

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND LIBRARY NEWS

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Vol. 6, No. 4

Bainbridge Public Library, 1270 Madison Ave., Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Spring 2004

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

Library Book Group, *House of Sand and Fog*, by Andre Dubus III. 7 p.m.

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

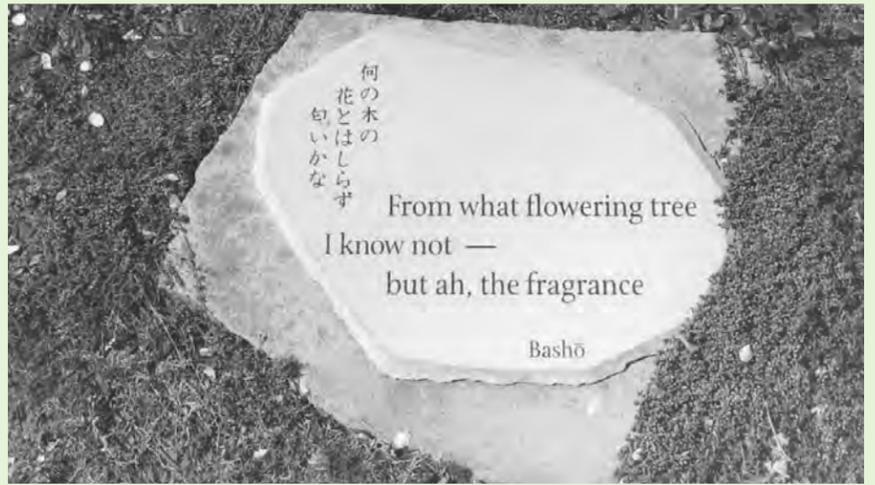
Island Theatre Play Reading at the Library, 7:30 p.m.

Continued on Page 2



Studying history

Sakai students visit the Bainbridge Public Library Feb. 19 to learn more about Bainbridge history. (Story on Page 4)



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 America.

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 reportage . . . 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

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 Midwestern poet Diane Wakoski.

Field's End spring classes set

BY SUSAN BOTTLES

Islander Mark Trahan, 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.

"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 download one from www.fieldsend.org.

Continued on Page 2

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 staffers 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 new 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 hour, 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



Sharon Snyder

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 Winther, 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 Wooldridge, 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 Steele of Latvia", but for this newspaper she interviews popular authors, and occasionally shares some of her mail.

Suzanne Selfors 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 active academic career.

We'll introduce more contributors in the summer issue.

--The editor

Many writers contribute to each Library News issue.

On-the-cover

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 Junkoh 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 Fenwick 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.

Continued from cover

Children's Corner

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31
Special family storytelling evening. Young children must be accompanied by adult. 7-8 p.m. Four storytellers from the Frog Rock Storytelling Circle will be here. Stories will be geared towards elementary aged children.

MONDAYS, MARCH AND APRIL
Terrific Twos. Programs for 2 year-olds. Books, music, puppets, feltboard stories and fingerplays. Children must be accompanied by adult. March 29, April 5, 12, 19 and 26. 10:30-11 a.m.

WEDNESDAYS, MARCH AND APRIL
Preschool programs. Books, music, puppets, flannelboard stories, fingerplays for children age 3 through kindergarten. March 31, April 7, 14, 21 and 28. 10:30-11 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7
Special pajama storytime for youngsters (must be accompanied by adults). Books, music, puppets, and more. 7-7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14
Author Jim Whiting presents an entertaining look at exploration of the United States, with visual aids. For 9 to 10 year-olds and up. About 45 minutes, with time for questions. 7 p.m. (For more about these and other children's activities, please turn to Pages 8 and 9.)

Magic Show

Jonathan Drake, magician will be at Bainbridge Island Library on Saturday, May 15 at 1:30 p.m. All ages are welcome.

NEWS BRIEFS

THE BAINBRIDGE Public Library is open evenings until 8:30 every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Commuters, please note.

Continued from cover

Field's End spring classes

No deadlines will face Trahan'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 everything from short op-ed pieces to in-depth essays.

Through sharing of their work with Trahan 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 inspire them to travel with us?"

Like all Field's End instructors, Trahan brings professional writing and teaching experience to his students. As a reporter for the Arizona Republic he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, and he has been an editor, publisher and owner of newspapers in several western states.

His honors include Best Columnist from the Native American Journalists Association and the Society of Professional Journalists, a Ruhl Fellowship and the Heywood Broun Award. Trahan 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.

Trahan 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 to 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 another one 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.

According to Dorothy, who nowadays can laugh at the calamity, 'Although our dogs certainly were not pleased, they didn't sue for emotional distress.'

"The library needed a new flagpole. Tami Ostling, daughter of board president Bill Ostling, worked as a page at the library. She was looking for a way to make money for a trip to Africa. For a much lower price than the cost of a new pole, plus taking more off as a donation to the building fund, Tami cut down a tree and carved out a handsome new pole, which was set in place in 1993. Custodian Carl Nord remarked a number of times during the year that the flag didn't fly properly because the halyard fitting was on the wrong side of the pole. Determined to rectify the problem, board member David Boyce enlisted the aid of David Harrison (the head librarian's husband) and several other men.

"The delegation met on a Saturday morning. The plan was to carefully and slowly lower the pole, but since they could only hold onto the bottom, they lost control of the unwieldy top. The pole crashed down, the top cracking. The men disbanded to ponder their next move. On the following day, Bill Ostling drove over in his truck, repaired his daughter's pole, switched the halyard fitting (on a swivel), and by himself roped the pole back up into place. At a subsequent meeting of the board, members voted to send him a letter of thanks, addressing it to "Big Buff Bill" ("Buff" in the teen vernacular of the day meant strong and muscular). As an exciting conclusion to that meeting, an unknown assailant shot B-Bs through the glass window, scattering the members and resulting in a quick call to the police."

*The above story is reprinted from my book **They Like Noble Causes**, published in the year 2000 and available for purchase at the Friends of the Library monthly book sale. An update to the pole story is necessary. In 2001 the library board, deciding that the old wooden pole would need constant maintenance, acquired a new flagpole, this one made of metal. So, disregard the first line of the above excerpt. When you look at the pole now, it is a hardy-looking, silver monolith. Surely it will no longer produce flagpole capers.*



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.



By DEB SWEET

Friends of the Library news

All of you who grew up on Bainbridge, or have kids in the schools are familiar with the Katy Warner book, *A History of Bainbridge Island*. It is a staple around here, making appearances in many elementary schoolers' back packs. The book was written in the late '60s when elementary school teachers approached Katy, a life-long resident of the Island, to write a book about the settlement of Bainbridge. It is still used as a reference book for anyone interested in the Island.

Katy was an ardent supporter of the Bainbridge Public Library, and a strong believer in the role the library plays in the community. When Katy died, she gave the Friends the rights to re-print and publish her book.

