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Among Friends Library Newsletter

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Spring 2006

## Among Friends Spring 2006 Vol 6 No 2

Friends of the Bethel University Library

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# Among Friends

Volume 6 | Number 2

Spring 2006

## Friends' Event Addresses Global Warming

by Jennifer Eilers

This spring's sponsored Friends' event is a forum called "Christian Responses to Global Warming." The Bethel University Library will be hosting this forum on **Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** Bethel faculty members, Dr. Thomas Becknell (English), Dr. William Johnson (Political Science), Dr.

Ken Petersen (Biology), and Dr. Sara Shady (Philosophy) plan to present on this timely topic. They will address questions relating to the scientific evidence of global warming, the implications this issue has for Christians based on theological principles, and how this issue relates to public policy. Following the presentations there will be a question and answer session. Refreshments will be provided. The Library encourages everyone to attend this discussion.

## Web Adventures

by Carole Cragg

At the intersection of information, knowledge, and technology, everything is constantly in flux. So, in our efforts to remain relevant and fulfill our mission to the Bethel community, we've continued to revise and add features to the library website. Here are the latest:

🌐 Blogs - online journals that usually allow others to return comments

Our goal was to help create a place where current faculty, staff or students could share ideas about current events as well as recommend books, movies, music and more. See *Virtual Commons Blogs* on the

homepage.

🌐 IM/Chat

When you're in the middle of your research and need help, we'd love to "chat" with you. Unlike e-mail where both parties may not be online at the same time, with chat you can get feedback immediately about search strategies or helpful references.

🌐 RSS - Really Simple Syndication

If you find the Library News or Blogs interesting, and don't want to keep checking to see if something has been added, subscribe to them. Check out the RSS button for more information on how you can subscribe to BUL entries or other blogs and new services.

# Remembering Connie Larson

By Verena Larson

Those of us who are on the staff of the Bethel Library are fortunate to have known Connie as a friend and colleague. Of the myriad memories that could be shared, I would like to highlight those that define her love of, and dedication to, the Bethel Library, where she worked for over 30 years.

Connie's service to the library began when she was a student on the old campus in St. Paul. As a summer employee she helped move the library to the present campus. While working in the library during her college years she gained experience in all of the different library departments, and when she came on board as a full time employee, she knew the Bethel Library very well. She had a keen sense of librarianship and a desire to make it her career.

Connie's thesis topic for her M.A. in Library Science concerned the development of student library assistants. This interest in human resources found an outlet in her role as the coordinator of student library employees. But Connie did much more than just the paperwork. She initiated a student employee orientation night, which became an annual event. For many years she organized it with meticulous detail. Her goals were for the students to get acquainted with each other and with the staff and be introduced to the big picture of Bethel's library services. She photographed each student employee for a picture board and then archived the photos in albums along with pictures of library



activities. Her efforts yielded an historical record, which has been of interest and value through the years.

One part of this historical record is a database of student employees. Connie's dream was to use it as a membership base for a Friends of the Library organization. In 1999 this dream was realized with the gathering of the charter members of the Friends of the Bethel College Library. Connie's contributions to this group were many, including photo documentaries of events and publication of the Friends' newsletter.

At the reference desk in the evening hours, countless students throughout the years relied on Connie's expertise to help them with library research. She often extended her reference help well beyond her 10:00 pm shift if the need was there.

When adult evening classes became a part of Bethel's curriculum, Connie was usually the most visible representative of the reference staff. She took on the role of library liaison with the adult education programs and fulfilled the demanding task of scheduling library instruction for them.

Connie was the desktop publisher of announcements, invitations, signs and spreadsheets, as well as a newsletter for faculty, library staff and assistants. So great was her contribution in this area that the library staff honored her with a "Queen of Charts" party for her 25<sup>th</sup> year of service to the library.

With increasing student enrollment and ongoing changes in technology, the physical space of the library needed to be

rethought and rearranged. Connie took a leadership role in making this happen with innovative ideas and plans. Perhaps the most recent visible results are the fireplace and comfortable furniture. Always thinking of making the library more homelike for the students, she wanted afghans on the sofas as well!

Connie delighted in her work as a librarian at Bethel, and her gifts have made the Bethel Library a much better place for students and staff. Connie's gifts to the library will live on as her legacy. Connie, our friend, will live on in our hearts.

