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Fall 2012

Among Friends Fall 2012 Vol 13 No 1

Friends of the Bethel University Library

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Recommended Citation

Friends of the Bethel University Library, "Among Friends Fall 2012 Vol 13 No 1" (2012). *Among Friends Library Newsletter*. 20.

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AMONG FRIENDS

VOLUME 13: NUMBER 1

AUTUMN 2012

DID I HEAR YOU RIGHT?

by David Stewart
Director of Libraries

Something I particularly value about the Bethel University Library is its role as host of community forums (Primetime@BU Library is held up to twice weekly during the academic year). Not every library sets this as a priority in quite this way, though it would make a great deal of sense for them to do so.

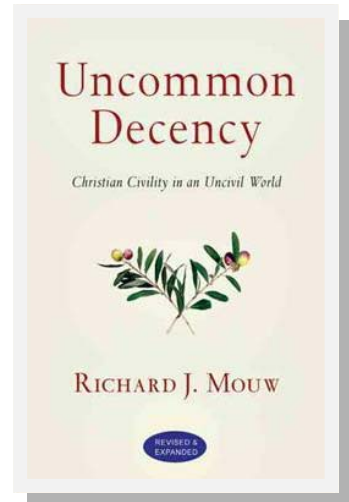
Here's why: when you think of it, every item contained by a library (in whatever format – print, digital, video, etc.) represents a *voice*, with something to say, and the aggregation of all these voices can, and often does, add up to a *conversation*. And not just any conversation, but one of the broadest imaginable: the voices of the past and present, encompassing every possible subject, from every point of view take part. So an academic library provides the ideal forum for hosting present-day conversations as well, on topics that may be timeless, urgent, controversial, or all of the above.

I've only been at Bethel University a relatively short time, and already I have seen brilliant examples, such as the conversation during Homecoming a year ago on the value of Bethel's Pietist heritage. Others who have been here longer tell me of other notable examples, including forums hosted by the Friends of the Library on the Iraqi War, on Stem Cell Research, on Immigration policy, etc. (We're already planning now for a forum on Healthcare for the spring of 2013).

This is something the Friends of the Library can justly be proud of, and it is absolutely worth the effort, planning, and adaptability required to be the place where such rich conversations are convened.

Which brings us directly to the moment at hand: it's an election year, and various leaders around campus have, with foresight and wisdom, seen this semester as a propitious time for the Bethel community to set high expectations of *civility* for itself. As early as last

spring, for example, members of the College Leadership Team were given copies of *Uncommon Decency: Christian Civility in an Uncivil World*, by Richard Mouw, president of Fuller Seminary. I was asked to convene a discussion with this group on Mouw's book during the summer, and it turned out to be a rewarding experience. Other similar discussion groups are springing up around campus. It's good, and important, for citizens to have strong opinions about who should govern, about policy, about the well-being of their country and about the world in general. But it's an even better thing for Christians not only to understand but to welcome the fact that we won't always agree, and to be able to cultivate and exemplify respect in the midst of important debates. I'm more than grateful to all of you who make this possible through your support of the Friends.



“There is in this world no real delight ... but exchange of ideas in conversation ...”

(Samuel Johnson, 1709-1784)

Watch for News on the Friends Spring Forum on Healthcare!

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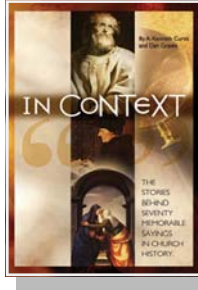
REMEMBERING

By Eric Gossett
President of the Friends

Without memory, we would have no sense of self. Much of our thinking and reasoning depends on memory. Just as we need personal memories to understand who we are as individuals, so we need collective memories to understand who we are as societies and other social groups.

In Context: the Stories Behind Seventy Memorable Sayings in Church History, by A. Kenneth Curtis and Dan Graves, is a book whose purpose is to preserve and anchor in context 70 quotes that have been influential in the collective memory of the church.

