



Friends of the
Brandywine
Hundred Library

News

We support, encourage and promote quality library services

December 2009

Did you feel the pinch?

Dear Friends,

Hey, wait a minute! I've just been pinched. How important is your library? You and your family and friends may feel the pinch, too.

Huh? Take a look at the article in the Nov. 3 edition of the News Journal which labels parks and libraries as "non-vital," according to the new chair of a local major political party committee. He claims they will look for extra monies in library funding, so that they can spread them into "vital" areas.

Friends of Brandywine Hundred Library make a point of being non-political. We're pretty much sleeping dogs — that's why I say we have been "pinched." So read the article (BHL has a copy of the paper, and the article is on the front page of the Local section). Then, please pay attention to what's happening. Maybe you will want to ask your political contacts what's their opinion. Check if they are library card holders.

I understand that 55 percent of New Castle County residents hold library cards. We include some interesting library statistics from time to time in this newsletter, and here are two more: In FY 2009, which ended June 30, there were 2,826,382 patron visits to county libraries, and 6,627,917 items were circulated. These numbers should make clear that most county residents do NOT consider library services to be "non-vital."

Also, think of the people enjoying many different activities in our adjacent Talley-Day Park. Our library and the park are a marvelous combination for fulfilling wants, particularly during these times of stress. (Oh, that same political group has also characterized county parks as "non-vital.")

A political party must be pretty desperate to take the chance of pinching sleeping dogs. Let's keep them alert as we stay involved. You can sleep, but keep at least one eye open always.

**Jim Conrad, President,
FBHL Board of Directors**

Annual meeting set for December 8

Election, bylaws vote top agenda

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of Brandywine Hundred Library will take place Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. at the library. The election of officers and directors is held at this meeting. Full terms are for two years. Additionally, proposed changes in the Friends' bylaws will be voted upon. (*See related story.*)

All current members of the Friends are invited to attend this meeting and vote. The slate of officer nominees with terms 2010 through 2011 is:

President, Jim Conrad has served more than 11 years as FBHL president in non-sequential terms, and has been active in many other library activities. He was chairman of the Capital Campaign Steering Committee for the building of our library and also served on the county's Library Advisory Review Board.

Secretary, Joy Naquin joined the board in 1999 and was elected secretary in 2005. She also maintains the Friends' membership data base. She is a software developer for McKesson Corp. Joy volunteers at the box office at the Wilmington Drama League.

Vice President, Mary Bowler, and Treasurer, Marcia Dillon, continue in office through 2010.

The slate of director nominees with terms for 2010 through 2011 is:

Ann Hitchcock recently retired from the Delaware Division for the Visually Impaired, coordinating volunteers statewide and managing production of materials.

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Vote in December on revised bylaws

At its October meeting, the Friends' board of directors voted to present revisions of the Friends' bylaws to the membership for approval.

Members will have the opportunity to vote on the new bylaws at our annual meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, in Room 107, the former café.

Many of the proposed changes are intended to simplify the board's operations. Some of the revisions clarify existing language.

The proposed bylaws will be posted on the Friends' web site, www.friendsbhl.org, for review prior to the meeting. The current bylaws are already posted on the web site.



Annual meeting set for Dec. 8 (continued)

She has been a long-time tutor for Literacy Volunteers and served on the board of the New Castle County Retired Senior Volunteer Program. She previously served on the Friends' board as a director in 2007-2008 and briefly as co-president.

Lois Myoda has been a director since 2007 and is office manager for the Friends. She says her life revolves around libraries and books. Lois sorts books for sale for both BHL and the American Association of University Women. She also participates in two book discussion groups.

Larry Nagengast is a public relations consultant, writer and editor who has lived in Brandywine Hundred since 1972. He has served on the Friends board since 2007.

Jim Scanlan is running for his first term on the board. He is a Wilmington native and graduate of St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y. He is service director of Cintas. Jim volunteers for the Boy Scouts of New Castle County.

Directors continuing in office through 2010 are: Agnes Galvin, Claire Kantar, Kristie Moore and Sharon Riddick.

Join us: Read a book or see a film

The Brandywine Hundred Library Book Club sponsored by the Friends announces its upcoming book selections. They are: Dec. 16, *Playing for Pizza* by John Grisham; Jan. 20, *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak (recommended reading by the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Center as part of a commemoration to honor victims of the Nazi era); Feb. 17, *The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafor.

The group meets each third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at BHL. Newcomers are welcome. For more information, call Kristie at 764-5393.

Also in commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Preston Center will show a documentary at BHL at 2 p.m. Jan. 24. It depicts the remembrances of Delaware Holocaust "survivors, liberators and Righteous Gentiles."

Contribute to the Friends through United Way

Please remember the Friends of the Brandywine Hundred Library as you contribute to the Fall 2009 United Way Campaign. Our agency write-in number is 11389. You can choose to make a flat donation or automatic weekly deductions from your paycheck. The Friends is a non-profit organization devoted to the needs of the Brandywine Hundred Library.

As New Castle County faces budget pressures, the Friends have put more money into the library for programs and features that would otherwise not be funded. Your support makes improvements possible. Remember that by supporting the United Way you can support your Friends of the Brandywine Hundred Library!

New BHL hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 1-5 p.m.

