Stefanie Graen joins staff as teen services librarian

Stefanie Graen, the new teens’ librarian for Bainbridge Island, has been on the job only a few weeks, but already she feels at home on the Island.

“I am looking forward to meeting more of the Island teens and getting to know them, hearing about library programs they are interested in, and of course, what they are reading,” she said. (“For what she’s been reading, and more, see page 7.”)

Stefanie grew up in Minnesota and moved to Seattle almost four years ago. During that time she received her master’s degree in library and information science at the University of Washington and worked for the Seattle Public Library as a student librarian.

She’s worked as an assistant to Nancy Pearl, researching reader requests for Nancy’s radio show, and in the King County Library System in their outreach department. While studying to become a librarian, she also helped to organize a successful school youth conference.

Now she’s getting to know the Kitsap Regional Library system and the area it serves.

“I absolutely love this area, and can’t wait to explore more of Kitsap County,” she said.

Meanwhile, of course, she’s reading, checking out the latest books for young people. Among her favorites for teens are The Last Letter series by Anna Godbersen, The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins, and anything by Chris Crutcher.

Her first impression of Bainbridge Island?

“It is clear that the Bainbridge community loves its library, and I feel so lucky to be working here.”

Stefanie is replacing Susan Thorsteinson, who has retired after years of service in the Kitsap Regional Library system.

What’s your favorite poem?

April is National Poetry Month and to celebrate, the Bainbridge Public Library will host a Favorite Poem Reading Saturday, April 10, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Favorite Poem readings were begun in 1997 as a national project led by the Outreach Department of the National Federation of State Library Systems in their outreach department.

Each selected reader will have up to five minutes to read a poem and explain its personal connection.

Three well-known local poets will describe their favorite poems. John Wilson, a bookseller at Eagle Harbor Book Company, conducts poetry workshops for the park district and his poems are widely published in literary journals and anthologies. He has won a Pushcart Prize, awards from the Academy of American Poets, and an excerpt from a Willson poem appears on the mural at the Bainbridge Island Aquatic Center.

He said he has many favorite poems, and cited as one example Theodore Roethke’s “In a Dark Time”.

“This is a poem for anyone who has faced a dark time—and that’s all of us, to varying degrees—a poem that serves as a balm and source of courage. From time to time I give this poem to people who have lost a friend or loved one.”

Nancy Rekow, long-time Islander and widely published poet, works as a freelance teacher, editor, private tutor, and editorial consultant. She leads a long-running workshop for poets and prose writers and has self-published a book of poems, Enchantment of the Sea, and serves as a mentor for local poets.

She recently co-hosted a workshop for poets and prose writers and has self-published a book of poems, Enchantment of the Sea, and serves as a mentor for local poets.

Stefanie Graen — Photo by Rebecca Jeal

Share it with others on April 10

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Bainbridge Public Library, 1270 Madison Ave. N, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
Spring 2010

Mark your calendar

These events take place in the library unless otherwise stated.

MARCH 1-31
- On exhibit in the meeting room: Peg Deam, "St. Patrick's Day: a visual history"; "Irish Proverbs and Mottos".

MARCH 1-31
- AARP Tax Assistance: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Monday evenings 5:30-7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 8
- Art & Art History book group 7-9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10
- Low Vision Support Group 1-3 p.m.
- Mindful Film Group: "A Stranger Named Desire" (1951), Film & discussion 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13
- Friends of the Library Book sale 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 16
- Sensor Center book discussion (170 Begin Dr.): "River of Doubt" by Candace Millard 1 p.m. Copies available at the library.
- CLICK! Computer Class: Internet 201, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Pre-register at the Bainbridge Library.
- Field's End Writers' Roundtable: Anthony Flacco presents "From the Screen in Your River of Doubt by Candice Millard, 1 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18
- Travelogue: "Peru" with Anne Greeott, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19
- Club Cervantes de Lectores (Spanish Book Club): La Nudo Cordiano by Zoe Valdez (Cuba), 7 p.m. Island Way Building.
- Jib Search Workshop, presented by Jeannie Rice, 10-11:30 a.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20
- Great Decisions at the Library: "U.S. and China Security Relations" 9-10:30 a.m.
- Co-sponsored by BIAHC.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23
- Friends of the Library Book Sale 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25
- Club Cervantes de Lectores (Spanish Book Club): La Nudo Cordiano by Zoe Valdez (Cuba), 7 p.m. Island Way Building.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26
- Field Search Workshop, presented by Jeannie Rice, 10-11:30 a.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 27
- Great Decisions at the Library: "The Persian Gulf War" 9-10:30 a.m.
- Co-sponsored by BIAHC.

TUESDAY, MARCH 30
- Online Search Workshop, presented by Jeannie Rice, 10-11:30 a.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30
- Great Decisions at the Library: "Kenya & RPF" 9-10:30 a.m.
- Co-sponsored by BIAHC.

SUNDAY, APRIL 4
- Library closed for Easter holiday.

MONDAY, APRIL 5
- National Poetry Month special event: Book discussion with Cindy Harrison, "The Wild Brad" by Stanley Kunitz, 1 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7
- Bainbridge Library Book Group: Ursula, Fleder by Ingrid Hill 7 p.m.
- Copies available at the library.

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Mark your calendar

SATURDAY, APRIL 10
• Friends of the Library Book Sale 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10
• National Poetry Month special event: Four Poets Reading: 3:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 11
• Behind the Score: “From the New World” with Bainbridge Symphony Orchestra. Music Director David Upham and musical excerpts from the spring program. 5 p.m. Co-sponsored by BPA.