Each quote is given a date and author, then a page or two is used to explain the original context of the quotation. The first quotation, accompanied by my favorite annunciation painting (by Dante Gabrielli Rossetti), is from the Magnificat: "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my savior." Another example, "the prison was made a palace for me," was written around 202 AD by Vibia Perpetua (age 22) in an account she wrote while in prison waiting to be sent with her slave Felicity to



the arena to die for refusing to denounce her faith in Christ. Here is a paragraph from Curtis and Graves (page 22):

Perpetua writes that she worried for her son for several days until two deacons bribed the authorities to let her feed the baby, and then, "I was able to make arrangements so that the baby should stay with me in prison; and immediately I became well and was relieved of my labor and concern for the child; and suddenly the prison was made a palace for me, so that I would sooner be there than anywhere else.

Here is a small sample of other quotations (read the book for the context):

"The truth might fare better at a lower temperature" - Philipp Melanchthon (1519).

"I will cling to my Lord Christ as a burr on a coat" - Katherine von Bora Luther (1552).

"I would as soon attempt to enslave Gabriel or Michael as to enslave a man made in the image of God" - Henry Highland Garnet (1865).

The book is published by The Christian History Institute (2012 - ISBN 978-1-56364-872-4).

A recent children's movie, **Oblivion Island: Haruka and the Magic Mirror**, addresses the issue of personal

memory. Haruka is 16 and drifting. She remembers a story her mother read to her as a young child shortly before her mother died. It is about some fox spirits who steal objects that humans have neglected.



Haruka wanders off to an old temple near her childhood home and encounters just such a fox spirit. She follows him and ends up in the world of the fox spirits - built entirely from items stolen from humans.

In that world Haruka encounters a treasured (but long since forgotten) stuffed animal she had promised her mother to always take good care of, and also a long lost mirror, also given to her by her mother. With the help of the young fox spirit Teo and her stuffed animal, Cotton, she rescues the mirror from the evil Baron and returns to the human world with a better sense of self and restored memories of how much she was loved by her parents.

The movie is suitable for upper elementary age and older. The video gives you a choice of Japanese with English subtitles or a very good English dub and is available in the BUL collection.

Just as we need personal memories to understand who we are as individuals, so we need collective memories to understand who we are as societies and other social groups.

WHY BE A “FRIEND”?

By Kathy Nevins
Contributing Member

When Friends of the BU Library first launched, I jumped at the chance to be a “life time” supporter, and, in this way, honor my ancestors. The Nevinses were a family of educators, and books were part of that passion for learning and “passing it on.” My great grandparents, on the western plains of Kansas, bought a house in town in order to send all 6 children to high school. They then shipped each one east for college. At their graduations everyone received a framed print of a famous painting, sheet music of a famous classical piano piece, and a book from the Harvard Classics in literature. Those books are still read, that music still played, those prints still relevant. (Me, I got a typewriter. Don’t ask!)

Even now, in an age of digitizing everything, books, in whatever format, are still my preferred vehicle for learning. The library supports me in my “addiction” to knowledge, and helps me

“pass it on.” I like to think that in turn, my support of its mission and work is small compensation for the countless times I have been made happy by what I have discovered there. For example, just this week I found a copy of William James *Talks to Teachers on Psychology*, a series of lectures from 1900 on topics still relevant today. To me, this is wisdom from the past I can connect with in the present, and hopefully can find ways to impart to others in the future, thanks to the efforts of others.

Sure, things have changed for the library in the last thirty-five years that I have been a card carrying member of the Bethel faculty. I appreciate the electronic “card catalogue” that has made subject searching so breath-takingly easy. And, I smile when I sip my soda without having to be surreptitious about having food or drink in the LRC. Yes, things change; but what doesn’t, or shouldn’t, is the library as a central icon, library as sacred space for an institution of learning, library as an im-

portant and valued archive and clearinghouse for knowledge.

