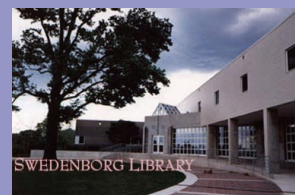


# BI-Lines

Notes and News from the SWEDENBORG LIBRARY



Bryn Athyn College / Academy of the New Church

<http://www.brynathyn.edu/Library>

## HOLIDAY HOURS

Friday, Dec. 17

8 am to 5:00 pm

Saturday, Dec. 18 -

Sunday, Jan. 3 (inclusive)

CLOSED

Monday, Jan. 4, 2010

RESUME REGULAR HOURS

## Good books for great winter reading

After the rush of holiday preparations, take some time to enjoy a book! Here are some suggestions from our staff. All of these books can be borrowed from our collection.

You may remember Steve Lopez from his days with *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. His latest book which was the 2009 selection of One Book One Philadelphia, chronicles his encounters with a homeless, yet gifted musician on L.A.'s Skid Row. *The Soloist* is a compelling tale of the power of music, the challenges of mental illness, and the meaning of friendship.

**ML418.A96 L66 2008**

If you're interested in history, archaeology, Philadelphia, or all three, don't pass up *Digging in the City of Brotherly Love: stories from Philadelphia archaeology* by Rebecca Yamin. *Digging* is a scholarly, yet enjoyable account of the projects currently underway in Old City Philadelphia that are uncovering the fascinating details of the City's history by reading the story of its artifacts.

**F158.39 .Y36 2008**

As a child of privilege growing up in the Pittsburgh of the 1950s and 60s, Annie

Dillard's 1987 memoir *An American Childhood* turns out to be not quite what the reader may have expected. However, anyone who is familiar with Dillard's writings will recognize her distinct voice in this charming and illuminating portrait of the development of a truly original mind.

**PS3554 .I398 Z464 1987**

For techies (and non-techies, too) *The Big Switch : rewiring the world from Edison to Google* by Nicholas Carr is a fascinating, exciting, and even scary look at how "cheap, utility-supplied computing" (cloud



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## Holiday Greetings



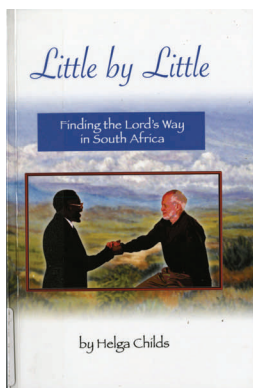
*At this special time of year,  
we wish to extend our warmest wishes—  
a blessed Christmas and a joyous, peaceful New Year—  
to you and to those you love.*

*from the Staff and Volunteers*

**Good books (continued)**

computing) is changing how we access, store, and use information. This is a must-read for anyone concerned about keeping up with technological trends and how they affect our lives.

**QA76.9 .C66 C38 2009**



Helga Child's engaging *Little by little: finding the Lord's way in South Africa* recounts Childs' 7-year mission as she and her husband, Rev. Geoffrey Childs, worked to establish a General Church Corporation there. Filled with anecdotes, people and places, *Little by little* is an insider's look at a country struggling to emerge from apartheid. The lovely South African landscapes painted by the author are an additional treat.

**S8 .C4365 L5 2009**

These and many other great books are available at the Library. Happy 2010, Happy Reading!

**Director's web site tips: Explore**

**Explore** the world through the self-less acts of others. This web site showcases people all over the globe who have devoted their lives to making it a better place.

Supported in large part by grants from the Annenberg Foundation, the Explore team documents the courageous leaders of the non-profit world, connecting you to extraordinary cultures and ideas.

Explore contains more than 250 films and 30,000 photographs that invite the user to "visit" various locations and see first-hand the inspirational work of these amazing people. You can search by general topic or area, or you can search specific topics like animals, children, culture, or disabilities. A project to protect wild mountain gorillas in Rwanda is currently highlighted.

This site reminds us of what is truly important in life, not just during the Advent Season, but everyday.

