the airport; no message greeted us at the Nairobi hotel. We spent an anxious night, wondering what to do. Were we nuts to come? What if the invitation wasn’t serious? Our dollars were limited. If this deal didn’t work out, we would have to fly home.

From Nairobi to Nyeri

The following morning a rugged-looking Englishman appeared at our door. He wore a khaki outfit and a green beret. Raising his chin in a determined manner, he announced, “I am R.J. Prickett, Dr. Kanyi’s friend.” We recognized him from the photo safari we took to Kenya four years before. He was the guide who, with a rifle slung across a shoulder, uttered witty remarks before leading us along the bush trail to Treetops Hotel. I had heard that in his younger days he was known as the Great White Hunter. Prickett eyed us keenly and snapped, “Dr. Kanyi awaits you in the town of Nyeri, where he lives and runs his clinic.” He raised his chin even higher. “The doctor fears you are too civilized to take up residence on his shamba. That’s a farm. It has no electricity, hot water or means for you to cook. This would necessitate your sharing in the Kikuyu pot. Never fear, other arrangements can be made. Sort it out when you get up there. First, you must procure an auto rental. Follow me.”

With an abrupt turn, he marched away as if leading the cavalry up the mountain. When we reached Nyeri, Dr. Kanyi offered us a friend’s in-town home with modern conveniences, which I said was more befitting our “station in life.” We turned it down, saying we would be thrilled to live on the shamba among the Kikuyu. He frowned and explained that Agnes Wairiru Thuge was in charge of the farm. “She milks the cows, digs the sweet potatoes, takes care of the chickens, tells the three Kikuyu male workers what to do and performs all the cleaning and cooking.”

For the first two days we feared we would end up with stomach trouble, so surreptitiously we fed our meals to pet cats lurking nearby. We drove to the Nyeri store, run by an East Indian, and bought corn flakes, cookies and chips. Realizing we couldn’t continue this way, we bolstered our courage and ate Agnes’s meals: mostly vegetable stews, such as githeri (maize, cabbage, onions, and white beans) and ugali (thick cornmeal mush that is sliced). Sometimes we had roasted sweet potatoes. Agnes brought brimming bowls to our porch each evening. Although chickens clucked about, we were not offered eggs—perhaps they were sold. Once Agnes killed a hen for us; what a tough bird. Over the four months, we never got sick and shed a few unwanted pounds.

The grant proposal

My job for Dr. Kanyi was to write a proposal for the Central Province to fund free operations in mini-laparotomy, a process of tying the tubes of women who wanted no more children. Dr. Kanyi was a Sub-Saharan Africa pioneer in performing this operation. For three months I researched the project, studying government statistics, visiting villages and hospitals, talking through an interpreter to Kikuyu women. The average number of children in a family was eight. Many families lived entirely on subsistence farming. As families grew bigger, shambas became smaller, partitioned out among family members when they married and bore children. Soon, the land in a divided-up shamba was too small to raise enough food to feed the children. Women with large families were eager for the operation and said they would walk miles for it. As an added benefit, the process could be done in a clinic rather than a hospital, a place many Kikuyu women feared, for outside the front door men built...
A highlight of 2007 at the Bainbridge Public Library was a summer visit by professional librarians from many countries. They came from Bahrain, Egypt, Germany, Georgia, Mexico, Sierra Leone, Slovak Republic, and the West Bank, and represented national and regional libraries in their home countries. Their visit was sponsored by the International Visitor Leadership Program of the United States State Department, and coordinated locally by the World Affairs Council of Seattle. Designed for library professionals involved in overall management and planning, the program was intended to promote a better understanding of the role and function of libraries and information specialists in U.S. society. Other goals were to provide information on a wide variety of U.S. libraries and information management systems, to demonstrate the diversity of library services here, and to study technology and its use in library systems, including online and digital services.

The distinguished visitors arrived in Seattle after touring various libraries throughout the United States. They spent an afternoon at the Bainbridge library observing the technology at work, meeting staff and volunteers, and listening attentively to briefings by library personnel. Some took notes, others merely listened; a few asked questions, in flawless English. The mood throughout was serious, even scholarly. Until, at mid-afternoon a group of Bainbridge pre-schoolers trooped in for a reading session. Pillows were plopped down, colorful children’s books appeared as if by magic, and the distinguished visitors sat on the floor, each surrounded by several children, as they read the books together. Laughs and children’s voices punctuated the last half hour of what turned out to be a memorable day for both visitors and Bainbridge Island children.

Bainbridge welcomes librarians from around the world

Ingredients for a perfect day
a book...and your own home.

Let us help you complete this recipe for quality time in your busy life.

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Bainbridge preschoolers meet librarians from afar
Bainbridge author Sheila (Rabe) Roberts strikes a Christmas chord

By SUZANNE SELFORS

Attention female readers.

How many of us dread the holiday season? Not the tides of peace and goodwill, but the constant stream of messages telling us that, starting in October, we’d better get organized and get shopping because our families and friends depend on us to make the season sparkle.

I’ve been quietly staging my own small mutiny. Three years ago I stopped sending out the cards, two years ago I stopped putting up the outdoor lights, and last year I conveniently “forgot” to cut and decorate the cookies. What about this year? Well, I already intend to forgo the neighborhood gift baskets because, let’s face it, I’m totally exhausted. And I bet that you are, too.

That’s why I predict that a new novel titled, On Strike for Christmas, is going to fly off the shelves. It’s written by Sheila Roberts, the pen name for our very own Sheila Rabe (pronounced raw-bay). If you’ve lived on the Island for more than five minutes you probably know Sheila. An active member in Bainbridge Alliance Church, she often greets visitors in the Chamber of Commerce kiosk at the ferry terminal. She also teaches water aerobics classes to seniors, golfs at Meadowmere, hosts board game parties, and teaches writing classes in her home and through Field’s End.

