



Friends of the
Brandywine
Hundred Library

NEWS

DECEMBER 2006

We support, encourage and promote quality library services

Dear Friends,

December is the time of year when many of us reflect on what's happened over the last eleven months – both in our own lives and in the world around us. As a member of the Friends Board, a certain percentage of my reflection revolves around what the Friends have been able to do to “support, encourage and promote quality library services” at Brandywine Hundred Library (BHL). I feel we've done rather well this year because:

- After more than a year's worth of planning, money and physical labor, the landscaping project at the front entrance is an endeavor we can all take pride in.
- As Friends, we are improving our outreach efforts. In October, Friends members participated in two community events; one at Foulk Manor North (see the article in this newsletter) and one at the library, handing out the light bulbs provided by the Delaware Energy Office.
- The newsletter has continued to expand its range with various board members writing the 'Dear Friends' letter, additional regular features (e.g. volunteer profiles, FAQ) and new writers Molly MacMillan, Seth Pauley, and Marsha Henderson.
- We've provided thousands of dollars for books, DVDs, Summer Reading gift cards and other items requested by the library manager, Tom Weaver.
- The Friends web site, maintained by two board members, is easy to navigate, visually appealing, up-to-date and very informative. People interested in writing for the web site or newsletter are welcome to participate. Contact us at www.friendsbhl.org or call 477-1945.

You are cordially invited to our Annual Meeting, which will be held on December 12, at 7 p.m., in an upstairs conference room at Brandywine Hundred Library. During this meeting we'll hold our annual election; the slate of nominees and information on each is in the opposite column.

You are also encouraged to be an active Friend by attending our regular monthly meetings, sharing your ideas for additional newsletter/web site content and inviting others to join our organization.

Cecilia McCormick
President, BHL Friends

Annual Meeting News

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of Brandywine Hundred Library will be held Tuesday, December 12, 2006, at 7 p.m. at the library. During this meeting, officers and directors will be elected. Full terms are for two years.

All members of the Friends in good standing are invited to this meeting and those present may vote on this slate. Nominees are:

Officers

Vice President	Eileen Lynch	2006-08
Treasurer	Marcia Dillon	2006-08

Officers continuing in office with terms expiring in 2007 are:

President, Cecilia McCormick	Secretary, Joy Naquin
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Directors

Evelyn DeJohn	2006-08	Ann Hitchcock	2006-08
Lois Myoda	2006-08	Sharon Riddick	2006-08
Jack Yeatman	2006-08		
Kristie Moore	2006-07 (to fill an unexpired term)		

Directors continuing in office with terms expiring in 2007 are:

Mary Bowler	Shuoqi (Joyce) Li
Kathy MacDonough	John Stevenson

Officer nominees' biographies:

Vice President

Eileen Lynch has been a director since 2004, serving as vice president 2005-06. She is an accountant with more than 30 years of experience in forecasting, financial analysis and accounting systems. She is retired from DuPont and works part-time as a consultant.

Treasurer

Marcia Dillon has been a director since 2003, serving as treasurer 2005-06. A graduate of Tufts University, she worked at Winterthur for eight years as an inventory specialist. She has a life-long interest in libraries.

Director nominees' biographies:

Evelyn DeJohn hails from Ridley Park, PA, but has lived in Delaware since her teens. After her first career as an X-ray technician, she switched to teaching, and now stays busy keeping up with the gifted second graders at Mount Pleasant Elementary School.

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Annual Election . . . con't from page 1

She has been active in the Science Alliance program, which seeks to foster science literacy in elementary and secondary students.

Ann Hitchcock works for the Delaware Division for the Visually Impaired, coordinating volunteers statewide and managing production of materials including Braille, large print books, and audio-tapes. A native of Massachusetts, she has been a long-time tutor for Literacy Volunteers, and served on the board of the New Castle County Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

Kristie Moore was a director 2003-05, serving as co-chair of the membership drive and vice president. She has been the Friends' newsletter editor since 2003. She is a former journalist and served as corporate manager/information services for Gannett Co., Inc., the parent company of the News Journal.