*Connie passed away April 1, 2006. Her funeral was held at Opstead Baptist Church April 8th.*

## Update on Carol Hansen

by Betty Bond

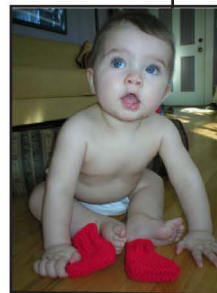
It is amazing how one split second can change a life. On the Sunday evening of August 21<sup>st</sup> Carol Hansen, Reference Librarian, experienced an unexpected fall after a bike ride with her husband. The accident caused Carol to break her neck in three places. She was rushed to Regions Hospital, Level 1 Trauma Center. After surgery, she went to the Sister Kenney Institute to begin therapy and rehabilitation.

After seven weeks at Sister Kenney, Carol was transferred to the Courage Center in Golden Valley to continue her therapy for an additional three months. During that time Carol made significant progress--she went from taking a single step to being able

## Booties for Babies a Success

By Lyndi Finifrock

Our annual crafting night during Women's History Month had a new twist this year--crafting for charity! To go along with the theme "Walking in Women's Shoes", we invited staff and students to knit or crochet booties for babies in need. The finished products were donated to Bundles of Love, a local non-profit organization, and will be distributed to infants across the Metro region. Participants picked up bootie kits during the Women's History Month Kick-Off, and stopped by the library to knit and crochet around the fireplace. It was a great way to flex our crafty muscles and serve at the same time.



to walk with a walker or a quad cane on a limited basis.

On January 27th, Carol came home. Today she walks around the house with her walker or quad cane doing a few everyday activities. Carol continues her therapy on an outpatient basis at Courage St. Croix in Stillwater. In addition to her therapy, Carol practices walking at Maplewood Mall accompanied by her husband, Larry. Recovery has been a long and slow process for Carol, and she would appreciate your prayers for strength and continued healing.

*Current information about Carol is posted at: [www.caringbridge.com/visit/carolhansen](http://www.caringbridge.com/visit/carolhansen)*

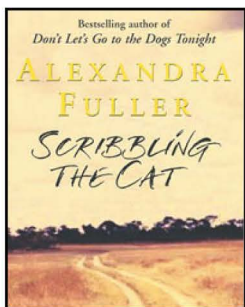
# Purchases Made With Help from Our Friends

by Rhonda Gilbraith

What have your Friends dollars been helping us to buy lately? After our last newsletter, we got a delightful, chatty note from Friend of the Library and faculty emeritus Webster Muck, full of good suggestions for additions to our collection from the books enjoyed by his book club.



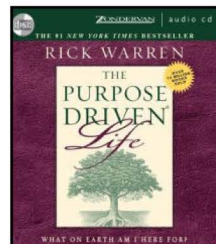
These people must be history buffs, since many of the books, fiction and non, had a historical theme. We were happy to add: *1906*, a novel by James Dalessandro set in the exciting context of the San Francisco fire; *Shadow Divers*, the



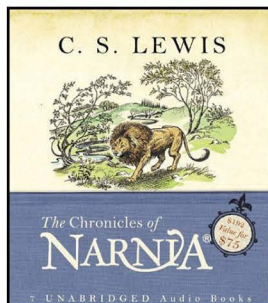
popular account of the maniacally obsessed search for the wreck of a World War II U boat; *Scribbling the Cat*, Alexandra Fuller's tale of the trek through the war torn landscapes of Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique in the company of an African soldier; and several others.

Our audiobooks continue to be very popular. You've all no doubt noticed that the

perennial interest in the Lewis classics *The Chronicles of Narnia* have intensified considerably since the release of the movie last winter. We found a wonderful unabridged audio version of the complete set read by such fine performers as Kenneth Branagh, Derek Jacobi, Lynn Redgrave and Michael York. We've also added an audio version of the immensely popular *The Purpose Driven Life*.



Did you ever think knitting would be hip? Well, knitting and crocheting are not just for Grandma anymore—and not just for girls, either! With your help we've added *Knit Wit*; *Knitting Pretty*; *Fast Knits, Fast Needles*, and *The Crochet Stitch Bible*, and they're checking out like hot cakes!



We get lots of requests for items to help our patrons wile away their leisure hours, something with which our Friends contributions have helped mightily. I've only scratched the surface of the fun things we've added with your help. Next, we're setting our sights on building up our feature DVD collection.

