



Friends of the  
Brandywine  
Hundred Library

# NEWS

AUGUST 2006

*We support, encourage and promote quality library services*

*Dear Friends,*

While I've served on the Friends Board for a number of years, this is the first opportunity I've had to share my thoughts with the broad membership of our organization. I appreciate the chance to do so.

I became involved with the Friends for the same reasons many of you did. I have a strong commitment to literacy and education, and am supportive of a robust library system with resources available to everyone in our community. More specifically, I was driven to become personally engaged in programming at the old Concord Pike Library because of a desire to reach our youngest consumers of library services early and often. Instilling a life-long love of reading and learning pays dividends in so many ways, and is increasingly important in our technological age. Kay Bowes and her staff do an outstanding job with programs for children, but there's much we can do to supplement and support.

Do you see an unmet programming need or an underserved constituency? Do you have an idea you'd like to see implemented? Your Board wants to hear from you. Suggesting a program does NOT mean you will be responsible for organizing it (although that would be helpful). Please contact any Board member to share your recommendation. Visit our website at [www.friendsbhl.org](http://www.friendsbhl.org) for contact information. With your energy and creativity, we can continue to expand and enhance the wonderful offerings available at BHL.

On a somewhat related note, the high level of service we experience at BHL would not be possible without the hard work of our library staff. The Friends hosted a staff appreciation luncheon in May to recognize these important people—just one small gesture of our thanks. Please take a minute on your next visit to show your appreciation to a staff member who has made your library experience a pleasant one.

Happy summer reading!

**Mary E. Bowler**  
Board Member, Friends of the Brandywine Hundred Library

## Landscaping News

By Jack Yeatman, Board Member

Saturday morning, June 8, saw the finishing touches put on the Brandywine Hundred Library (BHL) landscaping project that began last spring. After days and weeks of planning and discussion by Friends, library patrons, staff, professional landscapers and others regarding plantings, colors, location etc., BHL president, Ceci McCormick, took the bull by the horns (or the plants by the leaves, in this case) and directed landscaper, Henry Pautler, to move forward with a plan. On an overcast but cool Saturday morning, board members Joyce Li (and husband Lee), Eileen Lynch (an experienced gardener in her own right), Joy Naquin and I showed up ready to work.

Landscaper Henry Pautler and his hard working assistant, Jeremy Stevenson, coordinated proceedings and worked right along with the other volunteers. Wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels and gloves were distributed. Some loaded the mulch onto the barrows and wheeled it from the parking lot to the beds, others smoothed and raked it over the beds, a few shoveled, and one pruned. Four hours later - tired and sweaty, but content - we stood back and admired our handiwork...well-designed beds of marigolds, multi-colored petunias, lilies, shrubs and trees sprouting from 15 yards of rich black mulch.

Other board members had hoped to be present but had previous commitments. An encourager, strong motivating force and former board member, without whose support the project might never have come to fruition, was Jim Conrad. Thanks to all! Do come to sit on the benches, enjoy a tranquil moment and view the panorama. Seeing is believing.

## Summer Reading Club

By Mollie MacMillan

Want to discover great reads? Share favorites? This summer, the library is once again sponsoring the Adult Summer Reading Club, encouraging readers by offering the opportunity to discover new books and share recent favorites through reader reviews. This is the second year of the club, which runs from June 1 to August 31. Ideally, members read eight books over this time at their leisure and fill out reviews to inform others of their latest read. These reviews are then entered in a drawing for the chance to win reader incentives.

In last year's review of Janet Evanovich's novel, *Four to Score*, Lori Collum writes "All of the Stephanie Plum novels made me

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## From the Library Manager

Thomas Weaver

The following represents a portion of the activity that occurred at Brandywine Hundred Library during the month of June:

- Collection — Evaluation of the Large Type Collection and purchase of Delaware history books
- Library Services — Teen volunteers supported the summer reading program; WiFi coverage expanded to the Café and meeting rooms; flash drives now available for patron purchase
- Facilities — New shelving and lighting installed
- Friends of BHL — Facilitated planting of annuals in front beds and mulching of the area
- Participation in meetings included; managers/reference, Friends, disaster preparedness, corporate interiors
- IS (Information Systems) — resolving Wi-Fi access in Café & meeting rooms, other requests pending
- Other — programming staff meetings, reported patron complaints about noise at the pavilion, internet slowdown impacts ability of staff to function effectively

### From the Adult Reference Desk — Eric Kuhn

Karen Olsen and the pages have been busy moving the large print collection to its new home. The move places the large print collection in an area that is more accessible - on the second floor right next to the elevator - as well as providing more shelf space for the large print collection to grow. We are currently discussing what to do with the space where the large print collection used to be located. One idea is to use the space to house an oversize nonfiction collection, which would allow us to pull the many oversized nonfiction books out of the regular collection. Pulling these books will also free up space in the regular nonfiction collection and allow us to do some shifting to relieve the congestion currently affecting many parts of the nonfiction collection.

