Field’s End announces fall classes

If you’re a writer plotting a historical fiction novel or a non-fiction book, or seeking a new strategy for telling stories, one of Field’s End’s fall classes may be for you.

Award-winning Bainbridge author and writing instructor Kathleen Alcalá will teach Writing Historical Fiction on six Thursday evenings, from 7 to 9 p.m. on Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26 and Nov. 2 and 16 at the library. Class tuition is $240.

Sheila Rabe will offer Your Fabulous Nonfiction Book Project: Putting it all together on four Saturdays Oct. 14, 21, 28 and Nov. 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the library at the cost of $160.

Finally, short-story author and writing teacher Matt Briggs will help you draft a story of limited length during the first meeting of his class Art of the Short on Saturday, Nov. 4 from 1:15 to 3:15 at the library. You’ll have two weeks to work on your short story before meeting...

Local writers invited to summer roundtables

All Island writers, aspiring or experienced, are invited to join Field’s End writers’ community at this summer’s Writers’ Roundtables. The Writers’ Roundtables convene 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. There is no charge. The format, participants break into small groups to discuss their work and then share their work with the larger group. They have produced a collection of essays. They have been a writer-in-residence at the University of New Mexico. She was a recent visiting lecturer at the University of Washington’s renowned experts in a variety of fields. They have been a writer-in-residence at the University of New Mexico. She has been a writer in residence at Hugo House and currently is on its board. She was a recent visiting lecturer at the University of New Mexico. She also was one the initial instructors for Field’s End in 2002, and she returns this fall to teach the class Writing Historical Fiction at the library (see separate story). Following established Roundtable 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.

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A New Zealand paradise off the beaten path...................... Page 5
Young people, children’s activities.................................. Pages 6-7
Writers’ conference an ‘unqualified success’

By SUSAN WIGGS

The first annual conference of Field’s End, the writers’ community affiliated with the library, was an unqualified success, from the signature salmon luncheon to the inspiring workshops. The event took place on Saturday, April 22, at Kiana Lodge in Suquamish. We started with a thoughtful address from author and Field’s End co-founder David Guterson on the storyteller’s art. There were 16 breakout sessions by nationally-known authors and a luncheon address from nonfiction superstar Erik Larson. Publishers Weekly Magazine even picked up the story and ran a photo by attendee Linda Reed. A sunny, blustery day at the water’s edge, devoted to the craft of writing and the fellowship of writers—it was magical.
The play’s the thing at the library

By SUZANNE SELFORS

Bainbridge sparks with cultural gems—the Historical Museum, the Children’s Museum, EPA, The Filipino Community Center, and other local libraries. To mention just a few—and one gem has slowly and steadily carved out its niche, shining brighter than ever. Drawn role please: “It’s the Island Theatre Company. Ever heard of them? Perhaps not, and thus the purpose of this article - to entice our readers to sample Island Theatre’s fare. It’s not that they lack audience—both patronage and performances have steadily increased. It’s just that some of us need a little extra prodding to try something new.

Meet Bonnie Wallace: She’s also a poet

When she’s not acting, Bonnie is poet. You can find one of her poems in the banner display at the ferry terminal. Her work has been published in Raven Chronicles, Exhibition and other local publications. She is currently working on her first collection. She is the co-creator of Last Poem on Earth: A Jazz Requiem, in collaboration with composer Paul Lewis. This production, set for next April at EPA, will bring together 12 Bainbridge poets and the Bainbridge Chorale.

Every other month the Island Theatre actors perform a play reading at the library. When Saturday performances grew to standing room only and they had to turn people away at the door, they added a Sunday performance.

The readings are FREE. Since they don’t charge the audience an admissions fee, they rely on One Call For All, Arts & Humanities Fund, and individual donations to pay for rent and script rights.

If you’ve never been to a play reading, you might wonder “What’s the point?” There are no sets, no costumes, and no orchestra pit. And that is the point—the intimacy of the spoken word.

“With the structure of my life, kids and work, I couldn’t pull off a standard rehearsal schedule. I thought I’d never be able to act again. The play readings give busy actors a chance to perform without the fully-staged production requirements. It has meant the world to me.”

Bonnie has performed here a good part of her life and is familiar with the various venues. While groups like EPA and Ovation Musical Theatre often produce family-friendly plays, Island Theatre is not for kids.

“It’s adult theatre, risky stuff,” she stressed. “We often choose things that wouldn’t be seen here otherwise. Like The Vagina Monologues.” Island Theatre was founded in 1994 when Louise Mills decided that she simply wanted to put on a play with some friends. Not only did the first performances sell out, they were profiteable as well. The friends decided to use the money to jumpstart a new theatrical company. “Island Theatre became a lifeline for me,” Bonnie explained. “With the structure of my life, kids and work, I couldn’t pull off a standard rehearsal schedule. I thought I’d never be able to act again. The play readings give busy actors a chance to perform without the fully-staged production requirements. It has meant the world to me.”

