

Legacy Donor - Kay Sakai Nakao

Bainbridge Public Library received a bequest from the estate of Kay Sakai Nakao this past year and we are delighted to be able to share some of her story here. Mrs. Nakao's leaf is now on the Legacy Tree in the library garden along with the leaves of others who have included Bainbridge Public Library in their estate plans.



Sam and Kay Nakao

Reading was always a part of Kay Nakao's life. She read everything from magazines to cookbooks and enjoyed them all. Kay and both her Sakai and Nakao families have a long history of supporting the library. Kay's brother Paul (Toshio) was a founding library board member and was the board's first treasurer.

Kay and her husband, Sam, supported the library through the Japanese American Community, including the remodel in 1997 that created the Haiku Garden, donated to the library by the Japanese Community. Though Kay and Sam were not physically able to help with the garden installation, they sent their son, Bill, to haul sandstone pavers and work in their stead.

Kay's fondness for reading grew as she encouraged her daughter, Anne, to explore the world of books. Anne became an avid reader, went on to teach third grade and special reading classes for 31 years. It was Anne's dedication to teaching and reading that made Kay's commitment to reading complete and is what motivated her to leave a bequest to the library.



With each commitment to make a legacy gift, an inscribed leaf is added to the Legacy Tree located in the library garden. We would like to include you, so please notify us if you have 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!

The history of our Bainbridge Island provides stories, tales and images that connect our current lives to colorful pasts...a virtual treasure hunt. Our March artist, Joel Sackett, will host an exhibition titled "Vanishing Bainbridge" to highlight some of those images. The exhibit will open for First Friday Art Walk, March 4, 5-7PM in the library meeting room Walk, March 4, 5-7PM in the library meeting room.



'Variations on a Story', 2020

Fact checking is subject to the vagaries of memory and supposition. Were the picker cabins on Day Road built by Akio Suyematsu, who might have been influenced by the barracks he saw in the concentration camps? Or were they built by Akio's father? Or did they build them together? Did the cabins burn down once and get rebuilt? All variations on the same story that I heard.

Here is how Joel describes his "Vanishing Bainbridge" exhibit:
For the past thirty years, since calling Bainbridge Island my new home, I have been trying to grow roots. Towards this, I have been photographing and collecting words from various perspectives of Island life, always culminating in presentations like this one.

This latest body of work explores the history of Bainbridge Island through the built environment. It is highly personal and selective. The exhibit is composed mostly of older homes that are still in use, repurposed, or in disrepair. All of them come with stories of Island lives and history.

These minor histories are often forgotten. Some might have been passed down to relatives or heard by neighbors, but they often change by omissions, embellishments, and the vagaries of memory. There are many blank spaces to fill in, an invitation to use one's imagination and curiosity to see Bainbridge Island through the lens of past lives and the built environment they inhabited.



Stillness and Resilience

"There is a cycle of rejuvenation that takes place as buildings age. Some are considered disposable, and are torn down to make way for progress, while others, like our cabin, go through cycles of repair and use over the years.

It has a great feeling of stillness and resilience that we hope to preserve along with the antique timbers in the next round of strengthening and preservation that is needed soon."

Vanishing Bainbridge can be viewed during the month of March in the library meeting room and on the library website, www.bainbridgepubliclibrary.org. A conversation and slide presentation between Joel and Katy Curtis (Bainbridge Island Historical Museum) can be accessed at https://youtu.be/WVKIgx96mf8?list=PLLLbVg94E_0A87yim5OkTp57iGZ3ylluh&t=6

Thanks to Bainbridge Island Historical Museum and the Senior Center for their assistance. And as always, thank you for supporting your Bainbridge Public Library and local artists. (A portion of sales is donated back to the library.)

~ Linda Meier, art coordinator

What's Up with Facilities?

Greetings, Library fans!

One of the things every visitor to Bainbridge Public Library can be thankful for is the careful, consistent commitment to keeping the library in tip-top condition. Besides the usual cleaning and minor repairs any well-used building requires, these past two years (with Covid concerns) have meant the implementation of new and rigorous methods of cleaning and disinfecting our beloved library to protect the health and well-being of everyone working in or visiting our building.

And who takes on this weighty responsibility day after day? That would be KRL Facilities Team Member, John Eshun! John has been working at the Bainbridge Branch for more than three years and is frequently recognized for his conscientious dedication and hard work.



