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Vol. 7, No. 3

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

Winter 2005

Mark your calendar

These events take place in the library unless otherwise stated.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

Library Closed. New Years Day

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

Library Book Group, *The Colour* by Rose Tremain, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

Opera Preview: "Manon Lescaut" by Giacomo Puccini 2 p.m.

Friends of the Library Book Sale 10-2 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

Hearts Divided in the Raj, a reading by Kitsap writer, Patricia McCreedy Buffardi about growing up in India with a foot in both British and Indian cultures. 2 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 10

Lecture, writing workshop with Natalia Singer, 7-8:45 p.m. (See Page 2)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

Third Annual William Stafford Birthday Celebration with a poetry reading and screening of the video, "William Stafford and Robert Bly: a literary friendship." Sponsored by the Bainbridge Branch Library, Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council and the Friends of William Stafford. 7:30-9:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

Low Vision Support Group, 1-3 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 17

Library closed. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

Field's End Writers' Roundtable. Skye Moody discusses "Heroes and villains: Where's the conflict?" 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

Travel program: Discover China with Rick Montgomery, graduate of UW's Jackson School of International Studies and 15-year tour leader in China. Co-sponsored by The Traveler Bookstore. 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

Kitsap Reads with Susan Vreeland, 3 p.m., Bainbridge High School auditorium. (See Page 10)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Library Book Group, *A Very Long Engagement* by Sebastien Japrisot, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Speakers Forum: Bill Holm presents "Sundogs and Eagle Down; the Indian Paintings of Bill Holm." 4:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Bill Schroder, author of *Cousins of Color*, a novel based on the 1899 Philippine-American war, will lead a discussion focused on this controversial period in American history. 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Low Vision Support Group, 1-3 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Friends of the Library Book Sale, 10-2 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Field's End Writers' Roundtable. Irene Wanner's inquiry: "How does travel trigger fascinating literature?" 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Travel program: Jewels of the Adriatic - Tour of Slovenia and Croatia presented by Matthew Brumley. Co-sponsored by The Traveler Bookstore. 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Opera Preview. Florencia in the Amazons by Daniel Catan, 2 p.m.
Island Theatre Play Reading at the Library, 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Inquiring Mind. Tames Alan presents a living history performance: "From the streets of Shakespeare to the Court of Elizabeth; clothing & lifestyles of the Elizabethan Era." Island Center Hall 3 p.m.

Continued on Page 2

Island authors will teach

Field's End offers two new writing courses this winter

Anyone interested in writing for children or penning a novel may apply now for two new courses offered by Field's End, the writer's community affiliated with the library.

Each of these professional level courses will be taught by Bainbridge Island authors who are also proficient teachers.

Prolific children's author George Shannon will offer "Writing Literature for Children" on six Wednesday evenings at the library, Jan. 19 through Mar. 2, but not Feb. 16. Topics will cover everything from "writing as a child's equal" to "when animals talk." Field's End has received numerous requests for classes on writing for children since its inception nearly three years ago, but Shannon's class is a first.

Class size is limited to 15, and tuition is \$240.

Bainbridge best-selling author Susan Wiggs, one of the nation's foremost writers of historical romance and contemporary women's literature, will lead an all-day Saturday class Feb. 26 bound to intrigue any toiling writer. The course is "Don't Dream It . . . Do It," and Wiggs promises that creativity

exercises will help you discover your characters, premise and plot, find the tone and texture of your story and setting and "start your writer's journey."

The class is limited to 20 students, and the \$120 tuition includes a "happy



George Shannon

hour" at the instructor's home after class.

George Shannon began his career as a children's librarian and professional storyteller. His first picture book, *Lizard's Song*, was published in 1981. His published works now include 22 picture books, five collections of stories for older children and one novel for

young adults. He is also an essayist on children's literature and continues to work with children around the country on their own creative writing.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s Shannon taught children's literature courses



Susan Wiggs

at the Universities of Kentucky, Alaska and Wisconsin, as well as workshops on writing for children. He continues to speak on storytelling at conferences and workshops around the world, from Maine to Washington, from Arkansas to Thailand.

Continued on Page 2

Inquiring minds will visit Court of Elizabeth

Bainbridge library audiences will again welcome Tames Alan to the Island on Sunday, February 27, at 3 p.m. at Island Center Hall.

Alan is an actress, historian and fashion history teacher who presents living history performances through Humanities Washington's Inquiring Minds program. The Kitsap Regional Library Foundation is sponsoring this year's presentation, "From the Streets of Shakespeare to the Court of Elizabeth." The Bainbridge Island Park and Recreation District is a co-sponsor.

Tames Alan begins her program in an authentic lower middle class Elizabethan costume. As she talks about the life, times, and clothing of the period, she transforms herself by dressing in the 62-piece regalia of an Elizabethan lady of the court.

"Her program is a delightful cultural event for elementary age children through adults," says Cindy Harrison, Bainbridge Library's branch manager.



Tames Allen as Elizabethan lady.

Also in this issue:

New Children's Corner and Teens sectionpages 8 - 9 & 11

Great reads for a new yearpages 5 - 6 & 10 - 11

Library art: The watercolors of Fred Truitt..... page 16

About our contributing writers

By VERDA AVERILL
Library News Editor

One of the joys of publishing the Library News is discovering new and talented Bainbridge Island writers. In this issue we're pleased to introduce several, including two in their teens.

Our first young adult writer was **Elizabeth Wiggs**, who began her columns for young people while a student at Bainbridge High School. We missed her when she left for college, welcomed her back this past summer, and enjoyed her article on "Brain candy that's good for you" in our fall issue.

Now Elizabeth has returned to her studies in California, and stepping up to take over the columns for younger readers are **Julie Tamanini** and **Jacquelyn Oakland**. Both are involved in the new teen activities at the library, and we'll hope to hear more from them in the future.

Young People's Librarian **Sharon Snyder** introduces a new Children's Corner in this issue, and it includes some personal reflections on libraries, books, and reading to children by two local

mothers, **Kimberly Gawlik** and **Lisa Smith**.

Parents, grandparents, teachers, librarians—anyone who reads to or selects books for children—will appreciate their thoughtful comments and identify with many of their observations.

Another first-time contributor is **Mij Woodward**, daughter of the late Walt and Milly Woodward, the Bainbridge Review publishers who received national attention (and later, much acclaim) for their editorial stand against the evacuation of Bainbridge Island's Japanese-Americans to internment camps during World War II.

Mij Woodward's memory of The Kitchen Chair was written for a memoir-writing workshop, "Moments in Time", sponsored by the Bainbridge Island



Julie Tamanini



Jacqueline Oakland

Arts and Humanities Council. It seemed an appropriate introduction to our page of Memories, in which we remember some of the good friends

of our library who passed away during 2004 or earlier.

(We'd like to hear from any of you who have special memories of friends and family members who loved our library. We plan to make the Memories section a regular feature of this publication.)

Speaking of friends, **Tegan Wallace** has taken over the task of writing the Friends of the Library column from **Deb Sweet**. You'll enjoy Tegan's memories of working the book sales as a child.

Of course, several old friends have written articles for this issue, and we're indebted to them. **Susan Bottles** has

found time, while serving as president of our Bainbridge Library Board during a very busy year, to contribute articles on the Field's End writing community's activities and to hint at future activities of our board. (Stay tuned through 2005.)

Suzanne Selfors has interviewed George Shannon, the popular children's book author who is offering classes here beginning January 19. Suzanne, herself a writer with a book to be published in 2005, takes us behind the pages into the creative process of this best-selling writer. You'll want to check out all of his books—but be prepared to be patient. There may be a waiting list. As for Suzanne, she promises to let us know when details on the publishing of her debut novel are firmed up.

There must be something about the name Susan and its variations that brings out the writer in our residents. **Susan Wiggs**, the best-selling author and dedicated library volunteer, has contributed a pair of articles you won't want to miss. One is an interview with Elsa Watson, who has just published her first novel, and the other is an article about an Island family, the Hooyers, who are helping build a library collection in the Philippines.

Barbara Winther, our distinguished library historian, tells of the lessons in recycling learned at the old Rolling Bay Library by Bainbridge-born Bill Weld. The title, "The house that drifted ashore", only hints at the whole story.

Just for fun, **Pat Miller** takes a close look at some horror novels circulating today. Miller is the facilitator of the Library Book Group, which meets every first Wednesday and welcomes anyone interested. (Ask in advance at the reference desk for the current book, so you will be prepared for the discussion.) This group's interests span a wide range of fiction and non-fiction topics.

Nan Wooldridge, our regular contributor on library art displays, interviews local artist Fred Truitt, whose watercolors will grace the library walls through March. What a delightful way to start the new year.

Islander **Martha Bayley** and **Gail Goodrick**, Kitsap Regional Library's fiction and non-fiction collection managers, highlight some of their favorite books of 2004. (They're the people to talk to when you want to suggest a book for KRL to buy.) If you're suffering from the winter blahs (or blues), some of Martha's laugh-out-loud funny books may be just what you'll appreciate.

I hope you enjoy the articles in this paper as much as I have. Once again I am impressed with the talents of our writers and their subjects, our neighbors here on Bainbridge Island.

Living History

Public lecture, workshop slated for January 10

"Living History: How to use your story to tell the story of the times," is the title of a free public lecture/writing workshop the evening of Jan. 10, 7 to 8:45 p.m., at the library.

Presenter Natalia Singer is currently an associate professor of English at St. Lawrence University in upstate New York and author of *Scraping by in the Big Eighties* (University of Nebraska Press, Sept. 2004). But back in 1979, she landed in Seattle determined to get laid off, go on unemployment and become laid back, to "let the transcendence begin," while also training herself to become a writer.

Her editors state, "Singer blends memoir with cultural history to critique Reaganomics, military buildups in the face of eroding social programs and growing national debt, the hypocrisy

of so-called family values and her own complicity in all of it. Scraping by in the Big Eighties is, more than anything, about taking politics personally."

Singer is a guest of Field's End, the writer's community affiliated with the library. Field's End co-founder David Guterson recently heard her speak at a celebration of the anthology *Reading Seattle* at Seattle University.

Guterson was impressed with her presentation and advocated inviting her to Bainbridge as part of Field's End's continued outreach to all local writers, whether aspiring or published.

Singer plans to lead some writing exercises during her talk. Because table place is limited in the library's large meeting room, please call 842-4162 to pre-register.

Continued from Cover

Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

Library Book Group, *The Eyre Affair* by Jasper Fforde, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

Low Vision Support Group, 1-3 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

Friends of the Library Book Sale, 10-2 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

Field's End Writers' Roundtable, 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

Travel program: Exploring Russia and Siberia on the TransSiberian Express, 7:30 p.m. Co-sponsored by The Traveler Bookstore

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

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

Writers Roundtables winter 2005

All Island writers, aspiring or experienced, are invited to join Field's End writers' community at this winter's free Writers' Roundtables at the library.

The Writers' Roundtable convenes the third Tuesday evening of every month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the library's large meeting room. Newcomers are always very welcome—the evenings are structured to include everyone.

As a special twist, the first two author/leaders of the new year are veteran Field's End instructors who will be returning in the spring with new class offerings. The Roundtables will give potential students an opportunity to meet the teachers first hand.

On Jan. 18, novelist Skye Moody will introduce the question, "Heroes and villains: where's the conflict?" Then on Feb. 15, author and editor Irene Wanner will discuss the topic, "How does travel trigger fascinating literature?"

Islander Joe Upton, a fiction and non-fiction author whose books focus on Alaska, is the third presenter.

He will lead the Mar. 15 Roundtable, focusing on the topic, "How do writers get started and organize their time?"

Following established format, participants break into small discussion groups after the introduction. After the groups report back, the guest author summarizes all the ideas. Light refreshments and a chance to mingle conclude all Roundtables.

Writer, photographer and former East Africa bush guide, Moody is the author of six novels, most recently *Medusa* (2003). Her first non-fiction book, *Hillbilly Women*, received the Mademoiselle Magazine Woman of the Year award and was produced off-Broadway and her second received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. She taught "Anatomy of a Character" for Field's End the fall of 2003.

Irene Wanner has taught fiction writing at the University of Washington extension, the UW Women's Center, Hugo House and Eastern Washington University. She is a newspaper book reviewer and is a working member of the

Northwest Independent Editors' Guild. She taught "Detail and Narrative Pace" for Field's End last winter.

Joe Upton was a commercial fisherman in Alaska for 20 years, as well as an amateur photographer. Friends convinced him he had plenty of material for Alaska-focused non-fiction books. Two years ago, he also published his first novel, *Runaways on the Inside Passage*.

