Mark your calendar

These events take place in the library unless otherwise stated.

**TUESDAY, JULY 22**
- Friends of the Library Book Sale 10 - 3
- Estate Planning: Advance Planning for Health Care and Long Term Care Decisions. 9 - 11 a.m.

**SATURDAY, JULY 26**
- Seattle Opera Preview with Nomi Hellingshead. “Aida” by Guiseppe Verdi. 2 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JULY 31**
- Circulo de Lectores Iberoamericanos (Spanish Book Club) “Pedro para mano” by Julia Ruffo (Mexico). 7 p.m.
- Teen Rock Band Tournament. Be a rock star; no instruments required. 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 2**
- “Make a Book” art workshop with Susan Callan from the Bainbridge Island Creativity Center. Topic: “Travel Log.” Pregistration at the library required, for ages 10+. Free. 1-3 p.m.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 3**
- Amazing Insects with Peg Tillery from WSI Extension. For all ages. 3 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6**
- Bainbridge Library Book Group: Madamnov by Lespang by Dorthe Olesen. 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 9**
- Friends of the Library Book Sale 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- “Make a Book” art workshop with Susan Callan from the Bainbridge Island Creativity Center. Topic: "Story Surprise." Pregistration at the library required, for ages 10+. Free. 1-3 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13**
- Low Vision Support Group 1-3 p.m.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 14**
- Friends of the Library Book Sale 1-4 p.m.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 15**
- Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society: workshop with members 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Taste of Tibet family program with author Naomi Rose 2 p.m.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 16**
- “Make a Book” art workshop with Susan Callan. Pregistration at the library required, for ages 10+. Free. 1-3 p.m.
- Island Theatre Play Reading at the Library. Recent Tragic Events by Craig Wright 7:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 17**
- Island Theatre – Performance 7:30 p.m.

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 19**
- Field’s End Writers’ Roundtable with Carol Cassella. “How do we find time to write?” 7 p.m.

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 26**
- Field’s End Writers’ Roundtable with Carol Cassella. “How do we find time to write?” 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 28**
- Estate Planning: Basic Estate Planning for Modern Riders 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Circulo de Lectores Iberoamericanos (Spanish Book Club) Confieso que he adquirido del diario de Pablo Neruda (Chile). 7 p.m.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1**
- Library Closed for Labor Day

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3**
- Bainbridge Library Book Group: Laws in the Driest Season by Neely Tucker. 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**
- Friends of the Library Book Sale 1-4 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**
- Low Vision Support Group 1-3 p.m.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**
- Bainbridge 2nd Tuesday Readers: Title TBA 1 p.m.
- A Great Yarn knitting and book group – bring your work in progress 7-9 p.m.

Among the many who started the Fourth of July at the library, Children’s friends were Hila, Jay and Stephanie Matsuoka with Regan, 3 ½ (above) and Laurie Martin with son Kyle, 8 months old (right). The event attracted younger (and their families) from pre-school through to their teens, and included a children’s book sale, readings in the gazebo by local author George Shannon, and crafts (including creation of a flag with poster paints). Kevin Hawkins organized the event with help from other library board members, Friends of the Library staff members, and local teachers and parents. (Read more about it in the next Library News.)

**KRL grant brings One Book program to Kitsap County**

Come October, everyone in Kitsap County will be on the same page – or at least reading the same book.

Kitsap Regional Library will participate in the One Book One Community program, a reading initiative designed to bring all county residents together by reading and discussing the same book.

The book: Harper Lee’s To Kill a Mockingbird, an American classic.

In this Pulitzer Prize-winning novel memorable characters explore civil rights and racism in the segregated southern United States of the 1930s.

Told through the eyes of Scout Finch, it is the story of her father, Atticus Finch, an attorney who hopelessly strives to prove the innocence of a black man unjustly accused of rape, and about Boo Radley, a mysterious neighbor who saves Scout and her brother Jem from being killed.

The One Book One Community initiative in Kitsap County is supported by a grant from the Washington State Library with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and by the Kitsap Regional Library Foundation.


Book group kits and school packets will also be developed, and the library will sponsor essay contests throughout the five county school districts. (The topic: How did this book change your life?)

Also scheduled are play readings at library branches, showings of the film with discussion, and other activities.

Library system won’t ask to raise levy lid

Gas prices keep going up and home prices are going down. Summer jobs for teens are scarce, and layoffs in major companies are hitting many families hard.

Price increases are going down. Summer jobs for teens are scarce, and layoffs in major companies are hitting many families hard. Your Kitsap Regional Library board of directors feels your pain, and won’t add to the misery.

They will not ask for more tax money on this year’s fall ballot.

At their June meeting, the KRL board deliberation, the KRL board (decided) they will not ask for more tax money on this year’s fall ballot. They will not ask for more tax money on this year’s fall ballot.

For example, the recently added self-service terminals – there are three at Bainbridge branch – have been popular from the start, and are saving staff time.

“Those will NOT result in any staff cuts,” she hastened to add. “They do mean that our staff can do so much more, with more time to help our library patrons...”

Some cost-saving steps will seem small, but can make a big difference. Reusing books and other materials circulating means fewer copies may be ordered. So the library went from a two-week grace period on due dates to no grace period. Also, beginning later this month books will be kept on the hold shelf for seven days instead of 10.

If you’re often slow about picking up or returning books, you will soon be aware of these changes. But the typical library patron will not notice the difference.

**Also in this issue:**
- Field’s End sets fall classes ............................................................. Page 2
- Island children catch the reading bug ........................................ Page 6 & 7
- VIPs offer support to low-vision people ....................................... Page 3

**KRL says no to tax hike**

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At their June meeting, the KRL board voted not to ask for a levy lid increase this year.

Board chair Teresa McDermott put it this way: “After much discussion and deliberation, the KRL board (decided) it will not put forth a levy lid proposal on the November ballot..."
By KERRY SMITH

To learn from some of the area’s accomplished writers you don’t have to be a published author. Field’s End is offering classes that will help you explore the essay, short story, or book ideas that you have, and get you organized and motivated. Registration is required for each course. Forms may be found in the lobby of the Bainbridge Public Library or downloaded at www.fieldsend.org. For questions, write the Field’s End Registrar at registrars@fieldsend.org. Tuition assistance is available for all Field’s End classes through the Jack Olsen Memorial Writers Fund.

