

BI-Lines

Notes and News from the SWEDENBORG LIBRARY



SPECIAL SCHEDULES

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Fri, Dec 21 7:30am - 5pm

Dec 22 - Jan 6 CLOSED

Mon, Jan 7

RESUME REGULAR HOURS

Mon, Jan 21 MLK Day

CLOSED

EXAM WEEK

Wed.—Thur, Feb 20-21

7:30am - 11pm

Fri, Feb 22 7:30am - 5pm

SPRING BREAK

Sat-Sun, Feb 23-24 CLOSED

Feb 25 - Mar 1 9am - 1pm

Sat-Sun, Mar 2-3 CLOSED

Mon-Tue, Mar 4-5 9am - 1pm

Wed, Mar 6

RESUME REGULAR HOURS



<http://www.brynmh.edu/academics/swedenborg-library>

Roundel Window Looks into Reading Room

In 2015 BAC Instructor Kenneth Leap and his Fine Arts 128 Stained Glass students were inspired by visiting glassblower Jason Klein, of Historical Glassworks of Mt. Gretna, PA. Students learned to make roundels, or circular disks by spinning out a 'gather' of molten glass. Windows composed of roundels are an ongoing traditional style. Examples can be seen in the Bryn Athyn Cathedral towers and over the front entrance doors at the Glencairn Museum. Prior to the Swedenborg and the Arts Conference of 2017, an idea was conceived that incorporated Swedenborgian ideas and images in a piece to display in the library's

circular window overlooking the Reading Room. That window, which provides a view of the Cathedral was called the "spiritual eye of the campus" by the architects who designed the library.

The students learned how to cut glass, straight and curved. Then they began to modify the circles: painting them using glass enamels, slumping and fusing them together, heating in the kiln, and processing. It took several years to complete enough pieces. In total there were 43 Bryn Athyn undergraduates and 8 adults from the summer Building Arts Workshop involved in making the window for the library. The student roles

were interchangeable—everyone performed all tasks. In May 2018 the pieces were assembled into the stunning window now enhancing our space. It became a way to engage and advertise our Building Arts Program. Come and see!



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Because from His essence, God burned with the love of uniting Himself to man, it was necessary that He should cover Himself around with a body. He was to be born, and then to grow in wisdom and in love, and so was to approach to union with His Divine origin. TCR 838

Christmas Blessings from the Swedenborg Library!



From the Glencairn collection of nativities.

The Academy Archives

The Academy of the New Church Archives, located on the lower level of Swedenborg Library is the “repository of record” for the papers of the General Church of the New Jerusalem and the Academy of the New Church (Bryn Athyn College and ANCSS). In addition, we collect selected biographical and community records. Our collections are regularly consulted by everyone from the Bishop’s Office to visiting genealogists. While many shelves are full of the internal records of the Church and Academy, many more tell the story of the community, families and organizations that founded or function in Bryn Athyn. Although the internal records are only available to the administration and trustees of these organizations, the majority of the records are open to any qualified researcher. Organizational records contain many historical items such as the Military Service Committee records, Commencement

programs, play programs, class photos, and more.

Archives are, with little exception, housed in “closed” stacks. So, unlike the library upstairs, patrons cannot browse the shelves and pick out what they want. The researcher must confer with the archivist (a “reference interview”) to determine what holdings will be helpful to the research topic. Most archives have a finding aid, either on paper or online, that will give a description of the holdings. Large, well-staffed archives often have very robust and detailed finding aids online, while smaller archives will only have collection titles (e.g. Thomas Jefferson Family Papers) and may not even have an online presence. The ANC Archives falls somewhere in between with some collections having a detailed description of their contents, and others only having titles or headings.

It is mentioned above that the records are available to any “qualified researcher”. This

includes students, staff, faculty, or members of the public interested in a given topic for which we have holdings. Walk-ins are welcomed during our regular hours, but it is much more useful to schedule an appointment and conduct a reference interview so that the archivist can make the research visits more successful. Occasionally, a faculty member will mention a certain piece of information that he or she remembers in the archives and a student will come looking for that one particular piece of paper. This does not often produce the desired results. While archivists know their collections very well, they don’t have encyclopedic knowledge of everything that is in the vault. However, the archivist can, generally, direct the researcher to the collection that is likely to hold that information. It is up to the researcher to review the

material and decide what is relevant to their research.