This was both an honor and a big responsibility for us. We have re-printed it several times based on the demand. It is financially prudent to re-print more than the immediate need, which necessitates storage, invariably at the home of a member of the Friends' Board. Although we print in quantity to save printing costs, it is still a substantial outlay for us. We do not have the retail outlet to increase exposure, and consequently, sales. Recently we found ourselves face to face with the dilemma of the need to re-print, and the reality of both a storage and budget challenge.

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 stewards of this unique story of Bainbridge. It keeps the book squarely 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 the 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



"A human and multilayered story exploring duty to both country and family."
—Nora Roberts

You're invited to a booksigning,

Thursday,
April 1, 2004,
7:30 p.m.
at
Eagle Harbor
Book Company.

For more information,
please visit www.susanwiggs.com

Time for a second opinion?

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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.

As toddlers settle in for story time and seniors flip through financial pages, the library reaffirms its place at the heart of this community.

It's a cozy and comfortable picture, and it's a true picture – but it is not the whole picture.

Our library may be beautiful and it may be beloved, but its underlying purpose is far greater. As are public libraries around the country, it's a vital part of our democracy's foundation.

“Throughout our nation's history, the public library has offered 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.

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 spring, the library begins its fourth annual appeal. Budgeting conservatively, we expect our operation and maintenance expenses to total just under \$130,000 for the year.

Also this year, the library's board of directors is committed to making only the second significant capital expenditure since the major library expansion concluded in 1997.

In 2001, the board used money remaining from the expansion's capital campaign to buy the vacant lot just south of the library, on Madison, in order to guarantee there will be room for the library to grow in the future. The lot has served as an all-too-muddy overflow parking space for staff and others since then, but now we are moving ahead towards paving it with “grass-crete” and adding much-needed, 20-plus additional parking spaces.

The library is fortunate to have several income streams that contribute to its support. From meeting room rental to advertising in this publication, they all help, but by far the major portion of its expenses are met through the annual appeal, strongly complemented in the fall by donations to One Call for All.

IF YOU USE the library – and more than 80 percent of residents hold library cards – and if you agree with the fundamental American values of “free and equal access for all,” please join all your fellow islanders, past and present, who have made and continue to make the decision to support Bainbridge Public Library with their private gifts.

—Susan Bottles is president of the Bainbridge Library Board.

Former library pages today

C.J. Griffiths

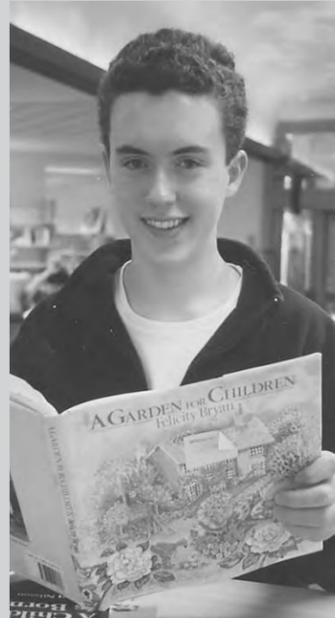
C.J. has been the news editor for the Carletonian (Carleton College's newspaper) for the last couple of years. He was just re-elected to a second term on the CSA Senate, the student government body.

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 at 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 his options for summer employment and travel.



C.J. Griffiths



Matt Feisthammel

Three join library board

Three new members, all well known in the community, joined the Bainbridge Library Board early this year:

Janet Brookes is a long-time Island resident and library booster who formerly represented Bainbridge Island on the Kitsap Regional Library board.

Ann Lovejoy, well-known garden writer, has supervised much of the planning (and planting) of the Bainbridge library gardens. She also directs the Friday Tidy volunteers.

Oi-fan “Channy” Peters has worked as a library volunteer for several years and is now bringing her energy to the library board and communications committee. She is also active in local arts groups.

Roundtables are scheduled

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' Roundtable. 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.

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

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

Writers' Workout set

Experienced or aspiring writers of all genres will get a chance to work out their writing cramps at Field's End's second free Writers' Workout, at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 1, at Poulsbo Public Library.

Field's End is the volunteer-run writers' community affiliated with the Bainbridge Public Library. Its Writers' Workout series is an outreach to greater Kitsap County, offered three times a year at other libraries.

Sheila Bender, poet and author of books on writing, will introduce the session and then coach participants in 45 minutes of writing exercises. Light refreshments and a chance to network with other writers will conclude the evening.

Bender will be familiar to regular Field's End participants. She led the February 17 Writers' Roundtable at the library.

Notes about books by Island authors

The Bainbridge Library News welcomes brief announcements of forthcoming or recently published books by Bainbridge authors.

Please mail or deliver press releases to the library, 1270 Madison Ave. No., Bainbridge Island. (Sorry, no e-mail; our volunteer staff lacks a central office.)

Deadline for the next issue is May 25.

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND LIBRARY NEWS

1270 Madison Avenue, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

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

Board members are Susan Bottles, president; Janet Brookes, Marite Butners, Joan Gardiner, Don Harrington, Richard Hassell, Wyman Johnson, Jim Laughlin, Marlene LeMire, Bob Linz, Ann Lovejoy, Channy Peters and Val Tollefson. Branch manager is Cindy Harrison, Kitsap Regional Library representative is Althea Paulson, 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 tax supported, 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 appeared at the corner of

Madison Ave. and High School Road 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 \$130,000 per year -- and every penny comes from your gifts and those 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 One Call for All, and fed to the delightful giraffe (upstairs) and dog (downstairs) created by local artist Kathy Fraga. (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. Wyman Johnson is the hard-working volunteer who is now updating our data base.--Editor)

Gifts from the following were received since August 31, 2003

John & Brenda Hisey
Michiko Tsukada
Thomas & Nancy Downs
Therese Coad & Christopher Pence
Thomas & Suellen Cunningham
Rick & Linda Smith Walsh
Henry & Tomi Egashira
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Peyton
Mark & Tatiana Dudley
Doug & Mary Roben
Leslie Lehman
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Edwin & Helen Shepard
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Your will:

Another way to help

BY MARITE 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 support helps 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 (and one that is often overlooked) to ensure that the library will always be there for our community: a gift by will or trust.

There are many good reasons to prepare a will, and providing for the library or other charities we care about, is only one.

With a will, YOU decide who will receive your property, what property

they will receive, and when they will receive it. With a will YOU may provide for any necessary trusts for minors or incapacitated persons, appoint guardians for minor children, and appoint the individual or institution (a personal representative) who will settle your estate.

If you are fortunate enough to have a taxable estate (in 2004 this is an estate in excess of \$1.5 million for one individual) you may also want to include a tax-saving trust.

If you pass away without a valid will, the State of Washington has a "will" drafted for you. Your property will pass according to the state's intestacy statutes -- and this may be a distribution that you would not have desired.

The Bainbridge Public Library has a brochure on wills that may be helpful. Look for it on the information rack on the main floor.

(Marite Butners, a Seattle attorney, is a member of the Bainbridge Library Board.)

A very special gift evokes memories

All library gifts are appreciated, but some are anonymous and most come without comment from the donor.

