Campbell Hawk and Elena Rowe take turns reading aloud to Arayo as part of the Reading to Dogs literacy program at the library.

Registration is now open for winter writers’ classes

Registration is now open for this winter’s three new writing classes for adults offered by Field’s End, the writers’ community affiliated with the library.

The very popular returning instructor Priscilla Long will teach “The Art of Paragraphs: Creative Nonfiction” to a maximum of 12 students on four Tuesday evenings at Pegasus Coffee House, January 17, 24, 31 and February 7 from 6:45 to 9:15 p.m. Cost is $210, including a packet of materials.

Experienced writers with work in progress will benefit from noted instructor, novelist and short story author Carole Glickfeld’s “Beyond Nip and Tuck: Advanced Revision in Fiction”. The class will meet over six consecutive Saturday afternoons, February 25 through April 1, from 2 to 5 at the library. Enrollment is based on an evaluation of a writing sample that must be submitted before February 12. Cost of this intensive workshop is $630.

Finally, writers of all genres are frequently mystified by the marketing process. Alle C. Hall and Waverly Fitzgerald, both experienced authors, will teach “Crafting Your Pitch” with the aim of developing a two-minute persuasive answer to the question, “What is your book about?” The one-day class will meet February 4 from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the library. Cost is $100.

Tuition assistance is available for all Field’s End classes through the Jack Olsen Memorial Writers’ Assistance Fund. Registration forms are in the library lobby or may be downloaded at www.fieldsend.org. They include details of how to submit manuscripts for Glickfeld’s class and how to apply for financial aid.

This winter’s classes mark Field’s End’s conclusion of four years of international writers’ conferences at Kiana Lodge. This year’s conference is set for January 18-21, with ongoing workshops through April 1, from 2 to 5 at the library. A special writers’ conference at Kiana Lodge on April 15 will feature a day of instruction in the writing process, along with a wine and cheese reception and book signings.

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And on January 15 Mark Tracht, editorial page editor for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, will address Speakers Forum ticketholders on “Lewis and Clark Remembered as a Family Story.” Tracht’s talk is the last in this season’s Eighth Annual Library Speakers’ Forum. (The series was sold out, but a few single seats may be available at the door $5 for those arriving 15 minutes or more before the 4 p.m. event.)

The popular library travelogue series continues on January 18 with “Bella Italia”, and the fourth annual William Stafford Birthday Celebration is set for January 18.

A highlight of January events will be a lecture by Dorothy Allison Saturday, January 28, from 7 to 8 p.m. at Bainbridge High School. (See story on Pages 6-7.)

Registration opens February 1, and March bring more special events and then, on April 22, Field’s End (the writers’ community affiliated with the library) will present its most ambitious undertaking yet. A special writers’ conference at Kiana Lodge on April 15 will feature a day of instruction in the writing process, along with a wine and cheese reception and book signings.

Registration opens February 1, and because of the expected large turnout, early sign-up is encouraged. Discounts are available to writing groups and book clubs (see schedule on Page 2).

Islander David Guterson, Field’s End co-founder, will give the first keynote address and Erik Larson, the second. Among the noted authors leading workshops will be Karen Joy Fowler, Elizabeth George, Gail Tsukiyama, Anjali Banerjee, Bhatti Kirkinger, Craig Lesky, Claire Ruffold Murphy, Sheila Rabe, George Shannon, Elsa Watson, Kelvin Russell Agodon, and Susan Wiggs.

For details, please turn to Page 2 or check the website www.fieldsend.org.

Winter 2006

Mark your calendar

These events take place in the library unless otherwise stated.

MONDAY, JANUARY 2
Library closed. New Years Day

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4
Library Book Group. Low vision support group. Core. 1 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7
Opera preview with Norm Hollingshead: Die Fledermusen by Johann Strauss. 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11
Low vision support group. 1 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14
Friends of the Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15
Speakers Forum: Mark Trahant, “Lewis and Clark Remembered as a Family Story.” 4 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16
Library closed. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17
Field’s End Writers’ Roundtable. Jonathan Front. 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24
Martyr’s Crossing Library Book Group. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25
Travelogue: “Bella Italia” with Matthew Brumley of Earthbound Expeditions. 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28
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The First Fleet, consisting of 11 ships, sailed into Sydney Cove in 1788 with 780 criminals, about a quarter of them women. The first 11 months were a mad dash to establish an unheard number of ex-convicts and ship crew—around 1500 people in all. The original contracts were treated like animals, forced to labor hard clearing land, planting crops, constructing roads and cutting and shaping sandstone for building purposes. They were fed little, slept in makeshift quarters and wore only the clothes they had on their backs when they arrived. Ex-convicts were granted small parcels of land. Soldiers and other free persons were given aid and encouragement to motivate them to settle. Convict James Ruse was pardoned in 1803 and became Australia’s first settler.

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Australia’s opposite cultures

By BARBARA WINTER

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Winter’s a great time to visit our local library

By ANN LOVEJOY
Library Board President

Chilly winds and soggy days make winter my favorite time to read. I always feel like a kid at a candy store when I visit the library. Where else can we choose a weekly armload of novels and poetry, knitting and gardening books, cookbooks and mysteries, all for free? Our library is blessed with an abundance of books of all kinds, covering a huge range of topics and interests. When I have time to browse, I explore less-familiar stacks. I’ve found fascinating travel books, local and world histories, and biographies of amazing people I’d never heard of, as well as specialty books about oddball things like dyeing with native plants or building my own electric car.

All this bounty is available to us every day but holidays, and our terrific staff is working with Kitsap Regional Library to expand our open hours as much as possible. Indeed, we are doubly blessed; not only are our shelves groaning with new and beloved classic books, but our library staff is exceptional. Well trained and warmly courteous, our librarians contribute to a powerfully pleasant atmosphere.

Some of you have commented that the library feels a bit crowded. Well, yes. With over 350,000 patron visits each year, we are serving nearly 1,000 people a day. That’s a lot of foot traffic and it also represents a very healthy demand for books, videos, music, and more.

Though Bainbridge Islanders enthusiastically embrace all these various media, we really love our books. Every year, as KRL asks patrons what additions or changes they’d like to see, our steadily growing demand for books, videos, music, and more.

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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. Verde Avellini is editor; contributing writers are all regular library volunteers.

Board members are Ann Lovejoy, president; Marc Adam, Janet Brookes, Marie Butners, Joan Gardner, Caryl Grosh, Kevin Hawkins, Wyman Johnson, Jim Laughlin, Marlene LeMere, Kate McDill, Channie Peters, Jennifer Shipley and Val Tolleston. Branch manager is Cindy Harrison, Kitsap Regional Library representative is Althea Paulson.

Kristin Sherwin reads a story to her daughter, Alison, in the library.

Seeking…and finding, at krl.org

By OF-FAH (CHANNE)E PETERS
Library Board Member

Have you ever started to read a magazine article while waiting for your dentist, and then halfway through this fascinating article, your dentist is ready to torture you - but you haven’t finished the article? What to do?

Or you’re standing in the checkout line at Safeway trying to speed read a juicy article in Cosmopolitan magazine before it’s your turn to pay. (Heaven forbid anyone should see you actually buying the magazine.) You know you can’t possibly finish the article. What to do?

Have you ever needed to do some research on a drug your doctor has just suggested or look up an article from last year’s Travel and Leisure about a distant destination at the top of your vacation list? What to do?

Did you know that with no more than a Kitsap Regional Library card, you can search electronic resources containing thousands of magazines, journals and newspapers archived from up to 10 years ago, in some cases longer? And you can do this any time of night or day from the convenience of your home computer. Who knew?

You can download articles from any of these newspapers and magazines, print them out, save them to your computer or email them to friends or colleagues. This can facilitate collaborative research projects or research on a family vacation. And once you’ve booked your family’s vacation, you can use the Reading Recommendations databases to find just the right book for every member of your family by searching for authors, titles, categories and even favorite plots.

