



# News

*We support, encourage and promote quality library services*

*April 2010*

## Friends ready to greet spring

*Dear Friends,*

Now that the snow has turned to rain, we can look forward to spring and the warmth it brings.

Our gardens may still look a bit dreary but we can look forward to beautiful new plantings in both front and back.

And we already know of new happenings.

Library people are on the move and there are fresh faces inside.

After serving as BHL's interim manager for a year, Diana Brown returns fulltime to her county library position, and Eric Kuhn has been promoted to manager of the Bear Library.

Jean Kaufman, who you may remember from the early days of our library, has rejoined us as the new library manager. If you see her on your next visit, take the time to introduce yourself and welcome her back. Several new employees have joined the library staff.

In addition, we've recently processed another group of brick orders for the walkway along our Colonnade of Freedoms. The bricks are being shipped to us from Wisconsin, and they'll be placed in position when the weather gets a little warmer.

We're getting ready now for our annual membership drive, set for April 11-17, which is also National Library Week. Members of the Friends board of directors and other volunteers are looking forward to greeting you at the Library entrance. We'll give you a smile, an opportunity to renew your membership, a chance to see what we have been doing, and a nice thank you gift.

I'm sure you've noticed, as I have, that more people are using our library. With money being tighter, it's harder for the library to meet everyone's needs. By supporting the Friends, with your donation or with your time, you're making the library a better place for all of us. Look for us during the membership drive.

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

## Annual membership drive set for April 11-17

**H**OOOORAY!!! Once again membership fees to join the Friends of Brandywine Hundred Library have not been raised. Last year, many, many patrons dug deep into their pockets and we had the most successful drive since our favorite library opened.

Can we top last year's superlative figures?

The primary reason your board has not raised dues during these challenging economic times is to keep the membership affordable so we can encourage as many people as possible to join or renew. A regular membership is still only \$12. For information on the other categories, which remain unchanged also, see the back page of this newsletter.

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## Jean Kaufman returns as library manager

**T**he Friends welcome Jean B. Kaufman back to the Brandywine Hundred Library as our new library manager.

Jean, who was most recently the manager of the Woodlawn Library, was the BHL co-manager with Tom Weaver in 2003. She also worked at the Elsmere and Claymont libraries, then served on the planning and design team for the new Woodlawn Library before becoming its manager.

She officially started at BHL on Feb. 15.

Jean, a native of Towson, Md., graduated from the University of Maryland and earned a Master's degree in library science at Drexel University. Before joining New Castle County, she worked in school libraries in Havre de Grace, Md., and at Wilmington Friends School, and at the Wilmington Institute Library.

Jean is pleased to be back at BHL. "Working with Tom Weaver was a wonderful experience for me. He was an excellent mentor," she says. "The opportunity to work once again with the stellar staff in this fabulous facility with you the supportive Friends was too much to turn down."

Diana Brown, our interim manager since the death of Tom Weaver in December 2008, now returns to fulltime duty as overseeing library operations in the county's Department of Community Services.

Eric Kuhn, who had been adult services director at BHL, has been promoted to manager of the Bear Library, also effective Feb. 15. We congratulate Eric on his promotion.



### Reserving books is getting easier

Are you harrumphing because you have reserved a book and then had to wait forever for it to come in? Thanks to the upcoming consolidation of library systems in New Castle County with Kent and Sussex counties, you have a new alternative way to try to borrow your book now.

The county recently signed an agreement with the state to participate in the consolidated system. By late summer or early fall, catalogs for libraries in all three counties will be consolidated into a single online system, making it possible for BHL patrons to request and borrow books from any public library in the state.

The Wilmington Institute became the first library in New Castle County to be connected with the libraries in Kent and Sussex counties. If you have a card from Wilmington Institute Library (WIL) or one from a Kent or Sussex County library, you can now go to WIL, and search for and reserve items that are in downstate libraries.

Be patient, if you'd like to reserve a book via BHL's catalog computers from a downstate library. By fall, the county expects to link BHL and its other libraries to the statewide system. Then, you will be able to use your BHL card to reserve books held at any public library in the state.

Start looking this summer for more details about the conversion.

### Thank you, Carol Okeson

BHL recently honored retiring volunteer Carol Okeson for her eight-plus years of service. She began volunteering at Concord Pike Library in 2001, starting as a shelver, soon assuming responsibility for the sales shelves. Carol performed almost all of the volunteer work herself and was overseen by staffer Kay Lacy. The importance of Carol's job is reflected in the revenue the sale shelves generated for the library. In most years, sales topped \$10,000. In 2008 sales were \$16,173; in 2009, \$17,113.

Currently Jeanne Benzel, youth librarian, assisted by Jill Bleyer, oversees the four sales shelves volunteers: Gerri Bleach, Lois Myoda, Joanne Ludolph and Sam Noble.

### For career and work ideas, visit the Job Zone

In response to increasing requests for job and career information, the library staff has organized its resources into one convenient display, the Job Zone.

Located on the second floor, next to the Reference Desk, the Job Zone features a variety of books and other information covering a range of topics. It's the place to go to learn about hot careers, how to write a resume or prepare for a job interview, even how to start your own business.

Got a career question? Find the answers at the Job Zone.

