Mark your calendar

These spring events take place in the library unless otherwise noted.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7**
Library Book Group, *Galileo’s Daughter* by Dava Sobel, 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 10**
Friends of the Library Book Sale, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14**
Visually Impaired Persons Support Group, 1-3 p.m.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 17**
Island Theatre Play Reading at the Library, “Rough Crossing” a Tom Stoppard romantic farce, 7:30 p.m.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 20**
Field’s End Writers’ Roundtable. Sheila Rabe, humorist: “What’s so funny?” 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21**
Travel program: bicycling in Europe, with Bart and Dana Berg, 7:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, MAY 1**
Opera Preview, “Girl of the Golden West,” 2 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 5**
Library Book Group, *Gaudy Night*, by Dorothy Sayers, 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, MAY 8**
Friends of the Library Book Sale, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 12**
Visually Impaired Persons Support Group, 1-3 p.m.

**TUESDAY, MAY 18**
Field’s End Writers’ Roundtable. David Korten, “How does a writer awaken the reader’s sense of the possible?” 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 19**
Travel program: “Antarctica, Land of Ice and Penguins,” by Thomas Fenwick, 7:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9**
Visually Impaired Persons Support Group, 1-3 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 12**
Friends of the Library Book Sale, 10-2.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 15**
Field’s End Writers’ Roundtable. Terry Brooks, fantasy author, 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 19**
Island Theatre Play Reading at the Library, 7:30 p.m.

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**Studying history**

Sakai students visit the Bainbridge Public Library

Feb. 19 to learn more about Bainbridge history.

(Story on Page 4)

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**Tim Egan to speak on Bainbridge**

Tim Egan, whose three books have helped define the West, will speak on “Finding a Literary Voice in the Land” on May 16, in the latest public lecture on the craft of writing presented by Field’s End, the library-affiliated writer’s community.

Egan will speak at 7 p.m. at Bainbridge High School’s LGI. Tickets will be $10. Thanks to the support of Eagle Harbor Book Store, Egan’s books will be available for purchase and a portion of the sales price will go to Field’s End.

A Seattle resident and third-generation Westerner, Egan is a reporter for the New York Times, and he has written extensively on western as well as other topics. He shared a 2001 Pulitzer Prize with a team of reporters who wrote a series on race in the New West, and on the Seattle waterfront, it has been called a “literary romance novel.” Kirkus Reviews characterized the book as a “rollicking soap opera with as many twists as a corkscrew.”

“Tim Egan has a wealth of experience to share both as a journalist and novelist,” said Field’s End co-founder and author David Guterson. “He’s also an engaging public speaker who rarely makes a Bainbridge appearance. Tim knows how to blend humor and wisdom in nearly every sentence he utters. Listening to him, I’m spellbound.”

Other lecturers brought to the island by Field’s End since last fall include National Book Award winner and University of Washington Professor Charles Johnson; neurologist Alice Flaherty, who studies writing creativity and the brain; and visiting Northwestern poet Diane Wakoski.

**Field’s End spring classes set**

**BY SUSAN BOTTLES**

Islander Mark Trahant, one of the three instructors teaching craft classes for Field’s End writers’ community this spring, believes his class “I Have an Opinion: Writing to Persuade” will be non-threatening to anyone with a keen interest in writing non-fiction.

Egan’s first book, *The Good Rain: Across Time and Terrain in the Pacific Northwest*, remains a regional bestseller after a decade. It was named one of the 10 essential books on this region by a poll of Seattle Post-Intelligencer readers.

His 1999 work, *Lasso The Wind, Away to the New West*, was named a Notable Book of the Year by the New York Times Sunday Book Review, among other honors. A Los Angeles Times reviewer wrote, “Fine reporting . . . honed and polished until it reads more like literature than journalism.”

This year brought publication of Egan’s first novel, *The Winemaker’s Daughter*. Set in Eastern Washington vineyards and on the Seattle waterfront, it has been called “a literary romance novel.” Kirkus

“Coming up with 700 words is not the worse thing in the world,” says the veteran journalist and current editorial page editor and columnist for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, adding, “unless a deadline is staring at you.”

Registration is now open for all three Field’s End spring quarter writing classes for adults of every skill level.

The other two are “Navigating the Past,” taught by novelist and short-story writer Laura Kalpakian and “The Craft of Poetry” with poet and Seattle University professor Sharon Cumberland.

Registration forms are available at the library, or you may downloaded one from www.fieldsend.org.

Continued on Page 2

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Also in this issue:

Our booming Bainbridge book groups ........................................... pages 6-7

Young people’s library happenings ............................................ pages 8-9

Michael Collins: mysteries and marathons ................................ page 12
About our contributors

This issue of the Library News contains contributions from many writers. All of them are professionals, either published or soon-to-be published writers or library staff with writing experience.

New to the roster of contributing writers is Sharon Snyder, who succeeded Peggy Hughes as young people’s librarian of the Bainbridge Library on January 2. (Hughes is now a reference librarian on the main floor.) Snyder is enthusiastic about her new position, and if her smile is a little brighter these days, it may be because of her recently announced engagement to Mike Gagley, a “longtime good friend and swing dance partner.” (They’re planning a July wedding.)

The new children’s librarian came to Bainbridge from Bellevue, and worked in the King County Library System. She received her master’s degree in library and information sciences from the University of Washington, after graduating from Seattle University with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education. Along the way she spent six months in Japan as a student intern, so she had a special interest in the visit of Sakai students to the library to commemorate Japanese-Americans’ World War II experiences.

Snyder has been involved in special teen activities at other libraries, and looks forward to bringing some events to the Bainbridge library. (Read about them on Pages 8 and 9.)

She’s especially excited about an event coming up March 31 at 7 p.m. — a family storytelling night with four storytellers. The emphasis will be on school-age youngsters and their parents.

Snyder has always liked working with young people, perhaps because she grew up (in Bellevue) with five sisters and a brother. Her mother still lives in Bellevue.

Like most librarians, she loves to read, especially biographies. She also enjoys hiking and working out, as well as swing dancing.

“My coming to work at this library was an extraordinary fit,” she said, “and I’ve followed an extraordinary person. . . It’s especially nice to see Peggy go on into a new area which she is really enjoying.”

Snyder also was struck by “the sense of community on this island. People know each other, and really care about their community. And there is a slower pace here, a quality of life that is special,” she noted.

Other writers

Snyder joins a large group of writers who contribute to this publication for and about the Bainbridge Public Library.

Here are just a few: you’ll read more about them in future issues.

Barbara Vinther, long-time Island resident, is a playwright, children’s books author, and author of the award-winning book, They Like Noble Causes: How a Community Built a Library. Research for her history of the Bainbridge Public Library turned up many anecdotes, which she shares with readers in each issue.

Nan Woodruff, whose travel articles have appeared in the Washington Post and Los Angeles Times, is active in the Bainbridge arts community and writes regularly about the revolving library art exhibits in this publication.

Susan Wiggs has written more than 25 best-selling romance novels, which have been translated into many foreign languages.

She laughingly calls herself “the Danielle Steel of Latvia”, but for this newspaper she interviews popular authors, and occasionally shares some of her own.

SuzanneSELFORS is a young writer who is now represented by an agent and looking forward to publishing her first book. She has interviewed Michael Collins for us. Selfors is a member of a multi-generation Bainbridge family.