Occasionally, though, a check is enclosed with a thoughtful letter to our library staff.

Cindy Harrison received this letter from Wendy Boren Morrill during the holidays and thought Library News readers would appreciate the sentiment.

"Dear Cindy Harrison,

"Please accept this donation in memory of my father, Weston Hall. I spent many, many happy hours at the Bainbridge Island Public Library when I was a high school student. It was so important as a teenager to have a quiet place to go where I could read and think.

"Weston and I had a 25-year conversation about books; and although that particular conversation is over now, when I walk in any public library I sense Weston there, over my shoulder, pointing out a new and intriguing book - encouraging me to begin a conversation with my son, Graham "

The letter is signed: Sincerely yours, Wendy Boren Morrill, Arlington, Virginia, and the generous check was sent as a memorial to Weston Hall.

(Donations to the library of \$1,000 or more are recognized on the growing donor roll to the right of the main entrance.--The editor)

NEWS BRIEFS

LIBRARY GARDENS are planted and maintained by a group of volunteer Friday Tidies, who turn out every Friday morning, rain or shine, about 9:15 a.m. If you love to garden, bring gloves, tools, and enthusiasm and join the group directed by Ann Lovejoy.

WEEKEND HOURS at the library are from 10 to 5:30 Saturday and 1 to 5 Sunday.

THE MEETING ROOM on the library's main floor is available for rent by local businesses as well as non-profit organizations. The low rental fee helps pay for library maintenance and operation.

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Bainbridge book groups

How many are there?

How do they work?

How can you join one?



Facilitator Pat Miller

By VERDA AVERILL
Library News Editor

Book groups are booming on Bainbridge.

There's no doubt about it.

But just how many are there? When did they get started? How do they operate?

Ask a score of Islanders and you'll get 20 different answers.

Nobody's really counting, but the most frequent guesses are that over 40 -- perhaps a lot more -- active book groups exist on Bainbridge Island today.

(Library staffer and former bookstore owner Steve Olsen estimates about 50 and admits that's "just a wild guess".)

Nobody really seems to know when the first book group started. Some old-timers say they recall a group to which Walt Woodward, former Bainbridge Review owner, belonged when he was editor. (He and his wife, Milly, sold the Review in 1962.)

One thing seems certain, however.

Bainbridge book groups have been around a long time, and there are more of them today than ever before.

They are as varied as the people who join them.

Some are for women only. Several include men and women. We're looking for, but haven't found, one or two that are for men only. "It's an idea whose time has come," says one local librarian.

(Gentlemen, let us hear from you if there are such groups. You can reach me through the library, 842-4162, or my voice mail, 842-2865.)

Most local book groups have sprung up among friends and acquaintances with similar interests. (The Environmental Book Group and Striders Book Group are just two examples. And no, the Striders don't read while they're walking.)

Martha Bayley, who manages the fiction collection for Kitsap Regional Library, recalls helping organize her first book group -- young mothers of pre-schoolers. Years later, the original members' children are grown but the book group is still going strong with another generation of readers.

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.)

At first, they had an unusual idea for selecting books. Rather than skipping from one subject to another, they paired books by subject matter for each two-month period. One month the book would be fiction, the next non-fiction (or vice versa), both on the same subject of general interest. Topics could range from the American frontier to contemporary India.

The paired-books plan was abandoned after a year or so, and the books are now chosen for merit and interest regardless of topic. Some are fiction, others non-fiction.

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



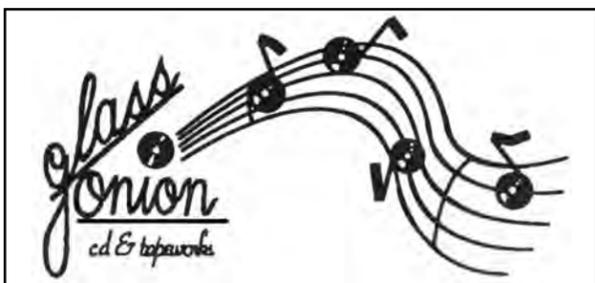
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Enjoying the discussion at the March Library Book Group meeting are Meredith Radella (above), Jonathan Blon and Karen Wilson (upper right) and Joan Smith (lower right).



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 Sjöholm. 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 Wearing. 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.

Hornet's Nest, Jimmy Carter. A detailed look at the Revolutionary War through the eyes of the characters in the novel. Great historical fiction.

#1 Ladies Detective Agency, Alexander McCall Smith. A delightful and charming book about a very engaging African woman.

Limbo: Blue-Collar Roots: White-Collar Dreams, Alfred Lubrano. A non-fiction account of the consequences of "moving up" in society.

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.

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, Spit Sisters, Ship of Fools (a Bainbridge group), Literati, 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 Maharishi. 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.

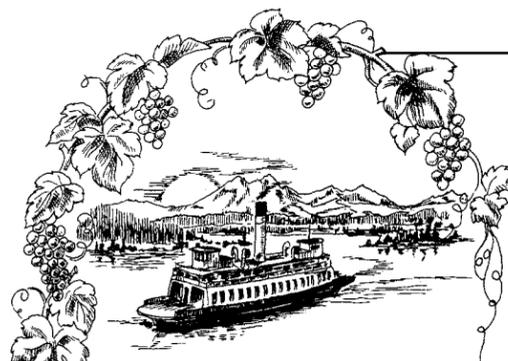
(We'll have more information on Bainbridge book clubs in the next Library News issue.)

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Teen Matters—and Teens Matter

By SHARON SNYDER
Young People's Librarian

How would you like to have a voice in your local library?

How would you like to express your opinion on things like programs for teens, the YA (young adult) space upstairs, and on volunteer opportunities?

I'm looking for some interesting folks age 12 to 19 who could meet maybe once a month to talk about things and become a kind of

"advisory" group. The early dismissal from school Wednesday that happens once every month would be the day, 1:30pm or so would be the time.

Some months we may talk about books and eat pizza.

Some months we might talk about how the YA space feels, how it works and what it needs.

Some months we may brainstorm ideas about teens getting involved in their community library.

I'm wondering, for example, if

there are some young people out there who might like to read aloud some of their favorite picture books to toddlers and preschoolers this summer.

I'm wondering if some teens might like to create and perform a skit or play based on some really great book or character from a book before a lively young audience this summer.

I'm wondering if some young people out there might like to draw pictures of favorite characters or scenes from books that inspired them.

These pictures could be displayed in the library and possibly published in future editions of the BPL News.

Think about it.

Ask for the "Teen Matters and Teens Matter!" sign up sheet at the reference desk upstairs and write your name, contact information and interests. It's okay if you're a little shy. I'm shy too. We'll be brave together.

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:

Guest Storytellers will come to share some of their favorite tales with you and your whole family.

Toddlers and young children must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver.

Wednesday evening, March 31, 7-8pm

Special Pajama Storytime!

Feel free to come wearing your pajamas and carrying your favorite blanket or stuffed toy.

