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Vol. 2, No. 3

Bainbridge Public Library, P.O. Box 11219, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Winter 2000

Mark your calendar

Events will take place in the library unless otherwise noted.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1 New Year's Day. Library closed all day.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5 Library Book Discussion Group, Morality Play by Barry Unsworth. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8 Friends of the Library Book Sale, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 17
Martin Luther King Day. Library closed.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23 Library Speakers Forum: J. Patrick Dobel, "Is Political Ethics a Contradiction?" 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 Library Book Discussion Group, A World Lit Only By Fire: the Medieval Mind and the Renaissance by William Manchester. 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8
Friends of the Library Inquiring Mind
Series. "Edgar Allan Poe—the Poet's
Journey", an interactive presentation by
Paul Smith. 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9 -SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12 Storybook Science Program.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12 Friends of the Library Book Sale 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19 Island Theatre: Play Readings at the Library. 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21
Presidents Day. Library closed all day.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27 Library Speakers Forum. John Henry Browne: "The Status of Justice in America". 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 Library Book Discussion Group, In the Memory of the Forest by Charles Powers. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11 Friends of the Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5 Library Book Discussion Group, The Sunflower: on the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness by Simon Weisenthal. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8 Friends of the Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

ONGOING EVENTS

Library Book Discussion Group First Wednesday of each month. 7 p.m., meeting room. All welcome.

Library Writers Group Every Tuesday, 11 a.m. Friday Tidies Every Friday, 9 a.m.

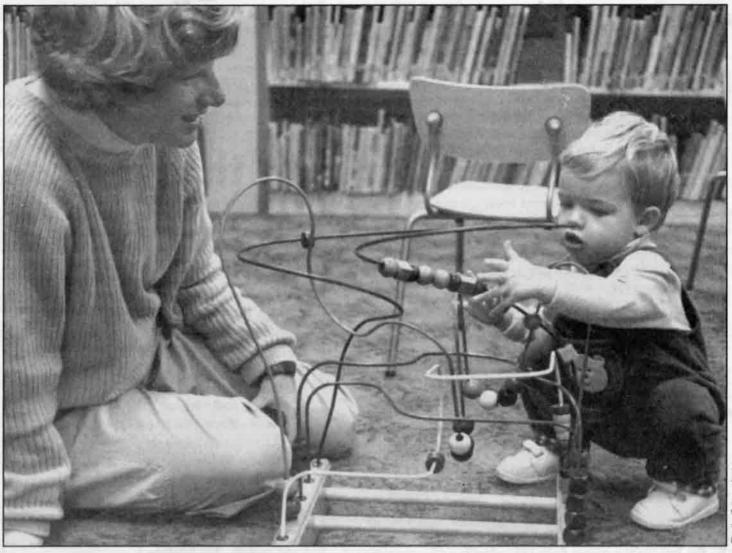
Library Computer Instruction Every Sunday, 1-2 p.m., free.

VIP Resource Group Second Wednesday each month. 1-2 p.m., meeting room.

Senior Computer Hour Every Tuesday, 9-10 a.m.

Storytimes for Terrific Twos Ages 2-3, Mondays 10:30-11 & 11-11:00.

Preschool Storytimes Ages 3-5, Wednesdays, 10:30-11:00.



Anne Griesser and her 18-month-old son Johan relax in the children's library near the recentlyestablished parenting collection. For more on this new library feature, please turn to Page 4.

Despite I-695

Local library services continue to grow, thanks to many Bainbridge volunteers

Cindy Harrison is an optimist. She predicts the new millennium will bring increased services at the Bainbridge Public Library — despite some cost cutting caused by the passage of Initiative I-695.

There'll be some disappointments.

Fines for overdue books will be raised — look for an announcement of new rates soon — and the extended hours

Bainbridge library users had hoped for will be postponed. These changes have been announced by Kitsap Regional

Library, the tax-supported county-wide system which funds staff salaries and materials for local branches.

But thanks to dozens of dedicated library volunteers and gifts by generous Bainbridge residents, most of the services that make the Bainbridge library unique will continue and even grow.

Look for new books and more audiovisual materials this year, as well as increased computer services and continued development of the library grounds.

A focus group of local library users met a few weeks ago with Kitsap Regional Library staff and expressed their hopes for the library in the year 2000. Their No. 1 priority: books, books, and more books, Janet Brookes, Bainbridge Island's representative on the Kitsap Regional Library board, paraphrased a recent campaign slogan when she said last year, "They made it clear. . . It's the books, stupid."

Nothing has changed. This year's focus group requested in particular more of the classics. And the classics continue to arrive as the Roger Stouder Memorial Collection, funded by donations, grows in number and scope.

Islanders also want more unabridged audio-visual aids. And the library has ordered more of these. Technological changes continue to multiply. "We're finding new tools all the time," says Harrison, and thanks again to volunteers, training in the use of these tools continues to grow. (See the story by volunteer Hannette Allen, inside.) Senior citizens now have a special computer training section every Tuesday morning — it's free, the expert help is volunteered

— and a new Sunday-afternoon computer help hour has been initiated.

Branch manager Harrison applauds the work done by volunteer instructors. "Browsing skills must be learned, if people are to make the most of our technology," she says. Harrison has high praise for volunteer coordinator Dianne Knodel and the group of knowledgeable computer users who teach those skills.

Next step, says Harrison, is to set up a Wednesday-evening time for parents and students to come in together for (continued on back page)

Also in this issue:

Storybook Science: New series is designed for young children Page 5
New and noteworthy: Fiction, non-fiction books on the shelves Page 6
Kitsap Regional Library: How it serves Bainbridge Islanders Page 7
Back from the Baltic: Theo and Olga Ruys's latest book project Page 12

Editorial

A story peopled by many individuals

By MARY ANN CAMPBELL

Janus, for whom the month of January was named, was the Roman god of doorways. On the coins of the realm he was depicted with two faces — one looking forward to the future, the other backward to the past, as befitted his job. As we prepare to pass through the doorway to the new millennium, many of us, individual and organization alike, find ourselves looking in both directions like Janus.

The history of the library on Bainbridge is a story peopled by many individuals who, drawing upon their love of learning and literature, turned their faces and endeavors to the future and established what eventually became the Bainbridge Public Library. Today a small group of your fellow Islanders is in the process of turning this story into a book, complete with photographs of the newly remodeled and expanded facility and its extraordinary gardens. Checkered with names from the past and present, interviews and anecdotes, it is a view backward from the doorway and should be out in time for the Library Gala 2000.

Fortunately many Islanders today still show this spirit of support and enrichment. This year the library has been the recipient of many expressions of appreciation and support. Donations honored friends, family and staff. Islanders who have moved away made donations in tribute to the very special place the library held in their lives. Some of our patrons who passed away left bequests to the endowment fund. As more residents realized the library facility and grounds are owned by the people of the Island and operated and maintained through donations, not tax dollars, more residents designated the library as a recipient of their contribution to the Bainbridge Foundation.

Others give time as volunteers. Some serve as Friends of the Library and hold the monthly book sales. Others participate in the exterior garden maintenance with the Tidy Friday crew; still others help care for indoor plants. A core of dedicated people provide computer training and assistance to the patrons. A volunteer board of directors sees to operation and maintenance of the facility and raises funds to meet the expenses. Staff members regularly go to unusual lengths to serve the public.

Some of our neighbors made contributions which will enhance the library well into the 21st century: by establishing and installing the lovely Hardy Fern Garden, by providing funds for special book collections and garden benches, by donating art to the library's growing collection, and by making financial donations to the Bainbridge Library Foundation Endowment Fund.



So no matter which way we look, to the past, the present or the future, we see you reaching out to make our library the place on this Island which reflects the very essence of what makes this community so special.