Pat Miller, who reviews books here, also serves as facilitator for the Library Book Group. She is retired from an academic career.

We’ll introduce more contributors in the summer issue.

—The editor

Many writers contribute to each Library News issue.

Over 300 fifth and sixth graders visited the Bainbridge Public Library February 19 for a special “Leaving Our Island” program commemorating the evacuation of Japanese-Americans from Bainbridge Island during World War II. After a greeting by Young People’s Librarian Sharon Snyder, students viewed a short film featuring Junkari Harui speaking of his family’s experience, toured the memorial Haiku Garden, and wrote some haikus of their own.

Spring travel programs set

Travel programs at the Bainbridge Public Library continue this spring, thanks to The Traveler bookstore, co-sponsors of the series with the library.

The April 21 program will feature Bart and Dana Berg, local cycling enthusiasts. They’ll take viewers on an armchair tour of Europe via bicycle, traveling on two wheels across Italy and as far north as the Arctic Circle. Also included will be tips on planning a successful biking expedition.

On May 19 Thomas Jenfork will present photos that capture the unique beauty of the wild icescapes in “Antarctica, Land of Ice and Penguins”.

Library travel programs begin at 7:30 p.m.

Field’s End spring classes

No deadlines will face Tranthan’s students, but he anticipates that within 15 minutes of the start of the first class, students will be writing. Over five Tuesday evenings at Pegasus Coffee House, starting April 20, they will set their pens to anything from short op-ed pieces to in-depth essays.

Through sharing of their work with Tranthan and each other, students will seek to answer the question posed in the class description: “When we write an opinion, we craft a path — one of logic, surprise or affirmation — that we hope our readers will follow to a conclusion. So how do we either启迪 or follow or travel with it?”

Like all Field’s End instructors, Tranthan brings professional writing and teaching experience to his students. As an accomplished poet, he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, and he has been an educator, publisher and owner of newspapers in several western states.

His honors include Best Columnist from the Native American Media Association, and the Society of Professional Journalists, a Ruhl Fellowship and the Heywood Broun Award. Tranthan wrote the twice-weekly column “North by Northwest” for the Seattle Times until he resigned in 2000 when he decided not to take sides in that year’s newspaper strike.

Tranthan and his wife and two children reside in the Fort Ward area.

Bellingham-based author Laura Kalpakian will travel to the island for two Saturday afternoon classes, April 24 and May 1, at Strawberry Hill Center. Her course, “Navigating the Past,” is intended to help writers recreate the past — covering “where to look, what to look for and what to do with it.” The results can add both broad context and intimate depth to fiction, nonfiction, memoir, and essays.

Kalpakian has written eight novels and three prize-winning collections of short fiction. One, Delinquent Virgins, was chosen by the American Library Association as one of the Top 25 Books of the Year 2000. Among her literary accolades are an NEA fellowship and a Pushcart Prize. Her latest novel, The Memoir Club, was published in January.

Field’s End’s third spring offering, poet Sharon Cumberland’s class “The Craft of Poetry,” will cover the key elements of poetry, including metaphor, rhyme, repetition, imagery, form, revision and context. Students will both analyze published great poems and work on their own craft. They will also explore when to write a poem rather than a piece of fiction or non-fiction.

The class will meet at the library on six Thursday evenings for two hours each time, starting April 15. Cumberland is the author of two chapbooks, The Arithmetic of Mourning and Sharon Cumberland: Greatest Hits 1985-2000. She has published in a wide variety of magazines and journals, and her poems have been nominated for the Pushcart Prize.

She has given many readings of her poetry in local venues, from the Seattle Slam at Bumbershoot and the Red Sky Poetry Theater. She is an associate professor at Seattle University, where she teaches English and poetry writing.

Field’s End tuition reflects the professional quality of its instruction. However, tuition assistance is available through the Jack Olsen Memorial Tuition Assistance Fund.

Since 2002, Field’s End has become a regional resource for adults interested in learning the art and craft of writing. In addition to its writing courses, Field’s End hosts a free monthly Writer’s Roundtable series at the library, a free Writers’ Workout series at various West Sound locations, plus other lectures and special events open to the public.
Flagpole capers at the library

BY BARBARA WINTHER

“Examine the flagpole outside the library. It is tall and made of wood, and each day a staff member raises and lowers the flag.

The Jaycees were in charge of one another during the 1960s. Kiwanis took over in the 1970s. Once, when the pole needed painting, a few Kiwanis members, including Don Beemer, lowered the pole and its top broke off. They stuck the largest section back in place, and nobody seemed to notice the difference.

“One day in the spring of 1992, about noon, a cherry picker, working on the outside light standards, backed into that flagpole, breaking it into several sections, the largest smashing in the hood of a station wagon belonging to Dorothy and Paul Amis. Dorothy was inside the library at the time, but in the back of the wagon were the family’s three Welsh corgis—Brigid, Cormac, and Padriac.

The American flag donated to the library by Shirley Howe was given to her by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in honor of her husband who fought in three wars. Veterans first raised the flag on July 6, 1997 at the library’s opening day.

Friends of the Library news

Enter a great solution. With permission from Katy’s family, the Bainbridge Island Historical Society enthusiastically agreed to accept the publishing rights to the book, and to handle the sales and marketing responsibilities. With their new location on Ericksen, the Historical Society is perfectly positioned to be the keepers of the history of this island. It keeps the book squarely where it needs to be—housed with the stewards of this unique story of Bainbridge. It keeps the book in the hands where it needs to be—housed with the keepers of the history of this island.

In other news, starting in June, we will change our sales schedule slightly. For the past few years, we have had a two-day sale four times a year, in March, June, September, and December. We started this as an experiment to see if people who could not make the Saturday sale would make it to a Sunday sale. Recently patrons have requested we hold a sale in the evening to reach people who are just too busy on weekends, or who work weekends. We decided to take on this suggestion, and to try another experiment.

Now our second day sale for those two-day sales, will be on Monday night. The monthly schedule remains the same—two-day sales will continue on June, September, December, and March. In June, look for the second day on Monday evening, from 5 to 8. That also means we no longer will have sales on Sundays.

We hope this gives more people a chance to come to our sales. Please give us your feedback on this experiment, because you and your great support are why the Friends sales are such a great success for the library. See you at the sale!

Book sales to come

Saturday, April 10
Saturday May 8
Saturday June 12 & Monday June 14
Saturday July 10
Saturday August 14
Saturday September 11 & Monday September 13
Saturday October 9
Saturday November 13
Saturday December 11 & Monday December 13

It’s Here! A new novel from Bainbridge Island author Susan Wiggs

“Exquisite Catering

206.842.7442

stephanie.alexopoulou stepsbeyondcatering@aol.com

For more information, please visit www.susanwiggs.com

Stephanie, of Course!

A human and multilayered story exploring duty to both country and family.

— Sally Roberts

You’re invited to a book signing.

Thursday, April 1, 2004, 7:30 p.m.

Eagle Harbor Book Company.
Public library offers free and
equal access to all of us

By SUSAN BOTTLES

THE BEAUTY of the blossoming gardens, the friendly warmth of the staff, the excitement of literary readings and writing classes and so much more draw islanders through the library’s doors this season. At the same time, it all depends on your private generosity.

