

August 2023 Newsletter

Whoops!

We sent out our newsletter yesterday with several minor errors. Please accept both our sincerest apologies as well as this corrected version.

Art in the Library!

Warm summer days and nights continue as we celebrate with our August artist, Peggi Erickson who will host First Friday reception August 4, 5-7PM for her exhibit titled "Watercolor Journey."



Peggi's artist statement:

"The title of my first-ever exhibit is "Watercolor Journey." It perfectly describes what has happened since I first fell in love with watercolor in the 1980s and dared to pick up a brush. It's been a journey, and I am still on it. I love watercolor. There is a magic in it that comes from the way light travels through the paint, hits the paper and bounces back. Light gives watercolor a lively quality, a brightness, a beauty.

In creating a watercolor, I get to see paint and light and water dance together, and that dance can create magic on the page. Soft edges that fade to white, washes that go from the deepest hue to a whisper of color. It's just amazing, and loads of fun (and sometimes frustrating, too!)

Watercolor is challenging. I won't ever finish learning how to paint in

watercolor... for me it's a lifelong journey, but I am beginning to like my work and claim that I am an artist.

This journey began in the 1980s when I found a copy of Stephen Doherty's book on Sondra Freckleton's work, *Dynamic Still Lifes in Watercolor*. Her paintings were unlike any I had seen and that book changed my life and set me on this journey.

My first attempts at watercolor were truly awful, but to learn anything one must be willing to be a beginner. I would paint in the evenings after I put my son to bed. Still lifes because, well, they stood still! Many are still unfinished, cast aside in frustration or distraction. And when I finally did finish a painting, I put it in a drawer. Only a very few of my paintings were ever framed until now when I am undertaking this exhibit.

But it is not the exhibiting of art that is most important... it's the PROCESS! Art is a soul-nourishing activity, and I believe that every human has a creative force coming through them that wants to express itself in the world. There are hundreds of artforms... and watercolor is mine.

I once attended a workshop where we developed personal mission statements. Mine says "My mission is to create beautiful watercolor paintings that inspire people and open them to the beauty of light."

To fulfill that mission, I have taken my paintings out of their drawers and hung them in my community. I hope you enjoy them.

I am deeply grateful to the many teachers who have helped me over the years to improve my painting. Thank you."

You can view this exhibit during the month of August during regular library hours and on the library website, www.bainbridgepubliclibrary.org. A portion of sales is donated back to the library.

As always, thank you for supporting your Bainbridge Public Library and local artists.

~ *Linda Meier, art coordinator*

Your Facilities Team



After the flurry of work last month (and in the spirit of the summer season) the Facilities Team is taking a well-deserved time off. If you see Kip Bankart, Jim Fox, Jim McKeever or any of Friday Tidies or other garden volunteers around the Island, please shout out your thanks for their diligence and hard work.

~ *Susan Braun*

Again, we can't say it enough . . . thank you to our donors who help make it possible to keep our library the vibrant, comfortable, up-to-date facility we all love, and to all our patrons for their support and patience. And now, here we go into summer! Woo-hoo!
~ Kip Bankart

Become a Legacy Circle Member

You can make a pledge to the future by making a gift to BPL as part of your estate plan and becoming a member of the Bainbridge Public Library Legacy Circle. Visit our website, bainbridgepubliclibrary.org, and click on A Lasting Legacy under the Support BPL tab to learn more about putting your leaf on the Library's Legacy Tree. You can leave a message at (206) 866-1250 or email us at legacy@bainbridgepubliclibrary.org to record your pledge.



Showcasing Our Local Authors! D. D. Black



After teaching journalism and editing books for others on the east coast, in 2010 I moved to Kitsap County, where my wife was raised. Right away I knew that the forests, islands, and peninsula geography were tailor-made for a series of novels.

While working on my writing, I taught English at the Port Gamble S'Klallam site of Northwest Indian College. In 2022 I launched my new mystery series. Now—July of 2023—the first five novels in the Thomas Austin Crime Thriller

series are out and have become best-sellers not only here in Kitsap, but all around the country.

The research, of course, gives me an excuse to explore nooks and crannies across Washington State. From Point No Point in Hansville to Murden Cove on Bainbridge, from Pike Place Market's chaotic scene to the nerve-center of Seahawks Nation at Lumen Field, the series explores many important locations throughout the region.

