



Friends of the
Brandywine
Hundred Library

News

We support, encourage and promote quality library services

June 2009

Dear Friends,

Congratulations. You made our latest Membership Drive a real success. (Details on Page 2.)

I wondered if this time of much financial difficulty would seriously handicap our ability to encourage strong participation by BHL patrons. Not to worry. You voted with your feet — and with your donations. We met people in a good mood. Occasionally someone would tell us of a tough situation and just ask us to accept a \$5 donation — we did and gave a plant or loaf of bread anyway.

This year we noticed more people who said “I just don’t have any cash or a check today” (we don’t take credit cards), took our literature and then sent in their application for membership with a check. Most who bought books on the library’s “Wish List” didn’t just pay the exact amount, but gave \$25 or more. I read this as an indication of everyone appreciating the library and showing its importance to them. They want it to be there for themselves and for others.

As a result, this 2009 Drive gave the best \$\$ and membership yield since the opening of BHL in 2003.

I want to particularly thank our Friends volunteers who met you at the front door and helped convince you that this was a time you needed to show your support for this Library. Although we’re all amateurs, we do get to offer a great product. Whether we’re polished or not, you accept our challenges with good hearts.

Once again you’re welcome at our monthly Board meetings. Come see if you’d like to join us, and give a few hours to help the organization. There are dull moments — after all, we’re strengthening a library, not celebrating in Las Vegas — but, as a member of the Friends, we’re sure you see the value of our efforts.

Jim Conrad, President, FBHL Board of Directors

FAQ: Are there still opportunities for teen volunteers this summer?

As of the newsletter deadline, the BHL staff is not accepting any more applications. Stay tuned for information about fall opportunities in mid- to late summer.

Dive into summer programs at BHL

By Agnes Galvin

If your child or teen is bored during the summer or your budget won’t run to expensive camps, Brandywine Hundred Library is the place to go! An exciting mix of programs for a wide range of age groups will be offered during the long school vacation. When the humidity index brings on the doldrums, or the delights of the swim club have staled, your library offers interesting and creative activities in air-conditioned comfort during the steamy summer months. There is something for everyone here:

Ongoing Programs

Special Movie Nights are scheduled regularly for adult, children, and families.

School Bunch Book Club will continue for children 7-10 as will the regular adult book clubs.

Stories and More for preschoolers and *Reading to the Dogs* from PAWS will also meet during the summer.

Teen Express will continue with games & crafts for ages 12-17.

Youth Programs

The Summer Reading Club Kick-Off Party for children up to 12 on June 2 at 6:30 pm includes crafts, stories, and surprises. There are prizes for attending each week and meeting reading goals.

Create your Own Magic features magician Craig Collis on Tuesday, June 30, showing how to use imagination to create magic.

Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest gives budding artists a chance to shine with prizes and fun, on Tuesday, July 7.

Hapless Sam Gets Creative stars Rick Waterhouse in an interactive musical comedy program for ages 4-10, on Tuesday July 21.

Brandywine Hundred’s First Ever Variety Show celebrates the end of the Summer Reading Club. Be sure to register your special-ty act (singing, dancing, juggling etc.) to perform at the library.

Decorate like DuPont looks at artistic decorations with Winterthur Museum in an interactive program for ages 6 and up.

Three-day workshops in Creative Writing (ages 7-12) and Reader Theatre (ages 9-12) are offered in July for serious writers and actors. Numbers are limited, so register early.

Teen Volunteer Program matches teens with members of the School Bunch Book Club and also schedules teens for other work in the library. A *Thank You Party* for the volunteers will be held on Saturday, August 22, from noon-2 pm.

Most programs require advance registration and some can only accept limited numbers, so register early calling 477-3150. For a detailed listing of BHL activities, go to www.friendsbhl.org and click on “Library Programs.” Full details will also be posted in the library and found in the NCC Summer Program Guide.



Membership drive a success

The Friends' annual Membership Drive, held April 13-18, was a resounding success, with best-ever figures recorded in total memberships and total proceeds.

The campaign netted 429 memberships — 230 new members, 171 renewals, and 28 whose memberships included a donation to purchase a book for the library from the "wish list" prepared by the library staff. The previous record for a membership drive was 428, set in 2004.

