

# BRIEF HISTORY OF BAINBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

By David James

- 1913 Winslow Library started by Winslow Library Association in Knights Templar Building; closed 1947
- 1914 Rolling Bay Library opened by Rolling Bay PTA across from old Moran Boy's School; moved to new location in Winslow and became a branch of Kitsap County Library in 1924.
- 1960 Public meeting under leadership of Charles Elicker, Jack Gordon, and Elizabeth Black to incorporate as Bainbridge Public Library. 27 Islanders attended at Winslow City Hall. Elected to first Board: Mrs. L. Black, Paul Sakai, S.Egaas, Mrs. Leo Black, Mrs. A. Coleman, H.J. Ryan, J. Hodges.
- 1961 First Board – Chairman, Mrs. Lyman Black; Vice Chairman, Jack Gordon; Secretary, Mrs. Armistead Coleman; Treasurer, Paul Sakai; Directors, Mrs. Leo Black, Rev. Orin Gudmunsen, James Hodges, Mrs. Andrew Kirkman, Mrs. John Powell, Howard Ryan. The Board moved forward on construction of the Library building on land donated by Edmund Stafford; architect, John Rudolph. Under chairmanship of Russell Hohnson, \$35,000 raised.
- 1962 Rolling Bay Library closed and Bainbridge Public Library, Inc. dedicated and open for service on March 17.
- 1968 Children's Room, honoring James Hodges, opened in July.
- 1970 Steering Committee named October 22 to form Friends of the Library. Chairman, Mrs. Lyman Black; members, Mrs. Philip Keith, Mrs. Harold Page, Mrs. Andrew Kirkman, Mrs. Lucille Galbraith, Mrs. Frank Hoelterhoff, Mrs. Gene Fadden, Mrs. William D. Plommer, Mrs. Harold Mansfield. Mrs. Plommer and Mrs. Mansfield became co-chairmen of the first Friends of the Library Board. Membership within first year totaled 111.
- 1971 Eddy Room, a gift from Blakely Mill in memory of Mr. Eddy, opened. First Story Hours and displays arranged.
- 1976 Friends of the Library Volunteer Program initiated with six groups working: "Dirty Book Committee", Reading and Music at Convalescent Center, Book Discussion Group, Puppet Making, Story Hours for Children, and monthly Family Programs.
- 1977 Property adjoining purchased with gift of \$10,000 from Bainbridge Island Rotary Club Auction and \$4,000 from Friends of the Library Rummage and Book Sales. (These were final payment on a total price of \$35,000).
- 1978 Bainbridge Public Library Building Committee named and working on plans. Gift from Katy Warner of rights of Friends of the Library to re-publish and sell her "History of Bainbridge Island" realized more than \$3,000 in the first year of sales. "Dirty Book Committee" featured in Seattle Sunday Times.
- 1979 First public presentation of plans for addition presented at Annual Meeting of Bainbridge Public Library, Inc. to which all members of that group, Friends of the Library and interested members of the community were invited.
- Fundraising Activities**
- 1913 – Rolling Bay PTA ice cream socials; sale of gunny sacks by children; fines, donations,  
1947 and silver teas
- 1960 Construction Fund realized by donation of land and both large and small gifts solicited personally.

Puget Sound Power & Light	\$1000	Japanese-American Community	\$1000
Bainbridge Island Bank	\$500	High School Girls Candy Sale	\$39
Bainbridge Island Rotary Auction	\$5725	Chamber of Commerce	\$100
Teenspot Dance	\$120	Eagledale Ladies Aid	\$50
B&PW	\$200	Bainbridge Educational Association	\$120
Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast	\$879	Town of Winslow *	\$2900

\* Winslow was not included in Kitsap Regional Library so residents considered a tax levy (approximately 50¢ per family) but measure was defeated by 3 votes, thereby requiring Winslow residents to pay non-resident fee to use the library. To avoid that situation, the City made the gift of \$2900.

1961 – Rotary gift of \$300 and Blakeley Mill of \$7500 earmarked for completion and furnishing of Eddy Room on lower level.

\$1500 from Bainbridge Foundation for library maintenance.

Annual Rummage sales conducted by Bainbridge Library, Inc. Board.

1971 - Once the Friends of the Library were organized that group has conducted the Annual Book and Rummage Sale. Other fund raising activities have been summer book sales, sale of book marks, calendars, book covers.

In 1977 the Rotary Auction and Rummage Sale proceeds of more than \$10,000 were earmarked as a memorial to John Gerry for the addition to the library.

Major Friends of the Library fund raising effort for the 1978 was sale of Katy Warner's "History of Bainbridge Island".