



Friends of the
Brandywine
Hundred Library

NEWS

JUNE 2006

We support, encourage and promote quality library services

Dear Friends,

Although this is the first of our two summer newsletters, I'm focusing on thoughts that were shared by Brandywine Hundred Library (BHL) Friends during our Annual Membership Drive in April. The Membership Drive is a wonderful opportunity for the Friends Board Members to receive feedback from the hundreds of people who visit the library weekly. It can also be a good chance to clear up misconceptions. A few of the comments received:

One person noted that she had e-mailed suggestions for improvement but never received a response. If that happens, please try again, call or write. The phone number and e-mail address given in articles requesting feedback or help are usually those of the Friends Office located in Brandywine Hundred Library. A board member regularly checks phone and e-mail messages but we can't guarantee 100% accuracy!

Another person remarked that he always renews his membership by mail but that it takes a while for the check to be cashed. Since we all volunteer our time, and renewals go from the Office Manager to the Membership person to the Treasurer, it can take either days or a few weeks to get those checks deposited. The good news is that we have an excellent paper trail.

Some disappointment was expressed regarding the landscaping the Friends commissioned last year. It looks sparse now. However, please keep in mind the following: the plants were not installed until the fall of 2005; trees take about three years to establish their root systems before major growth in their trunks and limbs is observed; and we're checking to see if either New Castle County or the Friends will be assuming responsibility for weeding the area. It will take another year or two before the plantings fill out, just as it does when new bushes and trees are installed at home.

In addition, all board members had a chance to comment on how the membership drive was handled during our board meeting the next week. For information on that discussion, please go to our website (www.friendsbhl.org) and read the copy of the April Meeting Minutes posted there.

As we move from spring to summer and take advantage of the increased daylight hours by pursuing numerous outdoor activities, add reading a good book to that list of "things to do". Look for a variety of summer reading programs for all ages at Brandywine Hundred Library and continue to use your library card on a regular basis.

Cecilia McCormick
President, Friends of the Brandywine Hundred Library

Membership Drive Results

By Molly MacMillan

The Friends of Brandywine Hundred Library wrapped up the 65-hour Annual Membership drive with 163 new members and 168 renewed memberships, bringing the total number of our group to 908. The Friends of Brandywine Hundred Library would like to thank Big Sky Bakery and Friendly Gift Shop for having our orders carefully prepared to replenish library supplies every morning.

The drive for 2006 marked the first year that renewal memberships exceeded new memberships for the Friends. Last year, there were 80 more new memberships than renewal memberships collected from the drive.

Of the 331 memberships the drive brought in, the Friends gathered more than 30 volunteers for various committees.

The library also collected 23 donated books in the drive. Book donors receive a membership for their gift bringing the total membership to 931. This year, the number of books donated more than doubled the 11 books donated last year.

Even though renewal memberships were greater than new memberships, total membership uncharacteristically fell this year. 225 of the memberships in 2005 were not renewed in the 2006 drive.

This means more than a quarter of the members we had last year did not renew. The Friends have lost 62 memberships since the drive last year.

Be sure to renew your membership by the date at the top of your mailing label of this newsletter. Members receive the newsletter until six months after their membership expires. If you discover you're no longer a member, the opportunity exists for easy renewal; fill out the form on the back of this newsletter, or visit our web address.



Laugh and Learn with

Word of the Day

Do you want to inject more excitement into your conversations and be more knowledgeable as you read? One fun way to do this is to pause at the Adult Reference Desk to read the WORD OF THE DAY (WOTD).

Karen Olsen, Access Services/Reference Librarian, launched this project two-and-a-half years ago. The first year, she selected the words to post from her reading. The second year, she let her fingers do the walking through the dictionary, but from the back starting with the letter "z," then "y," then "q." This unusual order makes sense once you learn Karen is a long-time Scrabble player.

Eventually, she decided to retire from selecting words when she reached her 1,000th word and invited patrons to take over this responsibility. This happened in January. Karen continues to oversee the project. So far, patrons have submitted about 55 individual word-nomination slips of paper and several other patrons have offered entire sheets of notebook paper filled with words.

Karen welcomes new nominations for WOTD. If you would like to submit words and their definitions for consideration, the nomination slips are near the WOTD display or simply use notepaper. Karen uses definitions from the Random House Dictionary of the English Language, Second Edition, and/or Webster's Third New International Dictionary.

Over the duration of this project, Karen has expanded the daily offering page to include, color, Google images, and her own wry sense of humor.