It is a tall order. In a time of crushing pressure to meet the scholarly demands of so many students and faculty, the Bethel Library continues to do its best to accommodate and care for all these needs. Access to quality sources of knowledge and diverse information formats is more and more difficult as the cost for such access and formats are skyrocketing. Financial constraints have meant budget increases have been meager at best. Space is a premium. That my James book was still given an honored space, a tiny bit of real estate on the crowded shelves, reminds me of the difficult decisions the staff must make as finding room for new books means euthanizing some of the old. Tall order, indeed.

I am a “Friend” because I wish to honor my family, yes, and also to honor these dedicated people who so hospitably and unselfishly make the Bethel Library “work.” They brighten my day. And, I am a “Friend” because I want oth-



The library supports me in my “addiction” to knowledge, and helps me “pass it on.”

ers, especially those who will grace this place long after I am gone, also to have moments of happy discovery such I have had perusing the stacks and “surfing” good databases. I want the Library to continue to be a vital, central part of this community, fostering those special feelings of curiosity, awe, and connection all wrapped up in one feeling of comfort and challenge---to know more, to be more, to share in the past in order to navigate the present, and plan/create for the future.

Joy!

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Or fill out and return the membership form attached or found at <http://library.bethel.edu/about/friends/news>



WHAT'S YOUR LIBRARY STORY?

By Ann Gannon
Contributing Member

For Bethel's Homecoming this year, the Friends decided to focus on collecting library memories from alum-

ni, current and retired faculty and staff and former library student workers. Some of the stories were recorded as video history and some were submitted in writing, but all

the stories were wonderful and very much worth sharing. What follows is a sampling. Perhaps these stories will inspire you to share your own?

Sandi Horn

The year the "New Campus" buildings opened, in the fall of 1972, I was a senior. I remember we had chapel in the library space because I especially recall sitting on the top of the wall on the second floor and hanging our legs over the edge, looking down on the proceedings below.



From *Bethel Spire*, 1973, pg. 44 (courtesy of BU Digital Library)



Carrie Carter

I was a student worker at the Bethel University Library Circulation Desk from 2007 to 2010. My time at the library increased my love of libraries and encouraged me to pursue Library Science as a career, but more importantly, it introduced me to one of my best friends.

In the summer of 2009, I worked full-time at the BUL and got to work with five other wonderful student workers. They made going to work every day a joy, and I suspect that few people have ever had more fun dusting books and shelf-reading.

April Walker was the Periodicals student worker that summer, and while we had met before, seeing each other 40 hours a week brought us from being acquaintances to good friends. Since then, our friendship has survived lengthy study abroad trips, college graduation, and living eight hours apart. This past May, I had the joy of being a bridesmaid in April's wedding.

If it were not for my time as a student worker at Bethel, I would have missed out on one of the best friendships I have ever had.

Image courtesy of Carrie Carter

Betty Mattson Hardle

My student name was Betty Mattson, and I worked in the back room of the Library (on the old campus) repairing books from 1954 to 1957. My supervisor was an older lady who was a retired librarian now working as a cataloger. (Anybody remember the Dewey Decimal system?)

I was young and she was old, so we didn't have much casual conversation. But one day she showed me some old pictures. She was trying to decide what she should do with them. So, she asked me to look at them. Why she thought I would know anything useful, I don't know.

But on one of the pictures I found a photo of my Aunt Clara, who was on the Bethel girls' basketball team in the early 20's. There my Aunt Clara was -- the tallest one with bloomers, knee socks, a sailor shirt and a big bow to tie her hair back. Wow! I didn't even know my aunt went to Bethel. I didn't know she knew how to play basketball. And the final part of the story is that my library lady was her coach! Go figure!



Jack Tierney and Betty Mattson listen attentively as Marjory Peterson states her view in a practice debate.

From *Bethel Spire*, 1957, pg. 19
(Courtesy of BU Digital Library)



What's Your Library Story?

