Mark your calendar

Bainbridge Island Library users look forward to some special events during the next few months. Note these dates:

SATURDAY, JUNE 27
Books, books, and more books will be sold at the Rotary Auction, all day, Woodward Middle School.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1
Star Party for children, first event of summer reading program, 10:30 to 11:30 at the library, with Nora Gelineau, instructor. (Registration in advance, please.)

SATURDAY, JULY 4
Library closed for holiday. Join your friends at the Grand Old Fourth parade.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8
Dragonsore children’s program, 10:30-11:30 at the library, with Peggy Hughes, young people’s librarian. Science fiction writing group meets with Ann Lovejoy, 7 p.m. at the library. Initial meeting for teenagers and adults interested in experimenting with science fiction short story writing.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15
Folkloric Drama children’s hour, directed by Barbara Winther, 10:30-11:30 at the library.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22
Kids’ Web. Youngsters will get instruction in the net from Eleanor Wheeler and Peggy Hughes, 10:30 at the library.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29
Puppet show for children, 10:30-11:30, at the library.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
Labor Day. Library closed for holiday.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
Gala Garden Party, 5 to 8:30 at the library. Meet your friends at a festive fund-raising event.

Use-book sale at library, from 10 to 2. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. First sale of the season.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4
Laps for the Library II, noon to 2 p.m. at the high school track. Run or walk for fun or fitness — and to raise money for library needs.

It’s your newspaper

You are reading the first issue of the Bainbridge Island Library News. Produced by members of the library board, staff, and volunteers, this newspaper will come to you as the seasons change. This issue focuses on summer and early fall activities at the library.

The fall edition will be distributed in late September, and deadline for copy is Wednesday, Aug. 26.

The editors welcome your suggestions for Library News features. Would you like more people features? More about special services? Listings of audiovisual materials? All of these are scheduled for future issues.

Just drop off your ideas at the library, any time. Or share them with editor Verda Av terrill, associate editors Steve Olson and Peter Harris, branch manager Cindy Harrison, or any board member. And thanks for reading.

Young people travel reading highway

School’s out, and young people — and their parents — are looking for projects to fill the kids’ long summer days.

One answer for school-age children: the Bainbridge Public Library’s summer reading program. Though designed for young readers (second and third graders primarily), the program, “Travel the Reading Highway,” also appeal to pre-schoolers and first graders, says Peggy Hughes, young people’s librarian.

“It’s designed for those being read to as well as those who can read by themselves,” she says.

The rules are simple. Children sign up at the young people’s check-out desk on the lower level. They then receive reading logs and are told how to keep track of their reading time. The goal: to read for at least 10 hours this summer.

Children chart their progress by writing their names on cars which are added to the sign-up poster in the library and hug along its highway during the summer. The reading program, which runs from June 13 to Sept. 16, has its rewards. When youngsters finish their 10 hours of reading they may each:

- Select a paperback book
- Receive a certificate
- Put a sticker on their car on the sign-up poster
- And receive a new reading log to keep track of more reading time. (Those reading more than 10 hours receive additional stickers to put on their cars, but each child can earn only one paperback for the summer.)

Along with the reading project, the library will present a series of special programs for school-age children Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

On July 8, Dragonsore is the topic. Librarian Peggy Hughes will present stories and activities involving dragons.

July 15, Folkloric Drama will give children a chance to do some acting.

Gala garden party is set for Sept. 12

Bainbridge Library Board members are planning a garden party for Sept. 12.

The second annual Bainbridge Library Gala, a follow-up to last summer’s popular building preview event, is designed to show off the now-mature Haiku Garden, the library’s growing art collection, and new features of the building’s large computer collection.

The early evening event, tentatively scheduled for 6 to 8:30 p.m., will provide a chance for Islanders to view the newest library features, chat with friends, taste wines and hors d’oeuvres, listen to fine music — and not so incendently, to raise funds for ongoing library needs.

(Yes, the building is paid for, but maintenance and other expenses continue.) Admission will be by donation, which will be partially tax-deductible.

Les Deux Amis, the Island firm that catered last year’s gala, will be back. And a committee headed by Jo Schaffer, Bainbridge Island author Barbara Winther, who has adapted African and Haitian stories for the stage, will read from her books and include members of the audience in dramatization.