<http://explore.org>

—Carroll Odhner,  
Library Director

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*Explore creates a portal into the soul of humanity by championing the selfless acts of others.*

—from the website

**FOSL annual meeting scheduled**

The annual meeting of the Friends of the Swedenborg Library will be held Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2010 at 4 pm in the AV room.

Elections will be held this year for president and treasurer. Our long-time treasurer Audrey Smith will be retiring at this time.

The Friends Executive Committee is recommending a gift to the library to be put towards hiring a consulting firm to look into a master plan for needed future space and services for the library.

After the business portion of the meeting, Carroll Odhner will be giving a talk about the

use of the library by outside scholars for research related to Swedenborg.

All are cordially invited to attend.

## Notes from the Archives: Part 4

In the last issue of BI-Lines, we discussed how archivists arrange and describe material destined for the collections. Making these collections available includes all the steps we described in the last three articles – and more. All of these individual steps take time, so materials that arrive in good condition and are reasonably organized have a better chance of reaching the shelves (and the researchers) more quickly.

Making collections available also includes making the world aware of the material that we hold in our collections. The vision statement adopted by the Archives Committee describes the Archives as “the internationally recognized repository for information regarding the General Church of the New Jerusalem and the Academy of the New Church.” Creating a public presence is the first step to accomplishing this, so in the future you will see the Archives becoming involved

in more activities around the campus and around the community.

Another way that we are making our collections available is through the use of an electronic finding aid known as Archon. This is an open-source (free) program designed by archivists and information specialists at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Our IT department is currently adapting the public interface of the program for our use. It should make its debut online sometime in early 2010.

Although it will take years for all the information to be entered into Archon, we plan to add the most used and most important material first.

Even with the new computerized finding aids, finding an individual document still usually requires the researcher to come to the Archives and search through a box or folder for the information they need.

Cataloging each item in the Archives would require a small army of data entry personnel to complete—and we’re a small repository, compared to many other college and university archives! But a web-based, hierarchical, electronic finding aid will go a long way toward organizing our collections and making them accessible to our researchers.

-Greg Jackson  
Archivist



## Love your library: a special February used book sale

Books make wonderful Valentine’s Day gifts— for yourself *and* for others. On Thursday, February 11, from 7:30-9:30 pm, FOSL will host a special used book sale open only to students, faculty and staff, and current Friends of the Swedenborg Library members.

With the theme:

- I ♥ Books
- I ♥ the Library
- I ♥ FOSL

this sale is part of a campaign to increase faculty/student awareness, interest, and especially membership in the Friends of the Swedenborg Library.

Libraries are valuable resources in tough times, so supporting your library is more important now than ever before.

Come to the sale: browse, buy, and consider joining FOSL— you’ll get more than a few good books!



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**Swedenborg Library Mission Statement**

*The primary purpose of the Swedenborg Library is the acquisition, preservation and promotion of the New Church collections and archives for use throughout the world.*

- *These collections include books written by Swedenborg (first editions, subsequent editions and translations), copies of books known to have been owned by Swedenborg, and books and periodicals of the 17th and 18th centuries (particularly in the sciences and religion) either used by Swedenborg or reflecting the thought of his age.*
- *A collection of collateral literature covers all aspects of study of Swedenborg and the New Church.*
- *The archives are a cultural resource containing a variety of documents, letters and photographs relevant to the New Church, the Academy, and the Bryn Athyn community.*

*The next most important use is to provide materials and information, in various forms, in support of the academic programs of the Academy schools. The library also serves as a resource for members of the local community.*

## *The scramble for the Arctic now available*

The latest book from Bryn Athyn College associate professor of biology, Dr. Eugene Potapov, is now available at the Library.

A collaboration with Arctic scholar, explorer and glaciologist Richard Sale, *The scramble for the Arctic: ownership, exploitation and conflict in the Far North* discusses the history of this fascinating region, how past decisions made with respect to environment, resources, and politics have changed it, and how the fate of the Arctic will ultimately affect the entire world.

Dr. Potapov is a leading expert in Arctic birdlife. Another joint publication with Richard Sale, their book *The Gyrfalcon*, was the U.S. Wildlife Society's 2006 Book of the Year.



**G627 .S25 2010**