



...and thank you!

Leaf by leaf, growing into the future...



Bainbridge Public Library is a community treasure through the efforts of the generations of Islanders who contributed to build and support it. We would like to thank all our many donors for their generous support during this past year through One Call for All, our BPL appeals, Kitsap Great Give and legacy gifts.

You might see one last letter from us this month for those of you who make their donations at year's end. The entire community thanks you for your generosity as we use these funds to build, maintain and operate our library home. Along with KRL, providing staff and library services, we've created a vibrant space for all, that is truly the library that Bainbridge built.

We couldn't do it without you!

Leaf by leaf, growing into the future...



Dick Strom Creates Lasting Legacy at Bainbridge Public Library and Beyond



Most people think of retirement as golfing, fishing, or relaxing by the fireside. Not Dick Strom. Retiring in 2004 from his longtime business -- Modern Collision Rebuild & Service -- was the beginning of his artistic second career.

At 74, Dick has taken his lifelong hobby of working with metal to a new level. In what he calls "the ultimate recycling project," Strom transforms discarded pieces of metal into upscale, playful works of garden art at his company, Bapatoms Metalworks. <https://www.bapatoms.net>. His flair for imagination and creativity come through in each of his pieces, including the Bainbridge Island Library's eight-foot-tall Legacy Tree, which he designed and hand-crafted in 2017. Formed out of round metal rods, the Legacy Tree was one of Dick's most labor-intensive projects. With the help of his brother, he "planted" the 500-pound rebar-rooted tree in a shallow, cemented hole at the library's front entrance. Today, the tree is flourishing with green and yellow ceramic-coated metal leaves made by BARN artisans to commemorate the legacy endowments made to the library.

Dick and his wife, Bobbi, are longtime supporters of the library and they, too, have written a bequest to the library in their wills. He says donating his time and creativity to the Legacy Tree project gave him an opportunity to give back to the community while highlighting his work. "I hope the tree is useful in encouraging folks to write the library into their wills, or generous giving," he says.

Dick is no stranger to giving back. Since he and Bobbi established Modern Collision in 1974, they have supported about every nonprofit on the Island, including Helpline House, Bainbridge Performing Arts and Rotary Club. Supporting the community and the entire Modern Collision family has always been central to the company's culture. His love of welding influenced him to establish the auto body shop, where his sons, Aaron, and Micah, worked as teenagers after school. In 2010, they took over ownership and keep the family tradition of supporting local charities.

Dick's passion for cars and his welding creativity started developing while growing up on his parents' twenty acres of woods and barnyard critters on West Port Madison Road. Always a tinkerer, it's only natural that he would make a business out of creating whimsical, yet useful, art forms from unusual pieces of metal. Over the last two decades, Dick has gone

on to sell thousands of original pieces, mostly commissioned. He travels locally and throughout the country hunting for discarded metal pieces to add to his "thirty tons of metal" stockpile – the tools of his inventive passion.

He uses old "lucky" horseshoes to create scales for his salmon sculptures, turns old gears, blacksmith tools and wrenches into seahorses and antique parts into garden gates and trellises. I've welded together dragons and life-sized dinosaur skeletons, but I've never made a mermaid," Dick says. "I think that's coming up next, as long as my health and stamina allow it."

~ Karen West



With each commitment to make a legacy gift, an inscribed leaf is added to the Legacy Tree located in the library garden.

We'd like to include you, so please notify us if you've made provisions in your estate plan to leave a legacy gift.

But if you haven't yet made that move and would like more information, you can leave a message at 206-866-1250 or at legacy@bainbridgepubliclibrary.org. You can also visit the website, bainbridgepubliclibrary.org. Click on *A Lasting Legacy* under the *Support BPL* tab to download a Legacy Leaf Form.

It would give us enormous pleasure to thank and to honor you now.

Art in the Library!

Happy Holidays....start them out artistically with our December artist, Mandi May, who will exhibit her work titled "Destination Unknown" in the library meeting room during the month. Mandi will host an opening reception for First Friday Art Walk, December 3, 5-7PM. Here is Mandi's artist statement and a few images of several she will have exhibited and for sale during December.