MONDAY, APRIL 12
• A Good Yarn knitting and book group 7-9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14
• Low Impact Design Group (LID) 1-3 p.m.
• Island Film Group: “Adam’s Rib” (1949). Film & discussion 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 16
• Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society: Workshop on “Working with the Census” 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17
• Island Theatre at the Library presents “Yellowface.” By Red Hong Yi. Directed by Black Hand.” By Dael Orlandersmith. 3 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 18
• Island Theatre – Repeat performance 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19
• National Poetry Month special event: The Poetry of Sharon Olds, moderated by Neil Baker. 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20
• Senior Center Book Discussion (370 Brian Dr) Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon. Copies available at the library.

• Field’s End Writers’ Roundtable: Kelli Russell Agodon presents “What constitutes a good poem?” 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22
• Club Cervantino de Lectores (Spanish language) with Romina L. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23
• May 1st Art Walk. Reception with Mary Rowland. Whimsical garden paintings.

SATURDAY, MAY 1
• Seattle Opera Preview with Norm Hollingshead: “Amelia” by Darin Acron. Hug 3 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 2
• Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society: Workshop on “Working with the Census” 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

• Seattle Opera Preview with Norm Hollingshead: “Amelia” by Darin Acron. Hug 3 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 2
• Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society: Workshop on “Working with the Census” 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 10
• A Good Yarn knitting and book group 7-9 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 13
• Botox for Eyelids and Forehead 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 20
• Botox for Eyelids and Forehead 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 24
• Botox for Eyelids and Forehead 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 25
• Botox for Eyelids and Forehead 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 29
• Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society: Workshop on “Working with the Census” 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 1
• Botox for Eyelids and Forehead 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 3
• Botox for Eyelids and Forehead 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5
• Seattle Opera Preview with Norm Hollingshead: “Amelia” by Darin Acron. Hug 3 p.m.

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One spring we traveled to the small town of Okitsu and stayed at the Minaguchi-ya, a Japanese inn (ryokan) that dates back to 1592. It was our first trip to Japan. We had chosen this inn to experience the traditional culture that had disappeared in most of the country. 

Located on the old Tokaido Road, the inn was one of fifty-three stages where travelers could rest during the 310-mile journey by palanquin, horseback or foot between Tokyo, known then as Edo, and Kyoto. The road became world famous after Japanese woodblock artist Hiroshige created exquisite landscape prints of all stages. In modern times, travelers reach Okitsu from Tokyo by automobile or a local train. We opted for the train. Although Grant and I had studied the Japanese language for a year before taking this trip, we couldn’t read the characters on Japanese signs. A gentleman standing next to us on the crowded train suggested we count the number of stops from Tokyo to Okitsu. We weren’t sure how many to count. Was the first stop where the man spoke to us included? We were too embarrassed to ask. Besides, not being fluent in the language, often when people replied in a flood of Japanese, we lost it all.

As we reached what we hoped was the town, Grant shouted, “Sumimasen, (excuse me) Okitsu?” A number of passengers answered, “Hai” (yes). We jumped off the train into a pouring rainstorm. We must have looked funny—obviously confused Americans with no umbrellas or raincoats, wearing grungy looking backpacks and baseball caps.

Not knowing the location of the Miniguchi-ya, we thought it best to take a taxi. Nearby was a car with the back door open. We ran for it, leaped inside and Grant cried, “Minaguchi-ya, okadai!” (Minaguchi inn, please). “Hai, hai,” said the man in the driver’s seat. In less than ten minutes we were in front of the establishment. Leaning forward, Grant said to the driver, “Rata de rei?” (How much is it?). “I not taxi,” the man replied. He rushed out, opened our door and stood there in the rain, bowing to us.

We stumbled from the back seat, realizing we had jumped into a private car, assuming it was a taxi. Perhaps the man had been at the station waiting for a friend. Maybe his friend still stood on the platform, weeping, wondering why he hadn’t been picked up. “Sumimasen,” we both said in unison, feeling sheepish. Although we offered him money, he would not accept it. We bowed profusely, backing into the inn’s entrance. He smiled, gave us a final bow, climbed into his car and drove away.

As we started to walk into the inn, an old man with a face like carved leather rose majestically from a corner bench. Beside him were rows of shoes arranged neatly on shelves. The old man gestured at our feet. I whispered to Grant, “We’re supposed to remove our shoes.”

“Oops, Sumimasen.”

“Sumimasen,” I echoed and bowed. The shoe guardian bowed back and handed each of us a pair of slipper-socks (tabi). A kimonodored lady led us to a tatami-floored room with a view of the garden. Hot, wet towels, a pot of green tea, two cups without handles and two almond cookies awaited us on a low table. She indicated the neatly folded yukatan (cotton robes) on nearby cushions. Then, after kneeling and bowing outside our shoji-screened room, she disappeared.

That night, dressed in our yukatas and feeling part of another world, we ate an elegant Japanese dinner served in our room. Afterwards we took baths in an extremely hot, deep, wooden tub and went to bed on futons, the mattresses laid on the straw-matted floor. Before we fell asleep, we heard the “clackity-clackity” sounds of storm shutters being rolled around the outside of the inn, an ancient tradition from Tokaido days.

We have returned three times to Japan, always lodging at ryokans where floors are tatami-matted, doors shoji-screened and beds futons. Unfortunately, the Minaguchi-ya closed a few years ago, but other traditional inns can still be found through the Japan Ryokan Association.

We try to be careful when visiting Japan not to make cultural blunders as we did on that first trip. Even so, whenever unsure of the etiquette we say Sumimasen and always make certain to bow.

Books about Japanese traditional life

A Year in Japan, by Kate Williamson—as a post graduate student, this New York illustrator and writer drew pictures and kept a diary detailed with Japanese customs and sights.

Back Roads to Far Towns, by Bash Matsuo—English translation and explanatory notes by Cid Comson and Susumu Kamiuaki of the poet Bash’s travel journal written in Edo times.

Hiroshige: Japan’s Great Landscape Artist, by Oka Isaburo—about the famous ukiyo-e (woodblock) artist with color reproductions, including “Fifty-three Stages of the Tokaido.”