Debbie Murphy has been working to revamp the genre fiction display on the second floor. A baker's rack will allow her to get the books up off the floor and more visible to people as they walk by. The fiction books on display are going to highlight various fiction themes as opposed to just fiction collections. For example, instead of just displaying historical fiction books the display might consist of historical fiction works set in Victorian England. Other possibilities include Sherlock Holmes mysteries or fiction stories about roughing it in the backwoods. The current display features fiction works that have been made into movies. The themed displays will be changed periodically but the display period will not be fixed. Debbie has some ideas for upcoming displays, but if you have any ideas for future themes she would be very happy to receive them.

Kay Lacy has been working hard to line up adult programs for the fall, and she asked me to remind everyone about the Adult Summer Reading Club, which runs through the end of August. Read and review eight books by the end of August and win a prize. For each book you review your name is also entered into a weekly drawing. If you have any questions about this, or any other Brandywine Hundred Adult programs, please call the Adult Reference Desk at (302) 477-3150.

## The 2006 Brick Batch — Order Now!



If you're thinking about ordering an engraved brick, or adding to an existing installation, now is the time to act!

We will be taking orders until September 15 for bricks to be installed this year. The engraved brick program has been a source of pride and joy to donors, library volunteers and staff alike. If you haven't already taken a stroll down the walkway in the beautiful Colonnade of Freedoms, now is the time to sample the many loving, funny, and inspiring sentiments displayed there. Then, join the 2,500 generous donors – individuals, families, civic associations, religious groups, businesses and professionals, schools, clubs, and fraternal organizations - who have become a part of history.

For each \$100 donation, you can contribute a brick engraved with the inscription of your choice. We will make every effort to accommodate special requests, and if you would like to add additional bricks to an existing placement, we will do our best to oblige.

The entire donation is tax-deductible, and corporate Matching Gift programs can multiply the impact of your gift. For details, call Kathy MacDonough at 302-762-1235, or email

## Brick Form Correction!

As the Friends of the Library, we can “spel purty gud,” but some of us can't count! For an indeterminate length of time, the brick order form flyer has displayed the wrong number of spaces per line – 13 instead of 14. The engraving instructions do read correctly: Maximum of 3 lines, 14 characters per line, including spaces and punctuation. But the rows of boxes for your inscription are each one shy. The online order form, which can be reached at [www.friendsbhl.org](http://www.friendsbhl.org), is now, and has been correct. We apologize for this error!

### Big Changes in the Teen Area — Jeanne Benzel

The Teen collection has gone through several shifts and we are now very happy with the layout. With the addition of a new shelf there is an expanded area for displays. The Teen audio books (both CD and cassette) have moved from the general Juvenile AV area to reside with the rest of the Teen collection and we have already seen increased activity.

Our summer volunteers are proving to be a hard-working, cheerful lot, who have been invaluable in helping with the Summer Reading Club and all of the children's programs. As we look forward to the fall we hope that some of them will participate in the Teen Advisory Board.

The system-wide program for the fall is a college Scholarship Fair. Brandywine Hundred will be one of the libraries hosting a scholarship application workshop, which will be followed by the all-inclusive Fair at the Bear location. If any of the Friends have knowledge of specific scholarships that they would like to have represented at the Fair, please contact Jeanne Benzel.



## Volunteer Profile: Meet Peggy Rawheiser

By Marsha Henderson

Finding the particular book, magazine, or DVD that you want, out of the thousands in our library, is not difficult because of the organized way these items are stored in any library. How many of us stop to think about how they GET that way, though? At the Brandywine Library, it is largely through the efforts of Peggy Rawheiser, one of the dedicated shelving volunteers.

Peggy began her work for the library in the late '70's, when she was recommended to serve the Friends as Treasurer. She later served for two years as President. During those two years (1980-81), she accompanied the professional staff of the library to the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, to observe the behind-the-scenes workings of that august establishment. Another interesting event that occurred during this period, was a fund raiser for the Friends in which professional experts were called in to appraise old books brought in by local patrons of the library.

After 1981, Peggy worked full time as the church administrator at the Unitarian Church located just behind the Concord Pike Library. Due to her connection to the library, a partnership of sorts developed between the library and the church. Sometimes the library would send patrons who were searching for religious references, not available at the library, to the church; in addition, when outdoor book sales were held by the library, tables would be borrowed from the church for the occasion.

