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PHONE _____ DATE _____ PLEASE CHECK ONE NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

Membership Categories

- \$500 (or more) Benefactor \$100 Good Neighbor \$50 Patron
- \$25 Sponsor, 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)
- Annual Membership Drive Artwork/Posters Library Guide/Greeter

Three Volunteer Positions Available:

Editor for the Friends newsletter, which is published six times a year; co-Web master to help with the Friends Web site; and an instructor to teach Microsoft Access in BHL's computer lab day or night. For information about the newsletter and web positions please leave a message on the Friends' Office telephone, 477-1945. For details about the instructor opportunity, call Tom Weaver, library manager, at 477-3150.



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*Friends of the
Brandywine
Hundred Library*

News

We support, encourage and promote quality library services

June 2007

Dear Friends,

Since the copy deadline for this issue of the newsletter falls immediately after the Annual Membership Drive, the results and feedback from that important week in April are always fresh in my mind. Every year I feel that our membership drive has been successful because it provides a week long opportunity to present ourselves to the hundreds of people who visit Brandywine Hundred Library (BHL) daily. I'm happy to say that many of those people either renewed their memberships or became Friends during National Library Week.

The ongoing challenge lies in encouraging people to become more active members of the Friends of BHL. We would be thrilled if you came to our monthly board meetings, held on the second Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 PM, at the library. Bring your ideas and interests, your perspective on library services, your thoughts on additional ways the Brandywine Hundred Library can serve our community. Our next board meeting will be on June 12th. We take the summer off and won't meet again until September.

Remember to check the membership expiration date on the mailing label of this newsletter. If your membership is expiring, please renew by mail. Your participation will make BHL a more effective presence in our community.

Cecilia McCormick
President, Friends of BHL

Welcome New Friends: Three Cheers for Evelyn

Hats off and a big round of applause, please, for Evelyn DeJohn, a new board member, who chaired the annual Friends Membership Drive this year. She secured and coordinated more than 40 volunteers to man the membership table for nearly all hours that the library was open for one week. Evelyn also oversaw the many, many details required to make the drive a success.

This year's drive garnered 164 new Friends and 146 renewing members for a total of 310. This brings the total number of Friends to almost 700.

Of course, people may enroll or renew at any time of the year, but many do so during the membership drive week because they are enticed by the free gift of a loaf of bread from Big Sky Bakery, geranium from The Friendly Gift Shop, or a BHL book bag, or participating in the Give-a-Book Program. If you are curious about when your membership expires, look at the date on the mailing label on your Friends' newsletter.

In other statistics for this drive, 17 of the librarians' Wish List books for the Give-a-Book program were purchased for a total of \$347.45. Membership donations totaled \$5,569. These donations and the books made the total proceeds \$5,916, slightly higher than 2006, but lower than 2004 and 2005.

Readers: If any of you would like to help run this very important drive next year, please step up at any time. The job is so big that it should really have two people to chair it. Your editor knows this for sure, having co-chaired the drive one year. We need your help.

Two Interim Directors Elected to Friends Board

Claire Kantar and Larry Nagengast were recently elected to fill two interim terms on the Board of Directors of the Friends of BHL. These terms expire in December when the board's annual elections are held.

Originally from Atlanta, Claire spent most of her career in and around the DC area. She has been a Delaware resident for 20 years. Claire has been a professional librarian for more than 30 years in fields as diverse as school and Navy libraries, and technical research facilities. She has also

worked as a researcher in and around Capitol Hill on both Senate and House Committees.

Larry Nagengast is a self-employed writer, editor and public relations consultant who has lived in Brandywine Hundred since 1972. He spent nearly 30 years at the News Journal as a news and features editor, and as a reporter covering education, courts and government. He is the author of Pierre S. DuPont IV, Governor of Delaware 1977-1985, recently published by the Delaware Heritage Commission.