Proceeds from the drive totaled \$7,907.72, nearly 11 percent above the \$7,145.24 raised in 2004.

This year's totals exceeded the 2008 figures by 30 percent in memberships and by 37 percent in proceeds.

The total number of renewals, 171, was the most since the library's opening. The previous high was 168 in 2006.

Overall Friends' membership totaled 578 in mid-May.

A special thanks to Sweeney's Bakery and Friendly Gift Shop for providing the bread and plants used as membership premiums this year and to these volunteers (board members' names in bold) who staffed the table in the lobby:

Agnes Barkley, Jean Bergh, **Mary Bowler**, Ed Burke, Helen Butler, Jessica Butler, Amy Cabrera, Theresa Cancro, Grace Cherrin, Mike Connair, **Jim Conrad**, Roberta Conrad, Joan Darvish-Rouhani, **Marcia Dillon**, Ruth Forman, **Agnes Galvin**, Estelle Greenberg, Roxanne Harris, Joanne Hasse, Ann Hitchcock, Jean Hockenberry, Jane Iobst, Ginny Jones, Keith Jones, **Claire Kantar**, **Danna Levy**, Cecilia McCormick, **Kathy MacDonough**, Arlitta McGregor, Bill McGregor, Nancy Mentzer, Bobby Miller, Flora Monck, **Kristie Moore**, **Larry Nagengast**, **Joy Naquin**, Julie Noonan, Henry Pautler, Camille Rafferty, **Sharon Riddick**, Carolyn Smith, Mary M. Stewart, Jack Yeatman and Pat Zimmerman.

We're improving our communications

Earlier this year, the Friends used email for the first time for a mass communication to our members. As part of a recent change in the host for our web site, www.friendsbhl.org, we have a new grouping of email addresses, all of which end with @friendsbhl.org

Now we're trying to build up our address book to include the current email addresses of all Friends, as well as anyone else who's interested in hearing from us from time to time.

You can help us by managing your subscription to our announcement list. Just click on the "Contact" button in the index on the left side of our web site's home page and enter your name and email address on the form that pops up. When your request is accepted, you'll receive a verification message from announce@friendsbhl.org. If you enter an address that we already have, the system will let you know immediately.

Once you're on the list, you'll receive periodic communications from the Friends. No spam, we promise.

New library policies in place to recover lost materials, collect long-overdue fines and fees

By Diana Brown, BHL Manager

New Castle County has initiated new policies to recover materials and collect late fees which will go into effect on July 1. The County is committed to recovering delinquent library materials and to manage delinquent accounts. Redoubling these efforts will help the libraries to better meet the mission of enriching our community by providing library resources and services to meet the needs of the community. Library patrons can help improve our libraries and expand the resources available to all by returning materials when they are due, making sure items are not damaged or lost and paying any fees or fines in a timely manner.

Details of the new policies regarding memberships, fines and fees are posted in the libraries or can be found on library websites. Some of the changes are summarized here:

- *Creation of a temporary six-month borrower's card for new patrons which will limit borrowing privileges. If the patron is in good standing with zero balance at the end of that period they will acquire a standard card.*
- *Block Internet access for borrowers owing more than \$5.*
- *Borrower's account must be cleared of fines annually.*
- *Request email addresses from patrons who have email accounts to enable instant electronic notification and prevent fines from building on their accounts*
- *Require parent/guardian to have their own account in order to get a juvenile card. If the parent/guardian does not use the card within 3 years, a block will be placed on the card so that it will not be removed from the system as is the normal process.*
- *Require parent/guardian's account have a zero balance before obtaining any juvenile cards.*
- *A juvenile's fines will be transferred to the parent/guardian's account when the child turns 18.*
- *The parent/guardian is held accountable in perpetuity.*
- *A guardian must present proof of guardianship to obtain a card for a minor. Papers that will be accepted are court papers or a birth certificate.*

Loriene Roy, past president of the American Library Association, stated that "we use our skills to develop the collections our patrons would find useful and enjoyable, and try to make sure that everyone has access to the material. If someone is abusing that, we have to call them on it."

Though the great majority of library patrons return borrowed materials on time or pay modest late fees when required, 1 percent of patrons are serious abusers of library privileges and significantly impact the number of resources available to the public. It is hoped that these new measures will further reduce the incidence of abuse.