On even months, readings are held in private homes. There’s a unique twist to these performances because anyone can participate—even if you have zero acting experience. Just call the Island Theatre to sign up and get directions. There is no fee, simply bring a potluck dish to share and a sense of adventure.

This fall members of the company will take a show on the road, performing Enemy of the People at libraries throughout the state. “We are so grateful to the Bainbridge Library for their generous support of our projects,” Bonnie added. “It’s a genuine partnership.” Their website will soon be up and running at islandtheatrebainbridge.org. If you’d like to get on the email list, contact Steve Stoler at stotole@qwest.net.

Upcoming play readings

August 19-20, Valparaiso by Don DeLillo, directed by Fred Saas. A comedy about a man who takes the wrong plane to a mysterious destination, then finds himself the center of attention on the talkshow circuit.

October 21-22, Betrayal by Harold Pinter, directed by Tell Schreiber. This play moves backwards in time, from the ending of an adulteress affair, to its beginning.

Canada reads

By GAIL CHRISTENSEN

Bainbridge Library Stuff

Two Canadian authors, two settings of World War I, two different characters, sum up two novels: Three Day Road by Joseph Boyden and Deafening by Frances Bani. Three Day Road is about Niska, an Ojibwe woman, and her nephew, Xavier, who has just returned from the front. It is a horrifying tale of war and healing.

Deafening is about Grania, a woman who has been deaf since age 5 and her love, Jim, who serves as a stretcher bearer on the blood soaked fields of Flanders. This is beautifully written about language—how it connects us, or separates us. Check these out; they are both well crafted and provocative novels.

Just one cent per household will carry your Library News advertising message all over Bainbridge Island. Curious? Give us a call at 842-2865 or 842-4162

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Recent changes enhance library

By ANN LOVEJOY
Library Board President

The past few months have brought some enhancing changes to our beloved library. Totally cool (and warm), competent and collected Sharon Snyder, our former children’s librarian, is stepping up most ably to begin training and job sharing with Cindy Harrison, our new book manager. This allows Cindy to take a bit of well-deserved time off, including some exciting trips. (Ask her about Japan.)

Our new children’s librarian, Carmine Rau, is already bonding with young people of all ages. Her sparkling spirit is infectious and she has an especially lovely way with young children. Carmine is practical as well as visionary, which is why I spent the Memorial Day weekend hand washing several crates of much-loved library puppets! (Clearly, she is also quite convincing.)

The Friends of the Library are doing their usual marvelous job of selling your donated books back to you. Islanders are great readers and provide the Friends with a steady stream of terrific books. Indeed, you are so generous with your donations that the Friends are planning to begin a midweek book sale to ease the squeeze in the extremely full book sale rooms. Look for the new sale on the fourth Thursday of each month; every book you buy supports the library and its many programs.

As you drive by the library at night, please notice the new lighting in the parking lot. Though it’s not much needed in summer, by fall we’ll all be grateful for the powerful illumination at night. Our excellent friend Don Eklund and his crew at Eklund Electric have also helped us to light up the night near the gazebo and the garden sheds, making the back walkway more friendly on dark autumn afternoons.

As you probably know, the Bainbridge Library Board has undertaken a year-long investigation into the needs of the Island community in terms of library use. We are interested in all kinds of ideas and opinions, whether good, bad, or indifferent. You can help us in our study by filling out a survey form. Ask any librarian for this brief survey, which is facilities manager.

The Bainbridge Island Library Board welcomed three new members this spring: George Edensword-Breck, right, joined the board in May (just before deadline for this newsletter) with his local attorney, with an office in the Sterling Building, focusing on estate planning and elder law. He and his wife, Karen, love libraries and were co-presidents of the Friends of the Library in Olympia, where they lived before moving to Bainbridge Island. They are both enthusiastic library users, avid gardeners, and George has served on the Arts and Humanities Council and was involved in a recent auction for the arts.

When not working or volunteering he reads for pleasure. “I love fiction,” he says, “especially by authors who have a poetic voice and write beautifully.”

Two other new board members, George Shannon and Delight Willing, were appointed just before this Library News went to press. You’ll meet them in the fall issue.

Library board members serve without pay. They volunteer their services to maintain the Bainbridge Public Library’s buildings and grounds and promotes the many services and programs offered by this branch of the Kitsap Regional Library system. (Staff salaries, circulating materials, and computers are funded by KRL.)

Board welcomes new members

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Friends board plans more sales

By LYDIA OLSEN
Friends of the Library Secretary

In May a new Friends board of directors was established. This enthusiastic crew includes Charles Browne, treasurer; Ken Fox, facilities supervisor; Ginny MacKay, vice president; Patricia Miller, president; bookroom and section manager, Carolyn Nowacki; and secretary, Lydia Olsen. The board members all consider good communication to be fundamental to the success of any organization, so they welcome questions and suggestions from Friends volunteers and from the larger library community.

The board’s first task was to revise, in collaboration with Bainbridge Public Library board members Ann Lovejoy and Caryl Grosch, the bylaws of the BI Friends. Check it out on the bulletin board in the book room.