New year-end giving opportunities

By MARITE BUTNERS
Library Board Member

When Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and the surrounding areas, Americans responded as they always do with gifts of their talent, time and treasure to meet the needs of those directly affected by the devastation.

Congress responded as well by quickly passing KETRA, the Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act. This act provided certain increased tax benefits between August 28 and December 31, 2005. Under existing law donations of cash have been limited to 50 percent of the donor’s adjusted gross income (with a five-year carryover for any excess deductions.) Under KETRA, that deduction limit for cash donations made to qualified charities (and made before the end of the year) has been increased to 100 percent.

Also, qualified gifts made before the end of the year will not be subject to the deduction rules applicable to itemized deductions. (Single taxpayers with adjusted gross income exceeding $145,950 generally must reduce their itemized deductions by 3 percent of the excess amount.)

10 reasons to volunteer

1. Altruism
2. A way of giving back to an organization
3. A way to meet people
4. Learn new skills
5. To be with people who share interests
6. Gain insight into an organization
7. Looking for a job
8. Career sampling
9. To use skills developed in the workplace
10. To keep busy - and some folks are just looking for some fun!

— MaryLouise Ott, KRL volunteer coordinator

How to do it

Just go to www.krl.org and click on “search electronic resources” at the left side of your screen. You will then see a listing and description of the many databases available to you. After clicking on one, you will be asked to enter the barcode number on your library card. Then, the sky’s the limit – you can search to your heart’s content, and you will know everything!

If you want some hands-on instruction, the librarians at the Bainbridge Public Library are available to help. Ask at the reference desk, where you can also pick up a handout on the library’s electronic resources.
By SUZANNE SELFORS

A writer friend recently told me about a man she had met at a Field’s End class who claimed to have buried his first three novels. Literally.

“Hey, he dug a hole and stuck them in the ground,” she said. “Gave them final rites. He didn’t keep any copies.”

The premise of this decision intrigued me, for many writers view their creations as life forms unto themselves, comprised equally of sweat and angst as of words and paper. It is one thing to allow the novels to gather dust on a shelf—it is another entirely to invite the worms to feast. Had this been an act of catharsis, frustration, or both?

Curious to find out, I sat at Pegasus Coffee House with Jonathan Evison—Bainbridge Island resident, writer, and alleged hole-digger.

“It’s true,” he said matter-of-factly, his eyes twinkling beneath the brim of a wool cap. “But it was three holes, to be exact. I buried one novel behind a mobile home in California, another in Southern Oregon, and another in Los Angeles—all places I’d lived before moving back to Bainbridge. Those first novels were part of a process I had to go through. It was incredibly cathartic. I never harbored any illusions about writing coming easily.”

Evison started writing his career in third grade when he entered a story in a young author contest and won. Representing Wilkes Elementary, he attended the Young Author Convention with other winning Washington state kids. Their books were bound and placed in local libraries.

“It was a great experience. I’ll never forget it,” he said. But then came what he calls “his 20-year drought”—a time in which he graduated from high school, worked as a telemarketer, tomato sorter, busboy, tree surgeon, and social worker but had no real writing success.

The drought ended when he wrote a comedy show called Shaken Not Stirred. It played on the BBC and won a Silver Mic award and earned a Peabody nomination.

He went on to write screenplays but knew that what he truly wanted to write were novels.

“When I began my first novel I discovered that with all the screen writing I had lost my figurative language. I didn’t have enough exposition, it wasn’t literary.”

So he started experimenting with the short story format.

Many of his short stories found homes in journals such as The Orchard Literary Review, Stringtown, Knock and The Wandering Hermit Review.

“For me, stories are an exercise. They make me a better writer. By the time I was writing my third novel, I found my style growing. I had fused the literary with the screenwriting.”

When we spoke, Evison had just returned from a jaunt to New York City, where he had met with his agent to discuss publishing plans for his fourth novel, All About Lulu. He went about the agent search with a query letter bombing campaign that yielded no results. Then he did some research and decided that he wanted the same agent who had represented Saul Bellow.

“She found my letter in her slush pile and offered me representation. I feel very fortunate to have her.”

About All About Lulu, author Natalia Rachel Singer wrote, “This novel will invite its readers to redefine love and the functional family and the promise of America all at once. I loved this comic, lyrical, moving novel from start to finish.”

The theme Evison returns to time and time again in his writing is that of a family being tested by crisis.

“What happens to people who care about each other when tragedy strikes? When something momentous happens to a family, the members are forever sorting it out.”

Hollywood is also a continuing theme. He’s lived and worked there. “Hollywood provides a great vehicle to explore the modern world,” he says.

Evison is a fifth-generation Californian whose family moved to Bainbridge when he was 10. He graduated from Bainbridge High School in ’86. He lives with his wife, two dogs and eight rabbits, in a home that is surrounded by quiet woods.

“My yard is a great place to sit and read or work revisions.”

He tries to write four to seven hours a day. “Successful writing takes three things: talent, discipline and luck. The only one that the writer can control is discipline. Getting published is often all about falling on the right desk at the right time. So, you’ve got to be able to let stuff go.”

Which brought me back to the whole burial thing. Did he regret doing it?

“No. Not at all. They’ll call All About Lulu my debut novel, but really, it’s just the only one to see the light of day.”

(Jonathan Evison will be teaching at the January 17 Writers Roundtable. His topic will be, “What factors define a great character?”)

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**Writers’ Roundtables slated for winter**

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

The Writers’ Roundtables meet the third Tuesday evening of every month, from 7 to 8:30, in the library’s large meeting room. Newcomers are always welcome; the evenings are structured to include everyone. There is no charge.

On January 17, Bainbridge short story author and broadcast and film writer Jonathan Evison introduces the theme “What factors define a great character?”

A former nationally syndicated talk radio host (as well as telemarketer, tomato sorter, busboy, tree surgeon and advice columnist known as Johnny Seattle,) Evison created the award-winning Shaken, Not Stirred comedy hour. He is currently converting his story “Mostly About Lulu” into a novel. His short stories have appeared most recently in The Orchard Literary Review, Stringtown, and Knock.


Returning Roundtable presenter Tamara Sellman tackles “How do writers submit work on line?” on March 21. Sellman specializes in literary fiction, magical realism, food and garden writing freelance feature journalism, online publication and teaching workshops for writers. Among her several professional achievements are a Pushcart Prize nomination and second prize for poetry in 2004 from the Northwest Cultural Council.

Returning Roundtable presenter Natalia Rachel Singer explores “What factors define a great character?” on April 25.

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Naked in the world
Author Dorothy Allison to visit Bainbridge

By SUSAN WIGGS

“I wear my skin as thinly as I have to, armor myself only so much as seems absolutely necessary. I try to live naked in the world, unashamed even under attack, unafraid even though I know how much there is to fear. “I tell myself that life is the long struggle to understand and love fully. That to keep faith with those who have literally saved my life and made it possible for me to imagine more than survival, I have to try constantly to understand more, love more fully, go more naked in order to make others as safe as I myself want to be.”

“I want to live past my own death, as my mother does, in what I have made possible for others—my sisters, my son, my lover, my community—the people I believe in absolutely, men and women whom death does not stop, who honor the truth of each other’s stories.” [An excerpt from Skin, by Dorothy Allison]

Born to a 15-year-old unwed mother who quit the seventh grade to work as a waitress, Dorothy Allison learned the power and perils of storytelling at a young age. She recalls “hidin’ out under the porch” and listening to her aunts tell stories, and entering a library or bookstore “with a sense of desperate passion.”

Books were her escape from the world. She told Salon Magazine, “To find a way out of the world as I saw it, I read science fiction. To sustain my rage and hope, I read poetry and mainstream novels with female heroines. And I read books by Southerners for ammunition to use against Yankees who would treat me mean.”