Carole Glickfeld will teach a five-week course, “Developing Your Characters,” on five consecutive Saturdays—October 18 and 25, November 1, 8, and 15, from 1 to 4 p.m. in a large meeting room. Tuition is $300. The class is limited to 15 participants. Registration opens on August 19.

Gary Kinder’s one-day class, “Secrets to a Clear, Compelling Sentence,” meets on Saturday, October 4, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the library’s large meeting room. Participants are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch. Tuition is $300.

Join local writers at Roundtables

On July 15, local writers Ann Combs, Paul Hanson, and Barbara Sjoholm introduced a panel discussion by asking, “What’s the Best Way to Get Your Words on the Page?” Bainbridge Island resident Carol Cassella begins the August 19 session with the question, “How Do We Find Time to Write?” The final summer Roundtable on September 16 features local writer Carolyne Wright who opens with the question, “How to Move from Poetry to Prose (and Back Again)”? The evening closes with socializing, coffee, and cookies.

About the classes

Glickfeld’s five-week class for intermediate and advanced writers (those who have completed a draft of a novel or at least many stories) will help writers giving characters depth and plausibility. In developing characters, everything matters: how characters enter a story, what they do, where they’ve been, how they speak, what others think about them, their complexity, and the writer’s relationship with them. During the classes participants will discuss excerpts from manuscripts by their class peers. In addition, there will be in-class and at-home writing exercises and analyses of published authors’ treatment of characters. Awarded the Washington State Book Award for her novel Swimming Toward the Ocean, Glickfeld also won the Flannery O’Connor Award for Fiction for her collection Useful Gifts. A recipient of a Literary Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, Glickfeld’s creative writing for ten years at the University of Washington and has worked with students at Olympic College and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

His “roll up your sleeves” class expands on Kinder’s discussion at a Field’s End Roundtable in June 2007 that still has people talking about and improving their prose. Students will perform a variety of writing and editing exercises that demonstrate how good writing works and why. If you go home and are not satisfied you apply these exercises to your own writing, you were probably napping. Kinder, an attorney and writing coach to the legal profession, offers a unique blend of talents, including a penchant for doing exhaustive research while writing his books. A resident of Seattle, he is the author of three books of narrative nonfiction, including the critically acclaimed New York Times bestseller, Ship of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea. Not only does Gary write evocatively and persuasively, he can also explain how good writing works and why, injecting healthy doses of humor which makes his seminars both memorable and enjoyable.

Because true stories demand just as much attention to detail and narrative as works of fiction, Sjoholm’s class will examine various forms of essays that can be used to record and examine events of a life. Participants will explore different forms of nonfiction as they learn to write with a strong voice and describe conversations, people, and places that that engage the reader. In the process they will work to prune their writing to the essential point or storyline while retaining the details that are nonfiction’s individuality and strength.

Sjoholm writes both creative nonfiction and fiction. Her most recent book is The Peddlers of the Snow Queen: Winter Travels in Lapland. Prior titles include Incongruous Street; How Travel Made Me a Writer. Her memoir, Blue Windows: A Christian Science Childhood was nominated for a PEN USA Literary Award for Creative Nonfiction and won a Lambda Literary Award. Her previous three books, Pirate Queen: In Search of Grace O’Malley and Other Legendary Women of the Sea was also a finalist for a PEN USA award. She won a British Crime Writers award for Gaudy Afternoon. She was made into a film. Her personal and travel essays have appeared in the New York Times, Slate, Smithsonian, Harvard Review, and American Scholar. She lives in Port Townsend.

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

Vision problems? Be a library VIP

By VERDA OVERTILL
Library News Editor

I first met Dick Hassell about 10 years ago, when the Library News was still very young. Cindy Harrison, then our Bainbridge Library branch manager, thought he’d make a great interview candidate. She was right.

Hassell, retired from a long advertising career with J. Walter Thompson and other major agencies, had recently settled on Bainbridge Island to be near his career-Navy son. He became, like so many newcomers, a regular library patron almost before he’d unpacked. Harrison soon got to know him, and told me I should photograph him with the stacks of audio books he checked out. “Looks just like Santa Claus,” she said.

She was right about that, too. I’ll never forget our first conversation.

“Blindness is an attitude,” he said casually. “If you have a good attitude, you don’t have a problem.”

Certainly Dick seemed to have no problem. In late 1998 Hassell was already legally blind, and could no longer drive. He lived in Winslow and walked almost everywhere he needed to go—often 10 miles a day. He rarely used a white cane. “Just when I’m traveling,” he said, “and then only to warn people.”

While some people, once they find themselves with low vision, hesitate to stay involved in their community, Hassell soon had a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. He was active in his church, became a library fund-raising volunteer, and kept up on his reading.

But his greatest enthusiasm was for the VIPs—the Visually Impaired Persons support group that met— and still meets—every month at the library. To him they were truly Very Important Persons.

I discovered why when, a year ago, my own vision began to deteriorate. I was lucky. Surgery restored my eye sight.

But during the difficult months of visits to optometrists’ and ophthalmologists’ offices, I found I needed a definite attitude adjustment—something to lift my spirits and learn how to manage with lower vision. And I recalled what Dick had told me about the VIPs and their meetings. So I joined the group, and went to a meeting. And another. And more.

I was amazed at the wealth of information available from this group, and the way they helped each other cope with their problems.

They meet the second Wednesday of the month from 1 to 3 p.m., in the library meeting room, just as they have for years.

The topics are wide-ranging and presented by experts who really care. Questions are always welcome, and members often help the discussions by telling of their own experiences.

Here are a few recent program topics:

- “In July, attorney Linda Poh talked about legal planning issues of interest to senior citizens. (Not all VIPs are senior citizens, of course, but many are.)
- “In May, Alan Garrels of the Washington State Department of Services for the Blind talked about the Independent Living Program offered by that agency.”

Continued on Page 12

Free estate planning talks at library

For the seventh straight year the Bainbridge Public Library Board is sponsoring a free estate planning speakers’ series at the library.

Island residents and board members Pamela McClaran and George Edensword-Breck are co-chairs of the series this year. Marite Butners, who chaired the programs through the first six seasons, has retired from the library board.

The first of this year’s six seminars on retirement and estate planning is scheduled for Tuesday, July 22, from 9 to 11 a.m., in the library’s meeting room.

It will include an overall introduction by McClaran, some broad personal planning hints from McClaran and Edensword-Breck, and a program on advance planning for health care decision-making for times when an individual is unable to act for him- or herself.