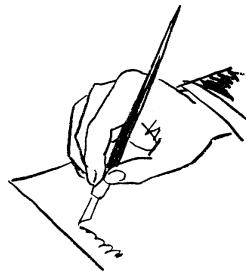
But of course, any series is really about the characters. The protagonist of my Thomas Austin series—a retired NYPD detective who moved to Hansville after the death of his wife—just wants to run his little café and bait shop. But, of course, a case from his past lands on the desk of the Kitsap Sheriff's Department, drawing him back into law enforcement. In addition to Austin, you'll meet a wide variety of locals, from law enforcement officers to journalists to restaurant owners and—of course—a criminal or two.

Writing has become my way of celebrating the natural beauty, quirky charms, and intriguing history I've encountered since moving to Kitsap. I hope that local readers will enjoy seeing the region on the page and that readers all over the world come to know more about our beautiful corner of the Pacific Northwest.

So, if you're in the mood for a crime novel with a dash of local color, check out the Thomas Austin series. You can find the books within the Kitsap Regional Library system and wherever books are sold. Learn more at ddblackauthor.com or connect on Facebook (facebook.com/ddblackauthor).

Series List:

- Book 1: The Bones at Point No Point
- Book 2: The Shadows of Pike Place
- Book 3: The Fallen of Foulweather Bluff
- Book 4: The Horror at Murden Cove
- Book 5: The Terror in the Emerald City



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*

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

Have You Seen This Library?



It is the Nationale du Luxembourg [BnL]. This is the country's leading academic, research and cultural heritage library. It collects, catalogues, and preserves all analogue and digital publications published in Luxembourg and any works published abroad that relates to the Grand Duchy. The building is very bright, light, and roomy. It was created by the French Republic in 1798. In 1899 the library was called the "Bibliothèque Nationale" for the first time in an official state document. From 1941-1944 it was placed under the control of the Nazi authorities and called "Landesbibliothek." In 1960 the BnL emphasized its vocation as a scientific library and gave up its collection of entertainment books. In 2019 the library moved into its new building with three floors of books, documents, newspapers, general interest magazines, music collection, manuscripts [dating from the 7th century], media center, and rare books reading room. There is also a cafe open during library hours.



If you have a library that you would like to highlight in our newsletter email [Susan Braun](mailto:Susan.Braun).

...and a special thank you to Brian McKenna for sharing this great piece by Barack Obama

To the dedicated and hardworking librarians of America:

In any democracy, the free exchange of ideas is an important part of making sure that citizens are informed, engaged and feel like their perspectives

matter.

It's so important, in fact, that here in America, the First Amendment of our Constitution states that freedom begins with our capacity to share and access ideas – even, and maybe especially, the ones we disagree with.

More often than not, someone decides to write those ideas down in a book.

Books have always shaped how I experience the world. Writers like Mark Twain and Toni Morrison, Walt Whitman and James Baldwin taught me something essential about our country's character. Reading about people whose lives were very different from mine showed me how to step into someone else's shoes. And the simple act of writing helped me develop my own identity — all of which would prove vital as a citizen, as a community organizer, and as president.

Today, some of the books that shaped my life — and the lives of so many others — are being challenged by people who disagree with certain ideas or perspectives. It's no coincidence that these "banned books" are often written by or feature people of color, indigenous people, and members of the LGBTQ+ community – though there have also been unfortunate instances in which books by conservative authors or books containing "triggering" words or scenes have been targets for removal. Either way, the impulse seems to be to silence, rather than engage, rebut, learn from or seek to understand views that don't fit our own.

I believe such an approach is profoundly misguided, and contrary to what has made this country great. As I've said before, not only is it important for young people from all walks of life to see themselves represented in the pages of books, but it's also important for all of us to engage with different ideas and points of view.

It's also important to understand that the world is watching. If America – a nation built on freedom of expression – allows certain voices and ideas to be silenced, why should other countries go out of their way to protect them? Ironically, it is Christian and other religious texts – the sacred texts that some calling for book bannings in this country claim to want to defend – that have often been the first target of censorship and book banning efforts in authoritarian countries.

Nobody understands that more than you, our nation's librarians. In a very real sense, you're on the front lines – fighting every day to make the widest possible range of viewpoints, opinions, and ideas available to everyone. Your dedication and professional expertise allow us to freely read and consider information and ideas, and decide for ourselves which ones we agree with.

That's why I want to take a moment to thank all of you for the work you do every day — work that is helping us understand each other and embrace our shared humanity.