A sampler of posted words from over the span of the program follows for both your education and entertainment:

- **Verbicide** (*verb-ih-side*) n: the willful distortion of the original meaning of a word; the person who does this. *Ex: Words and such as sweet cool have become verbicides in the hands of the younger generation.* – Karen Olsen
- **Vibrissa** (*vy-briss-uh*) plural, vibrissae (-e) n: one of the stiff bristly hairs growing about the mouth of certain animals, as a whisker of a cat. *From Latin, vibrare, to shake.* – Karen Olsen
- **Mundungus** (*mun-dung-us*) n: Naval, offal or trash; offensive smelling tobacco (or the dust from unrolled tobacco leaves), *Latinized version of the Spanish, mondongo, tripe.* – Patron Selection
- **Steatopygia** (*stee-at-uh-pie-jee-uh*) n: extreme accumulation of fat on and about the buttocks. *From Greek, steato, fat or tallow, and pyg, buttocks.* Sumo wrestlers are often steatopygic. – Patron Selection Karen's note: *Did you really think that I would put up a picture for this word?*
- **Throttlebottom** (*throt-ull-bot-um*) n: a harmless, incompetent in public office. *Alexander Throttlebottom, a character in Of Thee I Sing, a Kaufman/Ryskind 1932 musical.* *Ex: There's definitely a throttlebottom in every administration.* – Patron Selection
- Someone offered the word, *eclasiast*, and gave the definition as a stripper. An *ecdysiast* is a stripper and an *ecclesiast* is a member of the clergy. – Patron Selection
Karen's note: *Once again, did you actually think I would put up a picture?*
- **Triskaidekaphobia** (*triss-kih-deck-uh-foe-bee-uh*) n: fear or a phobia concerning the number 13. *From Greek, triskaideka, thirteen.* – Patron Selection Karen's note: *Too bad we didn't have this word in January, when there was a Friday the 13th!*

From the Adult Reference Desk

Eric Kuhn

Summer is almost here and for many of you that means enrolling your children in the library's summer reading program or taking your grandchildren to the library so they can get their reading logs stamped and collect their prizes. But summer reading is not just for kids. Brandywine Hundred Library's 2nd Annual Adult Summer Reading Program starts on June 1st and runs thru August 31st.

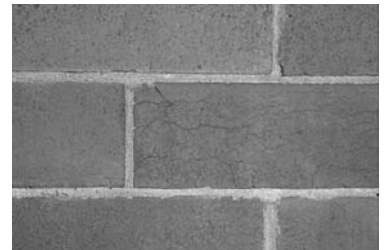
There are no book discussions to attend. All you have to do is read eight books of your choice over the summer. For each book you read you must submit a brief book review using a book review form that you can either pick up at the library or download from the library's website. On the bottom of each book review form is an entry form that you may fill out to enter periodic drawings for prizes over the summer. There will be an additional prize given to each participant who reads the required number of books [eight] and completes the program.

Registration is required for the Adult Summer Reading Program. Please register in person at the Adult Reference Desk. Unfortunately we cannot accept telephone registrations for this program. If you have any questions, please call the Adult Reference Desk at 302-477-3150. Registration began June 1 and is ongoing.

We hope to see you all at the library over the summer, taking part in the Adult Summer Reading Program!

Engraved Bricks

Thinking about an Engraved Brick? Plan now to order your commemorative brick for our beautiful Colonnade of Freedoms walkway! We have set a deadline of Sept. 15 for the brick batch to be installed in late fall 2006. Order forms may be picked up at the Library or downloaded from our website: www.friendsbhl.org. We will make every effort to accommodate special requests, and if you would like to add additional bricks to an existing placement, we will be happy to oblige. For specific details, call Kathy MacDonough at 762-1235, or email contact@friendsbhl.org.



Courtesy Phone at the Youth Desk

Patrons who are calling for a ride home or who need to make emergency calls may use the new courtesy phone at the Youth Desk. This phone is reserved for necessary, short calls by patrons of all ages and was installed because one of the pay telephones in the Café will be removed.



Computer users: Start Switching to USB drives

By Kevin Turner
Technical Services Librarian

The New Castle County library administration and Internet Services (IS) department has decided to no longer support 3.5-inch floppy disks in the libraries.

Don't panic. This doesn't mean that you can't use them anymore. It just means that we aren't recommending them as the be-all, end-all for saving your data. They are easily destroyed and let's face it, the computers don't like them anymore. Nowadays, it's even difficult to buy a computer with a floppy drive.