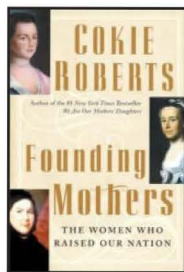
Stay tuned. . . and thank you!

# Remember the Ladies

By Verena Larson

“Remember the ladies” was Abigail Adams’ written appeal to her husband as he was about to lead the American colonies toward independence.

Cokie Roberts has taken Abigail’s advice to heart in this meticulously researched book. The reader meets some of the many women who participated in the events that shaped our nation and who should be remembered along with their male counterparts – the founding fathers. Many of these women are not well known and their contributions have been all but lost to history.



Thousands of women and children followed along with their soldier husbands during the Revolutionary War because they had nowhere else to go. These “camp followers” cooked, sewed, did laundry, and cared for the sick and wounded. Martha Washington, Lucy Knox and Kitty Greene, wives of celebrated Revolutionary War generals, also traveled with the troops. In addition to providing supplies and nursing care, they were role models for the less distinguished wives as they gave much needed moral support to their husbands and the soldiers in the field.

Margaret Corbin took her husband’s place behind a gun firing artillery after he was killed in action at Fort Washington, New York. Three wounds finally left her disabled entitling her to half the pay of a soldier and a clothing allowance. She successfully petitioned to get a “full ration, including rum or whiskey.” Thanks to the Daughters

of the American Revolution, she is the only Revolutionary veteran to be buried at West Point.

Mercy Otis Warren’s poems, plays and pamphlets were an important influence in firing up the colonists to fight for independence. After the war she fought vigorously with her pen against ratifying the Constitution, writing to a friend, “We are too poor for monarchy—too wise for despotism, and too dissipated, selfish, and extravagant for republicanism.”

After the war Martha Washington, always beloved of the Revolutionary War soldiers, welcomed veterans to Mount Vernon. She gave them food and money and shared reminiscences about the war. In so doing she quelled their anger about the refusal of Congress to pay what was owed to them. She was also a patron of artists and others looking for help. Mercy Otis Warren wrote of Martha’s “affability, candor, and gentleness”.

This book is not just a collection of biographies. The stories are told in the context of the events leading up to, during, and following the Revolutionary War. Roberts writes in lively prose with tongue-in-cheek commentary that will be familiar and amusing to her National Public Radio fans. For example, in describing Alexander Hamilton she says, “Despite his declarations of undying love for Betsey [his wife and mother of his four children] later events made clear that naming a tomcat after him would still be an apt joke.”

Women’s History month has come and gone, but the lives of these fascinating women – our founding mothers – are worth reading about any time.

# Bethel 'Friend' and Faculty Member Highlighted

By Nancy Olson

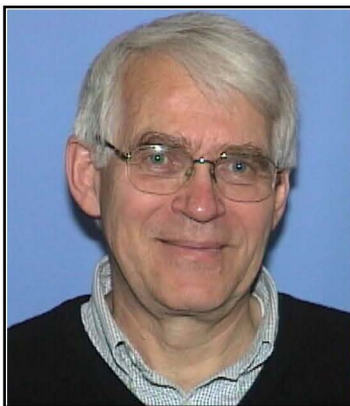
Lifetime Friend of the Library and Bethel Professor, Richard Peterson, was named the University Professor of Physics. The University Professor Award honors faculty members who are nominated by their colleagues and demonstrate excellence in scholarship, teaching, research, or creative activity. Peterson is the first to receive the award.

His tenure began in 1980 after a post-doc at Los Alamos National Laboratory and a nine-year teaching stint at Western Illinois University. Peterson has also been elected Fellow of the American Physical Society, Blandin Fellow, Director on the American Institute of Physics Board of Governors, President of the American Association of Physics Teachers, and has received the national American Physical Society's prize for Outstanding Researcher at an Undergraduate Institution. In addition to these accomplishments, Peterson has also won six prizes in national apparatus competitions for innovative classroom and lab equipment including three first place prizes in optics.

Peterson's research has focused on experimental laser and optical physics, holographic measurements, musical acoustics, and apparatus development for teaching physics. As a result, he has

50 nationally published or invited papers including 30 appearing in refereed publications. An additional 50 technical papers have also been presented in regional or national locations many of these coauthored by Bethel University students and physics faculty.


