



Friends of the
Brandywine
Hundred Library

NEWS

OCTOBER 2005

We support, encourage and promote quality library services

Dear Friends,

There is one area landmark that you will no longer be able to locate while driving on Route 202. The Concord Pike Library [CPL] was torn down during the summer; the site will be landscaped initially, while the First Unitarian Church raises the money to build a New Sanctuary.

In this newsletter you will find an article on the history of CPL written by John Stevenson. John was President of the Friends during our transition to Brandywine Hundred Library [BHL] from the Concord Pike Library in 2003. He has updated information presented during that changeover for people who have joined the Friends since BHL opened and for those of us who do not keep old issues of the Friends Newsletter for future reference!

Since I've been thinking about library history, I also wanted to include a reminder for all of us who use the library. In past times, libraries have been places where voices were subdued and noise was at a minimum. The modern library is a very active place and sees the energetic involvement of many young patrons. This is a good thing; however, libraries also draw many people who are looking for a quiet place to research and study. Please remember to lower your voice when in the library, turn off your cell phone(s) and remind small people to walk until they get outside.

Our next board meeting will be October 11, at 7 p.m., in a library meeting room. You're welcome to join us.

Cecilia McCormick, President, BHL Friends

Goodbye, Concord Pike Library

After serving the community in Brandywine Hundred for many years, the Concord Pike Library (CPL) was demolished this summer. Its history was included in the state publication: *Delaware Libraries, 1901-2001: Celebrating 100 Years Serving Our Community*.

In 1940, Mrs. James H. Young and a small group of volunteers opened the first temporary location for a northern New Castle County Library in the foyer of Alfred I. DuPont School. Between 1942 and 1944, the Talleyville Branch opened its first permanent station in a tiny room once known as Hogue's Barber Shop. It quickly outgrew its space. The library moved to the West Brandywine Grange No. 1, where it remained for several years before moving into a room in the Teague Drug Store at Blue Rock Manor.

In June 1956, Mrs. Young, the Talleyville Branch's Committee chairman, announced a fundraising drive. Fortunately, the Longwood Foundation awarded the library a \$500,000 grant for building and also made land available at a nominal cost. Two short years later, in 1959, the Talleyville Branch made its last move – into the facility that became known as the Concord Pike Library.

The Concord Pike Library once again outgrew its facility. In 1995, a Northern Regional Library Building Program was published. This outlined the findings of a study designed to determine what types of library services the community desired and what kind of facility would be necessary to provide those services. Plans then got underway to implement those findings.

The Concord Pike Library served the Brandywine Hundred area, a suburban community north of the City of Wilmington, with a defined-user population of 28,000 and 32,000 patrons. CPL was consistently one of the busiest libraries in the State. In the year 2000 alone, the Library circulated more than 400,000 items, answered 80,000 information requests, and served over 22,000 users.

The Brandywine Hundred Library opened to a grateful public on April 12, 2003, and has been Delaware's busiest public library ever since.

Friends Donate \$2,000 to Katrina Victims

The Friends of BHL Board strives diligently to be a wise steward of your donations. One aspect of this responsibility is that the funds are used only for Brandywine Hundred Library. Recently, however, the board made an exception to this policy, when Library Manager Tom Weaver advised the Friends' board that the library wanted to send crates of items to occupy children at relief sites. The board saluted this ambition and approved a \$2,000 donation. For more details about this innovative relief effort, please read Tom Weaver's section in the "From the Managers' Desk" column in this newsletter.



From the Managers' Desk

Thomas M. Weaver and Jean Kaufman

Like many others through the County, Libraries are looking at ways to try and help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. With support of the Friends of Brandywine Hundred Library and several other library Friends groups, we are putting together prepackaged crates of materials that will be sent to holding shelters in various locations. New Castle County libraries will be expanding their daycare outreach initiative to shelters housing the youngest victims of Katrina. Crates of theme-based children's books will be sent with activity and coloring sheets, crayons, and flannel board and puppet sets to help caregivers continue to provide children with an educational experience. Each crate will contain 15-20 books, laminated activity and coloring sheets, hooked together with a ring clip, and flannel board and/or puppet sets for one of the books in the crate.