Lois Myoda was once a neighbor of Evelyn Young, the community activist who in 1956 headed the fundraising for the first permanent library serving Brandywine Hundred – Concord Pike Library. Lois hails from a small town in Nebraska, and has lived in NY, CA and several states in between, as well as in Japan. She has been a Literacy Volunteer for many years, and also very active in the League of Women Voters. She has a special interest in improving services to the blind and visually impaired.

Sharon Riddick is a West Philly girl who relocated to Delaware. After nine years with MBNA, she is now employed as an assistant to senior partners of a large downtown law firm; in fact, she is contemplating law school herself. Sharon has contributed her time to the Ronald McDonald House, Literacy Volunteers, and the HOSTS (Helping One Student to Succeed) mentoring program.

Jack Yeatman retired as Quality Assurance Coordinator of the Delaware Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health in 1995. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Penn State and a law degree from Dickinson. He is busy with volunteer work, travel, community theater and the Academy of Lifelong Learning.

How Many Lightbulbs...?

BHL and the Friends participated in the distribution of free compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) as part of a statewide campaign, Delaware Energy An\$wers Program, in October, National Energy Awareness Month.

The influx of many, many hundreds of additional people coming to the library daily to redeem coupons for the bulbs made the library circulation area very busy. Members of the Friends worked two-hour shifts on weekends to help ease the burden on the library staff.

Can you guess how many bulbs were distributed at BHL? The person mailing the first correct or closest answer postmarked Dec. 1 through Dec. 31 will receive a free membership to the Friends. Only one entry per person, per family, per day should be submitted. Send your entries to the Friends of BHL, 1300 Foulk Road, Wilmington, DE 19803. The answer will appear in the next issue.

Jackie Harris Earns Statewide Accolade

Jacqueline Harris, a long-time BHL Friends board member who will retire from the board in December, has been awarded the Delaware Library Association's (DLA) Distinguished Librarian Citation for 2006.

The DLA cited Jackie as an outstanding advocate for Delaware libraries, having provided more than 35 years, and counting, of dedicated service to Delaware school libraries. She was commended for informing and mobilizing activists in support of funding and legislation for libraries through her statewide leadership in the League of Women Voters. Additionally, she has served on the Governor's Task Force on School Libraries since its inception in 1993 and served as chair of the Governor's Task Force on School Libraries, among other responsibilities.

Jackie has served as a director on our Friends board since 2001. Beyond serving as the office manager for the Friends, she has helped in many ways, most recently in galvanizing and coordinating Friends to help distribute thousands of light bulbs, easing the burden for the library staff.

Congratulations, Jackie. We wish you well in your move to Hockessin and are pleased to accept your offer to continue serving as our office manager.

Part I of Let's Talk About It Attracts Capacity Audience

Author Koren Zailkas, who wrote the bestseller *Smashed: Story of a Drunken Girlhood*, spoke to a capacity audience of 100 at BHL as part of the Let's Talk About It . . . Teens and High-Risk Behaviors program sponsored by New Castle County.

The program was attended by youths, parents and even grandparents with some family members attending together. The Part II of the program will be held Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. This will feature Joan Chatterton, founder and director of Aquila, Inc., a treatment center for substance-abusing teenagers and their families. She will discuss coping strategies for young adults experimenting with high-risk behaviors.

For free tickets call The New Castle County Department of Community Services at 302.395.5617. Registration is required.

FAQ

BHL has how many registered patrons?

As of July 1, when the last official annual count was made, BHL had 38,014 registered patrons, the third most in the county system. BHL regularly purges inactive cards. However, for bragging rights, you should know that BHL is by far the highest circulating library in the county. This means that more items are borrowed per BHL card than even the Wilmington Library, which was listed as having 76,041 registered patrons.



Volunteer Profile: Meet Ruth Forman

By Seth Pauley

Recently retired from the Board of the Friends of the Brandywine Hundred Library (BHL), Ruth Forman has a lifetime of involvement with local libraries.

A native Wilmingtonian, Ruth remembers her first library experience as the paradise of weekly trips to the downtown Wilmington library. One particular book series stuck with her—"It opened up the world to me," she says. Each book took its young reader on a trip of discovery to another part of the world. Years later, with her husband on her first trip to London, England, seeing Windsor castle, walking along the Thames, looking up at Big Ben, Ruth felt like she was seeing familiar, old faces—faces she had come to know through her childhood experiences at the library.