On Strike for Christmas marks a new beginning for Sheila, who began writing in 1989. Since that time she has published dozens of novels, mostly in the romance category. On Strike, published by St. Martin’s, takes her career in a new direction—that of mainstream women’s fiction.

“Since I’m writing books in a new genre I decided I should have a new name to go along with it,” Sheila said. “My husband and son are both Roberts, so hence the new last name. I’m way too attached to my first name to give that up.”

Sheila Roberts makes me laugh. I read her books and come away inspired, hopeful and happy.

DEBBIE MACOMBER

On Strike for Christmas is the story of the women of Holly, who brace themselves for stress and overwork as Christmas approaches. But then inspiration hits. Jey Robertson, Laura Fredericks, and their knitting buddies decide to “go on strike” and give their husbands an opportunity to see firsthand what it takes to make the holidays merry and bright. Soon other women join in and men all over town get a crash course in decorating, shopping, and what to wear to see Santa, and search frantically for an interpreter to translate the mysteries of holiday recipes.

Sheila’s editor, Rose Hilliard, is excited about the book. “Sheila writes such funny, poignant women’s fiction, and the storyline resonated with me in a big way. I grew up in a home where the mom did all the work to make Christmas special, and I always took it for granted until reading this book. After I read it, I surveyed women around the office and found the same was true in their families. What’s up with that? I knew this book would be a hit with many women, in addition to being a heartwarming, entertaining holiday read. I am dying for it to hit shelves so other women can enjoy it too.”

Publisher’s Weekly says, “By the end of this gently feminist sendup, each side learns to be grateful for the other’s efforts.”

What’s next for Sheila?

“My next book, Bikini Season, will be out in summer of 2008, and should be a perfect beach read. It’s a book about friendship, diets, and chocolate, and it’s got lots of great diet recipes in it.”

If you are interested in learning more about Sheila’s writing classes, contact her at www.sheilasplace.com. For hopeful writers she says, “Never stop trying to improve. Never visit the library without checking out a book on writing. Never give up.”

Volunteers make click! computer training a stunning success

By KIBARA WHITNEY-MARSH

Who are the click! volunteers and what do they do?

They are volunteers with families and full time jobs who show up at the library to tutor computer novices several times a month. Retiree volunteers drive from Bainbridge to Bremerton to teach ninety minute classes on the Internet on a regular basis. Others teach college math by day, and then volunteer to teach Computer Basics at night. Two volunteers living in Poulsbo and tutoring patrons at their local branch, also drive up to the Little Boston branch to tutor for several more hours each week.

Click! volunteers help people develop some of the computer skills needed to.readAs library patrons. They also introduce people to e-mail. Are click! volunteers making a difference in people’s lives? Here is a true story. Recently a patron came into the library looking for information about her child. She had no computer experience and was quite upset because a company he was dealing with informed him their catalog was only available online. They told him they didn’t have computer illiterate customers.

Feeling marginalized and more than a bit disgruntled, the patron asked a librarian for assistance. Not only did she help him log on, she registered him for his first click! computer class. The patron managed to find the information he was looking for, and before he left the library he stopped to tell the librarian, “As a result of today’s computer experience in the library, I feel I have re-entered the human race. Thank you!”

If you would like to volunteer for the click! program, please contact Sharon S. Lee at the library:

She can be reached at 360-475-9033 or emailed at volunteer@krl.org.

By JOHN L. SCOTT

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What does it take to show you’re a follower of Jesus?
Activities of interest to young people and their families

Our young people’s area through the years

By THE YOUNG PEOPLE’S STAFF

Peggy (Meg) Hughes 1988 to 2003

When Peggy Hughes was hired as half-time children’s librarian in 1988, the local tradition of Monday and Wednesday storytimes was firmly established with toddler time for ages 18 months to 3 years on Mondays and preschool storytime for ages 3 to 5 years on Wednesdays.

Parents and families looked forward to hearing Peggy read stories aloud from picture books and tell tales with the help of a felt board and puppets. There was a lot of laughter; kids loved singing songs with silly hand motions and actions.

After the 1997 renovation, toddler time programs were soon over-crowded and the solution was to offer Terrific Twos twice per Monday with pre-registration required to even out the numbers of participants in each session. This enabled us to continue to use the small program room located near the picture books in the Children’s Library.

In those years, storytime was scheduled three times each year for six week stretches during fall, winter and spring.

Summertime meant the Summer Reading Program for school age kids. Special event programs included stories, puppets, folklore and drama presented by KRL staff and volunteers including: Peggy, Nora Gelineau, Eleanor Wheeler, Barbara Winter and the KRL puppets.

Over time the crowds attending our Summer Reading Program events grew too large for the library building to accommodate. A relationship was established with St. Cecilia’s Church across the street from the library and the much larger Conger Hall was contracted for these large events.

In 1999 an area on the second floor of the library was set aside for teens or young adults. Peggy recognized that teens needed a space in the library separate from the children’s area and distinct from the adult section. She and a group of committed volunteers gathered a number of titles of particular appeal to teens and put them out on display. This area was the forerunner to the teen space we enjoy in the library today.

Sharon S. Lee 2004 to 2006

Bainbridge Island continued to grow and the needs and interests of children, teens and families burgeoned. Commuters wanted an evening storytime, a former television producer wanted to film storytime for community access television, children of all ages wanted to hear local storytellers share folk tales from around the world, teens needed a space to call their own in the large young people’s area and a number of young people wanted an opportunity to volunteer.