Did you pull off a great prank? Meet your sweetheart? Have a special memory of working in the library? Share your good, weird, funny, heartwarming experiences! Visit [facebook.com/library.bu](https://www.facebook.com/library.bu) and add your memory to our wall, email your story in written, audio or video form to bul-friends@bethel.edu or fill out this form at <http://tinyurl.com/BULLibrarystory>

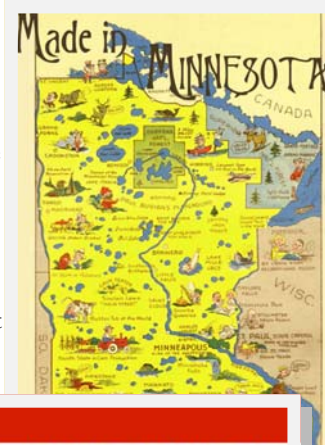
CONVERSATION STARTERS

By Lyndi Finifrock
Contributing Member

Christian Civility in the Political Sphere, The End: Apocalyptic Texts and Popular Culture, Made in Minnesota. These are just a few of the themes that have been on display at the Library recently. Each month, I put together a display of books and other materials that connects with current events on campus or at large, highlights a subject area, or focuses on a particular topic. Taking books off the shelves and artfully displaying them near the en-

trance of the library allows me to showcase the variety and quality of materials available. Betsy Dadabo, Library Technology Specialist, partners with me, using her graphic design skills to create eye-catching and on-trend posters. The current theme, Christian Civility in the Political Sphere, ties in with the campus-wide focus on Richard Mouw's book *Uncommon Decency: Christian Civility in an Uncivil World* during this often divisive political season. Books on civility, Christianity and politics, the current polit-

ical landscape, and civic involvement are included in the display. The library just procured a DVD rack for films connected to the current theme, providing another avenue to explore the topic at hand. With these monthly displays, my aim is to encourage students, faculty, and staff to thoughtfully engage in ideas beyond the classroom.





Friends of the Bethel University Library is an alliance of people dedicated to improving the resources of the Library. *Among Friends* is published twice a year.

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LIBRARY FOOTNOTES

By Earleen Warner



- **Library Staff Milestones**
Carole Cragg was awarded promotion to Senior Librarian.
- **Retiree Library Play Day**
BU retirees stopped into the library in August for a game of library trivia and a chance to try out a Kindle and iPad while at BU for a summer luncheon.
- **Library Re-Carpeted!**
The library got a fresh new look this summer when all of the third floor was re-carpeted.



- **Learning Beyond the Classroom**
 - Carole Cragg and Ann Gannon attended the *Designing Libraries for the 21st Century* conference at the University of Calgary May 16-18, 2012.
 - Lyndi Finifrock and Karen Dubay attended the *Minnesota Library Association* conference in St. Paul on October 3-5, 2012. Karen participated in an open discussion forum about AskMN, Minnesota's statewide virtual reference service.
 - Gene Kenney, Rhonda Gilbraith, Amy Reinhold, Sally Smith, Verena Getahun and Earleen Warner attended the 2012 *Minnesota Innovative User Group* conference held at St. Olaf College. Earleen and CLIC colleagues presented "CLICtrek: The Next GENERation: A Consortial Odyssey" (a review of new integrated library systems) and Verena presented a poster session "Creating Workslips".

Primetime
@BUlibrary celebrating learning beyond the classroom

Find recordings of past Primetime presentations at:
<http://library.bethel.edu/presentations/> or
<http://library.bethel.edu/digital-library/digital-collections/>

Joy!

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How?

By knowing you are part of *Friends* who really make a difference in the lives of students, faculty, staff and retirees at BU and inspiring conversations on vital issues, providing scholarships and research prizes, inviting life-long learning and much more!

Why Now?

Reduced and flat budgets for 4 years, along with 7-8% annual inflation for Library resources make it impossible, *without the help of Friends*, to provide the enriching resources and experiences our community treasures as well as materials for the curriculum.

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