Japanese Inn, by Oliver Statler—a wonderful account of the history of the Minaguchi-ya. Although not in Kitsap Library’s catalog, the book can be obtained on inter-library loan or copies purchased via the internet.

The Bainbridge Public Library has a large selection of books on Japanese art (dewey number, 709.52), history (952), and travel (915.2). For helping find these and other titles, stop by the information desk and the librarians will be happy to get you started.
Welcome spring with books starring special gardens

By VERDA AVERILL
Library News Editor

With spring just days away, this seems a good time to celebrate the beauty of our gardens with some new, or old favorite, books.

Not just how-to-garden books, though you’ll find plenty of them at our library, but books in which gardens play a key role – if not as stars, at least as supporting players.

Reference librarian Julie O’Neill has found some fascinating volumes that focus on both people and gardens. Any of them would provide a great escape from rainy spring days. (No matter how much we may love pruning and scooping up soggy leaves, sometimes spring rains do discourage us from sloshing around outdoors.)

By the way, on your next library visit, take a good look at the building grounds. You’ll see lots of new color and, if you arrive on a Friday, hard-working garden volunteers. The Friday Tidies turn out ‘round, rain or shine.

Pets make a difference

This is the first Library News of 2010 and we’re still working our way through the piles of books received during the holidays. One that I couldn’t miss – I actually received two copies – is the touching story of Dewey, The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World.

You may recall that Martha Bayley reviewed this winner briefly in a recent talk, but even her enthusiastic recommendation didn’t prepare me for the heart-warming, five-handkerchief story. It’s non-fiction that reads like riveting fiction, a page-turner you won’t be able to put down – even to feed your own cat, dog, or bunny.

We don’t have a library cat on Bainbridge, but more than once we’ve had gentle dogs here to make reading even more fun for children. The photo on this page was taken last year, but I wouldn’t be surprised to see more dogs visiting this year. (We’ll keep you posted on summer reading in our June Library News.)

Recent authors lost

The end of 2009 brought the usual news of notable authors passing, too many to list.

But already this year, we’ve lost two of my favorites: Robert B. Parker and Dick Francis. Like many readers, I’ve grabbed every new Parker book as it hit the shelves and find it hard to believe that there’ll be no more tales of Spenser, the tough, funny PI, and his pals Susan and Hawk. (I’m not the only one who’ll miss him. On a recent visit to the Little Boston Library I noticed a small memorial exhibit of his books.)

I will also miss Dick Francis, who wrote dozens of books on horse racing in England. I don’t ride horses, or attend many races. But there was something about Francis’s clean, spare prose and carefully constructed plots that hooked me every time.

They will be missed.

Readers with a dog in the young people’s library are Campbell Hawk (left) and Elena Rowe. The dog, Arayu Carpenter, was a familiar presence in the library last year. Will this summer bring a return of the popular reading-with-dogs sessions? Check the summer Library News to find out.

Photo by Karen Carpenter

To our readers:

Many thanks to all our donors

The Bainbridge Public Library is able to exist because of the generous donors in our community. To each of you, I want to give thanks.

Our books, computers, and staff are all provided by Kitsap Regional Library, which receives our library tax dollars for this purpose. But the building itself was built and is maintained by donations from the Bainbridge community. Your support makes it possible for the library to keep the lights bright, the heat on, the custodians employed, and the gardens maintained, either through One Call for All gifts or donations given directly to the Bainbridge Public Library.

The One Call list is being gathered as this issue of the Library News goes to press. Please look for our complete listing of all 2009 donors to BPL in the summer issue. In the meantime, our sincere gratitude for your support.

Delight Willing
Bainbridge Public Library Board President

2010 brings new staff to the Bainbridge Library

By REBECCA JUDD
Bainbridge Branch Manager

Islanders know that when they come to the library, they’re likely to see someone they know. It might be a neighbor from down the street, a friend from a book group, or a library employee who always knows your name (and what you like to read)! This year, we are pleased to introduce you to three new members of our public library team:

Stefanie Graen comes to us as a recent library school graduate with a special passion for teen library service. You’ll see her often in the teen area and also at the upstairs information desk, researching your question or helping you find your next book.

Kip Bankart is a long-time Islander, a member of the Bainbridge chorale, and our new Bainbridge Library custodian. If your meeting room event is set up just the way you like it, you’ll know that Kip has been there. We love the way our library looks clean and spotless since he’s been with us.

Tressa Johnson, the recent recipient of the Cindy Lord Harrison scholarship fund is currently in library school at the University of Washington. When she’s not busy writing papers or studying for exams, you may spot her at the information desk in her new position as a library associate substitute. Tressa also maintains our outside reader board, changing events up to three times a week.

Next time you are at the library, please extend a warm welcome to our new library staff.

NEWS BRIEFS

The Friday Tidies have been taking care of the library grounds for over ten years. New volunteers are always welcome and are sure to learn many new gardening tips from Ann Lovejoy, Anne Seeley, and the rest of the crew. To volunteer, bring your gardening gloves and trowel and come to the library parking lot at 9:30 a.m. on any Friday. Professional landscaping groups who would be willing to donate one Friday morning of work each year are also needed. For more information, contact Rebecca Judd at 842-4162.

DID YOU KNOW that you can download e-books, audiobooks, and music using your library card with the library’s new Overdrive service?

HAVE YOU TRIED the express checkout now at the Bainbridge branch library and throughout most Kitsap Regional Library branches?
The Gentleman from Finland comes to KRL

By VERDA AVERILL, Editor
The Library News

Bob Goldstein isn’t exactly your typical chief financial officer. He may be, in fact, better known in this county full of published writers and active book groups as *The Gentleman from Finland*, author of an award-winning, best-selling, non-fiction travel book.

But he is also the chief financial officer of the Kitsap Regional Library, with nine branch libraries serving the citizens of Kitsap County from Hansville on the north to Manchester in the south. Kitsap library patrons give him much of the credit for the county library system’s sustainable budget with minimal cutbacks (and no staff layoffs)—even during a recession which has caused massive cuts in larger regional libraries’ services. (See KRL director Jill Jean’s column on Page 5.)