This gave rise to a great expansion in programs and volunteer opportunities at the library. Sharon began to offer pajama storytime at 7pm on Tuesday evening and it developed a loyal following. Baby or laplit storytime followed soon thereafter. Sharon did not have children of her own so the moms and dads who brought babies in for stories, wordplay and songs shared as much with her as she did with them.

Carmine Rau From 2006

In the year and a half that Carmine has been here as the young people’s librarian, the primary trend has been to maintain established popular programs and to simply expand upon them. Storytime sessions, which were once offered in six week sessions three times per year, now run year ’round with few interruptions; 2007 will see 114 storytimes by year’s end. This is double the amount the library was able to offer a decade ago.

Carmine brings dramatic flair and panache to each and every storytime she offers.

In her hands, characters jump from the pages of picture books into vivid life. Children and families clamor for these and other titles to take home to read and re-read. She keeps a ready supply of favorite titles in the basket at the checkout desk. Too. A very little and very French mouse named Pierre often joins Carmine and the kids at storytime. They say he has a wonderful singing voice.

1998 saw 800 kids sign up for the Summer Reading Program. Over 1,400 children signed up during the summer of 2007.

The last few years, Kitsap Regional Library has been able to hire professional performers to come entertain crowds of up to 500 people across the street at St. Cecilia’s Conger Hall. Performances inspire interest in reptiles, puppetry, juggling and more. When children and families come to the young people’s area to find a particular title, or to ask for reading suggestions, they find Carmine to be a walking encyclopedia of children’s literature. She reads books and engages children so much that she can often place that half-remembered story in a few short minutes and press it into your hand with a smile.

One of Carmine’s proudest achievements to date has been the creation of Kits for Kids. You can find them listed on the KRL Web site under Kids Book Club Collection Kits.

She learned through conversations with parents of the numerous parent run book clubs on the island and wanted to help facilitate children coming together to share books. She wrote a grant to the KRL Foundation and received funding to create kits of books similar to the adult book club collection: 15 books that check out all together in a handy tub with discussion questions. There are now 35 titles available county wide for checkout to parents, home-school groups, after school clubs, teachers or anyone else who wants to bring kids together with books.

Carmine continues to offer quarterly storytime events with guest storytellers sponsored by the Friends of the Library, the ever-popular “Read to a Dog” program, summertime Read-Ins at the library with Reading Friends and Spanish Storytime. In addition, Carmine and the dedicated young people’s staff host book clubs, craft programs and crazy dress up days at the library just for fun. Teen Mystery Nights roll around every year or so and a grand time is had by all, as well. What does the future hold? Let us know what you would like to see.
Follow the Reader

Mother, daughter discover joy of books

By CARA TOTT

So many books, so little time. After becoming a parent I have found so many more books and even less time. As a family we have found new treasures and I love to watch the delight on Fiona’s (age 7) face as she discovers all the wonder in the world of books.

Starting with early board books, up through the different levels of picture books, fairy tales and chapter books we have thoroughly enjoyed our journey. The great thing is the journey never ends, but keeps building and becoming richer.

Some of Fiona’s recent favorites have been about dolls and toys. There is Big Susan by Elizabeth Orton Jones and Toys Go Out by Emily Jenkins, and the beautiful and poignant story The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo.

But the story that has most enchanted Fiona and some of her friends is The Doll People and its sequel, The Meanest Doll in the World, by Ann M. Martin and Laura Godwin. It is about an old fashioned china doll family who meet up with a modern, plastic doll family and the challenges of keeping their life secret from humans. They have many adventures and eventually learn the true meaning of being in “doll state.” I have listened to Fiona and her friends include this doll world in their imaginative play because it has so captivated them. We read this series aloud, and Fiona has since read them on her own several times.

Another book that has a doll as the central character is Almost to Freedom by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson. We came across this book while studying about slavery in the United States. It’s about a doll that is with a young slave girl who is escaping with her parents. Through the voice of the doll she tells the story of their flight unfolds until the doll is left behind during a quick escape from a house on the Underground Railroad.

Later she is united with another girl who needs her very much. This was one of Fiona’s favorite books we read from that period of United States history. Nancy and Plum by Betty MacDonald (author of the famous Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle series) is another favorite. It is about two orphan sisters who are kept in an orphanage run by harsh Mrs. Monday. The story of the sweet natured and highly spirited girls makes for a satisfying adventure. It shows how strong, pure hearts can resist adversity.

Kitsap Regional Library has an audio book copy of Charlotte’s Web read by the author, E.B. White. After reading this book many times it was a pleasure to listen to White’s voice read in a simple cadence that suits the story to perfection. It shed new light on some favorite passages of ours and we highly recommend listening to it.

For a great fantasy adventure book for younger readers, Hanne’s Quest by Olivier Dunrea is wonderful. Hanne is a quiet, little, black-speckled hen who must go on a magical quest to save Mem’s farm. Along the way she finds that she is capable and brave. The story is exciting, but not too scary for younger readers.

The Melody Quartet, a series of books by Elizabeth Einricht set in early 1940s America, begins with The Saturdays, followed by The Four-Story Mistake, then comes Then There Were Five and the series ends with Spiderweb for Two. Fiona has read these titles so many times she often quotes them during the day when the appropriate moment arises. They feature a family with four children full of initiative, spunk and camaraderie. A full image of each child is developed and reveals each one’s strengths and weaknesses.

The characters come to life for the reader. Fiona talks of them as if they are her friends. The Wind Boy and the House above the Trees, by Ethel Cook Elliot have also been read many times by our family. They are beautiful stories about children who have the unique ability to see beyond the obvious. They can see creatures such as the Wind Boy, Tree Mother and the Forest Children. Elliot’s magical descriptions of the natural world and the mystical world blend wonderfully. The imagination and the view of the artist are highly regarded.