What we recommend is to start making the switch to USB drives. They are also known as flash drives or pen drives. They're small devices that plug into the USB slots in the front of the computer, install themselves, and function just like your own portable drive. And, they hold tons more than floppies. Even the smallest USB drive holds 50 times the amount of a single floppy disk.

As I said, you can still use the floppy disks, but be warned, they have a very large chance of not working. Almost anything can cause them to go bad; bending, getting too close to your microwave, heat, moisture...anything. The library (or the county) can't do anything to recover lost data or put your floppy back together if it breaks in the drive; the whole proposition is a "use at your own risk" venture.

The best solution is to make backups. Always have another copy of something in case the one you brought to the library goes bad. This does not count just for floppies. Any file saved anywhere can go 'poof'. Make backups. Make hardcopy printouts.

IS will continue to service mechanically broken disk drives. But, if you get a message saying that your floppy either cannot be read or that it isn't formatted, you'll know that the machine no longer likes your disk. This can happen to a brand new disk or to one that has worked well for you for six months. You can try switching to another computer, but chances are that your disk is shot.

USB drives have a better track record, but any file can become corrupted. Live by the programmer's motto: save often, make backups.

Frequently Asked Question:

Fines I Pay on Overdue Items Supplement the BHL Budget, Right?

Alas, you shouldn't ease your conscience with this wonderful notion when you return your items late. The fines you pay go into the New Castle County General Fund. This means your money may go to something as far a field from BHL as food for horses. Now that you know this, perhaps you will apply extra effort to return borrowed items sooner.

Volunteer Profile: Meet Ed Fielding

By Marsha Henderson

As you sit reading this newsletter, you might thank Ed Fielding for the experience. Ed is one of the marvelous volunteers at the Brandywine Hundred Library (BHL) who ensure that the Friends Newsletters get to the many patrons of the library and other interested parties.

This mailing job is not just a matter of sticking labels onto the letters and sending them off. Ed first picks up the letters from the printer. Next, there must be an accurate count of the mailing labels, which have to be sorted by five-digit or three-digit zip codes and placed into appropriate bundles for counting. Then Ed fills out forms to determine the bulk postage rate. When all the newsletters are separated, labeled, bundled and stamped, Ed takes them to Hares Corner for posting.

Ed assumed this job about four or five years ago. After a business career, including six years with DuPont and thirty years with Campbell Soup, he retired in October of 1994. Upon his retirement, he volunteered at the Delaware Genealogical Society where he learned how to do bulk mailings for an organization. A neighbor, Jim Conrad, who had a leading role in the move from the Concord Pike Library to the Brandywine Hundred Library on Foulk Road, was Ed's liaison to a similar position at BHL.

"Volunteering is a learning opportunity and gets you involved with people," says Ed. "It allows you to learn different things from what you would do in your regular routine." He takes that to heart, as he is a volunteer on many fronts. He's still with the Genealogical Society, is a state lobbyist for AARP, Secretary of the state chapter of Sons of the American Revolution (similar to the DAR), serves on the Governor's Council for the state archives, and has donated time to his church in various capacities over the years.

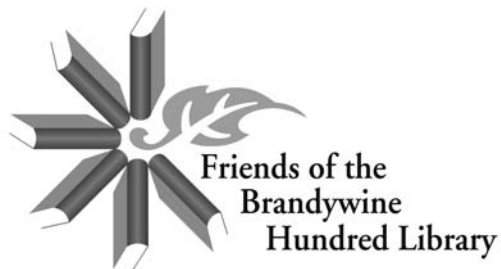
Ed and his wife, a high school English teacher, have raised two children. Their daughter teaches high school in Salisbury, MD, and their son, a PhD based in the southeast, creates formulas for dairy cows.

Lifelong learning is a factor in Ed's life. He has taken courses at the University of Delaware, Wilcastle location, for four or five years and currently studies computer technology. In addition, he and his wife have traveled extensively, exploring places such as Europe, Russia and Turkey. They have, in fact, just recently returned from a cruise, which included visits to China, Korea, and Japan.

Ed's main reading interests are historical books, particularly about Delaware history or American history.

Thank you, Ed, for sharing both your time and your talent with BHL.





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Return Service Requested

Mailing label shows membership expiration date



Friends of the Brandywine Hundred Library Membership Renewal Form

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ email: _____

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 Household, 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"/> writer (newsletter, website)