WHILE WE PAY property taxes to fund most of the collection and all of the staff salaries, it’s our generous donors’ money that pays for everything else from the electricity to janitorial bills. For more than four decades, the building, operation and maintenance of Bainbridge Public Library has depended on the private decisions of islanders to support the one place where they can all go to gain “free and equal access to the collected knowledge, information and history of our culture.” This unfettered access is one of the great traditions of our culture,” reads the Washington State Library Manual for Trustees. Those words, “free and equal,” echo the ringing phrases of the Declaration of Independence.

All persons who enter the library, young or old, rich or poor, healthy or infirm will be welcomed and helped to find and use the information or entertainment they seek. It’s a unique promise renewed each time the library doors open. Here on this island, it is also a promise that depends on your private generosity.

Retiring from the board are Susan Bray, after three years, and Verda Averrill, after six. They will continue to serve the library, Bray as director of the successful Speakers Forum and Averrill as editor of the Library News.

Library board members serve three-year terms, with a maximum of two successive terms. All are volunteers.

Three join library board

C.J. Griffiths

C.J. has been the news editor for the Carletonian (Carleton College’s newspaper) for the last couple of years. He was just re-elected to a second term on the CSA Senate, the student government body. He is fairly certain that he will be a political science major and will be declaring his major next term. This summer, C.J. will be staying at Carleton as one of two New Student Week Coordinators who will be planning all the activities and orientation for next year’s freshman class.

“It’s going to be fun!” he said.

Matt Feisthammel

Matt’s first year as Reed College in Portland is going well. He is enjoying his classes, especially psychology, an elective he started this quarter.

Reed offers lots of off-campus events such as plays and symphony performances which he attends. Currently he is exploring options for summer employment and travel.

Writers’ Workout set

Do you want to learn more about the writing craft? Are you a writer who wants to meet other writers? Field’s End, the library-affiliated writers’ community, offers its very popular, free, informal-yet-structured Writers’ Roundtables the third Thursday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the library. Well-known guest authors continue to generously support this effort, which has attracted a core of regulars but is always welcoming to new writers.

On April 20, humorist Sheila Rabe will introduce the topic, “What’s so funny – how does a writer tickle the reader’s funny bone?” Following Roundtable format, she will suggest discussion questions for participants as they break into small groups to share their own experiences and ideas. After each group summarizes its ideas, Rabe will wrap it all up – and then everyone is free to socialize, with refreshments.

Yes! Magazine publisher and non-fiction author David Korten will be the guest author May 18. His question is “How does a writer awaken the reader’s sense of the possible?”

Best-selling fantasy author Terry Brooks, a Seattle resident, will introduce the topic, “What’s the importance of dreaming your story?” on June 15.

Field’s End is an all-volunteer run program founded in 2002 to inspire writers and nurture the written word through lectures, workshops and instruction in the art and craft of writing.

The group recently published a brochure about the Writers’ Roundtables. Production was supported by a grant from the city’s Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Fund, administered by the Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council. The brochure, which includes the complete 2004 Roundtable schedule, is available at the library.

Roundtables are scheduled

Bainbridge Island Library News is published every quarter by the Bainbridge Island Library Board, a non-profit organization, and distributed to all Island residents and local library users. Verda Averrill is editor; contributing writers are all regular library volunteers.

Board members are Susan Bottles, president; Janet Brookes, Marie Butters, Joan Gardiner, Don Harrington, Richard Hassell, Wyman Johnson, Jim Laughlin, Marlene Lee-Min, Bob Linu, Ann Lovjoy, Channy Peters, and Val Tollefson. Branch manager is Cindy Harrison, Kitsap Regional Library representative is Althera Paulison, and Steve Larson is past president.
Your donations keep our library operating

Newcomers often don’t know it, but the Bainbridge Public Library was built entirely by donations from local library boosters, and friendly visitors.

Unlike the many libraries in this country which are supported by grants, the Bainbridge library has never received a dime of tax money for building maintenance and operation. (Staff salaries and circulating materials are, however, paid by Kitsap Regional Library, which is tax supported.) Since the first Bainbridge library building opened in 1962, it has been expanded twice -- once in 1982 and again in 1997. All of this building has been possible because generous Bainbridge citizens have donated more than $2 million for their library over the past four decades.

As the city’s population has grown, so has the library. And with increasing space and heavier use, it costs more to operate each year. Current costs for maintenance and operation run about $1,300 per year -- and every penny comes from gifts of those and of your neighbors. That’s why your donation, whether small or large, is so important.

Your gifts come in the form of cash and checks sent directly to the library, given through Bainbridge Foundation’s fall Call for Art, and to the delightful giraffe (upstairs) and dog (downstairs) created by local artist Kathy Furgus. (Indirect gifts -- through book sales, room rental, advertising in this paper, etc. -- also help. But this column is about your direct donations.)

However you give, and whether the amount is $5 or $5,000, your thoughtfulness helps make it possible for the Bainbridge Public Library to continue to serve as an information center for all Islanders. Your library board and other volunteers are grateful for your gifts.

The following donors contributed to the library between August 31 and the deadline for this publication.

(If you have recently mailed a check and your name does not appear here, please let a staff member know so that we may credit you properly in the next issue. This list of contributors helps make it possible for the library to continue to serve as an information center for all Islanders.)

BY MARIETE BUTNERS

Each year the generous “public” involved in the Bainbridge Public Library responds with an outpouring of support, some great and some small gifts, as each personal situation permits.

This community supports help pay for the heat, lights, water, roof repairs, pressure washing, and the myriad of other practical day-to-day needs -- and sometimes capital improvements -- of the library.

Here on Bainbridge Island, we truly have a public library.

But there is another important way that Bainbridge Islanders can be involved. As the city’s population has grown, so has the library. And with increasing space and heavier use, it costs more to operate each year. Current costs for maintenance and operation run about $1,300 per year -- and every penny comes from gifts of those and of your neighbors. That’s why your donation, whether small or large, is so important.

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(If you have recently mailed a check and your name does not appear here, please let a staff member know so that we may credit you properly in the next issue. Woman Johnson is the hard-working volunteer who is now updating our data base. --Editor)

John & Brenda Hisey
Michiko Tsukada
Thomas & Nancy Downs
Therese Coad & Christopher Pence
Thomas & Stuellen Cunningham
Rick & Linda Smith Walsh
Henry & Tomi Egashira
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Peyton
Matt & Tatiana Dudley
Doug & Mary Roben
Leslie Lehman
David C. Myers
Paul & Dorothy Amis
David & Cynthia Pence
Charlie & Nancy Wiggins
Ed & Joanne Ellis
Noel & Helene Dahlander
Anne & Jan Droge
Craig & Sherry Hagstrom
Don & Barbara Swenson
Wendy & Tom Jahus Marshall
Candace & Eirk Jagel
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Gwen Billings
Arlene Hobbs
Larry & Barbara Mills
Stephen & Suzanne Palmaamon
Frank Buxton & Cynthia Sears
Dwight & Edith Sutton
Bruce Beall & Barbara Trafson
Terry & Mable Roche
Robert & Rachel Smith
William & Bessy Lawrence
John & Barbara Gilney
Edward & Bertha Dorenus
Bruce & Ivy Stevens
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Jack & Mildred Whelolon
Isami & Kaniko Nakao
Suzanne Peters
Alan F. & Sally Black
Tim & Mississ Goss
Salley Anne West
William & Minnie Isley
Bruce & Judy Weizland
John & Barbara Cooper
Marlene LeMire
Mary Frances Burkhalter
Susan Hobbs
Doug Geason & Pegen Mulhern
John & Helen Mahor
Barbara Shane & Michael Cox
E. Paul & Geoj Roberts
Olga Macferran
Mary Neil
Priscilla Greenleens
Edwin & Virginia Mackay
Randi & Marcie Westreich
David & Nancy Wilson
Anna Johnsson
Susan & Kim Bottles
Sada & Darrell Allen
George & Donna Kinney
Education Advisory Group
Druse & Eva Neumann
Bob & Virginia Felt
Russell & Constance Keyes
Charles & Florence Minat
Book groups

The groups’ friends

Today, Bayley notes, there are over 70 book groups county-wide who use the Kitsap Regional Library’s branches. Members come into the libraries in person and talk with reference librarians about possible selections, or they communicate through the KRL website.

