Musical chairs at the library

By VERDA AYERLL
Library News Editor

Bainbridge snowbirds who went south for the winter are returning now—and discovering more than a few personnel changes at their hometown library. Among the staff, some old friends are gone, and newcomers have taken their places. What happened? Have they been playing musical chairs? Yes, well, in a way. In the old children’s party game, youngsters circled as the music played and when it stops, someone’s left without a chair; that player is out. The library’s version is a bit different. Cindy Harrison, beloved Bainbridge branch manager, decided last fall to give up her chair—to retire, after 19 years in the Kitsap Regional Library system, at the end of January. She wanted to spend more time with her family and pursue other interests, perhaps at last finding time to “read more books than book reviews”. Thus in November, KRL director Jill Jean began a nationwide search for Hamston’s successor: Rebecca Judd, who had worked for her in western Massachusetts, was chosen from a strong field of candidates to be the new Bainbridge branch manager. Since her arrival in January, Judd has tackled the manager’s many duties with enthusiasm and is quickly becoming acquainted with many of the groups which use the library regularly. If there is a missing chair in the library now, it’s the one formerly filled by assistant branch manager Sharon Snyder Lee. Budget restrictions have forced some KRL cutbacks, and Bainbridge no longer has an assistant branch manager. Sharon Lee has been promoted to interim branch manager at Poulsbo, where she and her new husband have a home. While she admits she misses Bainbridge friends, she’s enjoying the challenges of the new position—and the shorter drive to work. Also moving a few weeks ago was Meg Hughes, who has spent more than 20 years in KRL service. But she’s not retiring. Hughes, better known then as Peggy, was the first young people’s librarian on Bainbridge, serving in that capacity from 1982 to 2003, then moving upstairs to the reference desk. Hughes is now happily at work in Poulsbo, closer to her home in Kingston. Another face missing from the Bainbridge Library is that of Paulette Rhoades, a long-time Bainbridge staffer, who for months has been splitting her time between the Island and KRL headquarters on Sylvan Way in East Bremerton. She’s now working full-time at the Postal Cassock, where she shares duties with Julie O’Neill and Susan Thorsteinson, who returns to Bainbridge Island after five years in Kingston. Thorsteinson and Ream also work with the library’s large group of volunteers.

In the Garden of the Gods

By KERRY SMITH

“Writing in the Garden of the Gods”, the third annual one-day writers’ conference sponsored by Field’s End, is set for Saturday, April 26, at the beautiful Kiana Lodge, a waterfront conference center overlooking Agate Passage between Bainbridge Island and Poulsbo, Washington. Registration is underway—but don’t procrastinate! Pre-event registration is required, and must be postmarked or received by April 18, 2008. There will be no day-of-conference registration.

For details of the conference, see the Field’s End Website: fieldsend.org, where a registration form may be downloaded and mailed with a check for the $150 event fee. Online registration is also available. There is a group rate of $130/ person for groups of 5 or more. Parking is free at the Suquamish-Clearwater Casino with free bus service to the conference site. A shuttle will meet the Bainbridge Island ferry that leaves Seattle at 7:55 a.m. Last year’s conference was declared by one attendee as “magical” and attracted more than 190 people from the region, and from as far away as New York. The day begins at 8:30 with registration, and includes a full day of writers’ talks and panels presenting on various aspects of the art and craft of writing. The event ends with book signings (supported by Eagle Harbor Book Co.) and a wine and cheese reception. Field’s End, named “Best Writers’ Community 2006” by the Seattle Weekly, is an affiliate of the nonprofit Bainbridge Public Library. Premier sponsors of the event are Prudential Northwest Real Estate and Gilbert Thomas Jewelry. The opening speaker will be Stephanie Kallos; Roy Blount, Jr. will be the luncheon keynote speaker. To wrap up the day, National Book Award Winner Timothy Egan will speak. George Singleton will be the conference moderator and workshop leaders include Alice Achenon, Knute Berger, Laura Kalpackian, Thomas Kohnstamm, Rosina Lipp, Jennifer Louden, Charles Pavlovsic, Suzanne Seifors, and David Wagonsky.

The conference fee includes the continental breakfast, salmon or vegetarian buffet lunch, snacks, your choice of breakout sessions and/or writing workshops, the speakers, book signings, and the afternoon cheese reception. Back by popular demand, the Page One workshop centers on individuals’ writing. This year there will be Page One sessions for fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.

Kiana Lodge is owned and operated by the Suquamish Tribe, in whose language “kiana” means “garden of the gods.”

(Kerry Smith is a volunteer for Field’s End, a community of writers.)

Also in this issue:

A close look at the library gardens in spring

What’s happening in the Young People’s Library

Travel: Cruising through England on a canal boat

Continued on page 3
Join local writers at spring Roundtables

Seattle native and young adult book author, Dia Calhoun introduces the April 15 session by asking, “How do you write fantasy using the Hero’s Journey?” On May 20, Wendy Call, a local writer and co-founder of the Roundtable, asks the question, “How do we render other people’s stories? Tales from Mexico.”

The final spring Roundtable on June 17 features Kitsap County writer Sheila (Rabe) Roberts, who introduces the session by asking, “What makes a book funny?”

An author of six young adult and children’s fantasy novels, Calhoun studied ballet for many years and graduated from Mills College with a double major in English and Book Arts. Her latest title is The Return of Light: A Christmas Fable. Calhoun’s books, Avielle of Rhic, White Midnight, and Firegold were both awarded Best Book for Young Adults by the American Library Association. Her book, The Phoenix Dance, received a New York Public Library award for best books for teens. During the fall 2007 quarter at Seattle University, Calhoun taught a class, “Writing the Young Adult Novel.”

Along with three other authors who write for young adults, she formed Readergirlz, an online book community that celebrates books featuring strong female characters and encourages community and collaboration. Calhoun makes frequent school visits to share her work with kids; she offers two programs: “Fantasy Writing Workshop,” both for middle grade and high school students, and “My Books, My Writing”, an assembly program.