Volunteer Profile: Irene Ozimek

By Molly MacMillan

Some people picture long, lazy days for their future after retirement. Not Irene Ozimek. Since moving to Delaware in 1997, this 82-year-old has busily filled her life with travel, volunteer work and school.

Yes, school! Irene takes two or three classes each semester at the Academy of Lifelong Learning. This is in addition to entering her eighth year as a volunteer at BHL.

The retired secretary became involved with the library through the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), which also inspired her to volunteer for other organizations such as the Grand Opera House.



Irene works Tuesdays in the junior books section at BHL, shelving and sorting books. She says she enjoys volunteering because "I just like being around the young children and the books they read." Her desire to continue learning sometimes even prompts her to read the books she sorts and shelves.

As a dedicated student at the Academy of Lifelong Learning, Irene notes that the semesters there are about the same length as at the University of Delaware. Among the subjects she has studied are: literature, philosophy, French, medicine and even woodcarving. Via the Academy, she has traveled to Costa Rica and California.

Thanks for your help at Brandywine Hundred Library, Irene.

Thank You, Mulchers

More than 11 Friends, their families and other unexpected good samaritans spread a mountain of mulch over the gardens by BHL's front doors in less than two hours. Extra wheelbarrows helped speed the process this year. Thanks to all! To see a photo display, visit the Friends' web site. (Photos by Library Manager Tom Weaver.)

FAQ: What's with the café?

Alas, the café never became profitable and always had to be subsidized by the county government. Due to the budget shortfall, the decision was made to close the café. Alternative library uses for the café are being evaluated.

Have Medical Questions?

Ask Susan LaValley

By Charles Lee

"Wellness Wednesdays" is an innovative program designed to help you research medical questions confidentially via a highly trained consumer health librarian at BHL, or via phone or e-mail.

For example, say Grandma Myra, forgetful at 91, is diagnosed with lymphoma and can't recall the doctor's explanation of this disease. Or if you have a problem that you don't fully understand, Wellness Wednesdays is a great resource to explore.

This program is part of a statewide service funded by the Division of Public Health. On Wellness Wednesdays, library patrons can have free confidential, individual, in-person sessions with Susan LaValley, a Consumer Health Librarian who "directs people to resources at their level of health and medical terminology."

"I'm not giving medical advice or recommendations, but giving people the tools to get information that they can use to help them make their own health care decisions." Some of the types of questions she addresses are: the side affects and interactions of new prescriptions, evaluating the credibility of medical websites, and how to find accurate and current medical information in books, publications, online, and audio and visual materials such as DVDs.

In addition to individual sessions, she recommends medical books for New Castle County public libraries and suggests which outdated titles should be weeded out. She also has a working knowledge of Spanish and can find medical websites in other foreign languages for patrons whose first language is not English.

Susan holds Masters degrees in English and Library Science from the University of Buffalo, and has experience working with clinicians, researchers and graduate students at the health sciences library of University of Buffalo, which is the library for its medical school.

For upcoming the upcoming dates for Wellness Wednesdays, check BHL's web site or the adult activity sheets. Individual sessions are held from 5-7pm. Registration is required for the program but not the individual sessions. To register, visit or call the Adult Reference Desk at (302) 477-3150.

Additionally, reference interviews with Susan LaValley are available by phone at (302) 836-2725, or e-mail at healthyncc@nccde.org.

Tips for getting the most out of your session: specify if you've done research on your own and if you were not successful with websites and library catalogues; have the correct spelling of the prescription and/or condition you are researching.



Professional Profile: Meredith McGill

By Charles Lee

During a recent trip to BHL, I overheard a man saying, "With all these DVDs, what's the point in going to the video store?" (Editor's note: Tom Weaver, library manager, explains that video store owners do not view the library as competition. There is a two-month lag between when the video stores receive newly released items and when the library does. The stores' market is people who want the newest of new releases.)