The library has long been important to Allison. “My most profound library memory was the shock I got after we moved to central Florida and I went to the school library there. I was 13 and had gotten used to the South Carolina school libraries which were pitiful—full of biographies of generals and judges but not much else. The central Florida Library was enormous and had a world of books I could borrow—novels, poetry and thesauruses, history books, and my favorite section of the Dewey Decimal system—with all those books on the lower shelves. I used to read them, and read them, in the house against the walls.”

For Dorothy Allison, the library was “the secret world where I could go hide in a corner and read so much. I was it. I used to sit on the floor and lean against the bookcases, lean back and dream about having my own place some day—a place where books would be stacked just as high—as novels and anthologies and blank books in which I could write my own poems. The library made me think all that was possible, and it was.”

“I think the best thing about the library is and was how it always felt to me—not just that it was the repository of what I loved—books themselves—but that it was a place in which a reverence for the word was implicit. Libraries have always seemed to me temples of wisdom—places where study and quiet concentration were honored, and where wanting to read was admired, not held in contempt.”

Dorothy Allison

“Allison says, “I was born to a very poor, violent family where most of my focus was purely on survival, and my sense of self as a lesbian myself along with my sense of myself as a raped child, a poor white Southerner and an embattled female. I was Violet Le Duc’s Le Batard much more than I was Le Amazon, that creation of upper-class Natalie Barney. People tell me that class is no longer the defining factor it was when I was a girl, but I find that impossible to fully accept. Class is always a defining factor when you are the one child step down from everyone else.”

At the age of 13, the young writer “…was always calculating how to not kill myself or how not to let myself be killed. That tends to strangely shape one’s imagination. I did not plan to fill up a hope chest and marry some good old boy and make babies…. I was smart, desperate teenage girl trying to figure out how to not be dismissed out of hand for who I was. I wanted to go to college, not become another waitress or factory worker or laundry person or counter-help woman like all the other women I knew. Everywhere I looked I saw a world that held people like me in contempt.”

After winning a National Merit Scholarship, Allison attended college and went on to study anthropology at the New School for Social Research. But storytelling was in her bones, and...

Continued on Page 7

Some of Dorothy Allison’s favorite books
Rubyrfruit Jungle by Rita Mae Brown.
Sula by Toni Morrison — “I remember…how this great grinding noise went through my brain. Of course, I thought.”

Member of the Wedding by Carson McCullers.
My Antonia by Willa Cather.
The Life of Poetry
The Female Man by Joanna Russ.
Patience and Sarah
by Isabel Miller.
The Friendly Young Ladies
by Ann Bannon.
The Persian Boy, Fire From Heaven
by Willa Cather.
My Three Sons
by Carson McCullers.
The Wanderer
by Natalie Barney.

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Continued on Page 7

The Life of Poetry by Muriel Rukeyser.
that, combined with an awakening feminist spirit, inspired her award-winning work.

For Allison, feminism “...was like opening your eyes under water. It hurt, but suddenly everything that had been dark and mysterious became visible and open to change.”

The author believes her first book, *The Women Who Hate Me,* (1983) “wouldn’t have happened if I hadn’t gotten over my own prejudices, and started talking to my mother and sisters again.”

The Boston Globe proclaims Dorothy Allison as “one of the finest writers of her generation.”

Allison’s literary influences are surprising. One was Flannery O’Connor—“that astonishment, brave visionary who told hard truths in a human voice—an outsider holding a whole society up to a polished mirror. She was as ruthless as one of her own characters, and I loved her with my whole heart...If I sit aside Flannery O’Connor, I would have to say that science fiction made me who I am today. I spent my childhood buried in those books. Even science-fiction novel I fell into as a child...widened my imagination about what was possible for me in the world.”


The novel was a finalist for the National Book Award and won both the Ferro Grumley and Bay Area Book Reviewers Awards for fiction. It rose to the top of national best seller lists through our monthly sales.

Books and those who purchase them are made possible by those of you who donate magazines cost .25 each and the books and has been translated into more than a dozen languages. It was adapted and made into an award-winning and controversial movie, directed by Angelica Huston.

While *Bastard* was a book about leaving home, *Cavedweller* (1998), was about coming back. The novel was inspired by rock star Janis Joplin’s “whole complex of working-class self-hatred and female masochism and self-destruction and great talent.” The book won the Lambda Literary Award for fiction and was a finalist for the Lillian Smith Prize. It was an international bestseller, an off-Broadway play adapted by Kate Moira Ryan for The New York Theater Workshop, and a film starring Kyra Sedwick and Kevin Bacon.

“...we all commit some unforgivable sin and then spend the rest of our lives trying to redeem it in some fashion. And the romance of self-destruction: I truly do not know why some of us can resist it and some of us can’t, why some of us kill our children and some of us try to send them whole into the world.”

Dorothy Allison is known for her performance work as well. A chapbook of Two or Three Things I Know for Sure was selected as a notable book of the year by the New York Times Book Review, and adapted as a documentary film, which took prizes at the Aspen and Toronto film festivals, and premiered on PBS. Allison gives equal attention to small press. She is the author of Skin: Talking About Sex, Class and Literature (1995), which won the American Library Association Gay and Lesbian Book Award, and numerous volumes of poetry.

In 1998, Allison founded The Independent Spirit Award, a prize given each year to an individual whose work with small presses and independent bookstores has helped to sustain them.

The award, administered by the Astraea Foundation, is designed to encourage the people and institutions which support new writers and to introduce readers to works that might otherwise go unheard and unread.

Allison serves on the boards of PEN International, the National Coalition Against Censorship and Feminists for Free Expression, and the advisory board of the James Tiptree Jr. Memorial Award, presented annually to a science fiction or fantasy work that explores and expands on contemporary ideas of gender.

Her advice to writers is succinct: “You learn to live with uncertainty and poverty if you are going to be a writer. I’m still very blunt: if you want to be a writer, get a day job. The fact that I have actually been able to make a living at it is astonishing. I know so many great writers who can’t, and, oh, it is not about justice. I am trying to carry it off with grace and a sense of humor.”

“Understand me,” Allison writes. “What I am here for is to tell you stories you may not want to hear...And to scare hell out of you now and then. I was raised Baptist, I know how to do that.”

Please mark your calendar to hear Dorothy Allison’s very special lecture, entitled “Scaring the Horses: How and Why Writers Write Those Big Mean Hard Stories” for Fields End on Saturday, January 28, 2006, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Bainbridge High School LGI. For more information, please call 842-4162, e-mail info@fieldsend.org or see www.fieldsend.org/events.html.

(Susan Wiggs is a Bainbridge Island writer, and a volunteer for the library and Fields End.)

Friends looking for book sale volunteers

By PATRICIA MILLER

The Friends of the Library are always on the lookout for projects that make your visits to the library more pleasurable and rewarding.

The tropical fish tank in the children’s section, the new tables for computer users and the new teen center are just a few services made possible by those of you who donate books and those who purchase them through our monthly sales.

The sales conducted on the second Saturday of every month remain a constant, but we would like to conduct more regularly scheduled sales and we need volunteers to help prepare for them and conduct them.

If you’re interested in working with the Friends, please ask for a volunteer form, available at the front desk, and fill it out.

In the meantime, look for short notice sales on the swing board outside the library and in notices posted in the library window. Last summer, board member Dominique Bemis volunteered to investigate the utility of online sales. Donated books were screened for value, and those demanding a higher than average price were placed on sale through Amazon.com.

Several months of online sales proved to be rewarding, so the board is investigating the possibility of going forward with these sales. Funding is also provided by the magazine and book racks located in the entryway upstairs and near the elevator downstairs.

Hardworking Friends’ volunteers replenish the shelves daily, and this has become a very popular service. The magazines cost $.25 each and the books are priced individually from $2.00 to $2.00. Please note that there is a slot provided in the middle of both racks for your payment.

Thank you for your donations, for your participation in sales and for your purchases from the magazine racks.