Participating in Seattle Arts and Lecturer’s Writers in the Schools program as writer-in-residence at the Richard Hugo House, Call is co-editor of Telling True Stories: A Nonfiction Writers’ Guide to the Foundation at Harvard University, The Seattle Post-Intelligencer described the book as “a virtuoso collection of essays.” Excerpts from her nonfiction book-in-progress, No Word for Welcome, have won awards from 4Culture, Artist Trust, Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, and the Seattle CityArtist Program. Call’s nonfiction has appeared in English, Spanish, and French in more than 30 magazines, literary journals, and anthologies in seven countries, often accompanied by her photographs. She has taught creative writing workshops in English and Spanish at universities, community centers, and newsrooms. Holding a Master in Fine Arts degree in writing and literature from Bennington College, Call became a full-time writer and editor in 2000, after devoting a decade to work for social change organizations in Boston and Seattle.

Rabe is a life coach, writing instructor, and author of contemporary romance novels, mainstream women’s fiction, and self-help books. A prolific writer since 1989, she has 18 novels, two nonfiction titles, and a series of gift books to her credit. Her latest novel, On Strike for Christmas was published in fall 2007 under her pen name, Sheila Roberts. She also authored Be My Valentine, The Last Heir, and I Hate Whining Except When I’m Doing It; Whining Except When I’m Doing It; and several other books. Rabe introduces the session by asking, “What makes a book funny?”

The Bainbridge Library Board is sponsoring the event as a way to raise funds—while enjoying a special evening with friends, authors and books. Scheduled to appear are the following Bainbridge Island writers:

- **David Guterson**, former Bainbridge High School teacher, whose Snow Falling on Cedars won the 1995 PEN/Faulkner Award and world-wide acclaim. He has written for magazines like Sports Illustrated and Harper’s, published a collection of short stories, The Country Ahead of Us, the Country Behind, and other fiction and non-fiction titles including Family Matters.

- **Suzanne Selfors**, a former Bainbridge public school teacher, who has written several books. Selfors has a recorded song to her credit. She has a recorded song to her credit. An active member of the community, water aerobics instructor, and golfer, Rabe is married and has three children. And, like many of us, loves chocolate!

Meet and dine with best-selling Bainbridge authors on May 10

Tickets are still available—just go fast—for DineReads: A Literary Affair at 6 p.m. on May 10 at the Wing Point Golf and Country Club. Deadline for reservations is April 25; phone 1266-1250.

The special event, at $100 per person, brings together best-selling Bainbridge authors and people who enjoy their works. The event will include a multi-course dinner with fine wines, an informal auctioning of a few prize items (including a stay at a vacation rental), and several surprise elements. It is not, however, primarily either dinner or auction.

It will be a feast for the mind, and a lot of fun.

Since 1997, when the new and larger Bainbridge Public Library was opened, there have been so many distinguished local writers appeared together in public here on the Island. They’ll speak and read from their works, and there will be time for the diners to get to know them individually. As this Library News issue is going to press, four authors are committed to appear, while a fifth is working out scheduling and hopes to be present.

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- **Susan Wiggs**, with nearly 30 best-selling novels to her credit, is an active member of Field’s End and a Bainbridge Island volunteer. She is a popular contributor of author interviews to the Library News, and acts as a mentor to young aspiring writers. (Her daughter Elizabeth wrote for this paper during her high school years.) She loves to cook and has been known to print favorite recipes on her Website.

- **Greg Atkinson**, of course, is well known for both his writing and his cooking. He leads the way in Northwest food trends, has published several cookbooks, and often is featured in radio and television programs. (He’s heard regularly on KPLU, on public radio KUOW.) His most recent book is Entertaining in the Northwest Style: A Menu Cookbook.

The four writers above have confirmed their appearance at the Literary Affair on May 10.

- **Natalia Ilyin**, author of the blockbuster best sellers Chasing the Perfect and Blonde Like Me, hopes to join the others at the DineReads, but was still working out a scheduling conflict as this paper went to press.

For more information, inquire of any member of the Bainbridge Library Board. Martie Bunnell and Marlene LeMire are co-chairs of the planning committee.
The Bainbridge Genealogical Society

They’ll help you research your family’s history

By VERDA AVERILL

The Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society (BIGS) is just one of the special-interest groups meeting regularly at the Bainbridge Public Library.

For a modest rental fee, these non-profit and small-business groups get a pleasant meeting space with rotating art exhibits and other amenities—plus plenty of reference materials close at hand. Library board and staff members consider these groups true partners with the library, together they provide opportunities for lifelong learning.

The local genealogical society—or BIGS—is only a couple of years old, but it’s drawing a steadily growing number of people who are enthusiastic about its offerings and congenial people. They meet every month, usually on third-Friday mornings, for discussions and to hear guest speakers.

The emphasis is on helping one another research family histories, and experts bring suggestions based on long experience. For example, March speaker Mary Fern focussed on research problems in her talk on “Uses for historical U.S. newspaper research: where to look, what to find, and limitations to keep in mind”.

The April 18 program features four mentors discussing “My worst mistake in researching my family”. The group was started by Mij Woodward (middle daughter of the late Walt and Milly Woodward, Bainbridge Review publishers during World War II and the 1950s). It has attracted a growing number of enthusiastic members; monthly meetings usually draw 30 to 50 persons, sometimes more. Several smaller groups also meet regularly, to research family members who came from specific areas of Europe.

Enthusiastic BIGS members say the group offers something for everyone interested in family history, whether you’re an experienced researcher or taking up a brand-new hobby. Annual dues are modest. Information is readily available at the Website: www.rootsweb.com/~wabihs/. There you’ll find meeting details, how to join, and a wide variety of Web links to local, U.S. and international sources.

BIGS welcomes members from all over Kitsap County; it is the only organized genealogical research group in the north end. President Priscilla Greenless (842-0210) and communications director Marie Spearman (842-0565) are always happy to answer your questions about the group. They, like other members, find the whole family research process fascinating and fun.