Peterson's investment in students has helped Bethel's physics department attract and retain students consistently placing Bethel within the top 20 in the country for number of majors in an undergraduate degree physics program. His commitment to upper level students has resulted in one of the top graduate school placement rates of any program at Bethel. He was a key voice in the development of two general education programs at Bethel and did significant work as a department chair, science division coordinator, and faculty moderator.



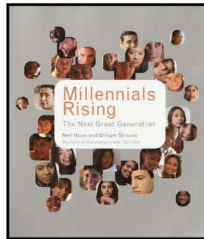
Outside of the Bethel community, Peterson has traveled throughout the state to do demonstration projects for public educators and their students. On occasion he even leaves the equipment behind with tutorials on how to use it.

*Condensed from an article by Amanda Wanke*

## Library Footnotes

☉ The Library made news, as reported by the Clarion, by launching a new  feature on its website. RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feeds are now available to allow students to have library news and schedules sent directly to their desktops through an aggregator.

☉ Carole Cragg and Lyndi Finifrock, Reference Librarians, presented to faculty a timely workshop entitled: “Generation Y, Millenials, Net Gen: Who are they? How do they learn best? How can we teach them?”. Who knows, they may decide to take it on the road!



☉ The Library’s travel, cooking, and literature books (much of which was purchased with Friends funds) are now labeled and shelved in the lounge seating area in front of the fireplace. This collection of great leisure reading is joined by the audiobook collection in this accessible location.

## A Memorial Gift

Last year Connie Larson had a wonderful suggestion for a Friends’ purchase. She thought the books featured on the program “Speaking of Faith with Krista Tippett,” which aired on MPR, would make good additions to the library. She began selecting the best of these titles but became too ill to continue.

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.

### Board Members

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Editor & Layout : Jennifer Eilers

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St. Paul, MN 55112

The Friends of the Library would like to carry on this project. Any gifts sent in memory of Connie will be used to purchase these titles. The names of the donors will be recorded in bookplates placed in the books.

You are invited to contribute to this memorial gift. Checks can be made out to “Bethel University” and sent to the Friends of the Bethel University Library, c/o Earleen Warner, University Library, P.O. 2379.



## Dear Friends,

The Magnuson Family continues to read, read and read. For most of us, our reading is divided into two categories: reading required for a specific purpose and reading done for pleasure. Luckily for me, most of my “required” reading is done for teaching preparation and I thoroughly enjoy it. This semester I’ve found a treasure trove of articles for my social welfare history course by using the historical databases provided by the BUL. It gives me a thrill (more evidence of my history geekiness) to search for



articles related to my lecture topics—and to find them in minutes and in full text! Very cool. My “pleasure” reading during the semester tends to be chosen with an eye toward some future “required” reading. I’m currently ever so slowly working through Doris Kearns Goodwin’s massive new tome, *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*. I’m team teaching an American Civil War history course with English Department colleague Thomas Becknell in spring 2007.

Kathryn (age 9) is currently studying the history of American western migration at her school. She has read several terrific works of historical fiction, including (but not limited to) *The Courage of Sarah Noble*; *Sarah, Plain and Tall*; *Trouble River*, and *The Cabin Faces West*. On her own she continues to enjoy books from the American Girls series and Jigsaw Jones mysteries. She also enjoys reading all her old picture book favorites to Allison and Austin. Speaking of the three-year

old set, their current reading interests include (but are not limited to) anything with a lift and flap, all books relating to construction machines (backhoes, cement mixers and the like), counting books, rhyming books and small “pudgy” board books that fit nicely down the air vent in their room (they figured out how to get the cover off). My husband recently was using the 2003 Almanac to stand on to unscrew the light bulb in Allison and Austin’s room at night (they are night owls and early birds). He left the volume in their room and now Allison likes to take it to bed with her and turn through its pages before she goes down for her nap.

My husband continues his reading in preparation for his exams in systematic theology later this year. He likens his work to digging a canal with a spoon. A couple of weeks ago our auto mechanic called after Daniel had taken our van in for work. Mechanic: “I think that your husband left a book here.”

Me: “Oh really? What is the title?”

Mechanic: [Reading very slowly and deliberately] “The Drama of Doctrine: A Canonical—Linguistic Approach to Christian Theology.”

Me: “Sounds like something he would read. I’ll be right over to pick it up.”

I am looking forward to seeing many of you in May. Please come prepared to make a generous gift to the work of the Friends of the Bethel University Library. Our proceeds will be used to purchase books for a collection that Connie Larson was developing before she was forced to take medical leave.

--Diana Magnuson