On July 22 at Kids’ Web, librarians Eleanor Wheeler and Peggy Hughes will teach young patrons how to find the information they need using the Internet.

And at the last program, July 29, the Kitsap Regional Library Puppeteers will perform “Traveling the Reading Highway,” an original script by Carol Goll Schuyler. The show will include references to traditional stories such as The Three Billy Goats Gruff.

Parents are urged to register young- sters for these programs in advance. Space is expected to fill up fast. The first two programs are tentatively scheduled for the children’s program room, with the rest in the library’s main meeting room.

The popular pre-school story hours held throughout the school year have been discontinued for the summer, but will be resumed sometime in September.

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Volunteers make a difference

Dianne Knodel and Claude Keckler are just two of the many volunteers who contribute to the Bainbridge Island Library’s successful programs. Along with Stan Weigman they were honored at a recent Kitsap Regional Library Board meeting. (Verda Averill photo)

By VERDA AVERILL

“I can help” reads the lapel badge Dianne Knodel wears in the library. And she can. As one of more than 30 dedicated Bainbridge Public Library volunteers, Knodel spends 25 hours a week—sometimes more—working one on one with library users who want to learn computer skills.

She teaches computer novices how to use the electronic card catalogue, the WorldWide Web and, of course, E-mail.

And she loves doing it, especially when her students know nothing about computers.

“My favorite person to work with is the one who has absolutely no knowledge about them,” she says with a smile. “Age doesn’t matter. The beginning computer user may be a young adult or a retired person. Two of her favorite pupils, says Dianne, are 82 years old. (Both, incidentally, volunteer in the library in other areas.)

Knodel brings more than enthusiasm to her volunteer work. A wife and mother of three adult children, all of them involved with computers, she’s a former teacher with a lifelong interest in libraries. As a student at Ball State University in Indiana, she worked in the school library.

And she likes working with people, including the physically challenged. One of her favorite success stories concerns a hearing-impaired person who exclaimed with delight after mastering computer skills. “Do you realize for the first time I can see what I’m supposed to hear?”

She is also delighted to see the ways in which computer skills can forge strong bonds between older adults and their grandchildren.

“Today, it sometimes seems kids and their grandparents know less and less about each other. But the youngsters have access to computers, and they are so impressed when their grandparents develop these skills and send them E-mail,” she says. “I just keep seeing the spark in the grandparents’ eyes as they take hold of these new skills.

Knodel works in a series of one-hour appointments, always one on one. She starts out teaching the card catalogue and registering the student for E-mail, and “by the third hour we’re cruising the web.”

Her classes are so popular she’s often booked weeks ahead. So persons seeking her help should sign up at the library reference desk and expect to wait two or three weeks for an opening.

Three honored

Knodel is just one of three Bainbridge Island volunteers honored for exceptional service at a recent Kitsap Regional Library Board meeting.

Stan Weigman, who has led weekend computer training sessions, and Claude Keckler, who volunteers in other areas as well as computer, were cited along with Knodel for the Bainbridge computer-training program.

They have been asked to help staffs and volunteers of other Kitsap libraries set up a similar county-wide program. Knodel is enthusiastic about the idea.

“What good are those wonderful machines if people don’t know how to use them?” she says.

You can help

Knodel and Shirley Howe share the job of coordinating volunteer activities within the Bainbridge library.

Not all volunteers can spend as much time at the library as they do, but willing helpers are always needed—for as much or as little time as they can spend.

Outside, volunteers supervised by garden authority Ann Lovejoy care for the recently- planted library grounds.

Regular garden volunteers include Linda Arwood, Eileen Caduff, Elise Cline, Tracy Dickerson, Barbara Garfield, Jana Jackson, Nina McCormick, Barbera Saxe, and Sarah Wallace.

More volunteers would be welcome in several areas, says Cindy Harrison, branch manager.

People are needed to adopt bookshelves (gardening, biography, etc.) and keep specific collections clean and in good order—and to package audio tapes for the shelves;—to take on the library archives and organize material into scrapbooks in an orderly fashion;—to keep magazines and newspapers in good order;—to review incoming donations of books and audio-visual material;—to become part of the landscape care team coordinated by Ann Lovejoy.