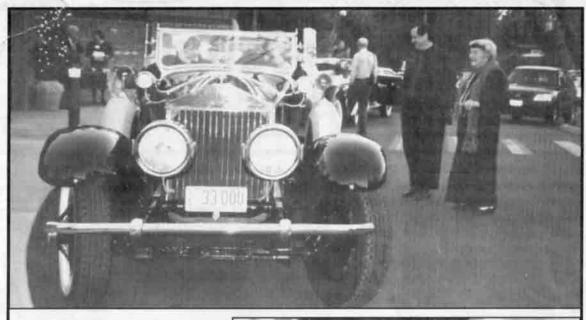
Mary Ann Campbell, library board president, has served for six years as a board member and library volunteer.

LIBRARY NEWS

P.O. Box 11219, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

The Bainbridge Island Library News is published every quarter by the Bainbridge Library Board, a non-profit organization, and distributed to all Island residents and library users. Verda Averill is editor; Peter Harris and Steve Olsen are associate editors.

Board members are: Mary Ann Campbell, president; Verda Averill, Peter Harris, Judy Karr, Jane Brand, Sarah Griffiths, Steve Olsen, Marty Sievertson, Steve Larson, Bruce Martin, Sandra Martin, Hans Rothert, Don Yockey, and Don Harrington; Cynthia Harrison is Bainbridge branch manager.



At the Gala

Highlights of the Library
Gala in September
included a display of
vintage cars and the high
school dancers The
Swingin' Hepcats. Many
guests, including Sandy
Martin, Barbara Winther,
and Dick and Sharon
Abrams (clockwise from
right), came in vintage
costumes. Below,
librarian Cindy Harrison
greets a guest.











From the editor

Gala draws enthusiastic crowd

By VERDA AVERILL

I'll admit it. I don't usually care much for big parties.

Given a choice, I'd prefer a quiet dinner with friends or an evening with a good book over a noisy crowd of back-slapping, boisterous boozers any evening.

But the third annual Bainbridge Library Gala in late September was one big event I wouldn't have missed.

The 150 or 200 guests who attended clearly enjoyed everything about the evening, from the early appearance of rare vintage autos and the high school jazz band to the reluctant departure of the last guests well after the official 9 p.m. closing hour.

In between, guests enjoyed outstanding entertainment, a light supper, and local wines. The Swingin' Hepcats left us breathless and Deborah Cheadle's sentimental rendering of Jazz Age songs made us all feel nostalgic for a time most of us never knew.

Perhaps the best part was

the chance to visit with old friends who are enthusiastic

about our local library.

Tom Olson, who chaired the library board and the building campaign through the 1996-97 expansion phase, was especially welcome. He and his wife Carol, who are moving to Queen Anne this winter, are seldom seen on the Island these days.

Also there was Anne Hauberg, with a group of friends from Seattle; she too now spends most of her time in the city.

Lots of library patrons dressed in vintage costumes; Sandy Martin, Sharon and Dick Abrams, Jane Brand, and Barbara Winther drew special attention for their dress. Winther wore a gown which her grandmother had worn to an inaugural ball in Olympia during the 1920s.

The 1999 Gala was the third in a series of parties to raise funds for the library while celebrating the completion of the new wing and extensive remodeling which doubled the size of the building in 1996-97. It was also the most successful financially — a good thing since maintenance and operation costs of the new building have doubled right along with its size.

Jane Brand and Judy Karr, co-chairs of the event, were enthusiastic about the support given by community members to the fund raising. They've tried to thank all donors personally and are pleased to list those who participated on Page 3.

The only question now: What will be the theme of the Gala 2000?

It's planned tentatively for September or early October 2000, and if it's half as enjoyable as the 1999 party, it will be something very special. Look for announcement of the date in the near future and don't miss it!

Janet West just keeps on giving

By VERDA AVERILL

Janet West gave generously to the library during her lifetime. And today, nearly a year after her untimely death in early 1999, her gifts continue.

Attorneys handling her estate told the library board recently that she had remembered the library in her will.

The gift, a specified percent of her total estate, will mean several thousand dollars for the library. Branch manager Cindy Harrison said there is no restriction on the use of the funds; they may be used wherever the need is greatest. But board members expect that the money will go into the growing library endowment fund.

West knew well the ongoing need for funds the library board faced during the 20th century and will continue to face in the 21st.

She had served as a library board member during the 1980s, and was in fact board chair when the first library expansion was built in 1981-82. As a teacher, parent, and library volunteer she had noted with increasing concern the overcrowding of the original library (opened in 1962) during the 1970s and was determined to do something about the need for space.

She was equally enthusiastic about the second library expansion in 1996-97, and contributed to the major gifts campaign during that project.

Janet West made public service a way of life, and gave to her community

She ran for mayor of the City of Bainbridge Island in 1992 because, she said, "I don't like to see anyone run unopposed. I didn't really expect to be





Seated comfortably on a loveseat in the downstairs children's library, Adrienne Box reads with daughters Alexandra, 6, and Sophia Kasper, 8 weeks old. The seat was donated by Janet West's family to honor the late teacher and library board member. At right, West as she appeared at a library building expansion celebration.

elected."

But she was elected - by an overwhelming majority - and served as mayor for about three years, leading the city to new approaches in multidistrict cooperation and spearheading the plans for a new city hall on Madison Ave. (III health forced her resignation toward the end of her term.)

She also volunteered for other Island causes, including Helpline. But it seems safe to say that the library was one of her greatest loves. As a longtime English teacher at Bainbridge High School, she inspired her students, and her own children and grandchildren, to love books and use the library.

When the newest library expansion

was completed in 1997, the downstairs children's library was greatly expanded and outfitted with comfortable furnishings including, appropriately, a comfortable reading sofa donated in her honor by the family of Janet West.

A personal memory

Janet West conveyed her love of books and appreciation for words and grammar to hundreds of high school students. She encouraged them to read widely and sometimes said, "Books will take you anywhere. . . " My own four children, now grown, rate her among the best teachers they encountered here.

I don't know if she ever tried her hand at writing her own books; certainly as a busy wife and mother and teacher she had little time for that. But she did write for Bainbridge Island readers more than many realized.

I first met Janet in the early 1960s when my husband (the late Dave Averill) and I were buying the Bainbridge Review from Walt and Milly Woodward. As our public meetings reporter (Dave and I were two-thirds of our news staff then) I attended a community forum on future Island growth directed by the University of Washington Department of Community Development. Janet and her husband Ed West chaired the discussion, and a lively one it was. It was my introduction to what the Review called

(continued on back page)

Many Islanders make Library Gala success

It takes a lot of people to make a fund-raiser successful, and the 1999 Library Gala was a major success, raising about \$22,000 for library needs.

'We couldn't have done it without the help of a lot of people," said Jane Brand, who co-chaired the event with Judy

Among those deserving special thanks for their contributions of funds and services are:

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CONTRIBUTORS:

Paul & Debbi Brainerd Rainier Investment Management Harriet Alexander Mr & Mrs Jacques Alloin Paul & Dorothy Amis Robin Baker

Bill & Carol Barrow Richard Blumenthal Ginnilyn Hawkins Ken & Deborah Breiland James & Joan Bromley John & Barb Carver Lydia Classon Bob & Sally Davis Bob & Pauline Deschamps Gerald & Judie Elfendahl Matthew & Jan Fick Ted & Alice Frost Charles & Betty Gates Laura Gowen Al Gunther Annamarie Lavieri Pam Harrison Hal Hurlen Leigh Tatum Bill Nakao Eddy & Evelyn Jacobson Hal & Nancy Johnson Bradley Jones Mac Kennedy Susan Levy Ned & Priscilla Lange Bill & Betsy Lawrence George & Nancy Lobisser R. W. McNeely Jack & Kim MacPherson Tom & Charlotte MacVane Boe & Helen Messett Mr & Mrs Edwin Monk Druse & Eva Neumann Clifford & Dorothy Niederer Erling and Lydia Olsen Setsuo Omoto Jane Pomeroy Arthur & Virginia Redfield Doug & Mary Roben Esther Rounds Edward & Joan Rynearson Rosemarie Schmidt Frank & Joan Seeley Mildred & Howard Smith Clifton Steele

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New picture books, beginning readers' stories, kids' CDs, now on shelves

Young people's librarian Peggy
Hughes has good news for children and
their parents. New picture books,
biographies, other volumes — even CDs
— have appeared on the shelves for
distribution in early 2000.