“I like getting to know these people (from past generations)—to learn about the way they lived, and what led to their coming and going,” Spearman said.

She prefers to talk about “family history” rather than “genealogy” because “there’s so much more than genes involved.”

Spring, the season of new growth in our gardens, seems like a good time for fresh starts and new projects, and more than a few Islanders are thinking of delving into their family histories with some serious research. If you join, you may find—as I did—as some of your neighbors are involved. You may even see retired library manager Cindy Harrison; she’s planning to take some of her recently discovered free time to study her family’s history. New branch manager Rebecca Ildid has already appeared at a BIGS meeting; her father is a hobbyist (in genealogical research).

For news of upcoming BIGS meetings, check the calendar in each issue of the Library News. There is no charge for visitors.

(Wanted by the Bainbridge Island Art Committee: Watercolors by artist Frank W. Hoelterhoff for fall exhibit in the Bainbridge Public Library. For more information call Linna A. Callahan at (206) 855-0855 or (206) 842-4624.

WEST SOUND READS is presenting a series of lectures by distinguished authors this spring and summer. Jane Smiley, Pulitzer Prize-winning author was scheduled to speak April 16 in Poulsbo. Coming June 27: Andre Dubus will read from his new novel. For details, see the promotional bookmarks in the library. Martha Bayley is coordinating the series for Kitsap Regional Library.

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BAINBRIDGE Island Genealogical Society: 520 Winslow Way E., Suite 200. "Genealogy for the rest of us." Can you believe that something of this nature is only a couple of years old, but it’s drawing a steadily growing number of people who are enthusiastic about its offerings and congenial people. They meet every month, usually on third-Friday mornings, for discussions and to hear guest speakers. The emphasis is on helping one another research family histories, and experts bring suggestions based on long experience. For example, March speaker Mary Fern focused on research problems in her talk on "Uses for historical U.S. newspaper research: where to look, what to find, and limitations to keep in mind." The April 18 program features four mentors discussing "My worst mistake in researching my family". The group was started by Mij Woodward (middle daughter of the late Walt and Milly Woodward, Bainbridge Review publishers during World War II and the 1950s). It has attracted a growing number of enthusiastic members; monthly meetings usually draw 30 to 50 persons, sometimes more. Several smaller groups also meet regularly, to research family members who came from specific areas of Europe.

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My grandfather and the carpet

By VALE TOLLEFSON
Library Board President

My grandfather was a poet. English was his second language, but a language he loved. Letters to his daughters away at college were frequently in verse. They weren’t sophisticated, and you won’t find them in any collection of poems. But they reflected his love of words. That love was passed down to my English-teacher mother, who made sure that her children had library cards before they could read. Saturday mornings in the stacks of the Missoula County Library are among my favorite childhood memories. My adult life, and that of each of my siblings, was shaped by my grandfather’s poems – and the library.

When I visit our Young People’s Library with MY grandchildren, and see them hungrily picking up the next week’s supply of reading material, I realize that the power of the library is undiminished and I am filled with hope for all the library children, and for the future of our society and culture.

During a visit to the Young People’s Library on almost any day, you are likely to find Carmine Rau sitting on the floor, surrounded by fans of her considerable story-telling prowess. A quick glance past those children, and at the floor they are sitting on, brings me to the point of this column. The carpet is worn. We have now lived in our beautiful home of a library for over 10 years. If your house was packed with visitors every day of the week for 10 years, your carpet would be worn too. Your paint would be tired, as ours is. Thanks to the loyal support of Bainbridge library patrons year after year, we are able to address these expensive needs as they arise and to keep your library home the warm, welcoming place you expect.

This ongoing maintenance is possible only because of generous gifts from Bainbridge Island library users and friends. No tax dollars have ever been provided for it.

The Bainbridge Public Library is like another home for many of us, and we are responsible for keeping it up. So even when times are tight and priorities must be set, keeping our house in order tops our list. Spring is traditionally the season for serious cleaning and maintenance in many Island homes. It’s also the time for our library’s Annual Appeal, and a personal letter has been mailed to many library boosters as a reminder of our ongoing needs.

You do not, however, need to receive a letter. Gifts are welcome at any time, and your check will be received with appreciation by the board, staff, and many volunteers who make this library a magnet to children and parents alike.

( Editor’s note: Look for a list of ways to help your library in a future edition of the Library News. )
Spring 2008

Building a book, stitch by stitch

Blockbuster author
Stephanie Kallos dishes
about her new novel

By SUSAN WIGGS

Seattle author Stephanie Kallos is a born storyteller. After all, she grew up in a place where sofas fly—Nebraska’s “tornado alley.”

She’s also been an actress, a teacher and a nominee for both a Raymond Carver Award and a Pushcart Prize for her short fiction. Her incredibly charming first novel, Broken For You, was a selection of the Today Show book club, propelling her onto bestseller lists and into book clubs nationwide.

Other honors ensued, making this novel debut one of the most auspicious in publishing. - A Book Sense Selection, a Library Journal Best First Novel of 2005, winner of a 2005 Pacific Northwest Bookseller Association Award and a Quill Book Award finalist for Debut Author of the Year.

So while her talent is not in doubt, none of that tells you how funny and down-to-earth she is. For that, you have to visit her web site (www.stephaniekallos.com) and read her bio.

Or better yet, meet her in person at the Field’s End Writer’s Conference on Saturday, April 26 (www.fieldsend.org).

Like most every writer you’ll meet, Stephanie is a lifelong library patron. “I remember the first library my mother took me to in Lincoln, Nebraska—where we lived when I was 5. It was only a couple of blocks from my father’s office and we would walk there after visiting him,“ she said.

“They had something called ‘viewfinders’—you see these in antique stores now. You slipped a thick, cardboard card bearing a photo into the back of these goggle-looking devices. They gave a sort of 3-D look to the scenes. I actually wrote a 1960s-era library scene in my new book and included these—along with a mean-spirited, censorious small-town librarian who is absolutely nothing like [Seattle’s über-librarian] Nancy Pearl.”