Our family eagerly continues our hunt for those special books and stories that become treasures as they weave themselves into our lives. We wish you all well on your trek to find stories that become part of your family’s reading adventure.

(Fiona Todd was the top reader at Bainbridge Island Public Library for the 2007 Summer Reading Program. She read and listened to a phenomenal 230 hours over the summer. If you would like to share your family’s recent favorite children’s and young adult books for our Follow the Reader column, please contact Carmine Ran at 842-4162.)

Children and family programs

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 6:30 PM Family Board Game Night—Bainbridge Island Library

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 6:30PM Family Board Game Night—Bainbridge Island Library

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 6:30 PM Family Board Game Night—Bainbridge Island Library

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The year 2007 in review

Crazy Clothes Thursdays were a summer hit

For pre-schoolers through teenagers, special events filled a busy year

Save room for pie

By The Young People's Staff

Some of our favorite pie picture books:
Pie's In the Oven- Betty Birney
The Perfect Pumpkin Pie- Denys Cazet
A Pie Went By- Carolyn Dunn
Where is the Apple Pie?- Valeri Gorbachev
All for Pie, Pie for All- David Martin
Edward Lear's I Was Once an Apple Pie- Suse MacDonald
How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World- Marjorie Priceman
Mr. Putter and Tabby Pick the Pears- Cynthia Rylant
A Apple Pie- Gennadii Spirin
Apple Pie Fourth of July- Janet Wong
**Symphony previews begin in January and library books on music will inspire you**

By JULIE O'NEILL, Reference Librarian

Curtain up! It’s time to settle into your seat, watch the house lights go down and, ah, here comes the maestro! Bainbridge residents will be thrilled to know that the library will feature symphony previews by Bernard Jacobson, former music critic for the Chicago Daily News, beginning in January 2008. Jacobson will introduce music currently featured in concerts by the Seattle Symphony, including works by Brahms, Mozart, Schubert and Schumann. Jacobson is a graduate of Oxford University, has been artistic director for orchestras in the Netherlands, and visiting professor of music at Children’s Musical College of Roosevelt University.

Opera previews have long been popular programs at the library, featuring the lively presentations of Norm Hollingshead who introduces and plays excerpts from each opera currently in production at the Seattle Opera. The opera and symphony preview programs are made possible by a grant from the Friends of the Bainbridge Island Regional Library. For information, please contact Kitsap Regional Library Coordinator, may be reached at Kitsap Regional Library, pbranaman@krl.org.

**Making sense of our world today**

By PEGGY BRANAMAN

As we strive to understand developments in our modern world, the library is here to help with authoritative sources on history and contemporary issues, including primary documents available online through our Electronic Resources collection. Discover for yourself the rich multimedia and full text articles, images, hard-to-find statistics, reference articles, journals and primary sources in our online History Resource Centers, Opposing Viewpoints database, Historical New York Times and Culturegrams online.

These online resources are often used by students. They provide quality material for debate arguments, school reports and projects. Students in honors classes and independent study save time in locating and gathering required information which allows more time for comprehension, synthesis and analysis. The online resources are also useful tools for the adult researcher, lifelong historian or political observer. Many discover a depth and breadth to the materials meet their immediate needs and promise further recreational research at another time.

I invite you to explore these resources and send me feedback about your experiences. I am always available for questions or to visit your group to demonstrate or explain these tools. Visit the library at www.krl.org, select Electronic Resources, then choose “Current Events & History” from the subject links on the left-hand column. These are five electronic resources you and your family won’t want to miss: Culturegrams, Historical New York Times, History Resource Center – Modern World History, History Resource Center – United States Edition, and, most popular of all, Opposing Viewpoints.

You make the decisions, you make a difference, we, at the library, are just here to help with the tools that support your journey.

Peggy Branaman, Information Services Coordinator, may be reached at Kitsap Regional Library, pbranaman@krl.org.

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**Food for thought**

A similar theme is the basis of Plenty: One Man, One Woman and a Rancorous year of Eating Locally by Alissa Smith and J. B. MacKinnon. If you need more inspiration to change your diet, check out Twinkle Deconstructed: My Journey to Discover How the Ingredients in Processed Foods are Grown, Mixed (or Mixed), and Manipulated Into What America Eats by Steve Etlinger. After that you may need relief so be sure to check out The Zen of Fish: The Story of Sushi from Samurai to Supermarket by Trevor Corson. You will not only learn about the history and science of this art but be entertained by tales of “sushi school.”

Finally, just to illustrate that books about great food in exotic places will probably never go out of style, here are two to check out: Mediterranean Summer and Chocolate and Zucchini. Mediterranean Summer by David Shalleck is the story of an American chef’s summertime adventure cooking for a wealthy Italian couple sailing a yacht along the coasts of France and Italy. It’s the perfect book for a chilly winter’s day in the Northwest.

Chocolate and Zucchini: Daily Adventures in a Parisian Kitchen by Claudette Demaille is a cookbook by a young writer who presents some traditional French fare along with her own original creations. Whatever your taste, the library has something to offer!

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Continued on Page 15

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Winter 2008 page 11 People, Books
Library volunteers feted at brunch

More than 200 men and women have served the Bainbridge Public Library as volunteers this year. They’ve been active members of the Bainbridge Library Board, the Friends of the Library, the Friday Tidies and other groups. Working together and in solitary pursuits, they’ve helped raise money and keep the building and grounds in good shape, so that the Bainbridge Library remains truly the heart of the community. Once a year – this year in early November – the library staff and Friends give back to these people who give so much. The occasion: a morning brunch filled with songs and laughter, and lots of talk about books and the library. These faces in the crowd are just a few who were present. Paulette Rhoades was the photographer.