And it's not just about books. You also provide spaces where people can come together, share ideas, participate in community programs, and access essential civic and educational resources. Together, you help people become informed and active citizens, capable of making this country what they want it to be.

And you do it all in a harsh political climate where, all too often, you're attacked by people who either cannot or will not understand the vital – and uniquely American – role you play in the life of our nation.

So whether you just started working at a school or public library, or you've been there your entire career, Michelle and I want to thank you for your unwavering commitment to the freedom to read. All of us owe you a debt of gratitude for making sure readers across the country have access to a wide

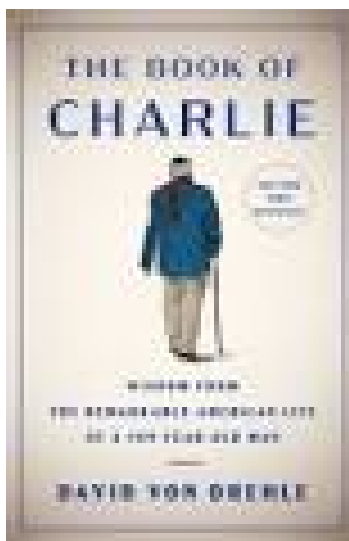
range of books, and all the ideas they contain.

Finally, to every citizen reading this, I hope you'll join me in reminding anyone who will listen — and even some people you think might not — that the free, robust exchange of ideas has always been at the heart of American democracy. Together, we can make that true for generations to come.

With gratitude,



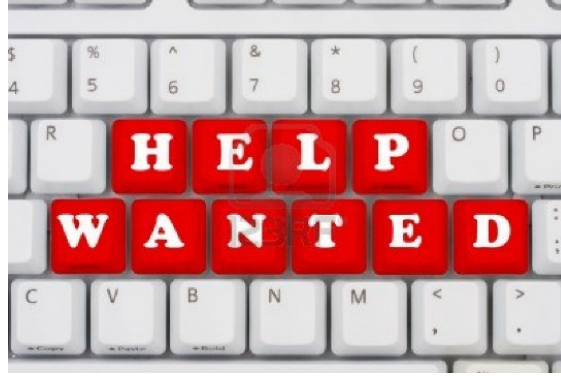
Books Worth Sharing



The Book of Charlie: Wisdom from the Remarkable American Life of a 109-Year Old Man
By David Von Drehle

How does a man born before radio live to the age of one hundred nine? After a life altering tragedy early in life, Dr. Charlie White summoned the resilience to master life challenges that would defeat most men. Author Von Drehle meets his new neighbor, Charlie White, after relocating to Kansas City. At that time Charlie had just turned one hundred. Little did Von Drehle know that this friendship would last so long or teach him so very much about the meaning of life. As their conversations played out, he learns about medicine before anesthetics or antibiotics, riding ambulances through gangster wars, performing surgery on the fly and navigating a turbulent country by thriving on change. His is a stunning personal story as well as an overview of America over the past one hundred years. Charlie's mantra of: "Practice patience. Smile often. Savor special moments. Be soft sometimes." is a lesson for us all, wrapped in the story of a life that is astonishing, spellbinding and unbelievably touching.

~ Susan Braun



BPL is looking for volunteers to assist with social media and other fund raising and marketing activities. If you have skills in Facebook, Instagram, fund raising or other marketing areas and would like to increase the library's impact in our community please contact the library at ask@bainbridgepubliclibrary.org. Time commitment is flexible, and creativity is appreciated!

Friends of the Library

Book Sale



The Friends of the Library are having book sales:

Sunday, August 6, from 12-4; Thursday, August 17, from 12-4.

To see future sale dates and times check our website at <https://www.bifriends.org> Books are plentiful, and the sale is a great way to support the library. If you have any questions, please sent us a message at books4all@bifriends.org.

Friends of the Library continue to welcome donations of books in clean, undamaged-saleable condition during open library hours. (Damaged books must be recycled at our expense) Small quantities can be left 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. There is a hand truck available. For questions about donations please send us an email. Please do not leave books outside or in the library drop box or request help from the library staff.

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 Genealogical Society](#)
- [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 \(Bainbridge Artisan Resource Network\)](#)
- [Bloedel Reserve](#)
- [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](#)
- [Sustainable Bainbridge](#)

But wait! There's more! Do you know about [Bainbridge Island Resource Directory \(BIRD\)](#)? It is another great source for valuable community resources!

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 



Bainbridge Public Library | PO Box 11815, 1280 N Madison, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

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