



Friends of the
Brandywine
Hundred Library

News

We support, encourage and promote quality library services

April 2009

It's Time for Friends to Rally

Dear Friends,

It's that time of the year when the board members of the Friends of the Brandywine Hundred Library get to meet some of you face-to-face. Always a pleasure. We invite you to board meetings, but not many of you come to our sometimes raucous sessions. Come give us your ideas — of course, we may ask you to help develop them!

We're all waiting to hear just how our library will be affected by the cuts in the state and county budgets. We know that 2009 will be a difficult year. All the more reason for the Friends of the Brandywine Hundred Library to rally to *the* cause. We provide a way for our members to directly support this library, the one that has served you so well. Help us to *help this library*. Your Friends membership \$\$\$\$ go only to *this* library — not to the county's general fund.

National Library Week, April 13-18, is time to "man the tables" in the lobby. We will challenge you to join us. Same old \$12, with option of special gifts, including Give-A-Book (You select from collections proposed by our library staff at varying prices. That book will be put onto a BHL shelf with a plaque of your name or an honoree you choose.) — and the Friends will give you a year's membership. You can also claim a space on our Colonnade of Freedoms if you "Give A Brick" engraved with the message of your choice. Check or cash please. We know it's easy to use a credit card, but they have proven to be too expensive for us. Stop and look at our displays — hey, even talk with us.

Librarian specialist Kay Lacy's last official work day of her 34-year career at Concord and BHL libraries was Monday, March 2. The June issue of this newsletter will feature a profile of Kay, whose passion for her job touched so many northern Wilmington library patrons. You may still see her around the library as a volunteer doing things she loves — like preparing programs. Our *best* to Kay and *thanks*.

See you at our Lobby Table, April 13-18.

Jim Conrad, President
Friends of the Brandywine Hundred Library

Membership Drive Highlights National Library Week

The Brandywine Hundred Library will mark National Library Week, April 13-18, with a variety of activities, including the Friends' annual Membership Drive.

In the lobby, Friends' volunteers will solicit new members and request membership renewals during library hours throughout the week. Annual dues are \$12 for individuals and \$25 for households, organizations and businesses. Larger contributions offer recognition as a patron (\$50), good neighbor (\$100) or benefactor (\$500).

Anyone paying dues at the membership table during the week will receive a choice of a free gift: a loaf of bread from Sweeney's bakery, a colorful geranium from the Friendly Gift Shop, a newly designed Friends' bookmark or a canvas Friends' book bag. (The supply of book bags is extremely limited.) As a special premium this year, donors of \$25 or more can receive a copy of "Pierre S. du Pont IV, Governor of Delaware, 1977-1985," signed by the author, Friends' board member Larry Nagengast.

Special programs planned at the library include activities associated with this year's New Castle County Reads program selection, "Back to Nature: A Walk in the Woods" by Bill Bryson, a chronicle of Bryson's journey along the Appalachian Trail. The BHL Fiction Book Club will discuss the book at 7 p.m., Monday, April 6. *Continued on page 2*

FAQ: What Is BHL Doing Online to Help Job-hunters?

A Web page, available through "Job Hunting Resources" on the library's Web site, has just been launched to assist job-hunters in many ways. Links are available to the following: Delaware Department of Labor (addresses, phone numbers); local and national job board sites; newspaper want ads; instruction in how to get free Yahoo email accounts so you can attach resumes and apply for jobs online; access to business databases for free for library patrons when you use your card number; and titles of books about writing resumes and cover letters, and improving interview skills; tutorials — and more!



Calculate the Value of Your Library Use

What is your library worth to you? If you had to pay out of pocket for using the library services, what would you be charged?

Attendees at the annual Delaware Library Summit earlier this year received a Value of Library Services calculator, courtesy of the Seaford District Library. Shown here is the paper version that we received, with values for individual items and services listed. You may go online to www.seaford.lib.de.us/HOME-value.htm to use the interactive spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel or the Excel Viewer is required) to calculate how much using the library saves you.

What Is Your Library Worth to You?

If you used each service below just once the value would total \$164. What's your Usage?

- ___ Books Borrowed @ \$5 each = _____
- ___ Magazines Borrowed @ \$2 each = _____
- ___ Movies Borrowed @ \$4 each = _____
- ___ Audio Books Borrowed @ \$10 each = _____
- ___ Newspapers Used in Library @ \$1 each = _____
- ___ Interlibrary Loan @ \$25 each = _____
- ___ Meeting Room @ \$50 per hour = _____
- ___ Adult Programs Attended @ \$10 each = _____
- ___ Children's Programs Attended @ \$6 each = _____
- ___ Computer Use (ie, Internet, MS Word) @ \$12 per hour = _____
- ___ Newsbank data base for News Journal @ \$20 each = _____
- ___ Use of Database Searching, ie, ProQuest @ \$20 each = _____
- ___ Reference Questions Asked @ \$7 each = _____
- Total Value of Your Library Use = _____**

This worksheet has been adapted from the downloadable spreadsheet originated by the Massachusetts Library Association, adapted for the Web by the Chelmsford (Mass.) Public Library and upgraded with accessibility features by the Maine State Library. Tracking the links back from the Seaford Library site will lead to more information about the calculator and how values for items and services were determined.

Libraries Now Serve Homebound Seniors

New Castle County is initiating a new pilot program to provide reading materials to homebound senior citizens who are unable to visit their county library. Volunteers will assist with the delivery and pick-up of up to five items at a scheduled date and time. To find out more or to sign up for this free service, call 395-5660.