"Evergreen" - Photograph



"Soft Reflection" - Photograph



"Ocean" - monotype

"I am a transplant, and made my way west from Long Island, NY. I eventually planted roots in Seattle and Bainbridge Island. I left everything I'd ever known in search of something new and landed among mountains and lush evergreens. I guess you could say nature grew on me and quickly found its way into my heart and dreams. Nature is a prominent theme in my photography and printmaking. Abstraction and distortion allow me to communicate emotions evoked by dreaming, both asleep and awake. Asleep, I often dream of maps and undiscovered places, seeming just out of reach and anticipating arrival.

I use layers in my photography (all in-camera images – no digital manipulation), using in-camera multiple exposure settings with pieces of glass and plastic in front of the lens. I often use lenses that tilt, giving me that 'sweet spot' of focus while the rest of the image falls off into softness. For my monotypes I use a gelatin printing plate (gelli plate). I roll acrylic paint and ink on in thin layers, then apply pressure on the paper by hand or barren before hand-pulling the print. Each print is one or several pulls. I also incorporate found objects and paper for masks and textures. Printing with the gelatin plate gives me the freedom and control I could not harness with the mechanics of a modern printing press. The act of layering on the printing plate and through my lens, is in a way my piecing together of feelings, combining experiences and longings into an image. Color is my instinctual guide, and my creative lenses are tools that help to bring me closer to my destinations.

www.mandimay.com
mandimayprints@gmail.com

You can view this exhibit all of November during regular library hours and on the library website, www.bainbridgepubliclibrary.org. Masks are currently required while visiting indoor public spaces. As always, thank you for supporting local artists and your Bainbridge Public Library. (A portion of art sales are donated back to the library.)

~ Linda Meier, Art Coordinator

Lights! Camera! Action! - The Library is a Film Set!

Local filmmaker Rachel Noll James will be filming her latest movie, *Ingress*, exclusively on Bainbridge Island and the library will be a location! Other sites will include Bay Hay & Feed, BI Museum of Art, Grand Forest, the Labyrinth, downtown, houses, beaches and other areas awaiting approval.

Ingress, which Noll James will be directing, writing, and starring in, is about a woman who can move between parallel realities who loses her husband tragically and seeks the help of a spiritual channel to find her way back to him. She has been planning this film for the past few years.

"I was really inspired by the island and the landscape here. It's kind of rooted in a few things that are personal to my life. Part of it is parallel realities in a multiverse, which is something I've always found really fascinating," Noll James said, noting that she used to talk about quantum physics with her father who was a physicist and physics teacher. Noll James and her husband moved to Bainbridge about four years ago, citing they needed something different from the chaos of L.A. She said her parents moved to Port Townsend from Santa Fe about 13 years ago, and she would always travel through Bainbridge when she would come up from California to visit them. She hopes *Ingress* will be released by winter of 2022. She said there will be an initial premiere for the cast, crew, and their loved ones at the Lynwood Theatre. She is working with Far Away Entertainment (owner of Lynwood and Bainbridge Cinemas) to see if they can have showtimes for the public.

~The information for this inclusion is based upon an article by Tyler Shuey that appeared in the *Bainbridge Island Review* on September 9, 2021.

What's Up With Facilities?



Greetings, Library fans!

I was in the library recently and wandered downstairs to the Children's section. Those of you who have children or grandchildren undoubtedly know this already . . . but for a guy like me who doesn't have a kiddo to share time with at the library, it was one exciting stroll! Of course, it's not the first time I've been in the Children's section (not by a long shot!), but somehow that day I was really struck by how ALIVE it is and full of stimulating elements for young minds!! (Okay, okay, I admit it. My mind's not so young, but I was dazzled!) The colors! The displays! The furniture! Even the restroom offers an artistic surprise!

So, this is not so much a Facilities Report (that can wait 'til next month), but rather an enthusiastic cheer . . . "Woo-hoo!" . . . and an Invitation to enjoy the wonderful facilities the library provides for inquiring minds of all ages . . . children downstairs . . . teens and adults upstairs!! Come visit us soon! And Happy Holidays!





PS - Care to join our team of volunteers on the Bainbridge Public Library's Facilities Committee? For information about what we do and how you might fit in, please contact me, Kip Bankart, at kipbankart@comcast.net or by phone 206-931-0693.

The Garden Report



Welcome to December! Who would have the audacity to say nature does not have a sense of humor? Just look. As the year fades, this plant is still a structural giant. But as the leaves, some 5-6 feet across disappear, the *Gunnera Manicata* still leaves me speechless. This is not found in our library garden, but it still holds a place in the late fall garden. Just be prepared for ridicule as it is a bit bizarre. Doesn't it make you smile? Just a bit?