About that new novel

Regarding that new novel, it’s called Sing Them Home and is slated for publication from Grove later this year. Stephanie’s working title on the book—for years—was Hope’s Wheelchair.

“My publisher hated that title,” she admits. “In retrospect, I can understand why. Bit of a downer.”

Ultimately, her editor’s assistant came up with the final title.

For a long time, Stephanie believed it would be her first novel. The germ of the idea originated with a 1974 National Geographic photo.

“Then drove northeast directly into Hope’s farmhouse, southeastern Nebraska in that swath of territory known as ‘tornado alley.’ Nebraska’s “tornado alley.”

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“Until I was 5, we lived in a very small town in southeastern Nebraska in that swath of territory known as ‘tornado alley’. My mother’s best friend, Hope, lived on a farm a few miles outside of town. In one of those examples of random tornadic behavior, a funnel cloud bypassed the farmhouse across the highway and then drove northeast directly into Hope’s farmhouse, destroying it completely. Hope was home (she suffered from MS and was confined to a wheelchair) along with her youngest child. She was badly hurt, but the baby was found wandering the fields, wearing a diaper, slightly scratched but otherwise unharmed.

“The photo—which was taken in a milo field about four miles away, near Blue Springs—shows a farmer leaning over the remains of Hope’s grand piano. It’s the only thing that came down in any kind of recognizable form. My mother used to say, ‘How can a deep freeze just disappear? How can a refrigerator just disappear?’ This is the kind of magic many lives with in tornado alley. I heard one author describe magical realism as ‘sofas that fly.’ In Nebraska, sofas fly all the time.”

“The story centers on three siblings—Larken, Gaelen, and Bonnie Jones—who grew up in a fictional town in southeast Nebraska called Eimmly Springs. When they were 13, 12, and 7 years old, their mother Hope was carried up in a tornado and never came down. It’s about the special kind of grief that surrounds such a loss (i.e., one which leaves no gift of bones) and how that grief has resonated throughout their lives and informed their identities.

“I’d like to think that anyone who has struggled with the strangeness of grief will be engaged—and hopefully comforted—by the characters’ journeys.”

Stephanie is a working mother, and juggles family and exploring the landscape of grief, the greatest writer-to-writer gift came from Joan Didion’s The Year of Magical Thinking. My father died suddenly a few months after the publication of my first novel; my mom followed him a year later, almost to the day. Ms. Didion helped me understand why my mother was able to donate all of Dad’s clothes to the Goodwill but left his shoes in the closet: How else would he be able to walk home to her?”

“In addition to writing, Stephanie is a knitter. “It’s a tremendously valuable discipline in terms of reminding me of what writing is about and how a book is built: stitch by stitch, row by row, occasionally having to unravel everything you’ve done and start over.”

Stephanie Kallos has a lot more to share. She is this year’s opening speaker at the April 26 Writer’s conference. (Susan Wiggs is a Bainbridge author and library volunteer.)

Stephanie Kallos: Opening speaker at Writers’ Conference.

Always open for business

“On the other hand, it’s extremely counter-productive to allow writing to become punitive, an exercise in punching the time card. I really want to guard against that, as I’m somewhat hard-wired for self-punishment. Sometimes inspiration comes when I’m taking an early morning walk, driving to the grocery store, standing in line at Starbucks, or running errands. One must be constantly open for business. When in the middle of a book, I’m really thinking about my characters all the time. If someone makes the mistake of asking me how I’m doing, I usually launch into a description of how my characters are doing; I don’t stop until I notice my friend’s gaze, slightly concerned expression. For me, being a writer involves cultivating a benign form of schizophrenia. I have notebooks everywhere; I adopted this practice years ago after reading an interview with Anne Tyler, who raised four kids while writing her early novels. Yes, being a writer consists largely of applying the seat of one’s pants to the seat of the chair, but there’s a quality of attention one must maintain, a continual vigilance/readiness to receive the odd idea/inspiration.”

“The Year of Magical Thinking, Joan Didion remembers, ‘Had [my husband] not warned me when I forgot my own notebook that the ability to make a note when something came to mind was the difference between being able to write and not being able to write’.”

She’s an avid reader

Stephanie is an avid and eclectic reader. She’s a huge fan of the Salinger oeuvre, Anne Tyler, John Irving’s A Prayer for Owen Meany, The World According to Garp, and The Cider House Rules.

“My dear friend Sheri Holman writes brilliant books; I’ve learned so much from her. I’ve also learned a great deal from Myla Goldberg, Ian McEwan, A.S. Byatt. Lately – as I wait feedback from my editor on the latest draft of Sing Them Home— I’ve been indulging in thrillers: Chelsea Cain’s HeartSick, and the Japanese novels. I really like a change-up when it comes to reading.

“In terms of my work on Sing and exploring the landscape of grief, the greatest writer-to-writer gift came from Joan Didion’s The Year of Magical Thinking. My father died suddenly a few months after the publication of my first novel; my mom followed him a year later, almost to the day. Ms. Didion helped me understand why my mother was able to donate all of Dad’s clothes to the Goodwill but left his shoes in the closet: How else would he be able to walk home to her?”

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“Stephanie Kallos has a lot more to share. She is this year’s opening speaker at the April 26 Writer’s conference.”

(Susan Wiggs is a Bainbridge author and library volunteer.)