Through your help, we are able to provide support for what we think is the finest library in the county.
Two full years

January 2006 marks my second full year of work here at Bainbridge Public Library.

What a ride.

I can remember trembling through my first few storytimes. Actually, I think I trembled my way through a lot of things during those first months.

You were patient while I learned the ropes. You shared a sense of humor. You were often kind.

Thank you.

The adventure continues.

Volunteers

Volunteers help make Bainbridge Public Library the magic place it is.

We would not have been able to offer our upcoming winter reading volunteer program without the time and talent offered by Carrie Klein.

We would not have been able to offer our upcoming reading to dogs literacy program without the innovative and artistic skills offered by Karyn Carpenter and her NewfoundPaws, Araya.

We would not have been able to introduce children throughout Kitsap County to the joy of reading through the media of television without the time, equipment and skills offered by Kit Spier and Cameron Snow.

Thank you all.

A difficult goodbye

Wendy Jackson Hall introduced herself and her artistic talents to our teen anime club early this year. She had a way with animation. She also had a way with people.

The teens and I were saddened to hear of her recent death and will miss her. Her bright generosity made a difference.

Family reading opportunities

By CARRIE KLEIN

Curl up with a good book at storytime.

The short, chilly days of winter are upon us but that doesn’t mean you need to hibernate! Come to the library for storytime beginning the week of January 23 to hear a few stories, be equipped with a nametag and make sure you’re on the official reading volunteer display, give you a little drop-off program, but it may give you a little bit of a break on a long, dark afternoon.

Winter reading volunteers

In addition to storytime, we’re going to bring our summer reading volunteers back on Wednesday afternoons in February to read aloud with younger children. Every Wednesday between 4 and 5 pm, you are invited to bring your toddlers and preschoolers to the young people’s area of the library. Older kids will be available and ready to read with them. This offers our reading volunteers great practice and your kids a great reading role model. This is not a drop-in program, but it may give you a little bit of a break on a long, dark afternoon.

Calling all summer reading volunteers!

If you were one of our great volunteers this past summer who spent time at the library reading with younger children, we want you to consider signing on as a winter reading volunteer.

Your time commitment will be for one Wednesday afternoon in February 2006, between 3:45 and 5:00 pm. The summer program that matched volunteer readers between the ages of 9 and 17 with young children was such a success that families have asked us to offer it again this winter.

If you participated in the program last summer and are interested in signing up to read this winter, come in and talk with Sharon the librarian on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday afternoon before January 18. She’ll take your picture for an official reading volunteer display, give you a nametag and make sure you’re on the schedule.

If you are someone between the ages of 9 and 18 who wants to be a reading volunteer, but wasn’t with us last summer, look for our announcement in the Spring issue of the Bainbridge Island Library News. We will announce plans for summer volunteer programs in that issue. Stay tuned.

Sharon Snyder

Young People’s Librarian

By SHARON SNYDER

Kit Spier can’t remember a time when he could not read. Books and reading have always been a fundamental part of his life. Even now, he reads an average of three books a week.

He wants to help make sure kids throughout Kitsap County are introduced to books and reading, too.

Kit’s background is in television and theater. He worked for King TV, directing the Wunda Wunda storytelling show that ran successfully and entertained countless children for more than 15 years. Some of us can still sing the theme song.

Several months ago, Kit came forward with the idea to film young people’s librarians conducting storytime for children in several branches of Kitsap Regional Library and broadcasting them on BIB and BKAT local cable TV.

He hoped this would enable children throughout the county to experience the joy of reading and the fun of traditional storytime in their own homes.

Children in daycares, hospitals and homes where English is a second language might also be introduced to public library services for the first time.

He continues to offer his time, equipment, and expertise. Cameron Snow has come forward to serve as associate producer and now Story Time television program is on the air. Check local BIB listings for broadcast schedule.

In November, the Kitsap Regional Library Board recognized Kit’s extraordinary contributions to our community with a special Certificate of Appreciation. He deserves it.

Books about real things

By JIM WHITING

Children’s non-fiction is somewhat analogous to Dennis Kucinich in the 2004 Democratic primary. It represents a minority viewpoint among young readers, yet it will endure to the very end.

In many libraries—especially school libraries—non-fiction titles far outnumber works of fiction. History, biography and the natural world are endlessly fascinating.

For example, I’ve discovered that much of the inspiration for Romeo and Juliet came from a barroom brawl. That one of the crimes for which Joan of Arc burned at the stake was wearing men’s clothing. That Julius Caesar was insulted by what he termed a paltry ransom demand after being kidnapped by pirates and ordered them to nearly triple it. That Irving Berlin—a Jew—not only launched the holiday music industry with “White Christmas” but also lost his infant son on Christmas day. And on. And on.

Moreover, many non-fiction authors are gifted storytellers who do far more than simply recite facts. They vividly show why their subjects are important and meaningful. Their passion for their subjects shines through on every page. It’s easy to get caught up in their excitement. Kids close the book with the same satisfaction that the best fiction provides.

Henry Ford was famously wrong. History is NOT blank. Unfortunately, some of the stuff on the shelves lends credence to his assertion.

So how do you (and your youngsters) separate the wheat from the chaff? Pick out a book that looks like it may match your interests. Start reading. If after a few pages, you’re not caught up in the saga, put it back. Try the next book on the shelf. And the next, if necessary. It shouldn’t take long to find a book that sweeps you along.

Kit Spier’s note: Bainbridge Island Public Library has come forward to serve as associate producer, Cameron Snow for directing the Wunda Wunda storytelling show that ran successfully and entertained countless children for more than 15 years. Some of us can still sing the theme song.

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Winter 2006
A fond farewell

BY ELEANOR WHEELER

Saying goodbye is hard, but being retired is delightful. Being bored is definitely not a problem. I miss seeing my library friends, but I love running into you at the pool, or Town & Country, or even the library!

Working in the Bainbridge Library has to be one of the best jobs ever. People are definitely the best part - fellow employees, volunteers, and patrons! Seeing young people learn to love books reassures me that there are generations of intelligent, caring adults in our future.

And the books - how could I not like being surrounded by all the new books, as well as fresh copies of the classics? When I first saw the Bainbridge library, it was small. The Young People’s Department was downstairs, but the space was shared with a dark and depressing meeting room, and an even darker hallway. The meeting room doubled as storage space for anything that needed to be saved but did not fit elsewhere. (Remember that there was no online library, so often volumes of government publications found their home in the meeting room.)

As we were moving to the Island, the building was expanded by a small addition. This at least provided handicapped access on both levels. But to go from one level to the other, a person had to go out to the sidewalk and wheel around the entire building. A new stairway connected the two levels, but the old stairs in the northwest corner were retained. This made for interesting problems locating people when parents and children were going around in circles looking for each other.

Finally, thanks to the generosity of the community and a lot of hard work by some dedicated volunteers, the library was expanded to its current size. How fortunate we are!

And with each addition, there was room for more books and other materials. Videos joined the collection, and vinyl records were exchanged for tapes, and then discs. As the library acquired larger collections, it was no longer necessary to limit how much could be checked out. No more trying to explain that a person could have two of those, and three of something else. (And no more trying to remember which format allowed two and which three.)

As for the good old days when there was a card catalog — well, it was in East Bremerton. For the most part, the information was stored in people’s heads. The system was definitely based on what you see is what there is. If something was not there, either we didn’t have it or it was checked out. By the time I started working, there was an online catalog, but it was far less user-friendly. Patrons could place holds, but only by filling out request slips. (Only three at a time, though. Remember someone will need to enter the data.)

The internet opened up new sources of information for all of us. I was working at the library when it was still a novelty. With very little chance to learn, we were suddenly providing the service to the public. At first, most people did not have access from their home, so we were the teachers. It was a sink or swim environment, and we quickly found that we could learn. Now, part of the library service is providing access to databases that are only available through subscription. Electronic resources are very much a part of the access to information provided by the library.