Goldstein and Jean have worked together before—at the Seattle Public Library, where he was chief financial officer from July 1999 to May 2005 and oversaw the financial management of the $165 million downtown central library, four new branch libraries, and the renovation and expansion of 21 branch libraries.

“Aafter substantial completion of the capital program I retired to devote more time to volunteer activities, my consulting business, and writing,” he said.

The result was publication of *The Gentleman from Finland*, a long-delayed account of his adventures in 1987 on the Trans-Siberian Express.

As a child growing up near the railroad tracks in Santa Clara, California, Goldstein fell in love with trains, and 25 years later, set off on a trip through Russia holding a voucher that mistakenly identified him as a Finn. A short, dark-skinned Mexican-American, Russian Jew, he spoke only enough Russian to identify himself as Bob, a tourist from America. But to those he met along the way, he remained “the gentleman from Finland”.

The trip, which began as fulfillment of a childhood dream, became a journey with a cast of characters worthy of a Russian novel.

Historical anecdotes are blended with stories of his family’s past in czarist Russia, in a tale that is sometimes laugh-out-loud funny and sometimes poignant. Book reviewers were generous with their praise. Lorian Hemingway wrote, “Goldstein’s witty, artfully observed memoir of an amazing journey illustrates not only the stark beauty and ‘invisible menace’ of Siberia but the often conflicted heart and mind of the author himself, who is as much a character as the thuggish black-marketers, hyperactive bureaucrats, and eccentric fellow travelers he describes so well.”

Nancy Pearl, librarian and author of *Book Last: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment, and Reason*, said, “I loved meeting the gentleman from Finland, Mother Russia, and all the other curious and compelling characters Bob encountered on this surely epic journey. A perfect read for fans of Paul Theroux and Bill Bryson’s travel memoirs.”

Goldstein had postponed writing the book for years, while he was CFO of the Seattle Public Library. With more time for his writing, he not only completed the book, but established his own publishing company—and *The Gentleman from Finland* was both a critical and a financial success.

He gives great credit to his writers’ group for keeping him focused on the writing and rewriting necessary to complete the book. Personal appearances at bookstores helped sell it, and a Pacific Northwest Writers Association award didn’t hurt sales.

Today, *The Gentleman from Finland* is part of the book group collection of the Kitsap Regional Library. Groups interested in checking out copies may do so through any of the branches.

For those readers who have enjoyed reading, and rereading, Goldstein’s first travel book, there’s good news ahead. His second adventure story set in the north, *Riding with Reindeer*, is due out—probably early in 2010.

Meanwhile, he’s crunching numbers and working at familiar tasks, guiding the county’s libraries through budgets and long-term development plans.

(Editors note: As the Library News was going to press we received word that Goldstein’s new book was in its final proofreading and scheduled for a press run of its own. Look for it soon in bookstores and the library.)

What links Verdi’s Il Trovatore, The Economist, and long-time support for the library?

By CHARLES BROWNE, President
Bainbridge Island Friends of the library

The common link among the above three seemingly unconnected items is your Bainbridge Island Friends of the Library (FOL).

In 2009, in sharp contrast to the national economy, the Friends had a great year, generating more income than ever before to support the Bainbridge Island Library. And those three items in the title are examples of the many things for which FOL provided funding.

Ever since there has been a public library on Bainbridge Island, people have banded together as volunteers to work in support of our library. A most interesting read is the Rolling Bay Library Association meeting minutes from 1951 onwards. Those community-minded individuals provided support to that library with Silver Teas, book discussion groups, lectures, and rummage sales.

Today, in the midst of difficult economic times, the idea of community volunteers in support of the library hasn’t changed.

Did you realize that the physical “house” for our community library is owned by the community, maintained and managed by a dedicated volunteer board of directors, and supported solely by community donations? Like most non-profit organizations, Bainbridge Public Library is subject to the ups and downs of donations—those which are influenced by many factors out of their control. To bring a small measure of constant funding to BPL, the Bainbridge FOL in 2007 used part of their income and savings to establish a perpetual endowment with an initial donation of $100,000. Throughout 2008 and 2009 the Friends continued to contribute to the endowment adding an additional $110,000. It is perhaps the single item the Friends are most proud of.

How can each of you, as our community, help our small group of enthusiastic volunteers generate income to continue these and many other programs? First, if you haven’t been to one of our book sales (three times each month), please drop by and browse for the wonderful bargains we have offered. Second, when your book shelves at home are overflowing, bring us your gently used books (or DVDs, music CDs, VHS tapes, and recent magazines). That’s what we do. We take the generous donations of a wonderful community and recycle those valuable books, tapes, movies, and music right back out into the community. Everything we make goes

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Continued on Page 8

Robert Goldstein

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- Dr. Elizabeth Bell, DDS
- Dr. Nicholas Thompson, DMD

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Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
(206) 842-4794 for appointments

Spring 2010

Books and activities
for young people
and their families

Follow the Reader:
A storyteller’s treasure chest

By ED SHERIDAN

I don’t really know how I became a storyteller. I have three theories.

1. My ancestors were Irish and it’s in my blood.

2. My mother introduced me through the world of books to exotic characters, such as Per Giny and the Bremen Town Musicians.

3. That’s where my love of folktales began. Later as a young father I read the old stories and made up new ones for our three children.

*Then there was that mysterious treasure chest of books that I found in my branch library in Providence, RI. Each story I discovered was worth its weight in gold.

Once I moved to Bainbridge Island 15 years ago I carried within me a dream of becoming a storyteller. I had the passion and vision, but my collections of storybooks had all been given away to our grown children. As I slowly began to tell stories in elementary schools on Bainbridge and North Kitsap and found teachers that shared my passion for this ancient way of learning, I found a new treasure chest of books at our Bainbridge Island Library.