Bayley and her colleagues are good friends of the book groups, and she occasionally attends group meetings.

With Bainbridge branch manager Cindy Harrison, Bayley organized a Bainbridge Library Book Group about three years ago, shortly before the library system began to acquire a collection designed specifically for book group use.

The original collection contained 12 titles and 15 copies of each. (Fifteen is about the maximum size for a discussion group, Bayley says. With more members, not everyone gets a chance to speak.)

Today there are 72 titles, non-fiction and fiction, in the collection and many books are so popular they are reserved months in advance.

Groups organize in various ways. Most meet once a month and read a new book every month. Usually all members read the same book, and in some groups the person who hosts the meeting gets to select the book to be read.

At least one discussion group, the long-established Random Readers, takes a different approach. Their members read whatever they like, and share their opinions with each other. With each member reading a different book, they are exposed to many titles and topics. They like the variety.

The Library Group

The Bainbridge Library Book Group was organized because Harrison and Bayley felt newcomers needed a group where they’d feel welcome. (Today, several long-time residents are also regulars.)

The first few meetings were co-hosted by Bayley and Harrison, and Harrison still attends many meetings. Pat Miller, a retired English professor, now acts as facilitator for the discussions.

The group has grown, and so has members’ enthusiasm. There were 20 readers on hand for one recent, lively discussion of a popular book.

More often, about eight to 12 show up.

“That’s about the optimum size for a good book group,” says Bayley, “although a group with only four or five can also work well.”

When groups grow too large, Bayley likes to see them split in two. Both Manchester and Kingston groups have successfully spun off new sections.

There is no sign yet that the Bainbridge Library Group, mostly female with a few male members, is too large. Newcomers are welcome to show up on the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. (For more information, and to get a copy of the book to be discussed, ask anyone at the library reference desk.)

Several, perhaps most, of the Library Book Group members also belong to one or more other groups. What distinguishes the library group from others, says Pat Miller, is members’ focus on the book itself.

Miller, who belongs to other groups, says it’s easy for friends and neighbors who have formed a group to stray from the book itself and indulge in socializing and friendly gossip.

Continued On Page 7
Enjoying the discussion at the March Library Book Group meeting are Meredith Radella (above), Jonathan Blon and Karen Wilson (upper right) and Joan Smith (lower right).

Continued from Page 6

Book groups

“With this library group, the discussion is 100 percent about the book. ... With other groups, it might be 50 percent about the book,” she notes.

Funding the books

Bainbridge book clubs are organized in many formats and acquire their reading material in various ways. Some like to buy their own copies from local bookstores; others prefer to check out books from the library selection. (With 72 titles, and 15 copies of each, there are plenty of choices.)

Funding for the library copies has not yet been a problem, even in these tight financial times. Collection managers Bayley (fiction) and Gail Goodrick (non-fiction) must meet a strict budget, but they’ve had help from many sources.

The Kitsap Regional Library Foundation contributed seed money for the book group collection in 2000. A number of titles have been gifts from book groups.

“At Christmas, club members may each put in $10 and we can then add another book to the collection,” Bayley explains.

At least 20 of the 72 titles now available are gifts, several of them from Bainbridge groups. The Friends of the Library have also added to the collection, she notes.

Eclectic collection

A lot of thought has gone into the choosing of book group titles for the library.

Bayley recalls: “When we first planned for the groups, I went to Nancy Pearl (popular Seattle librarian) and asked her advice on titles. ... She said, “Oh, you must have Wallace Stegner’s Angle of Repose.” That was one of the first books acquired.

A quick glance at authors now in the collection includes John Steinbeck, Truman Capote, Graham Greene, Tom Brokaw, Charles Dickens, Ivan Doig, Isabel Allende, Dorothy Sayers, Jonathan Raban. ... well, you get the idea. It’s eclectic indeed.

What’s in a name?

Some groups give a lot of thought to their names, others never do adopt a name. Some names -- like the Random Readers or Environmental Book Group -- clearly indicate the members’ focus. Others leave you guessing, and perhaps smiling.

Here are a few of the groups now active in the county:

Manchester Bookworms, Spits Sisters, Ship of Fools (a Bainbridge group), Lusterati, Steel Magnolias (Bainbridge), Point White (Bainbridge), Church Moms, Striders (Bainbridge), Hansville Hens, Bee’s Book Club, and R & R.

Does the Curious Souls Book Group sound appealing? They meet the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the library’s lower level meeting room to discuss books by Indian sage Ramana Maharshi. Visitors are welcome. Call 842-1708 for information.

Does your group have an unusual name? A different approach? Some unique experience to relate? We’d like to hear from you.

(We’ll have more information on Bainbridge book clubs in the next Library News issue.)

Winter readers review the books they have read

Nearly 60 Bainbridge Islanders joined the library’s winter reading challenge (many winning free lattes in the process).

Several of them shared their opinions of noteworthy books, and unsigned excerpts from their brief reviews follow.

“Everyone has seemed to enjoy the winter reading event,” said Cindy Harrison, the library branch manager.

“Our special thanks go to Bainbridge Bakers, the Blackbird Bakery, and Pegasus for providing the lattes to our winners.”

The following books were cited by one or more readers; their comments follow:

The Devil in the White City, Erik Larson. This was a fascinating book. I have been recommending it to everyone. A who’s who of early American architecture.

John Adams, David McCullough. A marvelous biography which also put other players and events of that era in place.

Steady as She Goes, Barbara Sjoholm. I felt like I was in each story. Great collection for an armchair sailor.

Full Cry, Rita Mae Brown. A surprisingly informative, engaging and pro-animal story.

Culture of Fear, Barry Glasser. How media distortion and political expediency lead Americans to fear minor problems (weird diseases, etc.) instead of what we should worry about: increasing poverty, inequality and the lack of access to education and health care.

Honeymoon in Purdah, Alison Weir. Fascinating glimpse into the surprisingly warm heart of Iran through the eyes of a Canadian woman.

Confessions of a Shopaholic, Sophie Kinsella. If you’ve ever rationalized an impulse buy, you’ll recognize yourself in Becky Bloomwood.

Life of Pi, Yann Martel. A novel with at least two possible interpretations – I’m not sure which I prefer, probably the more whimsical one.

Tales of Passion, Tale of Woe, Sandra Gulland. The second book in the trilogy of the life of Josephine Bonaparte has her meeting Napoleon, how she comes to marry him and the terrors of the French Revolution and its aftermath.