"I really believe in this," he said of his commitment to the Roundtable format. "So many people just need encouragement to get started."

If you have an idea for a Writers' Roundtable topic or guest author, send an e-mail to info@fieldsend.org (please put Writers' Roundtable in the subject line), or write to Fields End at the library, 1270 Madison Avenue, Bainbridge.

Roundtables are supported in part by a grant from the City of Bainbridge Island's Arts and Humanities Fund, administered by the Arts and Humanities Council.

Continued from Cover

Writing courses

Wiggs has been published by Avon, Tor, HarperCollins, Harlequin, Mira, and Warner Books and has received numerous awards for her work, including two RITA awards. She was the national keynote speaker to the Romance Writers of America in 2000, holds writing workshops all over the country, and is a regular at the annual Maui Writers Conference and Retreat. Her most recent novel, number 25, is *The Ocean Between Us*, published this year by Mira Books.

“The house that drifted ashore”

At Rolling Bay Library Bill Weld learned lessons in recycling

By BARBARA WINTHER

Perhaps in Bill Weld's youth, his shoestring maintenance at the first Rolling Bay Library provided a training ground on how to find and use recyclable materials.

The Rolling Bay Library came into existence in 1914, the year after Weld was born on the Island.

A book-reading group in the community asked the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) to open a public library. Weld's parents, members of both the book group and the PTA, were the catalysts for the project. They chaired the meetings, raised the money and encouraged book donations.

They saw to it that an architectural plan (now located in the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum) was drawn up, and oversaw the library's construction on land donated in the woods south of the Moran School. After completion of the one-room building, Weld's mother brooded over the library like a mother hen, even though it was only open to the public a few hours a week.

“I think most people thought the place belonged to my mother,” said Weld. “It wasn't until the library moved up to Valley Road that the community frequented it.”

Weld went on to reminisce about the times he walked with his mother along the trail to the little library in amongst the trees.



Photo by Arh Critic

Weld at home on former library bench.

“There was a huge boulder in front of the building. The exterior siding—not sure if it was cedar or fir—wore a coat of powdered stain mixed with fuel oil. That was the cheapest kind of stuff for outside paint, and the library people didn't have much money. I used to sit in a corner and look at a book or something while my mother and her dedicated friends yackety-yakked about giving benefit parties. Mother insisted we should help the library, so that's what we did.”

Weld remembers going to the beach with a gunnysack to pick up bits of driftwood for the fire to keep the library warm. He stamped and shelved books and helped clean up the place. “I was the youngest in the family, in grade school at the time. My two older brothers and my

sister had other things to do. So it was up to me to help in those early years.”

When the library moved to Valley Road in 1924, Weld moved on to other interests. His sister, Betsy, however became librarian for a while.

Weld left the Island after high school, attending college and then working in New York. When he returned to the Island, during World War II, he pitched in on library maintenance, as did his brother, Bob.

“We scavenged pieces of lumber from neighbors or the beach to try to fix whatever Mother said must be repaired—a broken step, a chair leg. There was always something that needed to be done and hardly any money to spend on it.” Necessity trained them to seek economical ways. So, it was only natural that when it came to building his own house, Weld would approach it in the same manner.

It was in 1955 that Weld began work on the home where he and his wife, Marjorie, still live. It took him five years to build the place. Its location is on the edge of the water near the northeast end of Bainbridge Island.

Much of the material for the home came from logs that drifted ashore. For example, when a particularly fine cedar log floated in, he managed to raise it, winching and propping and leverage-manuevering it to become the ridge beam

of his house. When a large mahogany log came ashore, he dried and split it. The wood from that one log paneled the living room.

All around the house are examples of recyclable materials. The steps that lead to the second story are built around an Alaskan cedar tree trunk. Two boat wheels hang on the wall, one from San Francisco. Outside, crowded on the top arm of an old telephone pole is a collection of glass insulators.

As if to accentuate the importance of the lessons of his early life—finding thrifty ways to help—on the front porch sits a bench from the first Rolling Bay Library, given to Weld in appreciation for his service. How fitting to be greeted by a recycled library bench when you visit what Weld calls “the house that drifted ashore.”

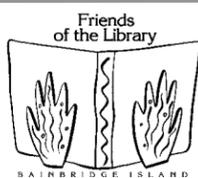


Art grants will fund purchase of new books

Thanks to a generous grant from the Fletcher Bay Foundation, the new partnership between Bainbridge Arts and Crafts and the Bainbridge Branch Library has a promising future.

BAC executive director Susan Jackson, presented a check for \$4,000 to library manager Cindy Harrison. Kitsap Regional Library will use this fund to purchase new art and architecture books for the Bainbridge Branch Library.

Jackson and Harrison will be working with Kitsap Regional Library art specialist Gail Goodrick to select new items for the collection that will serve artists and art lovers in the Bainbridge community and throughout Kitsap County. The library has also received some outstanding gifts of “nearly new” books for the art collection.



Friends' book sales continue to grow

By TEGAN WALLACE

I would like to begin my first column by saying that Deb Sweet will be a tough act to follow. For the past few years she has penned this column for Friends of the Library and her time and talent have been greatly appreciated.

I would also like to give thanks to Bill Iulo, who recently retired from the Friends, for his many years of service as the board's treasurer.

This is not my first experience with library volunteer work. As a Bainbridge native, I am no stranger to our library or to the event that is the monthly book sale. My parents put in many hours sorting and pricing donated items—piles of paperbacks, over-sized picture books, stacks of records (yes, records), and specialty books. There was so much to look at: travel books with full-page photographs of Venice, Giza, Kathmandu, and other far-away places; books with color pictures of Washington's alpine flowers; novels by a vast array of authors, with back-cover

synopses that made the works sound too fascinating not to tear into immediately. Sorting books was a great chance to browse through what was available.

The previewing was a treat, but the real fun was in working the sale itself. The place was always packed, and friends came by all day long to help, browse, or just say hello. My friend Hannah and I cashiered sitting at our folding table with a battered brown cash box and piles of plastic bags—two 8-year-old girls carefully adding up purchases and counting back change.

The monthly book sales have grown by leaps and bounds since my childhood. With profits now averaging \$2,500 a month, the Friends can support many library projects. At the November board meeting, the Friends donated \$1,000 to the adult library for new computer desks. The group also recently donated \$2,500 to the Kitsap Foundation to help buy a new Kitsap Regional Library bookmobile; \$1,000 for the children's Summer Reading Program; and \$10,000 to the Bainbridge Public Library board for major maintenance and operating

expenses. The Friends are now also supporting the new Teen Space in the library.

If you would like to help Friends of the Library with book sales, please call Kathleen Bullivant at 855-0671. There is an immediate need for volunteer cashiers to work the sales. Volunteers are also needed for the Helping Hands book sorting group which will soon be formed and will meet on Fridays.

Book sales are held the second Saturday of every month. See you there!
(Tegan Wallace is the daughter of Cebe and Susan Wallace, long-time library volunteers. —Editor)

Student volunteers honored by library

Six student library volunteers were among those honored at the November 14 Compassionate Action Award ceremonies at the library.

These students have donated substantial time and skill to support library programming and process library materials. Their service is invaluable to the library staff and serves everyone who enjoys using the library.

“We extend sincere thanks to our remarkable student volunteers: Morgane Guill, Pricilla Mullins, Megan Myers, Emily Pizzini, Ali Walker, Julie Tamanini and Nicole Worley,” said Harrison.



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Bainbridge Library Board focuses on the future

By SUSAN BOTTLES
Library Board President

Doesn't it seem impossible that we're now five years into the new century?

The future just keeps rushing toward us, with its new challenges and opportunities, even while we're preoccupied with today's concerns.

During this past year at the Bainbridge Public Library, your volunteer library board of directors, assisted by our wonderful staff and dozens of volunteers, tried especially hard to focus on the future.

It's almost a cliché on this island, but we took seriously our responsibility to plan so that tomorrow's ever-expanding number of library users will experience at least as high-quality a library experience as we do today.

We are not seers, but at the beginning of the year it wasn't hard for us to see that the squeeze on library parking was becoming acute. Too often, especially during special events, we watched cars futilely circle in our two existing lots. Fortunately, our generous neighbors at the Christian Science and St. Cecilia's churches often allowed us to spill over into their lots. But it was clear that we had to start right away paving our undeveloped southern parcel, land that a previous forward-thinking board bought in 2001.

We built a prototype lot-of-the-future using a permeable surface for the first time in commercial construction on the Island. The lot began to fill up regularly well before it was finished.

Of course, as always with the Bainbridge Public Library, it was your private donations that paid 100 percent of the cost of first buying the land and later building the parking lot. Several Island businesses donated their services in kind to the project, and many other individuals donated the hundreds of plants the Friday Tidies crew tucked into the new beds.

The board also created a long-range planning committee. The library doubled in size in 1997, but that is now over seven years ago. Expanding collections have started to edge out seating, which was never generous in the first place. A much needed teen center will soon be carved out of the upstairs space.

January will bring the installation of new library board members and officers. I'm pleased to promise that new President Ann Lovejoy, Vice President Channie Peters, Treasurer Wyman Johnson, Secretary Janet Brookes, and three new and seven returning board members will continue to look forward, making sure the library can match the pace of this growing community no matter what the future brings.



Marcia Rudoff (left) and Sally Mathews at memoir writing workshop.

Memoir writing workshop helps students express lifetime of memories

"Moments in Time," a three part workshop sponsored by the Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council, encouraged the 23 participants to tell their own stories. With the help of memoir-writing instructor Marcia Rudoff and artist Mary Louise Ott, this group learned strategies for expressing a lifetime of memories.

Marcia Rudoff demonstrated how life stories did not have to be chronological but could also emerge from pivotal events that led someone down particular paths. She also discussed the context of history that gives every life's fabric a rich texture.

Kitsap Regional Library genealogy specialist Michelle Mason demonstrated how to use print and electronic tools like Heritage Quest to uncover census

documents, land grant files and other files of materials that could provide family history clues. Mary Louise Ott shared information about careful preservation of photos and documents. Her artistic approach revealed how participants could create beautiful book displays of images and text or even preserve personal memories in a purse or a shadowbox. The workshop instructors hope to offer this class again in response to widespread interest.

Mij Woodward participated in the workshop and wrote an essay remembering her parents based on a family photograph. She agreed to share her portrait of her mother and father, beloved Islanders Walt and Milly Woodward. (See Page 13.)

Board names new members

Three highly-motivated and skilled community members have agreed to join the private, non-profit Bainbridge Public Library Board in January.

Marc Adam, a principal of Adam and Goldsworthy, Inc., land surveyors, is a long-time Island resident who in the past has donated in-kind services to the library. He is also the father of Jenine Adam, one of the board's two teenaged advisory members. Now that all his children will soon have left home, he says he has the time to serve and a keen interest in the library.

Jenifer Shipley, an agent with John L. Scott Real Estate, has been on Bainbridge for four years, and she, too, is interested in community service. With a background

in property management, she will be a special asset as the board manages its land and buildings.

Kate McDill, owner of Pragmatix Group, LLC, has years of hands-on business and organizational experience, as well as a recent library and technology master's degree from the University of Washington Information School. She has also volunteered for two years for the Bainbridge Friends of the Library. She is especially at home with new library technology, and she may be putting her skills to use by helping explain our new computer system to library users.

All board members are volunteers. They serve for a three-year term, and may serve a second consecutive term.

About our library

What your new neighbors don't know

If you're a long-time resident of Bainbridge Island or a regular user of the Bainbridge Public Library, you may know something many of your neighbors don't.

Anyone who volunteers to help the library—and that includes board members, book sale cashiers, Friday Tidies gardeners, and many others—soon learns that their volunteer efforts as well as cash donations from local library boosters keeps this community library operating.

The reason is simple, but hard for some to comprehend. The Bainbridge Island Library—the handsome building and the gardens that surround it—was built and is maintained almost entirely by donated funds and labor. No taxes have ever been levied to pay for it.

While Kitsap Regional Library, which supplies staff salaries and circulating materials, does receive some tax monies (listed on your February valentines, the property tax statements from the county), you will not see the Bainbridge Public Library name on those statements.

This unusual situation never fails to surprise newcomers to the Island, most of whom come from Seattle and other communities which do fund their libraries with tax money.

When Bainbridge Islanders got together in 1960 and decided to build their own library (opened in 1962), they

were determined to do so without adding to anyone's tax burden. That tradition has remained now for 45 years, and will undoubtedly continue for the foreseeable future. Donations from Islanders, individuals and groups giving as they are able, keep the doors open.