Here are some of my favorite authors.

- Margaret Read MacDonald: Type in her name in the online catalog and you’ll find scores of books. There are several collections of participation stories for younger kids, spooky stories for older children, a parent’s guide to storytelling, and many storybooks from other cultures. A great favorite of mine is Little Rooster’s Diamond Button (K–2).

- Verna Aardema: The author is a master storyteller and has a great passion for collecting and retelling folktales from Africa. She has written and illustrated storybooks about buzzing mosquitoes, Anansi the spider, and so many more. Missou: Once Upon a Time Tales from Africa is my favorite. The illustrations are vibrant, and the 12 stories provide a fascinating introduction to African culture. It contains the story of “Leecey Gomp” and I often tell it to younger audiences. Its main character is a little girl with superhuman strength who got the best of leopards, elephant and the rest of the animals, except for the wise snail.

- Joseph Bruchac: There are a number of story collections and environmental books that have been written by this Native American author and storyteller of Abenaki heritage. In fact there are 58 of them in the KRL collection. One that I often reach for is a collection of Native American tales of terror, When the Cheno Howls, and the title story is one that I enjoy telling to third graders. I also am quite impressed with the Keepers of the Animals, Native American Stories and Wildlife Activities for Children. I would describe this as a reference book for families that interweaves 24 animal folktales with specific wildlife activities for children.

Each family creates its own treasure chest of stories. Why do we love these stories so much? They are certainly part of our early family life and in important ways bind us together through memories and ancient wisdom.

Caldecott and Newbery winners

By CARMINE RAY
Youth Services Librarian

January is book awards time for the American Library Association and causes a great deal of excitement, fanfare and hoopla. Admittedly, I get giddy in the weeks running up to the announcement of winners. There are many different awards given for many different categories, but the two big youth awards are the Caldecott, for best picture book of the year, and the Newbery for most distinguished juvenile book.

This year I had a chance to share some of my guidance with the 5th graders at Carden Country School where we held a ‘Mock-Caldecott’ election to select the best illustrated book of the year. This astute bunch selected their winner and days later it was announced that the national Caldecott committee was in agreement. The award for best illustrated picture book of the year goes to Jerry Pinkney’s The Lion and the Mouse. It is a gorgeous wordless version of the classic Aesop’s fable in warm-hued watercolors. Not to be missed are two runners up this year, All the World by Elizabeth Safarian and Red Sings from Treetops by Joyce Sidman.

And for the older crowd, this year’s Newbery winner was When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead, in which 12-year-old Miranda navigates 1970s New York, changing friendships and strange occurrences including mysterious notes and the rest of the animals, except for the wise snail.

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**Teen Readers’ Corner**

**New and notable books for young adults**

By STEFANIE GRAEN
Teen Services Librarian

**The Big Splash** by Jack Ferraiolo. Ignore the ugly cover, and check this book out if you like a thrilling (but very funny) Whodunit. Seventh-grade PI Matt Stevens has tried to stay away from Vinnie Biggs, Franklin Middle School’s eighth-grade version of Al Capone. (Kids who cross Vinnie will get the front of their pants soaked by one of his watergun-toting assassins.) But when Vinnie offers Matt big bucks for a seemingly easy case, Matt takes it and suddenly finds himself in the line of fire. Grades 5-9

**Columnine,** by Dave Cullen, is topping all of the charts and according to Sarah M, teen volunteer extraordinaire, this is one of the best nonfiction books she’s ever read. Cullen, an award-winning journalist, looks past all the well-known media stories to tell what drove Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold to murder their classmates and teachers and the effect the killings had on the town. This is a nonfiction book that reads like fiction—but unfortunately isn’t. Grades 9/10-Adult

**The Killing Sea,** by Richard Lewis, is a fictional account of two teens thrust together in the wake of the devastating 2004 tsunami. Sarah, an American tourist visiting Indonesia with her family, fails to notice Ruslan, a local boy, in their first encounter. But when the tsunami hits, tragedy strikes both of their families and the two join together on a horrifying journey for survival to search for their loved ones. A great pick for fans of survival adventures. Grades 6-12

**Life Sucks** by Jessica Abel, Gabriel Soria, and Warren Pleece. Even if you’re one of those people who’s tired of hearing about vampires, Life Sucks is a new spin that will have you laughing. The main character is a vampire named Dave, whose life sucks—his boss (Dave’s vampire master) thinks Dave is pathetic because he gets his blood from a blood bank. Plus, he’s in love with a human Goth-girl who he can’t have for obvious reasons. This graphic novel is full of witty, nicely-written characters and illustrations that perfectly complement the story. Grades 8-12

**Life Is Glorious** by Noah Scalin. For generations, the women in Lucy’s family have been under a horrible curse when they turn 17. Without exception, they become pregnant and forced to complete three seemingly impossible tasks or fall into madness after the birth of their children. So far, none of them have succeeded—and Lucy has just turned 17. This captivating novel will appeal to lovers of suspense, romance, and fantasy. Grades 9-12

**Teen Advisory Board**
The library is starting a Teen Advisory Board, which will be a group of 7th-12th graders who advise the library staff on teen programming, books, and trends. The group will meet once a month. Please contact Stefanie (sgraen@krl.org or 842-4162 x9805) or talk to any of the librarians if you have questions or want to join.

**Teen Tech Week comes to Bainbridge Library**

Teen Tech Week 2010 is March 7-13! The 2010 theme — Learn Create Share at your library — fosters teen creativity and showcases the many types of technology available at the library, including DVDs, music, gaming, video production, online homework help, social networking, tech workshops, audiobooks and more.

The library will host an open gaming night for teens, March 11 from 3-5 p.m. Free snacks! Any teens interested in volunteering for the event should contact Stefanie Graen at sgraen@krl.org. You can get service hours!

