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Among Friends Library Newsletter

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Fall 2006

## Among Friends Fall 2006 Vol 7 No 1

Friends of the Bethel University Library

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# AMONG FRIENDS

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 1

AUTUMN 2006

## SET SAIL WITH US AT HOMECOMING 2006!

**By: Verena Larson**

We will be *Sailing into the Sea of Knowledge* as we highlight the benefits and joys of lifelong learning.

Bethel Friend, John Lawyer, has donated his Great Courses series to the library. This extensive collection of videos and CDs covers a wide variety of topics in religion, philosophy, history, music, drama, and more. John will tell us how he discovered them, how he uses them, and what he gets out of them.

John has led a rich and interesting life which you can read about below.

We will also hear how other Friends have made lifelong learning an important part of their lives, experiencing everything from scuba diving to Elderhostel.

We'll invite you to share your experiences and questions on your voyage of lifelong learning. Be thinking about what you have learned since leaving school and what you still want to learn.

Of course there will be refreshments and time to chat with other Friends.



See you September 30th!

**FRIENDS OF THE  
LIBRARY  
HOMECOMING  
OPEN HOUSE**

**SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 30  
10:00-11:30  
BETHEL  
UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARY**

## BETHEL FACULTY CORNER

**By: Nancy Olson**

Friend of the BUL and Bethel University Professor, John E. Lawyer, Ph.D., Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Harvard University, personifies commitment to lifelong learning. He has taught at Bethel since 1976, specializing in international politics and developing Bethel's International Relations Program.

Dr. Lawyer began his lifelong learning career by receiving his A.B., with honors, from Harvard University in 1960. In 1965, he earned an MA in English from the Uni-

versity of Delaware while he was based at Dover Air Force Base. In 1970, he obtained a Master of Public Administration from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Before coming to Bethel he served at the Pentagon as the Country Director for Southern Europe in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. As Lt. Col. in the Air Force, where he served on the Air Staff in the Air Force Directorate of Plans, he worked on Arms Control Negotiations. From 1991-1992, he was a visiting scholar at the University of Kent, Canterbury, Eng-

land studying the impact of current changes in Europe and Russia on U.S. foreign policy.

But, Dr. Lawyer has other lifelong learning interests very different from the international political scene. He served as a Visiting Scholar in the Celtic Christianity Program at the University of Wales where he studied Christian community in Celtic tradition and contemporary Celtic politics of Scotland, Ireland and Wales. He has taken a 10-day retreat to the Iona Community on the West Coast of

(Continued on page 2)

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"LAWYER'S SUBJECT  
EXPERTISE AND  
FIRST-HAND  
EXPERIENCES  
BROUGHT  
RELEVANCY TO MY  
EXPERIENCES  
ABROAD" \*

Brent Bohne  
(Bethel Alumnus)  
Counselor for  
Administrative Affairs  
in the Consulate,  
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

(\*Bethel Focus, Spring '03)

## BETHEL FACULTY CORNER, CONT.

(Continued from page 1)

Scotland where he lived in a restored 11<sup>th</sup> Century Norman abbey. He has also made a pilgrimage across the island of Iona.

In 1991, he was a Resident Fellow at the Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota where he examined the role of religious values in politics. From St. John's School of Theology he earned a Certificate of Spirituality.

Dr. Lawyer has written extensively on the subjects of Celtic spirituality, Christian community, and political science. He has been published in the *Anglican Theological Review*, *The American Benedictine Review*, *Religious Studies Review*, *Fides et Historia*, *Cistercian Studies Quarterly*, *Christian Scholars Review*, *Paradigms*, *Christianity Today*, *The Standard*, *Contacts*, *The Reformed Journal*, *Air University Review*, etc. He has also presented at dozens of conferences, seminars, and lectures throughout his career.



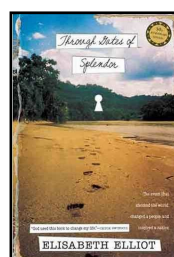
## BOOKS FROM FRIENDS

By: Rhonda Gilbraith

In recent years we've made very concerted efforts to make the Library a place not only for research needs but also for comfort, community, and even entertainment.

