



Friends of the
Brandywine
Hundred Library

NEWS

OCTOBER 2006

We support, encourage and promote quality library services

Dear Friends,

It seems impossible, but five years have flown by since the Give A Brick program was conceived by BHL Building Fund Chair Jim Conrad as a way for the general public to support the long-awaited new "northern regional" library.

The program was launched December 6, 2001, at a news conference on the construction site, with our colorful friend "Brick Boy" in attendance as its mascot.

You will recall that we were all in shock over the events of September 11 while experiencing a renewed, acute awareness of and gratitude for the founding tenets of our democracy.

That fall, Cam Yorkston, our fundraising consultant, suggested that we christen the future covered walkway along the Library's north side as "The Colonnade of Freedoms." Each of the 10 stately granite columns would be dedicated to one amendment to the Bill of Rights. After lively debate, the building fund steering committee agreed that this would be a most appropriate and symbolic act.

I had planned to write in detail about the marvelous kaleidoscope of sad, funny and philosophical brick inscriptions, and the wonderful spectrum of donors who have contributed our 2,500-plus engraved bricks. But reflecting on the history and context of the Colonnade and walkway, with perspective gained from time, I realized anew the meaning our small fundraising gambit has taken on.

Our bricks recognize not only our donors' monetary gifts, but also their loved ones, inspirations, dreams, life milestones, and celebration of learning.

One of our marketing catch phrases has been "Be a Part of History." With each passing day, this concept blossoms, as the founding bricks are joined by newcomers and as new generations take their place beside the old.

Along the way we constantly had to correct ourselves semantically: one is giving a brick, not buying a brick! Through this tangible contribution, donors literally helped to build a dream of this community, with each brick one cherished element in the mosaic of a pavement that will be as permanent as anything gets these days.

As the "Brick Lady," I have the privilege of getting up close and personal with our generous donors. Sometimes it's an interesting challenge to fit a desired inscription into the space allotted. Often I feel that I am given the most precious gift of intimacy and trust, as I confer with donors about a memorial or memento.

Please stroll our walkway and sample the sentiments. Eavesdrop as a new reader sounds out a funny saying. Feel the solidity, pride and rootedness of planting your feet firmly on a pavement formed from the infinite variety of people and organizations that helped make this dream come true.

Kathy MacDonough
Board Member, Friends of the Brandywine Hundred Library

Computer Lab Opens: Class Schedule TBA

By the time you read this article, BHL's new computer lab should be ready for a variety of exciting free programs for both patrons and staff.

The purpose of this newest asset of the library is to provide a formal, instructional space in which classes can be held on computer use, the Internet, and databases.

The lab will be used solely for library-sponsored instructional, educational, or training programs. Recreational use of the computer lab computers is prohibited.

It is located on the second floor in one of the former large study rooms. You won't be able to look in if you walk by because the room has blinds to provide privacy for the classes and is locked when not in use.

The lab features six regular PCs for students and a seventh configured for the instructor. The room will feature a computer-projector so instruction can be viewed on the wall.

BHL librarians and circulation staffers will teach daytime classes. Plans for offering evening and weekend classes are being explored. Among the subjects to be taught are: basic internet, Word, Excel, and Power Point.

More specialized classes also will be offered. Librarian Karen Olsen may teach a class on EBSCO, which is a database for researching periodicals and newspapers. There may be classes on genealogical research databases, such as HeritageQuest and Ancestry, which offer information on census reports, military service, and deaths. Another class will be on Reference USA, a business database used to create mailing lists of potential customers by zip code, household income, etc.

Just as important as the classes for patrons are the ones for our library staff. Via this lab at their "home" library, they will learn about new databases as well as updates on older ones. Previously, BHL staffers had to travel to Bear or the government center in New Castle to attend such classes.

Sign-up is required for all computer lab classes and can be done at the Adult Reference Desk. Stay tuned to library publications and BHL's web site for information about the times and subjects of the classes. More information about the computer lab and the formal policies for its use are available at the same desk.

Two librarians were key in taking the computer lab from dream to reality. They are: Eric Kuhn, Adult Services Librarian, and Kevin Turner, Technical Services Librarian.



From the Library Manager

Thomas Weaver

I'd like to thank all of our patrons who have provided us with feedback on how we are doing and how you feel we could serve you better.

Our Large Type readers asked that the collection be made more easily accessible and displayed with brighter light. Over the summer, we set up new shelving close to the elevator and the bright light from the windows.

Some patrons, wanting to learn how to use the catalog, the internet and various Office programs, asked for more training at expanded hours. We responded by setting up a PC training Lab that will open soon. We are also looking at offering training at new times throughout the day.