The second policy decision of the new board was to increase the number of book sales to two each month. The Friends will continue to sell on the second Saturday of the month from 10:00 to 2:00, and add a second sale on the fourth Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00.

Adding the Thursday afternoon sale should alleviate the Saturday crowding, and it will give students an opportunity to shop for books after school. So mark your calendars for the Friends’ book sales on Saturday, July 8, and Thursday, July 27. If the Thursday sales prove to be successful the board hopes, with the help of volunteers, to make them permanent. Board members and volunteers are working to make the sales more user-friendly by improving traffic flow and posting new signs.

Revenues from the Saturday sales, online sales and magazine rack sales continue to be strong, enabling the Friends to continue to support your library and its staff. In May, $2000 went toward support for the children’s summer reading program.

Renewals of subscriptions to the magazines you see in the reading area are ongoing with the Friends’ support and, with valuable input from managers Cindy Harrison and Sharon Snyder, the Friends will continue to help maintain the quality of service you expect.

The Friends welcome new volunteers. Just fill out a volunteer form, available online at krl.org, or ask for a hard copy at the library.

But whether you volunteer to sort books, whether you donate or buy a magazine from the shelves in the library entrance, or whether you donate or buy a book, you are a Friend. Your contributions keep the Friends in the business of supporting your library and, as ever, we are grateful.

What will your legacy be?

By MARITE BUTNERS
Library Board Member

We all leave legacies. All of our lives have affected the lives of others, some in large ways, some in small.

Many lives have affected the institutions that we value in our communities, such as the public library, a resource that truly serves everyone, from the old to the young. What will your legacy be? The way you choose to remember your family and those friends and institutions that are close to you deserves a great deal of thought and consideration. A will, guided by you with love and appreciation and drafted by your attorney, can be the cornerstone of a lasting legacy. It can make a proportion, and when. (For example, in the case of minor beneficiaries, trusts are often appropriate, at least for a period of time.) Your attorney will provide the expertise in bringing your personal goals and desires together in a valid will.

The assets that you have accumulated in your lifetime can provide a legacy of resources for generations to come. Your future donation can ensure that the Bainbridge Public Library will always be available to meet the needs of our community.

Should you be considering a gift to the Bainbridge Public Library by way of your will, we have a helpful brochure you may receive by calling Marite Butners, library volunteer and board member, at 842-5783.

The brochure is free and there is never any obligation.
To our amazement, at the top of the hill stood a lodge like a giant creation of a hobbit home: nooks everywhere; masterpieces of driftwood for door handles; a fireplace that appeared molded from the earth. After a pot of tea and a slice of quiche, we said goodbye to the other couple, who had reserved a room, and started our hike to Tonga Bay, where we had arranged to be retrieved at 4.

The up-and-down trail passed through a tropical rainforest of tree ferns, rata trees, palms and exotic blooming plants. Birds sang from hiding places. We inspected lizards and wild-looking beetles. We saw nobody. It was our own private jungle, more fascinating than Disneyland.

Next morning the sky was royal blue, tree leaves freshly washed and shining. The golden sands called, "Come, we are your fantasy world." Sadly, our stay in Abel Tasman was only three days. We wanted to see other places in New Zealand, and time was running out.

We spent several hours beach combing, swimming in the warm water and lying on the soft sand, the only occupants of this incredibly beautiful beach. "What if they forget to pick us up?" I said to Grant at 4.

"Then we'd be forced to trek out," he replied in a voice of doom.

"We might stagger into our chalet by tomorrow morning."

To my relief, 15 minutes later the Zodiac arrived.

We reached the foot of the gravel road at supportime and decided to walk to the cafe. The menu included lots of vegetables and fruit along with delicious barbecued lamb. The eating area was a three-sided, screened porch, seating family style at huge, wooden-slab tables that rested on stumps.

When we started back to the chalet, the sky was overcast. Halfway up the mountain road, it began to rain. By the time we reached safety, we were drenched. All night it poured, but the next morning the sky was royal blue, tree leaves freshly washed and shining. The golden sands called, "Come, we are your fantasy world."

Bainbridge history books

Compiled by BARBARA WINDER


Beal, Zoe M., Bainbridge Island in Battened Buildings and Dipper Days, 1960.


Marriott, Elise Frankland, Bainbridge Through Lifecycles, 1941


Soquashmus Museum (Rod Slemmons), The Eyes of Chief Seattle, 1952.

Swanson, Jack, Picture Bainbridge—a Pictorial History of Bainbridge Island, 2002.


Winder, Barbara, They Like Noble Causes—How a Community Built a Lifepark, 2000.

If the above listed books are not available at the library, they can be found at the Bainbridge Island Historical Society Museum.

Read more about New Zealand

Coastlines of New Zealand, Warren Jacobs—photographs by Jacobs and text by Jill Worrall reveal the beauty of both the North and South Islands.

The Pacific Navigators, Oliver E. Allen—includes the New Zealand explorations of Englishman James Cook and Dutchman Abel Tasman.