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**Happy Spring!**

**May your family be happy and healthy all year long!**

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**Spring 2010**

**Young people**
Meet Jordan Taylor: Her muse has a wet nose

By SUSAN WIGGS

Jordan Taylor is a self-proclaimed binge writer and an expert on dogs in film. Her collection of canine movie memorabilia includes over 400 pieces dating from the 1920s to current releases. She trains dogs for film and print media as well as producing her own shorts. Bainbridge has been her home for the past 10 years. At 23, she is the youngest published author to be profiled in these pages. She sounds like a born writer.

“I was homeschooled and grew up in North Bend with the King County Library System. Our library was my classroom. We were there nearly every day and had so many library books and audiobooks at home we had a dedicated bookshelf for them.”

Surrounded by all those books, she naturally gravitated to writing.

“My writing background is all fiction. I wrote my first novel when I was 16. I’m now 23 and have written two more novels, as well as several novellas and screenplays. Wonder Dogs is the only nonfiction project I have ever attempted and it was a challenge, though ultimately very rewarding.”

Her beautifully-illustrated book is a fascinating and detailed compendium of 101 movie dogs, from 1921 to the present. Her one-of-a-kind project is a labor of love.

“Inspiration came from the dogs themselves,” Jordan explains. “I started researching dogs in movies when I was 11 years old and decided I wanted to train dogs in film for a living. German Shepherds had long been my favorite breed and they have also been in more films than any other dogs. By the time I actually sat down to begin writing the book, I already had much of the research material on hand.”

Her favorite dog movie is Flake, from 1995.

“It’s not a German Shepherd movie,” she points out, “but the performance by the dog, a Golden Retriever named Comet in real life, is really phenomenal. The Journey of Natty Gann would be a close second. My favorite of the films featured in Wonder Dogs is probably We Think the World of You, which is a British movie from 1988.”

Jordan’s favorite dog books include The Plague Dogs by Richard Adams.

“It changed my life, and it’s still my favorite book. The books that shaped my own training and the way I think of dogs more than any others are The Dog Who Loved Too Much by Dr. Nicholas Dodman, and The Hidden Life of Dogs by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas. Also, A Good Dog by Jon Katz, and Puppies, Dogs, and Blue Northers by Gary Paulsen.

Readers can learn much more about Jordan at her web site: www.jordantaylorbooks.com.

Book review:

He’s catching a frigate to LaMancha

By JOSE O. GONZALEZ

Someone, somewhere said there is no frigate like a book to take us to faraway lands.

When I first read it years ago, this line was just that – a line without a hook.

That was before I invested 50 cents at a local library book sale and met Don Quixote. Then I understood.

(That was when I found a store of proverbs and sayings, just like my peasant kinfolk back in the old country, Texas.)

Don Quixote turned out to be one madman with mojo. Never in my life have I had so much fun, nor laughed so loudly and unexpectedly.

By the same talented translator, Samuel putnam. god bless the Friends of the Library. (I paid a dollar this time.)

Imagine my surprise, 20 years later, when last month I ran into Don Quixote once again in a similar paperback by the same talented translator, Samuel Putnam.

“Quixotic strain. I think those who don’t, wish they did. It’s been said that the brain confers life to words. Don Quixote confirms this. He could deploy words like nobody I know. He owned every silver lining in every dark cloud. No matter what the buffeting, he never stayed down.”

“Don Quixote was very kind to me. He took me to parties, taverns, treks across the sierra. He included me in countless debates, trysts, and bloody altercations. He taught me to square off to life, to smile through the tears. I very much admired him. I think I understand the man.”

The library’s popular travelogue series continues this spring and will be resumed in September. (No lectures are planned for summer, when many Islanders are traveling.)

The evenings are co-sponsored by The Traveler bookstore and the Bainbridge Library.

Spring topics include “Peru” with Anne Grecott (March 17); “India” with Pam Perry (April 21), and “Walking in France” with Neil Baker (May 19). Watch for the fall schedule in the September Library News.

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Travel talks continue in spring and fall

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“When one door closes, two windows open,” I can almost hear him say. (His creator, the courageous Miguel Cervantes, also lived a life fraught with incidents.)

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“I’ll cut this short, because I have a frigate to catch. I’m headed for the plains of La Mancha, for a second time.

(Editor’s note: The Library News welcomes stories from readers who have discovered favorite authors’ works at library book sales. Please keep the length to 300-400 words, and drop off at the Library News mailbox in the library.)

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Garden books can represent hope and renewal.

Check out these famous gardens in literature:

**The Secret Garden** by Frances Hodgson Burnett

In this literary landscape, the discovery of an abandoned garden helps an isolated child find hope and renewal. The garden is a place of wild sweet peas, honeysuckle, and white roses, symbolizing rebirth and hope.

**Common or Garden** by Janis Harrison

This novel explores the life of a commoner who becomes a gardener in the court of Queen Elizabeth I. The garden is a symbol of personal growth and the power of nature to heal.

**Garden Spells** by Sarah Addison Allen

This book weaves together the stories of two women and their gardens. The garden is a place of magic and mystery, representing the power of the natural world to inspire and heal.

**The White Garden** by Stephanie Barron

Barron's garden is a place of beauty and reflection, surrounded by the story of a woman who discovers her family's secrets through the garden and the stories within it.

**The Lost Garden** by Helen Humphreys

In this novel, a young woman returns to her family's garden in Nova Scotia, where she finds both secrets and healing. The garden is a place of connection to the past and the present.

**The Meadow** by John S. and P. Sargent

This garden is a place of beauty and tradition, influenced by the Sargent family's love of nature. The garden is a symbol of family and legacy.

**The Forgotten Garden** by Santa Montefiore

Set in the 1940s, this novel explores the history of a garden and the family who once tended it. The garden is a place of mystery and discovery, symbolizing secrets and secrets.

**The Summer's Tale** by Virginia Woolf

In this novel, a garden is a place of beauty and inspiration for a young woman. The garden represents the power of imagination and the importance of relationships.