The listings that follow are just a few of the popular new selections.

The addition of audio-visual materials to the collection for young people has been a great popular success, Hughes said. The CDs go out almost as fast as they come in, so a prompt return of the items after they've been enjoyed is much appreciated by other library users.

New arrivals include:

CD-ROMS

(Functional on Windows and MacIntosh, they may be checked out for three weeks. Limit two per card.)

Amazing Animals. (Dorling Kindersley, c1997). This software for elementary grades serves as an entertaining, educational introduction to the fascinating wonders of the animal kingdom. Includes the "amazing animal expert" interactive resource center, an Internet link-up to the "Amazing Animals" Website and games and contests.

Mayaquest. (The Learning Company, 1997). Retrace the real-life MayaQuest bicycle trek and discover the history, geography and archaeology of Central America," Includes over 1,000 photos, video clips, sound effects and music. Ages 10-16.

PICTURE BOOKS

The Memory Coat by Elvira
Woodruff (Scholastic, 1999). In the early
1900s, two cousins leave their Russian
shtetl with the rest of the family to come
to America, hopeful that they will all pass
the dreaded inspection at Ellis Island.

My Goose Betsy by Trudi Braun (Candlewick Press, 1998). Betsy the goose makes a cozy nest, lays her eggs, and tends to them until her little goslings are hatched. Includes a section with facts about geese.

We Were Tired of Living in a House by Liesel Skorpen (Putnam's Sons, Text c1969, 1999, illus. c1999) Four children move to a tree, a raft, a cave, and finally the seashore, enjoying each new dwelling until they discover its drawbacks.

BEGINNING READER

The Fat Cat Sat on the Mat by Nurit Karlin (Harper Collins, 1996) Rat, with help from his hat and his bat, tries to get the witches' fat cat off the mat and back to his usual place in the vat. Juvenile Fiction

JUVENILE FICTION

I'm Not Who You Think I Am by Peg Kehret (Dutton, 1999). Thirteen-year-old Ginger becomes the target of a disturbed woman who believes that Ginger is her dead daughter.

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key by Jack Gantos (Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1998). To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription meds wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.

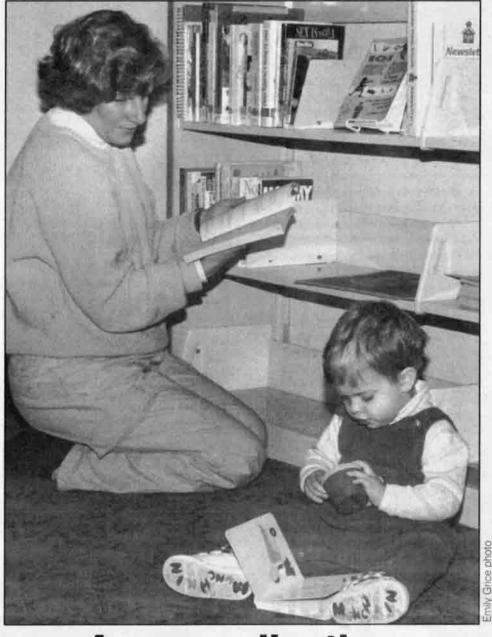
Scrappers #1 Play Ball! By Dean Hughes (Atheneum, 1999). Having failed to get their applications in for the middle-school summer baseball league, Robbie and Trent scramble to find a sponsor, a coach, and enough players to form their own team.

The Trolls by Polly Horvath (Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1999). Eccentric Aunt Sally comes from Canada to babysit the Anderson children while their parents are on a trip to Paris and every night the bedtime story adds another piece to a very suspect family history.

BIOGRAPHY

Restless Spirit: the Life and Work of Dorothea Lange by Elizabeth Partridge (Viking, 1998). A biography of Dorothea Lange, whose photographs of migrant workers, Japanese American internees, and rural poverty helped bring about important social reforms.

(These recommendations were compiled by Peggy Hughes, Bainbridge young people's librarian.)



A new collection

The new parenting collection in the BPL children's library is attracting the attention of young parents who bring their pre-schoolers to library story hours. Anne Griesser and her son Johan, 18 months, discovered the collection recently. "I didn't know it was here," said Griesser. "It's really great to have it." The center is a quick one-stop location for busy parents who find both adult and children's material within one general area. Many of the books are duplicates of material already in the BPL adult nonfiction collection upstairs. Some new titles were purchased with funds from the Bainbridge Friends of the Library.



January is Books, Birds and Bees Month at Bainbridge Gardens...

Join us on Ann Lovejoy Day Saturday, January 22, 2000 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

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Storybook Science programs offer youngsters library hours combining science and reading

A special series of programs for children from pre-kindergarten through the third grade comes to the Bainbridge Public Library in February.

The Pacific Science Center, Washington Mutual, and the Kitsap Regional Library System have teamed up to present four new Storybook Science programs.

"Come to the library for an hour of science and reading," says young people's librarian Peggy Hughes. "Listen to one of your favorite stories and explore the science behind the fiction through fun activities."

The programs are designed for children of Pre-K age (4 and 5-year-olds) through third grade.

"Thanks to generous underwriting from Washington Mutual, there is no fee for the Storybook Science program," Hughes added.

Space in each program is limited to 30, so pre-registration is required. To register call the Bainbridge library at 842-4162. All programs, which run February 9, 10, 11, and 12, will be presented in the large meeting room on the main floor.

Three programs will be presented each school day: one for pre-schoolers, one for kindergarten through third graders, and an afternoon program for all ages. Each program will last about an hour.

The Wednesday program will replace the basic preschool storytime usually

scheduled for 10:30-11.

Programs in the special series are listed below, with story title, science topic, appropriate grade, and time.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Hey, Little Ant (Ants), Pre-K age, 10:30 a.m.

Insects Are My Life (Insects), K-3, 12:30 p.m.

A Bad Case of Stripes (Color), All grades, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Squish! (Wetlands), Pre-K, 10:30 a.m. Grandpa Takes Me to the Moon (Moon and Solar Systems), Pre-K, 10:30 a.m. When Agnes Caws (Birds), All ages, 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

The Puddle (Boats), Pre-K, 10:30 a.m. The Full Belly Bowl (Math), K-3, 12:30 p.m.

The Toll-Bridge Troll (Bridges), All ages, 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

What's Under the Bed? (Geology), All ages, 10:30 a.m. Rotten Teeth (Teeth), All, 12:30 p.m. Weslandia (Plants), All, 2:30 p.m. Music Over Manhattan (Sound), All, 4 p.m.

Regular Storytimes begin January 19

The usual story hours for children



Vern Nakata and daughter Lindsey look over a book for preschoolers and a puppet that appeals to youngsters

will continue this winter beginning January 19, says Peggy Hughes.

Preschool Storytimes for children 3 to 5 years old will be held on successive Wednesdays: January 19, 26 and February 2, 16, and 23. (The regular February 9 program will be replaced by the special Storybook Science program for which registration is required.)

Regular Preschool Storytimes are from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. No advance registration is needed for these, which are held in the children's library downstairs.

Storytimes for Terrific Twos, 2 - 3 year olds, are scheduled for successive Mondays in January and February: January 24, 31 (the library is closed January 17), February 7, 14, and 28 (library closed February 21). Advance registration is required for these.

All parents are invited to bring their youngsters to the special story hours; families new to the community are especially welcome.

Coretta Scott King Award books

If you can dream it, you can have it

By EMILY GRICE

Virginia Hamilton's motto understates the work and talent behind the awards she has received for children's books. Now she has undertaken publicizing the Corretta Scott King

Award which she has received The CSK award was first presented in 1970.