I recently had the opportunity to take part in Foulk Manor North Assisted Living Care facility's Open House, promoting resources available in the Library. The library had a display containing examples of Large Type books, newspapers and magazines. Also on display was the Vision Eye machine that was provided through the efforts of the Friends, demonstrating how it could help enlarge small text for reading, writing or filling out forms. A PowerPoint display showed photographs that I took at a joint musical program, sponsored by the Library with the help of Sunrise Living, that was held this summer on the lawn. Some residents saw themselves in the pictures and some recognized their friends. It was wonderful hearing from all of the residents who use the library how much they appreciate the Brandywine Library. Many residents praised the various programs sponsored by the library.

A selection has been made for the vacant Teen Librarian position and we will tell you more about that in the next newsletter. We expect to fill our other Librarian vacancy in the next few weeks.

Co-Manager Jean Kaufman will no longer be working at Brandywine Hundred Library. Here's a brief note from her:

"I wanted to let the Friends know how much I enjoyed working at the Brandywine Hundred Library for the last two years. The experience of working in this new library and with such an active Friends group is providing me with knowledge that I will put to good use at the Woodlawn Library.

The Woodlawn library project is moving along quickly now with book selections, carpet and furniture selections as well as regular construction meetings. Regretfully, I find myself unable to attend to all these responsibilities and to continue to work at Brandywine. I will miss you all. I am continuing to work at the Elsmere and Claymont Libraries.

Thanks for a wonderful two years! I hope all you will come by to see the new Woodlawn library in the summer of 2006."

From the Adult Reference Desk

Our Adult Summer Reading Program was a great success. This was the first time we tried a summer reading program for

adults, and we had many enthusiastic participants. The winners of the weekly drawings were very happy with their prizes and wanted me to thank the Friends for providing the funds. We'll do it again next summer and see how much we can "grow" the program.

Speaking of programming, Kay Lacy has been hard at work lining up programs for the upcoming months. Two upcoming programs she asked me to mention are the Identity Theft program, where you can learn how to protect yourself and learn ways to prevent someone from stealing your identity, on Tuesday, October 25, and Rachel Simon's visit (the author of *Riding The Bus With My Sister*) on Saturday, November 5. For information on our adult programs please call or stop by the Reference Desk, or check it out on our webpage at: <http://www.co.new-castle.de.us/libraries/brandywinehundredlibrary/webpage3.asp>.

Some of you may have noticed that we are in the process of updating our phonebook collection. While not by any means complete, the collection will eventually cover Delaware as well as parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Washington DC, Virginia, New York City, and major cities up and down the east coast. For areas outside our coverage you can use a number of free Internet sites as well as the library database Reference USA. The Reference Desk will be more than happy to show you how to use these sites. Until next time.

Eric Kuhn
Adult Services Librarian

From the Children's Corner

What a marvelous summer we had here at Brandywine Hundred Library! 843 children registered for the Summer Reading Club "Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds" and 531 of those completed with a total of 6,588 hours of reading time this summer. Nine-year old Laura Horsky alone read for a total of 116 hours! We are very proud of our summer readers.

Upcoming events include more Young Rembrandt Artist Workshops for ages 7-12. Several young artists completed spectacular King Tut artwork on September 12th. There will be many events for the School Bunch this fall: Book Discussion on "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," a movie, more Young Rembrandts, and a chance to be a budding sleuth with the Mystery Club edition of "Who Stole My Present?" in December. Check out these fun programs.

Preschoolers have many opportunities to enjoy here at Brandywine Hundred Library. Storytimes for babies to five-year olds take place every week. Check out the schedule and find the one that suits yours best! They also can learn about animals with the Brandywine Traveling Zoo and all about the space frontier with Mad Science. Both preschoolers and the School Bunch can enjoy movies here, too.

On October 24th, we're going to be making paper cranes to celebrate United Nations Day and working for world peace. This

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Volunteer Profile: Meet Roberta Conrad

(Editor's note: This story is the first in a series of ongoing profiles about the dedicated people who volunteer at BHL. You will learn about their duties and gain a bird's eye view of their lives.)

By Marsha Henderson

For over 30 years, Roberta Conrad has contributed her time and efforts to library volunteer work. She first became active in the library at her youngest daughter's school in New Jersey and worked there until her family moved to Japan in 1973. While living in Tokyo, she volunteered at the library in the Tokyo Union Church where she and her family attended services.