Spotted in France, Gregory Edmont. The author buys an old Moped and travels France with his dalmation.

The Last King of Scotland, Giles Foden. A young physician moves to Uganda to practice in the bush and finds himself the personal doctor of Idi Amin.

The winter reading program for adults continues through April 24.
NEW! Spring storytime schedule includes pajama family event and a special guest’s appearance

Terrific Twos: Programs for children 2 years of age that include books, music, puppets, felt board stories and fingerplays. Children must be accompanied by a caregiver. Mondays 10:30-11:00am March 22, 29 and April 5, 12, 19, 26 Preschool: Books, music, puppets, flannelboard stories and fingerplays for children ages three through kindergarten. Wednesdays 10:30-11:00am March 24, 31 and April 7, 14, 21, 28 Special Family Storytelling Event: Laura Krause Melmed. Gail’s pick: Little Toot, by Hardie Gramatky. Eleanors pick: Newton, by Rory Tyger.

For early readers: New! Darling Kinderley (DK) Readers in the John People Do series have arrived. Titles include: A Day in the Life of a Builder, Dancer, Firefighter, etc.

Transitional readers: More advanced DK Readers are mixed in with high-interest subjects in juvenile nonfiction. Titles include The Story of the Incredible Hulk, Welcome to the Globe: The Story of Shakespeare’s Theater, and Antarctic Adventure.

Juvenile fiction: Sharon’s pick: Sahara Special, by Esme Raji Coddell.

Library staff chooses some favorite children’s books

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We’ve had designs on Bainbridge for 29 years

Summer reading program is almost ready for you

Are you ready for it? Kickoff will be on Saturday, June 12 and the theme is “Trail and Tales at Your Library.”

Start thinking about all the glorious books you’ll want to read, listen and/or read to others when you have more time to call your own this summer.

We’ll be happy to place the titles you want on hold, then put them under “inactive” status until school’s out and you’re ready to receive them. Just let us know.

Bainbridge Public Library will host some really great programs that include: magic, juggling, music, Barnaby Bear, storytelling and some kind of a loco rodeo.

Look for signs, flyers and announcements in late May and early June.

NEWS BRIEFS

BAINBRIDGE LIBRARY BOARD members held a retreat in early March to plan for the coming year. Coming soon: a paved parking lot with 20 additional spaces for cars.
School Library Journal Best Easy Fiction Books
(published in 2003 for children to age 7)

Each year the editors of School Library Journal select a list of the most outstanding children’s books (both fiction and non-fiction) published for that year. Only fiction titles are listed above in this partial list selected from NoveList, one of the online databases available through the KRL Web Page at www.krl.org

* Means we have this book in Bainbridge Island Library
** Means it is in another branch and available for reserve

Aylesworth, Jim, Goldilocks and the Three Bears* (On order)
Cronin, Doreen, Diary of a Worm**
Hamilton, Virginia, Brub Rabbit and the Tar Baby Girl* (On order)
James, Simon, Little One Step**
Long, Melinda, How I Became a Pirate**
Murphy, Mary, I Kissed the Baby**
O’Malley, Kevin, Straight to the Pole* (On order)
Peters, Lisa Westberg, Earthskate* (On order)
Provence, Alice, A Day in the Life of Murphy**
Pulver, Robin, Punctuation Takes a Vacation**
Root, Phyllis, Big Momma Makes the World*
Segal, Lorie, Morris the Artist*
Ward, Helen, The Rooster and the Fox*
Wheeler, Lisa, Old Cricket**

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** Means it is in another branch and available for reserve

Penguins star in slide show

By GAIL CHRISTENSEN

Penguins and ice are the stars of a slide show scheduled for May 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the library meeting room. The program is one in a series of travel programs co-sponsored by the library and The Traveler bookstore. Admission is free.

Island photographer Thomas Fenwick will lead the armchair tour entitled “Antarctica: The Land of Ice and Penguins.” Visitors will tour the southernmost continent and South Georgia Island, made famous by Ernest Shackleton.

Through his narration and photos Fenwick will provide viewers glimpses into the life of penguins, birds, and seals in a most unforgiving environment. Among the animals shown will be several species of penguins, including the “Ookum boys,” and seals nicknamed “the bad boys of the beach.” Viewers will cruise vicariously through a world of spectacular icebergs.

Thomas will also display some of his photographs from his time in Antarctica.

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POETRY SLAM!
Monday, April 26, 6:30 p.m.
Bainbridge Library
This HAS to be experienced.

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Memories of a Bainbridge childhood

By SUSAN WIGGS

My little mailbox at Rollingbay brings me lots of “Dear Author” letters, most of which are wonderfully gratifying. I can do without the prison mail requesting autographed photos or worse, autographed undergarments, but the rest I always answer, eventually.

Here’s one I’m delighted to share with nostalgic Bainbridge Islanders. It’s from Janice Treanor La Vigne, a resident of El Sobrante, California, and here it is, with her permission.

A friend loaned me Passing Through Paradise [by Susan Wiggs] recently. Enjoyed the story very much and imagine my surprise when I read the bio at the end of the book stating you lived ‘on an island in the Pacific Northwest.’ When I saw the Rollingbay address, I knew which island!

“My family moved to Port Madison and several years later to Manzanita, where I lived until I graduated from high school. When I ‘go home’ for reunions I don’t recognize much of anything any more.

‘Having grown up on the water (our view was of the Olympics and we watched a lot of setting suns sink into Puget Sound—doesn’t rain there every day!), I relate any story about water and boats and clam digging and beaches to be run on when the tide is out.’

“I graduated from BHS with Russell Trask (1952) whose family lived in the area. Ann Gowen Combs was also a classmate. In those days there were no street names, and landmarks were used as identifiers.

‘Picked a lot of strawberries for the Japanese farmers whose children were classmates of mine. Don Nakata was in my class and Junkoh Haru was my chemistry partner.

‘Had a babysitting job at the Country Club. I was so lucky to have just one child to watch. His parents’ house was next to the ninth tee (where I hung up the washing) and also faced the water. What a life! I watched the Kalakala ferry travel between Seattle and Bremerton many times.

‘Fifteen years ago I went back to work to earn college expenses for my youngest son. The office manager asked where I was from. When I told her Bainbridge Island, she almost fell off her chair. Her husband had graduated in 1938 from Bainbridge. The house he grew up in was later leased (circa 1947 or ’48) to George Westinghouse...after their first child, George, was born. After the Lindbergh baby kidnapping, wealthy families were desperate to keep a very low profile.

“One of my mother’s friends (a retired nurse) was hired by the family as governess for their little boy. When the parents went to Seattle for the opera or other cultural event, Solveig would call Mom and invite us to come for dinner. Now, I only remember a sweet, curly blond little boy who was delighted to have someone to play with him.

‘Mr. Westinghouse had a Model T Ford truck he used to drive to Winslow. The house was near the road to Yeomalt and West Point. You couldn’t tell by looking at his attire that he was wealthy, and all the islanders kept their mouths shut about the Westinghouse family residing on Bainbridge.

‘Many happy memories of a wonderful childhood on the island when life was lived much more slowly, and we kids didn’t know what prejudice was. Winter population then was about 3000.

‘The artist who did the blown glass cloud sculpture in the remodelled library purchased some of the art from the company I was working for. He had a studio in Marin County and was in the process of relocating to Bainbridge when he received the commission for Bainbridge Library.