Thirty years later, the selection committee is veering away from just "black is beautiful" to citing books that promote the "creation of a more inclusive, more tolerant society." Topics



Young people's librarian Peggy Hughes reads to children during **Preschool Storytimes**

have broadened from African-American historical accounts or oral traditions, to examination of issues that affect all of us. The authors consistently receive other awards and recognitions, and their publishers are prestigious.

Awards come in many sizes and credibility. We all use them as guideposts for selecting our children's reading.

Since 1922 the American Library Association has been screening children's literature for the most prestigious Newberry Award. The ALA also gives the Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal, the Mildred L. Batchelder Award, The Pura Belpre Award, and the Best Book and Notable citations. Fourteen other national organizations give awards

The Coretta Scott King Award and the Americas Award are unique because of their narrow focus on authors from particular cultural heritages. The CSK has a long track record. Its selections

have withstood the test of time, and the CSK medallion on a book is worth looking for.

Now the CSK award program has grown. The Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe Award for new talent was founded in 1995. The criteria for eligibility match the CSK for quality and stipulate that the winner have less than three published works, and cannot have received the CSK award in the previous year. This year's winners are Deborah Chocolate's The Piano Man, and Sharon Flake's The Skin I'm In. Both books are available at our library.

Sharon Flake's book is receiving other awards, too.

Yes, Virginia, these are promising artists and authors who need our attention to grow. And our attention to reading these works will help our children grow in a richer society.

They, too, can dream it as they read. (Emily Grice is a Bainbridge Island photographer and writer.)

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Novels, non-fiction, a police procedural vie for readers' attention in the new year

These reading recommendations come from the staff, board, and volunteers at the Bainbridge Public Library. All are available from the Bainbridge Library, either in the branch collection or from one of the other branches of the Kitsap Regional Library system.

Before You Sleep, by Linn Ullman (Viking, 1999). A debut novel about Norwegian family life that is touching, funny, occasionally surreal, and highly original. The author is the daughter of Ingmar Bergman and Liv Ullman. Mom and Dad must be proud.

The Book Club, by Mary Alice
Monroe (Harlequin, 1999). If you are on
the hold list for Saving Graces (by
Patricia Gaffney), you might consider
reading The Book Club while you wait.
Both books are about groups of women
friends who discuss books, but also
support each other through life's trials—
cancer, troubled marriages, pregnancies,
changes in status. They are wonderful
stories of women's friendship.

Daughter of Fortune, by Isabel
Allende (Harper Collins, 1999).
California in Gold Rush days is the
setting for Isabel Allende's tumultuous
new novel, as South Americans, Chinese,
and Anglos come seeking their fortunes.
Among these is a most audacious heroine
who seeks instead her own destiny.

Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History, by Erik Larson (Crown, 1999). This story of the hurricane that devastated Galveston in 1900 will have hostile weather junkies on the edge of their seats. It is also about the development of the U.S. weather service, the scientific hubris of turn-of-the-century America, and how people behave in a crisis. Lots of food for thought.

The Language of Threads, by Gail Tsukiyama (St. Martin's, 1999). This sequel to Women of the Silk takes the "silk sisters" through the turbulence of wartime China and into the 1970s. Amid the harshness of the time and place, the author finds beauty, devotion, and serenity.

100 Banned Books, by Nicholas Karolides, Margaret Bald, and Dawn Sova (Seven Bridges Press, 1999). An overview of literature suppressed on political, religious, sexual, and social grounds. For each book the authors give the reasons for the ban, court cases involved, and a bibliography for further reading. A fascinating study of censorship.

The Short History of a Prince, by Jane Hamilton (Random House, 1998). This is a touching story of a young man with a passion (but no talent) for a career in ballet. Set in the backdrop of a summer home in Wisconsin, it is a wonderful novel about art, talent, friendship, family, sexuality, and redemption.

Sidetracked, by Henning Mankell (New Press, 1999). An unusually involving police procedural from one of Sweden's most highly regarded crime novelists. Inspector Kurt Wallender is thoughtful, caring, and very thorough, while wrestling with his own midlife issues.

A Star Called Henry, by Roddy Doyle (Viking, 1999). A breathtaking fictionalized account of the fight for Irish independence in the early decades of the 20th century, told from the perspective of a very unlikely hero.

Waiting, by Ha Jin (Pantheon, 1999). A Chinese army doctor and nurse must wait 18 years before he can divorce his first wife (chosen by his parents), and the lovers can marry. This moving novel is strongly evocative of Chinese social life in the People's Republic of the 1960s-1980s, with the turbulent political events of those decades forming only a distant backdrop.

Words Fail Me, by Patricia O'Connor (Harcourt Brace, 1999). As in her earlier book, Woe is I (Putnam, 1998), the author writes humorously about "what everyone who writes should know about writing." The book can be enjoyed for the pure pleasure of reading how O'Connor puts words together.

(These recommendations were compiled by Steve Olsen, board member.)

Read more about the Panama Canal transfer

By GAIL CHRISTENSEN

At noon on December 31, 1999, the Panama Canal will be completely owned by the Panamanians.

What will be the effect of the canal transfer on transportation? Will the canal remain open? What about costs?
Repairs? U. S. military usage? Will the Chinese become involved? Or the Germans?

Having personally traveled through the canal aboard a sailboat, twice in 1992 and once in 1997, I've been interested in the changes occurring and decided to do some research at the library, where I found books and videos on the topic.

The most recent and easiest to understand book is *The Panama Canal Transfer: Controversy at the Crossroads* by Susan Dudley Gold (1999). This has



Boats cruise through the Panama Canal in 1997

great information plus a bibliography of books at various reading levels, videos, and websites. Other material available here on Bainbridge is:

Portrait of the Panama Canal by

William Friar (1996). Growing up in the Canal Zone.

Panama in Pictures by Geography Department, Lerner Publishing Co. (1987). Illustrations and information.

Panama and the United States: Divided by the Canal by Edmund Lindop (1997). Discussion of the events leading up to the transfer.

Panama Canal by Tim McNeese (1997). Personal experiences.

The Path Between the Seas: the Creation of the Panama Canal, 1870-1914 by David McCullough (1977). Premier history of the Panama Canal.

You too can find answers to your questions about current events by using the library resources as I did.

(Gail Christensen is a Bainbridge Public Library staff member.)



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Kitsap Regional Library supplies books and pays salaries of library staff

By VERDA AVERILL

(First in a series on the Kitsap Regional Library and its connection with the Bainbridge Public Library.)

Newcomers to Bainbridge Island often ask about the relationship between the Bainbridge Public Library and the Kitsap Regional Library.

In fact, more than a few old-timers don't understand it either. It's a connection that seems at once simple and very complicated.

And the Kitsap Regional Library system, which serves a variety of communities but does not own their library buildings, is apparently unique in this country. At least branch librarian Cindy Harrison, who attends a lot of regional and national library conferences, knows of no other library group quite like it.

There is, for example, the matter of

"Don't I pay for the library when I pay my taxes?" asks a new Island resident.

The answer is yes, indeed you do. It's the Kitsap Regional Library that gets your tax money. KRL uses the funds to pay for books and staff salaries. Many of the books in the Bainbridge library are supplied by KRL, and all of our librarians' salaries come from the KRL budget. (The Bainbridge Public Library has no payroll.)

The Bainbridge Public Library building, however, is NOT owned by KRL, but by the people of Bainbridge Island through a non-profit corporation. That's why local volunteers are always asking for funds to cover maintenance and operation expenses.

The total library, building and staff together, is thus the product of a special public/private partnership: the public, tax-supported KRL and the private, volunteerrun Bainbridge Island Public Library.





The KRL link

Joe Gonzales (above and left) drives the familiar Kitsap Regional Library van on its daily delivery run from Bremerton to Bainbridge.

The branches

The Kitsap Regional Library includes nine community branches: Bainbridge Island, Bremerton, Central, Kingston, Little Boston, Manchester, Port Orchard, Poulsbo, and Silverdale.