I have many fond memories of people that have come past the desk. I remember one young lady who set, and met, a personal goal of reading every Newbery Medal winner. Another young person made it his goal to read every Eyewitness book. Often, young adults who for the most part had graduated upstairs, came downstairs to visit or to check out an old favorite for a relaxing summer read.

Another of my favorite memories is the toddler who had just moved to Bainbridge, and was delighted to find that we also had a copy of his favorite book. The joy changed to tears when I reached for the book to scan it. He sobbed, “Don’t take Harry!” We were able to compromise, and he helped me scan the book.

To my library friends that I have not seen since my retirement, I would like to say goodbye. I very much enjoyed working in the Bainbridge library, but I am glad to report that retirement is just as much fun! (Eleanor Wheeler, longtime library staff member, retired last fall.)

Calling all sleuth wannabes

Mark your calendars for Friday, January 13, 2006. 6:30 pm
Come examine the scene of the crime at the library, examine evidence, read accounts from witnesses and suspects and help solve the mystery. Costumes encouraged.

Pre-registration is required and begins January 2.
Age: teens
Bainbridge Public Library offers this special late night event through funding provided by the Kitsap Regional Library Foundation.

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Library staff fetes volunteers

The Bainbridge Public Library staff honored dozens of hard-working volunteers with an early December brunch featuring musical entertainment by staff members, the Friday Tidies, and book reviews by Martha Bayley. (Faces in the crowd were photographed by Sharon Snyder, Paulette Rhoades, and Verda Averill.)

Bainbridge businesses, professionals support library

Bainbridge Island business and professional people have been strong supporters of the local public library since it was first built in the 1960s. Today the business community continues its library support in many ways—one of them as advertisers in the Library News.

Those whose advertising has appeared in these pages during 2005 include:

McCabe/Tanaka, master pruners; dentists Todd H. Adams and Harmon F. Adams; Bay Hay & Feed; William S. McGonagle, trial lawyer; Eagle Harbor Books; The Churchmouse, yarns and teas; Modern Collision Rebuild; Julie’s Frame Gallery; Bainbridge Gardens; Eileen Black and Julie Kozich, of John L. Scott Real Estate; New Motion Physical Therapy; Town & Country Market; Island Electronics, Inc. Radio Shack; Stephanie; Of Course! Catering; The Farm Kitchen; Family Dentistry (Dr.s. MacFurlane, Bell and Thompson); Paper Products, Etc.; Voyager Montessori Elementary School; The Traveler; CPA Northwest Mortgage Professionals; Flowering Around, Blumenthal Construction Inc.; Ace Hardware; Coldwell Banker/McKenzie Associates; Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.; Harris-Zommers Interiors; Blackbird Bakery; Blue Sky Printing; Winslow Animal Clinic; Island Church; Vicki Fussini and Jennifer Shiple of John L. Scott Real Estate; Bainbridge Island Vineyards & Winery; Skookum; RAFN General Contractor Services; and new in this issue, Sherri Snyder of Coldwell Banker.

Two former businesses, Winslow Hardware and Madison Ave. Photo, were also regular advertisers until closing their doors some months ago.

Library board and staff members extend their thanks and holiday greetings to the above civic-minded members of the community.

(For information about advertising in the Library News during 2006 phone Verda Averill at 842-2865.)
Editor's note: In 1962, when Bainbridge Islanders planned their first centrally located library (where it still stands today), they determined to do it their special way—without imposing any taxes. They did it. All the funds for that first library came from donations. And so it was when the library building was first expanded, in 1982, and again in 1997, when its size was doubled.

Today Bainbridge residents maintain and operate the Bainbridge Public Library as they always have, with contributions from generous residents and friends—but no property taxes.

Gifts from the generous Islanders listed below were received in 2006 through October 27, and are received from October 28 through the end of the year will be reported in the next Library News.

The Bainbridge Library Board, staff, volunteers, and patrons are grateful for these gifts and wish the following library benefactors a warm and happy new year.

Charles & Florence Jebbot
Nancy & Mark Adam
Louis Richard & Sally Adams
Richard & Constance Albeck
Wayne Roth & Kathleen J. Alcala
Hannette & Myron Allen
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Elizabeth & Robert McLaughlin
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Dallasa Young Shaffer
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Jane & Bob Smith
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Martin & Joan Smith
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The Strider Club
The Wagners
David & Kathleen Thorpe
Mary & Alan Tollefson
Marjorie Gardner & David Torey
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Jim & Donna Wilson
Karen Wilson
Shirli Wright
James Winship
Barbara Wuthnow
Nancy B. Woodward
Glen & Cathy Wyatt
Debbie & John Wydeven
Janet & James Young, Jr.

Island dogs are looking for children to read to them

By KARYN L. CARPENTER

Reading to dogs, a literacy program aimed towards children who struggle to read, will be offered during the month of February at the Bainbridge Public Library. This program has been highly successful at motivating reluctant readers because the dogs are nonjudgmental and quite friendly.

A certified therapy dog with handler will be on hand (paw) in the young people’s area each Wednesday afternoon in February between 4 and 5 p.m.

No pre-registration required. Please bring your reading child or children to Sharon’s desk during any of the scheduled times to sign up on a first come, first served basis.

Think your dog would like to participate? For certification information contact Karyn Carpenter at 206-780-2214.
**Beat the blues**

**Books to banish the SAD syndrome**

By MEG HUGHES and JULEE O'NEILL

Reference Librarians

The winter solstice is past, but dark, dreary days will be with us for several more months. Here are some humurous books to help you combat the winter blues.

The Cat's Meow: The Coastal Holistic Detective Agency by Douglas Adams

My Less than Secret Life by Jonathan Ames

The Company of Cats by Marion Babson

Big Trouble by Dave Barry

The Cliches They Stood Up In by Alan Bennett

To Err is Divine by Agota Bozai

A Walk in the Woods and in a Sandbar in Winter by Bill Bryson

Little Green Men and No Way to Treat a Lady by Christopher Buckley

Confessions of a Teen Sleuth by Chelsea Cain

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky

The Quality of Life Report by Meghan Daum

Wanderlust by Chris Dyer

Killer Diller and Walking Across Egypt by Clyde Edgerton

Metro Girl by Janet Evanovich

Bridget Jones's Diary by Helen Fielding

The Last Detective by Peter Lovesey.

The Woman Who Married a Bear by Margaret MacPherson

Himself by Nick Hornby

Skinny Dip by Carl Hiassen

To Err is Divine by Douglas Adams

The Clothes They Stood Up In by Philip Pullman

We Are All Fine Here by Mary Ruggiero Carlucci.

The Last Kashmiri Rose by Barbara Cleverly. Scotland Yard Detective Joe Sandilands is called to India to help investigate unexplained deaths in the declining days of the British Raj. This award-winning series has appealing and plausible characters, is deftly plotted, and carries the exotic sights and sounds of 1920s India.

Black Echo by Michael Connelly.

Harry Bosch, lone wolf cop detective in contemporary Los Angeles, gets involved in dark, complex plots, often involving police corruption.


Gallows View by Peter Robinson.

Detective Superintendent Andy Dalziel of the Yorkshire police is blunt, fat, politically incorrect and relies on his intuition. He’s the complete opposite of his second-in-command, the elegant, intellectual, moody, medicalal Peter Pascoe. Together they make the perfect team for solving baffling murder cases, and their personalities and private lives often take center stage in this long-running, well-written procedural series.

The Beekeeper’s Apprentice by Laurie King. Teenaged Mary Russell is this long-running, well-written police private eye in Sitka, Alaska. The author deftly sets his atmospheric, hard-boiled crime series in the steamy neighborhoods of Rio de Janeiro. Inspector Espinosa stars in this intriguing mix of psychological suspense, sophisticated police procedure and atmospheric setting.