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**Summer Reading is Coming!**

This year's theme is "Catch the Reading Bug." Summer Reading fun kicks off at BI Public library on Saturday, June 21. That's when you can start reading your way to a free book. Children need not be independent readers to participate; even the youngest child can sign up. Read aloud time with mom or dad or a caregiver counts toward their reading time. Some of Bennett's favorites include J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter and The Prisoner of Azkaban, which totally satisfies all of Bennett’s excitement requirements. We’ve read the first four books to him and he’s listened to “Prisoner” on CD over and over again. We jumped from Rowling into Eragon by Christopher Paolini, which has been another big hit as it’s brimming with adventure, dragons and magic that helps good triumph over evil. We’re just beginning Eldest which is next in this series. This week Dad finished reading Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh, which has my son running around my house, telling us to leave him alone because he’s working on his spy route. His spy route has been expanded into our neighbors’ yards…isn’t that great??
the Spy, because she loves her brother, but she’d rather be reading books with sing song rhyming rhythms, something about horses, or stories of friendship. We read a lot of rhyming books and those with repetitive phrases in an effort to build Lydia’s reading confidence. Some of the fun silly books that satisfy this need are Dr Seuss’s I Can Read With My Eyeball, There’s a Wocket in My Pocket, and Hop on Pop. Lydia likes the rhythmic repetition in Martin Waddell’s Little Bear series that keep us in touch with the joys of playing with our children. Let’s Go Home, Little Bear. Can’t You Sleep Little Bear? And You and Me, Little Bear are our favorites. We also love the quiet pace Can’t You Sleep Little Bear? Let’s Go Home with our children. We like Lobel’s simple messages about life and the way the two friends care for each other. The best way for me to hold the attention of both of the children is to read stories with older brothers and little sisters in them. The Magic Tree House Series, by Mary Pope Osborne ties that bill. Our favorite big brother little sister books are by Joyce Dunbar Tell Me What It’s Like to Be Big and Tell Me Something Happy Before I Go to Sleep. Both books are about a thoughtful older brother who helps his younger sister get answers to some of life’s big questions. Our favorite bedtime family read is Sylvester and the Magic Pebble by William Steig. It’s a lovely story about love, about priorities and what’s important to us. We love reading and the places reading takes us. For us each day, each book is different, each one a treasure. May your days be filled with the sounds of turning pages and laughter. I know ours will.

(If you would like to share your family’s recent favorite children’s and young adult books for our Follow the Reader column, please contact Carmen Rau at M 103.)

Teen programs

Teen Scene

Metamorphosis @ Your Library is the theme this summer for the teen summer reading club. Whether you want to change your room, change your hair, change your t-shirt or learn something new, the library has books for you. Spend 10 hours reading this summer and earn a new paperback book of your choice and chances to win gift certificates at Eagle Harbor Bookstore! Sign up starts June 21 at the reference desk.

Storytime calendar

MONDAY, MAY 5 Toddler Storytime, 10:45am
TUESDAY, MAY 6 Baby Storytime, 12:30pm
MONDAY, MAY 12 Toddler Storytime
TUESDAY, MAY 13 Baby Storytime, 12:30pm
MONDAY, MAY 19 Toddler Storytime
TUESDAY, MAY 20 Baby Storytime, 12:30pm
MONDAY, MAY 26 Toddler Storytime, 10:45am
TUESDAY, MAY 27 Baby Storytime, 12:30pm
MONDAY, JUNE 7 Toddler Storytime, 10:45am
TUESDAY, JUNE 8 Baby Storytime, 12:30pm
MONDAY, JUNE 14 Toddler Storytime, 10:45am
TUESDAY, JUNE 15 Baby Storytime, 12:30pm
MONDAY, JUNE 21 Toddler Storytime, 10:45am
TUESDAY, JUNE 22 Baby Storytime, 12:30pm
MONDAY, JUNE 28 Toddler Storytime, 10:45am
TUESDAY, JUNE 29 Baby Storytime, 12:30pm
MONDAY, JULY 5 Toddler Storytime, 10:45am
TUESDAY, JULY 6 Baby Storytime, 12:30pm
MONDAY, JULY 12 Toddler Storytime, 10:45am
TUESDAY, JULY 13 Baby Storytime, 12:30pm
MONDAY, JULY 19 Toddler Storytime, 10:45am
TUESDAY, JULY 20 Baby Storytime, 12:30pm
MONDAY, JULY 26 Toddler Storytime, 10:45am
TUESDAY, JULY 27 Baby Storytime, 12:30pm
MONDAY, AUGUST 2 Toddler Storytime, 10:45am
TUESDAY, AUGUST 3 Baby Storytime, 12:30pm
MONDAY, AUGUST 9 Toddler Storytime, 10:45am
TUESDAY, AUGUST 10 Baby Storytime, 12:30pm
MONDAY, AUGUST 16 Toddler Storytime, 10:45am
TUESDAY, AUGUST 17 Baby Storytime, 12:30pm
MONDAY, AUGUST 23 Toddler Storytime, 10:45am
TUESDAY, AUGUST 24 Baby Storytime, 12:30pm
MONDAY, AUGUST 30 Toddler Storytime, 10:45am
TUESDAY, AUGUST 31 Baby Storytime, 12:30pm

Teen mystery night

July 18, 6 pm Calling all detectives for our third annual teen mystery night. During major repairs to a wall in the library, the body of the general contractor is discovered. He has been missing for five years – ever since the foundation was poured. It is up to you to examine the evidence, hear accounts from witnesses and solve the mystery.

Teen Rock Band Tournament

July 31, 8 pm Be a rock star, no instruments required! We’ll provide Rock Band and you sing, drum or guitar your heart out. Compete against teens at other Kitsap Regional Library branches to find out who dominates Rock Band in Kitsap County. Besides, when else can you come to the library and make this much noise?!
Thought-provoking books for discussion groups

By JULIE O'NEILL
Referece Librarian

Is your book group looking for new and thought-provoking books for discussion?

Kitsap Regional Library makes Reading Group Book Kits available for discussion groups. Each kit has 15 copies of a book, plus author information, reading guides, and book reviews. The titles have been chosen to foster lively discussions. Over 60 are available as kits; you can find the complete list on the KRL Website, www.krl.org, under the “Adults” services tab, or at the Bainbridge branch information desk.

You may reserve kits online or by calling the Bainbridge branch (842-4162). These kits are extremely popular and get reserved well in advance. All of the titles are also available in single copies, for your personal reading pleasure.