With such a life in which books and visits to the library have held a prominent position, it should come as no surprise that Ruth's volunteer work at BHL has been extensively focused on helping bring people from the community into contact with the wonderful treasures of the library—and guiding them from library user to becoming library user AND library supporter. She has been a member of the Friends Board since 1993.

Ruth was active in the creation of BHL, having served on the Board of the Friends of Concord Pike Library just as plans to replace that old library began with deliberation. As a member of the steering committee for BHL, she literally saw the transformation as the new building and its variety of updated resources developed from plans on paper into the bricks and books visitors find at the library today. Asked why should someone volunteer at any library, Ruth, who has often helped show new BHL volunteers around on their first day, states matter of factly: "You work with some very nice people...[and] any help that can be given is much needed." Ruth actively encourages volunteering at the library, in fact. During the Friends annual spring membership drives, which she chaired for several years, Ruth often benefited from the volunteer help of almost her whole family. But one does not have to have a friend or family member involved with the library to volunteer. "I'd recommend volunteering at the library to anyone who can spare an hour or two."

Ruth volunteers in other capacities as well. She's a member of the New Castle County Committee of Read Aloud Delaware and trains volunteer readers. She also chairs the Emmanuel Dining Room Project for Beth Shalom Synagogue.

Thank you Ruth.

Enroll in Computer Lab Classes Now

BHL's new computer lab is already up and running with tuition-free classes. For information about class topics and times, go to www.nccdelib.org and click on the BHL site. Information is also available at the Adult Reference desk. To enroll, visit this desk in person. Currently, classes are offered only during the day but there are plans to offer evening classes, too.

Outreach Participation

By Jim Conrad

The Friends of BHL accepted the opportunity to join Foulk Manor North (FMN) in a Community Outreach event in October. Kathleen McCall, Community Relations Director for FMN, organized the event.

We offered our wares to their residents and the public from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday October 21. Tom Weaver, our library manager, represented BHL last year and joined me at the same table this year.

Included were seven other local businesses, plus free flu shots for ALL. This was a pleasant atmosphere – Kathleen and her assistants made sure we had everything we needed. FMN agreed to pay the Friends regular annual dues (\$12) for all residents and public we could sign-up – a great giveaway! Even then many listened, but chose not to join.

Tom and I made a fine team informing a constant flow of people about our Library and the part that the Friends play, encouraging each person to come, look, and use what's available to ALL. Large print books were well received and we passed out Friends literature, magnetic schedules, (book bags to signers) – but didn't move a Brick.

Mr. Weaver recognized many FMN folks as regular library users, but there was a surprising number who never seem to come over. We need to help them take advantage of our wonderful facility and its people. A new resident, Iris Folkerts, volunteered to sign up people when I was busy "fishing" the stream headed to/from flu shots. Table workers enjoyed the "changing variety of snacks," plus we were given a box lunch.

While they gave out 170 flu shots, we signed up 20 new members and renewals for Friends.

This was a good time. I enjoyed meeting and talking with a very pleasant group of individuals. Tom and I really "ham and egged" it. Maybe you would help the next time this happens.

State of the Stacks: "Weeding" in Progress

Perhaps you noticed and wondered about signs posted on many stacks in the Adult Book Section saying: "Book Shift in Progress – If Help is Needed Go to the Reference Desk."

There is an ongoing project of "weeding" out books that are old, outdated or in poor condition. Newer copies replace the badly worn books. The deleted books are recycled in a myriad of wonderful ways, with some even going to our sales shelf on the first floor by the return drops.

This particularly large weeding effort is being combined with a major shift of the non-fiction collection, which has been made possible by relocating the Large Print books to a separate area on the second floor by the elevator.

Thank you for your patience.



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Friends of the Brandywine Hundred Library Membership Renewal Form

NAME: _____

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PHONE: _____ email: _____

Date: _____ Please check one: New Member Renewal

Membership Categories: \$500 (or more) Benefactor \$100 Good Neighbor
 \$50 Patron \$25 Household, Organization, Business
 \$12 Regular Member \$ (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:

newsletter mailings shelf reading check AV equipment (for damage)
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