

May 2022 Newsletter

Help Us Bloom - Become a Legacy Donor!



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!



May flowers and colors abound.... our May artist, **Elaine Schab-Bragg** celebrates spring with her exhibit "Inside Out" and opening reception for First Friday Art Walk, May 6, 5-7PM in the library meeting room. Here is how Elaine describes her work:

The intoxicating drive within me to create interpretation of my surroundings is constant.

I began painting the works you see today just a few years ago, beginning with cheerful, deeply saturated watercolors. These paintings were my avenue to convey hope, imagination, beauty, and humor . . . the brighter side of life. I more recently have been intrigued by painting with acrylics and broadening my efforts. I live in Kingston, Washington, surrounded by gardens and trees that provide me endless joy and endless stimulation to paint and draw. Most days I am in my studio amongst those gardens.

Background

I was born and educated in Seattle, Washington. Art has always been prominent in my life. I studied ballet at Cornish School of Art, was an art live model for several years, and worked in metal design and jewelry. I attended the University of Washington majoring in social work and communication, and I enjoyed a career developing grass roots social service programs for local communities, all the while writing prose and sketching. Effective communication has always been one of my passions. Throughout my entire life, including in my art, the power of communication is foremost.



Desert Hair

You can view this exhibit all of May during regular library hours and on the library website, www.bainbridgepubliclibrary.org. 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?

FIRE SPRINKLER MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADES

Let's start with some exceptionally good news! Our three-day closure for maintenance and upgrades to our interior fire sprinkler system was completed in the allotted time, and we are now fully inspected and certified for another five years! Yea! Thank you for being flexible about picking up your books via the temporary "curbside service," THE STAFF perfected so well during the Covid closure. And a VERY big thank you indeed to the staff members who came to work to carry on the mission of the library despite having to operate around the equipment and crew working on the sprinkler system. You are the BEST!

GARDEN REPORT

Have you strolled around and through our WONDERFUL gardens that surround the building and parking lots? It's an excellent time to appreciate Spring and the dedicated work of volunteer gardeners. That is right! VOLUNTEER gardeners!! Known as the "Friday Tidies," these accomplished gardeners, formed and lead by nationally recognized gardener and author Ann Lovejoy in 1997, they have been meeting weekly on Fridays, rain, or shine, to plan/design, plant, move, weed, prune, mulch, compost and in all ways make the library's gardens and grounds a community treasure. Also "leading the charge" in the gardens, particularly the internationally recognized fern garden on the east side of the grounds, is garden-creator John van den Meerendonk. Besides designing and planting the original fern garden, John designed and built the beloved gazebo which will soon undergo a significant renovation.

If you like to garden, if you like working on a team that is dedicated to giving back to the community, please pack up your gloves, hand tools and enthusiasm and join the Friday Tidies, from 9 am to Noon, every Friday. You'll be welcomed with open arms!

MADISON AVE BIKE LANE / SIDEWALK EXPANSION PROJECT

Some number of years ago, the City of Bainbridge, with input from interested individuals and groups, developed a long-term non-motorized Improvement Plan that would address several factors of access and safety for non-motorized travel on the island. Major thoroughfares and arterials were identified in the Study and Plan, as were streets leading to and from schools. Madison Ave from Winslow Way to Hwy 305, broken down into achievable segments, is destined for improvements over time, with the segment from Inland Way north to the High School Rd roundabout being prepared for near-term modification.

Because Bainbridge Public Library (BPL) owns the block-long property adjoining Madison Ave between Inland Way and High School Rd, members of the City's Planning and Engineering Departments reached out to the Library to introduce themselves, to provide drawings and other project materials describing the vision, and they also came to the library to conduct an onsite walk-through with several members of the BPL Board. During the walk-through we were shown the significant impact the project would have on the library's gardens all along its west border. Fortunately, by reaching out to BPL for feedback, and taking advantage of the timing and flexibility of the Project Design at the time, the city has indicated it has modified the proposed plan to reduce the cost and impact along this stretch of Madison Ave. There will still be safety and access improvements made, but we anticipate they will have less impact on the library's gardens. We appreciate

the City's willingness to consider options.

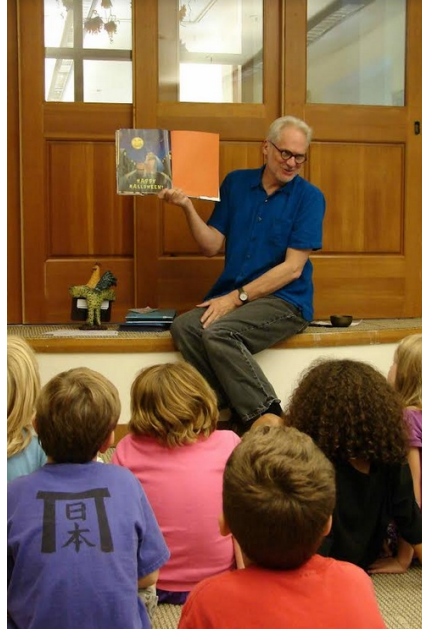
To stay informed on the Madison Ave Sidewalk / Bike Lane Project, including virtual meetings specific to the project or City Council meetings in which the project will be on the agenda for public comment, please go to this website: [Madison Avenue Sidewalk Improvements | Bainbridge Island, WA - Official Website \(bainbridgewa.gov\)](https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/1443767/Madison-Avenue-Sidewalk-Improvements-Bainbridge-Island-WA-Official-Website)