Library manager's report

By Diana Brown,
Community Services Manager, Brandywine Hundred Library

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Friends of the Brandywine Hundred Library and others whose donations made for a successful **Love Your Library** fundraising campaign. Based on commitments to date, we are expecting more than \$10,500 to be collected for the purchase of library materials specifically for the Brandywine Hundred Library. We celebrated the close of the fundraising event with a special day of children's programming on Saturday, Oct. 17. Children's librarian Kay Bowes did a great job of planning engaging activities throughout the day, including a special story time from County Councilman Bob Weiner, who enjoyed reading to the children. Also serving as volunteer readers were Friends President Jim Conrad and his wife, Roberta. The library was also pleased to have three volunteers available to assist children with projects throughout the day. Two of the volunteers are regular participants in the teen volunteer program run by librarian Jeanne Benzel and the third joined us for the day through the UD student volunteer program.

We are especially thankful for the support of the Friends with events such as **Love Your Library** because it helps us raise awareness and visibility in the community.

Finally, just a reminder that the library is now open on Sunday afternoons from 1-5 p.m. for all those who need the library for weekend homework assignments and for those who just like to read in a pleasant environment.

Thank you all so much for your continued support.

Shop BHL's sales shelves

Looking for inexpensive holiday gifts far from the madding crowds, where parking isn't hazardous to your health, where you won't hear non-stop canned holiday tunes?

Look no farther than BHL's sales shelves, across from the circulation desk's return slots. As we go to press, additional shelving has been set up, featuring great bargains in audio books and videos for all ages, and a plethora of books for young children. The customary sales shelves feature fiction and non-fiction books, videos, CDs and tapes at very affordable prices, perfect for economizing this holiday season.



Transforming the reluctant reader: Our librarians have plenty of suggestions

By Agnes Galvin

Does your child hate to read? Parents usually like their children to read, especially if they are avid readers themselves. But what if your child would rather make his bed or do dishes than pick up a book?

Reading outside the classroom is important. It helps children do well in school. Reading expands vocabularies, improves writing skills, develops understanding of complex ideas and broadens horizons. Also, children can identify with characters in books and sometimes find solutions to help them work through their problems.

But how do you help a reluctant reader learn to enjoy reading? BHL teen librarian Jeanne Benzel suggests introducing your child to the large collection of graphic novels found in the library's children's and teens' sections. She especially recommends the Tintin series as both popular and informative.

Kay Bowes, the children's librarian, recommends a new series of Toon Books by such talents as Art Spiegelman. These offer a comic-book format even for beginning readers. Currently, some of the most requested children's books include titles in the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, written and graphically illustrated by Jeff Kinney. In addition, what may please parents more, even many of the classics are going graphic, leading more readers into a new world of literature.

Benzel says that the *Harry Potter* books have turned on a lot of reluctant readers who were hooked into the stories and felt a sense of accomplishment at reading such large books. Also, she recommends *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie as a huge hit with teens who don't like to read.

Parents of reluctant readers can ask at the reference desk for advice about books for their children, and the librarian will try to match the child's interests with books

that might appeal. Boys especially like to identify with a male protagonist whose interests are similar to his own. Bowes adds that many reluctant-reader boys prefer fact to fiction. To meet this need, the library has a large collection of non-fiction at all levels.

For the many reluctant readers who have a hard time sitting still long enough to finish a book, the audio book is a viable alternative, as the child can listen to the story while moving around. The new digital audio books, now available for middle school through adult age groups, are even better. Supply your own earphones/earbuds for a great MP3 experience.

The best method of enticing reluctant readers is to provide them with a wide range of materials that cater to their interests, Bowes says. Publishers and authors appreciate that readers need to see appealing covers, topics that grab, interesting characters that readers can relate to, and enough clarity in the book to be attractive.

The county's staff of youth librarians has developed a series of suggested reading lists for all types of readers, including ones who don't like to read. Both BHL youth librarians agree that readers are surrounded by such a variety of choices here that all can find something to suit their tastes. Take your children to the library regularly, make sure they see you reading, and chances are they will start to read too.

Lend a hand: Help process reserve requests

So you have gone online and successfully reserved a book, CD or DVD you wish to pick up at BHL. Now what? You expect a phone call telling you to come and pick it up.

But it takes a little work to get the item you want off the shelf and into the hold area at the Circulation Desk.

The library staff appreciates the efforts of volunteers who help with this important task, and more volunteers are needed.

Each day the library prints out a multi-page list of items requested. At BHL, the list is often 300 to 700 items long. The volunteer, list in hand, collects items off the shelves and takes them to the Circulation Desk. Some of those requests are for BHL patrons; others will be sent to libraries throughout the county for pickup.

When the requested item is ready for pickup, the library patron is notified by phone or, if they prefer, by email.

If you're interested in helping process reserve requests, call Roberta or Jim Conrad at 475-3571 for a hands-on demonstration.

If you haven't made an online request before, it's really easy to do. Go to the Friends' web site, www.friendsbhl.org, click on "catalog/renew," find the item you want and log in with the number on the back of your library card.

FAQ: What if the roads are snowy and I can't get to the library to renew my books, CDs or DVDs?

You may renew your items from home via your computer or telephone. Via computer, go to the library web site and then to your personal account to renew, research and request items just as you can at the library's card catalogue computers. When renewing by telephone, please have your library card in hand when you make the call so the staff can access your account quickly.



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

Wilmington, DE 19803

1300 Foulk Road



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