Cindy Harrison’s words to volunteers

Each year the Bainbridge Public Library’s branch for volunteers seems to grow. Not surprisingly, for the number of volunteers keeps growing.

This year, there was a special feeling of warmth and excitement. Choirs of library staffers and the Friday Tidies presented original songs, and Martha Bayley, Kitsap Regional Library’s fiction collection manager, suggested some great new reads for the holiday season. But for many, the highlight of the morning was the greeting from Cindy Harrison, Bainbridge branch manager. Harrison was making her final appearance at the annual brunch as branch manager; she’ll retire at the end of January, after 18 years on the Kitsap Regional Library staff. For some of those attending, this was the first they’d heard of Harrison’s coming retirement, and they savored every word.

Here are excerpts from her talk:

“Special thanks to the Friends for underwriting this brunch and to the many staff members who helped set it up and provided goodies for all.

“Thanks also to Barbara Tolliver and Susan Taylor (of The Traveler bookstores), who gave us the pre-publication books that will be your party favors today.

“You are library supporters in other crucial ways. You are readers, and you actively contribute to your community. I am proud that the Bainbridge community stepped up to support the library levy campaign. You know that the library is THE place where ANYONE, regardless of means or educational level, can access free information for pleasure or education whether it is electronic, print, audio or video.”

A teen’s memories

“When I was a young teen, I tried to check out To Kill a Mockingbird from my local library. The librarian told me that it was inappropriate and my parents would disapprove. (This was suburban Boston, not rural Mississippi!),” Harrison noted.

“When I persisted, she told me that I would have

Continued on Page 13
Library volunteers in 2007
They serve the community in many ways

Sharon & Dick Abrams
Marc & Jenine Adam
Peggy Akins
Jean Atwater
Verda Avetisian
Leila Ball
Monica Basile-Hattfield
Linda Belsche
Cathy Bellefleur
Dominique Bemis
Annie Berfield
Betsy Bidinger
Peggy & Ron Booth
Susan Bottles
Mary Braden
Susan, David, Courtney Bray
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Laura Denney
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Earl and Tena Dean
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Monica Duran
George Edensworth-Breck
Mildred Eremin
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Lois "Peté" Golston
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Barbara & Grant Winther
Judith Woehl
Nan Woolridge
Lawrence Worcester
Sheri Yin
Beverly Young
Sylvia Zonoff

Cindy Harrison’s words

Continued from Page 12

to get a permission slip from my parents. It was my first experience with the possibility that someone could take away my right to read. So I think it is not just the beautiful writing, the compelling themes of justice, compassion and love, or the unforgettable characters that make me cherish this book. It is the fact that I was almost deprived of the right to read it.

“When my younger son and his now-fiancé were first ‘sparking’ (as my husband calls it) I took special joy in hearing that they would call each other after midnight with ‘sparking’ (as my husband calls it) I took special joy in hearing that they would call each other after midnight with

Nancy Pearl talks about how

Dana Gioia, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, says that adult life begins in a child’s imagination and is sustained by reading – that magical ability to transform written words into pictures and voices.

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Winter 2008 page 13
Volunteers keep the library lobby bookshelves stocked

Walk into the Bainbridge Public Library almost anytime, day or night, and you’ll likely find a patron or two looking over the collection of books and periodicals for sale in the lobby. The prices are right – just a dollar or two for recent hardcovers and a quarter or two for paperbacks. The variety is seemingly endless. And the popular titles come and go so quickly there’s always something new to buy.

This little lobby bookstore – run on the honor system, just put your money in the slot and take the book – has become so popular with library visitors it now returns several hundred dollars in a typical month. (One recent month brought in almost $1,100.)

The Friends of the Library, who operate the book sales downstairs three times a month, also manage the upstairs sales.

A conversation with two volunteers who oversee the lobby sales, indicates some of the reasons for their popularity. Rose Euchner and Eleanor Deines work regularly two days a week to keep the shelves stocked with clean books, in good condition, on a variety of topics. Also helping out are two more Friends, Annie Berfield and Anne Campbell, who come by a day a week.

“So we have somebody checking on the area almost every day,” Rose noted. That means when gaps appear in the collection they’re immediately filled with fresh stock from downstairs in the Friends’ sorting and salesrooms.

The lobby sales have been increasing steadily since Rose began managing the area: she thinks it’s because of the increasing variety of subject matter and the fact that the books are frequently rearranged.

“We started with just a little fiction in one area and then we decided to change the subject matter from time to time, and then we had this idea to express sell,” she explains. “That was last spring, and the sales have just kept growing.”

Recently there have been a lot of books on history, and lots of humor, too. A while back, Rose noted, there were many books about animals. Magazines as well as books sell quickly.

Keeping the books rotating on the shelves seems to increase sales. And those which don’t sell soon, either at the regular book sales or in the lobby, then go into a special OST box in the Friends room where they’re often sold online through Once Sold Tales. (The online sales are also expanding rapidly, another source of funding for the library.)

Just last spring, Rose and Eleanor were particularly delighted to see the older books recycled through OST.

Rose Euchner, regular book sales or in the lobby, then go into a special OST box in the Friends room where they’re often sold online through Once Sold Tales. (The online sales are also expanding rapidly, another source of funding for the library.) Eleanor Deines, like other Friends of the Library, are enthusiastic readers. Eleanor says she likes to read “everything.” Rose mentioned that she has just read Pearl Buck’s classic The Good Earth, which she didn’t read in 1980, and enjoyed it even more this time.

The two women have much in common besides the library. Both Rose and Eleanor, like other Friends of the Library, are enthusiastic readers. Eleanor says she likes to read “everything.” Rose mentioned that she has just read Pearl Buck’s classic, The Good Earth, which she didn’t read in 1980, and enjoyed it even more this time.