New titles recently added to the selection of kits include:

**Blood and Thunder: The Epic Story of Kit Carson and the Conquest of the American West, by Hampton Sides.** This eloquent history of the 19th century Southwest reads more like a riveting epic novel than like a history volume. Sides presents the complex story of the conquest of Mexican territory in New Mexico and California, the decimation of the Navajos, and the American concept of Manifest Destiny – the right of the United States to extend its territory to the Pacific Ocean. At the center stands the remarkable Charles “Kit” Carson, the legendary trapper, scout and soldier who embodies all the contradictions and ambiguities of the American West experience.

**Flight** by Sherman Alexie. “Call me Zits” opens this unusual story of a teen-ager, half Irish, half Native American, an orphan since the age of 6. At 15, he lives in 20 different foster homes and goes to 22 different schools. He’s wounded, lonely, scared, and angry – but oddly likable – “bad boy” with an attitude problem. Looking for revenge, he is about to commit an act of violence when he suddenly begins an unforgettable journey through time, as a series of characters from the past. In these trips, he experiences other points of view, learns compassion and hope, and comes to terms with his own past – while losing his stomach for revenge.

**The Glass Castle** by Jeannette Walls. Freelance journalist Walls opens her memoir by recalling how, while riding in a New York taxi, she passed her homeless mother on the sidewalk, rooting through a dumpster. She chronicles her upbringing by two eccentric, nomadic parents – an artistic mother who let the four kids fend for themselves, and a brilliant but alcoholic father. “Kvo stie”, his children their “own star” in the sky for Christmas and dreamed of building his family a beautiful home, a “glass castle”, but stole their savings for drink. Walls and her siblings triumphed over their bizarre childhoods and this memoir is told without bitterness and with plenty of humor.

**Water for Elephants**, by Sarah Green. When Jacob’s parents are killed in an accident, leaving him penniless, he drops out of Cornell Veterinary School and hops a circus train, home to the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth. He joins the circus estate cares for a menagerie of exotic animals including the elephant Rosie, who responds only to him, his children their “own star” in the sky for Christmas and dreamed of building his family a beautiful home, a “glass castle”, but stole their savings for drink. Walls and her siblings triumphed over their bizarre childhoods and this memoir is told without bitterness and with plenty of humor.

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Spring brings library gardens to new life

By PATRICIA MILLER and VERDA AVERILL

The Bainbridge Public Library gardens are as well known to visitors from near and far as the library building and its collections. They are especially inviting in spring, as the flowering bulbs burst into bloom, the hydrangeas and rhododendrons give a hint of color to come, and gazeebo and inviting benches invite Idealists and visitors to pause for a while and enjoy the beauty of the season. Though sometimes spoken of as the "library garden," the ground on which the building opened in 1997 are actually three distinct gardens. The best known is the unique Haiku Garden donated by the Japanese-American Community of Bainbridge Island.

The Haiku Garden a decade later

Just off the corner of one of the busiest intersections on Bainbridge Island, the pace slows a bit in the tranquility of this Japanese garden. More than 10 years have passed since Junkoh Harui, second-generation Bainbridge Gardens owner, began planning for Haiku no Niwa, the Garden of Haiku. It would be a way to honor Bainbridge Island's first generation of Japanese immigrants and a way "to give something beautiful, for the library and for the community," he said. As the garden took shape, it too became a shining example of the tradition of volunteerism on this island. Funding, materials, plants, labor, and artistic endeavor were all donated by members of the community.

Construction of the new Bainbridge Island Library (an expanded version of the smaller building created in 1982 and enlarged in 1982) was nearly complete when work on the garden began in 1996.

The Japanese-American Community, known to long-time Islanders as BIJAC, donated the funds for materials, and Junkoh and his wife Chris donated the plants from their nursery. Doug Tanaka and Viki McCabe volunteered to design and install the garden. Viki selected and placed the plants while Doug set the rocks and large trees, and contoured and graded the site, creating the mounds and beds.

John van den Meerdonk installed the large sandstone pavers. The wooden fences, gates, and benches are the work of Keith Maslow. From the many haiku selections submitted by BIJAC members, Michi Lovejoy was selected to complement the building's design and provide seasonal color year after year. Like the Haiku Garden this sustainable garden—composed primarily of bulbs, shrubs, perennials, and a few carefully spotted ornamental small trees—has been carefully built and constantly tended by volunteers, specifically the Friday Tidies group organized by Ann McCabe, whose many gardening books are read and revered by Northwesterners.

These dedicated gardeners turn out, rain or shine, to keep the plants thriving, the weeds gone before they are established, and the beds enriched. Most of the plants and many needed materials are donated by local companies and dedicated home gardeners.

The Friday Tidies often bring plants from home to exchange with one another as they work, some of these gifts find their way into the library gardens, too. (Enthusiastic gardeners who would like to join the Friday Tidies in their weekly chores are welcome to turn out any Friday, between 9 and 9:30 a.m., at the shed on the east side of the south parking area. Bring your own gloves and tools. Plan to stay until about noon.) Since the 1997 opening of the expanded library building, its parking areas have been enlarged, making room for additional sustainable plant beds. One notable area, which blooms usually from early summer into fall, is the all-pink memorial garden edging the entrance to the parking lot. It was created in memory of Bainbridge Library volunteers who have died from breast cancer.

(Pause a moment to admire this display when it bursts into bloom later this year.)

The sustainable library gardens

When the expanded Bainbridge library was opened to the public in the summer of 1997, small parking areas to the north and south of the building were edged by plants chosen to complement the building's design and provide seasonal color year after year.

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New this spring:

Gail Goodrick, non-fiction collection manager for Klipsop Regional Library, has placed in circulation an outstanding spring crop of new books. Among the most interesting are:

Major: A Black Athlete, A White Era, and the Fight to Be the World's Fastest Human Being, by Todd Ball. When the bicycle was first invented, it was believed to be a major step toward democratization of transportation. Major Taylor was, however, an unlikely star in an era of segregation and bigotry. Like reading about great underdogs? Then this is for you.