Books, music, puppets, flannelboard stories and fingerplays for young children and their parents. This is an invitation to all you families out there with toddlers and preschool age children who can't make the

morning storytimes. If this proves popular, we'll schedule more in the future.

Wednesday evening, April 7, 7-7:30pm

Special Guest Presentation:

The World's Worst Explorer—and Maybe the Best

Join prolific children's non-fiction book author and editor Jim Whiting for an entertaining look at the early exploration of the United States. Both of the men Jim has singled out are almost unknown today. Their lives converged for several months during a disastrous expedition to Florida. Arrogance, blunders and colossal mismanagement doomed nearly all of

its participants to death. One of the four survivors survived among Native Americans for several years, acquiring a respect and admiration for them that were centuries ahead of his time. When he attempted to put this respect into action following his appointment to a governorship, he was falsely accused and spent the rest of his life trying to clear his good name.

Jim's presentation will include visual aids and there will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions afterward. Ages 9-10 and up

Tuesday, April 14, 7:00pm
(Approximately 40-45 minutes)

Library staff chooses some favorite children's books

Young people's librarian Sharon Snyder and associates Eleanor Wheeler and Gail Christensen are enjoying new books which have arrived in time for spring reading and rediscovering some old favorites.

Here are their top picks from the current collection:

Picture books

Sharon's pick: *The Rainbabies*, by

Laura Krause Melmed.

Gail's pick: *Little Toot*, by Hardie Gramatky.

Eleanor's pick: *Newton*, by Rory Tyger.

For early readers:

New *Dorling Kindersley (DK) Readers* in the *Jobs 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.

Gail's pick: *Aleutian Sparrow*, by Karen Hesse.

Eleanor's pick: *The Playmaker*, by J. B. Cheaney.

Young adult fiction

Sharon's pick: *If I Should Die Before I Wake*, by Han Nolan.

Gail's pick: *Wind Singer*, by William Nicholson.

Eleanor's pick: *The Wish List*, by Eoin Colfer.



Saturday with Dad. Ben, David and Elly Cowan share a library book.
(Photo by Gail Christensen)

Summer reading program is almost ready for you

Are you ready for it?

Kickoff will be on Saturday, June 12 and the theme is "Trails and Tales at Your Library."

Start thinking about all the glorious books you'll want to read, listen to 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 on "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.

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Graphic novels? Are they comics?

By GAIL CHRISTENSEN

Graphic novels. What are they? Aren't they just comics? What is manga? We have many curious people wondering about these questions. Maybe you are, too.

Graphic novels are full-length, original stories presented in visual form. A graphic novel is a stand-alone story that is published as a book. Graphic novels do highlight heroic icons such as Batman, Superman; however, they are written for people of all ages and encompass many different themes and subjects.

Graphic novels are cousins of comic books. Comics are told mostly through dialogue, are usually serial, and sometimes published on flimsy paper and at regular intervals.

Now you know what graphic novels are and how they differ from comic books. What in the world is manga? Manga is Japanese comics noted for characters with big hair and big eyes. They have made a great impact on American pop culture.

Graphic novels are located in various collections in the library. We have Tintin, Asterix, some Peanuts and the smaller editions of Garfield located in juvenile non-fiction. These all have fairly gentle images and innocent humor.

Garfield by Jim Davis. The fat cat, who likes to eat, to torment his owner, Odie, and the spider, is well-loved.

The adventures of **Tintin** by Herge. Tintin, young boy and Snowy, the dog, were created Jan 10, 1929.



They travel the world having grand adventures together.

If you wander to the Young Adult area, you will discover Star Wars, super heroes, and Japanese manga.

Graphic novels in this collection are edgier with more graphic violence, but still within the norms of what are seen on television shows. Many of these address themes relevant to the youth such as acceptance, coming of age, prejudice, social injustice and conformity. The more recently published young adult graphic novels have a rating guide on the back similar to movie ratings. They are A for all ages; Y for age 7+; T for 13+; OT for 16+ and also T+ for older teens.

InuYasha by Rumiko Takahashi. Kagome is a modern Japanese high school girl who is pulled into Japan's ancient past where her destiny is linked to one

legendary creature—a doglike half-demon called Inu-Yasha.

Batman in nine lives by Dean Motto and Michael Lark. Heroes are taken from their usual settings which results in stories that make the characters as familiar as yesterday seem as fresh as tomorrow.

In the adult non-fiction area you will find oversized **Garfield** and **Peanuts** and **Calvin and Hobbes**. You will also find the books with more sophisticated humor such as **Bloom County**, **Doonesbury**, **FoxTrot**, cartoons from the New Yorker magazine plus many others.

In the adult history area, you will discover works such as **MAUS**, about the holocaust, Hiroshima and life in the Middle East.

Shoes: chocolate for the feet by Cathy Guisewite. Cathy who worries about everything, regrets her impulses,

but succumbs to them. The New Yorker book of political cartoons edited by Robert Mankoff. The works of a dream-team of cartoonists selected as both funny and representative of who we are (and were) in America. **Li'l Abner** by Al Capp. Comics that are different, irreverent, ribald, vital and alive.

Will Eisner said, "Graphic novels are as disparate from books as is a play or a movie. It's a different experience entirely. Pictures carry another kind of information than words. What is most exciting is that a picture language and a word language can interweave, which can't be done by either one alone."

Come by the library to peruse these various collections. Remember, graphic novels are written for all ages and cover a myriad of themes and subjects. You should be able to find one that pleases you.

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, *Bruh 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, *Earthshake** (On order)
Provinsen, Alice, *A Day in the Life of Murphy***
Pulver, Robin, *Punctuation Takes a Vacation***
Root, Phyllis, *Big Momma Makes the World**
Segal, Lore, *Morris the Artist**
Ward, Helen, *The Rooster and the Fox**
Wheeler, Lisa, *Old Cricket***

Penguins star in slide show

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 Thoms 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 "Oakum 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.

NEWS BRIEFS

GREEN-THUMB library boosters are welcome every Friday to join the volunteer gardeners, known as Friday Tidies and directed by Ann Lovejoy, who keep the library's gardens growing beautifully. Bring gloves, your favorite tools, and show up any Friday at 9 a.m.

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Award-winning fiction: satisfying reads

By JULIE O'NEILL,
Reference Librarian

Are you looking for a well-written, satisfying read? These recent novels have won awards such as the National Book Award, the LA Times Book Award, and the Booklist Editors Choice. They are worthwhile and enjoyable reading.

Conclave by Roberto Pazzi. In this comic, sophisticated novel by a renowned Italian writer, the pope has died and cardinals from around the world are sequestered in the Vatican to choose a successor. After four months with no decision, the cardinals begin to tire of their isolation and plots ways to escape. Pazzi combines magic realism, humor and profound theology in this story with many twists.

In Revere in Those Days by Roland Merullo. Tony Benedetto looks back on his coming of age during the 1960's in Revere, a working-class suburb of Boston. Orphaned at 10, he is raised by his extended Italian-American family, including his loving, old-fashioned grandparents and his colorful ex-boxer Uncle Pete. Library Journal called this

"a beautifully vivid depiction of time and place."