A Clubbable Woman by Reginald Hill. Detective Superintendent Andy Dalziel of the Yorkshire police is blunt, fat, politically incorrect and relies on his intuition. He’s the complete opposite of his second-in-command, the elegant, intellectual, moody, medicalal Peter Pascoe. Together they make the perfect team for solving baffling murder cases, and their personalities and private lives often take center stage in this long-running, well-written procedural series.

The Last Detective by Peter Lovesey. Supreme Detective Peter Diamond resigns from the Bristol, England police force when his investigations intrigue his colleagues and the press. He operates as a private detective to redeem himself, then is assigned as a homicide detective in this award-winning series full of dark humor, quirky characters and strong suspense.

The Last Detective by Margaret Maron.

Deborah Knott, sustained by her huge family of 12 brothers, their families, her bootlegger father, and a slew of kissings cousins, is elected judge in small-town North Carolina. Spunky Deborah manages to solve murders that involve the British developers, and occasionally her own family. The folkly southern local color is authentic and amusing.

The Salamardiner’s Wife by Sujata Massey. Rea Shimura, an English teacher from California now living in Tokyo, is trying to master the various facets of her American and Japanese heritages. Rea also deals in Asian antiques, and often finds herself challenged by mysteries and murders related to the antiques she sells. Her relationship with a Scottish lawyer, Hugh, provides humor and romantic interest.

Sick of Shadows and A Fire Ever Return, Pretty Peggy-O by Sharon McCrumb. Author McCrumb writes with a Southern Gothic flair. She has MacPherson books have elements of the cozy and forensic genres, and are steeped in the lore and traditions of their American and British Arrowood books, also set in the Appalachian Mountains of Tennessee, take a darker turn. Both series capture the rural mountain setting beautifully.

From Down with Death by Ruth Rendell. Rendell has long been known for the classic police procedural by combining psychological insight into the characters with thoughtful concern about social issues. Inspector Reginald Wexford and his assistant Mike Burden apply their investigative talents to dark secrets and difficult crimes in Kingsmarkham.

Gallows View by Peter Robinson.

Inspector Alan Banks and his family leave London for the quiet countryside of Yorkshire only to find disturbing murders and violence just as challenging as big city crime. Well-delineated characters, a superb sense of place (the barnyard, even the Yorkshire only to find disturbing murders and violence just as challenging as big city crime. Well-delineated characters, a superb sense of place (the barnyard, even the Yorkshire police force) make this award-winning series satisfying.

China Trade by S.J. Rozan. Chinese-American detective Lan Samilang, her partner Bill Sim is a private investigator in Los Angeles, and her American and Japanese heritages. Rea also deals in Asian antiques, and often finds herself challenged by mysteries and murders related to the antiques she sells. Her relationship with a Scottish lawyer, Hugh, provides humor and romantic interest.

The Woman Who Married a Bear by John Straley. Cecil Younger is a hard-drinking, world-weary, impoverished private eye in Sitka, Alaska. The author blends wonderful descriptions of the coastal area with realistic characters from a cross section of southeast Alaska inhabitants—Indians, hunters, loggers, fishermen—then toss it all together with suspenseful action.

Maidie Dobbs by Jacqueline Winspear. Spanky and intelligent Maidie opens an office in 1929 dedicated to “discreet investigations” in this delightful mix of mystery, war stories, and descriptions of lesbian life.

A few other authors you might want to try: Jeff Abbott, Robert Bardi, jm Bannister, Jan Burke, Margaret Coel, Janet Evanovich, Richard Russo, Kathy Greenwood, Michael Gruber, Jamie Harrison, Sue Henry, Donna Leon, David McCranie, Steve Goff, Ed McBain, Jeffery Deaver, Tom Mullen, and Charles Todd.
Great non-fiction for those long winter days

By GAIL GOODBRICK
KRL Fiction Collection Manager

Queen Isabella: Treachery, Adultery and Murder in Medieval England by Alison Weir. A new examination of Isabella, a princess of France, who married England's Edward II in the 14th century. According to tradition, Edward was murdered most horribly and Isabella has been vilified for her involvement. Chapman: How the World's Most Glamorous Wine Triumphed Over War and Hard Times by Don Peterson. This luscious product from ancient times to the present with fascinating characters like Dom Perignon, the father of champagne, Louis XIV, who rarely drank anything but, and Napoleon, who introduced it to the world. The Fated Sky: Astrology in History by Benson Bobrick. Explores the history of astrology and the controversy about its influence in history. The Naming of Names by Anna Pavlova. Traces the search for order in the natural world of botany from third century BC Athens through the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, Islamic Culture and early explorations and the first settlers in the new world. Sumptuously illustrated. Being Carthage: Seven Months on Foot with an Arctic Bear by Karsten Heuer. Starting out as a wildlife research project, the author and his wife became more closely attuned to the earth and the carthage's world. Trail of Feathers: Searching for Philippine True by Robert Rivard. Story of the search for truth about a Texas rep's disappearance in a remote corner of Mexico. The Nornian: The Life and Imagination of C.S. Lewis by Alan Jacobs. There are lots of books coming out this fall because of the film about to be released. This biography is best appreciated by someone familiar with the Narnia series.

Coming soon to the fiction shelf

By MARTHA BAYLEY
KRL Fiction Collection Manager

Arthur and George by Julian Barnes. This novel chronicles Doyle’s attempt to clear the name of George Edalji, a half-Indian who has been falsely accused of a crime (short-listed for the 2003 Man Booker Prize). Blindfold Game by Dana Stabenow. Edgar-winning Stabenow tries her hand at thriller writing in this story of a CIA analyst and estranged wife who are thrown back together when the Alaskan Coast Guard cutter she is on becomes involved in an international terrorism incident. Captain Murder by William Bernhardt. Oklahoma trial lawyer Ben Kincaid travels to Washington, D.C. to defend his home state’s senator, who has been accused of murdering an intern. Ghost Orchid by William R.仍将。Spaniel author Asensi’s international bestseller involves a secret brotherhood that is protecting the whereabouts of the Treasures’ source—familiar? Life All Around Me: by Ellen Foster. A very funny picture book that teaches children about behavior. Illustrated by Mo Willems. Warm, humorous tone with thoughtful vignettes in each picture. The Hello, Goodbye Window by Norton Juster. Illustrated by Chris Raschka. Picture book. The kitchen window at Nanna and Poppy’s house is a warm and wonderful gateway to the joy of common family life and love. Sweet. Blueberry Mouse by Alice Low. Illustrated by David Michael Friend. Picture book. Blueberry Mouse believes a blueberry pie is the best place to live, especially when she begins to nibble the floor and walls. This Little Pirate by Philip Sturgis. Illustrated by Amy Waldorf. Picture book. Two feisty bands of pirate pups sell a treasure box on a deserted island that they first fight over and then cooperate to open together. Warm, humorous tone with thoughtful vignettes in each picture. Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus written and illustrated by Mo Willems. A very funny picture book that proved a hit with our pre-school crowd and parents. Published in 2003. The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog! Published in 2004.

Chapter books for children 7 and up

The Legend of Spud Murphy by Eoin Colfer. Popular author of the Artemis Fowl series for young adults has this new book for a younger crowd. Will and his brother Marty are mortified when their parents decide to drop them off at the library a few times a week. They believe Spud Murphy, town librarian, hates children. They are wrong. The boys accidentally discover reading is fun. Their angst and worry make this a crowd pleaser. Hachiko Waits by Lesesa Newton. Based on the true story of a dog in Japan who continued to meet his master’s train every afternoon at the station for 10 full years after his master death.
A bumper crop of titles from Bumbershoot

By JOHN FOSSETT

Music man John Fossett, Kitsap Regional Library’s audio-visual collection manager, spent the Bumbershoot weekend working the concert scene at Seattle Center—for the benefit of music-loving library patrons. Here he shares his memories of the music, the crowds and the whole festival scene with you. His venue visits resulted in more than a score of acquisitions featuring Bumbershoot artists. Check out some of these CDs and you too can relive the Bumbershoot weekend during the gray winter days.—Editor

Friday

I missed the 11:30 am ferry and the “Gruff Mummies” at EMP’s Sky Church. However, saw them in July at Waterfront Park and was impressed with the music and showmanship.