Many patrons have told us how hard it was to find the popular movies that they wanted. Spearheaded by Librarian Karen Olsen, we shifted popular movies to the forefront where they are easier to find. The increase in circulation of these movies and favorable comments show that this new system works better for our patrons.

Your thoughtful comments and suggestions help us to make Brandywine Hundred Library the best it can be. Thanks.

The library continues to attract an increasing number of visitors a day. We have gone from averaging 1,500 visitors a day to over 1,600 visitors a day.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Pamela Stevens for the wonderful job she has done for the library and our patrons during the years she had been a member of our team. I also want to extend our congratulations to Pam on her recent promotion to Principle Library Assistant, a role that she will assume with the new Woodlawn Library that opens in early November.

From the Children's Corner — Kay Bowes

What a great summer we had here at Brandywine Hundred Library! 1028 children and teens registered for the "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales" Summer Reading Club and 618 of them read at least six (6) hours or more. Altogether our children read 13,144 hours this summer, more than double last year!

Now that fall is almost here, our attention turns back to our school-time programming. We have the "usual" storytimes for the preschoolers (although Mother Goose Baby Storytime is now for babies 6 – 23 months), as well as some special programs just for that rambunctious age.

We have new offerings for the school bunch: "Spanish for Kids" with Oscar Chavez, once a month from September through December; "Chess for Kids" with David Gertler, in October and December; and a brand-new Book Club for kids who are 7 & 8 years old, starting in November. We will be offering a couple of "Discovery Time: What's the Big Idea?" programs for preschoolers, dealing with math and science, later in the fall. All in all, we have a lot for kids here at the library!

We are anxiously awaiting our new book display for board books, thanks to the generosity of the Friends of Brandywine Hundred Library! It should help the wee ones find their favorites a lot easier!

We are always looking for new and/or gently used puzzles for the Puzzle Corner. We ask that parents/guardians please use the opportunity to teach children about picking up after themselves.

We are especially looking for learning toys that the babies could play with after their storytime. Anything clean and suitable for 6–23 months would be appreciated greatly.

Look for some changes as we begin a large weeding project. First we are going to look at the fiction sections -- mystery, science fiction, series, and chapter books. Then we plan to work in the picture book section. We could use extra volunteers as we go through this process, if any of you are interested. Come check out what is happening at Brandywine Hundred!

From the Teen Corner — Meredith McGill, Teen Specialist

Jeanne and Meredith are busy preparing for the College Scholarship Fair, which will be held at the Bear Library on October 18. In preparation for the fair, Brandywine (along with Bear, Hockessin, and Newark) will be hosting a College Scholarship Workshop, which is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, September 26. And speaking of college ... the Princeton Review was back to host a PSAT Practice Test on Saturday, September 16. For those of you with college-bound children, we'll look forward to seeing a lot of you within the coming months!

Karen E. Quinones Miller to Offer Writer's Workshop

Renowned author Karen E. Quinones Miller will present a workshop for writers in the large meeting room at BHL Saturday, October 28, from 1-3 pm.

The program, sponsored by the Writers Group of BHL, is free and open to all writers and interested adults. Miller, a former reporter for the Philadelphia Inquirer, is the author of *Satin Doll*, *Using What You Got*, *Ida B, I'm Telling: A Novel*, and *Satin Nights*, among other books.

Please call 302.477.3150 to register. Seating is limited and walk-ins are not encouraged. Refreshments will be served.

Scenery Adjoining the Library in the Park

The landscaping project by the main entrance doors to BHL finally reached colorful completion.

The Friends would like to thank landscaper Henry Pautler for his design and ongoing diligence, despite weather problems, to see the garden to fruition. Pautler will be assisting in ongoing maintenance.

Additionally, the Friends thank the Green Acres Garden Club for continuing work in maintaining the children's area garden as well as planting and sustaining flowers in the big urns outside the café.

If you have not been to the library in a long time, you especially may enjoy viewing these gardening accomplishments via photos on the Friends Web. These photos were made by library staffer Pam Stevens.

If any of you are interested in consulting Pautler about your own projects, he may be reached at 302.428.1521. For more information about the Green Acres Garden Club, contact Shirley Stout at 302.478.9495.



Volunteer Profile: Meet Peggy Cairncross

By Marsha Henderson

Peggy Cairncross has had a lifelong interest in libraries. Indeed, her first job was working after school at her hometown library in Wellesley, MA., when she was an eighth grader.

Peggy continued working there throughout high school, repairing, shelving, and checking out books to patrons. While attending Bates College in Maine, she worked part time in the college library. So, it is not surprising that she has volunteered a couple of hours a week at BHL for the last nine years.