Last spring we mentioned that some of the categories that we'd targeted for purchase with our Friends dollars were DVDs and CDS of the just-for-fun variety. Well, we've done it—we've made a little foray in that direction, and these are some of the titles we've added: [DVDs] *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*; the recent Oscar Best Picture winner, *Crash*; *Munich*; *Pride & Prejudice*; *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy; *Good Night and Good Luck*; *Capote*; *Walk the Line*; *Braveheart*; *The Notebook*; *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*; and *March of the Penguins*. [CDs] Another Journal Entry (Barlowgirl); *Beauty from Pain* (Superchick); *Mmmmm*

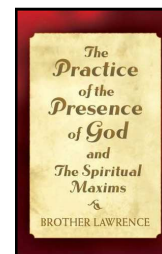
(Relient K); *Nothing is Sound* (Switchfoot); and *Restored* (Jeremy Camp). Now, when students wander in before a weekend or break looking for a little diversion, they've got something close at hand. I know they'll be pleased.



In a year in which we lost dear friend and colleague Connie Larson, in which our beloved colleague Carol Hansen endured a devastating accident and grueling rehab, in which we all witnessed the destruction and suffering of Katrina and its aftermath, as well as another year of war in Iraq, we've been drawn to books that offer spiritual balm for seasons of grief and pain. The Friends' fund purchased books like *Luminous Dusk: Finding God in the Deep, Still Places*, and *Sorrow*

*Psalms: A Book of Twentieth-Century Elegy*. In the more general encouragement category are these classics that we inexplicably didn't own, or that were so well-thumbed that they needed replacing: C.S. Lewis's *Surprised by Joy*, Elisabeth Elliot's *Through Gates of Splendor*, and Brother Lawrence's *Practice of the Presence of God*. No self-respecting collection of Christian spirituality should be without these, and now, thanks to you, it isn't.

Your membership dues and gifts continue to enrich our collections in many directions. In case you ever get the urge to teach yourself Swahili, stop by. we have a book to show you, courtesy of our Friends...



## CONFESSIONS OF A BOOKWORM

**Book Review by:  
Verena Larson**

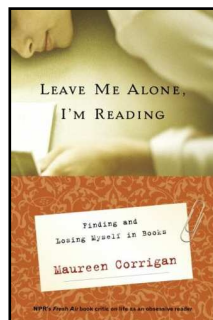
*"Leave Me Alone, I'm Reading:  
Finding and Losing Myself in  
Books" by Maureen Corrigan*

Ebooks, MySpace, Wikis, Blogs . . . doesn't anyone read the old fashioned way anymore? Maureen Corrigan does. She reads and reads and reads in her capacity as book critic for National Public Radio's "Fresh Air". She reads to write a column about mystery books for the Washington Post, to contribute reviews and essays to other publications, and to teach literature at Georgetown University.

In her first book, *Leave me alone, I'm reading*, Maureen Corrigan credits her father, an avid reader, and her mother, a non-reader, for the powerful hold that books have had in her life. Her mother didn't like to read, but she was a listener. Corrigan tried hard to convince her that reading was not a waste of time. From an early age she summarized and analyzed stories for her mother; a literary life was in the making.

Corrigan describes her love affair with books by considering three types of literature that have influenced her life. The first type, "Women's extreme-adventure" stories, includes the novels by the Brontë sisters and Dorothy Sayers and the very popular female detective writers that emerged in the 1970's.

Corrigan argues that the adventures of 19<sup>th</sup> century female characters were every bit as extreme and heroic as those of more celebrated male heroes. The difference is that the 19<sup>th</sup> century women characters suffered, endured, and triumphed quietly and alone in their roles as wife, mother, caretaker. They also anticipate the development of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century female detective characters created by Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, P.D. James, Marcia Muller, and others.



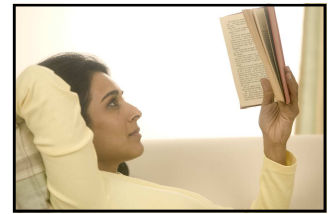
"Working for a living" is the second type of book that fascinates Corrigan. Her Irish Catholic blue-collar roots propelled her in this direction, and she read William Cobbett, Thomas Carlyle, John Ruskin, and other Victorian essayists for her dissertation in graduate school. But when she got fed up with these "gloom-and-doom social critics" she escaped into "hard-boiled 20<sup>th</sup> century detective fiction", only to discover that both venues celebrated a utopian manifestation of work.

The roles of women and the importance of work are combined in Corrigan's third type, the "secular-martyr stories" she read as a young Catholic girl in parochial school. The books carry the message of "hard work and self-sacrifice, deference to others, and service to society". These are the same themes she finds in the women's extreme-adventure stories and the hard-boiled detective novels that captured her interest in graduate school.

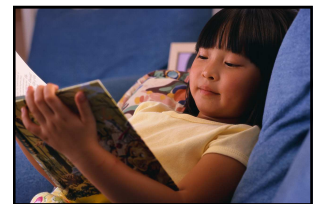
Corrigan expands on her themes by telling stories of pivotal moments in her own life as a student, mother, caretaker, and worker. Of particular interest is her extreme-adventure tale leading up to the adoption of her daughter in China.

