



Friends of the  
Brandywine  
Hundred Library

# NEWS

APRIL 2006

*We support, encourage and promote quality library services*

## The Friends' Webmasters Want Your Eyes and Talent

*Dear Friends,*

Have you looked to see what we have online at [www.friends-bhl.org](http://www.friends-bhl.org) recently? We want to encourage you to use the pages and to let us know what you like or dislike. We would also like to give you an opportunity to contribute your talents.

The Friends' Web presence has come a long way and we're striving to make it a resource second to none for our members. The original pages were designed by Cindy Albright of Albright Computing for the Friends of Concord Pike Library (the predecessor of BHL.) The Web site was launched in February 2002.

Initially, it consisted of drawings of what the library would be like and a graphic to show progress in raising funds. There wasn't much content but the site displayed the colorful vision for the future building. You can see snapshots of the pages over time by using the Internet Archive (also known as the "Wayback Machine") and putting in the URL <http://web.archive.org/web/20020806182357/http://friendscpl.org/>

When the name of the new library was chosen, we changed the name of the Web site to reflect our identity as Friends of the Brandywine Hundred Library. At the time, New Castle County didn't have much of a Web presence, so links to the catalog and other resources were added, along with photos of the new building. Our pages became the de facto BHL site. Although the pages were developed initially for fund raising purposes, our site grew to provide links to information about the library before the county developed its Web presence.

The site features issues of the Friends' bimonthly newsletter going back to December 2003. Summary minutes from our board meetings were added to the site in early 2006 to keep our Friends informed.

Fast forward to the present . . . volunteers are running the Web site and have taken over its design and operation. Moving the website to the new 'home' (i.e. 'hosting server' if you prefer the technical term) allows us to have more control in designing and updating it. The first decision we made was to give our homepage a facelift, consolidating similar links into sections and adding new links to make it easier to find information about the Friends and the library programs.

*Continued on page 3*

## Join the Friends Now Annual Membership Drive April 2-8

The annual membership drive of the Friends of Brandywine Hundred Library this year runs April 2 through April 8. This is your opportunity to support the library. A basic membership still costs only \$12 and as a thank-you gift, you may select a colorful geranium or a loaf of freshly baked bread or a tote bag.

This year cash or checks only are being accepted for payment of membership dues – we are no longer accepting credit cards.

Volunteers are needed to help sign up new and re-enrolling Friends at the drive table in the lobby. Each shift is two hours. Two to three volunteers are needed to staff the table, which is operated nearly all of the hours that the library is open. Volunteers who help at the membership table also may select one of the thank-you gifts.

If you would like to volunteer to help at the membership drive table please call: Ruth at 478-1310 or Sally at 478-4704. Last minute calls are welcome.

Thank you for supporting the Friends. Your dues help our library in ways it could not otherwise afford, ranging from buying additional books to specialized equipment and more. A banner by the drive table lists some of the Friends' recent purchases for the library.

## **FINES WAIVED**

Due to the system wide failure  
of the library computer system,  
fines are being waived  
on overdue items  
between March 8 and March 31.

**Return Overdue Items Today!**



## From the Manager's Desk

Thomas M. Weaver

System hardware failure led to a week of our not being able to check in material as it was being returned. Patrons lost access to their accounts and the catalog and did not have the ability to place holds. About 12,000 items accumulated in storage awaiting check in.

After much agonizing over the challenge that confronted us, I am proud of the way my staff has responded with their enthusiasm and the suggestions they made, the offers from both full and part-time staff to put in the extra hours needed to overcome the obstacles we faced in order to minimize the impact of the System crash upon our patrons. Volunteers offered to make themselves available for additional periods of service and many of the Friends came forward to offer help as well.

Any doubts that I may have had about our being able to succeed in this endeavor were erased by the tremendous response from all, those of you in the public, our leadership in Community Services, the Information System personnel, my staff, volunteers and the Friends of the library.

It was wonderful to see how everybody pitched in and got involved with the process of our recovery. I hope that everyone involved takes pride in their part of the collective effort to restore service to our community and I also hope that our patrons realize the value of the services the New Castle County Libraries provide. Thanks again to all.