2:45 pm “Mangoeson”, a salsa band based in Seattle, at the Bumbrella Stage. The music was fantastic.

4:25 pm “Altered States of Funk”, a Seattle based R&B/funk band, at the Bumbrella Stage. Infectious beats, very danceable.

6:15 pm “The Donnas”, a Bay-area, all-girl quartet (none of whom are named Donna) at the Memorial Stadium. Guitar-based in Seattle, at the Bumbrella Stage. A mix of reggae, bossa nova, electronic, pop & jazz. The performance was worthy of the highest of the New England accolades, Not bad!

8:00 pm “Buckwheat Zydeco” at the Mural Blues Stage. Great band. Great music! At this point my son called to say he’d been crowd-surfing at the “Mudhoney” show and tried to convince me that life, as he knew it, would end if we left before “Iggy & the Stooges” finished. I told him that we’d be on the 11:15 boat as planned.

9:30 pm “Iggy & the Stooges” at Memorial Stadium. My son called to say he wasn’t feeling well (seasick from crowd surfing?). We met at the Broad Street gate as Iggy took the stage. We were able to hear the first couple of songs before catching the bus to the ferry. Bumbershoot ’05 was over for us.

Saturday

I had a previous commitment and was unable to attend.

Sunday

2:00 pm “Math & Physics Club” at EMP’s Sky Church. Seattle based quintet playing mellow-pop, two guitars (one acoustic and one electric), a violin, solid vocals, anchored by a bass and drums. 3:15 pm “Mary Gauthier” at the Backyard Stage. Louisiana born, but Nashville based, a warm, smoky voice made for telling stories through songs, accompanied by a guitarist playing a threadbare Strato-caster and adding rich vocal harmonies.

5:00 pm “The Duhks” (pronounced ducks) at the Backyard Stage. Canadian quintet playing a mix of Celtic, French Canadian and Folk music. Amazing guitar, banjo, fiddle, percussion and vocals!!! The crowd suffered a steady 50 minutes of rain, no one left. How’s that for dedication!

6:15 pm “Mofro” at the Mural Blues Stage. Quartet from Jacksonsvill playing blues and R&B like they invented it.

7:00 pm “The Posies” at the Backyard Stage. The posies have been around for over two decades. The band was tight and the mix was good.

7:30 pm “Mufarr Pardus” at the Bumbrella Stage. Electronica combined with the raga sound of Northern India, wow! Wish I’d been able to hear more.

9:00pm “Izraal Vibratym” at the Bumbrella Stage. Old school reggae, “Ya mon”.

9:45 pm “Elvis Costello” in Memorial Stadium. Solo effort lost in big venue. I left before the encore to catch the boat home. Kept thinking, I missed “Son Volt” at McCaw Hall for this?

Monday

2:45 pm “The Be Good Tanyas”, Canadian folk trio, at the Backyard Stage. Mellow but good. The artists were so soft-spoken that the between-song banter was drowned out by a few inconsiderately chatty concert-goers.

4:45 pm “The Waybacks” at the Backyard Stage. A Bay Area, newgrass, jam band. They played some great original songs and nice renditions of tunes by other performers

6:00 pm “Sonny Landreth” at the Mural Blues Stage. Blues tinged mix of Rock, Blues and Cajun music. His band was tight and the performance was excellent.

Lend a hand at the library

Whatever your reasons for volunteering, the library offers a variety of interesting and challenging volunteer assignments.

Mary Louise Ott, a Bainbridge Islander and Kitsap Regional Library’s volunteer coordinator, cites just two of the current openings.

CLICK! Computer Literacy volunteer: If you have a moderate level of computer experience and excellent people skills, you could be a one-on-one tutor or small class teacher for patrons who want to understand how to navigate the library catalog and access other electronic resources. Volunteers will learn how to teach Computer Basics and Internet 101 in a specially designed three-hour training session. You will be provided with everything you need including lesson plans, handouts, and support from the staff. Classes begin in January 2006. Teen Mystery Night volunteer: Do you take pleasure in working with young teens and enjoy dressing up in costume? This might be the volunteer opportunity you are looking for. You can help set up and chaperone an engaging after-hours mystery night for teen Friday the 13th of February 2006. For more information call Mary Louise Ott at (360) 405-9153 or e-mail at volunteer@krl.org.

Library offers discs from these Bumbershoot artists

Altered States of Funk – Live in Seattle
The Be Good Tanyas – Blue Horse
The Be Good Tanyas – Chinatown
Brazilian Girls – Brazilian Girls
Buckwheat Zydeco – Jackpot
The Donnas – Gold Medal
The Donnas – Spend the Night
The Duhks – The Duhks
The Duhks – Your Sons and Your Daughters
Flogging Molly – Within a Mile From Home
Flogging Molly – Drunken Lullabies
Flogging Molly – Swagger
Mary Gauthier – Mercy Now
The Gruff Mummies – Fogged Nights and Precocious Eyes
Iggy Pop – Nude & Rude: The Best of Iggy Pop

A Girl Named Zippy by Haven Kimmel
Last Days of Summer by Steve Kluger
The Bear Went Over The Mountain by William Kotzwinkle
The Funnies by J. Robert Lennon
Miss Julia Speaks her Mind by Ann B. Ross
Straight Man

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Miss Julia Speaks her Mind
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Straight Man

I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith Fool’s Gold by Jane Smith
Penrod by Booth Tarkington
The Queen and I by Sue Townsend
God Bless You, Dr. Kervorkian by Kurt Vonnegut
Mama Makes up Her Mind and Quite a Year for Plums by Bailey White
To Say Nothing of the Dog by Connie Willis

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4:25 pm “Altered States of Funk”, a Seattle based R&B/funk band, at the Bumbrella Stage. Infectious beats, very danceable.

6:15 pm “The Donnas”, a Bay-area, all-girl quartet (none of whom are named Donna) at the Memorial Stadium. Guitar-based in Seattle, at the Bumbrella Stage. A mix of reggae, bossa nova, electronic, pop & jazz. The performance was worthy of the highest of the New England accolades, Not bad!

8:00 pm “Buckwheat Zydeco” at the Mural Blues Stage. Great band. Great music! At this point my son called to say he’d been crowd-surfing at the “Mudhoney” show and tried to convince me that life, as he knew it, would end if we left before “Iggy & the Stooges” finished. I told him that we’d be on the 11:15 boat as planned. It takes a lot of love to ruin your child’s life.

9:30 pm “Iggy & the Stooges” at Memorial Stadium. My son called to say he wasn’t feeling well (seasick from crowd surfing?). We met at the Broad Street gate as Iggy took the stage. We were able to hear the first couple of songs before catching the bus to the ferry. Bumbershoot ’05 was over for us.
Meet Millie Smith:

Her father taught her to love books and libraries

BY VERDA AVERILL

I first met Millie Smith four or five years ago, when the City of Bainbridge Island was planning its roundabout near the library. She was concerned about the effect the traffic circle would have on pedestrians and didn’t hesitate to ask questions until she heard reassuring answers. (I suspect her determination was at least partly responsible for revision of the roundabout plans to be more pedestrian-friendly.)

Soon after that, Millie began communicating with our representatives in Olympia over some pending legislation. She’s an activist, I learned, and enthusiastically supports causes she believes in.

She is especially enthusiastic about Yes! magazine, where she volunteered until she was well past 80. (In fact, it was Yes! which attracted her to Bainbridge from her previous home on the Olympic Peninsula.)