This coming Valentine's Day, when you look at that tax statement, you'll see what we mean. Why not take time then, or sometime soon, to let your new neighbors know about our unique, pay-as-you-go, no-taxes-levied Bainbridge Island Library.

It is only by educating newcomers and reminding old-timers of our special library funding method, that we will continue to maintain this tax-free library of exceptional quality for use by the entire community.

Lovejoy-Alger vows exchanged

Ann Lovejoy, noted garden writer, library volunteer, and incoming board president, exchanged marriage vows in late July with long-time Islander Bud Alger.

Among the couple's many friends present for the ceremony were the dedicated gardeners of the library's Friday Tidy group. They gave the couple a special wedding salute wielding their favorite garden tools.

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, Kevin Hawkins, Wyman Johnson, Jim Laughlin, Marlene LeMire, Bob Linz, Ann Lovejoy, Channy Peters and Val Tollefson. Teen advisory members are Jenine Adam and Sarah Kersten. Branch manager is Cindy Harrison, Kitsap Regional Library representative is Althea Paulson.

That's horrible!

Contemporary horror novels comment on today's culture

By PATRICIA MILLER

Snake-haired Medusa, the one-eyed Cyclops, the Minotaur - a creature with the head of a bull and the body of a man, these and other monsters of Greek Mythology stirred my imagination early on and instigated a voracious appetite for horror stories.

Radio fed that appetite with *The Inner Sanctum*, *The Shadow*, *The Whistler*, and *Suspense*, (If you want to experience a little of what these programs were like, go to signalapha.com, click on *Old Time Radio*, scroll down to and click on *Mystery and Drama*). In the late 1940s, horror comic books appeared on the market, awfulness illustrated, and I invested the greater part of my weekly allowance in *Tales from the Crypt* and other publications of its garish ilk.

It was Edgar Allen Poe who came at last to my literary rescue. Here was insanity, inexplicable cruelty and tortured romance, but best of all, though I didn't recognize it at the time, his stories were far more carefully crafted and cohesive than what I'd been reading.

Poe stood me in good stead until I found William Faulkner and *A Rose for Emily*, a short story firmly rooted in reality, and, because of that, many times more horrifying than anything Poe ever wrote. *The Telltale Heart* plays out in the suffocating confines of a madman's mind, *The House of Usher* inhabits a

dream-like setting where a crumbling mansion rises behind a "black and lurid tarn" in a landscape of "rank sedges and decayed trees".

In contrast, *A Rose for Emily* is set in Jefferson, Mississippi, fictional, yes, but sufficiently evocative of Oxford, Mississippi, Faulkner's hometown, to cause his friends and neighbors to recognize themselves in his books. His overriding theme reflects reality as well, and Faulkner best sums it up in his own words: "The past is never dead. It's not even the past."

His protagonist, Emily Grierson, is the sum and living representation of the South's past, of the town's past and of her familial past. In that context, the story's horrible ending, unlike those of Poe's stories, requires no suspension of belief. Even as the reader reaches the final page and sucks in an astonished breath, he is conceding that what became of Emily, though bizarre, is absolutely believable.

Faulkner's novels evolve out of his obsession with the curse of Southern history, and while they cannot be categorized as horror fiction, many of them undeniably evoke horror, the horror of incest and murder, of suicide and slavery. His novels demand careful reading; readers are often frustrated by his cavalier use of punctuation, by his page long sentences, and by his practice of moving without warning backward and forward in time.

His short stories, however, are more reader friendly and if you see fit to seek out *A Rose for Emily*, I think I can guarantee that Emily's fate will make your heart beat a little faster, and perhaps you will want to read *Barn Burning* and others of Faulkner's many short stories.

You may want to consider some contemporary novels of horror, realistic in that they make valid comments on modern culture. Bret Ellis's book, *American Psycho*, is a dark satirical commentary on the shallow money mongering culture of the '90s. The setting is New York City. The protagonist is a serial killer who socializes nightly with a tight circle of wealthy young men whose lives are lived out in the right restaurants, in the right bars, adorned in the right clothing. So firmly embedded are these young Masters of the Universe in their own self-centered superficiality, they are laughably oblivious to clues that should alert them to their friend's deadly activities. Fair warning, the meticulous and frightening attention the author devotes to the murders is not for the faint of heart.

Mary Doria Russell's book, *The Sparrow*, is a curious mix of science fiction, theology and horror, and even those who would prefer undergoing a root canal to reading science fiction might find themselves surprisingly intrigued by this book.

In the year 2016, listening posts on Earth pick up the sound of exquisitely beautiful music coming from a distant planet. The Jesuits gather a secret team to travel into space to make first contact.

Did I mention suspension of disbelief? Well, yes, a little of that is required, but unlike the flat characters that inhabit much of science fiction, these people are fully realized, and the author poses serious questions regarding issues of faith and human arrogance. Her second book, *Children of God*, takes up where *The Sparrow* leaves off.

Allow me to range far afield to include a book by Ward Just. I know I'm treading on dangerous ground where loyal Just fans are concerned, so I must first say that no, Ward Just's work cannot be categorized as horror fiction by any stretch of the imagination. That being said, the reader will be no less horrified by the outcome of *The Translator* than he will be by the fate of Faulkner's Miss Emily.

Just's book demonstrates in stark terms that the horror evolving from the reality of world politics is far more disturbing than that which evolves from an ax murder scenario. I won't attempt to sum the book up here, but will do so in the future, and I do highly recommend it.

(Pat Miller, a former English literature teacher, is facilitator of the Library Book Group, which meets the first Wednesday of every month. —Editor)

From horror to beauty

Recent arrivals in handsome non-fiction books

By JULIE O'NEILL
Reference Librarian

Here are some great new non-fiction books recently received at Bainbridge Branch Library:

Garden Plants and Flowers: an A to Z guide to the best plants for your garden. American Horticultural Society.

At Home in Greece. Photographs of 35 private homes in Greece from traditional to contemporary.

Penland Book of Handmade Books: master classes in bookmaking techniques.

Ultimate Robot. A definitive guide with over 500 color photos covering the history and future of robots.

Mystery of the Ancient Seafarers: early maritime civilizations. Deep-sea diver Robert Ballard searches for ancient shipwrecks in the Mediterranean and explores ancient seafaring cultures.

Native Universe: voices of Indian America. The inaugural book of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian.

Living Outside Inside. Photographs

of contemporary homes that integrate interior and exterior spaces.

Comic Book Encyclopedia: the ultimate guide to characters, graphic novels, writers and artists in the comic book universe.

Broadway: the American Musical. The companion book to the 6-part PBS series, a meticulously researched history of the Broadway musical from 1893 to 2004.

The Seventy Great Inventions of the Ancient World. From the first crude stone tools to the elaborate weapons of the medieval era.

The Olympic Games: Athens 1896 to Athens 2004.

Chapman Living and Working Onboard. How to plan for full-time residence on your boat.

The Farmhouse: new inspiration for the classic American home. Home design that is "grounded in a sense of the land and its traditions."

The Simple Art of Japanese Calligraphy. Projects using this unique Japanese art form.

The Joy of Digital Photography. A handbook for all skill levels on digital photographing, editing, storing and sharing.

Walking the World's Most Exceptional Trails. Beautiful photos and ideas for planning hiking trips in Morocco, Scotland, Chile, Greece and others.

Tiger. Full of color photos, a survey of the habits, character and precarious future of this fascinating animal.

This Old House Complete Landscaping. How-to for all the basics of landscaping: planning, paths, patios, steps, pools, trees, shrubs, perennials, and more.

American Academy of Pediatrics Baby and Child Health: the essential guide from birth to 11 years.

Continuous Color; a month-by-month guide to shrubs and small trees for the continuous bloom garden.

Food Allergy Survival Guide; surviving and thriving with food allergies and sensitivities.

Big Book of Knitting Stitch Patterns. Creating a New Old House; yesterday's character for today's home.

Travel talks continue in winter quarter

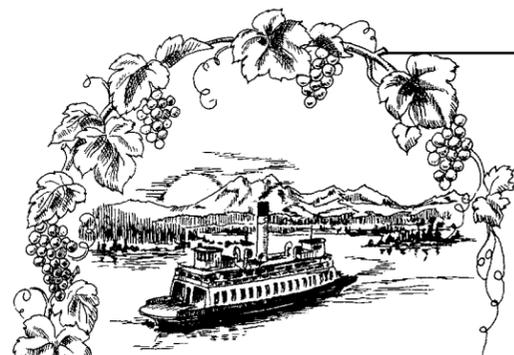
The popular series of travelogues co-sponsored by The Traveler bookstore and the library continues this winter with illustrated talks in January, February, and March.

On Friday, January 21, beginning at 7:30 p.m., the audience will Discover China with Rick Montgomery, for 15 years a tour leader in China.

Wednesday, February 16, the 7:30 program will spotlight Jewels of the Adriatic, a Tour of Slovenia and Croatia with Matthew Brumley.

On Wednesday, March 16, also at 7:30, the program will be Exploring Russia and Siberia on the TransSiberian Express.

There is no admission charge for these programs, and reservations are not necessary. They are very popular, however, and early arrival is suggested for the best seating.



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Swashbuckling 101

Islander Elsa Watson publishes debut novel

By SUSAN WIGGS

Local author Elsa Watson took a long route to Bainbridge Island. After growing up in West Seattle, she moved to Minnesota to earn her degree in Classics at Carleton College. She and her husband joined the Peace Corps and served for two years in West Africa, in Guinea-Bissau. There, to pass the long evenings, she tapped into her passion for old stories and myths, and began writing stories of her own.

"By the time we returned," Watson explains, "I'd finished a few 'practice books' and knew I'd found something I loved to do. When we moved to Bainbridge in 2001, I took my first stab at historical fiction and the pieces began to fall into place. I love balancing my days between research and writing, digging up details about what life was like 800 years ago."

Crown Books recently published *Maid Marian*, a novel *Booklist* calls "an intriguing new twist on an old legend."

A winning blend of action/adventure and female empowerment, *Maid Marian* gives us her side of the Robin Hood legend, beginning when Marian is a child, long before she meets the famous outlaw of Sherwood Forest. The story is set in medieval times, during the reign of Richard the Lionheart, and follows Marian from Warwick castle to Sherwood and beyond.

'She was born both an author and an heiress... an unusually independent soul.'

"Because she was born both an orphan and an heiress," Watson explains, "Marian is an unusually independent soul. She struggles through the intrigues of court life and regents, and more than once comes face to face with the imposing Eleanor of Aquitaine. Marian's wits and courage are her best assets, and she uses these to create the future she wants for herself."

The author was inspired by curiosity about the legendary character.

"Maid Marian has intrigued me since childhood. I've always been a fan of the Robin Hood story, but I could never understand why so much of the attention went to Robin, and so little to Marian. It struck me as strange that her name is so well known, yet no one has



Author Elsa Watson

a sense of her character beyond her role as Robin Hood's consort. Once it occurred to me to write her story myself, I couldn't let

go of the idea. I wanted to show how complex her own life might have been, and how she might have struggled with the choices she made," Watson explains.

Watson's debut novel is bound to appeal to anyone who loves historical fiction or an old-fashioned romance.

"It's a great choice for young women, since it involves a young heroine who has the will to shape her own destiny," the author says. "*Maid Marian* is set in England's Midcountry during the late 12th century... Tensions ran high during this time - a huge class division separated the ruling Normans from the Saxon underclass. Taxes were also very high, since King Richard needed to finance his Crusades into the Holy Land. Marian sees a great deal of the land and falls in with people from differing classes. She is therefore able

to compare castle life with small village life or with the hidden camp in Sherwood forest."

Watson approaches the writing process in shifts.

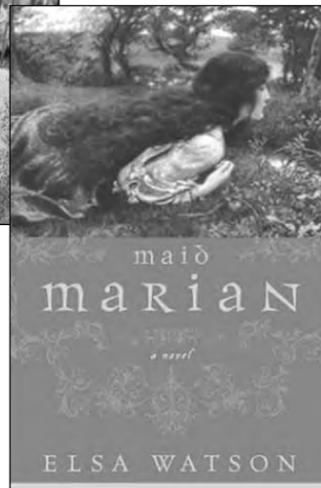
"First I spend a month or so on research only, bringing home huge stacks of books from the library on everything from clothes to food, weapons, and animal husbandry. Next, once the story is roughly planned, I'll begin writing. I write each morning until I've finished about six book pages, then I spend the afternoon doing follow-up research and planning out the next day's writing. And last comes the editing process, in which scenes are cut, scenes are added, and many, many paragraphs are rewritten. It's a wonderful thing, really, to be able to spend weeks and months shaping a story into whatever it ought to be."