Presenters at the July 22 program will include Island physician Gregory E. Keyes, a board-certified family practitioner who is a 1975 graduate of the University of Utah School of Medicine. Dr. Keyes is the principal in a Bainbridge Island membership practice in which patients receive personalized attention.

He will be joined by Edensword-Breck, a 1971 graduate of the University of Washington School of Law, whose practice on Bainbridge and in Seattle emphasizes elder law, estate planning, and probate. George was a founding member of the National Academy of Elder Law and was the first chair of the Washington State Bar Association Elder Law section.

Those who attend this initial program of the series will leave with a complete understanding of the concept of informed consent from medical, legal, and personal perspectives, as well as of common documents addressing advance medical directives, including health care powers of attorney, health care directives, “DNR” forms and the so-called “POLST” form. Substantial time will be devoted to questions and discussion. Written materials will be provided.

Reservations are not required. All interested persons are welcome.

Literary affair ‘surpasses expectations’

The Dinner Reads event May 10 at Wing Point Golf Club was a great success with diners and “surpassed our expectations” as a fund-raiser for the Bainbridge Public Library, said Joan Gardiner, co-chair of the library board’s fund-raising and communications committee.

The evening began with cocktails, socializing, and a silent auction featuring donated treasures and experiences. Popular Bainbridge authors George Shannon and Mary Guterson served as emcees, introducing the menu prepared by guest chef Tamas Ronay of Salteco Field.

With each dinner course, guests were treated to readings by acclaimed Bainbridge authors. David Guterson, who was about to embark on a publicity tour for his new novel, The Other (Knopf), shared some touching and startling letters from readers. Suzanne Seifors, an alumna of Field’s End classes, read the opening chapter from her upcoming novel for young people Fortune’s Magic Farm (Little & Brown). Natalya Ilyin shared a painfully funny anecdote from her memoir, Chasing the Perfect (Metropolitan Books), while Greg Atkinson offered a sampling from his award-winning article on his experiences as a chef. Wrapping up the evening, Susan Wiggs read an essay entitled “Don’t Interrupt Me Unless Your Eyes Are Bleeding: Writing at Home With Children,” to be published in an anthology for Mother’s Day 2009 by Mira Books.

The evening was made possible by the premier sponsor, Harrison Medical Center.
Raise your hands!

By VAL TOLLEFSON
Library Board President

When we first moved to Bainbridge Island to those many years ago, we had a neighbor. Julius. Julius was in his 80s, born in Norway, a retired fisherman. He was the self-appointed quality-control inspector of my work on the house we were then building in our spare time.

Since emigrating as a young man, Julius had not visited the old country until he accompanied his daughter on a trip around 1982. On his first inspection tour of his return, in his thick Norwegian brogue, he described his arrival in his old hometown just north of the Arctic Circle.

“Soo, we get in a cab, and we drive down the street, and I look at the mail boxes, and I see Svensen, and I see Pedersen, and I see Jacobsen, and I say, ‘My got, they’ve got a lot of Scandinavians around here!’”

If you spend entirely too much time searching the web for interesting information, you have probably visited the site of our remarkable Bainbridge One Call. For All and see that there are more than 70 non-profit organizations active on Bainbridge Island. Looking down that list, you might well remark “My got, they’ve got a lot of volunteers around here!”

Just at the library, we have volunteer directors and committee members looking after maintenance, operation, and special programs of the Bainbridge Public Library; volunteers running the well-attended classes and seminars of our writers’ community; Field’s End; volunteers minding the business end of rakes and garden trowels during the weekly garden beautification of the Friday Tidies; volunteers managing the wildly popular book sales of the Friends of the Library; volunteers assisting our dedicated Kitsap Regional Library staff in a variety of tasks; volunteers organizing the recent gala Dinner Reads fundraiser; and volunteers coming out of the woodwork to respond to myriad other needs. At recent count, approximately 200 active volunteers support the work of the library. Multiply that by 70 non-profits operating here, and you can see that if you are an adult and live on Bainbridge Island, chances are pretty good that you are a volunteer. Bainbridge Island is a wonderful place to live because no matter what the issue of interest – politics, environment, education, culture, social services – there are willing and intelligent people ready to invest their time and talents. Someone once said “Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”

This being a presidential election year, we expect a big voter turnout in November. But the One Call For All organizations can’t wait until November for your support. When they call on you, they need your support NOW. So when you receive a call to volunteer, raise your hand.

If the call is from the library, raise both hands!

Watch for these coming book sales

Friends of the Library book sales are scheduled through October, on the following dates:

- Tuesday, July 22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Saturday, August 9, also 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Thursday, August 14, from 1 to 4 p.m. (The library is closed Thursday mornings.)
- Tuesday, August 26, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Thursday, September 4, 1 to 4 p.m.
- Saturday, September 13, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Thursday, October 2, 1 to 4 p.m.
- Saturday, October 11, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 28, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Friends of the Library expand board and elect new officers

By PATRICIA MILLER

In their April board meeting, the Bainbridge Island Friends of the Library voted to increase the number of directors from seven to nine.

New board members Les Reitz, Linda Meier, and Helen Quistdorff officially began their three-year commitments with the June meeting.

Also chosen this spring were new officers: Charles Browne, president; Pat Miller, vice president; Margaret Tchakanian, secretary; and Dorothy Klavins, treasurer.

Virginia Mackay completed her term on the board this year, but she’s still hard at work in the book room, sorting and pricing books.

Earlier this spring the Friends installed new shelves in the downstairs foyer next to the elevator and stocked them with a wealth of paperback (mass market) books. This means that you don’t have to wait for a sale to stock up on vacation reading. Regardless of your interest – mystery, science fiction, romance, non-fiction, or general fiction – you’ll find books to read on the ferry, the airplane, or at the beach. Variety, volume, and prices from 25 cents to a dollar make a trip downstairs well worth your time.

Thanks to generous book donations and to dedicated volunteers, the Friends book sales continue to draw crowds of happy shoppers, and the resulting income makes it possible to help finance library programs and needs. Among other Friends-sponsored activities this summer are the children’s Taste of Tibet and annual summer reading program, West Sound Reads, with Andre Dubus; and library participation in the Fourth of July parade. The Friends continue to provide funds for magazine subscriptions and upkeep of the aquarium in the Young People’s Library.