Membership Drive Highlights

National Library Week (continued from page 1)

Other programs with the "Back to Nature" theme are: "Unhuggables," a Delaware Nature Society presentation for preschoolers on spiders, bats, snakes and lizards, Tuesday, April 14, at 10:15 a.m.; "Birds and Their Songs," presented by the Bombay Hook Wildlife Refuge, at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 15; and "Photography Basics: Beautiful Nature Shots with Jeffrey Kontur," at 7 p.m. Friday, April 17.

In addition, the library is collaborating with Delaware Greenways on a nature walk along the Northern Greenway with Delaware poet laureate Jo Ann Balingit at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 19. To pre-register and get details about the meeting location, call the library, 477-3150.

Library Week is also an appropriate time for the monthly meeting of the BHL Book Club sponsored by the Friends. At 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 15, members will discuss Bryson's "Back to Nature: A Walk in the Woods." New members are welcome. For information, leave a message for Kristie on the Friends' answerphone, 477-1945.

More than 20 programs — for adults, children and all ages — are scheduled at various county libraries between April 4 and May 13 as part of the New Castle County Reads program. Brochures describing the events are available at the library and at this page on the county libraries' web site, <http://www.nccde.org/library/home/webpage20.asp>

One other note of significance: county libraries will hold "amnesty days" throughout the week. If you have borrowed books, tapes or CDs that are long overdue, you may return them from April 13-18 without having to pay a fine. For your fine to be waived, you must bring the material in person to the circulation staff.

BHL Audience Enjoys Pop Quiz

More than 30 adults and children divided into teams of males and females to compete in a trivia quiz in February to help everyone discover and compare their "PKL" (Presidential Knowledge Level). Speaker Ed Okonowicz led this program called "Meet the Presidents." It was sponsored by the Friends through the Delaware Humanities Forum. The Friends also served refreshments.

Global Road Warrior Offers Travel Information

Students, armchair tourists and researchers can now explore 175 countries via a new database available through BHL called Global Road Warrior. The general range of information includes culture, communications, travel, business and maps. To check out the many subcategories of information, come to the library and explore this database. Access is currently available only from library computers via the BHL web site.

Staff Profile: Eric Kuhn Hailed as County Employee of the Quarter

By Kristie Moore

Last fall, the mood of the Brandywine Hundred Library staff was somber. Library Manager Tom Weaver had become very ill and in December passed away unexpectedly.

Eric Kuhn, adult services librarian, was immediately drafted to become acting interim manager of the grieving staff, charged with keeping BHL running smoothly. Recently, Eric's efforts were lauded when he was named New Castle County employee of the quarter (the fourth quarter of 2008).

Receiving this award is high commendation, considering that the county has nearly 1,500 full-time employees. But Eric, who resumed his role as adult services librarian when Diana Brown, director of library services for the county, was additionally named acting interim manager, says what he found most flattering and touching is that you must be nominated by your peers for this award. Kay Bowes, BHL's children's librarian, nominated Eric on behalf of the staff.

Eric began working fulltime as a librarian 10 years ago in Norfolk, Va., and joined the New Castle County library system in 2002. He has been an adult services librarian for seven years. Born and raised in Pine City, NY, a small upstate

town outside of Elmira, Eric earned double master's degrees in American history and library science from the University of Albany, State University of New York.

Outside of BHL, a myriad of serious pursuits may qualify Eric as a Renaissance man. His "library voice," a sinuous tenor, belies the fact he sings a sonorous bass. Eric croons with a local community choir that has performed both internationally and at Carnegie Hall.

An avid interest in world travel and the sea led him to work as a Merchant Marine for five summers while earning his master's degrees. Eric has also crewed on the Kalmar Nyckel, Delaware's tall ship.

Among his other interests are: collecting and restoring old clocks; growing orchids; and, not surprisingly, reading — nonfiction, especially history such as biographies. For titles of Eric's favorite books go to Staff Picks on the library's web site via the link "Finding Aids and Helpful Handouts."

Thank you and congratulations, Eric.



'Give A Brick' program: Our Special Walkway of Dreams and Memories

By Kathy MacDonough

It seems impossible, but eight years have flown by since the Give A Brick program was conceived by Building Fund Chair Jim Conrad as a way for the general public to support the long-awaited new Brandywine Hundred 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. Larry Nagengast, now a Friends board member, but then working for a Wilmington advertising and public relations firm, helped to conceive and design "Brick Boy."

Think back to that time, and you will recall the shock over the events of September 11, and also the renewed awareness of and gratitude for the founding tenets of our democracy. The capital campaign committee decided to christen the covered walkway along the library's north side as "The Colonnade of Freedoms." Each of the ten granite columns was dedicated to one of the amendments of the Bill of Rights.

Along the path below, our 2,500-plus bricks recognize not only our donors' monetary gifts, but also their loved ones, inspirations, dreams, milestones and celebration of learning. The inscriptions are touching, clever, funny and

philosophical. They are also a mosaic time capsule of people, families, organizations and thoughts from the early years of the 21st century.

We constantly have to correct ourselves semantically: one is giving a brick, not buying a brick! Through their brick gifts, donors literally helped to build a dream of this community.

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

Bricks may be ordered for a donation of \$100. Order forms are available online at <http://www.friendsbhl.org/Fundraising/BrickOrderForm.htm> and can also be obtained at the Membership Drive April 13-18, or by calling 477-1945 or emailing friendsbhl@aol.com

Volunteers Wanted

The Friends' newsletter needs volunteer writers and editors as well as a manager of mailing. The Friends also need one or more volunteers to assist with writing and designing pages for the website, and data entry. For more information, please call the Friends' Office at 477-1945 and leave a message or write to contact@friendsbhl.org

NAME _____

E-MAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

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

When Does My Membership Expire?

To find out when your membership expires, look at your mailing label. New members and renewals are welcome at any time.

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

Newsletter and/or Web site

Mailing label shows membership expiration date

Return Service Requested

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