**The Garden of the Finzi-Continis** by Swimming in the steam

In this novel, a garden is a place of beauty and mystery. The garden's history and the story of the Finzi-Continis family are intertwined, symbolizing the power of the past.

**The French Gardener** by Santa Montefiore

This novel explores the history of gardening in France, drawing on the lives of real gardeners and their gardens. The garden is a place of beauty and history, symbolizing the enduring power of the natural world.

**The Last Garden** by Mark Klugman

In this novel, a garden is a place of beauty and mystery. The garden's history and the story of the Klugman family are intertwined, symbolizing the power of the past.

**The Big Garden** by John S. and P. Sargent

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Kristin Hannah’s *Winter Garden*: It’s her favorite to date

By SUZANNE SELFORS

There are many things an author can hope for, and one of the top aspirations is to find one’s book on the New York Times Bestseller List. I’ve been told it’s a thrill. Some authors make a brief, energetic appearance, but there are a few (ahem) who take up space on the list for months and months. It’s like they’ve bought real estate or something.

Or maybe it’s that they’ve written a book that readers love.

One of those few is Kristin Hannah, who commutes between her Bainbridge and Hawaiian homes. Eighteen novels under her belt, she knows all about bestseller lists. *Firefly Lane* spent almost 50 weeks on the NYT list and was one of USA Today’s top 100 selling books of 2009. And *True Colors* is, as of this writing, No. 5 on the NYT list.

Kristin was interviewed last month to celebrate the release of her latest novel, *Winter Garden*, an intense and heartbreaking story of a stem mother and the estranged daughters who struggle to understand her. This is a story within a story, as Kristin alternates between past and present, taking us from Pacific Northwest apple orchards to war-torn Leningrad five decades earlier.

“The novel has a big, beautiful sweep, both in time and place,” Kristin said. As the story unfolds, the daughters discover the truth about their mother’s past—a secret so terrible that it shakes the very foundation of their family.

*Winter Garden* is simply my favorite book to date,” Kristin said. “We writers are supposed to consider our books our children, and say that each is unique and beloved in its own way. And that’s true. But every once in a while, an idea comes along that sweeps you away, turns you into a reader. That’s what happened with *Winter Garden*.

Kristin moved to Bainbridge so her then kindergarten-aged son could go to a great school. During those years, she struggled to find the time to write, grabbing nap time and late evening hours. But now, with her son at college, her schedule has dramatically changed.

“I admit to spending long hours writing on the beach. Yes, I am a longhand writer—so I can write anywhere. I am totally inspired by the sound of the surf. Nowadays, I write in fits and starts more than I used to. I will often work compulsively for a month, then take a month off to travel—that sort of thing. Honestly, I love what I do so much that the difficulty for me lies not in finding time to work, but rather reminding myself to relax.”

She’s just turned in her book for 2011, but it’s not ready to be unveiled. Her tour for *Winter Garden* is under way, so please visit her Website to get the final dates.

If you are a member of a book club, you can make a request on Kristin’s Website to have her visit your group. Also on the Web, you’ll find a lovely video in which she discusses her inspiration for *Winter Garden*.

Signed copies of Kristin’s book can be bought through Eagle Harbor Book Co. To visit her site, log on to www.kristinhanhnn.com.

(“SUZANNE SELFORS is herself a bestselling author and lifelong Bainbridge Islander.”)

Yesterday’s newsmakers: What are they doing today?

By VERDA AVERILL

As we worked on this, the first Library News of a new year and new decade, your Library News volunteers wondered what some of our newsmakers of a decade and more ago are doing today.

We tracked down a few of them and discovered that they’re doing new things, but one thing hasn’t changed: they are as enthusiastic as ever about our public libraries and good books.

Featured on the front page of Volume 1, Number 1, were two young people’s librarian Peggy Hughes and a group of pre-schoolers at a 1998 story hour. Those children are now teenagers and the young librarian photographed with them has—believe it or not—spent more than 25 years working for the Kitsap Regional Library. Now known as Megan and living in Kingston, she is a reference librarian at the Poulsbo branch library. If you haven’t seen her for a while, drop in and say hello.

Featured in an early 1990s article Islanders Theo and Olga Raas had already been working for nearly a decade collecting and shipping books to libraries and reading rooms in Belarus and other countries which had few books in English, though books in French and German were widely available. They may have lost count of the number of books—hundreds of thousands—they project shipped overseas. But now they’re at home to stay on Bainbridge, have recently built an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) for family visitors and Bahai get-togethers, and are enjoying their eight grandchildren.

Ten years ago best-selling author Susan Wiggs began a series of interviews with local authors and—we’re delighted to say—she’s continuing her Library News features while writing on average two new novels a year. (See her interview with Jordan Taylor in this issue.)

Susan is not the only author in the family. From 1998 to 2002 her daughter Elizabeth, a student at Bainbridge High School, was our first (and to date only) high school contributor. Now Elizabeth Wiggs Maas, she went on to Pomona College, where she was on the swim team and the NCAA champion water polo team. She married her college sweetheart and is now in the MBA program at University of Chicago’s Booth School of Business. And she’s still writing. She’s started a blog (www. iamthebookarchitect.com) which led to a book deal. Her humorous memoir about planning a wedding and getting a life will be published by Mira Books in January 2011.

Another young woman made our Library News about a decade ago as a very young child contributing her saved coins to the library. Taylor Raffa, daughter of Peter and Christie Raffa, was then one of the youngest donors to the library. (“She began saving for the library even before I did,” laughs Raffa, who is today executive director of the Kitsap Regional Library Foundation.) Taylor will graduate from Bainbridge High School this year and is beginning her college studies at Seattle Central Community College. She plans to become a pharmacist.

Editor’s note: As this issue of the Library News goes to press we pause in memory of Larry Glosten. Known world-wide as a distinguished naval architect, he lived quietly on Bainbridge with his wife Lois (“Pete”) and their children, devoting spare moments to his woodworking and holly trees, and contributed to many local causes, including the Bainbridge Library. He will be missed by many.