The library is a key player during the process.

"I would be sunk without our library. When I'm researching, I have regular moments of panic that the librarians will see me coming with my huge stack of books and flee the building. But so far, so good! No one batted an eye even when I ordered the *Young Sea Officer's Sheet Anchor* five different times over as many months while I was working on a book about pirates. I needed it desperately, but it was popular - I kept having to turn it in so other people could have it, then put myself back into the hold queue.

"Our library is just wonderful. I make good use of the inter-library loan system, which lets you order books from all over. I also love the children's section. I always begin researching a time period there, since kid's books give such a wonderful overview (and include pictures!). The OED [Oxford English Dictionary] is a real treasure for historical fiction, since it can tell you when words were first used in written English. Lately, I've begun to make use of the library's database system and am looking up New York Times articles from 1916!"

To visit Elsa Watson online, go to www.elsawatson.net.



Read it aloud

Here is a literacy opportunity to help the blind and learning disabled. Being unable to read is a serious roadblock.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic is a national non-profit group founded in 1948, and has many active chapters around the country. RFB&D (www.rfbd.org) is the largest national nonprofit organization providing accessible recorded textbooks to students of all ages who cannot read standard print effectively because of a visual impairment, dyslexia or other physical disability, and who are learning through listening.

Nationwide, RFB&D has over 102,000 members in kindergarten through graduate school and beyond. RFB&D taped textbooks are recorded by 5,400 highly trained volunteers working in 32 studios around the country,

including in Washington, DC.

RFB&D's master library in Princeton, NJ, houses over 90,000 textbook titles in every subject and grade level. Last year, RFB&D circulated nearly a quarter of a million accessible textbooks among its members.

The organization is looking for readers to record books. They are mainly recording textbooks so their clients can learn, but they also record some fiction and biographies. They use volunteer readers in one or two hour increments, so the commitment is not huge, but can make a huge difference in the life of a learning disabled or visually impaired person.

For more information about becoming a volunteer, call RFB&D's headquarters office at 800-803-7201 or send an e-mail to volunteer@rfbd.org.

Women take center stage

Author Elsa Watson recommends ... *I, Elizabeth* by Rosalind Miles. A wonderful, first-person account of Elizabeth I's life, including the dramatic events within her own family and court.

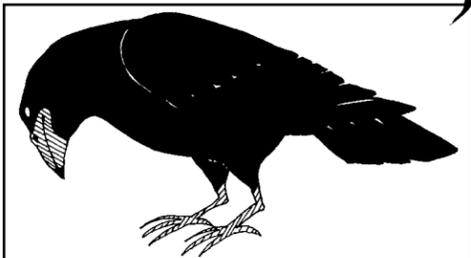
Persuasion by Jane Austen. Seven years after she turned him down, Anne Elliot meets her former suitor, Captain Wentworth, when he returns from the Napoleonic Wars.

Wives and Daughters by Elizabeth Gaskell. A touching, wide-ranging novel that follows half-sisters Molly and Cynthia through the complexities of English society.

A Room with a View by E. M. Forster. Whether in Florence or southern England, Lucy Honeychurch struggles with the same question - to follow convention or her own heart?

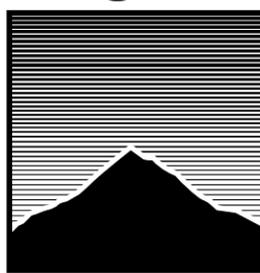
My Antonia by Willa Cather. Experience the hardships and joys of immigrant life in 1800s Nebraska.

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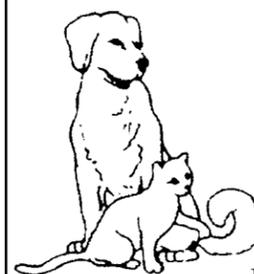


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Books to the Philippines

Islanders export imagination and joy

By SUSAN WIGGS

Carlyn and David Hooyer don't shy from a challenge. When they learned that the school Carlyn attended as a child, in Manolo Fortich in the Philippines, was in need of a library, they took it upon themselves to furnish one—from the ground up.

The small town sits on a plateau in the province of Bukidnon (literally meaning "mountainous") on the island of Mindanao, near a pineapple plantation, Carlyn reports.

It is unlike any third world town or village that one might think of. It has its own water system, electricity, thriving businesses, several church denominations and an Army Engineering Camp. It has a public elementary school and two or three private schools that offer kindergarten, one public high school, and a new local college.

"I grew up in this town. It's the kind of place where everybody watches each other's children. Everybody knows everybody and almost everyone is related in one way or another. The economy is such that those who have money really have money and those who are poor are really poor," Carlyn explains.

Traditional values still prevail. "Dating kids are chaperoned and grandparents live with their families. Children go to school in the morning and go home for lunch, then back to school again. It's a beautiful town and I had a wonderful childhood there, climbing trees and playing our version of hopscotch under the moonlight," she says.

Manolo Fortich Elementary School had been around for a long time. Carlyn's parents both taught in that school, and she and her siblings attended.

"This past April when we visited, I went with my mom to see her classroom and noticed that it was still exactly the same with the exception of the wood needing to be replaced. They have a pretty good-sized library. I remember having spent most of my free time there after school,

waiting for my parents to be done with teachers' meetings. They don't have the funding to acquire new books, so the kids are not really getting the most use out of it. My mother won honors for a project this year that she did, using books she got from garage sales when she was here last year! She also gave some of the books to the school library."

Carlyn was inspired by Bainbridge Island's own homegrown garage sales.

"Every time I go to garage sales here on the Island, I think about how the books are so cheap and how easy it is for people here to have good books to read. In the Philippines, used books are almost as expensive as new ones! When my mom visited, she just went crazy over the books. She said children don't know how to use dictionaries because they've never had the opportunity to use one. I just think that it is a real shame! I have thought about providing a library long ago and it was kind of my dream, something I can do for the children over there. And then I remembered that children fall in love with reading with a parent who loves reading. So I decided to include materials for homemakers in my hometown as well—magazines, romantic novels, hobby and craft books—anything they might enjoy while their children are reading and playing.

"I want the women to realize that reading can be more exciting than going to the neighbor's house and gossiping or playing cards. I want them to expand their imaginations and hopefully work towards (subconsciously) wanting a better life. As for the children, I want them to have what I had when I was a child—the beautiful world of storyland, seeing themselves as Jack and the Beanstalk, or a hero, or an adventurer. I want them to have an imagination that can take them further in life!"

Reaction to the Hooyers' donations has been ecstatic. "They just could not stop saying how much they love the books," Carlyn reports, especially those flipcards

that are age or grade specific, such as "Brain Quest." Her mother's well-thumbed copies of *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Seattle*, *Parenting*, *Architectural Digest* are popular items.

"It's amazing how much they love going through them," Carlyn says. "And my mom's *Chicken Soup for the Soul* collection is getting worn out, as are her Danielle Steel books." A passionate reader, she adds, "Books are magic, not just in the hands of little children but to anyone who dares to open them."

The collection is housed in a bamboo shed known as the "annex," and it has become a library and reading center for the community. "The roof is made of straw and I am hoping to get it replaced since it tends to leak," Carlyn says. Her father put up bookshelves for the books the Hooyers sent over.

The family hopes the generous families of Bainbridge will donate children's books, magazines, dictionaries (even old ones)—any books that are in good shape. Carlyn has offered to pick them up. Monetary donations would also be much appreciated as each box costs \$80 to ship.

They are also saving up to build a more permanent structure for the books. Carlyn will be opening an account in Bank of America for the sole purpose of donations.

Bainbridge Library is destined to become a favorite place for the Hooyer children. Two-year-old Sean is excited about Monday story time. Camille, who is just a year old, is still a bit on the young side but will enjoy the water garden and outdoor sculptures. Carlyn's husband, David, has lived on the island for about 18 years, and he can't imagine living elsewhere. The Hooyers love the people here, the quiet and the water, the ferry rides and the fact that Seattle is right across the Sound.

To contribute books or money to the Hooyers' project, please call Carlyn at 842-5765, or e-mail carlynkaye2000@yahoo.com.



Islanders donate books to school in the Philippines where these photos were taken.

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Children's Corner



BY SHARON SNYDER

Welcome to our new format for the young people's pages of the Bainbridge Library News. This column will be the place for you to find out what is going on in the young people's area of the library. It will also be a place to read

about upcoming programs and events for families, children and teens.

Staff members Gail Christensen and Eleanor Wheeler will continue to offer a window into the rich resources available in our collection through timely articles.

This issue introduces our guest writer program. You may recognize some of the names and faces as members of our island community. Some of our guest writers are parents of young children, others are parents of school-age children, and still others are teens. They, like many of you, are front-line library users with favorite titles, authors and experience to share.

It is my hope that the young people's pages of the Bainbridge Library News will become a forum for sharing tips, ideas and suggestions for good reading and for making the best use of our online and traditional collections.

Children and Families

Young People's Area

Ahoy! Media Island is ready to be discovered. It is the long shelf set to the north of our circulation desk and it now houses all of our library's media for children. This means that all children's videos and DVDs are downstairs on this island. You will no longer need to make a special trip upstairs to search for movies with bright orange dots. We hope you like the change.

Storytime

Please note the return to our traditional storytime schedule for the winter series. Terrific Twos are on Monday mornings at 10:30 am and Preschoolers are on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am. Pajama storytime will go into hiatus for the winter hibernation season. It will return for the spring storytime series.

Upcoming Programs

Family Storytelling at the Library

The Frog Rock Storytelling Circle continues to offer our community a range of exceptional storytellers to share tales with school-age children as well as parents and adults.

This program began last spring and provides an opportunity for families to explore and enjoy a world of stories through the portal that is our library. Our family storytelling program is sponsored by Friends of Library and is offered to you free of charge.

Winter Tales: Family Storytelling at the Library, Wednesday, December 29 at 7:00pm.

Story Drama for Preschoolers

Kimberly Parker, drama teacher and storyteller

Using repetition and surprise, Ms. Parker stimulates your preschooler's natural love of make believe through story drama, movement and music.

Wednesdays: January 5 & 12

Origami

Imagine the ancient art and science of Japanese paper folding coming alive in your very hands. Please join Mrs. Beaufait, a local teacher, and her origami ambassadors for an exciting session of recreating this six-century-old Japanese art form and tradition.

Age: third -fifth graders

Date: Saturday, February 12

Time: 1:30-3:00 pm

Pre-registration is required.

Storytime Schedule

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19
Preschool Storytime, 10:30 am

MONDAY, JANUARY 24
Terrific Twos, 10:30 am

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26
Preschool Storytime, 10:30 am

MONDAY, JANUARY 31
Terrific Twos, 10:30 am

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2
Preschool Storytime, 10:30 am

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7
Terrific Twos, 10:30 am

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9
Preschool Storytime, 10:30 am

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14
Terrific Twos, 10:30 am

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16
Preschool Storytime, 10:30am

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23
Preschool Storytime, 10:30 am

Children's and Family Programs

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29
Winter Tales: Family Storytelling at the Library

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5
Story Drama for Preschoolers, 10:30 am

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12
Story Drama for Preschoolers, 10:30 am

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12
Origami Workshop, 1:30 pm
Pre-registration required
Date for Spring Tales: Family Storytelling at the Library - To be announced



Cherie Levan recently brought daughter Siena Sofia Levan into the library for her first visit.

Guest writer

The Experience of Books

By LISA SMITH

When I was a young girl my mother would read stories to my brothers and me. She was a wonderful reader, the way she talked and brought the stories to life. She made it exciting and fun. I remember when she was reading she would change her voice for the various characters. If the character was happy or sad, if there was excitement, you really felt it. It became an experience, really.

So through my own personal love of books and from reading books to children for many years, I have come to realize that it is something that children really enjoy. When you are reading to children you can see it in their faces. Books are something that kids get into; it opens up their minds and fuels their imagination. They want interesting stories with wonderful pictures.

These days more than ever there is a remarkable assortment of children's books. An amazing variety of topics filled with all sorts of different styles of illustrations. Technology has really brought this art form to life.

Here are a few books that really are fun and my girls Amelia, age 4, and Nina, 2, really enjoy.

1. *Mole Music*, by David McPhail

This is a story of a mole that aspires to learn to play the violin.

2. *Winnie the Witch*, by Korky Paul and Valerie Thomas

This is a delightful story about a witch, her black house and sometimes-black cat Wilbur.

3. *Harvey Potter's Balloon Farm*, by Jerdine Nolen

This story features a little girl who learns the secret of a very special crop, balloons!