After Roberta returned to the United States, she offered her services to St. Paul's Methodist Church Library. In 1979, she added to that commitment by volunteering at the Concord Pike Library (CPL), moving to the present Brandywine Hundred Library (BHL) after CPL closed. She still works one day a week at the church, and three days a week at the BHL. Her schedule usually is two and a half to three hours daily.

In the earlier days, Roberta's duties included maintaining the card catalogue and filing. Later, she spent much of her time bar coding books for the new electronic procedures. Her present duties include pulling requested materials for patrons of BHL or for distribution to other branches of the New Castle County Library system.

Roberta has also donated her time to hospital work over the years and has served in Delaware Division, Christiana, Pelleport, and now back at Wilmington Hospital. "Volunteering allows plenty of time to pursue one's own life and interests," she insists. For her, that includes golf, tennis, bowling, walking, bridge, and, of course, reading; particularly books by Maeve Binchy, Doris Lessing, and Dick Francis.

She would like to encourage all members of the community to volunteer in some area, because she says it gives one a great sense of accomplishment and is such a valuable contribution to society. "I was taught from an early age that it was pretty much expected for you to chip in, and my father set the example." She would especially like younger citizens to join the Friends of BHL and help wherever they are able.

Roberta and her husband, Jim, who recently celebrated 61 years of marriage, have four children.

Thank you, Roberta!

College Night Attracts 70

Nearly 70 future college students, some with parents, took advantage of the one-stop, information session offered at BHL's Second Annual College Night. Representatives from more than 5 area colleges participated. The Friends provided refreshments. Plans are already underway to invite even more colleges next year.

Join the Adult Book Club

The Adult Book Club at BHL will discuss *Riding the Bus with My Sister* by Rachel Simon on Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m., at the library. New members are welcome. Copies of the book are available at the library.

This particular choice was made in preparation for the author's visit to the library Saturday, Nov. 5, at 2 p.m. This book is this year's selection by the New Castle County libraries for the program *If All of New Castle County Read the Same Book*.

Help Wanted: Shelf Readers

Have you ever been frustrated by looking for a book that is supposedly in the library but you can't find it?

Our volunteer shelf readers perform the invaluable service of adopting shelves and reviewing each book to be sure all items are in correct order.

If you can read and count, you are qualified to become a volunteer shelf reader. This position is very flexible – you decide when and how many hours you would like to work. If you can spare some hours to devote to this critical job, please leave a message for Ruth Forman at the Friends' office at 477-1945. Training will be provided.

How Can I Find Out What's Happening at BHL?

If you are looking for information via your computer at home, go to: the library's web site, co.new-castle.de.us/libraries/brandywinehundredlibrary/brandywine.asp; or the Friends' web site, www.friendsbhl.org.

If you are at the library, look for hard-copy information sheets at the reference desk, checkout counter and on the bulletin board in the lobby. Also check the PowerPoint display at the checkout counter.

And, naturally, our friendly librarians will help you in person and by telephone.

From the Children's Corner Continued from Page 2

is for children ages 7 and up. Minako Kobayashi will be leading this origami paper-folding program.

Look for special contests and surprise "Guest Readers" during National Children's Book Week (November 14-20). Children of all ages will have special events that week.

Become a part of the children's corner at Brandywine Hundred Library by checking out all the great books, DVD's, and other materials we have bought just for your children.

Kay Bowes, Youth Services Librarian



Friends of the Brandywine Hundred Library Membership Renewal Form

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

Date: _____ Please check one: New Member Renewal

Membership Categories:

<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 (or more) Benefactor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Good Neighbor
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Sponsor, Organization, Business
<input type="checkbox"/> \$12 Regular Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ (write-in) Senior Citizen or Student

Contributions are tax deductible. Dues are renewable annually. If your company matches funds, please consider the Friends of Brandywine Hundred Library.

Make check payable to Friends of BHL or Please charge my purchase to: Mastercard VISA AmEx Discover

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Signature (as it appears on card): _____

Mail to: Friends of BHL, 1300 Foulk Road, Wilmington, DE 19803

If you are interested in working with the Friends, please indicate below:

<input type="checkbox"/> newsletter mailings	<input type="checkbox"/> shelf reading	<input type="checkbox"/> check AV equipment (for damage)
<input type="checkbox"/> annual membership drive	<input type="checkbox"/> artwork/posters	<input type="checkbox"/> library guide/greeter



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