![Photo by Deborah Feingold](image)
**NEWS BRIEFS**

**THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

Persons Support Group meets every second Wednesday from 1 - 3 p.m. at the library. Judy Bryant of the Census Bureau will speak March 10. For information or transportation call 842-1324.

**Great Decisions at the Library discussions continue**

Are you interested in learning more about world affairs and participating in discussions that explore such topics? If so, Great Decisions at the Library is for you. It’s a nation-wide, non-partisan program of the Foreign Policy Association to broaden public involvement with the most important foreign policy issues facing the United States. Kitsap Regional Library and the Bainbridge Arts & Humanities Council (BIAHC) are sponsoring the program. Over coffee and pastries, Great Decisions participants view a 30-minute Foreign Policy Association DVD on the topic to be discussed and then participate in a discussion led by a guest moderator.

To assist with advance preparation, relevant news articles are posted on the Kitsap Regional Library Website at www.krl.org. (Check the site about a week before the discussion date for material.) A copy of the Great Decisions Briefing Book, published by the Foreign Policy Association, is available at the library for photocopying or may be purchased from BIAHC for $18.

The final programs for 2010 will be March 20, March 27 and April 3 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in the Bainbridge Public Library large meeting room.

**Saturday, March 20**

**U.S. & China Security Relations**

China’s influence is growing, along with its military expenditures. How will this growth affect China’s relations with its neighbors and with the U.S.? Will China’s expanding military and economic power affect traditional U.S. roles and U.S. alliances in East Asia? How will countries like Japan, South Korea and India respond?

**Saturday, April 3**

**Kenya and R2P**

Post-election noting in Kenya in December 2007 brought pressure on Nairobi, from international and regional diplomats, to end tensions and avert bloodshed on a massive scale. What lessons can be learned from the intervention in Kenya? What does it mean for the UN’s emerging responsibility to protect” doctrine?

Information provided by Kathleen Thorne, KRL adult programming coordinator.
You've read his books, seen his programs on public television, perhaps even visited Europe on one of his tours. Now you'll have a chance to meet Rick Steves in person, and ask those questions you've been wondering about. Steves is coming to Kitsap County Monday, March 15, at 7 p.m. for an evening of conversation with readers.

The event, at the North Kitsap Community Auditorium, is part of the Dinner with an Author series sponsored by the Kitsap Regional Library Foundation. At this particular event, however, dinner will not be served – but there will be plenty of food for thought.

Admission is $25, and tickets are available now on the KRL.org Website. (Advance purchase is suggested, though a limited number of tickets will be available at the door.)

Steves has been writing best-selling travel books for more than a quarter century, starting with his Europe Through the Back Door series. In recent years he's reached out beyond the popular western Europe destinations to eastern Europe and elsewhere, most recently to Iran (which has been featured several times on Channel 9).

Steves is a strong advocate of informal, independent travel in which visitors to other countries live like "temporary locals". That's what he and his family have been doing for years, and along the way they've made friends and picked up traveling tips which they've passed on to readers. At his company headquarters in Edmonds, just a few blocks – an easy walk – from the Kingston ferry's landing you may not always see Rick. But the bookstore is inviting, a good source of references, and the staff is helpful. (They also sell Steves-designed travel bags and accessories and advise about such things as European rail trips.)

Steves is a strong advocate for public television, and his personal appearances on behalf of Channel 9 (KCTS) during fund-raising times are extremely popular. He's also a strong advocate for public libraries, and his appearance in Kitsap County March 15 will benefit the Kitsap Regional Library Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides our library system with services that the county's limited tax base simply cannot pay for.

Things like outreach services to people who cannot get to the library and extra books and services for children's reading programs, for example.

Food for thought
Travel as a political act
An evening with travel writer and tour guide Rick Steves

Meet Thor Hanson in person May 15
Another Dinner with an Author event is scheduled for May 15, at a waterfront home on Bainbridge Island. This one is dinner and conversation with Thor Hanson, author of The Impenetrable Forest. This event does include dinner, plus conversation with the author in a warm and friendly, art-filled setting.

Hanson loved for two years in a remote village on the edge of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, where he worked with local people to save one of the world's most magnificent and endangered species, the mountain gorilla. He survived baboons stealing his vegetables and army ants attacking his sleep to write the book which offers an unforgettable glimpse of the world of mountain gorillas in Africa.

Sign up now for this rare opportunity to dine and chat with Hanson. Seating is limited. Tickets are available for only $50 each through the Website krl.org or call Peter Raffa at (360) 475-9039.

Library art news
The Bainbridge Public Library's rotating display of local artists' work continues this spring and summer. Peg Dean is the featured artist for March, with works by Alan Rudolph to follow in April and Mary Rowland's show "2nd Chance Dance" following in May.

1st Friday Art Walk at the library
This year, there's an extra stop on the 1st Friday Art Walk tour: the Bainbridge Public Library. Every first Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. the library will host a reception in the meeting room to showcase the artist and art exhibit of the month. This program has been organized by Linda Meier, art curator for the Bainbridge Public Library and a member of the BPL board. Upcoming receptions include Alan Rudolph (April 2); and Mary Roland (May 7).

BAC art book drive continues this year
By SUSAN JACKSON
Bainbridge Arts & Crafts Executive Director

Over the last six years, Bainbridge Arts and Crafts has raised $7200 for the library to buy new books on art, architecture, and design for our community.

This year, we're out for more! Here's how it works: You bring your beautiful, but neglected art books to BAC located at 151 Winslow Way E, Monday through Friday, 10 to 6, or Sunday, 11 to 5. The Bainbridge Library will choose the titles it needs to go directly into its collection. The other donated books will be made available for purchase at the gallery. With these donations will be given to Kitsap Regional Library to purchase new books for the Bainbridge Library on art, architecture, and design.