Now is the time to come inside, to curl up with a warm, wool blanket, hot

chocolate, and a good book. Time to catch up with all that reading that was put on hold until you could get all those bulbs planted. I read in an article (and while I can't absolutely say it is true, I don't doubt it), that 60% of the bulbs bought every year-never get planted. Some years, I have contributed to that statistic. By now, bulbs should either be in the ground or at the very least, relegated to the back of the shed or garage. Guilt is a useless emotion, I am told, so time to move to the overstuffed chair and forget about them. Now is the time to read garden books from the library, seed catalogs, and garden tool catalogs. Pull out the sheaves of translucent paper with the grids and plot the changes to your future gardens. The library has great books for guidance in garden design or just use your imagination. Some of my favorites are Dan Hinkley's Windcliff, Little and Lewis's A Garden Gallery, ferret out any books by Penelope Hobhouse (Very British), Erin Benzakein's Floret Farm's book A Year in Flowers being just one (be prepared for a rampant desire to buy thousands of seeds), or on a more practical note, Cass Turnbull's Guide to Pruning (those grapes are out of control!). I am sure if you are a gardener, you are saying 'indignantly' but what about?!? How could you forget.....!! I can't agree with you more. How can we find all the treasures, such as Gertrude Jekyll's books? Relax and enjoy the season... before the slugs reappear.

~ Lynn McIntyre

Martha Bayley's 2021 Book Picks!

Once again, our book reviewer extraordinaire, Martha Bayley, has shared with us her annual favorites! Anthony Doerr's Cloud Cuckoo Land, Valerie Perrin's, and a host of others! [Click here to see the full list.](#)

But wait! There's more! [Click here to see librarian Nancy Pearl's recommendations from her talk at Sno-Isle library on November 12th.](#)

Showcasing Our Local Authors!

Bainbridge is home to many distinguished and hugely popular authors. In this new column, we will profile a local author each month. Many will already be favorites, but we may just introduce you to a new author whose profile will send you right to the library to pick up a new read! Happy reading and thank you to Delight Willing for her assistance!
~Susan Braun

Lynn Brunelle



A four-time Emmy Award-winning writer for "Bill Nye the Science Guy," Lynn Brunelle has over 25 years' experience writing for people of all ages, across all manner of media. Previously a classroom science, English and art teacher for kids K-12, she is an award-winning author of over 45 titles, including Pop Bottle Science, Camp Out! Big Science for Little People and Turn This Book into a Beehive). Lynn has created, developed

and written projects for Chronicle, Workman, National Geographic, Scholastic, Random House, Penguin, A&E, The Discovery Channel, Disney, ABC TV, NBC, NPR, The Annenberg Foundation, World Almanac, Cranium and PBS. A contributor to NBC's New Day Northwest TV as a family science guru, Martha Stewart Radio as a family activity consultant and a contributor to NPR's Science Friday, she is the creator of the Mama Gone Geek blog and Tabletop Science—videos that make science fun and accessible. She is also a frequent contributor to National Geographic Extreme Explorer Magazine and has written for several children's and parenting magazines and podcasts.

In addition to her Emmys, Lynn has won eight Telly Awards and six CINE awards for her music videos which range in topics from bullying prevention, child protection and the adolescent brain, for international curriculums through the Committee for Children, to independent projects encouraging science literacy and STEAM. Her memoir called Mama Gone Geek, won the Independent Publishing Award Gold Medal. Her most recent book, Turn This Book into a Beehive from Workman Publishing was a Parent's Choice Award Gold Medal winner and her script for the Sesame Street Podcast, Foley, and Friends, was a 2021 finalist for an Audie Award.

Recent highlights include giving a Ted Talk, speaking at the UN about girls and STEM education, throwing out the first pitch at a Mariners/Yankees game to honor bees for BEE-ball day, and she was officially named a Bainbridge Island Treasure. [See more about Lynn Brunelle here.](#)

Other local authors are profiled on the library's web page

Have You Seen This Library?

This is the third in a series of photo essays on the libraries of New York, collected by Kevin Manion, the new co-chair of the BPL CoFun Committee. We thank him for sharing his photography and fun facts about the many libraries of the great City of New York!