The Friends of the Library Endowment, established earlier this year with a $100,000 donation from the local Friends, continues to benefit from sale proceeds. The first quarterly donation to the Endowment totaled $25,000, and that was closely followed by an additional $10,000 in June.

The Endowment principal will be held intact throughout the lifetime of the Bainbridge Public Library and, as the principal grows, the Bainbridge Library Board will be able to draw on the interest to support library programs, services, and maintenance. Private donations are welcome, and we’re pleased to announce that we received our first such donation in June of this year.

If you would like to contribute to the Endowment, please go online to bbfriends.org, click on donations and print out a donation form. Or, if you prefer, simply mail your check, made out to the FOL for the Endowment, to the Bainbridge Library.

Thank you all for your book contributions and for your patronage of the Friends book sales. Keep in touch with the Bainbridge Friends of the Library online at bbfriends.org.

For great bargains in books at other times, check the lobby displays just inside the main entrance and the new shelves of books downstairs near the elevator. No matter what your reading tastes, chances are you’ll find something you’ll enjoy reading. And the price is right.
Inside the Medina in Fez

By BARBARA WINther

“Madam, look.”

The little boy with a club foot displayed a mirror the size of a 50-cent piece framed in hammered brass. His other hand clutching five or similar mirrors.

He appeared about 8 years old, and he wore faded blue jeans rolled up at the ankles and a striped sweatshirt several sizes too big. Now and then he wiped his runny nose on his sleeve.

“You buy,” he insisted. “I make good price. Only two dollars!”

He stumbled and fell. Scrambling up, he smiled. Holding the mirror so it caught the sun, he cried, “Good quality Madam. What will you pay?”

I shook my head and continued along the narrow street of the ancient walled city in the heart of Fez, the medina as it is known.

It was early morning, still cool. Our English-speaking guide, Yossef, wore the traditional hooded robe (the djellaba) and an embroidered cap.

Since coming through the gate, we had been besieged by street vendors. A woman, her lower face covered by a black veil, a basket draped across one shoulder, waved three knotted caps—red, green, and yellow. A middle-aged man in a long blue robe displayed a gold-handled dagger, its blade gleaming in a shaft of sunlight. A breathless man, his mustache large and black, tried to slip a metal bracelet on my wrist. I shook my arm away. Boys no older than 10 dangled cheap-looking necklaces, earrings and coin purses. And always, the little boy with the club foot hobbled along, extolling the virtues of his mirrors, their beams dancing before me on the tiled pavement.

Lining the twisting streets of the market place, souk in Arabic, were closet-size stalls, each containing merchandise arranged on a table or boards across boxes. Behind, in the shadows, sat sharp-eyed haggling vendors.

We flattened back while the creature, heavily laden against stone walls on the canyon-like street. Again he bludgeoned the nose.


As we came out of the building, the little boy with a club foot hurried to my side and once again demonstrated how his mirrors caught the sun and bounced light down the street.

“Good price,” he cried. “Only one dollar.”

Hurrying now, we walked along quiet, dark, twisted alleyways, past crumbling walls and under ancient arches until finally we left the medina and entered a parking lot where our taxi waited. The little boy with the club foot thrust one of his mirrors into my hand.

“No, no, I’m not buying it.” I tried to return the mirror.

“Souvenir,” he said.

We passed worker shops where hammers rang, a saw rasped and the sharp odor of sawdust assailed us. We entered a building where silk weavers operated large looms in light so dim I wondered how they kept from going blind.

As the call ended, Yossef led us down an alley and into a large room lined with shelves containing brass pitchers, vases, trays, and pots with curved spouts. The overhead light reflecting off the metal wares dazzled my eyes. In the center of the room sat a man, creating a flower design on a tray, his hammer tapping like machine gun fire. I bought a small vase. The coffee pot I liked was too big to carry home.

When we emerged from the shop, the street vendors were new, except for the little boy with the mirrors.

“Remember me?” he said.

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He backed away. “Keep it. A gift from me.”

Raising his chin, he said “Goodbye, madam. May Allah bless you.”

I met his eyes. The mirror weighed heavily in my hand. I fumbled through my wallet and pulled out a five dollar bill.

“Thank you, Madam,” he said gruffly, stowing the money in his pocket. He broke into a hobbling run toward the medina gate.

“Remember me,” he shouted back.

I do, but I doubt if he remembers me.

(Barbara Winther, author/playwright and composer, is a regular contributor to the Bainbridge Library News and author of the library history, They Like Noble Causes.)

Books about Morocco

In Morocco, Edith Wharton—this famous writer details her travels in the country.

Morocco, the Collected Traveler, Barrie Kerper—an anthology of writings by many authors.

Morocco, DK Eyewitness Travel Guide—contains a synopsis of history, crafts and religion.

Morocco Past and Present, Guido Barosio—beautiful photos of the country and its people.

The Spider’s House, Paul Bowles—a well-written novel that takes place in Fez during the 1954 nationalist uprising and explores the gap in understanding between cultures.
Leigh Ann Winterowd joins summer staff

Just in time for the annual summer reading program, Leigh Ann Winterowd has joined the Bainbridge Library staff as a temporary, part-time, young people’s librarian.

You’ll find her here three days a week—all day Monday, part-time Tuesday, and all day Wednesday—filling in while the regular young people’s librarian, Carmine Rau, is on a three-month maternity leave.

A four-year veteran of the Kitsap Regional Library system, Leigh Ann works the other half week in the Manchester branch library.

Before moving to Kingston and joining the KRL staff, she lived in Milwaukee and received a master’s degree in library science from the University of Wisconsin.

Now she and her son Spencer, 6, are happily at home in Kitsap County, with her parents nearby and other family members in the county. (A cousin also works in the library system.) Spencer will soon enter first grade at the Gordon School in Kingston.

When not at work, Leigh Ann enjoys reading—by herself and with her son—and playing board games with friends and family. She and Spencer like visiting the beach and collecting shells, and creating Lego structures.

Some of her favorite children’s books are those about Skippy Jon Jones, by Judy Schachner, read-along picture books with accompanying CDs. She also likes the Adventures of Jackie Faber.

For young adults she recommends the Bloody Jack series by L. A. Meyer. “Her books are set in England in the late 1700s, and she pretends to be a boy. . . I’m a big fan of hers,” Leigh Ann said.

With a long commute daily, she has become a big fan also of audio books.