Because of its large holding of biographical/family records, the archives is used extensively by genealogists, authors, and local historians as well as our own Marketing Department, Alumni Relations Office, our faculty, and our students. Because the ANC shares an archivist with the Bryn Athyn Historic District, researchers have the benefit of being able to access information at both repositories. If the Archives can be of service to you, please contact the Archivist at 267-502-2421/2997 or at gregory.jackson@glencairn-museum.org



**Academy Archives
Gregory Jackson**

Winter Art Exhibit: Kären Childs Elder

Artist Kären Childs Elder lives in Rochester, Michigan and teaches at PCCA (Paint Creek Center for the Arts, Rochester’s community art center), as well as at Oak Arbor School, also in Rochester, where she has taught for 27 years. PCCA reports that she “enjoys creating collages, engaging

with clients, executing commissioned pieces, and giving back to the community by teaching.” She received her degree in Fine Arts at Toronto’s Ontario College of Art and Design, OCAD. Kären says, “There is a specific peaceful joy one receives when they’re creating.”

An opening reception will be held Sunday, December 2, beginning at 4 pm with an artist’s talk in the Friends Room of the library. Kären’s work will be on view until March 6, 2019.

**SAVE THE DATE : FOSL
Annual Meeting. Sunday,
February 10, 2019 at 4 pm in
the Friends Room.**



“Fire Angel” -Kären Childs Elder

Faculty and Staff Recommends:

Have you noticed the book display on the main floor featuring book recommendations by faculty and staff? We have some fabulous picks there, and will keep a rotating display throughout the year. There is a broad array of choices from several genres, so you can always find something intriguing. Many of these books come from our “MostlyFic” shelves. Those can be checked out until the end of the school year so you can take them with you over break and read whenever you find the time. Here is a sampling of the book reviews from the display this month:

Mudbound, by Hillary Jordan, recommended by Robin Cooper, Assistant Professor of English. “An unflinching portrayal of tensions and tragedy in a Southern town after WWII, through various voices of the characters involved. The kind of story you feel in your gut long after.”

My Grandmother asked me to tell you she’s sorry, by Fredrik Backman, recommended by Carol Traveny, Library Director. “This book pushed all my buttons—in a very good way. It’s funny, sweet, sad, quirky, and ultimately hopeful.”

Naked Statistics, by Charles Wheelan, recommended by Caira Bongers, Assistant Professor of Mathematics. “This not-so-mathematical approach to what statistics is capable of is an entertaining introduction for any student thinking about studying data science.”

An Instance of the Fingerpost, by Iain Pears, recommended by Dr. Wendy Closterman, Dean of Academics and Professor of History and Greek. “An intricate historical mystery set in 17th century England. Four witnesses to murder present intriguingly different points of view. An engrossing read!”

Check them out!

FrankenReads LIVE in the Library!

In 1818, at the age of many college freshmen, Mary Shelley wrote *Frankenstein: or, The Modern Prometheus* which created the template for what has become a standard of horror and science-fiction: the groundbreaking scientific experiment that goes terribly wrong.

Commemorating the 200th anniversary of the publication of *Frankenstein*, a classic of

world literature and a masterpiece of horror, 15 students, faculty, and staff came together to read aloud from the novel and enjoy refreshments. Over the day, about three-quarters of the text was completed. Student Brianna Zabielski particularly enjoys the book, and was engaged with the event for most of the day. FrankenFans, read on!



Brianna and Dr. Closterman at FrankenReads, and the creature, himself!



Two of the Escape Room teams, posing with the Demogorgon.



“Escape the UPSIDEDOWN” - A Student Engagement Event

Inspired by interactive theater and video games, escape rooms are a form of live, participatory entertainment that has been growing in popularity. Players begin the game “locked” in an environment and have 30 minutes to solve puzzles and flex their logic muscles as a team to “escape”. Why not make a

1980’s “Stranger Things” themed (TV show) escape room for students as a fun distraction and stress reducer before exams week? So, Reference Librarian, Kelly Liberona and Circulation Manager, Janet Lockard, planned puzzles, and constructed and acquired objects to create the FREE event. Many people,

including staff and faculty, college alumni, and BAC Board members, lent 80s memorabilia for props. In a labor of love, Kelly created a monster! She spent over eight hours making an astounding “Demogorgon” mask that she wore that night to the delight of the 35 attendees. The Friends room was divided by temporary

walls. Clues —brainteaser-like puzzles and keys within books—were hidden in decoy items, VHS tapes, and even the inside of a globe. Six of the groups managed to escape before the time ran out. Two groups failed, destined to live out their days in the “UpsideDown”! Everyone had a great time, regardless!

BI-Lines is published 3 times a year and is made available in print and online by The Swedenborg Library.

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Chat with a librarian from our library webpage!



Follow us on Instagram and Facebook!

Swedenborg Library Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide materials, information, and services to support the academic programs of Bryn Athyn College and to acquire, preserve, and promote New Church collections and archives for use throughout the world.



REGULAR HOURS

Monday - Thursday	7:30 am - 10 pm
Friday	7:30 am - 5 pm
Saturday	10 am - 2 pm
Sunday	5 pm - 10 pm

Swedenborg Library
Bryn Athyn College
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