Chapter Three - The Center for Fiction



Formerly located in Manhattan's Mercantile Library, the Center for Fiction recently opened a new location in Downtown Brooklyn that brings the old-world charm of literature together with more modern digs with a bar/cafe, a bookstore, writing space, and yes, a library. While membership is required to take advantage of its co-working spaces and upstairs library, the public is free to check out the ground-floor where a portion of its library sits as well as its bookstore, bar-cafe, and event space. Members can check out books and get discounts on reading groups, writing workshops, events, and bookstore purchases, and more. It's a beautifully quiet space for literature lovers to sit and read. centerforfiction.org

If you have photos and or stories of libraries that you would like to share



Bainbridge Public Library proudly participates in One Call for All. Look for your Red Envelope later this month and remember us when you give! (<https://onecallforall.org/bainbridge-public-library/>)

You can also give online at www.onecallforall.org.

Nearly 20 percent of BPL's budget comes from One Call for All!

Friends of the Library

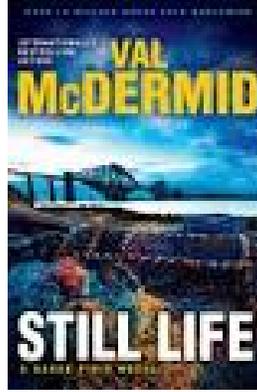
Book Sale



The Friends of the Library are having book sales on Sunday, December 5, 12-4; and Sunday, December 19, 12-4. The Friends' room can be accessed from its outside entrance. Attendees will be allowed in as space allows and must be masked. The time per visit is thirty minutes. Books are plentiful and the sale is a wonderful way to give back to ... and support the library! If you have any questions, please send us an email at books4all@bifriends.org

Friends of the Library continue to welcome donations of books in clean, undamaged, re-saleable condition during library open hours. (Damaged books just get recycled....at our expense.) Smaller quantities may be deposited in bins behind the hold shelves on the main floor. Larger quantities should be left inside the Friends door adjacent to the children's library downstairs. Friends can assist if present and a hand truck is available. You can also request assistance at www.bifriends.org. Please do not leave donations outside, in the drop box or request staff to assist.

Books Worth Sharing!



Still Life
By Val McDermid

When a lobster fisherman discovers a dead body in Scotland's Firth of Forth, DCI Karen Pirie is called into investigate. Simple murder cut and dried, done and dusted, well, not really. Number 6 in award winning Val Mc Dermid's Karen Pirie series is arguably her most complex and tightly plotted. Along with her new sidekick Jason and a fresh new detective Daisy, Karen dives into this multilayered case revealing a clever art forger, a skeleton in a suburban garage, false identities, and the required cooperation of police from Denmark, the Netherlands and Ireland. And just how are these elements connected and who's the real villain you might ask? Ah, that is what makes this latest Val McDermid so propulsively readable and so very entertaining. Throw in a lot of Edinburgh urban detail and gorgeous Irish countryside and you will be entertained for hours! I love this series and you need not read it in order. Karen Pirie is a great character, smart, thoughtful, and humane (though not without her own demons), with wonderful, talented colleagues at her beck and call.

~ Susan Braun

Useful Community Links



As a community service for our newsletter readers, we are introducing a list of links to important local resources. We invite our readers to send us additional links to include in this list. If you have a link that you would like to suggest for inclusion, send it to susangb01@aol.com.

- [Bainbridge Community Foundation](#)
 - [Bainbridge Island Historical Museum](#)
 - [Bainbridge Island Museum of Art](#)
 - [Bainbridge Island Native Food Forest Field Guide](#)
 - [Bainbridge Island Senior/Community Center](#)
 - [Bainbridge Youth Services](#)
 - [BARN \(Bainbridge Artisan Resource Network\)](#)
 - [Boys and Girls Club of Bainbridge Island](#)
 - [Helpline House of Bainbridge Island](#)
 - [Housing Resources Bainbridge Island](#)
 - [Island Volunteer Caregivers](#)
 - [PAWS of Bainbridge Island and North Kitsap](#)
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Did You Know?

- **Bainbridge Public Library**, a separate nonprofit organization, owns, operates, and maintains the Library building and grounds through community donations and grants.
- **Kitsap Regional Library** provides the library staff, collection, classes, and a virtual library at KRL.org with funding from property tax revenues.
- **Together** we provide the quality library our community wants and has come to expect.

Be safe... Be well!



"A library is a cross between an emergency exit, a life-raft and a festival—a cathedral of the mind; hospital of the soul; theme park of the imagination." ~ Caitlin Moran

Find us on 