Touch up painting



Vacuumping



Dusting



Bathroom cleaning



Surface disinfecting



Fine mist spray
disinfecting

If you have not run into John at the library, that would be understandable... his day runs from 3:00 a.m. until late morning. He uses the early morning hours to address his rigorous disinfecting routine. We all benefit from John's excellent work! Next time you see John, give him a BIG thumbs up and "Thank you!" for his fabulous behind-the-scenes work!

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.

Showcasing Our Local Authors! Laura Kemp



As a long-time Bainbridge Island resident now living near Kingston, Laura Kemp has explored several avenues of writing. She was a professional firefighter for almost twenty-two years, and at one point got her writing fix crafting and revising fire department training manuals—not exactly a springboard for producing page-turners. Eventually, the tragedies and triumphs of the job inspired her to attempt something that makes running into burning buildings look easy—creating decent fiction.

After completing an award-winning (but unpublished) middle grade novel and some modestly successful short stories, it was Laura’s fire service experience that inspired a story and characters that would not leave her alone. When she took a pre-pandemic class on screenwriting, she knew she had found the right creative outlet for her idea and a late-blooming passion was born.

Laura’s writing journey has carried her through the isolation of Covid. Leaving countless dog-eared scripts and highlighter-filled books in her wake, she spent a year revising her screenplay “Burn Pattern.” Laura’s future projects include adapting her middle grade novel into an animated movie (just for the fun of it) and lots of half-baked ideas that make her wake up and scribble notes in the middle of the night.

Burn Pattern’s successes include placing as a finalist in the Atlanta Screenplay and Reno-Tahoe Screenplay Awards as well as being named a semifinalist in The Big Apple Agents and Managers Networking Lab. Particularly thrilling to Laura was her win of a rarely-awarded Honorable Mention in the Cynosure Screenwriting Awards, being named a “Top 100 Thriller” of Austin Film Festival’s Table Read My Screenplay competition, and as top winner in script writing at the Depth of Field International Film Festival.

Laura is also extremely excited that her short story “Home Away” will soon be published by Oyster Seed Salon in *Short Stories of Bainbridge Island, Volume Two*.

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

Other local authors' profiles are on the [library's web page](#)

Have You Seen This Library?

This is the sixth 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 Six - The Grolier Club Library



Founded in 1884, the Grolier Club is America's oldest and largest society for bibliophiles and enthusiasts in the graphic arts. Named for Jean Grolier (1489/90-1565), the Renaissance collector renowned for sharing his library with friends, the Club's objective is to promote "the study, collecting, and appreciation of books and works on paper." Through the concerted efforts of an international network of over eight hundred men and women—book and print collectors, antiquarian book dealers, librarians, designers, fine printers, binders, and other artisans—the [Grolier Club](#) pursues this mission through its library, its public exhibitions and lectures, and its long and distinguished series of publications.

If you have photos and or stories of libraries that you would like to share email [Susan Braun](#).



The CoFun Committee of BPL is looking for volunteers to assist with social media. If you have skills in Facebook and Instagram and would like to increase the library's impact in our community please contact Kevin Manion kpmanion@gmail.com or Brian McKenna brian.emckenna@comcast.net. Time commitment is flexible, and creativity is greatly appreciated!

Friends of the Library

Book Sale



The Friends of the Library are having book sales on Sunday, March 6th, 12-4 pm and Sunday, March 20th, 12-4 pm. 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!

Did Ye Hear Mammy Died? Seamas O'Reilly a memoir

Did Ye Hear Mammy Died: a memoir
By Seamas O'Reilly

Author O'Reilly's mother died when he was five, leaving him and his ten siblings in the care of their beloved father in rural Derry. It was the 1990s, and the violence of the Troubles were a part of everyday life. But Joe O'Reilly was more focused on feeding and schooling eleven children than the conflicted politics that swirled around him. Making certain that his brood knew they were loved, valued, and allowed playfulness was his mission. Seamus, ninth of the eleven children, shares a life filled with grief, music, books, dogs, and the perplexity of being a little boy. His lens is bright, nostalgic, and thoroughly entertaining. Readers of *Say Nothing* and *Angela's Ashes* will relish this big-hearted and gorgeously written memoir of growing up in rural Northern Ireland. It was a runaway best seller in Ireland. Full of humor, tears, and the quirky observations of eleven obstreperous children, this is nothing short of a joy to read.

~ 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](#)

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 