Readers are reminded that the library system stocks a wide variety of audio books, CDs and DVDs.

Leigh Ann Winterowd

Contented Osma

Osma Robin Baurick was born June 15 to Carmine Rau and Tristan Baurick. She weighed in at 7 lbs. 10 oz and 20.5 in. at birth. Librarian Rau, now on maternity leave, will return to work in September.

Bugs take over

This summer Kitsap County kids are catching the reading bug, and already some eager youngsters have completed the reading challenge. Silas Gibbin, 11, (left) was the first to finish. Nate Constanz and Xavier Valdez (below) like sculpting bugs of wire. There’s still time for youngsters to join the summer fun.

— Photos by Leigh Ann Winterowd

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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 Books!

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??:

Young people’s calendar

JULY 21
Toddler Storytime 10:30 am

JULY 22
Reptile Man at Conger Hall 10:30 am

JULY 23
Storytime 10:30 am

JULY 23
Fairy House Workshop 2pm [pre-registration required]

JULY 25
Movie Matinee 3 pm [popcorn provided]

JULY 28
Toddler Storytime 10:30

JULY 29
Reading Friends 10:30 am

JULY 30
Storytime 10:30 am

JULY 31
Teen Rock Tournament 8:00 pm [register @ reference desk]

AUGUST 2
MakeABook series: Travel-Ho 1-3 pm [age 10+; signup @ reference desk; limit to 10; instructor Susan Callan]

AUGUST 3
Amazing Insects 3 pm [Explore the amazing world of insects, some of the tiniest and often unseen creatures in our gardens with Peg Tillery]

AUGUST 4
Toddler Storytime 10:30 am

AUGUST 5
Reading Friends 10:30 am

AUGUST 6
Storytime 10:30

AUGUST 8
Movie Matinee 3 pm [popcorn provided]

AUGUST 9
MakeABook series: Story Surprise 1-3 pm [age 10+; signup @ reference desk; limit to 10; instructor Susan Callan]

AUGUST 11
Toddler Storytime 10:30 am

AUGUST 12
Reading Friends 10:30 am

AUGUST 13
Storytime 10:30 am

AUGUST 15
Taste of Tibet 2 pm [join author Naomi Rose on a journey into the culture of Tibet through storytelling, a slide show, costumes and craft]

AUGUST 16
MakeABook series: Recycle Me 1-3 pm [age 10+; signup @ reference desk; limit to 10; instructor Susan Callan]

AUGUST 18
Toddler Storytime 10:30 am

AUGUST 19
Reading Friends 10:30 am

AUGUST 20
Storytime 10:30 am

AUGUST 22
Movie Matinee 3 pm [popcorn provided]

AUGUST 25
Toddler Storytime 10:30 am

AUGUST 26
Reading Friends 10:30 am

AUGUST 27
Storytime 10:30 am

AUGUST 29
Popsicle Party 10:30-12:30 [outside children’s area]

SEPTEMBER 22
Toddler Storytime 10:30 am

SEPTEMBER 23
Baby Storytime 12:30 pm Pajama Storytime 7 pm

SEPTEMBER 24
Preschool Storytime 10:30 am

SEPTEMBER 29
Toddler Storytime 10:30 am

SEPTEMBER 30
Baby Storytime 12:30 pm Pajama Storytime 7 pm

OCTOBER 1
Preschool Storytime 10:30 am

OCTOBER 6
Toddler Storytime 10:30 am

OCTOBER 7
Baby Storytime 12:30 pm Pajama Storytime 7 pm

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Reading Friends
Sam Casada, Carrie Newman, and Arlo Lisieski share a book during one of the popular summer Reading Friends sessions.

— Photo by Leigh Ann Winterowd

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Judd and her husband, Larry, had already moved to the Seattle area to be closer to family, and they look forward to building a home here.

Rebecca grew up in southern Illinois, in Carbondale home to the Salukis of college basketball fame. She was born into a family of educators, and loved books from an early age. She received her bachelor’s degree from Northwestern University, where she majored in classics. After earning a master’s degree in library science from Indiana University, she began her career as head of the reference department for the Bedford (Mass.) Free Public Library. Just minutes away from historic Lexington and Concord, the Bedford Library was a lively and active place, housed the oldest complete flag in the United States.

Four years later, she moved to Pelham. There, along with her library director’s duties, she was program coordinator for the Massachusetts Book Awards, a statewide reading promotion initiative of the Massachusetts Center for the Book, and founded the Friends of the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System. In her spare time, she says, she “loves to garden and dance, and I am an antiques, but enthusiastic, birdwatcher.” And of course, like most librarians, she loves to read. Recent books she’s enjoyed are Once Upon A Marigold by Jean Ferris (for young adults); Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury; and The Making of a Poem by Mark Strand and Eavan Boland.

By VERDA AVERILL

You’ve seen her in the library for nearly six months now, and Rebecca Judd is settling comfortably into her role as the new branch manager of the Bainbridge Public Library. She took over when Cindy Harrison retired in January, after 19 years in the Kitsap Regional Library system. Judd’s main goal, as a newcomer, was getting to know Bainbridge Islanders.

“I’m looking forward to getting out into the community and getting to know the people here,” she said. She’s been doing that.

She’s also been getting to know and work with the library staff.

“They’re just a great staff,” she said. “They’re all very dedicated to the library and the community. . . They take the time to talk with people and listen to them.”

Rebecca (Frank) Judd came to Bainbridge from western Massachusetts, where she was library director in Pelham, in what she describes as “the wonderfully rich cultural area of the state known as the Pioneer Valley.”

The region is home to five major academic institutions and many artists and writers and the library library was “well loved, a place to learn about the world, meet your neighbors, live and grow.”

Sounds something like Bainbridge, doesn’t it? Judd was chosen for the Bainbridge branch after a nationwide search. (She was one of three semi-finalists, including Sharon Lee, who is now interim branch manager in Poulsohs.)

THE BIGS GROUP (Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society) will sponsor a workshop with mentors to help beginners, or anyone needing research help, on August 15. Questions? Call Paula Schmidt at 842-6059.

FREE COMPUTER CLASSES begin today at the information desk for dates and times.

NEW FINE POLICY – The Kitsap Regional Library has revised its policy for overdue fines for books. Most items are due three weeks from the day they’re checked out. Entertainment DVDs are due in one week. Fines will accrue on a daily basis (25 cents per day) to a maximum of $5. Library users with over $25 in overdue fines will be blocked from borrowing until fines have been paid.