Friends of the Library: 1997 to 2007
Friends group, book sales, grow with community

By PAT MILLER
FOL Board President

On July 6, 1997, the newly renovated Bainbridge Island Library opened its doors for the first time. It was the realization of a community-wide dream, and it signaled a remarkable change for the Friends of the Library and the way they would continue to serve both the library and the community.

Susan Richards, a 20-year FOL veteran, says that during the organization’s early years the Friends sponsored a variety of projects. There were sales, of course, but they also had membership lunches that featured guest speakers such as Jack Olsen and Ann Lovejoy.

They published Kathy Warner’s History of Bainbridge Island and distributed it to schools and local stores. The also established the FOL Book Group, one of the first discussion groups on the Island.

Book sales often involved Friends’ families and they took place in various sites around the community. Given a room in the new building, the sales became monthly second Saturday events with two months off in the summer.

The FOL bank account had grown sufficiently to allow the Friends to provide funds for the reading corner upstairs, for the teen section, and for the aquarium in the Children’s Library. More customers found the sales, and by the end of the first year in the expanded building, FOL yearly income was approaching $15,000.

The Friends’ room was bursting with books and customers, so “with patience and perseverance”, says Susan, “we invaded the larger back room and spent money installing both doors and the storage cabinets.” They also began to price books individually, and customers arrived from “all over Kitsap, Jefferson and King Counties as the quality and quantity of the books increased.”

By late 2005, it became obvious that it was time to take advantage of online sales, so the board contracted for the sale of high-value books online; one year later they contracted with a company which markets books online that have failed to sell during the Friends’ on-site sales.

By spring of 2006, what had become a virtual flood of donations spurred the Friends to involve more volunteers and to expand sale days. Currently 40 active members cooperate to process the books, to conduct three monthly bookroom sales, and to keep the foyer shelves well-stocked with books and magazines.

The happy consequences: since 1997 FOL income has more than tripled. Thus the Friends can step up when the need arises: when children’s library furniture needs to be recovered, when books are needed to reward children for summer reading, and – as earlier this summer – when Kitsap Regional Library can no longer pay for magazine subscriptions.

New opportunities and problems are always just below the horizon, and organizations succeed or fail according to the way they meet change with creativity, optimism and common sense.

Change is the challenge and adaptation is the key to continuing FOL success.

Coming May 10: A literary affair

If you enjoy fine dining and the works of local authors, you’ll want to attend DinneReads: A Literary Affair on May 10.

That’s the evening when the Bainbridge Library Board will present a special four-course dinner, with a selection of fine wines, and a group of distinguished Bainbridge Island authors reading from their own works. The evening, at the Wing Point Country Club, will also include a small auction.

You’ll read more about the event—which authors are coming and what they’ll be reading—in the weeks to come.

In the meantime, save the date for this special fund-raising for the Bainbridge Public Library.

The Bainbridge Island and grounds were built and have always been maintained by individual and group donations alone. No taxes have ever been levied to pay for the building and grounds. Kitsap Regional Library taxes pay for circulating materials, staff salaries, and other items, but not the Bainbridge Public Library, which is owned by the citizens of Bainbridge Island.

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Winter 2008
Winter Roundtables

Brulle is a former classroom teacher, a best-selling children’s book author, illustrator, and an Emmy Award-winning winner. Her educational projects range from the board games Cranium and Brainquest to the television shows Bill Nye the Science Guy (PBS) and Pop Bottle Science (ABC). Brulle is a regular contributor to NPR’s Science Friday Kids’ Connection and has also written for The Discovery Channel, National Geographic World, and Family Fun magazine. She has also developed Web and television projects for Scholastic, A&E, Disney, and The Annenberg Foundation. Brulle’s books include The World Almanac for Kids, Puzzle Deck, Bottle Top Science, Yoga for Chickens, and the juvenile nonfiction, Compost! The Ultimate Kid’s Guide. She lives on Bainbridge Island with her husband and sons, two cats and a dog.

Roundtable format

If you have an idea for a Writers’ Roundtable topic or guest author, send an e-mail to info@fieldsend.org (please include Writers’ Roundtable in the subject line), or write to Field’s End at the library, 1270 Madison Ave. North, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110. The monthly Roundtable, free and open to writers of all levels and interests, takes place the third Tuesday of each month. The guest author introduces the topic, and then participants join in a Q & A period followed by a large group discussion. The evening closes with socializing, coffee, and cookies.

Field’s End, the writing community affiliated with the nonprofit Bainbridge Public Library, conducts the monthly Roundtables. Additional roundtables are sponsored by the City of Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Fund, administered by the Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council. For other Field’s End programs go to www.fieldsend.org.

Cindy Harrison

Continued from Page 16

with local artists’ work and surrounded by beautiful grounds, including a Hakku Garden designed by the late Daisuken Nakamura. Japanese-American Community.

During the past decade, Harrison has noticed a number of changes: increased demand on library resources and services. . .

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Symphony preview

of classical music by developing the skills to truly listen (rather than just hear) how each piece of music possesses its own unique style and voice, and made even more distinct by the musicians who play it.

Opera: a Critic’s Guide to the 100 Most Important Works and Best Recordings by Anthony Tommasini. Anyone drawing up a list of the “most important” works of opera should expect to generate plenty of debate. Tommasini, chief music critic for the New York Times recognizes that his list, with emphasis on 20th century works, will prompt second guessing, but he makes the case for his selections with conviction in this opinionated, quirky guidebook.

Musicalophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain by Oliver Sacks. Sacks has chronicled neurological medical cases in his previous books, Awakenings: The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat. Now he takes on the relationship of music and the brain in cases ranging from a song that gets stuck in a continuing loop in the brain, to patients whose symptoms are calmed by certain types of music, and the man struck by lightning who develops a talent for the concert piano.