The author also analyzes many of the books that exemplify her themes, and they are listed in a useful topical arrangement at the end of the volume.

Maureen Corrigan's excitement for the written word is contagious. Some of the many titles that entertained, influenced, and enlightened her are now on my own reading list. It is very tempting to get hold of them and hang a sign on my door that says, "Leave me alone, I'm reading."



"LEAVE ME  
ALONE,  
I'M  
READING."



"READING GIVES US SOMEPLACE TO GO WHEN WE HAVE TO STAY WHERE WE ARE"

—Mason Cooley

"READING IS A MEANS OF THINKING WITH ANOTHER PERSON'S MIND; IT FORCES YOU TO STRETCH YOUR OWN."

—Charles Schribner Jr.



## REFLECTIONS ON A VERY STRANGE YEAR

**By: Carol Hansen**

As most of you know, last August 21 my life took a completely unexpected turn when I lost my footing while getting off my bicycle ten feet from my own front door. I fell over a low retaining wall and hit my head or my neck on a railroad tie two feet below the driveway, displacing vertebrae C5 and C6 and compressing my spinal cord by fifty per cent in those areas—something you never want to do!!!

After spending three weeks at Regions Hospital, seven weeks at the Sister Kenney Institute, and three months in-patient at Courage Center in Golden Valley, I finally came home at the end of January. What a joyful time that was! Since coming home, I have gone to Stillwater twice a week for therapy at Courage St. Croix, working on regaining as much function in my hands as possible and working on walking again – it's much harder the second time around!

I'm typing this chronicle at my desk in the Bethel University

Library – yes, I am back at work, at least on a part-time basis. We'll see how it goes. It's wonderful to be back with my library colleagues again as well as our faculty. It's trite to say that Bethel is all about the people you encounter here, but in this case, trite is true! I've loved this job at Bethel for 36 years (which is amazing since I'm only 45!), and I hope to love it again for a little while longer. You will see me riding around the library on my little scooter since walking for any distance is still problematic.

What have I learned this past year? I've learned the power of prayer as I have been upheld by countless people around the globe. I am a true miracle in that I have gained back far more functionality than the surgeons predicted – perhaps because of all that prayer. I have learned who some of the really important people are – and they aren't the ones in *People* magazine. They are the doctors, the nurses, and the therapists, both occupational (everything above the waist) and physical (everything below the waist) who work so

hard to put our broken bodies back together again. I've learned what an incredible man I am married to as he has assumed caring for me in such loving ways; our partnership is stronger than ever. And I've learned that although God doesn't cause disasters like mine, He can use it to strengthen and encourage others and perhaps even bring some to knowledge of Himself, which is my true prayer.

We have a much-loved CD that we listen to every morning while we are getting dressed. It contains an old hymn written after the author learned that his four daughters had been lost at sea. You know it well. "When peace like a river attendeth my ways; When sorrows like sea billows blow; What ever my lot Thou hast taught me to say: It is well. It is well with my soul." All is not well with my body, and it never will be again on this earth, even though I will keep working to make further gains. But it is well with my soul.

"ALL IS NOT WELL  
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WILL BE AGAIN  
ON THIS EARTH,  
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SOUL."



**Condensed from the Great Courses website**

(<http://www.thegreatcourses.com/ttc/OurHistory.asp>):

This series brings engaging professors into your home or car through courses on DVD, audio CD, and other formats. Since 1990, great teachers from the Ivy League, Stanford, Georgetown, and other leading colleges and universi-

ties have crafted over 200 courses for lifelong learners. These courses provide the adventure of learning without the homework or exams!

The mission of The Teaching Company (the producers of this series) is to ignite the passion for lifelong learning by offering great courses taught by great professors.

Since 1990 they have produced over 200 great courses—over 2,000 hours of material in literature, philosophy, history, fine arts, the sciences, economics, and religion.

May the lifelong learning begin!



## DEAR FRIENDS...

By: Diana Magnuson

Seen a good film recently? This is my new question to those who cross my path. I spent my discretionary reading time this summer viewing a number of films that I've often referred to in class as significant markers in American popular culture, but had never actually seen. I also sneaked in a couple of TV shows—all for the sake of lecture preparation! For example, some of the films that I saw: *The Broadway Melody of 1929*, *It Happened One Night* (1934), *Roman Holiday* (1953), *Sabrina* (1954), *An Affair to Remember* (1957), and *My Dinner With Andre* (1981). While I can't claim to have watched every episode of the following TV shows, I can now authentically respond to cultural references to *The Land of the Lost* (season 1, 1974), *The Muppet Show* (season 1, 1976) and *Friends* (season 1, 1994). My colleague in the history department, Chris Gehrz, an aficionado of Bart Simpson, selected a couple of episodes for my education, with an eye toward what might be useful in class. Believe it or not, I had never seen an episode of *The Bart Simpson Show*.