Today her enthusiasm is focused on a new project, the creation of a group of Paradigm Shifters, who meet the second Saturday of every month in a sort of Paradigm Shifters, who meet the second Saturday of every month in a sort of conversation cafe format. (For more information on the group, watch the Bainbridge Review calendar listings or the new Paradigm Shifters website.)

Though it’s just a few months old, the group has already attracted more than two dozen participants to its lively sessions. Millie, the founder, is delighted.

“I feel as if I have 25 children. It’s wonderful,” she exclaimed at the last session. (Her own two children and grandchildren do not live nearby.)

Millie’s love of libraries is as strong today as ever. She visits the Bainbridge branch frequently, and prefers thought-provoking non-fiction to fiction. (For example, she referred this writer to Ervin Laszlo’s Science and the Akashic Field: An Integral Theory of Everything.)

Now that she’s in her mid-80s, Millie Smith’s enthusiasm for life and learning continues to grow. I can hardly wait to hear about her next project.

(Susan Bisnett joins library staff.)

Susan Bisnett joins library staff

Susan Bisnett, the most recent addition to the Bainbridge Public Library staff, fits easily into the young people’s department.

The mother of two teenagers (15 and 13), she’s also worked with young adults in her previous position with the King County library system.

She was delighted when an opening appeared on the Bainbridge library staff, since she lives just a few blocks away. Now her commute is just a matter of minutes.

You’ll find her behind the counter downstairs Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings and all day Thursday. She also works one weekend a month.

Like most library workers, Susan is an enthusiastic reader. She especially likes fiction, she says.

“I really enjoyed A Fine Balance,” she notes, adding “The television is usually off, so I do a fair amount of reading for pleasure.”
Joanne Harnagel brings dahlias alive

BY NAN WOODRIDGE

Way back in the heart of the woods in a rustic log house above Indianola lives a pretty, merri-volted Goddlock with her five cats and husband. She sits all day in her orange and gold print gown at her studio table painting beautiful flowers.

The beginning of a fairy tale?

Maybe, but I didn’t feel like I was in a fairy tale as I drove up and up, around these hairpin turns beyond the Road Ends sign on to a narrow stretch of gravel and down a long, dirt driveway through the trees to Joanne Harnagel’s house.

This Singhlog home, designed by Joanne and built largely by her husband, Noel, was the answer to her dreams.

“I lived in a city, Sacramento, California, almost my whole life,” she says. “My husband and I camped nearly every weekend at Lake Tahoe, and I just really wanted to live out in the woods.”

They looked in many different states before they decided Washington was the place they could have both water and woods. She pointed out that when the leaves fall from the trees in winter “from the top of the driveway you get a peek-a-boo view of the water, and you see where the train goes by in Edmonds.”

They’d come as far as Indiana and were renting a little cabin next to the post office when one day Joanne was walking to the home where she tutored Italian and noticed a For Sale sign. That was their spot—smack dab in the center of the forest. With help, they cleared, terraced, made a road, and constructed their log house in less than a year.

Curling on the couch, cozy from the wood stove that sits in front of a wall of rocks that they hauled from Indianola beach, she says, “I wouldn’t have it any other way.”

Life wasn’t always a fairy tale for Joanne. When she was 2 1/2, her family was in a fatal car crash that killed her mother and father, and left her with both arms paralyzed. A number of surgeries restored some mobility and the use of her hands. And she and sister, Vicki, were raised by her 19-year-old half-sister, Ramona, who was Mom to her from then on.

When I marvel at her accomplishments, she laughs and says, “I can do a lot of things. Kids are pretty adaptable. As long as you don’t tell them they can’t do something, they don’t know any differently.”

Her independent streak and taste for experiments, and the medium that would be her chosen craft, were there from the start. "I always had romantic notions in my head of Venice and Florence, and here I was in the middle of nowhere, so I wanted to go back and see more.”

See more she did. Two years later she traveled with friends to Switzerland, France, Greece and Italy, where she spent five weeks in Florence indulging in its culture and history. She rented a tiny apartment then in the little known coastal village of Riomaggiore.

“Now, everyone knows where it is.” She rolls her eyes. “It’s in the area called Le Cinque Terre. Rick Steves discovered it too.”

But at that time, 1983 and 1984, “it was just a little fishing village from which all the young people my age had migrated to the big cities for the winter. I had lots of hours on my hands those cold, rainy days with no television and no radio, so I started drawing and painting.”

She loved it. She painted market places, horses, and things she’d seen in her travels. She made cards and painted wooden Christmas ornaments as gifts for family and friends. Training in art came only after she graduated from college at California State University (CSU) in Sacramento, where she majored in Italian and minored in French. Uncertain what to do next since she didn’t want to teach, she took a water color class in junior college.

“I actually learned what water color paper was, what paints and brushes were good to use, how to dredge water color paints. All these things I didn’t know.” Her paintings before that class have faded and lost their vibrancy, she claims, but she’s learned to use acid free 100% rag paper.

She’s happy she has the basics now, but says, “I didn’t want to have a professional art education because I’m the type of person who will follow a rule if I know there is one. There are a lot of rules in art, and I just didn’t want to know them because then I would have to spend a lifetime learning how to break them.”

Joanne almost seems to blossom in the sunny studio she designed with its great picture windows framing the rhythms of nature outside. Her workspace spills over with the medium of her trade and art experiments, and the walls are alive with images of her flowers. Seduced by the beauty of the northwest when they moved here in 1998, she has found flowers her favorite subject.

“I can paint them, and they will last on my walls throughout the year,” she says.

Right now, for a library exhibit, she’s concentrating on a series of dahlias.

“I love anything that’s bright and colorful, but I do tend to get bored easily. There are too many different kinds of dahlias and too many different colors that I knew I would never get bored.”

She’s tried all kinds of art, but likes best “the flow of water colors, the brilliance of color (she can achieve) and its transparency. I don’t want to wait for days and days for something to dry before I can work on it again. I like to just sit down and paint until my back is sore. Each of these dahlias probably took me about a month.”

First, she takes lots of photographs. Inspiration for her dahlias came mostly from the Dahlia Farm of Big Valley Road. “It’s very picturesque… rows and rows of dahlias, so many to decide from.”

After choosing a photo, she makes a pencil sketch. The time length stretches when she individually wets each petal and slowly brings in the color. She says, “When you put the water on the paper, you look at it sideways watching the glaze to see how much water is still there. When there’s just a bit of glare, the water has soaked into the paper enough that you can start allowing the color in.” This method is called Wet into Wet (wet paint into wet water).

Joanne shows me other paintings in her art room, a detailed oil painting of an owl by her grandmother and a lovely toile-painted plate by her real mother. Her Scandinavian heritage plays a role in her talent. She walks everywhere, always with camera in hand, looking for scenes of beauty.

“I go to the Dahlia Farm because I can’t grow dahlias myself. I take pictures from other people’s gardens. That’s where I get my inspiration, being out and about.”

Her dahlias and other floral paintings will be on exhibit at the library from mid-January through March, of 2006. Some may be for sale. Call 360/297-1781.

LIBRARY HOURS
Mon / Tues / Wed 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
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.)

KRL WEBSITE ADDRESS
www.krl.org

LIBRARY PHONE NUMBERS
Bainbridge Island Branch .......................... 842-4162
For Computer Support ............................ 1-360-405-9131
and Other Departments ..................... 1-877-883-9900

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ARTIST JOANNE HARNAGEL

Joanne Harnagel's studio is a magical place, filled with dahlias and other flowers. The artist has a natural talent for painting, and her work is both beautiful and inspirational.

Joanne Harnagel's dahlias are a source of inspiration for her art, and she has experimented with various techniques to create her pieces. She uses watercolor paints to create her artwork, and she has a natural feel for the medium.

Joanne Harnagel's artwork is a joy to behold, and her passion for dahlias is evident in her work. She is a true master of her craft, and her art is a testament to her dedication and talent.

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