A NEW TOOL to help library users manage their accounts has arrived. Patrons who receive e-mail notification for hold and fine notices will receive pre-overdue notices for books. Most items are due three weeks from the day they’re checked out. Entertainment DVDs are due one week. Fines will accrue on a daily basis (25 cents per day) to a maximum of $5. Library users with over $25 in overdue fines will be blocked from borrowing until fines have been paid.

You will receive e-mail notification for hold and fine notices. Staff members will cheerfully update e-mail fine notices will receive pre-overdue notices who receive e-mail notification for hold and manage their accounts has arrived. Patrons fines have been paid. fines will be blocked from borrowing until checked out. Entertainment DVDs are due for overdue fines for books. Most items Regional Library has revised its policy required. Phone 842-4162, extension 9807, to register.

THE ANNUAL LIBRARY SPEAKERS FORUM established a decade ago will continue during the 2008-2009 season, though Susan Bray, who originated the series and managed it for 10 years, has retired. A committee headed by George Edensword-Breck, library board member, is working now to complete the calendar. Look for announcements of speakers and their topics within the next few weeks.

THE LIST OF LIBRARY DONORS for 2007, published in the spring Library News, did not include many who gave through the One Call For All campaign in the fall. Their names should appear in the next issue, thanks to arrangements with the One Call office and new computer software management.

CORRECTION! Claire Smith is president of the Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society and Priscilla Greenlees is vice president. (In a previous article, Greenlees was erroneously identified as president. Apologies!) BEGINNING THIS WEEK holds will remain on the library shelves for just seven days. “Help us keep our materials circulating,” say the library staff.

FINISHING THIS, a new DVD, is a film by local producers Lucy Ostrander and Nancy Boyne Hale. It’s the story of Thea Foss and the founding of the Foss Tugboats of Tacoma. Thea was a strong woman who survived many adversities. . . health, immigration, child’s death, job loss. She is said to have inspired the fictional character in Norman Raine’s famed “Tugboat Annie” stories published in the Saturday Evening Post. The DVD combines rare archival clips, photos, and scenes from the movie Tugboat Annie. THERE’S STILL TIME to Catch the Reading Bug (this summer’s reading program title). Sign-up sheets and information are available on a table inside the young people’s library downstairs.

BULLETIN! SUMMER READING program sign-ups totaled 1,046 children and teens on July 13, when the newspaper went to press. There’s still time for youngsters to join the fun and enjoy some of the summer events. (See calendar on Page 7.)

EAGLE HARBOR Book Company welcomes author Susan Wiggs and friends for refreshments Thursday, August 28, at 7:30 p.m. Hear about the fall lineup of Field’s End classes and events, and enter a drawing for free admission to the October 11 Field’s End event with storytelling master Michael Hague.

BAINBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY participates in One Call For All, the non-profit groups’ appeal every October. The library and grounds are supported entirely by donations.

DEADLINE for the fall edition of the Bainbridge Library News is September 1. New advertisers should plan to have copy in earlier if possible. (Call Verda at 842-2865 for information.)

LOBBY DISPLAY CASE Organizations and individuals are encouraged to sign-out our lobby display case for two week periods. This a great place to showcase your special collection! Some restrictions apply; please contact the library information desk for more information.
Meet debut author Carol Cassella

By SUZANNE SELFORS
Contributing Writer

For a couple of years now, I’ve been interviewing Bainbridge authors for this paper. It’s a great excuse to sit down with a comrade and discuss the business of writing, which seems to be the only thing I talk about these days.

But the best part about the job is when I get to write about a friend, as is the case this time around. And not just any friend—one of my favorite people in the world! So if you’re expecting objectivity, forget about it.

My internal voice has always been a writing voice. I think it’s some sort of miracle that it didn’t take 20 years, given her daily schedule of saving lives and driving kids to ballet lessons.

Carol’s busy working on her next novel and my phone keeps ringing. “Am I completely insane to try to do this?” she asks.

As I answer, staring at my own novel that my editor won’t let me say it with a sense of embarrassment, I consider the scenario of four babies who became four toddlers who became four teen girls who became four adults who became four people who became two sets of twins, born one year apart.

Carol Cassella, After four years, a first novel.

She’ll tell you that it took her four years to write her first novel and she’ll say it with a sense of embarrassment. I think it’s some sort of miracle that it didn’t take 20 years, given her daily schedule of saving lives and driving kids to ballet lessons.

“I go through spells where I write every day and even allow it to interfere with my home life,” Carol said. “Then I go through spells where my family life completely crowds out my writing. Neither of these is the best option.”

I don’t know any writer who has figured out the best option.

Carol Cassella; After four years, a first novel.

Carol Cassella, After four years, is the story of anesthesiologist Marie Heaton, who faces a personal and professional crisis after an operating room disaster and begins to question the choices she’s made in her life and her relationships.

“I’ve never had to go through the medical disaster that my character suffers,” Carol said, “but I’ve had to ask similar questions about work and family and faith.” Marie has a successful career but no husband or children. Her sister is raising children at the expense of a career.

In some ways, I think these two women reflect the two halves of my life: one as a practicing doctor and the other as a mother. All of us, women or men, face these conflicts, places where our private and public personae work against each other. Maybe my writing is where I try to create harmony between the two.”

The medical drama opens with a passage about the oxygen molecule.

“I thought it worked as the perfect metaphor to illustrate how tenuous life is. The people we love, the work we do, our ideas, our imagination— all of it depends on the physical processes that keep us alive.”

There’s been a lot of buzz in the industry about Carol’s debut. You’ll find Oxygen in the window at Barnes and Noble stores nationwide. Booksense selected it for July, so independent booksellers are also excited about it. And here on Bainbridge, well, we’re spectacular at supporting our local artists. But with all the hoopla that comes with a debut, putting your story out there is downright scary. There’s a vulnerability that goes along with it and the months before the debut can be very anxiety producing for a writer.

“To write with any sincerity is to make your private thoughts available for public comment,” Carol said. “You have to accept that some people see the world quite differently, and some people will dislike your writing style, and some people will assume that you are your main character, even when that character is not always quite so likable.”

Carol’s busy working on her next novel and my phone keeps ringing.

“Am I completely insane to try to do this?” she asks.