## From the Adult Reference Desk

It has been an interesting week here at Brandywine Hundred Library. As all of you know by now, we experienced a system wide computer crash that resulted in us not having our main operating database for a week. By the time the system came back up we had accumulated over 40 carts of books, talking books, magazines, and movies that needed to be checked in and shelved. What is truly amazing is that we were able to get all of these items checked in and shelved in a little more than 24 hours.

I would like to thank all of the people who helped us make this possible: our volunteers, our Friends, and our staff. I would also like to thank our patrons for their understanding and patience while we were down, their concern over what we were facing once the system came back up, and their offers of help to shelve all the books once they could be checked back in.

Eric Kuhn, Adult Services Librarian

## From the Children's Corner

Spring is coming to the Brandywine Hundred Library!

We have lots of programs to celebrate National Library Week and hope you will join us for lots of fun times. Read Aloud Delaware and the library are sponsoring our annual Read Aloud Challenge on Monday, April 3 at 6:30 pm. Children read aloud for three minutes in front of a panel of judges for prizes. It is always a lot of excitement in the room with a lot of happy youngsters who are reading their hearts out.

Michael Forestieri will present a family story program on Wednesday, April 5, at 6:30 pm. Mad Science will bring their zany science fun to the library for preschoolers and for older children. Preschoolers can enjoy "Mad Mixtures" on Tuesday, April 4 (two sessions, at 10:30 and 11:30 am). We are happy to welcome new Library Specialist Ann Burckell to the library. Ann has been a part-timer over at Claymont Library so is not new to New Castle County but we are very happy to have her with us. Ann has been an art teacher, a counselor and loves working with children so she is a natural fit. Because of her artistic background, Ann will be handling most of our craft programs for the older children. Come have crafty fun with Ann during National Library Week on Friday, April 7 at 4:30 (children ages 7-12). A new program for preschoolers will debut in April — "Discovery Time: What's the Big Idea?" This is a science and math discovery program tied in with stories and libraries. The first one will be on Monday, April 17 at 1:30. It is designed for ages 4-6. Many of these science and math concepts will be added to Preschool storytime, too, for our loyal preschoolers. Look for more early literacy concepts being added to the other storytimes, too. It is essential that little ones be introduced to language and rhymes as early as possible to help in their learning to read.

Our "PAWS for People" program is very popular. Look for our furry friends in the story room on the third Saturday of every month, being read to by the children of our community. We are very excited about the "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales" Summer Reading Club beginning June 1. We will have programs for children and teens. Watch for announcements of the new way of receiving incentive prizes, designed to encourage library visits. And also look for the big announcement of which books won the Delaware Blue Hen Children's Choice Awards during National Library Week.

Kay Bowes, Youth Services Librarian

## From the Teen Corner

We have begun to enlist the aid of teen volunteers, who will be assisting us, hopefully, through the summer. It looks like we've assembled a great group, thus far. Also, we've just completed our summer programming. The teen summer reading theme is "Creature Feature," so we will be hosting a "Creature Feature Film Series," to include films such as "Corpse Bride," "Gremlins," and "Mystery Science Theater 3000." In addition, we will also have the Delaware Theater Company on hand to assist teens in the application of monster make-up, along with the Delaware Museum of Natural History, who will introduce teens to Ziggy, the Ball Python! Ed Okonowicz will be back, and newcomer, Hailey Weiner, will join us in July to deliver a live performance in the café. In fact, the Hailey Weiner performance is an all-ages event, so why not come out and join us!

Meredith McGill, Teen Specialist



## Dear Friends

Continued from Page 1

schedules and major happenings in the Friends. We converted static web pages of library programs to a set of dynamic pages generated from database entries so that past events are automatically removed from the pages. When you click on "Programs" links, you'll always see recent and upcoming events on the top of the page. It is easier to enjoy exciting events in the library now – just check our website more often!