The Great Fire by Shirley Hazzard. The author, known for her rich descriptive prose and piercing insight, took 20 years to write this novel after her award-winning, *Transit of Venus*. Her new novel is the story of a young British soldier who is sent to Japan after WWII to survey war damage. He falls in love with an Australian girl and their relationship forms a contrast to the devastation (the great fire) of the war. Although some reviewers criticized the "glacial" pace, fans will appreciate Hazzard's exquisite writing in which every word is carefully chosen.

Downhill Chance by Donna Morrisey. Two Newfoundland families struggling with the realities of WWII find their friendships tested by fear and sorrow, from Prude's somber predictions in her tea leaves, to Claire's desire to start a new life elsewhere. This Canadian author writes in lush, melodic prose with a comic touch and a wonderful sense of place: the remote beauty of Newfoundland.

Any Human Heart by William Boyd. Told in the form of a journal, this novel follows Logan Mountstuart from his childhood in Uruguay and his English public school days, to his many careers as novelist (he rubs shoulders with James Joyce and Picasso in 1930's Paris), country gentleman, secret agent, literature professor and terrorist. Publisher's Weekly called this "one of the most beguiling books of the season... rich, sophisticated, often hilarious and disarming."

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini. The author, now a doctor in California, sets his impressive first novel against the tragic history of his native Afghanistan. He traces the unlikely friendship of a wealthy Afghan youth and a servant's son during the final days of the Afghanistan monarchy prior to the Russian invasion and through the Taliban regime.

The Known World by Edward P. Jones. When a 19th century plantation owner and former slave, who now owns slaves himself, dies, his household falls apart. Slaves rebel and corrupt patrollers capture free black people to be sold into

slavery. This elegantly written novel explores the complex interweaving of race, sex and class in a forgotten chapter of American history, the poignant world of blacks who owned black slaves.

Star of the Sea by Joseph O'Connor. This Dublin author belongs in the ranks of great Irish storytellers. His novel, full of authentic historical detail, chronicles the 1847 voyage of the leaky *Star of the Sea* loaded with Irish immigrants fleeing the famine and headed for America. Their past lives are intertwined with those of the first-class passengers in dark secrets, making for a suspenseful story and a stunning conclusion.

The Colour by Rose Tremain. A newly married couple, the Blackstones, leave England to stake out a new life in New Zealand in the mid-nineteenth century. When the husband finds gold in their creek, he becomes obsessed with the "colour" as the precious metal is known. Tremain combines vivid historical adventure and riveting human interaction in a narrative full of subtleties and surprises. The New York Times called it "exhilarating... splendidly eventful."

From an author's mail

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 to 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 Harui 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, Georgie, was born. After the Lindbergh baby kidnaping, 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 Wing 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 remodeled library purchased some of the material 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 janicefeb@aol.com"

[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 FORUM 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 from donations? No taxes have ever been levied to pay for the library's maintenance and operations.

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The doctor is in

Katherine Stone plotted a life with two careers

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 LA hospital where she was doing her fellowship, giving Katherine the opportunity to write and lecture on the mysterious new disease.

Romance and medicine have always been entwined for Katherine Stone. In Los Angeles, during a spinal tap, she met her future husband, physician and novelist Jack Chase. Katherine was doing a lumbar puncture, and although the patient was in no distress, she was having difficulty getting into the spinal canal. Like a knight on a white charger, Jack gallantly saved the day.

Her husband urged Katherine to pursue her dream of writing, bought her a word processor and a new career took shape.

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 life 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.

Her latest book is *Another Man's Son* (MIRA Books, January 2004), a romantic contemporary novel set in Seattle.

"I'm a true native Seattleite, born at Swedish Hospital a million years ago, but haven't until now set an entire book here," Katherine explains. "Attempts to keep Seattle a best-kept secret have long since failed and I might as well celebrate the home town I love."

The book also showcases Mount Rainier. "The book's original title was Rain Mountain (the hero's name for Mount Rainier when he was a little boy), and the cover -- at least for the moment -- features a lovely painting of the mountain."

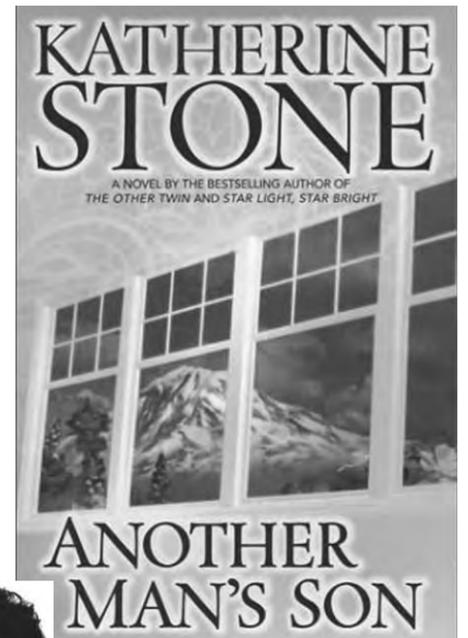
The novel itself, which weaves together the lives and loves of four main characters, will appeal to readers who enjoy complex emotional "relationship" stories with happy endings (despite obstacles along the way).

Various relationships are explored -- and tested -- in *Another Man's Son*: those between friends, between lovers, within families. And because the main character, Dr. Kathleen Cahill, is an obstetrician specializing in high-risk OB, the bonds between mother and daughter -- and father and son -- are also major themes.

"My typical writing workday depends on where I am in the writing process," says the author. "I spend a great deal of time mulling things over while immersed in the activities of daily living. I like getting to know the characters before I ever put cursor to screen. The mulling is the fun part, of course; everything is possible at that point and there's even the fantasy that the book, once the writing begins, will simply flow -- ha!

"The writing (the paperwork!) is the hard part, but it's very gratifying -- in fact thrilling -- to see the end result on the shelves."

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. Readers can learn more about the author and her books, and sign up for a postcard mailing list.

Prescription for entertainment

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.

Miscellaneous

Volunteers sought for audio project

Volunteers are needed by the Bainbridge Island Visually Impaired Persons Support Group to assist with distributing the Bainbridge Review on audiotape to Islanders with low vision.

To offer your services, or for more information on the Bainbridge VIP group, please call Joan or Martin Smith at 780-8425 or e-mail joan and marty@msn.com.

New book by Island author

Bainbridge Island author John Wood has written a new book on relationships, *The Way We Love -- 105 truths on the path to intimacy*.

"The book is designed to help people understand and deepen their

intimate relationships," Wood said. "It is a handbook for those in relationships, which is just about everybody, and those who help others deal with relationships."

Wood is director of leadership and learning for Town & Country Markets and has consulted to organizations throughout this country and in seven European countries. He is the author of five previous books.

The Way We Love is published by Zen 'n' ink; Web site address is lovingpower.com.