Profile: Kay Lacy retires from Brandywine Hundred Library after 34 years

By Kristie Moore

A long answer awaits when you ask Kay Lacy her favorites among the programs she initiated at the Concord Pike and Brandywine Hundred libraries. Her response, however, is as intriguing, fun and varied as New Castle County's quarterly activities guide.

This is not surprising because Kay's library career spanned a multitude of interests and responsibilities. After studying educational psychology and secretarial sciences, Kay joined the county library system in 1975. Her initial three-month temporary job somehow lasted 34 years. Kay retired in March, but volunteers to oversee programs booked through June.



Kay's desire to learn and to help others learn fueled a diverse career that included working on the county's bookmobile; narrating and recording stories that children could hear by dialing a special library phone number; performing story hours that were acted out from memory; supervising pages; serving as president of the para-professionals division of the Delaware Library Association; handling collection development for African American authors and serving on the Concord Pike Library Master Plan Committee. Kay worked at the circulation desk before her promotion to reference services.

She developed some of the library's most successful programs. In 2000, she spearheaded the launch of Black History Month activities at the Concord Pike Library. In 2008 and 2009 Kay organized Martin Luther King Birthday Programs, both which were well attended. She likes to think of the MLK Birthday Program and Black History Month programs as tradition and hopes they will be continued.

In 1983, Kay began coordinating efforts of adult volunteers, building a team of up to 23. When she retired, Kay oversaw 13 adult volunteers with an average of 10 years of service.

Also in 1983, she began overseeing the donations program; books, tapes, CDs and other items are collected by the library for sale to patrons or distribution to other charitable organizations. The program, she says, has generated thousands of dollars for the Concord Pike and Brandywine Hundred libraries.

Achievements like these brought Kay recognition as county employee of the year in 1991 and employee of the quarter in 2007.

Never a 9-to-5'er, Kay put in an unknown number of unpaid hours to be sure projects were completed to her high standards. Some staffers joked that she must have a secret cot on site.

In 2006, when her grandson treated her to a movie, Kay realized the high cost of movie-going. She then launched the popular Adult Movie Night, personally buying the DVDs, popcorn, hotdogs, candy, and even making chili, to provide a fun and convivial evening for BHL patrons. Participants quickly rose to the spirit of the monthly program, often bringing treats to share. "I never planned to have a career in libraries, but there never

was a good time to leave," Kay admitted at her retirement party, attended by more than 100 co-workers, relatives and friends.

Now 71, Kay may officially be retired she already has a new career, advocating for the best interest of children in foster care as a volunteer in the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) Program under the jurisdiction of the Family Court for the State of Delaware.

Adult volunteers needed

The Brandywine Hundred Library needs volunteers to help prepare donations for the book sale. Duties include sorting and pricing items. Hours are flexible but a twice-weekly commitment is required. If you have the time and the interest, please contact BHL staff member Jeanne Benzal at 477-3150.

Tom Weaver honored

The late Tom Weaver, BHL manager from its opening in 2003 until his death last December, was honored with the Delaware Library Association's Distinguished Librarian Citation at the association's annual conference on May 7.

The citation saluted him for 10 years of excellence in managing the Concord Pike and Brandywine Hundred libraries, his leadership and creativity during design and construction of the new library, and his behind-the-scenes efforts to improve library service.

John Stevenson, former Friends president, and Diana J. Brown, the county's director of library services, nominated Tom for the award.

During planning for the new library, "Tom impressed us all with his mastery of details and concern that the best solutions be implemented. He always seemed to be considering ways to make things work better," Stevenson said. "Tom became an active conduit for exchanging information between the Friends group, New Castle County, the architects, and builders."

"Tom was a positive role model for the staff," Brown said. "He also established partnerships with neighbors, such as the adjacent retirement community, and worked hard to ensure that the entire library was welcoming to the community."

BHL Book Club selects titles

Books to be read and discussed at June through September meetings have been announced by the BHL Book Club. The group meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at the library.

The books are: *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen, June 17; *The Appeal* by John Grisham, July 15; *The Map That Changed the World* by Simon Winchester, August 19; *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Borrows, September 16.



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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