Bainbridge is by far the most active branch, and borrows about 20 percent of the total items circulated. The bookstore value of the more than 338,000 items borrowed in 1997 was about \$6.5 million, assuming an average cost per item of \$19. In 1999, with circulation climbing rapidly to 400,000 and the cost of books and other materials escalating, the bookstore value is much higher. Islanders are getting a lot for our tax money.

And KRL supplies more than reading material and audio-visual items.

"Branch libraries are like armies they require tremendous amounts of behind-the-scenes support," said Ellen Newberg, director of the Kitsap Regional Library, during a recent visit to Bainbridge.

The Bainbridge staff is complemented by additional KRL staff who perform a variety of support functions: selecting and weeding hard copy and electronic materials, ordering and processing materials, courier service, daycare and homebound services, administrative functions such as planning and training personnel, and more.

Most of this work is done at the sprawling Kitsap Regional Library headquarters in East Bremerton near Harrison Hospital

The people

It takes a lot of people to perform all these services, and we'll introduce you to some of them in coming issues of the Library News. If you'd like to meet them in person, drop in at the headquarters on Sylvan Way and look around.

If you call first and talk with Trese Williamson you might be lucky enough to get a tour of the facility and shake hands with some of the staff, as I did recently. Williamson, a Bainbridge Island resident, was the volunteer campaign coordinator during the Bainbridge building fund drive in 1996-97; she's now a salaried KRL staff member in charge of community relations.

Other Islanders on the regional staff include fiction coordinator Martha Knappe; Michael Schuyler, who supervises the library computer services; and Carol Gill Schuyler.

Joe's the link

Circulating thousands of items from the regional library to the Bainbridge branch and back again doesn't just happen.

Each weekday around 10:30 or 11 a.m. a brown van pulls up to the loading zone here and a driver begins unloading dozens of heavy boxes filled with materials for Bainbridge readers and listeners.

Most days, Joe Gonzales is the driver. He's been delivering books for more than a dozen years, since Pope and Talbot closed down the Port Gamble mill where he used to work.

Joe loves his job. Books are important to him, and he'd like to become a writer some day. He hopes to take some college writing courses soon, but only part time.

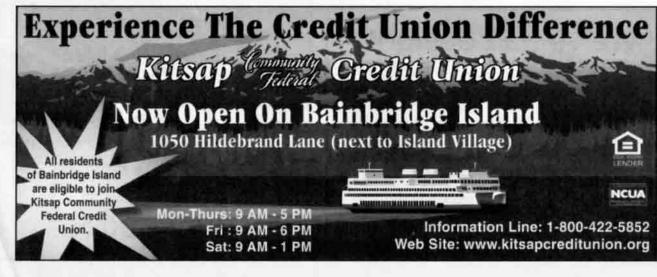
"I'd never quit my day job doing this," he says with a big smile.

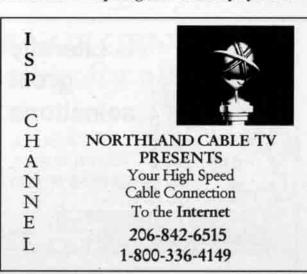
Bainbridge library staffers say that's good news. They look forward to his arrival, not just for the materials he brings but for his unfailing good nature.

"He's really special," says branch manager Cindy Harrison.

And he is a vital link between the Bainbridge Island branch and the regional headquarters in Bremerton.

Ellen Newberg (left) joins other librarians in turning a spadeful of dirt at the groundbreaking for the new Bainbridge Island Library in 1996. Newberg is director of the Kitsap Regional Library system.





Senior citizens get computer help

By HANNETTE ALLEN

Attention, all senior citizens.

Whether you would like to introduce yourself to the Kitsap Regional Library computer system or want to learn more about what computers can do to enhance your life, you are welcome to use the Bainbridge Island Library's computers at any time the library is open.

But seniors have an additional perk the "Seniors Can" program, under the direction of Dianne Knodel. Every Tuesday morning from 9 to 10, the library is closed to the general public but open (free of charge) to any seniors who would like to come in and use the computers. Help is available to get you started, and show you how to, for instance:

- Send and receive e-mail; keep your email in a private file; print out e-mail .
- Navigate the Internet (World Wide Web).
- Use the library's computerized catalog system to locate or place books on hold, as well as to find CDs, periodicals, newspapers, etc. The computer can also be used to locate particular subjects in books and periodicals, in seconds. This system does everything an old-fashioned card catalog did, and a lot more.
- Use the "quick reference" system, for easy access to encyclopedias,

dictionaries, calculators, almanacs, weather information and tide tables.

Many seniors find they enjoy the relative privacy and quiet of this time every Tuesday, as well as the help available; once they have learned what they need to know, they come in more



Hannette Allen volunteers to help seniors

often during the week.

The Sept. 13, 1999 Wall Street Journal had a special insert (available at the library) which featured several fascinating articles about why seniors

need the Internet and e-mail access. One is entitled, "Jumping Online ... Yes, it's chaotic, overhyped and filled with junk, but here's why you need the Net." Another is, "E-Mail: Restoring the Village.

The two articles describe how seniors have become a lively crowd using computers to do the following:

- Keep in touch with friends and family all over, free of charge. A phone call with a relative, when it's gone, is simply a memory. You can't savor it or see it. E-mail allows us to think and form our ideas more clearly. And the sender and receiver don't both have to be sitting at the computer at the same time.
- Track down old friends and relatives. (I personally found my best friend from high school, after 40 years. She lives in Florida, and we have been gabbing via e-mail ever since.)
 - Trace genealogy.
 - Buy and sell merchandise.
- Make travel plans, including information about airline fares and schedules; see maps of roads and street maps of cities all over the country and distances between places; investigate Elderhostel programs.
- Visit the health sites, with huge amounts of information about traditional and holistic medicine.
 - Keep track of the stock market.
- Use the many "chat groups," forums, or bulletin boards, to talk with

online friends about any subject. There are bulletin boards specifically for seniors.

- Keep up with religious, political, and cultural news, worldwide and locally. Get up-to-date voter information.
- Look up any address or phone number in the country, get zip codes.
- Read reviews of movies and videos.
- Browse through today's edition of hundreds of newspapers from all over the country.
- Get how-to instructions for knitting, cooking, gardening, household repairs, etc.
- See works of art from all the world's museums.
 - Get the latest ferry schedule.
- Find out about festivals, concerts, sporting events in advance.
- Or even, get married! One 81year-old couple met as pen pals on the Internet and eventually got married; they

are now happily computing side by side! We can't promise you a marriage, but we can promise to help you open the door on a wonderful new world, with lots of friendly help and fun every Tuesday morning at the Bainbridge Library. Come once, or hundreds of times; once you get hooked, you'll join a fascinating new fellowship of other seniors who have joined the online crowd.

(Hannette Allen is a volunteer with the Seniors Can group.)

Investment research at Kitsap Regional Library

By BETH McCONAUGHEY

We have many fine tools for researching investments in the Kitsap Regional Library system, including books, periodicals, purchased online databases, and access to innumerable websites.

A wonderful introduction to investing is The First Book of Investing: the Absolute Beginners Guide to Building Wealth Safely.

This book explains in clear, understandable language the ins and outs of investments, the different kinds of investments, how to determine what kind of an investor you are and, accordingly, the sorts of investments you should look

Beginning with books and periodicals, the most frequently used source is the ValueLine series, constantly updated material on individual companies. I would recommend the Study Guide that accompanies it, How to Invest in Common Stocks: A Guide to Using the Value Line Investment Survey. The more one understands about how Value Line researches and ranks its findings, the more useful Value Line will

Morningstar is a similar resource for investigating mutual funds. It gives excellent capsule summaries of funds which are continuously updated. It categorizes the funds in an easy-to-read form, and ranks stocks much as ValueLine, with a five-star rating being the highest

Again, it is important to read the introduction on how to use Morningstar, which is found in the front cover pocket of the binder.

We also have Moody's Handbooks, and Standard & Poor's Guides to different categories of stocks (large-cap, NASDAQ stocks, etc.)