Living Like Ed, by Ed Begley, is one of a flood of titles arriving on living "green." Ed is passionate about the environment, and this book is organized on three levels of effort: little changes, not-so-big changes, and big changes.

Dog Man: An Uncommon Life on a Faraway Mountain, by Martha Sherrill, is the story of a man whose passion for dogs led him to save a breed (the read by Northwesterners.

Some choice non-fiction books

Akiya from extinction during World War II. A book for anyone interested in animals and Japanese rural life.

Long After Midnight at the Nino Bien: A Yanqui's Missteps in Argentina, by Brian Winter, is the story of a 22-year-old college grad who tries to live in Latin America and finds himself caught up in the tango culture.

Lucia: A Venetian Life in the Age of Napoleon, by Andrea di Roblante, is the story of the author's great-great-great-grandmother. Lucia was a member of one of the elite families who had ruled Venice for over a thousand years. She married into another elite family; both families included dogses and statesmen and had palaces on the Grand Canal.

But her privileged world changed forever when Venice was conquered first by the French and then by the Austrians. Lucia and her husband survived by turning their home and resources into a hospital for the homeless and resourcefulness and tenacity. Lucia’s letters and journals remain in her family today, and are the basis for this book. 
Islanders celebrate reading with Fahrenheit 451

Hundreds of Bainbridge Islanders spent the chilly months of February and March reading and discussing Ray Bradbury’s Fahrenheit 451.

The Bainbridge Public Library was one of 127 organizations nationwide to participate in The Big Read project sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts. Working with other community organizations, the local library – a branch of the Kitsap Regional Library – sponsored a theatrical reading, an essay competition for students, a public debate, and other events.

While adults warmed up to Bradbury’s thought-provoking book at coffee-house and living-room discussions, students in Bainbridge schools read the book and submitted dozens of essays on the topic.

Winners of the essay contest were Hanna Hupp, 14, in the sixth to eighth grade division, and Leo Burner, 18, among students in grades nine through 12. Each received a $100 certificate redeemable at Eagle Harbor Book Co. Tom Challinor headed the faculty committee which reviewed and judged the essays.

Here are the winning essays:

If You Could Save One Book, Which Book Would You Save?

By HANNA HUPP
Hyla Middle School
Kim Gorman, Teacher

The first thing I notice is the smell. Sharp, acidic fumes twining around a thick cloud of smoke. It curls around the stair-rail, destroying everything in its path. I can’t make my legs move. My mind has turned to a bitter kind of honey – thoughts move slowly, having to fight their way to be heard. All around me are the muted screams of my neighbors, whatever is happening here is happening all around me. So there is no time to think, less time to act. I gather the necessities – the food, the flashlight, the medical supplies. It is hard to know what to bring. No one is ever prepared for something like this to happen. After the essentials are stuffed hastily into my backpack, there is hardly any room left. Only a sliver of space for one more thing.

It is all I feel as I run for living room. I know what I am aiming for – a dark book with a splash of red across the cover – a book I love beyond reason. This is the one book I know I’ll choose above all others. From a practical standpoint, it isn’t the book that is likely to save humankind, to heal people, or make the world stand back and take stock. It isn’t that sort of book at all. It is simply a novel, a young adult novel at that. Maybe it won’t be the book that changes the world, but I know that if I manage to save it, my little corner of the universe will be content. And that is something at least.

But I don’t want any of those to be the only book I save from all the others on the shelf. Maybe someone else would save them, but not me, not now. Now I think what’s important is to have one little speck on the globe be filled with absolute and complete happiness. So I grab that book. Moments before it, too, is taken. There is something about the title that is so very comforting – a bit of hope in the middle of all this fire. Twilight, by Stephanie Meyer – it is so good to see it there. I stuff it in my backpack.

And there, it is saved.

A Book for the People

By LEO BURNER
Winner, Grades 9-12

Any society that has allowed something as invaluable as the written word to be banned without anything less than violent resistance is headed in a direction or has already arrived at a point where George Orwell’s 1984 dystopian society has become a grim reality. The best way to prevent such a totalitarian world from being fully realized would be to warn or shock the people into forcing a change of course away from Big Brother and back towards a more reasonable society. It is fitting that the best book to distribute to a population in order to keep their society from becoming like that of 1984 would be in fact 1984.

1984 gives us a window into what could possibly happen if people passively allow the government to do whatever it wishes and what could happen if government reached the point where the people could not stop it from doing whatever it wishes. Big Brother, the telescreens, and the Thought Police are the symbols of a Totalitarian hell in which any dissension, even as much as in inappropriate facial twitch, is enough to have you imprisoned and tortured until you believe whatever the government wishes you to believe. Reality is not important, only what Big Brother says. In George Orwell’s world, if Big Brother tells you so, 2 + 2 will equal 5.

When George Orwell’s book was written in 1949 the title, 1984, was meant to imply that the events in the book could actually happen if people didn’t take a stand against it. The book was meant as much to be a warning as it was meant to be a grisly fictional tale.

Orwell saw the atrocities being committed in some of the Communist countries; he saw what could happen if such things were left unopposed, so he wrote 1984 in order to show people what could happen and in doing so force them to stop it.

The concept worked well enough in 1949; there should be no reason it shouldn’t work in Fahrenheit 451’s not too-distant future. There is no argument that a society which has not banned the written word is not headed for trouble. Writing has always been the primary form of free communication of thoughts and ideas. It also gives power to those willing to write, power enough to stop a government from doing what it wishes unopposed. In Fahrenheit 451, the problems are apathetic. If they do not care about the government banning writing, why should they care about what the government does next? The government could ban free speech. Why would they care? 1984’s warning would be more effective and entirely more necessary in this fictional future as opposed to 1949. It would at the very least keep a somewhat decent world from turning into Orwell’s dystopia, and with some luck could ignite a spark in the population, encouraging them to change their course entirely, even dispensing with the ban on books.

NEWS BRIEFS

THE BAINBRIDGE Public Library is a One Call for All participant. Remember to check the library on your One Call ballot in the fall.