Violin Dreams by Arnold Steinhardt. Steinhardt was, for 40 years, an international soloist and first violinist of the Guarneri String Quartet. In this warm and witty memoir, he details his lifelong obsession with the most beautiful and seductive of instruments. He vividly describes his terror of a legendary violin teacher, his quest for the perfect violin, and a pilgrimage to the Polish village where his love of the eerie evocative sound of the violin was born.

The Rest is Noise: Listening to the Twentieth Century by Alex Ross. Ross, music critic for The New Yorker takes readers from Vienna before World War I to New York in 2000 in this history of the century through its music. Ross explores the widening gulf between classical and popular music; the story of the creation of a new kind of composer (the “New Musician”), and the musical works that defined the era in this lively and comprehensive narrative.

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Winter Roundtables

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Cindy Harrison

Continued from Page 2

Field’s End winter classes

Stole the Moon, draws from his Tlingit Indian heritage and his latest novel, How Even Broke His Head and Other Secrets won a 2006 Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award. Known for his great humor, accessible teaching style, and captivating charm, Stein is a favorite at writer’s workshops, conferences, and speaking events throughout the country.

Kenya shamba

About a week after we arrived, the women of the shamba started coming up evenings to our porch. They taught us Kikuyu, we taught them English. We shared stories and jokes mainly through pantomime.

In the daytime I helped Agnes with her work, daily carrying a full can of milk in a basket on my back to the local “dairy,” a shack on the top of the hill where milk was weighed, poured into a huge container and a voucher given for end-of-the-month payment. Grant helped dig sweet potatoes and drove Agnes to the open market in town.

By the time we left Kenya, we had become such good friends with everyone on the shamba that at five a.m. on the final day, all came to bid us farewell. I hugged Agnes and we both cried. I will always remember the group smiling and waving at the shamba gate as we drove away.

A year later, Dr. Kanyi’s project was funded by Pathfinders, a Canadian group. (On January 18 at 7:30 p.m., under the auspices of The Traveler Store, Barbara and Grant Winder will present a slide lecture at the Bainbridge Library about their lives on the shamba.)

By KATHLEEN THORNE

The Bainbridge Island Arts & Humanities Council and the Bainbridge Public Library will co-sponsor a third series of eight free, drop-in Great Decisions discussions every other Saturday morning, from 9 to 10:30, beginning February 9 in the library’s largest meeting room.

This year’s discussion topics (not in this particular order) include: Iraq End-Game; European Union at 50; Talking to Our Enemies; Russia, U. S. Defense & Security Policy; Latin America: Shift to the Left?; U. S.-China Trade Policy; and Private Philanthropy.

Great Decisions is a nation-wide, non-partisan program of the Foreign Policy Association to broaden public involvement with the least important foreign policy issues facing the United States.

Great Decisions at the library

New series begins February 9

While enjoying coffee and pastries, participants first view a 30-minute Foreign Policy Association DVD on the topic to be discussed. To assist with advance preparation, relevant news articles are posted on the BIAHC Website, www.artshum.org. (Check the Website about a week before the discussion.) A copy of the Great Decisions Briefing Book, published by the Foreign Policy Association, is available at the library for photocopying or can be purchased from BIAHC for $15.

At the end of each session, participants are asked to vote on the discussion topic. Anyone with an interest or expertise in a particular topic is welcome to take on the role of moderator or to recommend guest moderators and experts. Please contact BIAHC at admin@artshum.org to be added to the Great Decisions email list for updates on the series schedule and to receive topic background information.

The 2008 discussion dates are February 9, February 23, March 8, March 22, April 5, April 19, May 3, and May 17. For more information visit the BIAHC Website at www.artshum.org or contact BIAHC at 206-842-7901.

Books, People

Kenya shamba"
Cindy Harrison retires as branch manager

By VERDA AVERILL

Cynthia Harrison, better known to her many friends as Cindy, will retire at the end of January as branch manager of the Kitsap Regional Library. After 18 years with the regional library system, and Bainbridge manager since 1991, she says it’s time to pursue some other passions.

“Although I can’t think of a better job than managing the Bainbridge Library, it is an all-consuming obsession with me. I would like now to be outside more—hiking, birding, kayaking, and exploring,” she said.

“I would also like to attend our playwright son’s productions, tour Yellowstone Park with our geologist son, and audit some college courses to improve my garden’s flourishing/expiring ratio, nurture my interest in photography, and read more books than book reviews.”

And how about a little relaxation time? She and her husband, David, will continue to live on Bainbridge, and would like to travel as time allows. She says firmly that she plans to remain connected to the community, where she’s enjoyed serving with Helpline and singing with the Bainbridge Chorale.

She’ll remain close to her 5-year-old granddaughter, who lives in Silverdale.

Like many of our readers, I’ve wondered why she decided to retire:

“I grew up near Boston and went to college in the Midwest,” she recalled.

“I graduated as one of the seemingly millions of English majors looking for work. Librarianship appealed to me because it was a saleable skill that would allow me to work in the world of literature and learning.

“Planned on being a reference librarian in a college library and worked my way through graduate school at Western Michigan University typing and filing those endless catalog cards. (Librarians are not sentimental about the transition from the card catalog to computers!)”

“My husband and I moved several times early in our marriage, and I worked in a variety of academic, school, special and public libraries. I found that I preferred public libraries because of the variety of information needs and the connections with people.”

The Harrisons moved to Bainbridge Island when their sons were young, and lured here by the excellent school system and the beautiful environment. She was hired by the Bainbridge manager system, and Bainbridge manager Cindy Harrison reads from Three Cups of Tea during Bainbridge and Beyond Read this year

Kitsap Regional Library on a grant to develop a consumer health collection, then worked as the Day Care outreach librarian and as temporary branch manager in Silverdale.