4. *Toot & Puddle*, by Hollie Hobby

This is the story of two little piglets, one a world traveler and the other a devoted friend who awaits his return.

5. *Billy's Beetle*, by Mick Inkpen

Billy has lost his beetle and recruits an interesting entourage of characters who help him search out the not-so-lost beetle.

6. *Audrey & Barbara*, by Janet Lawson

Audrey seeks adventure, and her cat Barbara seeks naps. Meet two best friends who know the best adventures are the ones you share.



Amelia Smith, age 4, and Lisa Smith, guest writer

Juvenile fiction meets the needs of many youngsters, all reading levels

By ELEANOR WHEELER

The Young People's Department adds many new childrens' books weekly but still has old favorites. The juvenile fiction collection is geared to the elementary school aged child, but has books to meet the needs of many different reading levels, abilities and interests.

For the very youngest children, there are great read-aloud books like *Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle*, *Winnie the Pooh*, *The Little House on the Prairie*, and *Paddington Bear*. Parents or grandparents will remember these stories from their own childhoods as they enjoy reading to their children.

For brand new readers, there are short, easy to read chapter books like *The Magic Tree House* series, the *A to Z* mystery series, and the very popular *Junie B. Jones*.

For young people who do not enjoy reading, or have reading difficulty, there are several authors who successfully hold the interest of children who would rather be doing something else; Roald Dahl, Bruce Coville and Katherine Applegate are authors who meet this challenge.

Some early elementary children read far above their age level, and it may be difficult to find challenging and rewarding books that are age appropriate. Some of our advanced readers have enjoyed the *Swallowtail* series by Arthur Ransome. Others have especially liked *The Secret Garden*, by Frances Hodgson Burnett or Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. And, just for fun, many of our more voracious

readers work their way through the *Hardy Boys* or the *Nancy Drew* series!

Here are some new titles you and your child may enjoy.

Hatching Magic, by Ann Downer - When a 13th century wizard confronts 21st century Boston while seeking his pet dragon, you can imagine the chaos that ensues. There is both humor and adventure in this fantasy novel, recommended for grades 4 - 7.

Casting the Gods Adrift, A Tale of Ancient Egypt, by Geraldine McCaughrean - When Pharaoh Akhenaten and his queen, Nefertiti, reject the traditional gods, an exciting chain of events is set into motion. This is a wonderful story for anyone whose interest has been captured by ancient Egypt, and is also recommended for young people who are looking for an adventure novel.

The City of Ember; by Jeanne DuPrau - *The City of Ember* and the sequel *The People of Sparks* explore human nature, which has not changed even though the story is set in a world that is far different from today. The author also challenges a person to visualize everyday items as they would appear to a someone who had never seen or heard of them. The pair of 12 year olds show courage, resourcefulness and imagination that make this story fun to read.

The Quigleys at large, by Simon Mason - A warm, humorous family story with just enough pen and ink illustrations to appeal to young listeners when read aloud. Set in Oxford, England, the story of the Quigleys may remind readers of

Beverly Cleary's Quimby family. This story is suitable for our younger readers.

The case of the cat with the missing ear, Book one of *The Adventures of Samuel Blackthorne*, by Scott Emerson - If you run out of the *Adventures of Hank the Cowdog*, and are ready to step up a level, this take-off on Sherlock Holmes will appeal. Samuel Blackthorne, a Yorkshire terrier, is a master of observation and deductive reasoning who unravels mysteries. Set in 1887 San Francisco, amidst an atmosphere of political corruption.

Half and Half, by Lensey Namioka - Set in Seattle, this is a warm family story about a young girl who is half Chinese and half Scottish, and is struggling to

come to grips with her identity.

Winnie & Ernst, by Gina Freschet - This is a collection of four funny short stories about Winnie, a possum, and Ernst, an otter. The many cute illustrations make this a natural for reading aloud. The controlled vocabulary means it will also work for a beginning reader.

In Darkness, Death, by Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler - Adults are not the only people to enjoy mystery series. In the third book of their series set in 18th century Japan, Judge Ooka and his 14-year old apprentice Seikei investigate a mystery with the only clue being a bloodstained origami butterfly. Based on the real Judge Ooka, this book offers a memorable look at Shogun-era Japan.



Jill Johnson, guest storyteller, shares some African tales and artifacts at Autumn Tales: Family Storytelling @ the Library, held in September 2004.

Guest column

The Wealth of Books

By KIMBERLY GAWLIK

My daughter's love of reading began with the review textbook for the Certified Purchasing Management exam.

You have to understand . . . she was our first child!

My husband and I had read of the importance of reading to children from birth. We learned that it

wasn't what we read, but the fact that we were reading and she was hearing our voices that counted. Dennis happened to be studying for his certification at the time, so he read it aloud while he rocked her.

We have since progressed from such riveting prose into the realm of appropriate children's literature. It is that journey and how we make our family reading choices that I would like to share with you.

Choosing infant and toddler books was easy. All they needed were pretty pictures and the singsong prose with which we are all familiar. Very young children love repetition and the familiar. Our son would not go to sleep at night without hearing *Goodnight Moon* and *Runaway Bunny*. We read aloud our own childhood favorites and every board book and children's classic we could get our hands on.

Toddler trips to the library were always adventures as we watched books tossed



Kimberly Gawlik

randomly from the shelves into piles. The number of books we brought home each week was limited only by the number I was willing to carry. Like every other family of a 3-year-old, we made our way down the shelves until we read every Curious George book, often several times.

As our children became older, we realized that they were

willing to accept a little more direction in how they chose books. I had always kept personal book lists, so I started book lists for my own children. For months, I didn't go to the library without my list of every Caldecott and Caldecott Honor book published since 1938. Good picture books don't stop being good just because they are over 60 years old. While many of the books are out of print, we have had fun tracking them down in other libraries and used bookstores. This list is available at www.ala.org or through Amazon.com. We would often discover an author or illustrator we particularly liked and would read everything else she published, as well.

When our children became more willing to sit for chapter books, we added the Newbery Medal winners to the list, as well as our own personal read-aloud childhood favorites. I would talk with friends who also spent lots of time reading to and with their children and

exchange lists of favorites with them. The young people's librarians at the Bainbridge Library have always been willing to share favorite titles and make suggestions for my children.

There are many organizations that bestow awards for excellence in various areas of children's literature. Many of these awards are listed on the American Library Association (ALA) website. These awards recognize books written for all levels of readers. They can be especially helpful in choosing books for independent readers, as they are often very subject-specific.

Over the years, I have found several published book lists to be invaluable in helping us to choose titles. The *Chinaberry* Catalogue provides reviews and recommendations of books for children from birth to early adulthood. Eagle Harbor Book Company publishes a newsletter with book picks for children, as do several other local independent book stores. *Book Sense* publishes a quarterly list of recommendations for children from independent booksellers throughout the country. I also read the book section of several newspapers and magazines for recommendations.

While book lists are easy and quick, we never pass up the opportunity to just

browse the stacks at our local library or bookstore. My children truly enjoy this time to touch and see what is there. We come home with books we might not ever have otherwise read. It also enables my children to explore the world of nonfiction in a very unstructured environment.

Just because my children are independent readers does not mean we have stopped reading aloud as a family. I will admit that I wield ultimate control over the read-aloud titles, or, at least, right of refusal! I choose read-alouds that I believe I will enjoy reading as much as they will enjoy hearing.

This is where I sneak in those classics and must-reads for which my children might not otherwise have time. We have found that the adventures of *The Swallows and Amazons* are so much more exciting when we are all curled up on the couch sharing them together.

Somewhere in my life I happened upon a poem by Strickland Gillilan called "the Reading Mother." The closing lines are:

*You may have tangible wealth untold;
Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold.
Richer than I you can never be -
I had a Mother who read to me.*



The books that made me laugh out loud

By MARTHA BAYLEY

2004 has been an intense year for most of us, with the divisiveness of the presidential election campaign as well as the grim realities of being a nation at war. Time and again this year I have found myself drawn to satire and humorous fiction as a form of relief, or even therapy - to lift my spirits.

My preference for humorous fiction began when I read *Conclave*, by Roberto Pazzi. This laugh-out-loud novel imagines what the next papal conclave will be like, describing a bizarre series of events that lead a number of desperate, elderly clergy to begin plotting their escape from the utter isolation required by papal law.

After this delightful experience, I stumbled on our own homegrown version of the comic religious novel. *Plain Heathen Mischief*, by Martin Clark (author of *The Many Aspects*

of *Mobile Home Living*), is the serio-comic story of the Reverend Joel King, a Baptist Minister brought low by flesh - a carnal interlude with a 17 year old. After spending six months in jail, Reverend Joel finds that job opportunities are scarce for reformed sinners. When he accepts a ride from a con artist, the Reverend Joel learns a new moral outlook along with a new line of work.

The ultimate irony for 2004 is that the best comic novels were political.

British novels abounding with eccentric characters and outrageous situations always catch my eye. Giles Waterfield's *The Hound in the Left-Hand Corner* imagines a single day in the world of a London museum, as it prepares for a major gala showcasing a new acquisition - a questionable painting

by Gainsborough. *Herding Cats*, by John McCabe, is set in a small town in southwest England where a brutal war is quietly raging between rival pork pie manufacturers. The Brits have mastered the art of poking fun at their own culture, a lesson we Americans may want to cultivate.

The ultimate irony for 2004 is that the best comic novels were political. *Florence of Arabia*, by the always-outrageous Christopher Buckley, tackles two of the touchiest subjects in the U.S. today - women's rights and Arab American relations. The heroine, Florence, is sent to a fictional Middle East country by an agency so undercover that even she's not sure it's the CIA. Florence's job is to establish an Al-Jazeera satellite station aimed at liberating the women of the Arab world. Buckley has his usual fun with names and un-PC situations in this off-the-wall take on current events.

Last but not least we have Larry Beinhart's *The Librarian*. In this hilarious, over-the-top thriller Beinhart, whose prior novel was made into the film *Wag the Dog*, runs wild with leftist conspiracy theories. The hero, a librarian (of course!) who is moonlighting as an archivist for a private collection, ends up with the fate of the republic in his very shaky hands when he stumbles on plans to thwart the election of a Democratic presidential candidate. Think of Michael Moore crossed with Carl Hiaasen, and you have a very good idea of what *The Librarian* is all about. Politics AND humor - just what we need right now.

(Martha Bayley, a Bainbridge Island resident, is fiction acquisitions manager for the Kitsap Regional Library. —Editor)



Best 2004 nonfiction you may have missed

By GAIL GOODRICK

Looking for some good nonfiction for gray winter days? Gail Goodrick recommends these.

The Man Who Would Be King; The First American in Afghanistan by Ben Macintyre. A Pennsylvania Quaker who became an Afghan warlord in the early 19th Century—what a story!

The Great Influenza by John M. Barry makes the story of the influenza "plague" of 1918 highly readable and the topic is very relevant as this mutating flu virus is still with us today.

Mediterranean Winter by Robert D. Kaplan—probably our premier travel writer these days. Kaplan brings such

historical and cultural insight into his writing that anything he publishes is worth reading.

The Dogs of Bedlam Farm by Jon Katz, another one of our best nonfiction writers, tells about his novice farming exploits in upstate New York. In the end, though, it is about becoming a better human being through getting to know his dogs.

The Frontiers of Heaven by Stanley Stewart is the title for all armchair travelers. Stewart travels from Shanghai to the banks of the Indus describing many of the most exotic Central Asian locales that most of us will never visit.

Sex with Kings: 500 Years of Adultery, Power, Rivalry and Revenge

by Eleanor Herman. Who says history is dull?!!

Monturiol's Dream: The Extraordinary Story of the Submarine Inventor Who Wanted to Save the World by Matthew Stewart. Monturiol, a 19th century Spaniard, was eccentric, idealistic and highly inventive. This book rescues this fascinating story of a forgotten dreamer.

Skeletons on the Zahara: A True Story of Survival by Dean King is the tale of the wreck of a Connecticut merchant ship in 1815. Twelve American sailors land on the edge of the Sahara Desert and must deal with horrible heat, lack of water and hostile tribesmen. Already popular in the 19th century, this epic survival story is

enriched with the author's scientific and historical knowledge.

The Truth About the Drug Companies by former New England Journal of Medicine Editor Marcia Angell spills the secrets on the exorbitant costs for drugs. According to Angell, the costs of a new drug are highly inflated by marketing and "bribery" to doctors so that they will recommend these drugs.

The Geese of Beaver Bog by Bernd Heinrich, who is probably our best nature writer today. This is the perfect choice for those of you who wonder what the lives of those Canada geese are really like.