Bicycling the TransAm, a guide

Bainbridge Island bicyclists are welcoming the arrival of Stephanie Ager Kirz's new *Complete Handlebar Guide*

to Bicycling the TransAm from Virginia to Oregon and Washington.

The 2004 edition includes recommendations and daily itineraries for 11 states -- 4,000 miles worth of the best hotels, motels, campgrounds, eateries, and roadside attractions. The recommendations are very personal ones; Stephanie and Howard Kirz made the 4,000-mile trek themselves just three years ago (and have kept the information current).

The book is lightweight (9.3 ounces) and fits easily in a handlebar bag. It's spiral-bound to open flat for easy reading.

Publisher is White Dog Press, Ltd., 321 High School Road, No. 393, Bainbridge Island. E-mail: white-dog-press@aol.com.

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.



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Mysteries and marathons

An interview with author Michael Collins

BY SUZANNE SELFORS

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

The answer is Field's End instructor Michael Collins, whose intense physical and mental commitment to both has earned him many 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 Marathon in 1997 and he won the 1999 Himalayan Stage Race.

Collins is currently training for the North Pole Marathon.

"I have used my running as a way to compartmentalize the writing process," he said. "When you are alone in the house (his wife, Dr. Heidi Collins works in a Bellingham practice) you need something to structure the day."

After dropping his two children at school, Collins runs five miles, eats breakfast, writes seven to eight hours, then runs again.

"The marathons are my way of recharging," he said.

His current recharging comes after the overseas publication of his latest mystery novel, *Lost Souls*. It is currently available for purchase at Amazon United Kingdom but will be released in the states on August 9.

Set in a small, Midwestern town, *Lost Souls* begins with the hit and run death of a 3 year-old girl on Halloween night. The chief suspect is the high school quarterback who is expected to lead his team to a state victory and bring glory to a desperate, dying town. A cover-up ensues, involving the town's mayor and a

police officer, the novel's narrator.

While *Lost Souls* opens with the loss of a child's life, Collins's complex and fast-moving tale takes on a much larger theme - the loss of the American dream for middle America, where hard work does not always reap reward and where small towns are disintegrating.

Many of Collins's characters have a common thread. They are desperate people living dead-end lives, surviving at the edges of society. "I got to know these people when I first came to America," Collins explained.

While attending Notre Dame University on a track scholarship he was legally unable to work during the summer months so he traveled throughout the Midwest, sleeping in his car at campgrounds and rest stops. There, he met people who were down and out and they made a huge impression on him.

"In America you have to watch yourself," he said. "If you fall off the track here, look where you can end up. In Europe there is more of a middling."

He felt sympathy for these "lost souls" and began to write about them, compiling his notes for his first writing course during his senior year at Notre Dame.

Lost Souls has been well received in Britain.

"When they interview me in Europe, my books are often treated as cultural artifacts more than mystery books," he said.

European critics are intrigued by the provinciality of America that Collins often explores.

"It resonates with the British because the small town feeling is, for the most part, abandoned in Europe. They want me to decipher the American culture for them, and sum up what it is to be an American."

But how can an Irishman so adeptly capture the American voice?

"It takes 10 to 15 years to get to know a country. I lived here for 15 years before I tried to write about

America," he said.

Collins taught for Field's End last spring, after receiving an invitation from David Gutterston. Once a week he commuted from Bellingham, where he taught undergraduate writing courses at Western Washington University, to Pegasus coffee house to inspire a dozen writers with his straightforward advice.

"It was more like teaching a graduate course. Teaching adults who are balancing jobs and lives, who are there for particular reasons was very satisfying," he said.

He acknowledges the importance of grass roots movements like Field's End.

Collins's next novel will take place on a college campus and the narrator will be a writer. And on April 15, he will compete in the North Pole marathon where it can get to minus 70 degrees, where runners are pulled out for frostbite, and where sweat turns to ice, even under 10 layers of clothing.

"I just learned that the ice can suddenly break open without warning and then it closes again in seconds. If you fall in..." He sounded like he was having second thoughts. "It reminds me of the Irish immigrants who got on the boats to America wearing layer after layer of wool clothing. If they fell into the water they were too heavy to pull out and so they were just left to drown."

He paused for a moment, then laughed. "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,
The Feminists Go Swimming (stories)
Emerald Underground, The Keepers of Truth
The Resurrectionists, Lost Souls

Book review

The Devil in the White City, by Erik Larson

BY PATRICIA MILLER

In 1889 the French hosted the Exposition Universelle, where they unveiled the Eiffel Tower, the dramatic centerpiece of "a world's fair so big and glamorous and so exotic, that visitors came away believing no exposition could surpass it."

The Americans, writes Larson, had embarrassed themselves at the Paris extravaganza with a "jumble of shops, booths and bazaars -- unpleasing in themselves and incongruous when taken together."

Damaged pride demanded that America host the next World's Fair, and planners vowed to produce a show that would "out-Eiffel Eiffel".

Chicago's selection for the fair site brought the kind of elation witnessed recently when Salt Lake City was selected for the Winter Olympics. You will recall that Salt Lake confronted the dark side of its ambitious undertaking, including bribes proffered to committee members and unforeseen security problems after 9/11. The challenges faced by Chicago promoters were different, but no less thorny.

It was January of 1890 when Congress awarded the fair to Chicago, and the opening was scheduled for May of 1893. The challenges posed by this relatively brief span of time were compounded by catastrophic weather, bureaucratic squabbling, and financial shortfalls. In addition, fire and mechanical failures dotted the workers on site.

Chicago architect John Burnham and his partner

John Root were the primary players, along with the innovative Louis Sullivan.

Burnham recognized that they needed more help, and braved local outrage to invite New Yorkers Frederick Law Olmstead and Richard M. Hunt to join the committee.

In spite of a general expectation of failure, the fair opened as planned in May of 1893. After a stumbling start, it turned out to be a resounding success.

Notables among the estimated 60 million who attended included pianists Paderewski and Scott Joplin, Harry Houdini, Thomas Edison, Clarence Darrow, Princeton Professor Woodrow Wilson, Teddy Roosevelt, and pioneering feminist Susan B. Anthony.

Diamond Jim Brady visited with his mistress Lillian Russel, and Helen Keller met the inventor of the Braille typewriter for the first time there on the fair grounds.

Elias Disney regaled and inspired his son Walt with stories about the construction of the magical White City, the centerpiece of the fair on the shores of Lake Michigan.

George Washington Gale Ferris had proposed and constructed the project that would out-Eiffel Eiffel: "a vertically revolving wheel 250 feet in diameter, carrying 36 cars, each the size of a Pullman. When filled to capacity (it propelled) 2,160 people at a time three hundred feet into the sky, a little higher than the crown

of the now six-year-old Statue of Liberty."

Had the book dealt with nothing more than the fair itself it would be a fine read, but episodes from two secondary plots, interspersed with the detailed progress toward the opening of the fair, created a page turner.