After her retirement, Peggy returned to do volunteer work for the library. She comes in two or three times a week for about three hours each time. She describes her duties as shelving books and juvenile magazines; organizing items on a cart prior to shelving, for more efficient completion of that task; shelving and organizing audio and visual materials, which have greatly increased in recent years.

### Summer Reading Club . . . Continued from Page 1

laugh out loud, thus causing some stares from the people around me." In a later review of Evanovich's *Hot Six*, Lori writes, "the more Stephanie Plum novels I read, the better they get."

The club doesn't limit members to fiction or non-fiction. Members are welcome to read books in any genre. Books reviewed for the club run the spectrum from historical fiction to autobiography to advice. Some readers follow a favorite author like James Patterson, others just choose books that seem to be an interesting read. Reviews from last year are available at the Reference Desk for anyone looking for a more personal description than a book cover offers.

Current member Tom Francis reviewed Scott Turow's *Ordinary Heroes*, writing, "This novel is an engrossing WWII war story set in Belgium, France, and Germany, and encompasses a man's growing understanding of the depth of his father and his mother, a war-bride refugee from a German death camp. The novel is a great insight into the nature of war and the men and women soldiers and partisans who fight it."

*Adam, Eve, and the Serpent* by Elaine Pagels, was recommended by Joan Lynch this summer. "The book explores how it came to be that the theory of Adam and Eve's transgression in the Garden of Eden, 'Original Sin,' became a dominating theme of Christianity." Joan offers her appreciation of Pagel's clarity and objectivity on the charged subject of the book in the opinion part of her review.

Peggy's organizational skills and involvement with libraries goes back to her childhood. "I've always loved to read, and treasured books," she says. Growing up in North Carolina, she brought "arm-loads of books" home from the local library. After the third grade, she moved to a farm and, because she was more isolated, books became even more important to Peggy. She started a stamp collection in elementary school and, through that, had pen pals all over the world who shared her interest and with whom she exchanged stamps.

Upon earning a Business Degree at the University of North Carolina, she found getting hired as a woman accountant to be difficult. Although it was not her plan of choice, she came to Wilmington to teach Accounting at Goldey Beacom College for three years.

Peggy and her husband, Ralph, have five children, all of whom graduated from Brandywine High School, and seven grandchildren. Her four sons live close by, and her daughter lives in Virginia. Since her husband's retirement about ten years ago, they have enjoyed several cruises with friends to such places as the Danube, Alaska, the Panama Canal, and the Greek Islands.

Because some members of her family have suffered from dyslexia, Peggy states that, "it has made me appreciate, even more, the ability to read." When she was young, she loved historical novels, but now prefers nonfiction. Oddly, she no longer prefers to borrow all her reading material from the library; she buys some books so that she can mark them up with notations!

Her suggestion regarding volunteering is related to her difficulty with fibromyalgia and arthritis; "I found that working at the library, I felt better when I came home. Maybe it was the focusing on the job that helped me not to pay attention to the physical pain." She smiles, and with a chuckle, says, "I am still getting satisfaction out of organizing things!"

Many thanks, Peggy, for helping the library run smoothly!

Discouraged reviewers give some of the most useful advice; narrowing your decision of what to read by writing about what to avoid. Regina Quigly reviewed *Chloe Does Yale* by Natalie Krinsky, and wrote the book claimed to be a "supposedly interesting view of sexuality on campus, full of student's immature problems and poor judgment." The novel, in Regina's opinion, was "blandly written, so situations intended to be humorous really didn't come across that way."

And although she didn't hate the book, Carolyn Smith made the point of refusing to stand behind a whole-hearted recommendation of Sarah Dumant's *In the Company of the Courtesan*. "I was put-off by the unnecessary and repeated vulgarity of the dwarf who told the story."

Most reviews, however, are recommendations of the latest book a member chose. Lynne Fowler wrote "I liked the mystery underlying the story," of Susan Richards Shreve's book, *A Student of Living Things*. "The reader tries to understand what happened to Claire's brother just as she does," and in her opinion she writes, "I like the love story woven through the tragedy," of the book following Claire Frayn, a biology student in Washington D.C., and her eccentric family after the murder of Claire's brother.

It's not too late to join the club for anyone interested in sharing that great beach read they've found this summer. Reviews also usually include the call numbers for those of you interested in checking out one of the books that sounded engaging in a review.



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## Friends of the Brandywine Hundred Library Membership Renewal Form

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Please check one:  New Member  Renewal

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	<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)