A Park for All Seasons: the Story of Abel Tasman National Park, Andy Dennis—a close look at this national park. (Not in Kitsap Regional Library but possibly obtainable on Interlibrary Loan)

Southern Exposure: A Solo Sea Kayaking Journey Around New Zealand’s South Island, Chris Duff—first hand account of Duff's struggles as an adventurer circumnavigating New Zealand and the psychological impact on his life.

Whale Rider, Witi Tame Ihimaera—story of how Kahu, an 8-year-old girl, proved her right to become tribal chief through her ability to communicate with whales.

MORE ABOUT TRAVEL: The Traveler book store and the library co-sponsor an ongoing series of illustrated lectures in the library meeting room, at regular intervals throughout the year. Watch the calendar and bulletin board for topics and times.
Sharon Snyder

It’s true. We have a new youth services librarian and her name is Carmine Rau. She brings to her new position a passion for children’s literature, drama and reading aloud to large groups of people. Carmine’s warmth and familiarity with children’s authors and titles make her an excellent resource for recommendations.

Stop in and say hello. A short conversation with Carmine may set you and your family on a grand new reading adventure.

Carmine Rau

Hello. I would like to thank everyone for the very warm welcome to Bainbridge. I don’t think I could have found a better place to work in the whole world than the Bainbridge Island Public Library.

I especially appreciate all the parents and children who have dropped by to say hi and introduce themselves this past month.

For those of you who are wondering where Sharon Snyder went, you have only to go upstairs. She has accepted a promotion to be our new Assistant Branch Manager and will be taking some of the great energy she brought to the children’s department to the rest of the building.

We are coming into my favorite season of the year, summer reading season, and I hope to meet more of you. It promises to be a fun-filled summer of Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales with books, snakes and lizards, magicians, juggling, dogs, puppets, parades and new friends.

What’s happening here this summer?

Learn about our wide range of programs. Find out who is coming to perform. Have fun. Read In at the Library Tuesdays, June 20 & 27, July 11 & 25, August 8 & 22, 10:30 - 11:30 am We’re hosting a Read In on select Tuesdays all summer long. We invite families with preschool and toddler aged children to drop in and be read to by our fabulous team of Reading Friends volunteers. This is an opportunity for young children to make a new friend and hear some of our favorite stories. Stay for a few minutes or stay for an hour.

Reptile Man

July 18, 10:30 am, St. Cecilia’s Church Snakes alive! Come meet zoologist Scott Peterson and some of his amazing creatures which may include iguanas, pythons, rattlesnakes, alligators and more. Be sure to come early for a good seat to see these fascinating creatures up close.

Roberto the Magnificent

August 1, 10:30 am, St. Cecilia’s Church Gravity defying juggling, comedy and crazy stunts abound at this fun filled show to delight all ages.

Puppets Please

August 22, 10:30 am, St. Cecilia’s Church A marionette variety show “in the round” to please the young and young at heart. Mother-daughter team Shirley and Terry McManus handcraft their marionettes and this show is not to be missed!

Jeff Evans

August 29, 10:30 am, St. Cecilia’s Church Abracadabra! You won’t believe your eyes and ears as Jeff Evans performs amazing magic tricks mixed with side-splitting humor the whole family will enjoy.

Dog Days of Summer

August 23, 24, 25 10:30- 11:30 am Dogs at the library? Yes! The dogs are back and they want to hear more stories. We are looking for kids who would like to read to a dog. No pre-registration necessary, just drop in on the morning you would like to read to a dog and sign up. Sign ups will begin at 10 am on Dog Days.

Popsicle Party

August 31, 10:30am- 12:30pm All ages are invited to stop by the library to enjoy a cool refreshment and celebrate the end of our summer reading program.

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• Dr. Nicholas Thompson

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Teen Programs

SIGN UP ANYTIME for summer reading program begins. This year’s theme: Creature Feature

Wednesday, June 22
Teen Game Night launched the summer season.

Wednesday, August 16
Charlie’s comics workshop
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Ages: 12 - 18

Teen summer reading

Sign up anytime
Read or get read to for 10 hours and receive a free paperback book along with a Kitsap County Fair & Stampede ticket. The teen scene at the library is packed with books for you to check out and enjoy all summer long. Sign up to get your reading punch card at the reference desk upstairs at the library and get started. Summertime has begun.

Charlie’s comics workshop for teens

Wednesday, August 16, 6 p.m.
Ages: 12 - 18
Join local cartoonist Charlie Wise as he teaches the basics of putting a comic strip together. Listen. Get creative. Leave the workshop with a miniature comic strip of your own making.
Who is Charlie Wise? He is a published writer/artist with a work entitled, Blue Moon: the adventures of Lyssa and the pirates. Librarian’s note: we have a copy in the catalog. Charlie also works in the Poulsbo branch of Kitsap Regional Library where he shares his passion for films and books with visitors of all ages.

— NEWS BRIEF —

NATALIA ILYN’S latest book, Chasing the Perfect: Thoughts on Modernist Design in our Time, is now available in hardcover at area bookstores. Ilyn, a Bainbridge resident, is the author of several best-sellers, including Blonde Like Me.