“Volunteers are one of the reasons our library works so well,” adds Dianne Knodel.

“If the staff had to stop and do all the things the volunteers do...well, they just wouldn’t have the time.”

What it’s all about: books

By LIBRARY STAFF and board members

Readers love to recommend books to other readers, and the professional staff, volunteers, and members of the board of Bainbridge Public Library are no exception. We’re eager to share some discoveries among the many new books recently published, as well as some older volumes we think others would enjoy given the chance.

We hope to make this a regular feature, and to include more examples of non-print media available at the library in future issues.

Adult fiction

Cloudsplitter, by Russell Banks (HarperCollins, 1998), is a monumental historical novel about the abolitionist John Brown, told from the point of view of his son.

The Flower in the Skull, by Kathleen Alcal (Chronicle, 1998). Set in the Texas-Mexico border region in the late 19th century, this is a sequel to the award-winning Spirits of the Ordinary. Alcal is a Bainbridge Island author.

A Patchwork Planet, by Anne Tyler (Knopf, 1998). Fans of Tyler’s quirky, character-driven novels will not be disappointed by this tale of a one-time juvenile delinquent and family black sheep who earns a living doing odd jobs for the elderly.

The Short History of a Prayer, by A. S. Byatt (Random House, 1998). A gay man returns to his Michigan roots seeking to make peace with himself and his past. This is an affirming story of the power of friendship and family ties.
Who's who on your library staff

(First in a series on the Bainbridge Library staff)

Cindy Harrison, branch manager at Bainbridge's library, supervises 22 librarians who keep the library open 55 hours a week. She took this big job in 1990, after working on a health project for the Kitsap Regional Library, as interim branch manager at Poulsbo. She had read the newspaper ad, and as the librarian for pre-schools and daycare centers throughout the county, she was trained for the job as an English major at Kalamazoo College in Michigan and received a master of library science degree from Western Michigan University. With her husband David, Harrison first moved to Bainbridge Island 23 years ago. Today the couple has two sons, Jordan, almost 21, a senior at Stanford University, and Ben, 17, who will be a senior at Bainbridge High School.

As branch manager, she puts in long hours supervising activities at the Bainbridge Library building and working with the Kitsap Regional Library Board and the local Bainbridge Island Library Board. When she gets some time for herself and her family, Harrison (named Cynthia but usually called Cindy) enjoys being out in her garden, birdwatching with her mother-in-law, and exploring the Northwest. She likes theater and art and rides her new bike.

And she's an enthusiastic member of the Bainbridge Chorale. She's seen a lot of changes in her years as a librarian and, while books remain the heart of the library, she feels electronic developments are becoming more and more important. She applauds the work of Bainbridge volunteers who are teaching library users to scan the technology section of the catalogue, use E-mail, and cruise the Internet.

"Books are wonderful," she says, "but there are so many things that are much easier to find on the Internet. She cites the case of a library user who needed to locate the words to Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" — and found them quickly via the Internet.

"Harrison would rather talk about her outstanding library staff than about herself. She's particularly impressed with the work of librarian Jeanette Fiess, who has worked here for four years.

"The library is an important place for people to meet each other, and she's very good at helping with that," says Chelsea Siler and Jeanette Fiess, both 18. The two graduating seniors say they enjoy helping patrons with word processing, and doing long overdue cataloging.

"They've also maintained high scholastic averages, graduating with honors, and will attend college in the fall.

"Siler at the University of Washington and Fiess as a National Merit Scholar at Whitman College."

As pages the young women are responsible for putting materials back on the shelves in proper order, doing reference work, helping with the closing of the library, and helping out at the circulation desk during staff breaks, among other duties.

"It's a possibility...at least as a college job," says Chelsea.

Expanded Bainbridge Library continues to grow

BY STEVE OLSEN

Nearly a year has passed since the grand opening of the new Bainbridge Public Library. By now, most of us have gotten used to the new building's refreshingly unsullied interior, its allowance for the latest in technology, and its complement of wonderful works of public art. We might even have begun to notice our more frequent visits to the staff and patrons managed for so long in the old library.