Our goal of being user-friendly is not only for members who visit our website, but also for volunteers who would like to contribute to it. We have developed some administration pages (essentially forms) to update more dynamic content on the website, for instance, the programs. Using these forms, volunteers only need to type or copy and paste text into a form and click a few buttons to publish content on our website. It is as simple as entering the information that people do to search or shop online. No programming skills are required to maintaining most content of our website. This is what we call user-friendly.

Where do we go from here? We've added links to library advocacy groups and resources. Our Web pages and newsletter are staffed by volunteers. Our goal is to include more useful content in the Web pages, including longer versions of articles that may be published in the newsletter. We invite people to join us, especially people who like to write. If you would like to join us, send an email to [webmaster@friendsbhl.org](mailto:webmaster@friendsbhl.org) or leave a message at (302) 477-1945 and we'll get back with you to see how we can keep our Library Friends pages growing and improving.

**Shuoqi (Joyce) Li and John Stevenson**

**Friends' Webmasters**

**Members of the Friends Board of Directors**

## HELP WANTED

### Newsletter Editors

The Friends board of BHL seeks part-time, volunteer associate editors for its newsletter, which is published six times a year. This newsletter circulates to about 1,000 readers and is posted on the Friends Web site.

The duties for this fascinating position are variable and may include writing, editing, proofing, suggesting and assigning story ideas. Creative people with a passion for concise English are invited to apply. A home computer is required.

For more information, leave a message on the answer phone at the Friends' office at BHL at (302) 477-1945.

## Volunteer Profile: Meet Carol Okeson

By Kristie Moore

A self-professed book lover, Carol Okeson brings a passion for sharing to her broad ranging volunteer position as the manager of our sale shelves. Newcomers to the library should treat themselves to a tour of these shelves, located on the first floor near the return-drops. These shelves feature donated books, audio-tapes, CDs and videos in many genres for attractive prices. Information is posted there on the kinds and quality of materials that are welcomed for donations.

Carol began volunteer work at Concord Pike Library in 2001 after retiring. Previously she taught school for two years, raised three children, received her master's in social work and had worked as a therapist for 13 years. In addition to other professional posts, she had lived in Germany for seven years working in a psychiatric clinic for children and adolescents.

As a volunteer at the library, Carol began as a shelver. Soon she assumed the responsibility for the sale shelves. Amrita Sengupta helped her with the work for a couple of years but otherwise Carol has done most of the work by herself with assistance from Kay Lacy, librarian and volunteer coordinator (among other titles).

Part of the importance of Carol's work is reflected in the amount of money the sale shelves generate. For example, in 2004, the total was \$13,477, and in 2005, \$17,819. This revenue goes to BHL's book budget, programming efforts, etc.

Carol's favorite part of her job is working with the managers of some 50 Wilmington area service agencies and institutions who also receive your donated items. Carol learns about the specific needs and interests of these groups so items can be set aside for them. (For information about how extensively your donations are used, visit the Friends Web site at [www.friendsbhl.org](http://www.friendsbhl.org) and go to page 3 of the August 2005 newsletter.)

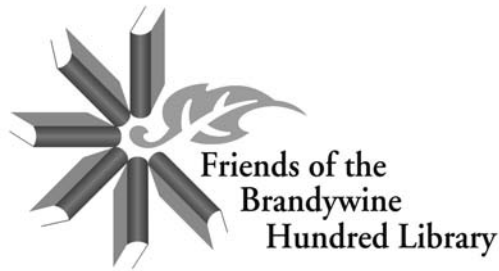
If you aren't wildly impressed by Carol now, you may appreciate that she also transports the books to the service organizations in her own car, occasionally helped by her husband.

Despite the large amount of time that Carol devotes to her work, her mission still excites her. "The shelves are like a treasure hunt and a way of sharing for people who love books - a nice way for people to give away their books. This is win-win for everyone."

Thank you, Carol.

## Adult Book Club: Read and Discuss Friedman's "The World is Flat"

The Book Club at Brandywine Hundred Library will discuss "The World is Flat: A Brief History of the 21st Century" by Thomas L. Friedman Wednesday, April 19, at 7 pm. Newcomers are welcome at this club for adults.



Friends of the  
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## 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

**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