Summer tales: family storytelling at the library, New Times: 6:45 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 11
Read in at the library, 10:30 a.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 18
Summer reading program event Reptile man, 10:30 a.m.
Location: St. Cecilia’s Church

TUESDAY, JULY 25
Read in at the library

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1
Summer reading program event Roberto the magnificent, 10:30 a.m.
Location: St. Cecilia’s Church

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8
Read in at the library, 10:30 a.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15
Summer reading program event Puppets Please
Location: St. Cecilia’s Church

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22
Read in at the library, 10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23
Dog days of summer, 10:30 a.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24
Dog days of summer

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29
Summer reading program event Jeff Evans

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25
Dog days of summer

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31
Popsicle Party, 10:30 a.m.

Storytime schedule

Wednesday, July 5
Storytime for Little Ones 10:30 a.m
Wednesday, July 12
Storytime for Little Ones 10:30 a.m
Wednesday, July 19
Storytime for Little Ones 10:30 a.m
Wednesday, July 26
Storytime for Little Ones 10:30 a.m

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An interview with author Michael Donnelly

Q. Your new novel, Awakening Curry Buckle, an adventure story set in the San Juan Islands, is categorized as young adult, yet adults have been some of your most enthusiastic readers. For whom did you write this book, and why?
A. It isn’t true that, in our early teens, we want to see for ourselves what’s in Pandora’s box? Pandora’s box is adulthood. We want to kick that lid open and check out all the secret stuff that adults wink to each other about, and talk about in code. Exuberant times. Impatient times. Times when our higher qualities and lower qualities prepare to do battle in earnest. I wrote to those who are there, and to those who remember being there—a special time in everyone’s life.

Q. Where did your story come from?
A. Reading. I have been an avid reader since I was old enough to listen to my mom read picture books to me. This year, I decided to write a YA novel, and see if I can do it. The idea came from the characters inside my head. They came to me and started talking in code. Exuberant that adults wink to each other about, open and check out all the secret stuff is adulthood. We want to jack that lid open and check out all the secret stuff that adults wink to each other about, and talk about in code. Exuberant times. Impatient times. Times when our higher qualities and lower qualities prepare to do battle in earnest. I wrote to those who are there, and to those who remember being there—a special time in everyone’s life.

Q. Do you have any advice for young adults, yet adults have been some of your most enthusiastic readers. For whom did you write this book, and why?
A. Not many people have read it, but I hope someone else will love. Try not to be hurt by criticism, see what you can do to make your work better from it. Read everything!

Q. What has the response to your book been?
A. I have amazing things in store for you. It surprises me every time someone talks about someone else. I have not written only when you feel inspired. A: I have no writing schedule. My rule is to write every day whether I feel inspired or not. It does not matter if I write 10 pages or 10 words as long as I write every day.

Q. What has the response to your manuscript been?
A. Not many people have read it, but most comments have been encouraging. It surprises me time every time someone says something complimentary about my work. It seems they must be talking about someone else.

Q. Do you have any advice for other young people interested in writing?
A. Write what you love, not what you hope someone else will love. Try not to be hurt by criticism, see what you can do to make your work better from it. Read everything!

Q. How has writing impacted your life?
A. I have amazing things in store for you. It surprises me every time someone talks about someone else. I have not written only when you feel inspired. A: I have no writing schedule. My rule is to write every day whether I feel inspired or not. It does not matter if I write 10 pages or 10 words as long as I write every day.

Q. How has writing changed your life?
A. It makes me pay more attention to things. Anything I see, hear, or read can become an avenue into a new story.

— NEWS BRIEF —

SOUTHERN REVIVAL: Deep Magic for Hurricane Relief is a Bainbridge-produced anthology of poetry and short fiction which aims to help restore hurricane-savaged libraries in the South. All proceeds from sales of the book go to Book Relief, an industry-wide effort to send millions of books to the Katrina-hit areas. The book is available locally at Eagle Harbor Books.

Continued from Page 2

Live homework help to immediate tutor counseling. Tutors are certified teachers—often college professors and graduate students—who are trained to help students work through a problem, not simply providing answers. All tutors are monitored and evaluated and all have reference and background checks prior to participation in this program. Live Homework Help is currently offered through 1,000 public libraries and after school centers nationwide. It served more than 500,000 students during the 2004-2005 school year. Ask any reference librarian for more information or click on “Live Homework Help” on Kitsap Regional Library’s homepage.

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Ask your Doctor about us!
By MARYLOUISE OTT, Volunteer Coordinator

We have all experienced the frustration of asking someone a simple computer question only to find ourselves more confused by the answer.

The classic example is watching in a state of shock as a son or daughter zips through the setup, setting, print a document, or locate an Internet site. Intelligent people are instantly transformed into incompetent idiots.

The good news is: this won’t happen in click! Computer Training classes or tutoring sessions at the library because our volunteer trainers have been recruited as much for their patience and ability to change the setting, print a document, or locate an Internet site. Intelligent people are instantly transformed into incompetent idiots.