(Gail Goodrick is nonfiction collection manager at the Kitsap Regional Library. —Editor)

Random Readers found good reading in 2004

By PETE GLOSTEN
with VERDA AVERILL

Bainbridge Island has many book groups, now over 50 according to most estimates.

One of the oldest is the Random Readers Book Club. It was started about 25 years ago—nobody can remember exactly when—with eight members, and grew to 10.

"During the last couple of years we lost three—Barbara Gage (the founder), Ruth Cederwall, and Barbara Glass, so we are now seven," says Pete Glosten.

Members meet monthly, taking turns entertaining at lunch.

The reading plan, as the name suggests, is random.

"We read what we feel like reading

and if we liked the book then we bring it to the meeting, and if someone is interested in it, it is passed around," Glosten explains.

Asked to cite their favorite books of 2004, the group enthusiastically came up with a list that includes both recently published books and those from a few years back.

"We all loved the group of five books by Alexander McCall Smith beginning with *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*," Glosten said.

Other favorites included: *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* by Sijie Dai.

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini.

Bel Canto by Ann Patchett.

Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi.

House of Sand and Fog by Andre Dubus.

Girl With a Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier.

Girl in Hyacinth Blue by Susan Vreeland.

Embers by Sandor Marai
A Rhyming History of Britain by James Muirden.

Chocolat and *Five Quarters of the Orange* by Joanne Harris.

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd.

Plainsong by Kent Haruf.

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri.

Susan Vreeland coming Jan. 29

Best-selling author Susan Vreeland will speak January 29 at the Bainbridge High School auditorium (LGI) at 3 p.m.

Vreeland, whose *Girl in Hyacinth Blue* (noted at left) and *The Passion of Artemisia* have received rave reviews, will take readers inside the lives of great artists as portrayed in her newest book, *Life Studies*.

Her appearance, scheduled by the Kitsap Regional Library as part of their Kitsap Reads series, is sponsored by the Independent Booksellers of West Sound, the KRL Foundation, and The Sun.

Books by the author will be available for sale, and an autograph session is expected.

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Teen Matters

Advisory council moves ahead with plans for new space, new name, more anime

By SHARON SNYDER
Young People's Librarian

Our Teen Advisory Council (TAC) has accomplished a lot in the last few months.

Teen Space

Teen volunteers showed up at the library on September 13 to help move books, magazines and furnishings into new digs. Teens have been using this new, more inviting space ever since. TAC meetings are held on the early dismissal Wednesday of each month at 1:00pm.

Fund-Raising

Teen volunteers helped to plan and work our first fund-raising event held in partnership with Friends of Library at their monthly book sale in November. The Friends of Library and the Bainbridge Public Library Board

enthusiastically support the further development of our teen space within the library and will each match every dollar raised by teen volunteers. More fund-raising projects are in the works. Come help out.

New Name

Teens voted to name our new space the Teen Scene. This first fund-raiser was successful because a lot of people in our community care about teens. The teens themselves came forward, first of all, to create a vision. The Bainbridge Public Library Board and Friends of Library then voted to help finance teens in their efforts. A number of adults baked good things to eat, brought coffee pots and lawn furniture, as well as brilliant ideas about how things might work best alongside the monthly book sale and with our book

buying public. The hard work, kindness and generosity of people of all ages made the difference in this first effort.

Anime Club

One Friday afternoon each month teens will be able to come to the library to watch, talk, and draw anime.



Students relax in the new teen space at the library.

Julie's picks

A variety of books for teens and younger children

By JULIE TAMANINI, AGE 13

In making this list I have tried to read a lot of different books for different ages, interests and genres. I have also tried to get books kids might not have heard about; everybody's read Harry Potter, most people have read or heard about Eragon, and, quite frankly, hearing about them again won't help them. (Information in parenthesis added by librarian)

Rules of the Road, by Joan Bauer (Adult, some reviews place it with YA)

Both funny and poignant, this is a fun read that is good for a rainy day.

The Folk Keeper, by Franny Billingsley(J)

A book true to the original fairies, before they were sugarcoated for children. It's fairly dark, and very haunting.

Echo, by Francesca Lia Block(YA)

A book that lingers in your mind even after you've finished reading it, this book stays in your mind, almost as if you're continuing to read it, to understand, even after you have closed the cover.

Fahrenheit 451, by Ray Bradbury (Adult Science Fiction, may be appropriate for mature YA)

A great book that has a lot to do with censoring books. Ray Bradbury has a phenomenal eye for metaphor that makes the writing sparkle.

Drowning Anna, by Sue Mayfield(YA)

A sad book, made interesting from the unique timeline; it's told in parts as the story unfolds, told through stories and memories. Sad and beautiful.

Rose Daughter, by Robin McKinley(YA)

A wonderful retelling of Beauty and the Beast, but extending into the minds of the characters. It has an excellent story, but the writing is occasionally overly wordy.

Zel by Donna Jo Napoli(YA)

A heart breaking retelling of

Rapunzel, told from the points of view of Rapunzel, her mother and the prince. It is sweet and sad, told in spare, lyrical style.

The Hitchhikers' Guide to the Galaxy, by Douglas Adams

(Adult, may be appropriate for mature YA)

An extremely funny book, filled with a sort of semi-organized insanity that is infectious. For example, there's Marvin, the chronically depressed robot.

Songs of Power by Hilari Bell (J)

A sort of enchanting story that is fun while not being silly; it strikes the delicate balance between humor and beautiful writing.

So You Want to be a Wizard, by Diane Duane (J and YA)

A great book that is lots of fun. The first one in a series, the others are all worth reading as well. Diane Duane is very good at characterization; it's as if you know the people she's writing about.

Love Among the Walnuts, by Jean Ferris(YA)

A funny and sweet book, though admittedly absurd. It is, in a word, cute.

Charmed Life(J), and **The Magicians of Caprona(J)**, by Dianna Wynne Jones

Both my favorite books in the Chrestomanci series, though you don't have to read those to understand the plots of these. They are very good

books set in the vivid world of the author's imagination.

The Squire, His Knight and His Lady, by Gerald Morris(J)

A hilarious book both celebrating and poking fun at the Arthurian legends; this and all the other books in the series (there's five) are wonderful retellings exhibiting humor and true knowledge, adding a vibrancy to usually dull, overdone retellings.

Sabriel, by Garth Nix(YA)

A great book with lots of action, good for readers who don't feel like anything with a slow, subtle plot. For all that it still has good writing; Garth Nix does a good job of not making it frantic or boring.

Court Duel, by Sherwood Smith(J)

A great book about court intrigue. It does a good job of making really real all the backstabbing people can do. It's really easy to empathize with the main character, always a sign of a good book.

Heir Apparent, by Vivian Vande Velde(J)

This is a really funny book. However, the author does a good job of not sacrificing plot for the sake of the humor. Take care to read the chapter titles!

After, by Francine Prose(YA)

A slightly chilling story set with a dark backdrop, the plot draws you along with it until it climaxes, then releases you. Very captivating.

Teen Calendar

Wednesday, January 12

Teen Advisory Council Meeting, 1:00pm

Friday, January 28

Anime Club, 3:00pm

Wednesday, February 9

Teen Advisory Council Meeting, 1:00pm

Friday, February 18

Anime Club, 3:00pm

Wednesday, March 9

Teen Advisory Council Meeting, 1:00pm

Friday, March 18

Anime Club, 3:00pm

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Teens create own space at the library

By JACQUELYN OAKLAND, age 14

Over the last several months, Bainbridge Public Library has started a teen advisory council to make a space available for teens. The group is organized by Sharon, in the young people's library, and consists of kids ages 12-17. We all have shared ideas about fundraising, location, furniture, etc; and it looks like our work has paid off. We purchased a small game table, cushions, a rug and other pieces to start the teen space, enclosed by cases of books. It's been a great place to go to relax, read or play a game.

The teen council organized a bake sale/gift wrapping fundraiser on November 13 at the Friends of the Library book sale. Profits reached a great amount at over \$80.00, with additional donations now totaling \$108. The Library Board and Friends of Library have generously agreed to match any amount of money we make to go toward construction and furniture of the teen space. This means the first fundraiser has generated \$324 toward this project. We are continuing with the teen space, meet occasionally about changes, and possible construction, more fundraisers, etc. Sharon has also been sending out e-mails and updates to the members of the council. The teen space looks great and is coming along.



Teens move a bookshelf to make room for the new teen space at the library. Left to right: Jacquelyn Oakland, Stefani Paul, Morgane Guill, Jessica Johnson, Julie Tamanini and David Buck, a local DJ.

Editor's choice:

A grab bag of great reading for dreary winter days

By VERDA AVERILL
Library News Editor

I have friends who believe our gray Northwest winters are just the time to hunker down and use the long nights to reread *The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire* or the complete Civil War collection of Bruce Catton.

I'm not among them.

I once spent a winter, as a Stanford freshman, reading what seemed at the time to be everything written about the History of Western Civilization. But the heavy-duty reading list was more palatable somehow in the eternal sunshine of the pre-Silicon Valley Peninsula.

Today, all I want when our days are so short is to survive until what I hope will be an early spring. So my reading preferences are for captivating mysteries—real page-turners you can't put down—or light comedy. (I'm going to read some of Martha Bayley's recommendations in this issue.) I'll wait and tackle Tolstoy when the sun shines. (Maybe)

The following are books I bought months ago, during an earlier season of short days and long nights, and read and enjoyed in 2004.

They're listed in no particular order, just as they were piled near the hearth, waiting to be delivered to the Friends of the Library.

Act of Revenge, by Robert Tanenbaum. A recent offering in the author's series on New York district attorney Butch Karp and his wife Marlene Ciampi. The Chicago Tribune called Karp and Ciampi the "most interesting pair of characters in the suspense genre". In fact, the entire Karp family and all their associates are intriguing, and the action never stops. First-time Tanenbaum readers should really go back to the beginning of the series, and watch the Karp kids grow up.

Stalking the Angel, by Robert Crais. This one is set on the West Coast where, as a

Wall Street Journal reviewer wrote, "private eyes thrive like avocado trees". But it's not just another LA detective story. Elvis Cole is an original. Next on my list to read, *The Monkey's Raincoat*, Crais's first novel, an award winner. His recent book *Demolition Angel* is a terrifying account of bomb squad technicians and their danger-filled lives, with a somewhat satisfying conclusion. (Happy ending doesn't seem to apply here.)

Touching Evil, by Kay Hooper, is set in Seattle and features police sketch artist Maggie Barnes, who uses crime scene victims' descriptions to draw dead-on sketches of their assailants. Anything by Hooper merits attention.

Along Came a Spider, by James Patterson, is one of the best in a series featuring homicide detective Alex Cross. This one has stunning surprises in every turn of the plot and a fascinating cast of characters.

The Ritual Bath by Faye Kellerman is the first in her series of Peter Decker and Rina Lazarus novels, and it's a great place to start if you don't know her work. This one dates back to 1986, and sets the stage for the growth and development of her complex characters in later books. I was hooked by Kellerman's descriptions of Orthodox Jewish rituals, about which I knew little. Faye Kellerman has carved out a special niche for herself in contemporary detective fiction; her books are as compelling as those of her husband, though written in a very different style.

Her husband, of course, is Jonathan Kellerman, a distinguished child psychologist who has turned to writing full-time. This year I read *The Web*, his chilling psychological novel featuring his favorite protagonist, Dr. Alex Delaware. The setting was far afield from Delaware's usual haunts, but Kellerman fans will enjoy trying to guess the outcome.

For a switch of locations and an unusual combination of characters, try one of Leslie

Glass's tales featuring New York homicide detective April Woo. I enjoyed *Judging Time* and so did a Booklist reviewer who wrote, "The wonderfully rich portrait of smart, sensible, intrepid, stubborn April Woo . . . sets the book apart." The interaction of characters, including April's relationships with her even more stubborn mother and her handsome Mexican-American partner keeps the reader turning pages at a furious pace.

The First Law, by John Lescroart, was my introduction to this best-selling author's work, and it's a winner. Set in San Francisco, the plot is as steep and circular as the streets of Telegraph Hill. At more

than 400 pages, this is perhaps not a one-nighter. So wait 'til the weekend to begin reading. You won't want to put it down.

If all those holiday meals have you thinking about food, pick up something by Diane Mott Davidson, perhaps *Prime Cut*, which combines cheesecake, beefcake, and a pair of dueling caterers in a delicious recipe for good reading. You'll enjoy the mystery and may want to try one of the recipes, perhaps Andre's Coq au Vin, at your next special dinner.