One subplot tells the story of a pitiful character named Patrick Eugene Joseph Prendergast. His is a tale of paranoid delusion that led him ultimately to assassinate Chicago's popular Mayor Carter Harrison.

The second story line follows the career of Herman Webster Mudgett, a psychopathic serial killer who was operating in the Chicago area during the same time period. For sheer evil Mudgett, better known as Dr. H. H. Holmes, outdoes the late Ted Bundy. In a building he constructed in a Chicago suburb, he included a soundproof basement vault that ran the length of the building and had the "look of a mine and the smell of a surgeon's suite". Here was a kiln where he incinerated his victims' remains. He also sold their carefully cleaned skeletons to various medical institutions.

The Mudgett/Holmes subplot keeps a non-history buff involved in the book, but it's so powerful that it comes close to robbing the Chicago Fair of its own drama. I found myself wishing that Erik Larson had written two books, one dedicated to the fair, another to the truly diabolic Dr. Holmes.

(Patricia Miller is facilitator of the Bainbridge Library Book Group.)

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What are you waiting for?

Fiction favorites to read while you wait for that new bestseller

By VERDA AVERILL
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 you check in at the library -- in person or via computer -- and discover 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?

Are you looking for a good mystery? A courtroom drama? Detective fiction? A bit of romance? Something set in another century?

Whatever your favorite genre, chances are you'll find plenty of examples on the shelves at the Friends of the Library book sales downstairs (on the second Saturdays 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?

My own tastes run to colorful characters working their way through involved plots in places I know and love.

I've lived in and around nearly a dozen fascinating cities -- San Francisco, Portland, Honolulu, San Diego, Los Angeles, Chicago, Eugene, Salem, and Albany as well as Bainbridge and Poulsbo. So other things being equal, I tend to reach for stories set in the Northwest or along the California coast, or in one of the cities I know well. A story set in San Francisco or Chicago or LA is to me like a visit with old friends.

Like most Bainbridge Islanders, I love to travel, and have spent many happy months in Europe, Asia, Central and South America, as well as Africa. So I'm easily hooked by plots set in Venice or Florence, Shanghai or Hong Kong, and just about anywhere in Britain or Mexico or Switzerland.

Available page turners

I read fiction between appointments, in line at the ferry, waiting for airplanes

or doctors or veterinarians -- anywhere I'm likely to find some spare moments. I grab my current favorite book along with my car keys and wallet whenever I leave the house. That way I can enjoy two or three good books in an average work week, more while traveling.

(The flight to Maui, including waiting time at the airport, is good for two gripping page turners. The San Diego trip is just right for one average-length mystery, I've found.)

Here are some of my recent discoveries. Perhaps one or more will fill the bill for you.

Sheldon Siegel's *Incriminating Evidence* caught my eye at a library book sale -- and won me over completely.

Siegel's main characters, law partners Mike Daley 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 two, 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, but I'd read none of her works until my son John, a writer and omnivorous reader, recommended her first two books, *The Wire in the Blood* and *The Mermaids Singing*.

McDermid's followed them with a series featuring Kate Brannigan, a private investigator. I've become a staunch McDermid fan, and am 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. It's not because her plots are so carefully constructed or the prose so tight. It's because she never takes her eyes off the ball. Her characters are so expertly drawn and vital that you can't help but want to ride with them through every page of the book and then some"

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 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 Dirty Duck*, *Jerusalem Inn*, *The Deer Leap*, *The*

Five Bells and Bladebone, *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 homicide 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
(these 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 Talk Show Murders, by Steve Allen
Fellowship of Fear, by Aaron Elkins
A Certain Justice, by John T. Lescroart
Stormy Weather, by Carl Hiaasen

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.)

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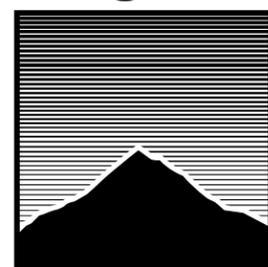
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Familiar faces are missing now from library

Bainbridge library staffers 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 lifeline 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 1986 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 she 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

working on an organic farm.

An active member of the Bainbridge recovery community, Martha was known for her laughter, inspiration, wisdom, and her pocket full of New Yorker cartoons.

Martha is survived by her many friends and her beloved Boston terrier, Pearl. A memorial will be held March 27 at Eagle Harbor Congregational Church. Donations may be made to the Martha Walters Memorial Fund at Wells Fargo Bank on Hildebrand Way.

Laura Carter

Another frequent library user, Laura Carter, passed away last month at the age of 81.

A longtime Bainbridge resident, she worked at the shipyard canteen on Bainbridge during World War II.

She married Herbert Carter in 1943, and their 42-year marriage ended with his death in 1985. She raised three children and was foster mother to her husband's orphaned brother, Mel Carter. She enjoyed music, collecting costume jewelry, and her extended family. Survivors include a daughter, Victoria White, of Poulsbo, and two sons, Wesley of Bainbridge and Stanley of Arlington, as well as Mel, of San Jose, Calif.

The family requests that remembrances be made to the Bainbridge Public Library or the American Heart Association. (The library has already received at least one donation in her name.)

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 lots. 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 a South African lily relative, *Schizostylis coccinea* in salmon and rosy pink which bloomed all winter? These tough drought-tolerant bulbs propagate easily and bloom reliably through mild winters if frequently divided; they look rather like ethereal gladiolas.

In shady areas, clusters of Lenten roses (*Helleborus occidentalis*) added shades of pink and rose, plum and cream, to the winter garden; a few may still be visible, if you look quickly. Those over-wintering Anna's hummingbirds were visiting hardy fuchsias and the

fragrant yellow blossoms of the shrubby native Oregon grape (*Mahonia* family).

Many hardy herbs contribute evergreen good looks to the parking lot beds, from rosemary and lavender to teucrium, thyme, and sage. Coppery evergreen sedges like *Carex flagellifera*, *C. testacea*, and *C. dipsacea* look especially pretty when spangled with winter and spring rain.

The fluffy plumes of *Cortaderia fulvida*, a compact, evergreen pampas grass from New Zealand, toss like horses' manes in winter and early spring breezes.

The Friday Tidy garden volunteers planted hundreds of new bulbs last fall to join the 6,000 already in place.

The Friday Tidy team meets every Friday morning between 9:15 and 11:30 (approximately) -- year round, rain or shine.

"Join us any Friday for a delightful, hands-on experience. Just bring gloves, hand tools, and layered

clothing," says Ann Lovejoy, library gardens supervisor and leader of the volunteer Friday Tidies.

On another garden note, Bainbridge Gardens was recently named Washington State's first five-star Envirostar nursery. To earn the five-star designation, a business must take a significant community leadership role. Bainbridge Gardens not only hosts professional conferences on natural care but also serves as a training site for staff from various landscaping services, other nurseries, and Master Gardeners.

Bainbridge Gardens has donated generously to the library gardens since the first library building was created, and owner Junkoh 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.