Many reasons for giving time
Volunteers have a variety of reasons for donating time to the click! program. Some, like Charlene Selvar, have recently retired and want to do something in the community. Others are new to the island and want to build a local network. Sande Harmon found herself on Bainbridge after losing her home and job to Hurricane Katrina. She wanted to be involved in something positive as she works to rebuild her life.

All the volunteers share a love of libraries and a desire to assist those who are not yet computer literate.

Libraries have long been advocates for literacy. Today the computer has created the need for a new kind of literacy. Basic computer knowledge is required to search the library catalog for a book, use the library’s vast electronic resources, search the Internet for information, participate in online banking or e-commerce, and even for every day communication with friends and family.

Patrons who participate in classes or receive one-on-one tutoring appreciate the opportunity to learn new skills in a supportive environment. A 40-something patron attended the click! classes because her children, all enrolled in university level computer science, refused to teach her. An 87-year-old gentleman didn’t want to be left behind by his friends who had joined the computer age, but wondered if it was worth the trouble and frustration. After spending 90 minutes in a class with a click! volunteer, he left with a more positive outlook and a willingness to keep trying.

One-on-one tutoring will continue over the summer with classes beginning again in September.

New volunteers will be added
The library will be recruiting a few new volunteers over the summer. Many libraries have long been advocates for giving time.

Seven volunteers share expertise
Seven dedicated click! volunteers share their patience and computer expertise with patrons. Charles Browne, Amber Bryant, Cheryl Denton, Sande Harmon, Bill LeVeque, Joanna Pyle, and Charlene Selvar join 28 volunteers countywide to offer click! training at all the KRL community libraries.

Seven volunteers guide patrons into computer age
Volunteers guide patrons on Bainbridge after losing her home and job to Hurricane Katrina. She wanted to be involved in something positive as she works to rebuild her life.

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One-on-one tutoring will continue over the summer with classes beginning again in September.

New volunteers will be added
The library will be recruiting a few new volunteers over the summer who are willing to teach small classes using laptop computer labs. There are many rewarding volunteer opportunities at the Bainbridge Library. If you are interested, visit the volunteer page at www.krl.org or talk to a staff member at the information desk.
Monte Calvin fund adds over 100 history books

By JULIE O’NEILL, Reference Librarian

When Bainbridge resident Monte Calvin, a respected Seattle banker, died in 2004, his family and friends from all across the country contributed generously to a memorial fund. That fund has been used to purchase over 100 outstanding books in his particular field of interest – history. Some of the titles the Bainbridge library has acquired in his honor are:

The Big One: The Earthquake that Rocked Early America and Helped Create a Science by Jake Page. A huge earthquake ripped through Missouri and Arkansas in 1811, rerouting the Mississippi River, killing 1300 people and contributing to the start of the modern science of seismology.

A Continent for the Taking: The Tragedy and Hope of Africa by Howard French. The author, a reporter for the New York Times during the 1990s, eloquently recounts the many tragedies of Africa’s history: colonialism, corrupt modern African leaders, the plagues of Ebola and AIDS and the failure of the western world to respond to genocide in Rwanda. He also offers some hopeful examples of change in this book—part travel memoir, part history, part political analysis.

Operatives, Spies and Saboteurs: The Unknown Story of the Men and Women of World War II’s OSS by Patrick O’Donnell. Relying on excerpts from official accounts and personal interviews, the author shows the transformation of the OSS (the forerunner of the CIA) in the daring, dangerous world of modern espionage during WWII.

Gettysburg: You Are There by Robert Clasby. Battlefield photographs, reconstructions, images and computer graphics give a uniquely realistic portrayal of pivotal moments in the Battle of Gettysburg.

Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans by Ronald Takaki. The 500-year history of Asian Americans is related in narrative history, vivid personal recollections and oral history, by turns bitter, funny and inspirational.

Born to Rule: Five Reigning Consorts, Granddaughters of Queen Victoria by Julia Gelardi. This epic biography of Queen Victoria’s most famous and powerful granddaughters (Maud of Norway, Sophie of Greece, Alexandra of Russia, Marie of Romania and Victoria Eugenie of Spain) makes the recent misadventures of British royalty pale in comparison.

Samurai: The Story of Japan’s Great Warriors by Stephen Turnbull. Beautiful color photos, traditional woodblock prints and innovative see-through pages showing the layers of samurai armor illustrate this comprehensive history of the samurai way of life, code of loyalty, weapons, and bloody: they were mostly brutal, cutthroat outlaws, but their hold on our imagination is undeniable.

Public Enemies: America’s Greatest Crime Wave and the Birth of the FBI, 1933-34 by Brian Burrough. This history combines true crime tales of John Dillinger, Pretty Boy Floyd, Bonnie and Clyde, with an account of how the 1930s crime wave helped an ambitious federal bureaucrat named J. Edgar Hoover transform a small agency into the FBI.