“All of those experiences were valuable in learning about Kitsap County and the library system itself,” she said.

And “I was thrilled to become manager of the Bainbridge branch.”

That was in 1991, and how things have changed.

“I have had the honor of helping to create, teach, and lead the Bainbridge Library clear to me, both as a regular library patron and as the new manager, that the library was cramped and the collection was inadequate for our growing community.”

“The staff at the time worked very hard to overcome the limitations of the facility.”

The eight staff members shared one desk and one file drawer, she recalled. Books arriving from other branches for patron holds were stored in a broom closet. Patrons sat elbow-to-elbow in the magazine reading area, and the meeting room was gloomy and inadequate to anyone with mobility challenges.

“As it had in 1960 and 1980, the Bainbridge community recognized that the library provided essential community services and contributed the volunteer power people and funds to transform the facility,” she said.

Continued from front page

Looking back at 10 years

The young people’s summer reading program now attracts nearly 1,500 children each year. Story hours have mushroomed as more and more parents have drawn as many as 500 youngsters to some events. (For more about the past decade in the children’s library, see pages 8, 9, and 10 inside.)

Teens now have their own special retreat upstairs, next to the Haiku Garden. The community meeting room is a place where groups with a variety of interests convene regularly (and the modest room rental fees help pay for library maintenance). Many days and evenings you’ll find it filled with best-selling and aspiring authors belonging to Field’s End, the writers’ community associated with the library. Or audiences listening to the distinguished speakers on the library’s own Bainbridge Speakers Forum. The Visually Impaired Persons group meets there monthly. So does a new and enthusiastic genealogy group. (Read more about it in a future Library News.)

Thanks to partnerships with many local businesses and organizations, scores of free programs are presented every year at the library. The travellers hosted by the library and The Traveler bookstore are extremely popular. So are Norm Hollingshead’s opera previews and now, this coming year, a symphony preview series will begin. (Read more about that on Page 11.)

Play readings at the library have grown by popular demand.

The monthly library book sales staffed by enthusiastic Friends of the Library were so popular they are now offered three times a month. (See calendar.) What’s more, books not sold here are often sold on line, thanks to Friends’ efforts. And a help-yourself bookstore has sprung up in the library lobby, with fresh offerings of books and periodicals put out almost daily, thanks to library volunteers.

During the past decade, far-sighted library board members acquired property to the south of the main building, which provides income from business rentals and allowed for expansion of the library parking area. The gardens were also expanded, thanks to the volunteer Friday Tidies, the Hardy Fern Foundation, and of course, the Japanese-American community of Bainbridge Island.

What will the next decade bring? Certain continued growth of Field’s End, now nationally recognized for its ongoing programs and annual writers’ conference.

Defining more programs and special events in the Children’s Library, thanks to an enthusiastic staff and a new group of volunteers (adults and young people).

More computer services like the Click! program and more reference to access materials via a few clicks of the computer (see articles inside).

And more than a few surprises. Keep reading. We’ll keep you informed through the Library News.

Continued from front page

The Big Read

The Big Read events will include a theatrical reading by Island Theatre, a Field’s End Roundtable discussion on “speculative fiction” led by Paul Hanson of Eagle Harbor Book Company, art and essay competitions for students, a public debate on the impact of TV and other technologies on our cultural life, and a screening of the 1966 version of Fahrenheit 451 at the Historic Lynwood Theatre.

The Big Read is a national initiative designed to restore reading to a vital role in American culture. Now in its third year, The Big Read was an inspired response to a 2004 study by the NEA and the U. S. Census Bureau. It revealed that less than half of adult Americans now read literature (novels, short stories, poetry and drama). The percentage of the U. S. population reading any book has declined seven percent in the last decade – and even more dramatically among teens and young adults.

Although it was published in 1953, Fahrenheit 451’s insights about censorship, the role of the state in the private lives of its citizens, the impact of contemporary media and technology on our consciousness, and the power of books in nurturing our spirits are themes that remain compelling today.

Notices about events and times will be posted regularly on the Kitsap Regional Library Website (www.krl.org). Multiple copies of the book will be available at the library, schools and through Eagle Harbor Book Company. For more information, or if you are interested in being a volunteer for The Big Read, call the library at 842-4162.

“Like many of our readers, I’ve wondered what will become the biggest challenge of her long career as Bainbridge Island branch manager to double the library’s size – started out with a discussion of ways to just make the library bigger.

“Then, when Tom Olson took over as library board president, he was determined to move forward... I clearly remember a meeting where the board decided to make the commitment to a capital campaign.

“I was a very courageous decision – ‘a little like jumping off a cliff’ as Wayne Nakara put it... They then assembled an outstanding group of more than 75 volunteers, and Tom W. Harrison resigned from the board to become the exceptional volunteer administrator of the campaign.”

Harrison says it was the biggest challenge of her branch manager career because of the sensitive negotiations with all the stakeholders. There were countless meetings and planning sessions – almost like a second job for the branch manager.

“I had never been involved in a library expansion before, and I and other staff members worked hard to improve the operational design of the facility without adversely impacting the aesthetics.

“Our staff member Paulette Rhoades contributed much to this effort, thanks to her knowledge of building construction, and board member and contractor Rick Blumenthal devoted countless hours to project oversight,” she noted.

The expanded library building, which preserved much of the original building designed by John Rudolph, was filled

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LIBRARY HOURS
Mon / Tues / Wed
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Thurs / Fri 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sat / Sun 1 to 5 p.m.
(See calendar on page 1 for closures)

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