NO TAXES have ever been levied to pay for the Bainbridge Public Library building and grounds. All building expenses, including annual maintenance and operation, come from donations. (Your taxes do, however, pay for Kitsap Regional Library expenses like staff salaries and circulating materials.)

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Fahrenheit 451 author Ray Bradbury
—Sketch by John Sherffius

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Fahrenheit 451 author Ray Bradbury
—Sketch by John Sherffius

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Highway 305 and High School Road
The Bainbridge Library Board and members of the staff hosted the annual library donors’ party in March to thank the hundreds of Island residents and friends who donated funds and services to the library during 2007. Music was provided, as usual, by local young musicians. The people whose names are listed below gave generously as others have for decades so that the Bainbridge Public Library was able once again to maintain a beautiful building and gardens without any tax money. This past year, as every year since the first central library building was constructed here in 1962, citizens paid for its upkeep—and many special levies (though King County’s General Library tax money is used for staff salaries, circulating books and other items).

Next time you stop by the library, consider saying a quiet thank you to your friends and neighbors listed below. And if you’d like to join them, we’ll suggest a number of ways in which you can give to the library in a future issue of the Library News.

The Bainbridge donors in 2007

Spring 2008
On the Llangollen Canal

By BARBARA WINTHER

When the Industrial Revolution in England picked up speed in the late 18th century, many roads were still unsurfaced, often muddy and impassable. Manufacturers needed a reliable and economic way to transport their goods. To solve the problem, Britain developed a nationwide network of canals. Whereas a horse and cart on a road could at best carry two tons of cargo, a horse-drawn barge on a waterway could carry 30 tons and do it faster at half the price. A golden age of canal transportation emerged. However, by mid-20th century, newer means of transport proved more efficient. Today, Britain’s canals are only used for recreation.

Grant and I had heard that the Llangollen Canal passed through beautiful English countryside as it wound its way to Wales. So, we and another couple, George and Mary Ann, rented a 57-foot-long canal boat in Nantwich. Due to the narrow width of canals, boats can be no wider than six feet to allow for passing, so our long, thin, metal boat looked sort of like a torpedo.

First day aboard

After an introductory lesson on how to run the boat, we stowed our food in the well-equipped kitchen and checked the rest of the interior. A Victorian sofa preceded us from reaching the two bedrooms without climbing over it or going outside and skipping the deck. We exchanged the sofa with an equally uncomfortable chair under the window. Now the chair stood in our way. We set the chair on the sofa. It fell off. We considered putting the chair in the shower. It wouldn’t fit. We ended up carrying the sofa and chair to the office and leaving them with the astonished man behind the desk. Two other problems arose that day. First, if we four wanted to sit together at the table, we had to raise both leaves, which meant the table filled the center of the cabin. This allowed two people to sit at each side, but if Grant or Mary Ann wanted to go to the bathroom, they had to crawl under the table first. The other problem was the heater. It sounded like a jet blasting off, and within 15 minutes we sweltered. By the end of that first day, we had made three decisions that simplified our two-week boat trip: we got rid of the unnecessary furniture, we would raise the table leaves only at dinnertime, and use the heater only if it snowed.

First day on the canal

The following morning at dawn we left the dock, George at the tiller. While Mary Ann and I sipped our coffee, Grant studied the canal map. “To reach the Llangollen Canal,” he intoned, “we go up through Harleston Locks. It’s close by.” At that moment we reached a stretch of water where two canals joined. “The locks!” Grant shouted, pointing left. “There. Make a sharp turn.”

While Mary Ann and I sipped our coffee, Grant studied the canal map. “To reach the Llangollen Canal,” he intoned, “we go up through Harleston Locks. It’s close by.” At that moment we reached a stretch of water where two canals joined. “The locks!” Grant shouted, pointing left. “There. Make a sharp turn.”

What we didn’t realize was that a 57-foot-long, narrow boat cannot make a sharp turn. You must anticipate and ease into it. Our boat crashed headlong into the opposite canal bank. We bounced back, and then hit the bank again, this time at an angle. At last, the turn made, Grant leaped ashore with the winch handle, and George eased the boat into the narrow space ahead. Then we bounced back, and then anticipated and eased into it. Our boat crashed headlong into the opposite canal bank. We bounced back, and then hit the bank again, this time at an angle. At last, the turn made, Grant leaped ashore with the winch handle, and George eased the boat into the narrow space ahead. Then

Library Hours

Mon / Tues / Wed 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Thurs 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Fri 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sat / Sun 1 to 5 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
Other Departments 1-877-883-9900

Books on waterways

Canals of England, Martin Marix Evans—descriptions of Britain’s canals.
European Waterways, Marian Martin—canal manual, explaining signs, symbols, rules and regulations.
Through the French Canals, David Jefferson—guide to waterways in France.
Where the Wild Thyme Blows, Jeannie Johnson—novel about worsening conditions for boatmen on Britain’s canals after WWII.

In the days when barges were towed, horses were unhitched at a tunnel, and men lay on their backs atop their cargo, raised their feet to the tunnel roof and stepped the boat through. All we had to do was turn on the headlight, toot our horn and, since tunnels are narrow, hope we didn’t meet an oncoming boat, necessitating backing out.

We crossed two aqueducts, the most exciting being the tall Pontcysylite with its slender masonry towers. This aqueduct is an engineering marvel but frightening to pass for anyone who doesn’t like heights. Although the water trough on top has a narrow tow path on one side, the other side has nothing. There we were, floating across in a boat, 120 feet above the ground. What a view!

At the end of the canal sits Llangollen, a town in Wales. It was full of tourists when we arrived, but we found it interesting to wander around and listen to locals speak their complex language. Woolen sweaters and wood carvings were the best buys. As we leisurely retraced our route on the canal back to Nantwich, I was glad to have the warmth of a new sweater, and I knew the hibiscus-wood frog I purchased from a Welsh carver would be a good memory of a fine trip.