Here are a few photos of the Library's property bordering Madison Ave going north from Ihland Way to the High School Rd roundabout:



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!
George Shannon**



The Benefit of Bad Times

It feels as though I have always been wrapped in stories and books. My parents read to me, and I in turn read to younger brothers. Going to the library (a classic Carnegie building in our village in the wheat fields of Kansas) was as common as going to the market. Most of my childhood summers were spent in Laramie, Wyoming where my father worked on his Ph.D. One morning when I was six, he took me to the public library for story-time. My mother was typing one of his papers. When the librarian said I could not get a library card because I did not know how to read, I was appalled. But I love books! That same library ran amuck in my eyes when at 15 I was told I was too young to browse the adult fiction shelves. Both memories have been core threads in my nearly 50 years as a children's librarian and writer for children. Inclusion -- the right to explore all stories and perspectives is so very important.

The goal of public libraries has always been to offer patrons a range of windows on the world: information, perspectives, and experiences. The most engaged and vibrant life is one filled with varied perspectives. **White is for Blueberry** when you know when to look. Countless people around the world are needed to get that single cookie in the cookie jar. **One Family** can mean endless configurations.

It now seems appropriate that **Lizard's Song** was my first book. Even though I had been writing for years, I always felt others' lives held better ideas for stories than mine did. But I finally learned what Lizard teaches Bear. My best stories come when I tell or sing about what makes my home. The illustrator Jose Arguego concluded the book with all the characters singing the same tune, but with the specifics of their lives, their homes. A significant part of what makes my home is forever exploring outside the box and doing my best to listen.

Life and history are never a single story, but countless stories from many voices and views through many windows. What a vital goal to nourish and celebrate by supporting our public library.

Bainbridge is home to many distinguished and hugely popular authors. In this 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

Have You Seen This Library?

This is the eighth 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 Eight - NY Academy of Medicine Library



Established in 1847 and opened to the public in 1878, this library holds an exhaustive catalog of medical journals, documents, and other ephemera. The library subscribes to more than 1,000 journals, and there are more than 800,000 volumes in the main collection. Check out its historical collections, which contain items like an amputation kit and documentation about an 18th-century smallpox outbreak in the U.K.

Located at 1216 Fifth Avenue, visits are by appointment, but there are [free drop-in hours](#) on the first Monday of every month at noon. [See more.](#)

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!

From the NYT - Why Libraries May Never Stop Being People Places

https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/21/style/libraries-outdoor-public-space.html?unlocked_article_code=AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAACEIPuomT1JKd6J17Vw1cRCfTTMQmqxCdwPIxftm3iWka3DJDmwbip8JEoyNvEPMb7Bqfdo-xHGcWcNNN7g1AeRvxOteNAI2UwCjr92EhJEBaW0TmL6EY1kXjdjLTKxqtnjjdHW4I-Nyg-a0thzcamG8RKPYhHY-IA80pI9uIV8xXQMkrEE7Mj04N2ewzRcwwHUd2byGMvPvAh9KYGOkmasl9qLrkfDTLDntec6KYCdRFsCTFSHB4WU64LBMKY9dffa f1N7Jp2I0fhGAXdoLYypG5Q2W4PX8r1turXOohGHo9GkZzrHie-boxO-nVu4qnj-SA&smid=em-share

Thanks to Brian McKenna for spotting this and sharing!

Friends of the Library

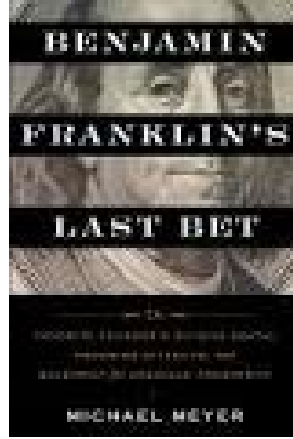
Book Sale



The Friends of the Library are having book sales on Thursday, May 5, 10 am-4 pm, Sunday, May 15, 12 -4 pm and Sunday, May 29, 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!



Benjamin Franklin's Last Bet: The Favorite Founder's Divisive Death, Enduring Afterlife, and Blueprint for American Prosperity
By Michael Meyer

We have all learned that Benjamin Franklin was the ultimate Renaissance man – inventor, statesman, populist, writer, but I am guessing few of us knew of his legacy to the tradesmen of Boston and Philadelphia that survives today. Intrigued by the life of Franklin after attending a State Department dinner, Fulbright and Guggenheim scholar Meyer delved into his deathbed gift established to be loaned to tradesmen over the next two centuries. Intended to support the “leather apron” class, the 2000-pound gifts to Boston and Philadelphia, continue to support the great American experiment Franklin so loved. Designed to jump start careers, the loans are repaid with interest over ten years, perpetuating the initial nest egg many times over! As Meyer tells the story of these amazing funds and their fascinating benefactor, he salts it with tantalizing tidbits and little-known facts about Franklin that make his book so much more than another Benjamin Franklin biography. Highly praised by NPR, NYT, and other media, it is catnip for readers of biography, social history, and of course the legendary Ben Franklin. I loved it!

~ 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](#)
- [Raising Resilience](#)

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 