Among our purchased, or proprietary, online databases, I recommend the Infotrac/IAC BusinessFileASAP. It not only carries current articles about individual companies (even private ones) but also has company information (address, officers, SIC categories, sales, etc.) and also compiles brokerage reports on those companies which are public.

For other online resources, try our Reference pages Business and Investment. We have compiled a list of websites which can give a lot of

information about individual stocks and mutual funds, and about the stock exchanges themselves. (The introduction to the New York Stock Exchange Getting Started is a particularly good site). There is an online tutorial on how to research investments on the net.

Also of note is a website that rates

research sites, called Stock Research Sites on the Web (at the top of the list of Money, Finance and Investment sites). It was put together by the Foster Business Library at University of Washington.

(Beth McConaughy is business and investments librarian at Kitsap Regional Library.)

VIP room gets new equipment

State-of-the-art computer equipment recently acquired by the library will assist individuals with any level of vision impairment in reading documents, using e-mail, and accessing the Internet.

Supported by a grant awarded to the Kitsap Regional Library, the equipment includes a Pentium processor, 21-inch monitor, scanner, laser printer, and voice synthesizer. Accompanying software includes a screen magnifier, screen reader, and optical character recognition.

Zoom Text offers two to 16-times magnification of text and images as well as numerous color and contrast options. This software can be used independently or in conjunction with Jaws, a voice synthesizer which will read aloud to the user the text on the screen. Open Book will scan the text of any document (letter, periodical, or book) into the computer. The scanned text can then be magnified with Zoom Text or read to the user by the voice synthesizer.

The new equipment is installed in the VIP Room on the lower level of the library. Any visually impaired person who would like to use the equipment should sign up in advance at the reference desk on the main level. Instruction in the use of the equipment is available. Inquire at the reference desk.



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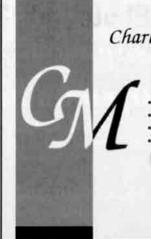


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Library drama to be ready for Gala

By VERDA AVERILL

Sharon Abrams is an avid reader, and she loves the expanded Bainbridge Public Library.

"I was in the library one day, and I looked around and said to myself, 'This is such a great story. It needs to be told," she recalls. "Someone should really do a book about it."

She called Tom Olson, library board president during the 1996-97 expansion phase, and told him she had an idea.

"He told me it wasn't an original idea, but that to his knowledge nobody else was working on it," she said.

That was all the encouragement Abrams needed.

She decided to assemble a group of talented Bainbridge Islanders to produce a beautiful book that would tell the story of how this community built a gem of a library through a special public/private partnership (the tax-supported Kitsap Regional Library and the private citizens of Bainbridge Island). A central theme of the book: "to acknowledge and celebrate these partnerships".

The group came together quickly. As Abrams talked with friends and neighbors, names of gifted artists kept coming up.

"Tom mentioned Linda Younker as a great garden photographer," Sharon said. "I called her and told her about my idea. She didn't have a clue who I was, but she said 'That's a great idea.'

Abrams was determined to produce a book "consistent with the quality of the library".

And Younker suggested the first step was to get a first-rate art director.

Friends recommended O. Kern Devin as the outstanding candidate for that job and he too accepted the challenge gladly.

"We got together and talked about who would write this," Abrams said. "We didn't want it to be academic. We did want it to be unique, and I was concerned about how the pages would look. . .

"I work on intuition. You know when you're on the right track. And one day I thought about my friend (and neighbor) Barbara Winther. . . She has a fantastic skill as an interviewer. I feel she is such a terrific gift to this community. , . She has



interviewed these older people (for the book) and given them a chance to tell their stories."

Winther was asked, and agreed enthusiastically, to join in the book project. And all members of the book group volunteered to work without

Winther, an award-winning playwright, decided to tell the library story as a drama in five acts: "They Like Noble Causes".

As the project progressed, others joined the group. Art Grice became the lead photographer. Joel Sackett was added because of his portrait photography. And Mary Randlett became the fourth member of the photography team. A friend, Joan Brumley,

contributed in various ways. Another friend, Bob Screen, first suggested the choice of art director. It's a loosely organized group with just one purpose: production of an outstanding volume that will be a work of art and a tribute to the library and the people who built it.

Abrams is the catalyst, the coordinator, the business manager. And she has the generous support of her husband, Dick, who is also an avid reader and library enthusiast.

"My original idea was a black and white book," Abrams said. "But what we are doing is in glorious technicolor ... It will be an expensive book to produce, but I think it is worth doing."

The book is now in its final stages of pre-press production. Winther has



Barbara Winther (left) looks over a book layout by art director Kern Devin; Sharon Abrams (right) is coordinator of the library book project.

finished writing and is checking over her copy. Devin has completed designs for two or three chapters and is working on the final acts. Most of the photographs have been collected.

Early in the year 2000 the finished copy will go to the type shop for prepress finishing and then, in the spring, to the press. Abrams is now getting bids from the top Pacific Northwest book presses.

If everything goes according to schedule - and to date all deadlines have been met - the book will be available for distribution at the Library Gala 2000 next fall (and for holiday gifts at the end of the year). Pre-publication orders may be taken sometime in the spring or early summer.

All profits from the sale of the book will go to the library, to be used wherever needed, Abrams said.

And she hopes that the story of the Bainbridge Public Library, "They Like Noble Causes," will stimulate interest and growth in community libraries wherever it is read.



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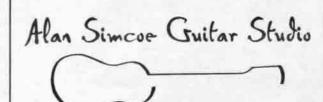
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Library adds to audio book collection

Abridged and unabridged, the Library continues to add many new titles to its collection of audio books. Listening to books-on-tape can be a marvelous introduction to an author, or a good way to while away a long car or airplane trip. Check out the selections listed below, or search the online catalog using "Sound Recording" as Subject/Title keywords, and then other keywords such as mystery or fiction. Books-on-tape from any of the Kitsap Regional Library branches can be requested in person or online.

FICTION

Voyage of the Narwhal, by Andrea Barrett (9 cassettes, 13 hours) This dramatic story of the 1855 voyage of the Narwhal, whose purpose was to find the lost expedition of Sir John Franklin, focuses on the mistrust felt between Zeke Voorhees, the charismatic young commander of the expedition, and his brother-in-law, Erasmus Darwin Wells, the ship's naturalist.

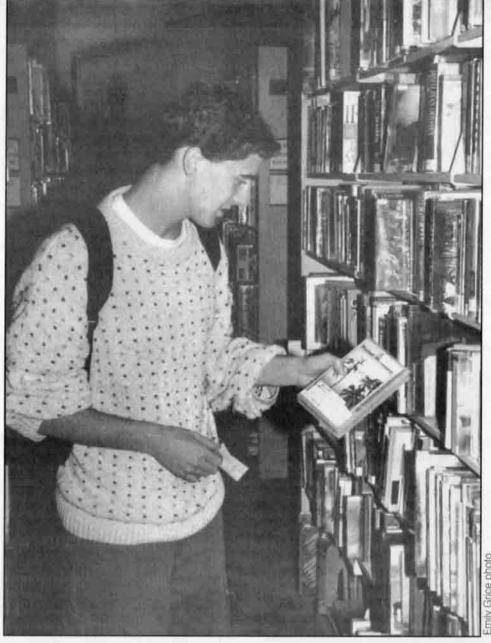
Range of Motion, by Elizabeth Berg (6 cassettes, 5+ hours) As Jay Berman lies for weeks in a coma, his young wife Lainy holds on to the belief that he will recover. She also must learn to rely on the enduring bonds of friendship and the power of love to see her through this experience.

Bridget Jones's Diary, by Helen Fielding (6 cassettes, 8.5 hours) As recorded for a year in a diary, thirtyish, unmarried Bridget confides her hopes, dreams and wildly fluctuating poundage, as she searches endlessly for Mr. Right.

Homeland & Other Stories, by Barbara Kingsolver (6 cassettes, 7 hours) This collection of short stories showcases Kingsolver's knowledge of human nature and amazing ability to make the ordinary seem extraordinary.