(For more of the editor's favorite mysteries, watch for the next Library News, in your mail in March.)

Where can you find the books?

Readers sometimes tell us that they cannot find on our library shelves some of the books recommended in these pages by local authors.

So if you can't immediately find one of the books cited in our columns, the next step is to check the catalog, either online or with a live library staffer. You can find out if the book is merely out circulating or not yet in our collection. If it's the former, you may put your name on the reserve list and check out the book when it becomes available.

If it is not in the Kitsap Regional Library collection, it may be available from other libraries around the state or across the country. Our local librarians can help you find out if it's available through an inter-library loan.

If the book is very new, it might be scheduled for purchase by KRL at a future date. Talk with a library staff member, who can tell you if the book has been ordered. If not, and if several people

are interested, the collection manager may consider ordering it.

So what if it's an older title and not listed in any library collections?

Two local booksellers, Fortner's Books and Eagle Harbor Book Co., stock used books and are very helpful in tracking down those scarce, elusive books.

And by all means, don't forget our Friends of the Library book sales here on the second Saturday of every month. You'll find an amazing assortment of titles, from well used to almost new volumes, at ridiculously low prices. (Paperback fiction that has been well read usually goes for 25 cents a book or five for a dollar. Newer hardcover books sell for a fraction of their original price. What's more, every bag you fill with books at the Friends' sales helps our local library.)

Many of the books listed on this page were acquired at Friends' sales during 2004; all of them will be recycled into the January and February sales of 2005.

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Library friends live on in our memories

By the LIBRARY STAFF
and EDITOR

It seems appropriate, as a year draws to a close, that we recall those who are no longer with us but have made a difference in our lives.

Often at this time of the year, your library receives gifts in memory of loved ones. Here are a few friends of our library whom we will miss, and who have been remembered by their friends and families with gifts to the library.

Genevieve Kephart

Several years ago, John and Rosalind Kephart established a fund for books in honor of John's mother, Genevieve Kephart. Genevieve passed away in October after a lifetime as an avid reader.

As her obituary noted, "she was known as a curious person. She had a mastery of detail that astounded friends to the day she died. Whether it was a crossword or jigsaw puzzle, card games of every type, as a formidable bridge player, or planning her next trip to places she read about, she was focused and disciplined."

Her family honored her with a donation that encourages people to enrich their lives through reading.

Over the years, Bainbridge Public Library has utilized the Kephart fund to help Kitsap Regional Library purchase award-winning books for the library. Fiction collection manager Martha Bayley selects these new additions from award lists including the Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award, Booker Prize, Edgar Allan Poe and Golden Spur Awards.

Librarians often guide library users to the Kephart Collection (located near the fiction area) when people are looking for an acclaimed book or well-written book. "Gen's" passion for reading is now carried on by countless new readers enjoying the Kephart collection.

Judd Huney

George Huney, whom everyone knew as Judd, was a charter member of the Bainbridge Rotary Club, which has donated many thousands of dollars toward building and expanding the Bainbridge Public Library.

From the first Rotary Auction, which raised funds for the first central Bainbridge library, to the 2004 auction, which occurred just days after his death at 91, Judd Huney contributed to the local library. His specialty: handcrafted children's furniture, built lovingly in his workshop near Crystal Springs and auctioned off at the big Rotary rummage/auction event each July. Library users previewed the tiny tables and chairs while they were displayed in the children's library downstairs every June.

The Kitchen Chair

By MIJ WOODWARD

In one corner of our kitchen stood a wonderful chair. It was tall, had stainless steel tubing, with the seat and back covered in yellow vinyl. To sit in it, one had to use the step to sort of raise up, swing around, and alight.

I often sat in that corner, talking with Mom as she moved to and from refrigerator to stove to counter. How she was able to carry on conversations and do multiple tasks at once I'll never know, but then, she did graduate "cum laude."

Every night, my father sat in that chair. He would first make Mom and himself martinis, then ensconce himself in the corner. He and mother would then have what appeared to be interesting conversations. Actually, when I think of it, it was usually my father doing most of the talking, and my mother nodding and offering, "ohs" and "uh-huhs."

Every once in a while, my mother would quietly raise an objection to some word or phrase my father had used. She was an English teacher. My father would insist his idea was the correct one, but Mom would quietly disagree.



Milly and Mij Woodward at the Kitchen Chair.

So off the chair and into the living room my father would go, to grab a dictionary or a volume from our Encyclopedia Britannica. He'd bring these volumes back to the corner, sit back on the yellow chair, and then read the correct answer aloud. I can honestly say, I don't ever remember a time when my father won the argument.

(Mij Woodward is the daughter of Walt and Milly Woodward, publishers of the Bainbridge Review in World War II and through 1962. The Woodwards were among the community leaders who built the first Bainbridge Public Library in 1962, and Milly was a long-time Kitsap Regional Library board member. —Editor)

This year Rotary and the Bainbridge Library received a double donation from Judd and his wife, Alice.

The Huney's had a small piano they no longer needed, and earmarked it for the Rotary Auction. Simultaneously Susan Bray, director of the Library Speakers Forum, issued a plea for a small piano for library programs which sometimes include musical numbers.

The Huney's donated their piano to Rotary and Rotary in turn donated the piano to the library. Library and Rotary Auction volunteers, led by Kevin Hawkins, provided the muscles and vehicle for moving the piano to the library in plenty of time for a September appearance by jazz pianist Mark Seales.

Monte Calvin

Although he'd lived on the Island for only a few years, Monte Calvin had made many friends here. His unexpected death brought forth generous gifts to Kitsap Regional Library for the purchase of books which will be enjoyed by library users on the Island and throughout the county.

Family members express their appreciation and gratitude to the many library patrons who remembered their husband and father in this way.

We also remember

Among others who died recently and have been remembered by friends and families with donations to your local library are long-term library supporters **Bertha Doremus, Joyce Steward, Steph Price, and Roger Stern.**

You'll read more about them, and others who have inspired gifts to the

library, in future issues of the Library News.

(All memorial gifts to the library are much appreciated by the hard-working staff and volunteers who keep the building operating. Unspecified gifts to the library's general operating expense fund are especially appreciated, since no taxes are levied to pay for maintenance and operation. —Editor)

Recent library donors

It takes over \$100,000 per year to keep the Bainbridge Public Library doors open and maintain and manage the building for the community's benefit.

Since no property taxes are levied on the building and grounds, all maintenance and operations funds come from private sources.

If you are reading this message before New Year's Eve, your library board and volunteers would remind you that all cash gifts to the non-profit Bainbridge Public Library dated December 31 or earlier are deductible on your 2004 tax return.

The following individuals have contributed to the library since late September, when the fall Library News appeared:

- Dale and Carol Sperling
- Maria Cook
- Virginia Mackay
- E. Paul and Gayle Robbins
- Stephen and Patsy Larson
- Priscilla Greenlees
- Jeffery and Denise Brown
- Doug Greason and Pegeen Mulhern
- Carl and Kay Jensen
- Lenore L. Mohrmann
- Walter and Marjorie Guyman
- Linda Holt and J. David Ayriss
- Craig P. and Jean G. Campbell
- David and Nancy Williams
- John and Betty Redmond
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- Don and Neva Cole
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Pei Wang: New page

By VERDA AVERILL
Library News Editor

Pei Wang is a newcomer to Bainbridge Island, the United States, and the Bainbridge Public Library staff. But already she feels at home here, and is impressed by the activity in this library and its central role in the community.

She worked here briefly as a volunteer, and just a few weeks ago joined the salaried staff as a page; she now spends a day or two a week helping to shelve books and do other necessary tasks.

Pei came to Bainbridge less than a year ago, as the bride of long-time Islander Ben Morse. Until then she had lived all her life in Tsingtao, China (known in this country primarily for the beer of the same name). For 10 years she had worked there for a major Korean company involved in international trade.

Since most Koreans don't speak Chinese and the Chinese do not speak Korean, the company's business with China is conducted in that international language, English. (Pei speaks it flawlessly with almost no accent, and is very comfortable reading and writing in English.)

Moving from a city of 2.5 million (seven million counting the suburbs) to suburban Bainbridge, with its population of nearly 22,000, was a major change, of course. She traded the concrete high-rises of a crowded Chinese city—"there it is totally cement"—for an Island house with a garden, and is still getting used to the Bainbridge way of life. (She likes the garden, but is a bit hesitant about getting familiar with the bugs and small creatures that live there.)

After a decade working at a demanding job in international commerce, Pei was not comfortable spending all day at home here.

"This is the first time in my life I have not worked at a job," she noted, and being a housewife in America, with our labor-saving devices, was not enough to keep her busy. Nor did she meet as many people as she would have liked.

So she volunteered at the library, and was soon added to the staff.

Pei is impressed by the open, welcoming spaces of the Bainbridge library and the constant flow of library users checking out books, using the reference materials, and attending meetings.

"It really is the center of the city," she observed.

In her hometown, that's not the case. The library is a seven-story building, rather isolated from main shopping areas, and has few visitors during the week.

"On the weekend you see the students there, but on weekdays there may be only three or four people visiting the building," she explained.

Also, she noted, the stacks are not open to the public. Library users must pay a dollar for a library card, and their identification cards are checked carefully.

"I would like to make it more open," she said, "but over there it's all government. . ."

She prefers the welcoming Bainbridge library, which is often crowded with local residents of all ages browsing the shelves.

What does she read when she's not working? Mostly non-fiction, including periodicals, she noted. She reads in both



New page Pei Wang

Chinese and English, and keeps up with happenings in her home country—her mother still lives there—by reading a Chinese website.

Does she enjoy American food? Yes, she said, and a recent treat was having Thanksgiving dinner with friends here. But when she cooks, she admits, she still prepares food the Chinese way.

So how did a Chinese career woman meet an American businessman who had lived on an island in Puget sound for 13 or 14 years?

"On the Internet," she smiled.

The friendship and romance that developed bore little similarity to that between Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks in the popular movie "You've Got Mail". There the couple lived in the same

neighborhood, experiencing several near encounters as they went about their business.

The Pei-Ben romance developed slowly over many months, with lengthy e-mails on both sides. By the time they were married she had a stack of printouts several inches high, she indicated with a gesture. She had also visited the United States four times and seen much of the country from the East Coast to California, so she was not unprepared for life here.

Her one regret is that her mother, still living in Tsingtao, was not happy to have her only daughter (a sister had died) move so far away.

I'm sure, though, that the e-mail between the two keeps them in close touch.

Steve Hibdon is new information technology chief

The genial young man you saw recently chatting with staff about our library computer systems may have been Steve Hibdon, the new Kitsap Regional Library information technology supervisor.

Hibdon, who took over the big job this fall—the previous IT chief, Michael Schuyler, retired last June—is making the rounds of all nine KRL branches, getting to know the staffs and their needs, and watching the library's new information systems at work.

"There's a lot to do," Hibdon says, "with three or four new systems all put in place at the same time." When the systems are all operating at peak efficiency and the staff is comfortable with them, library users will see a dramatic improvement in performance level, he added.

Hibdon's visit here was his fourth appearance at a branch library in less than a month, and he'll be back again from time to time to watch the

new technology at work from the branch library staff's viewpoint. (His headquarters are at the Central Library in East Bremerton.)

The new technology will operate smoothly and provide a "much more pleasant experience" for staff, Hibdon notes.

A new SQL system offers a "complete jump in technology", Hibdon says. It is a text-based system with a field on the screen, and it has a logic structure. "Its early performance has been successful, but we're still getting a handle on some of the issues," he explains, adding that changes are still pending but the data "will be completely vetted in the first quarter of 2005."

Hibdon has long years of experience in the growing field of information technology. He began working with computers back in 1975, studying computer science and electrical engineering under the GI Bill. He worked in Silicon Valley on large IBM

mainframes, spent seven years running his own business in Kitsap County, and has worked as an independent contractor for Nordstrom, Swedish Hospital, and other large firms.

When he's not working with the library computers, he relaxes at his home in the Seabeck area and enjoys spending time with his three children and six grandchildren. He's lived in Kitsap County since 1981, except for a five-year period in Spokane to be closer to his children who were growing up there.

He has a boat and does some fishing, enjoys playing golf, supports the opera, and is a jazz fan. And no, he does not turn on his home computer when he gets home from work.

"I'm like a carpenter who lays down his hammer when he goes home," he explains.

What does he enjoy reading? He likes fiction, and his favorite author is Philip K. Dick of *Blade Runner* and *Total Recall* fame.

—By the Editor

Artist Bill Holm will speak here on February 6

The renowned painter and retired University of Washington professor Bill Holm will speak February 6 at 4 p.m. on "Sundogs and Eagle Down: the Indian Paintings of Bill Holm".