“No,” I answer, staring at my own novel that my editor wants me to revise in two weeks. “Okay, maybe just a little.”

Great non-fiction for summer

By GAIL GOODMAN
Nonfiction Collection Manager
Kitsap Regional Library

American Eve: Evelyn Nesbit, Stanford White, the Birth of the “It” Girl and the Crime of the Century, by Bill Carter, helps explain why people are interested in this story. While this story seems pretty tame by today’s standards, celebrity scandal has been with us for over 100 years.

Red Summer: The Danger, Madness, and Escalation of Salmon Fishing in a Remote Alaskan Village, by Bill Carter, helps explain why people are drawn to the dangerous occupation of Alaskan fishing.

Carter tells how he went from novice to experienced fisherman over the course of several summers, working on boats that set nets for the salmon. Living in ramshackle primitive huts at the edge of Bristol Bay, the workers put in long, hard days on the boats. On the boats they are always at the mercy of the elements, but on shore they have to watch for bears, who are also fishing for salmon. It’s a special group of people who are drawn to this challenging life, and this book tells their stories with humor and empathy.

Ingredients for a perfect day

A book...
a comfy chair...
and your own home.

Let us help you complete this recipe for quality time in your busy life.

Continued on Page 10

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Bainbridge Island
An old friend returns for new event

By SUSAN WIGGS
Contributing Writer

Michael Hauge saw his first showing of “Gone With the Wind” in a place that will be familiar to Bainbridge Islanders, the Lynnwood Theatre.

The acclaimed author and lecturer is quick to point out that it was a revival showing, not the original release. Afterward, there were treats at the adjacent ice cream parlors.

Hauge’s Bainbridge Island connection is long and deep. His grandparents, the Johnstons, lived in a rustic log house on the north end, and as a boy he spent many a summer on the island, combing the beach and digging clams at Fay Bainbridge State Park.

Hauges and uncle lived across the road from Bay Hay & Feed (the house has since been moved), and another uncle, Vince Wolfe, worked at Lumberman’s. Other family members lived at West Port Madison.

“The island has always been a place I’ve loved,” he says. “To me as a boy, the island was always Winslow to the bridge. I’m looking forward to seeing it again.”

He remembers a bucolic, rural place that was a wonderland to a young boy, and there was the occasional trip to the city, to view the mummy at Ye Old Curiosity Shoppe and to pick up souvenirs and penny candy.

Growing up in Salem, Oregon, Michael remembers the public library as a special place, hushed and musty with old books published by Random House in the 1950s and early ’60s. The books were wildly popular, thanks to good writers like Armstrong Sperry and Jim Kjelgaard, and appealing, heroic subjects that fed the imagination.

At the library, he discovered the magic of series books, beginning with a story called The Three–Two Pitch by Wilfred McCormick, featuring a character named Bronc Burnett.

As an adult, Hauge was a fan of big, rich novels like Sometimes a Great Notion by Ken Kesey (set on the Oregon coast) and even Moby Dick, the bane of high school English students. “I never wanted to read this big book,” he confesses, “but once I did, I discovered it was just enthralling. Revelatory. It’s become one of the things I talk about in my school English classes.”

One of the more important books for Michael, professionally, is Hitchcock’s Films, by Robin Wood, an in-depth analysis of the director’s most influential work. The book was “about a director I loved, and it influenced my teaching and the way I talk about the movies,” he said. Hauge believes “great movies are not great because they’re about a great subject, but because they’re entertaining and layered with underlying meaning.”

Other books he cites as particularly instructive include The Writer’s Journey by Christopher Vogler, The Screenwriter’s Bible by David Trottier, The TV Writer’s Workbook by Ellen Sandler, and Linda Seger’s Writer’s Workbook.

“Screenplays that sell are not written by just anyone,” Hauge says. “They are written by writers who have a specific talent that is hard to describe but that you definitely recognize when you read it.”

Hauge’s own books belong in the library of any working writer – screenwriter, novelist, author of narrative nonfiction – anyone who has a story to tell. In Selling Your Story in Sixty Seconds, Writing Screenplays That Sell and The Hero’s Two Journeys, Hauge illuminates the core principles of his teaching.

“Never before have so many books been available to writers on how to write,” he says. “But if you want to make your writing effective, you have to learn to combine story and technique.”

Hauge will present a special event for Field’s End. Join him for the intensive workshop, “Uniting Story Structure and Character Arc.” The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Bainbridge Pavilion Cinemas. You can find details online at www.fieldsend.org/events.html. Early registration opens in August, and the cost is $65.
Beach reads: Is that sand in my library book?

Summer is finally here, and I am particularly fond of reading page turners at the beach. You know, books that are so engrossing you don’t mind the ubiquitous sand fleas. Here are four that are on my holds list – sequels by some of my favorite writers, as well as a new mystery that has received great reviews.

Rosetta Key, by William Dietrich. In this slightly over-the-top sequel to Napoleon’s Pyramids, adventurer Ethan Gage, a protégé of Benjamin Franklin, seeks not only a lost love but the magical, fabled Book of Thoth. Our hero follows clues throughout the Holy Land and Egypt, and is obviously a forerunner to Indiana Jones.

Terra Incognita, by Ruth Downe. This sequel to the widely praised Medicus adds another humorous chapter to the adventures of reluctant sleuth Gaius Petrius Ruso, a medical doctor with the Roman Army in second-century Britain. This time Gaius must solve the mystery of what at first appears to be a ritual killing of a Roman soldier. Fans of Lindsey Davis, take note.

Drifter’s Wheel, by Phillip Depoy. Professor Fever Devlin has returned to Appalachia, seeking the peaceful life he had once run from. Peace, of course, eludes him as Fever tries to solve the mystery of a man who claims to be over a hundred years old, even though he looks like he’s in his 30s. Fifth in the series. Murder, ghosts and folklore. What more could one want?

Sacrifice, by J. S. Bolton. In this combination medical thriller/gothic suspense tale, Tora Hamilton, a young obstetrician, has just moved to the Shetland Islands with her husband, finds what at first glance appears to be a centuries-old Nordic “bug” body on the property. Of course, the body is in fact much newer, and as Tora attempts to investigate she is warned off the case by her colleagues and even her husband. This is not for the fainthearted.