‘A couple of years back my husband and I made a point of going into the library to see the sculpture and admire the new building. Lots of light and room for children to wander about and discover the joys of reading.

‘I will look for other books written by you, and I’m enclosing a [cash contribution to the Bainbridge Library.]’

[Janice Treanor La Vigne E-mail janice.treanorla@sbcglobal.net]

[Susan Wiggs is a Bainbridge Island author and Library News contributor]

NEWS BRIEFS

THE REVOLVING art exhibit in the library’s main conference room is there for public viewing whenever the room is open. If the room is locked, visitors may ask a library staff member to open it for viewing.

THE 2004-2005 LIBRARY SPEAKERS FOCUS is now being scheduled by director Susan Bray. Suggestions for next year’s speakers may be left for Bray at the library, or she may be reached by telephone (listed in the Bainbridge directory).

DID YOU KNOW the Bainbridge Public Library was built entirely for donations? No tax dollars have ever been levied to pay for the library’s maintenance and operations.
By SUSAN WIGGS

Being a firstborn child (and a Virgo), bestselling author Katherine Stone set about plotting her life at a very young age. By the time she reached kindergarten, the Seattle native knew she wanted to be a doctor, and at 11, having written her first short story, she knew she’d love to be a writer, too. Undaunted by the prospect of preparing for not one, but two demanding careers, Katherine attended Stanford University, where she completed her pre-med requirements while majoring in English, and received her MD from the University of Washington. After an Internal Medicine residency in San Francisco, she did an Infectious Diseases fellowship in Los Angeles. One of the world’s largest outbreaks of Legionnaires’ Disease occurred at the L.A. hospital where she was doing her fellowship, giving Katherine the opportunity to write and lecture on the mysterious new disease. “The novel itself, which weaves together the lives and loves of four main characters, will appeal to readers who enjoy complex emotional “relationship” stories with happy endings (despite obstacles along the way).”

To date, she has published 19 novels, each distinguished by a distinctive style of lyrical prose, poignant emotion and potent romance. “There’s nothing wrong with incurable romanticism,” the doctor asserts. “I love writing about nice people giving their very best shot — nice people who discover the splendor of love.” And, although she’s hung up her stethoscope for the time being, Katherine very much enjoys sharing her passion for medicine — its drama, its emotions, its science — with her readers. “I enjoy incorporating medical settings in the stories I write,” she says.

Katherine Stone is a proud card-carrying member of the Sno-Isle Library, and, as the librarians at the Mukilteo Library will readily attest, is a frequent borrower. Her attractive web site is www.katherinestone.com. The author and her books, and sign up for a postcard mailing list.

Mukilteo Library will readily attest.

Recommended Reads From Author Katherine Stone

Simple Abundance by Sara Ban Breathnach: how to unclutter your life and celebrate its joy.

Positively Fifth Street by James McManus: true story of murder of Ted Binion, Las Vegas billionaire, as well as a poker-player’s eye view of Vegas. (Note: fascinating, but ‘R’ — possibly ‘X’ — rated)

Legends of the Plumed Serpent by Neil Baldwin: elegantly written exploration of Aztec lore.

The doctor is in

Katherine Stone plotted a life with two careers

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Katherine Stone is a proud card-carrying member of the Sno-Isle Library, and, as the librarians at the Mukilteo Library will readily attest, is a frequent borrower. Her attractive web site is www.katherinestone.com. The author and her books, and sign up for a postcard mailing list.

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Recommended Reads From Author Katherine Stone

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It’s not too late to read for latte

It’s not too late to sign up for the Bainbridge Public Library’s adult reading challenge. Though billed as a winter event, the book reading continues through April 24. Adults who read five books by that date each receive a free latte courtesy of Bainbridge Bakers, Blackbird Bakery, or Pegasus.

Readers are invited to share their opinions of the books they read, and some of the comments will be published in future issues of the Library News. Readers who sign up are also entered for a chance at the gift basket on display in the lobby. The drawing will be held in late April. About 60 adults have signed up to date.
Mysteries and marathons
An interview with author Michael Collins

BY SUZANNE SELFORS

What do a literary thriller and an ultra-marathon have in common?

The answer is Field’s End instructor Michael Collins, whose intense physical and mental commitment to both has earned him several successes.

Look at what this 39-year-old Irish author has done. He has written seven books - two short story collections and five novels. His first novel was named New York Times Notable Book of 1993. His fifth novel was named 1999 Irish Novel of the year and shortlisted for the Booker Prize (Britain’s leading literary award). He was co-winner of the Antarctic literary award. He has written two books, one dedicated to the fair, another to his first writing course during his senior year at Notre Dame. Last Soul has been well received in Britain.

In 1889 the French hosted the Exposition Universelle, where they unveiled the Eiffel Tower, opened as planned in May of 1893. After a stumbling quarter, then runs again. "It takes 10 to 15 years to get to know a country."

"It's too late to get my money back. I guess I'll just have to run lightly.

Books by Michael Collins
The Man Who Dreamt of Lobsters (stories)
The Life and Times of a Teaboy, (non-fiction)
Emerald Underground, The Keepers of Truth (true crime)
The Resurrectionists, Lost Souls

BY PATRICIA MILLER

In 1889 the French hosted the Exposition Universelle, but where they unveiled the Eiffel Tower, the dramatic centerpiece of “a world so fair and big and glassy, and so exotically, that visitors came away believing no exposition could surpass it.”

The America was the result of a group of men and women who worked on the fair, who lived in the city, who wrote about it. Michael Collins is one of those writers, and his new book, The Devil in the White City, is a thriller that tells the story of the fair and its aftermath.

The fair opened in May of 1893. After a stumbling quarter, then runs again. "It takes 10 to 15 years to get to know a country."

But how can an Irishman so adeptly capture the American voice? "In America you have to watch yourself," he said. "If you lose the track here, last, where you can end up. In Europe there is more of a middling.

\"It\'s too late to get my money back. I guess I\'ll just have to run lightly.\"


What are you waiting for?

Fiction readers to favorite while you wait for that new bestseller

By VERDA A VERILL
Library News editor

You study the bestseller lists in the Seattle Times, Washington Post, and New York Times, and scan the enticing offers from mail-order book clubs. You know you want to read the latest John Grisham, David Guterson, Marcia Muller, or Susan Wiggs bestseller.

So check in at the library -- in person or via computer. Within your area you're No. 69 on the list for a particular offering. And there are just 15 copies circulating. Clearly, you'll be waiting for many weeks.

Frustrating, isn't it?

I know. It happened to me last month.

But take heart. There are thousands of great reads on the shelves here at the Bainbridge Public Library, or just a day or two away in some nearby Kitsap County branch. They'll tide you over while you wait for the new blockbuster.

What do you like?


Whatever your favorite genre, chances are you'll find plenty of examples on the shelves at the Friends of the Library book sale downstairs (on the second Saturday of most months) as well as among the circulating volumes upstairs.

Do you prefer books with compelling characters, spectacular settings, or convoluted plots that keep you guessing until the last page? Or all three?

Siegel's main characters, law partners Mike Daly and Rosie Fernandez, are appealing originals, and the city of San Francisco is vividly portrayed by the author, a practicing attorney in that city.