Holm will share his passionate interest in Native American culture and art in the last of the Library Speakers Forum programs for 2004-2005. This bonus talk is sponsored by Grant and Barbara Winther.

Full-season subscribers to the Speakers Forum will be admitted by ticket. Non-subscribers are welcome, for a \$10 admission fee. It is suggested that non-ticket holders plan to arrive early, no later than 3:45, to be assured of a seat.



Painter Bill Holm

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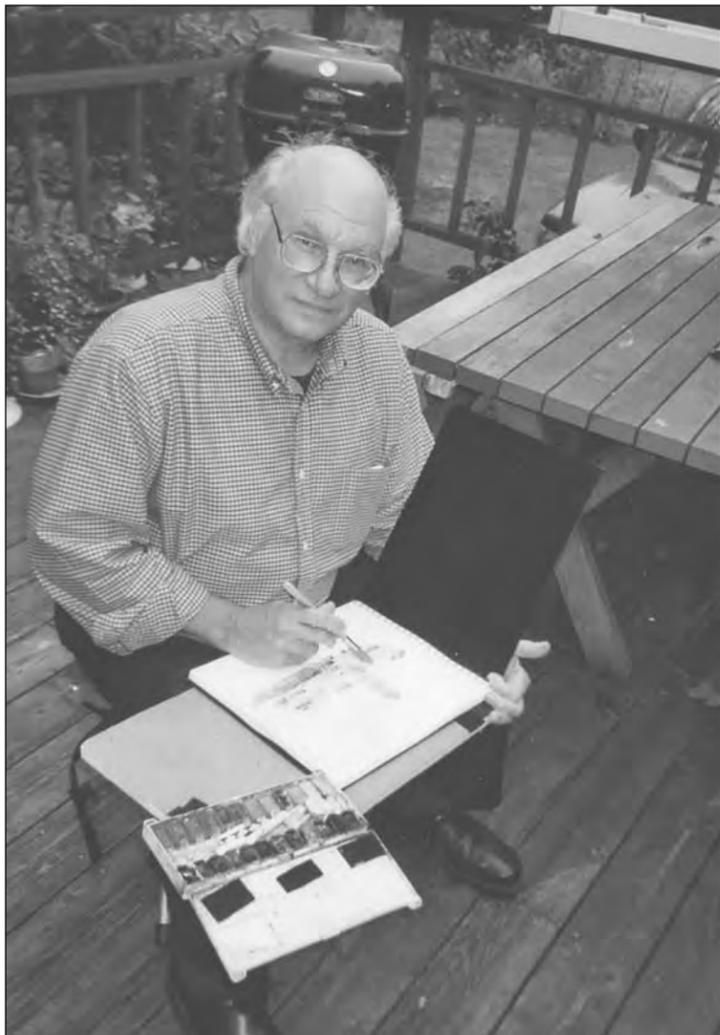
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Continued from Page 16

Fred Truitt watercolors sketches



Close-up of Truitt sketching at home, and pages from the artist's sketch book.

in biology class. After receiving his master's degree and doctorate at Indiana University, he went on to teach at Manchester University in England, the University of Washington, and Willamette University in Salem, Oregon.

Now retired, he's setting up his own studio at home. A favorite recent pursuit is doing art with young people, especially pop-up cards which he started making with one of Maimu's classes when she was a teacher and librarian in Salem.

Truitt's drawings have been showcased around town at Bainbridge Arts & Crafts, Art Soup, Island Harbor Pub, and the Treehouse.

All proceeds from the sale of any drawings will go to the Book Gallery project, a joint project between Bainbridge Arts and Crafts and Kitsap Regional Library that will be devoted to art, architecture and design and will be housed in the Bainbridge Library.

Daydream believer: An Interview with George Shannon

By SUZANNE SELFORS

Bainbridge author George Shannon was rummaging through some belongings recently when he came across one of his elementary school report cards. His teacher had stated, very clearly, that *George daydreams too much*.

"My reaction was, what's wrong with that?" he said, as we drank coffee and Italian sodas at Pegasus coffee house. "What did it matter, as long as I got my homework done? I've always lived in my head."

Turns out, it's fairly crowded in there – evidenced by his 33 published books, most for young readers, and a collection of non-published ones, some begun in the seventh grade. And there are many more to come.

Don't confuse Shannon with the other George Shannons, the one who writes about stain-glass, or the one who traveled with Lewis and Clark.

Our Bainbridge Shannon's latest book, available Spring '05, is a concept book for 4-10 years olds titled, *White Is*



for Blueberry.

Rather than stating the obvious relationship between color and object, Shannon asks his readers to look more carefully, to search beyond categories and barriers. Thus, white is for blueberry, when the berries are too young to pick. Purple is for snow, when it's in the shadow of us.

This is the same technique he used in his popular book, *Tomorrow's Alphabet*. 'I' is for water, tomorrow's ice cubes. Shannon is intrigued by the different ways a child can look at everyday things and thereby unlock the object's potential rather than cubby-holing it. This, he feels, is an important lesson for young minds.

George Shannon came to Bainbridge 12 years ago, having wanted to live in the Pacific Northwest since his teenage years. He is a soft-spoken man, admittedly awkward in his 6'4" frame. There's a youthful quality to him, an appealing energy in his eyes when he

talks about his work. At age 52, he is one of those lucky individuals who actually enjoys his work.

"The process is the most exciting part. When I'm in the middle and I'm not worrying about the realities of making a living."

He received an MSLS degree in library science from the University of Kentucky and worked as a children's librarian and professional storyteller for many years. He teaches workshops to children at local schools and is often a guest lecturer at the UW Extension Program. He has also led a roundtable for Field's End.

"I do my best writing in the morning. Often I start in bed, with the first cup of coffee. With no distractions, it's my brain-storming time."

Shannon is a minimalist, a poet who embraces the proverb *Less is more*.

"Distilled art forms, like haiku and sculpture by artists like Isamu Naguchi and William Edmondson, have always been my favorites," he said.

Picture books are appealing to him because they pose the challenge of creating a story in as few words as possible.

Some of Shannon's prose is rhythmic, as in *Dancing the Breeze*, where the

words accompany a father and daughter as they dance in a flower garden.

Some of his prose rhymes, as in *April Showers*, where frogs dance across the pages. *We do what's right, we play by the rules, But when the rain comes, we love to dance like fools.*

My particular favorite Shannon book is *This Is the Bird*, in which the act of handing down a little wooden bird, from grandmother to mother to daughter, means handing down their personal stories as well. *This is the bird my great-grandmother rubbed for luck when she told her father she didn't want the job he got her at the bank. She was going to go to college like she'd always dreamed.*

Shannon visits the Bainbridge library three or four times a week, to catch up on periodicals and newspapers. He reads mostly nonfiction, humorous essays by P.G. Wodehouse and Arthur Marshall. His favorite children's authors are Arnold Lobel and MB Goffstein.

There are 16 Shannon books available at the library. They include those mentioned in the article and a few more such as: *Lizard's Guest*, *Tippy-toe chick, go!*, *Froglegs: A Picture Book of Action Verse*, *Lizard's Home*.

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A traveler's watercolor sketches

Fred Truitt finds more than meets the eye

By NAN WOOLDRIDGE

You're getting ready for a trip. What item tops your list to bring? For me, it's a camera.

Not so for Fred Truitt. He never packs a camera. But neither does he ever forget his sketch pad and watercolors.

From the gondolas on the canals of Venice to the cathedrals reaching skyward in France, he's painted a singular collection of images, his sketches and drawings made during his travels.

For the last 25 years he has assembled them in 65 sketch books along with occasional photographs taken by his wife, Maimu, and other memorabilia, like ticket stubs and place mats, that further evoke a particular place and time.

Drawings from these sketch books will be framed and exhibited at the library from January through March.

"Ever since I was a little kid, I just loved to draw," Truitt says.

Even as we talk, he doodles on a small note pad beside him, writes down and tears off an occasional name for me. "Later, I never seemed to have much time, so I only sketched when I was on vacation or traveling. Watercolors were perfect as I could start and finish a sketch on the spot."

He packs a nifty portable studio—a little kit consisting of a sturdy board with velcro strips in strategic spots to hold his sketch book or paper, a small container for water, and the paints. In recent years he's acquired a featherweight, fold-up aluminum seat that can be set on any kind of terrain.

Once arrived at his destination, picking his spot is key. Maybe he'll be there four or five hours, maybe all day.

"I never have been comfortable with people watching me," he says, "so I usually try to have my back against the wall in some inconspicuous or invisible spot; then I can observe the scene without having everybody observe me."

He tries to find a corner or a nook or cranny where he can turn his chair, "a really rich spot with lots of targets of opportunity."

Occasionally, his arrangement backfires on him. Truitt was once in Obidos, Portugal, against the castle wall, "a perfect spot where no one could get behind me," he thought. "I was doing really well when all of a sudden I noticed that gravel and stones were raining down on my head. I looked up and saw that along a walkway at the top of the castle wall was a great line of people. The little kids had become excited and started kicking the stones."

Structures are his favorite subject matter. His wish to be an architect when he was very young led to an ongoing fascination with buildings and bridges, factories and boats.

"I used to go to the University of Pennsylvania when I was in high school to attend lectures on architecture," he remembers. Just a few months ago, when in Venice, he visited the biennial show of architecture, a global exhibit of new architecture.

People present a paradox for him. Yes and no, he wants them to be present. He seldom draws figures, but he finds that if people are watching and bothering him, he will start to sketch them and suddenly they go away.



Fred Truitt sketching in Valparaiso, Chile.

"It's my way of making them disappear," he says.

He used another method when he was surrounded once by a group of Arab children in Vence in the south of France.

"Nice kids and so interested," he says, and I told them "Okay, if you will leave me alone in a little while, we'll do a community drawing. I gave each of them a brush with which each created a little drawing, signed his name, and then left." He shows me their composite drawing in his book.

On the other hand, he acknowledges the great gift he has of holding a paint brush in his hand in lieu of a camera. Who wouldn't be drawn to a kindly, balding gentleman with big, huggable shoulders, seated on the street and hunched over a sketch pad bringing the scenes around him to life? Like magic, his paintbrush opens doors for him to other peoples' lives that would open no other way.

He cites an example. He was drawing the barn-like house of Amos Stoltzfus in the Amish country of Pennsylvania, an area where the residents are very wary of strangers. A little boy came over and asked in a scared voice that Truitt imitates, "What are you doing?" Then the mother came over, then the father. They looked relieved and left when they saw just the house on his paper. "I pointed to one of the windows," Truitt said, "and asked the child, 'Who sleeps here?'" Then, as I pointed to the windows of each room, he told me the names of every brother and sister — 'Becky, Sylvan, Samuel, Levi, Katy, Rachel, and this is Miriam's bedroom, and Abner sleeps here' — more animated with recollections about each one."

He recounts another conversation about his paintings of buildings when he was in Singapore 25 years ago.

"An old Chinese man came over. He told me what a great idea it was to draw these old chop houses and old boats because soon they would all be gone. 'All these young people want to do is build new skyscrapers and new high-rise apartments. They're just interested in mucking on, mucking on. All they want to do is eat, eat, eat (meaning they want to consume all this stuff). This stuff is going to be gone in another generation,' the old man predicted.

"And he was right," Truitt said. "It's all been replaced now."

His artwork also serves as a tool for learning local languages, or at least a rudimentary vocabulary. He can "get by" in Spanish and has learned some Estonian from Maimu who left her native country when a child. He has learned introductory vocabulary in other languages, but he knows that "If I can't say it, I can draw it."

He's made up a book of sketches with labels from around the world. In it is a roly-poly pig, a house with a red roof, a drawbridge, etc.

"I show it to children, and ask in their language, 'What is the name for this, or that?'" as I point to an object. Little kids love to name all those objects and teach you their language. They're not afraid to correct you either."

Truitt's career as a professor of international business allowed him to incorporate travel with work as he visited businesses and explored investments throughout the world. Even at meetings, he chuckles, his associates would often wonder where he disappeared to after a session. He showed them his sketch book.

Watercolors were always his first love in the art world. He was a great devotee of Charles Demuth and Charles Burchfield, who both worked in watercolors in the Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York region in the first half of the 20th century.

Growing up in Philadelphia and Allentown, Pennsylvania, he took drawing classes whenever he could. He met Maimu at Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania when she needed help to cut up a worm

Continued on Page 15

LIBRARY HOURS

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Thurs / Fri / Sat	10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Sunday	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(See calendar on page 1 for closures.)

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