Mama, by Terry McMillan (8 cassettes, 9 hours) Feisty Mildred Peacock remains determined to raise her five children well, even though men come and go in her life as quickly as her paycheck.

East of the Mountains, by David Guterson (6 cassettes, 9 hours) With just a few months to live, retired heart surgeon Ben Givens sets out across the Cascades on a hunting trip, planning to



Ben Belieu looks for videos assigned in world history class at Bainbridge High School.

take his own life. Circumstances and his own memories ultimately help derail his plans

NON-FICTION

A Walk in the Woods, by Bill Bryson (4 cassettes, 6 hours) Bill Bryson proves that the journey is the destination when he sets out one March morning to walk 2,100 miles along the Appalachian Trail.

The Perfect Storm, by Sebastian Junger (6 cassettes, 9 hours) Sebastian Junger not only tells the riveting story of a doomed ship caught in what some meteorologists have called the storm of the century, he also provides a fascinating view of the modern day fishing industry.

The Greatest Generation, by Tom Brokaw (9 cassettes, 12.75 hours) In this moving tribute to the World War II generation, Tom Brokaw has compiled reminiscences of the famous as well as everyday people whose heroism and sacrifice changed the course of American history.

The Beak of the Finch, by Jonathan Weener (11 cassettes, 15.25 hours)

Jonathan Weener recounts the study of thirteen varieties of finches that Peter and Rosemary Grant undertook on one of the most remote Galapagos Islands. The Grants documentation shows that evolutionary change is both dynamic and constant.

All Over But the Shoutin', by Rick Bragg (8 cassettes, 11.5 hours) This moving recollection of a life on the margins of society is the tale of Rick Bragg, who grew up dirt-poor in Alabama, yet eventually became a Pulitzer Prize winning reporter for the New York Times.

Be Sweet: A Conditional Love Story, by Roy Blount (2 cassettes, 3 hours) In this hilarious yet moving personal memoir, Roy Blount attempts to expose the maddening subtext of his relationship with his mother.

(These descriptions and recommendations were compiled by Martha Knappe, library staff member.)

News briefs

ALL LOCAL WRITERS are welcome at the meetings of the Library Writers Group, every Tuesday morning at 11 in the library (usually in the small meeting room downstairs).

ANN LOVEJOY'S Best Bets for Gardening Books will be discussed Saturday, January 22, at Bainbridge Gardens from 1 to 4 p.m. Lovejoy, the garden guru who writes and lectures for readers and gardeners throughout North America, also supervises the development and care of the Bainbridge Public Library gardens. Here's your chance to meet her in person and pick up ideas for mid-winter garden reading and planning.

COMING IN APRIL: Jim Trelease, author of The Read-Aloud Handbook, is coming to Bainbridge Island April 26 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Bainbridge Island school PTSOs are sponsoring his talk, at Sakai School. Trelease is known for his inspirational presentations, and the free program will be of interest to anyone who enjoys reading, children, or reading to children. A copy of his book is in the Bainbridge Public Library juvenile collection, 372.6 Treleas.



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She's a seven-year library veteran, soccer mom too

If her face looks familiar, it may be because Narda Hedlund has worked at the Bainbridge Public Library for seven years now, often behind the main checkout desk

You'll find her on duty about four days a week, plus one weekend a month.

Narda is from New Mexico and majored in history and English at the University of New Mexico.

She began working at the Bainbridge library soon after moving to Washington with her family.

Like most staff members, Hedlund loves books and enjoys reading when she has some spare time.

"I read almost anything," she says, but especially mysteries by Sara Paretsky and other contemporary writers. She's also a fan of Elizabeth George and looks forward to reading her new work soon.

Another favorite hobby, weather permitting, is working in the garden of the house she and her husband, Dennis, bought this year in Kingston.

Like many mothers, she spends a fair



Narda Hedlund

amount of time running her 9-year-old daughter, Sara, to soccer practices and games.

The new home is "the main thing in our lives right now", she says. It brought changes, including a new school for Sara. But it means an easy commute for her husband, who works in Edmonds, and the house and yard were just what they

Expedition of Endurance a story for all ages

Ernest Shackleton's amazing 1914-1917 expedition to the Antarctic has the power to fascinate readers of all ages. Young people have a new book to enjoy on the subject. Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance, by Jennifer Armstrong (Crown, 1999) includes pictures from the ship's photographer, bibliographical references, and an index. Another, more simplified non-fiction account for young people is Trapped by Ice!, written and illustrated by Michael McCurdy (Walker, 1997).

A fictionalized version of the events from the perspective of the ship's cat is Mrs. Chippy's Last Expedition: the Remarkable Journal of Shackleton's Polar-bound Cat, by Caroline Alexander (HarperCollins, 1999). Included are footnotes from the crew's diaries and

photographs up through the moment Shackleton decided the explorers would have to march across the frozen sea towing their lifeboats. The fate of Mrs. Chippy is not revealed in the book!

For adults there are many book to choose from: South: the Last Antarctic Expedition of Shackleton and Endurance, by Ernest Shackleton himself (Lyons, 1998); Shackleton's Boat Journey, by F.A. Worsley (Norton, 1987); Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage, by Alfred Lansing (Carroll and Graf, 1986); Shackleton, by Roland Huntford (Carroll and Graf, 1998); and The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition, by Caroline Alexander (Knopf, 1998).

(Gail Christensen is a staff member at the Bainbridge Public Library.)

Islander's new book takes a fresh approach to history

Bainbridge Island author A. E. Jeffcoat has written a book that sails against the flood tide of doomsday books depicting the decline of America and its

Spirited Americans, to be published in January 2000 by Winslow House Books of Seattle, is a history book for general readers. It takes a novel approach by tracing the origins, history, and future of the trait Americans have made famous: their optimistic spirit, in both good and tragic times.

Historian James MacGregor Burns, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of presidential biographies and professor emeritus, Williams College, heaps high praise on the book, which he calls "a literary and historical achievement as we enter the new century."

"At a time of continuing moral and political malaise in America it is good to see this fresh approach to our history, as spirited in substance as it is in its title. Jeffcoat offers discriminating hope for America, solidly based on the great leaders and the great achievements of the past - and he renews our hope for the future," Burns writes.

A hopeful book

The book is hopeful, pointing out recent signs that Americans want to reverse the moral decline that is one explanation for public malaise.

Attempting to restore balance to Americans' self-appraisal at the millennium, Spirited Americans goes back to the Puritans, the founders, the poets of democracy, and the transcontinental trekkers to examine the roots of American idealism and optimism and determine whether they can be renewed in the new century.

Early copies of the book will arrive at Kitsap Regional Library in a few weeks.

About the author

A. E. Jeffcoat turned to full-time writing in the Northwest after a career as foreign correspondent, corporate executive, and communications

As a young foreign correspondent for the Wall Street Journal he was based in

London and then, as bureau chief, in Paris, writing front-page feature articles and editorial page features on European political and social issues.

Back in America he continued to write for the Journal on politics, foreign affairs, business, and labor.

He has written articles for the Harvard Business Review, Reader's Digest, The Christian Science Monitor, and Nation's Business.

Thinking roots

Jeffcoat traces his "thinking roots" to William Henry Grimes, the Journal editor who laid out the newspaper's philosophy in the year Jeff started working in France.

"We believe in the individual, in his wisdom and decency," Grimes wrote. "We oppose all infringements on individual rights, whether they stem from attempts at private monopoly, labor union monopoly, or from an overgrowing government. . . We are not much interested in labels but if we were to choose one, we would say we are radical. Just as radical as the Christian doctrine."

Before turning to full-time, independent writing, Jeffcoat held executive positions at Ford Motor Company and IBM, and was president of his own consulting firm, Jeffcoat Schoen & Morrell. He is honorary founder/ chairman of the internationally renowned Manhattan Theatre Club.

He graduated from Williams College with a degree in American history and literature and received his graduate degree from the University of Michigan. He spent six years researching and writing Spirited Americans and is now at work on a new book with a philosophical orientation.