Siegel’s first novel, Special Circumstances, arrived on the scene in 2000 to rave reviews: “An electrifying new voice in legal fiction... a phenomenal thriller unlike anything you’ve read before...” His third book, Criminal Intent (2002), like the first, brings readers an intricate plot, likable characters (Daley’s a former priest and public defender), powerful suspense, and the gritty side (as well as the glamorous mystique) of the City by the Bay. All three novels are in our library collection.

Author Val McDermid is a former journalist and now a full-time writer living in South Manchester, England. She’s published a dozen acclaimed novels and at least one non-fiction book. If I’d read none of her work until my son John, a writer and omnivorous reader, recommended her first two books, Wire in the Blood and The Mermaids Singing, I’d be a Val McDermid fan, and I was working my way through her long list of titles; a few are always on our library shelves.

Writer Michael Connelly wrote this about McDermid: “She is one of the most important crime writers at work today.”

—Michael Connelly

Val McDermid is one of the most important crime writers at work today.

Enough said.

Connelly himself is no slouch when it comes to the written word.

His Trunk Music and The Black Echo are old favorites, and a 2002 publication, Chasing the Dime, was well reviewed. Connelly’s long series of Harry Bosch novels have sold millions of copies and he’s “raising the hard-boiled detective novel to a new level... adding substance and depth to modern crime fiction.” (The Boston Globe)

Pick any Connelly title at random; you can’t go wrong. He’s won the Edgar Award, a Nero Wolfe prize, a Macavity Award, and an Anthony Award. Connelly lives in, and writes about, Los Angeles. (His Lost Light, published in 2003, is just out in paperback and available locally.)

Dennis Lehane is a writer’s writer, he has worked as a writing teacher, and is frequently cited for his beautiful sentences. “Boy, does he know how to write,” wrote Elmore Leonard (who also knows how to write). You’ve probably read Mystic River.

But if you’ve missed Lehane’s early books, check out the first -- A Drink Before the War -- and the subsequent offerings featuring Patrick Kenzie and Angela Gennaro. “It’s like watching Robert B. Parker and John Updike duke it out with phrase by phrase on some steamy night in Boston’s Combat Zone,” wrote John Dufresne. (A word of warning: The characters are captivating, but the realistic battle scenes are not for the squeamish.)

Martha Grimes, who lives in Washington, D. C. and Santa Fe, usually writes English detective stories with strange twists and eccentric characters. But in her most recent book, Foul Matter, she takes on the book publishing industry. With a deft twist of her wrist she slices and dices editors, writers, wannabe writers, and literary hit men with skill and zeal -- and some hilarious outcomes.

If there’s a waiting list for this one, I suggest going back to the beginning and reading some of her early detective stories starring Scotland Yard’s Richard Jury and his wonderful, zany cohorts. The Jury novels are almost always named for quaint pubs (real or imagined) in the English countryside. You’ll recognize them instantly by their titles: The Man with a Load of Mischief, The Old Fox Deceived, The Devil in Jasmine, The Jerusalem Inn, The Deer Leap, The Lost Light, The Black Echo.

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Five Bells and Bladestone, The Old Silent, The Horse You Came In On, The Lamorna Wink, The Blue Last, and on and on. A few years ago I joined a walking tour of the Cotswolds, with a couple of Richard Jury books in my backpack. Each new inn we visited was just like a Grimes novel come to life.

James Patterson has been winning readers and topping best-seller lists for years with his fast-paced thrillers starring handsome detective Alex Cross. In 2001 he veered off in a new direction, beginning a series featuring a “women’s murder club” of four professional crime-solving women. While the third volume in this series is now hitting the stands, you may want to start with No. 1, First to Die, ease into its sequel, and read No. 3 when the waiting list is shorter. That way you can watch the characters develop. Most of the Alex Cross books are still circulating on our shelves, too.

Editor’s choice: A bag of good reading for $7

Looking for a few good reads for very little money, your editor shopped the Friends of the Library book sale early this month. Here’s what $7 bought -- a grocery sack filled by works of terrific writers.

Glitz, by Elmore Leonard
Lost Light, by Michael Connelly
The Eagle Heist, by Raymond Austin
(The first three in hard covers).

Paperbacks included:
Prime Cut, by Diane Mott Davidson
Burning Angel, by James Lee Burke
Rainbow’s End, by Martha Grimes
The Talbott Shaw Murders, by Steve Allen
Fellowship of Fear, by Aaron Elkins
A Certain Justice, by John T. Lescroft
Stormy Weather, by Carl Haasen

You don’t need a lot of cash to fill your bookshelves from library sales, and the sale proceeds go toward major improvements for our locally-owned library building. (If you want to read any of the above books, you’re in luck -- they’ll be recycled soon, and available once again at either the April or May book sale.)
Bainbridge library staff and patrons were saddened by the recent passing of several good friends.

Jean Barrow
One of the most frequent patrons of the Bainbridge Public Library was Jean Barrow, who passed away early this year at the age of 93.

In her later years she found it difficult to walk, but was a familiar sight on her bright little golf cart. She knew the library staff by name and appreciated their kindness and thoughtfulness in spotting books they knew she would like. She expressed her appreciation in Christmas cards to the staff and by delivering a birthday cake to the staff lunchroom every year on the October birth date of St. Jerome, the patron saint of libraries.

“She read everything,” recalled branch manager Cindy Harrison. “She had an insatiable curiosity. . . It inspired me because, though she was confined, her ability to read and her appetite for learning never left her. That thirst for knowledge made her world so much larger (than it might have been).

“People like Jean make my life as a librarian so much more rewarding.”

Jean Barrow enjoyed well-written mysteries and memoirs. In her later years she preferred non-fiction to fiction, and found the non-fiction easier to read because it had less of an impact on her emotions than some fiction with very compelling characters. She enjoyed reading biographies of interesting persons, and respected women of achievement. (Her mother was the first woman police chief of Seattle.)

As her health began to fail she said to Bainbridge librarians, “You are my lifetime to the real world.”

“She was one of the easiest people to talk to. . . She had such vibrancy, and was so young in spirit. She was truly a young person caught in an older person’s body,” Harrison noted. “Her wonderful sense of humor and curiosity will be missed.”

Martha Walters
Martha Lea Walters, 60, passed away March 8 at Island Health and Rehabilitation Center after a battle with cancer. Martha moved to Bainbridge Island in 1966 and had been a familiar face at Town and Country Thriftway since 1991, working first in the floral department, later in the deli, and most recently in the parking area. A devoted reader and recycler, Martha was a longstanding daily volunteer at the Bainbridge Island Library, managing the volumes of donated magazines which appeared on the rack in the foyer. She also generously donated her time to Helpline House and other community services.

Born in Nebraska May 22, 1943, she grew up on an apple ranch in Omak, and moved to western Washington in 1962, where her father was a founder of the Gay Liberation Front and pioneered Seattle’s Lesbian Resource Center. Martha served on the board of the University YWCA and also spent several summers in western Montana.

The Bainbridge Public Library gardens have sprung into full bloom, with colorful daffodils and other spring bulbs brightening the main gardens and edging the parking lot. With the arrival of the first warm days of spring and its dazzling yellow and blue bulbs, the many winter-blooming plants have begun to fade and are less noticeable. But even in the depths of winter, the gardens were full of interest. Did you notice the cheerful stalks of plants have begun to fade and are less noticeable.

Bainbridge Gardens also helps develop the site for staff from various landscaping services, other nurseries, and Master Gardeners.