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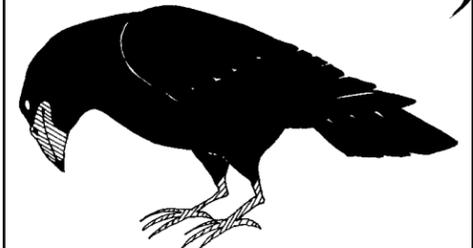
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Meet the staff: Kate Fagioli and Kelsey Roe

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

Fagioli, who joined the Kitsap Regional Library staff several months ago, usually works only one weekend per month in the Bainbridge branch. But local library patrons have also met her at a recent talk which she gave about her native country, South Africa.

She was born and raised there during a period of apartheid. She attended primary and secondary schools in that country, and received her university training in library sciences there.

Fagioli worked in several libraries, including a regional library system, in South Africa, and thus feels at home in the county-wide Kitsap Regional Library system.

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.



Kate Fagioli



Kelsey Roe

Like all pages, she helps sort books and other materials and put them on shelves, but she also helps patrons with their searches and takes on extra jobs without complaint when she has completed

her assigned tasks.

"She is a joy to work with in all situations, and a major asset to the young people's department," said staffer Gail Christensen, who works closely with Kelsey.

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 staffers were reminded once again of their common interests.

Branch manager Cindy Harrison and board president Susan Bottles greeted the chamber members, and Bainbridge resident Peggy Branaman, Kitsap Regional Library's expert on business publications and data bases, displayed some of the library's services for business people.

More and more Bainbridge businesspersons are finding valuable information as near as their local library. And increasingly, business people are helping the library in many ways: with direct donations at fund-raising times, by occasional donations of books,

by sponsoring special events (like travel programs) -- and of course, by advertising in the Library News.

From time to time, while listing individual donors (see Page 5), your Library News staff also pauses to thank those local businesses whose advertising makes this publication possible.

In this issue, we welcome **Teddy Martin**, an investment representative for **Edward Jones**. Martin, one of our newer advertisers, has an office at 435 Ericksen Ave., Suite 100. Born in Georgia, he is a graduate of the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta and was for many years an operating room nurse and client of Edward Jones. He changed careers to pursue his interest in investing, and now is an active member of the Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce. He and his wife Pat own Heritage Alpacas on

Bainbridge Island.

Space for a new advertiser became available when attorney **Theodore Spearman** discontinued his law office listing in the Library News. Spearman and his wife Marie are enthusiastic library supporters, and his announcement of legal services was a regular feature in this paper. It was necessarily pulled when he was appointed to the bench (Kitsap County Superior Court) early this year. Congratulations to **Judge Spearman** from the Library News staff.

Businesses currently advertising in the Library News include New Motion Physical Therapy, Yoga and Beyond, Island Textiles, Skookum, Madison Avenue Photo, Winslow Animal Clinic, Coldwell Banker McKenzie Associates, CFA Northwest Mortgage Professionals, American Marine Bank,

RAFN Company, Blue Sky Printing, Winslow Hardware & Mercantile, The Traveler, Flowering Around, Modern Collision Rebuild, Eagle Harbor Books, Julie's Frame Gallery, Charlie Michael's Salon, Blumenthal Construction, Inc., Ace Hardware, Paper Products, Etc., The Churchmouse, Harris-Zommers Interiors (who will celebrate 30 years in business this July), William S. McGonagle,

Bainbridge Island Vineyards & Winery, Island Electronics Radio Shack, Family Dentistry (Drs. MacFarlane, Bell, and Thompson), Glass Onion, Town & Country Market, Bainbridge Gardens, and McKinnon Furniture (near the ferry in Seattle).

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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 lifelike 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 is trees, 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'Keefe'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.



Ott collects objects from the outdoors.

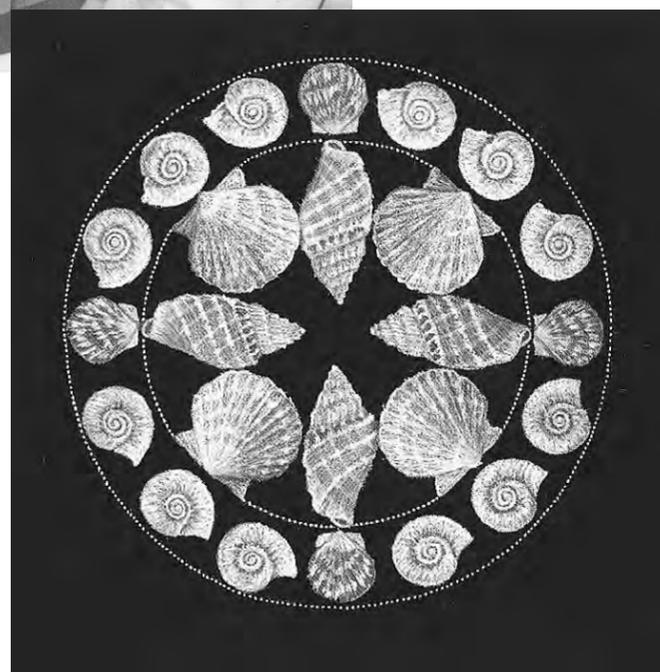
She particularly recalls drawing at church on the weekly bulletins. Wherever her family went, in her hometown of Portland and beyond, her mom packed along paper and crayons. A favorite scene that she drew over and over was of a lake with mountains behind. A frequent pastime was finding pictures of objects 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 visual 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 everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven . . ."

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.

Art in a suitcase

Like every new project that grows from a need, the seed for this idea was planted when Bainbridge Arts and Crafts had their November 2001 exhibit, "The Asian Influence."

Information, photographs and artifacts were collected and displayed to explain Neriage porcelain, Anagama wood-fired kilns, and Ikebana (Japanese flower arranging).

What to do with these items afterwards? Why not create art suitcases similar to the outreach suitcases at the Seattle Art Museum? This project would certainly exemplify the goals of the Cultural Element of the City of Bainbridge Island Comprehensive Plan which calls for use of "the arts as a vehicle for understanding and celebrating other cultures and Bainbridge Island heritage."

For a year and a half, Mary Louise Ott and volunteers from BA&C and the library staff have been researching and gathering materials of the four ethnic

groups who settled our island — the Japanese, Filipinos, Native Americans, and Scandinavians.

When Ott was education coordinator at BA&C, she suggested they do their own version of the Seattle Art Museum Art Suitcases (They even have a real silk kimono in one suitcase). She applied for a grant, and the library was co-sponsor with BA&C on the project.

All four suitcases will contain books, a map of the world which indicates each specific country's location, and a copy of a notebook that schools use about the Suquamish, the Japanese and the Filipinos. In some instances the suitcase will also contain slides, posters, prints and artifacts. At the end of each will be a list of local resources and internet sites that will be the same in all. Donations of materials are welcomed.

The four suitcases will be housed and may be checked out at the Resource Center located in the Sakai School Library. Ott will be there every Tuesday for those needing assistance.

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(See calendar on page 1 for closures.)

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