Working at Concord Pike Library and then BHL, Peggy first shelved books but later moved to filing audio-visual material.

After graduating with a degree in economics, Peggy married and worked in a bank in New Haven, CT. In 1962, the couple moved to Delaware, where their three children were born. Peggy was a stay at home mom for twelve years.

Her love of libraries was still very much alive and she was contemplating pursuing a degree in Library Science. Due to sudden changes in her personal life, she went to work at the Bank of Delaware as a teller, retiring from full-time work as a manager in 1997.

Her volunteerism is not limited to the library. She is on the Board of Trustees at the Universalist Unitarian House (a retirement home) in Germantown, where she is also involved in their outreach programs. Locally, she is treasurer of her church's supper group.

Peggy is involved at the UD Academy of Lifelong Learning as well. She says, "I have always considered myself 'a jack of all trades and a master of none' as the old saying goes. I do not consider myself a teacher so I don't teach there." She does take some classes and is a volunteer in the reading room, helping people find particular items and doing whatever is needed.

Peggy has traveled since her retirement, taking a European tour, a Scandinavian cruise (including Russia), and an extensive driving vacation through Alaska. She enjoys walking, socializing, and spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Of course, one of her favorite pastimes is reading. Peggy says that she enjoys mysteries at the present time, but that she goes in cycles, changing favorite genres now and again. "I will read a lot of one author until I get bored and decide on another type of reading material." She prefers fiction, but does read all types of literature.

Her recommendation for others to jump into volunteering is that you can make your own hours and you are socializing, as well. Peggy has a ready smile and a wonderful outlook, which certainly speak volumes for the benefits of being a volunteer. Thank you, Peggy.

FAQ: Cell Phones – Must You Ask?

The use of cell phones is prohibited in BHL. In case of emergency or to call for a ride home, you may use the courtesy phone at the children's desk. Cell phone violators may have their library cards revoked.

Indeed, the library is swarming with "plain clothes cell phone police" (really just other quiet patrons) simply waiting to turn in violators. Please, remind your family and friends to turn off their cell phones as they enter the library. Your BHL family thanks you!

Our Summer Reading Clubs Grow!

By Molly MacMillan

The start of summer didn't just bring an increase in temperature; 2006 brought an impressive increase in participation in the summer reading clubs of Brandywine Hundred Library. The club for children and teens, "Paws, Claws, Scales, and Tales," grew to 1,028 members. This group logged 13,144 hours of reading for the club, more than doubling last year's total.

Membership in the adult club increased by more than 25 per cent over 2005. More members in this club mean more member-written book reviews. The formal collection of these reviews will be available for patrons to read at a later date.

Librarian Kay Lacy, the club's organizer, said that many of this year's reviews were particularly well thought out. These reviews can be a valuable resource, detailing readers' opinions why certain books merit reading and others not.

Books by Mary Higgins Clark and Patricia Cornwell were the most read and reviewed. Members often followed an author for several books, gathering perspective on the author's body of work and talent beyond the book of initial interest. The members selected a wide spectrum of genres but most often chose fiction. Expectedly, well-known authors were most popular but members didn't limit themselves to household names. Carolyn Smith read the most books, turning in 16 of the 247 reviews.

The club grew not only in number but diversity, membership, review styles and books read. Three members are male; one is one-half of a couple that belongs to the club. One reviewer teamed text with illustrations, which were Internet photos and graphics.

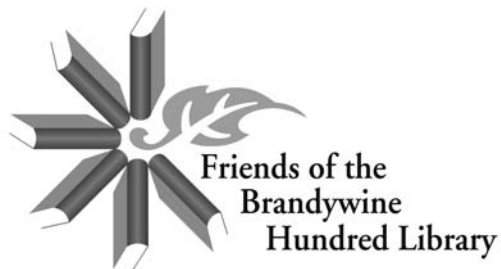
Some adults read and reviewed children's books. For example, selected authors Johanna Hurwitz and Roald Dahl make their books inviting to both children and adults. Indeed, with the success of the Harry Potter books, an adult reading children's books is no longer far-fetched.

August 31 was the last day of the summer reading clubs for 2006, but the library is eager to continue the trend of increased readership and membership next summer.

HELP WANTED

The Friends Newsletter is in need of a co-editor, someone who will share the responsibility for gathering articles and overseeing publication of several newsletters a year. Duties could include writing, editing, proofing and assigning story ideas. A home computer would be helpful, as much of the pre-edition communication takes place via e-mail.

We really are waiting to hear from you! For more information, or to volunteer for this amazing opportunity, leave a message on the answer phone at the Friend's Office (302-477-1945).



Friends of the
Brandywine
Hundred Library

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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)