Library offers book group kits

By MICHELLE MASON Collection Management, KRL

Kitsap Regional Library maintains a Book Group Kit Collection which offers titles for local book discussion groups to use. Each book group kit includes 15 copies of the title and a discussion guide with information on the book and the author as well as questions devised to spark group conversation. Currently KRL offers 74 titles, and lends to over 45 book discussion groups throughout the county. The kits are usually checked out for six weeks.

The KRL Book Group Kits are funded by the KRL Foundation and other individual donors in Kitsap County. Several new titles have been donated or purchased with gift funds, including: The Children’s Blizzard by David Laskin. A gripping chronicle of a violent 1888 blizzard that swept across the American plains, killing hundreds of people, many of them children making their way home from school. The Egg & I by Betty MacDonald. A classic account of raising chicken and children in the 1940s on a dilapidated 40-acre farm on the rainy, remote Olympic peninsula. Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury. When the totalitarian regime orders all books to be destroyed, Guy Montag, a “Fireman” assigned to burn books, suddenly realizes their merit. The Memory of Running by Ron McLarty. One week, Smitty Ide, a 43-year-old, 279-pound self-proclaimed loser with a dead-end job, suffers the loss of his parents in an accident and discovers that his sister has been found dead. He mounts his old Raleigh bicycle and finds himself pedaling across the country on a journey of discovery.

The Pacific and Other Stories by Mark Helprin. This collection of 16 stories displays the remarkable scope, incomparable wit, and deft prose that stories displays the remarkable scope, incomparable wit, and deft prose that...
Book review: those Mitford girls!

By PATRICIA MILLER

Jessica is the Mitford best remembered in the States because of The American Way of Death, a grisly indictment of the American funeral business. Nancy, the best writer, satirized her wildly eccentric family in The Pursuit of Love and Love in a Cold Climate (both available at the library and on DVD). Of the six sisters, only Deborah and Pamela lived quiet lives. In Diana Mosley, Jan Dalley focuses on Diana, the acknowledged beauty of the family, and the youngest sister Unity, both best remembered for their close relationship with Adolph Hitler. Unity, “in thrall to Fascism from adolescence”, was obsessed. Diana’s less fanatic interest was fueled by Oswald Mosley, England’s Fascist party leader.

When The Depression devastated the English economy, some citizens, including Jessica, looked to Communism for a solution; others, like wealthy aristocrat Mosley, looked to fascist leader Mussolini, who made the trains run on time, and to Adolph Hitler whose forceful leadership was revitalizing Germany.

Both Hitler and Diana fell in love with Mosley, an “intensely masculine man with dark good looks”. He was married and the father of three children, but he conducted multiple affairs. Even when Diana left her husband to become his mistress, Mosley was in no hurry to leave his wife. And when she obliged the couple by dying, he continued to alternate his attentions between Diana and her sister-in-law. Meanwhile, Unity had been living in Germany where she was, literally, stalking Hitler. Her persistence was rewarded one day when he invited her to join him at his table in a Munich coffee house. Unity introduced Diana to Hitler, and the two young women, classic Aryan beauties, spent much public and private time in his company. It is an illustration of how deeply involved Diana became with the Nazi hierarchy that when she and Mosley finally married, the ceremony took place in the villa, confiscated from a Jewish family, of Josef and Magda Goebbels.

Both Hitler and Diana had something to gain from their friendship. Diana was one of the few people who had personal relationships with both Churchill and Hitler, and he may have thought to use her to arrange a face to face meeting with Churchill. In addition, the presence of two beautiful blondes, “the living embodiment of his racial theories, may have allowed him to think that England was somehow, deep down in the genes, already his.” Mosley was receiving 60,000 pounds a year (about 1.5 million in today’s pounds) from Mussolini for support of his English Nazi party, so Diana may have sought to expand her friendship among the German Nazi elite in order to garner additional funds and to promote Mosley’s political future.

The truth is, however, that anti-Semitism was at the base of both sisters’ motivation; less obviously for Diana, but quite openly for Unity. Hitler provided her a modern apartment which had belonged, she explained blithely in a letter to her mother, “to a Jewish couple who are going abroad.” In a letter to German newspaper Der Sturmer, she wrote, “The English have no notion of the Jewish danger – We think with joy of the day when we shall be able to say with might and authority: England for the English! Out with the Jews!”

Moreover, she remained unapologetically committed to fascism throughout the war and right up to her death in the 1990s. If Dalley’s book has piqued your interest in the Mitfords, the following are also available through Kitsap Regional Library: Mary S. Lovell’s The Sisters: The Saga of the Mitford Family, Anne De Courcy’s Diana Mosley; Mitford Beauty, British Fascist, Hitler’s Angel; The American Way of Birth and The American Way of Death Revisited, by Jessica; Nancy Mitford’s Volunteir in Love, and Love from Nancy: the Letters of Nancy Mitford. Available online, Rules of the Game/Beyond the Pale: Memoirs of Sir Oswald Mosley and Family, by Nicholas Mosley, Oswald’s son by his first marriage.