The Bainbridge Public Library contains nearly 62,000 catalogued items — books, tapes, magazines, etc. Some 3200 items were added to the collection in the first three months of 1998 alone. And more and more Islanders are apparently finding out how fast and easy it is to request an item from other branches in the Kitsap Regional Library system, its 400,000 items.

In 1989, Islander checked out a total of 338,000 books and other items and requested 37,000 holds. Access to library information, whether it is a periodical article on a new company, or the holdings of other libraries in the region, depends on these days on many well-functioning computer terminals.

In mid-May, Bainbridge was upgraded to 23 computer terminals, many with enhanced graphic capabilities. However, about half of the terminals will remain text-oriented, which some patrons find faster and easier to use. Islander Michael Schuyler directs the Kids' Department of the library's computer department, and notes that the new Bainbridge Public Library building is a joy to work for the added computers, and remains flexible for future computer needs.

Plans are for Bainbridge to have 31 public access terminals by the end of 1998. Access to information sources outside the conven-

tional library world is another area in which the Bainbridge Public Library is growing and evolving. The graphically oriented computers now allow full access (via the Netscape browser) to the Internet and WorldWide Web, with four terminals specifically programmed for children's use. Combining this with the other facilities of the Linksys system, Islanders have a formidable set of information tools available.

Gifts that keep on giving

Here's a suggestion for Islanders looking for last gifts for graduates, fathers, and others this summer. You can honor a loved one or a family by "buying" a special shelf for just $250, says Pat Putnam, library board member. An engraved name plaque will be permanently attached to a shelf on the library's main floor, and the funds will help the library meet its ever-increasing expense and endowment needs.

A display near the main desk gives details of the bookshelf project. The bookshelves, like other donations to the library, are tax-deductable, and may be charged to Visa or MasterCard if you wish."

All about books

(continued from page 2)

The Sparrow, by Mary Doria Russell (Villard, 1996). When music is heard from outer space, a human mission is sent to make first contact, providing a fascinating but uncomfortable chance to view a new culture and the uncertainties and consequences of first contact are sure to arise.

A Widow for One Year, by John Irving (Random House, 1995). This novel is a wonderful surprise...the usual results of the Bronte's newest followers are saying it's his best since The World According to Garp, Irving comically peoples a world with odd characters from small towns, and publicists, exploring their sexual and artistic choices.

Adult nonfiction

The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to his White Mother, by James McBride (Riverhead, 1996). A portrait of a bi-racial family during the civil rights era with a fascinating cast of characters from his family.

A Match to the Heart, by Gail Ehrlich (Pantheon, 1994). Ehrlich combines memories of a devastating physical trauma and an intense scientific curiosity in her story of survival after being struck by lightning.

For young readers

Catherine, Called Birdy, by Karen Cushman (Clarion, 1994). In this fictional diary of a 13-year-old girl during the Middle Ages, Catherine gleans a tale of poisons of elderly men in San Francisco.

Running in the Family, by Michael Kelly (Vintage, 1993). For those who would like to see the complex individual behind The English Patient, this memoir provides powerful images of Ondaatje's exotic homeland, Sri Lanka, and a vital clue to Spanish treasure while fishing with the Makah. The Story, by Dick King-Smith (Crow, 1996). Mary Poppins meets the Boxcar Children! When 75-year-old Henny runs away from an old people's home, she meets five children and their parents who welcome her into their family.

The Book from Saturday, by E.L. Konigsburg (Atheneum, 1996). In this Newbery Award winner, four students develop a special bond with each other and with their paraplegic teacher, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in an academic competition.

Library hours

The Bainbridge library is open daily:

Mon. - Wed. 10 to 8:30

Tues. - Thurs. - Fri. - Sat. 10 to 5

Sunday 1 to 5
Laps for Library back by demand

"If you build it, they will come"
—Field of Dreams

Two years ago Laps for the Library helped to build the new addition to the Bainbridge Public Library. And Bainbridge Islanders are indeed coming to the building, in record numbers.

To help maintain the high quality of the facility and to provide an endowment for future funding, the Bainbridge Island Library Board plans the return of a classic: Laps for the Library II.

Scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 4, the event will follow the format so overwhelmingly popular the first time around: participants will solicit pledges from friends, neighbors, and co-workers, based on the number of times they circle the high school track during the two-hour period from noon to 2 p.m.

Organizers plan an expanded menu of prizes, including colorful T-shirts for all registrants achieving a certain level of donations. They also anticipate grand prizes similar to those on the previous occasion: a complete Disneyland trip package for four (for the youth (18 or under) raising the most money), and a weekend at The Inn at Semiahmoo for the top adult fund-raiser. Other incentive prizes will be awarded for the second, third, fourth, and fifth-place fundraisers in each category.

In addition, every entrant will receive a ticket to enter the drawing for a number of random prizes.

"Laps was a resounding success, with more than 100 participants raising over $13,000 for the library building. The spirit was captured by young participants like Brendan O'Leary, then a fifth grader at Blakely, who had a Hershey track workout that morning, then stayed to complete more than 10 miles."

Lee Maloney won the Disneyland trip, which was donated by The Travel Exchange, while Scott Sandridge was runner-up in the youth division. Local builder Ted Fairbank won the weekend at The Inn at Semiahmoo. Fairbank also notched the highest number of laps, turning 54 for a total of 11.5 miles, just over a 7 minute mile pace.

But it wasn't necessary to push yourself to have fun. Most of the participants took frequent breaks to enjoy refreshments, then resumed their jaunts around the track.

Event director Jim Whiting, a longtime runner and editor of Northwest Runner magazine for more than 17 years, says "I am delighted to be able to help maintain one of the most heavily-used Bainbridge institutions. Our families use the library constantly. Everyone on the committee was pleased with the way the event turned out for the first time, and we believe that it will be even more successful this fall around."

Though the majority of entrants last time were young people, committee members emphasize that this is an event for everyone.

The average adult could easily walk 6 miles in two hours," they point out, "and that is 24 laps. If they can get 10 a lap, that would be nearly $250 to help out the library."

Organizers anticipate having complete information and pledge materials available by early to mid-August. In the event of inclement weather on the day of the event, it will be rescheduled for the following week.

Volunteers are needed to help with the overall planning of the event, with prize procurement, and with many tasks on the day of the laps. To volunteer, call Whiting at 780-5664.

Got a computer and modem? Then you have a 24-hour library

By ELEANOR WHEELER

Library staff member

And what did you ever wish that the library would be open 24 hours a day? If you have a computer with a modem, we are just telling you the latest way to get in touch with your library by dialing 8420197 (set the display properties to VT-100 and log in as "guest" if you don't have a library account).

Browse through our catalogue or check your own library record. Place a reserve on the materials you want, and they will be ready for you to pick up as soon as possible. If you need to renew any items, you can do this on-line. Kitsap Regional Library has been a leader in providing electronic access, and your KRL library card lets you take full advantage of this.

When you die in, a free Linknet account gives you access to the World Wide Web (text only, sorry no graphics). It also includes free e-mail and our magazine index. Some of the magazines even include the full text of the articles.

If you don't have a Linknet account, you can sign up on-line (8420197) or from our computers at the library. Help is available. If you have a question or two, just ask our staff.

If you feel you need someone to take more time getting you started, one of our volunteers will tutor you (by appointment, please).

To explore the Internet, complete with graphics, come in to the library. We have public-access computers so everyone can have access to the World Wide Web. Whether you want to find a specific site or just surf, you can do it at the Bainbridge Library.

Some of our computers are focused on sites of special interest to children. Many adults also enjoy this section, so it is offered on all of the computers which have Internet access. Computers are a shared resource, so please understand that you may be asked to limit your time.

When you are on the web, visit the Bainbridge site. If you are using an account with graphics (such as AOL or an independent service provider) our home page will be graphical. Start with Kitsap Regional Library, choose "branches" twice, then "Bainbridge". The address (URL) for KRL is www.kitsap.lib.wa.us.

This is the same page that comes up when you choose the World Wide Web from your library terminal. You may also visit us directly at www.kitsap.lib.wa.us/branches/bainbridge/index.html.

We try to include items of local interest, so please tell us what you would like to see.