Rotary Club finds unique way of thanking guest speakers

By JULIE O’NEILL
Reference Librarian

The Bainbridge Island Rotary Club has a unique way of thanking its guest speakers: donating books in their honor to the Bainbridge Library. Karyn Carpenter, the Bainbridge photographer and Rotary member who coordinates the program, says the Rotary board decided to honor each speaker by donating a book on a topic related to the speaker’s program – complete with a bookplate in the speaker’s name.

The donations began in 2006 and since then, thanks to the generosity of the local Rotary Club, more than 60 books have been added to the library. Some of the titles purchased are:

- No Ordinary Heroes: 8 Doctors, 30 Nurses, 7,000 Prisoners and a Category 5 Hurricane, by Demaree Inglese and Diana Gallagher. Dr. Inglese was medical director of the New Orleans Parish Jail during Hurricane Katrina. When the levees broke, the jail was flooded by inmates without basic facilities, saving many lives that could have been lost to Katrina.

- Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder, by Richard Louv. This is a heartwarming story of Richard Sakakida, an American spy in the Philippines during World War II. He was captured by the Japanese and faced death as a ‘traitor’ because of his Japanese descent. He endured unspeakable torture, starvation and illness, but was eventually assigned to the office of a Japanese official, where he gained valuable military intelligence and was able to engineer the escape of hundreds of Filipino prisoners of war.

- Terra Incognita, by Ruth Downe. This sequel to the widely praised Medicus adds another humorous chapter to the adventures of reluctant sleuth Gaius Petrius Ruso, a medical doctor with the Roman Army in second-century Britain.

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The new york Times

improving, scores are flat among middle school
scores among elementary school students have been
short stories, plays or poetry, the endowment sought
its 2004 report, “Reading at Risk”, which found that
academic, foundation and business surveys. After
in basic writing skills.

is dipping for students whose access to books is
other academic disciplines like math and science
fun, and as that happens, their reading test scores
Winfrey’s book club aside, Americans—particularly
learned that there is a new large-type
through Kitsap County ACCESS.

and rates available to low-vision persons
representatives talked about the services
adaptations in the home and retraining
with people of low vision, discussed
Vision problems?

• Seattle Opera Preview with Norm
• Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society:

• Field’s End Writers’ Roundtable:

• “Inspiration for Parents of Failing Kids”

• Estate Planning : Complex Estate Planning

• “Reading at Risk”, which was
based on an analysis of data from about two
dozens studies from the federal Education and Labor
Departments and the Census Bureau as well as other
academic, foundation and business surveys. After
its 2004 report, “Reading at Risk”, which found that
fewer than half of Americans over 18 read novels,
short stories, plays or poetry, the endowment sought
to collect more comprehensive data to build a picture
of the reader of all genres, including nonfiction.

Both in its preface to the new 99-page report Dana
Gioia, chairman of the endowment, described the data as “similar, consistent and alarming.”

Among the findings is that although reading
levels of the library (just next to the
young people’s library), Volunteer Mary
Lewis provides free training in its use.
Members of the VIP support group often arrive
together. Some who live in Winslow walk. Others
have work, or with volunteer drivers (just a phone
call away for those in need). Several
people come from elsewhere in Kitsap
County. Each meeting notice—printed in
large, easy-to-read type on bright yellow
paper—is sent to members well in

From The New York Times:

Drop in test scores linked to less time reading

By MOTOKO RICH
The New York Times

Harry Potter, James Patterson, and Oprah
Winfrey’s book club aside, Americans—particularly
your students and slightly declining among high school
students. These trends are concurrent with a fall off in
daily reading among young people as they
progress from elementary to high school, a drop that
appears to continue once they enter college. The
data also showed that students who read for fun nearly
every day performed better on reading tests than those
who reported reading never or hardly at all.

The study also examined results from reading
tests administered to adults and found a similar
 trend. The percentage of adults who are proficient
in reading prose has fallen at the same time that
the proportion of people who read regularly for
pleasure has declined.

Three years ago “Reading at Risk”, which was
based on a study by the Census Bureau in 2002,
provoked a debate among academics, publishers and
others, who said that the report didn’t read too narrowly
by focusing on fiction, poetry, and drama. Others argued that
there had not been as much of a decline in reading as the report suggested.

This time the endowment did not limit its
analysis to so-called literary reading. It selected
studies that asked questions about “reading for fun” or
“time spent reading for pleasure”, saying that
this could refer to a range of reading materials.

“It’s no longer reasonable to debate whether the problem exists”, said Saundra Joerger, director of research
and analysis for the endowment.

In an interview Mr. Gioia said that the statistics
could not explain why reading had declined, but
he pointed to several commonly accepted culprits,
including the proliferation of digital diversions on
the Internet and other gadgets, and the failure of
schools and colleges to develop a culture of daily
reading habits. In addition, Mr. Gioia said, “We live in a society where the media does not recognize,
celebrate or discuss reading, literature, and authors.”

In seeking to delve the consequences of a decline in
reading, the study showed that reading appeared to correlate with other academic achievement. In
examining the average 2005 math scores of 12th
grade students who lived in homes with fewer than 10 books,
an analysis of federal Education Department statistics
found that those students scored much lower than those
who lived in homes with more than 100 books.

Although some of these results could be attributed
to income gaps, Mr. Iyengar noted that students who lived
in homes with more than 100 books, but whose parents
only completed high school scored higher on math tests
than those students whose parents held college degrees
and were therefore likely to earn higher incomes but
who lived in houses with fewer than 10 books.

The new report also looked at data from the
workplace, including a survey that showed nearly
three-quarters of employers who were polled rated
“reading comprehension” as “very important” for
workers with two-year college degrees, and neariy
90 percent of employees said so for graduates
of four-year colleges. Better reading skills were also
 correlated with higher income.

In an analysis of Education Department statistics
looking at eight income brackets, the data showed
that 1 percent of full-time workers who scored
at levels deemed “below basic” on reading tests earned
$55,000 to $64,999. The highest income
bracket, at 20 percent of workers who had scored at
reading levels deemed “proficient” earned much
lower.

The new report is likely to provide as much
debate as the previous one. Stephen Krashen, a
professor emeritus of education at the University
of Southern California, said that based on his
analysis of other data, reading was not on the decline. He added
that the endowment appeared to be exaggerating the
decline in reading scores and could, according to
federal education statistics, the bulk of declines in
12th grade reading scores had occurred in the early
1990s, and that compared with 1994 average reading
scores in 2005 were only one point lower.

(Comired 2007 The New York Times Company)

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