(Diana and Mosley were arrested and interned for most of the war, but postwar they led comfortable lives in England and later in France. The author makes an effort to attribute Diana’s devotion to Hitler and Fascism to youthful naiveté, but the fact is that Diana approved of Germany’s dominance of Europe. Moreover, she remained unapologetically committed to fascism throughout the war and right up to her death in the 1990s.)
The Old Man and the Rose
The story behind the paintings

By BARBARA HELEN BERGER

Two of my early paintings have a new home in our library’s art collection, thanks to Greg Bell, of King County’s 4Culture program in Seattle.

They have belonged to King County since they were created in 1975. I want to express my gratitude to Mr. Bell for his gracious offer to gift these pieces to the Bainbridge Public Library, and my appreciation to the Library Board for accepting. And I’d like to share my own story behind the paintings.

The larger one shows an old man. He is walking along contemplatively, with a cane. Perhaps he is looking inward. I see that his heart is a red rose. Wings have sprung from the rose and are also his own. Under his feet, the path gives way to empty space, the black, starry cosmos. He is stepping there but he also appears to be made of the same stuff.

How did he come to be?

I was living in Bothell at the time, in a funky old house for $50 a month, with a field and woods all around. Whenever I needed a break from painting, I’d walk out in the woods and come back renewed. I had to balance painting with a part-time job at a nursing home. Every day, the vulnerability I saw there mingled with a mysterious wisdom. At any moment, dementia or not, a luminous and surprising gem might be uttered. The veil between worlds was thin, so I tried to stay alert and open.

The imagery of old age came into my art. I painted the man who often wandered out of the nursing home and had to be found. One night I dreamt of an old man with the presence of a prophet. Reading Carl Jung, I learned of a universal figure or archetype called the “wise old man,” who appears in many forms in myth, tales and dreams.

I painted my own variations, and the wise old man became a guiding symbol to me. But when a red rose came to my mind’s eye, appearing inside the old man’s chest, and he sprouted red wings, I balked.

“You’re kidding,” I said, “red wings?” It seemed, well, just too much. I put down my brushes and rags and went to the woods.

As I walked, an understanding began to dawn on me. Red is a passionate color, vital, fiery. We connect it with emotion, with life’s blood. Maybe the wise old man wanted to reveal a deep love at the heart of his wisdom. That was the visual “story” he wanted to tell.

About the same time, the landlord announced the funky old house was sold. It would be torn down, the land cleared for development. Notice was given: I would have to move. But first, my deadline for the arts commission of King County was near. I had to finish the large canvas of the old man and one more.

I spent over the coming bulldozers and chainsaws. It was hard to be philosophical, though I tried, thinking of the nursing home where it was so clear: everything in life must come to an end.

On the other waiting canvas, I painted a second red rose, huge and embedded in a stand of trees. Did the rose grow out of the woods, or was the woods emerge from the rose? It was all one. The image was my farewell to that kind refuge, where the wise old man had also walked in imagination and mystery. He did not stay behind. A few years later, in the woods of Bainbridge Island, my new home, I found him again. This time he carried the moon in his hand, and led me to a new story, as I turned from painting to making children’s books.

The books I have made since are peopled with other figures, animals and symbols, and the wise old man is one. So is the wise old woman. Children can find them on the library shelves in Grandfather Twilight, Animalia, Gwinna, and All the Way to Lhasa: A Tale from Tibet. The two earlier paintings are like grandparents to my books, and I am happy they belong to our island now.

Annual Appeal for library gets under way

The Annual Appeal for maintenance and operation funds for the Bainbridge Public Library got under way a few weeks ago with a mailing to persons who have supported the library in previous years. But many Islanders and friends of the Bainbridge Public Library don’t know about the Annual Appeal—or the library’s need for funds. It often comes as a surprise to newcomers who move here—and enjoy the use of the Bainbridge Public Library—to learn that the Bainbridge library building and grounds receive no tax support. While Kitsap Regional Library, the tax-supported county system, provides the funds for library staff, circulating books and other materials, and niceties like the computer system, the Bainbridge Public Library building and grounds, as well as locally produced programs and services, have never received any tax funding.

That’s the way it’s been since the first central Bainbridge library was built on the corner of High School Road and Madison Ave. in 1962, and that’s the way Islanders like to keep it. All monies for the ongoing maintenance of building and grounds come from donations by individuals and groups who use this library.

The mailing list of donors now numbers well over 1,000—and library patrons are grateful for their support. But they are a small portion of the nearly 22,000 people who now live here.

If you would like to help maintain your local library and did not receive a letter in the mail, feel free to clip the coupon below and mail it with your contribution to the Bainbridge Public Library, 1270 Madison Ave. No., Bainbridge Island, WA 98110. Or just drop off your contribution next time you stop by the library.

No amount is too large or too small to help. It costs well over $100,000 a year to maintain the building and grounds—which serve all local library users so well.

The spring Annual Appeal is the library’s major source of funds, along with the One Call for All drive which occurs in the fall.

LIFE’S TRAGEDY IS THAT WE GET OLD TOO SOON AND WISE TOO LATE. —Benjamin Franklin

The Old Man and the Rose
These paintings by Barbara Berger are now part of the library’s permanent, rotating collection.