A Northwest effort

Spirited Americans is an all-Northwest undertaking.

The publisher, Winslow House Books, is located in Seattle. Author Jeffcoat now lives on Bainbridge Island. The book designer and typographer is Steve Herold of Lasergraphics and Books A to Z in Seattle. And the first-run digital printing is by CCS Digital of Redmond.

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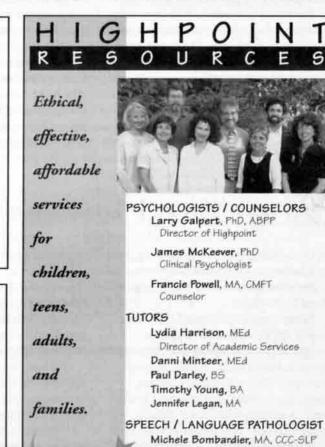
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Books from Bainbridge to the Baltic

Lithuanian libraries benefit from Ruys efforts

By VERDA AVERILL

Theo and Olga Ruys are home on Bainbridge now, after a 10-month stay in Lithuania.

They left for the Baltic country early this year on a get-acquainted trip to determine the need for books in English at Lithuanian schools and colleges.

The Bainbridge Island residents have spent most of the past decade traveling to Belarus to distribute books in English, more than 60,000 while they were there and another 60,000 after they left. Now, with books in English on shelves at many Belarus universities, libraries, and reading rooms, they have turned over the management of those book centers to local administrators. They're ready to move on to neighboring Lithuania.

They knew little about the country when they arrived. This first visit was largely for fact finding and getting to know the people. They lived in the university town of Kaunas, where they had a friend from Scotland who teaches English.

Before leaving for Lithuania, the Ruyses packed up and shipped 20 mailing bags weighing 60 pounds apiece.

"I'm not sure the post office people would want to see us again right away," Olga said. "But they were very helpful."

So too were local Lions, who helped

with the mailing, and the Friends of the Library, who donated books they couldn't use for their book sales.

"Bill Oliver and Bill Davis, two publishers' reps, gave us many books,"

Fortunately, the books didn't arrive in Kaunas until the spring thaw, several weeks after the couple's arrival. By that time they were settled into their own apartment, which was quickly filled with books. These they gave away, a few at a time, to needy Lithuanian acquaintances.

They were touched by the people's gratitude, and have resolved to help Lithuanians build their libraries' stocks of books in English.

They found the citizens, especially students and teachers, hungry for the information in American books and unable to afford them on their small salaries. A surgeon in Lithuanian makes about \$150 a month, a teacher about the

"Books are almost revered there," said Olga, "and they have so few. Our adopted granddaughter is at the university, and it has almost no books. . .'

She cited one school where there was only one book on a certain topic and an antiquated copy machine was used to reproduce the entire volume.

Books on psychology and business are especially wanted.

"And they're desperate for English dictionaries and reference books," the Ruyses said.

"Knowledge is valuable to them. They don't have to be enticed to read and learn," said Olga, who taught for years on Bainbridge Island.

Theo added, "They're so serious, almost too serious. . . There's so much unemployment. They have a whole generation that doesn't work, because there are no jobs. The older people won't give up their work because there are no pensions since the breakup of the Soviet empire."

The Ruyses plan to leave in March for a return visit. Their goal: to distribute a shipment of 20,000 volumes. They're negotiating now with the Sabre Foundation, which sent several shipment of books to Belarus, to provide books for Lithuania too. There's one big catch, though. Sabre won't release the books until they have received a check for \$10,000. Theo and Olga Ruys, who have already spent thousands of their own dollars on the international book

projects, hope that some generous Islanders will come up with the necessary

"There's absolutely no overhead," Theo explains. "One hundred percent of all donations goes directly to Sabre."

Once the money has been raised, and they're hopeful and confident that it will be, they'll go back for about three months to oversee the book distribution.

And then what? Well, Theo mused, could the Bainbridge library perhaps adopt a sister library in Lithuania? He knows just the place, the public library in Ukmerge, a town of about 35,000 near Kaunas.

Both Ruyses hope to talk with friends about the book project while they're here at home, and they welcome invitations to speak to civic groups. In fact, they'd love to have some Islanders visit Lithuania to see firsthand the country, the people, and the need for books.

They welcome calls and e-mail from anyone seriously interested in their project. The phone number is 780-0835, e-mail address: theolga@aol.com.

library through January

Melinda West show at

The revolving collection of art at the Bainbridge Public Library continues this winter.

Local and regional artists are featured for approximately three months each, and many of the featured works are for sale. (Interested art collectors should inquire at the reference desk.)

The works of Melinda West are on display through January. West, who lives in Indianola, has produced hangings

which evoke the designs of Suquamish tribal artists and the geography of Bainbridge Island. Her works appear both in the main library reading area and in the large meeting room. (If the meeting room is closed when you stop by, just ask and a librarian will cheerfully open it for your enjoyment.)

Among the artists to be featured early in the year 2000 are Darrah Cole and Connie Miller. Cole's work will go on display in February.

From Page 1

Library services

computer help.

A new (in 1999) book discussion group will continue in the year 2000. It meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m., in the large meeting room upstairs. Books have been chosen for the discussions through April, and the library has plenty of available copies of the selected books, thanks to special funding by KRL. Martha Knappe, a Bainbridge resident on the staff of the regional library, is the facilitator for the discussion group. Knappe has worked closely with Nancy Pearl, the popular Seattle Public Library and public radio book reviewer.

The books to be reviewed are paired; a fiction and a non-fiction book on the same general topic are discussed a month apart.

New features for families include a parent-child center that is being developed in the young people's library downstairs.

Coming soon: four new units of fiction shelving upstairs, funded by the Friends of the Library through their successful monthly book sales. The Friends are also paying for the development of a new gazebo in the fern garden east of the library building. And another gift, the hundreds of ferns in the garden, continues to grow, thanks to a large donation by the Hardy Fern Foundation.

Periodical readership is expected to increase next year as more library visitors discover the growing number of newspapers available on microfilm. Old issues of the Bainbridge Review are available, as are many other publications, and a new reader will both read and print microfilm and microfiche.

And speaking of business, again this year the Bainbridge Public Library offers a taxpayers' assistance program. It's scheduled to begin in February, and anyone needing help may inquire at the library circulation desk. This service too is provided by skilled volunteers.

From Page 3

Janet West

"the Bainbridge way of life" and my first introduction to the kind of community involvement we see on the Bainbridge Island to this day.

In the years that followed I often met Janet at the Review office when she brought in press releases about the many causes in which she'd become involved. They were always flawlessly written, interesting accounts that appeared in the paper as written, without any editing. Along with her volunteer work with local organizations, she became at times a volunteer Review staffer.

My most vivid memory of Janet West dates to early February 1979. I was writing, editing, and leaving behind

memos at a furious pace, preparing to fly off to China for a firsthand look at the country during the normalization of relations with the U.S. Janet strolled in casually, interrupted me in mid-paragraph, and asked abruptly, "Who's going to edit the paper while you're gone?"

I'd been too busy with visa applications and other arrangements even to consider that little detail, and admitted it. She had the solution.

"Why don't I just drop by every day after school and kind of go through the reporters/ copy for you? It shouldn't take very long," she suggested.

I admitted that would be great, asked her to keep track of her hours, and filled out whatever forms we kept for paid

editorial correspondents.

Three weeks later I returned, with 96 rolls of film and enough stories to fill our pages for many weeks. Staff members said the editing had gone smoothly, that I wasn't really missed, and that West had been the last person out of the building every evening.

When I asked her for her hours, she refused to take any payment, and confessed with her infectious grin, "I loved doing it. I hate to see typos in print."

I'm not sure I ever told her how very much we all appreciated her efforts. But I think she was well satisfied with the results.

The Review has never been better edited.

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday/Wednesday 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tues/Thurs/Fri/Sat

10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. 1:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (See calendar on page 1 for closures.)

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