Indeed, the BHL has the largest selection of DVDs among the New Castle County public libraries. It offers the latest Hollywood blockbusters, award-winning independent films, television shows, documentaries and foreign films at no additional charge. If you are a fan of our library's selection, as I am, I'm sure you'll be delighted to meet the woman in charge of ordering all the DVDs, Teen Librarian Meredith McGill.

Meredith's library duties also include ordering all the CDs, graphic novels, Manga (comics originally published in Japan) and teen non-fiction. About 20-30 hours shy of graduating from the University of Delaware, Meredith left school and worked in the banking industry for 10 years as a fraud investigator and technical writer. She returned to school to complete her BA in English, and worked in banking again before joining BHL in 2003. Although banking was "interesting work," she admits the environment was difficult. "Even a bad day at the library is better than a good day at the bank."

And a good day at the library for Meredith is one that many teens and young hearted adults would envy. She talks to Joe Murray, owner of Captain Blue Hen comic book store in Newark, when searching for graphic novels and Manga to add to BHL's collection. She receives recommendations on the latest trends in jazz music from her husband, Scott McGill, a jazz guitarist and senior lecturer of guitar at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia and Stockton College in Pomona, NJ.

Meredith also is responsible for organizing the popular Yu-Gi-Oh Night and Anime Day, which featured Hayao Miyazaki's *Howl's Moving Castle* and *The Cat Returns*. Additionally, she recommends movies to library patrons and through patron's requests, knows what films are popular with the public. At one time, there were 300 requests for *Little Miss Sunshine*!

But Meredith is not only concerned with teen entertainment. She also runs the SAT Practice and Scores Back programs offered by Princeton Review at the BHL, composes the teen

quarterly flyers, maintains the teen services web page, updates the list of recommended books and CDs for teens, assists the other teen librarian, trains teen volunteers (the next Teen Volunteer Orientation is tentatively scheduled on June 15th), and organizes the teen summer programs. This summer, she is planning teen activities around a "Mystery Theme."

There will be guests from the South Jersey Ghost Research, a presentation on forensic science, and another Anime Day.

Meredith is fond of ghostly themes. She and her husband wed at the "purportedly haunted" Narrow Water Castle near Warrenpoint, Northern Ireland.

Her favorite graphic novels include *The Crow*, *Black Hole*, *Blanket* and *Ghost World*. When I asked her to recommend a favorite film, she suggested *Pan's Labyrinth*, a poetic and gothic fairy tale set against a fascist regime in 1944 rural Spain.

As a librarian, Meredith brings together influences from her education, jazz-musician husband, comic store owner friend, personal interests and a welcoming attitude to provide a media selection worthy of our BHL patrons' diverse tastes.

New Bags Welcome Newest BHL Patrons

The Friends will soon provide Welcome Bags for the circulation staff to give to new patrons when they join BHL and receive their library cards. The Welcome Bags are tote-size-handled bags, strong enough to hold a favorite book or movie. Our bags are green, white, multi-lingual... oh my! The bags will be filled with many items, including a few neat things for the family such as bookmarks, pencils, and gel bracelets, just to name a few!

Of course, the bags will be chocked full of information useful to new patrons, such as a variety of activity sheets, the Friends' newsletter, and the great, detailed map of where-to-find what at the library made by Robin Spiller, and more!

The bags will also contain the Friends' Tri-fold, which explains the purpose of our Friends organization and includes an invitation to join us. The impetus behind the bags is to help increase membership of the Friends throughout the year as well as to provide information helpful to new patrons. When the bags run out this experiment will be evaluated to determine if it should be continued.

If you see someone with our new bag, give that person a friendly but quiet welcome to our very special library.

BHL Book Club Lists Summer Selections

The Painted Veil by Somerset Maugham on June 20;
Digging to America by Anne Tyler on July 18; and,
Slaughter House Five by Kurt Vonnegut on Aug. 15.

The book club meets at the library at 7 pm the third Wednesday of every month. New members are always welcome. For more information, call Kristie at 764-5393.