Unfortunately, these films or TV shows are not available through our Bethel University Library. If I want to illustrate the impact of Audrey Hepburn's style on American fashion

through her costume selection in her Academy Award winning performance in *Roman Holiday*, I will have to rent (gasp!) the film rather than check it out of the library. If I want to use the episode of *The Bart Simpson Show* that humorously illustrates the perils of public history, I'll have to borrow Gehrz's copy.

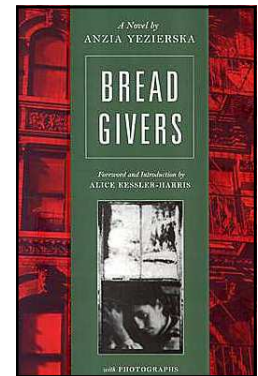
What can you do about this unfortunate state of affairs? Well, you can do nothing, or you can earmark your 2007 donation to the Friends for DVD purchases!



So what did I read this summer? Lots and lots of Thornton Burgess with my oldest daughter, Kathryn (9 ½). If you haven't yet discovered Burgess, go out right now to your local library or bookstore and demand a copy of one of his timeless stories. We've recently finished *Whitefoot the Woodmouse*, *The Adventures of Billy Mink*, and *The Burgess Animal Book for Children*. Allison and Austin (3 ½) have read stacks and stacks of character books, such as Franklin, Clifford, and the "If I Could Drive a \_\_\_\_" (fill in the blank:

tow truck, backhoe, tractor, fire truck, bulldozer, etc.). Other favorites (for all of our family) are the wonderful read-alouds by Arnold Lobel about those two great friends, Frog and Toad. Books I found on my husband's current reading pile on his desk: *The Fall of Interpretation: Philosophical Foundations for a Creational Hermeneutic*; *A Passion for Truth: The Intellectual Coherence of Evangelicalism*; and *Essays in Postfoundationalist Theology*. They sound dreadful, don't they? I can't recommend them because I haven't read them. I can, however, recommend the very reasonably titled, *Bread Givers* (1925), by Anzia Yezierska, a powerfully engaging novel about the tenement life of a young immigrant woman at the turn of the twentieth century in New York City. I liked it so much that I've assigned it in my women's history class this fall.

I look forward to seeing many of you and personally thanking you for your generous financial support to the work of the Friends of the Bethel University Library.



"WELL, YOU CAN DO NOTHING, OR YOU CAN EARMARK YOUR 2007 DONATION TO THE FRIENDS FOR DVD PURCHASES!"



"...REMEMBER THAT WE WANT OUR CHILDREN TO DO MORE THAN JUST LEARN HOW TO READ AND WRITE; WE WANT THEM TO LEARN IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY BECOME LIFELONG READERS AND WRITERS."

—Lilian G. Katz





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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VISIT THE BETHEL UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARY'S WEBSITE AT:  
<http://library.bethel.edu>

## LIBRARY FOOTNOTES

By: Earleen Warner

- Library Director, Bob Suderman, received a User Service Award at the Cooperating Libraries in Consortium (CLIC) Annual Recognition Luncheon on April 21. He was honored for his help in holding CLIC together in a time of transition from one executive director to another.



Karen Johnson, the Library's new Reference and Instruction Librarian, comes to us from Judson College in Elgin, IL. We look forward to her assistance as we seek to meet the needs of our growing student population.

- Betsy Dadabo recently joined the staff as the Library's new Electronic Services Technician. Betsy is a 2006 Bethel graduate, who worked in Electronic Services as a student assistant.
- The Friends' newsletter last Spring noted that reference librarians, Carole Cragg and Lyndi Finifrock, led a faculty workshop about Generation Y. They have continued to make faculty groups wise about Gen Ys. In September they will take their show on the road, presenting at the Minnesota Library Association annual conference in St. Cloud.



- The Library is the new home for a colorful painting by former student, Christina Gutierrez, who worked in the Library from 2002-05. *Enmudecio' la lita/ The verse silenced* was the 2005 Purchase Award winner at the Raspberry Monday student art show.



- To assist in serving our students better, the Library has paired down and shifted our Reference Collection to make room for a great, new computer lab area!