### Jim Conrad re-elected FBHL president

The Friends re-elected Jim Conrad as president and Joy Naquin as secretary at the 2009 annual meeting in December. Both will serve through 2011.

Also elected to serve two-year terms as board members were Ann Hitchcock, Lois Myoda, Larry Nagengast and Jim Scanlan.

Other current members of the board are: Mary Bowler, vice president; Marcia Dillon, treasurer; Agnes Galvin, Claire Kantar and Kristie Moore. Their terms expire in December 2010.

In January, Lois Myoda and Sharon Riddick resigned from the board. We thank them for their service.

Also at the annual meeting, members ratified an update to the Friends' constitution and bylaws. The new document is now posted on our web site, [www.friendsbhl.org](http://www.friendsbhl.org)

### BHL Book Club announces spring selections

The Brandywine Hundred Library Book Club, which is sponsored by the Friends, announces its upcoming selections: March 17, *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell; April 21, *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett; May 19, *Spooner* by Pete Dexter; June 16, *Lacunae* by Barbara Kingsolver.

The group is reading and discussing *Bel Canto* as part of the New Castle County Reads program in which librarians suggest a book for all adults in the county to read. The county also plans to sponsor other programs related to the book at various libraries.

The BHL Book Club, which reads both fiction and non-fiction, meets at the library throughout the year at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information, call Kristie at 764-5393.

### Tools to help raise standardized test scores

BHL has a new database to help practice for the SAT, BACT, PRA or PSAT exams. To find it, go to the BHL web site, [nccde.org/brandywinehundred](http://nccde.org/brandywinehundred), click databases, and then click "ePrep."

For "live" practice, the library is hosting Princeton Review SAT practice tests on two Saturdays, April 10 and May 1, both from 10 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

To register, go to <http://princetonreview.com/events>. Enter your ZIP code and look under free events. Or you may call 1-800-2-REVIEW.



### Support the Friends, improve our library

Since the Brandywine Hundred Library opened in 2003, the Friends have contributed more than \$62,000 in support of library collections, programs and equipment. Suggestions for library improvements come from Friends and library staff members. The Friends' Board of Directors works with library managers to best meet the needs of people using the 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.

Last fall, during the county's Love Your Library campaign, the Friends contributed \$10,000 through the nonprofit New Castle County Pride organization to increase the library's collections. By making the contribution during the campaign, the Friends gave the county an extra assist, as it was able to pool funds to secure better prices through a bulk order. The \$10,000 donation enabled the county to purchase more than 600 items for the BHL's collection. Many of the new items have already arrived and are in circulation now.

In previous years, the Friends have made funding available for:

- Shelving for BHL's collections, \$20,000
- Expanding the Large Print book collection, \$7,000
- Expanding DVD collection, \$5,000
- Books on librarians' "Wish Lists" not covered by county funds, \$4,000+
- The ClearView Magnifying Unit for the visually handicapped, \$2,695
- Board book display case for children's books, \$550
- Magazine file boxes, \$2,000
- Electronic piano and its rolling dolly
- Library plantings and maintenance (about \$1,500 per year)
- Folding wheelchair

Annual dues also support the cost of publishing and mailing printed copies of this newsletter and of maintaining our web site, [www.friendsbhl.org](http://www.friendsbhl.org) to help keep members informed.

Your suggestions on how the Friends might help improve our library are always welcome. Just email us at [contact@friendsbhl.org](mailto:contact@friendsbhl.org) or leave a telephone message on the Friends' office telephone at (302) 477-1945.

### Annual membership drive set for April 11-17

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The Friends use the membership fees and any extra donations to support our library in ways that the county could not otherwise afford.

This year's membership drive will be held April 11 through 17 during regular library hours in the lobby. All newcomers and renewers may choose a premium of a colorful geranium from The Friendly Gift Shop or a freshly baked loaf of bread from Big Sky Bakery.

Our membership drive is held every spring during National Library Week, which features a variety of special programs to encourage higher library attendance. Stay tuned to BHL's web site and fliers at the library.

A popular part of the Friends' drive is the "Give a Book" program. Librarians in our children's, youth and adult departments make wish lists for our drive of books that they would like in the library's collection. The way you can "give a book" is to purchase it via a signup sheet at the membership drive table. Then, you receive your membership for free.

Sign-up forms to donate bricks also will be available. The bricks can be inscribed for posterity in as many ways as you are creative. For ideas for inscriptions, tour the bricks which pave the Colonnade of Freedom (outside by the children's area). The donation for an engraved brick remains \$100.

Arrangements still can be made to add new bricks to family clusters.

As always, we seek volunteers to help man the membership drive table. This year we are trying to fill 26 two-hour slots with two people per shift. Already many shifts are filled, thanks to recruiting guru President Jim Conrad, so you should call soon if you would like to volunteer. Last-minute help is often needed. Training is provided. This volunteer opportunity is a nice way to meet more people like you who love our library. For information about helping during the drive, call Kristie at 764-5393.



## FAQ: Am I fined for overdue books when the library is closed because of blizzards or other serious storms?

Items due during storms when libraries are closed will NOT be assessed late fees. Patrons are not expected to return materials during such closures because there can be no guarantee that the approaches to the book drops will be cleared.



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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U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
WILMINGTON, DE  
Permit No. 231