The Bainbridge Gardens has donated generously to the library gardens since the first library building was created, and owner Junko Harui coordinated the planning for the library’s award-winning Haiku Garden.

Bainbridge Gardens also helped develop the volunteer training program for the Natural Landscapes project for the City of Bainbridge Island.

The library gardens spring into full bloom

The Bainbridge Public Library gardens have sprung into full bloom, with colorful daffodils and other spring bulbs brightening the main gardens and edging the parking lot. With the arrival of the first warm days of spring and its dazzling yellow and blue bulbs, the many winter-blooming plants have begun to fade and are less noticeable. But even in the depths of winter, the gardens were full of interest. Did you notice the cheerful stalks of plants have begun to fade and are less noticeable.

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The Bainbridge Gardens has donated generously to the library gardens since the first library building was created, and owner Junko Harui coordinated the planning for the library’s award-winning Haiku Garden.

Bainbridge Gardens also helped develop the volunteer training program for the Natural Landscapes project for the City of Bainbridge Island.

The library gardens spring into full bloom

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Meet the staff: Kate Fagioli and Kelsey Roe

Librarian Kate Fagioli and page Kelsey Roe are the featured Bainbridge Library staff members in this issue.

When she first worked in a South African library, segregation was still in effect. But she was there long enough to see Nelson Mandela released from his long imprisonment and for the libraries to become integrated. Her experiences during the transition were generally positive, and she speaks with optimism about and affection for her native country. Fagioli, like most librarians, is an avid reader; she’s also an acclaimed fabric artist. (In the photo at right, she wears a vest she designed using traditional motifs.) Kelsey Roe, a Bainbridge High School student, works several hours a week as a page -- chiefly in the Young People’s Library. She works well with both children and adults, say her associates, and has a thorough knowledge of young people’s books since she is a voracious reader of those books.

Bainbridge businesses help library — and vice versa

When the Bainbridge Library Board and staff hosted the Bainbridge Chamber of Commerce after-hours get-together last month, business owners and library staff hosted the Bainbridge Chamber of Commerce and staff were reminded once again of their common interests.

Branch manager Cindy Harrison and board president Susan Bottles greeted their common interests. Staffers were reminded once again of last month, business owners and library of Commerce after-hours get-together and staff hosted the Bainbridge Chamber.

More and more Bainbridge businesses are finding valuable information as near as their local library. Businesspersons are finding valuable information as near as their local library.

Regional Library’s expert on business developments, regional area, resident Peggy Branaman, Kitsap board president Susan Bottles greeted their common interests.

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Don’t miss the Friends of the Library

BOOK SALES

Second Saturday, most every month

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Paperbacks from 25 cents

Hardcover books from $1

Lower level

Bainbridge Public Library

1270 Madison Avenue

Mary Louise Ott draws from nature

By NAN WOOLDRIDGE

Leaves, feathers, stalks of wheat. With needlelike precision she traces these reminders of nature with colored pencil on black paper. One leaf may take her eight hours to draw. I reach to touch that leaf; it is too life-like not to be real.

Drawn vein by vein, line by line, eight brilliant-hued leaves in a circular pattern comprise one of Mary Louise Ott's art pieces for the April through June exhibit in the conference room at the library. There is no room for mistakes. On black paper you can't erase. That's why she likes this form.

"I'm a perfectionist," she apologizes, tilting her head with a shy smile. This will be her first art show: "I didn't think my work was good enough," she said, but her fears were allayed when a pen and ink artist, Elizabeth Smith, whose subject, assured her, "No one else has seen that actual leaf or tree," and Ott decided she'd risk it.

Guests may view Ott's work April 4 from 2 to 4 at a reception in the library meeting room and during library hours, April 4 - 30.

Always a collector of objects from the outdoors — shells and stones and "pretty" leaves which she presses and stores away in drawers — she first came upon her idea in a creativity workshop on mandalas taught by Barbara Hollis at Rolling Bay Presbyterian Church.

Ott borrowed the book, *Mandala: Luminous Symbols for Healing* by Judith Cornell, and copied the list in the back of colors that worked on black paper. She began with a color study of a leaf which she repeated around a circle using hues from a color wheel. Then she tried overlapping, which gave some beautiful blends for leaves but didn't work when she tried it for shells.

Because of the mistake factor, she first makes one or two faint pencil-lined circles with a protractor. She sketches and cuts from white paper small drawings of her object. Placing them on the circle, she outlines four of her specimens into the four quadrants of the circle, then decides how many more to include. Once they are all situated, she proceeds with the fun part — veining, patterning, and layering on as many as eight or nine different colors, going back and back to highlight and contrast.

Because her intent is for the viewer to see nature up close in a new light, she is inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe's work.

"The way she blows up flowers so people must really look inside is very exciting to me," Ott says. She would like to magnify a leaf or shell to fill the paper with no outline so "you might not know what the object is, just the detail."

One simple drawing stands alone among her stunning nature compositions, a drawing of her three favorite pencils from childhood. She still has them in a green box, prized because they were not only her favorite colors — pink, purple and blue — but they are softer, called *flo-color*, than the ones most children use. The Prismacolor pencils Ott uses today are similar. Ott has been drawing as long as she can remember.

She particularly recalls drawing at church on the weekly bulletins. Wherever her family went, in her hometown of Portland and beyond, her mom packed along paper and crayons. A favorite scene that she drew over and over was of a lake with mountains behind. A frequent pastime was finding pictures of objects with intricate details that she could copy. In her teens she liked oil painting, but found it later "too messy for a perfectionist," she jokes.

Armed with a Bachelor of Interior Architecture degree from the University of Oregon, Ott took up a 35-year career in interior design, working mostly in commercial enterprises. But she was "never all that happy with it."

Another sideline of art always tugging at her was art education in which she took classes at Lewis and Clark and Portland Art Museum. Thus her move to Bainbridge Island in 1997 "was like being in a candy shop," she said.

Immediately she plunged into arts related work in the community. An expert at juggling several balls at once, she worked first as an art docent in her daughter's school. On the city's One Percent for Public Art Committee she co-managed the Beach Glass Quilt project. As Arts Education coordinator for Bainbridge Arts and Crafts she organized gallery talks, demonstrations and workshops. Now as Arts Education consultant for Bainbridge Island Arts Education Community Consortium she's responsible for teacher training and curriculum development.

Launching the Bainbridge Island Art Docent Resource Center in Sakai Intermediate School library is a recent venture of Ott's provided through a Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Fund grant to support a collaborative arts and humanities project with the Bainbridge Island branch of Kitsap Regional Library (KRL). The community will have access to existing art information here along with art suitcases Ott has developed which contain lore about the cultures of the four ethnic groups who settled the island.

This hardly seems the same Mary Louise Ott who can spend hours creating timeless reflective images with her pencils. But she loves nothing better than to wander and pick up a stone, a fallen branch of leaves, a lost butterfly wing.

Her exhibit, A New Season, expresses art to be viewed not only for its colors, textures and forms, but for its connection to the rhythm of life. She refers to Ecclesiastes 3:1-9: "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens."

On Sunday, April 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. a reception will be held in the conference room. Guests may view Ott's library framed images on the walls as well as copies of booklets from each culture of Art in a Suitcase. From April 10 to 24, items from each suitcase will be exhibited in the display case at the library entrance.