

## CHOOSE YOUR OWN "SKIN"

By Carole Cragg

### Quick Quiz

- 1) What does it mean to change the "skin" on a Web page?
- 2) Is it possible to search 12 databases at once?
- 3) Would anyone want to?

Based on surveys of students, faculty and staff, BU Library & Information Commons has been working on a Web site update. We heard very different needs from our diverse learning community. One thing we learned was that about 60% want to see lots of options, and 40% just want the basics. To respond to those needs we've created a Web site where the users can customize the page to fit their preferences: they can change colors (skin\*), select how many links display, and choose favorite databases to appear in the middle of the Library homepage.

Beginning researchers are often confused about which database to try first, so we've created a quick search where they can try several databases at once. Of course if they try to search all of them at once, it may be even more confusing!

We added some other features such as blogs, rss, & chat. To learn about these and to answer the last quiz question: "Would anyone want to do these things?": Go to <http://library.bethel.edu> to decide for yourself and of course, find more answers to "life's persistent questions."

\*Under MyLibrary you'll see a series of small color swatches. Click on them to change the color.



# Among Friends

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## LET US MONOPOLIZE YOUR MORNING

By Lyndi Finifrock

You've all played Monopoly once or twice (or several times) over the years, but I'm sure you've never played it this way before! Don't miss your chance to play Life-Size Monopoly at this year's **Friends of the Library Homecoming Open House** on **Saturday, September 24, 2005** from **10-11:30 a.m.** The Library will be transformed into a giant Monopoly board with gargantuan cards, mammoth dice, and sightings of Mr. Moneybags himself. It will be an experience to remember!

Land at:

### Memory Lane

Stroll down Memory Lane while browsing yearbooks, rosters, catalogs, and Clarions from the College Archives. Selected years ending on '00 and '05 will be on display.

### Royal Bistro

Take a break with Monopoly cake and refreshments while catching up with fellow Friends and Library staff.

### Tech Inc.

Test-drive the new and improved library homepage with cool features like customization and blogs. Check out the multi-media rooms and watch the library promotional video.

### Book Junction

All aboard for a look at the most recent additions to the audiobook and fiction collections, purchased with generous donations from the Friends.

### Friends Trunk

Sign up or renew your Friends membership. Enter a drawing to win a \$60 gift certificate to Timber Lodge!

### Goodie Bag Transfer

Pick up your free snack bag to take to the game or other Homecoming activity.

Homecoming only comes once a year. Be there or be square!



✂ Cut out this reminder and post it to your fridge, computer, bathroom mirror, etc.



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

- Library instruction went virtual in August as Earleen Warner taught an online introductory course for Bethel's new M.B.A. program.
- Our summer student workers performed the amazing feat of shelf-reading all of the library's collections!
- In other summer news, 1,174 new books and AV materials were cataloged. That is a 27% increase over last summer!

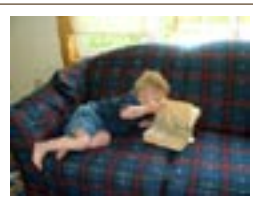
#### DEAR FRIENDS,

What did you read this summer? I trust that you are not like my 10 year-old nephew who in response to this question proudly proclaimed to me, "I never read in the summer!" There are many reasons that I look forward to summer



(no 8 o'clock class to teach is up there on my top ten list), and one of them is reading whatever suits my fancy. At the end of May a friend told me about a trilogy that she was planning to read with her book club, *Kristin Lavransdatter*. She told me that the book was

about the life of a 13<sup>th</sup> century Norwegian woman. Sounded good to me! I was hooked after only a few chapters, and a quick search on the Web revealed that the author, Sigrid Undset, received the Nobel Prize for her work in 1928. I also highly recommend her four-volume work, *The Master of Hestviken* and the single story, *Gunnarsdatter*. While waiting for my interlibrary loan request of the third volume of *Kristin Lavransdatter* to arrive, I thought to myself, "I think that I will whip through that slim little volume by Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* that I've had in my "must read" box next to my bed for ages (It's been there for eleven years, to be exact. I know this because the receipt was still in the book!). No one had ever told me before that one can't "whip" through *Heart of Darkness*! I spent as much time on that novella as I did on the far lengthier first book of *KL*.



Our read-aloud books this summer included two books by award winning children's author Eleanor Estes: *Ginger Pye* and *Pinky Pye*. Kathryn and I had read through the Laura Ingalls Wilder books during the school year, with the exception of *Farmer Boy*, which we enjoyed in July. We just finished *I, Freddy* by Dietlof Reiche, a real howler about the adventures of an intellectual golden hamster.

On her own Kathryn (8 1/2) has consumed stacks of books and she recommends the Jigsaw Jones

against them. The royal couple believes the Russian people should feel the love and loyalty of children for beloved parents. Instead, they have fomented hatred for the autocracy and added fuel to the flames of revolution.

The story comes full circle some 80 years later when Kate visits the new Russia, a country which has finally cast off Communism and can acknowledge the legacy of the Romanovs once again. At the end of his tale the grandfather says he has "given his granddaughter a thousand truths". But Kate is obliged to go beyond these thousand truths and come to a conclusion that will surprise and satisfy any reader who revels in historical questions.

#### BOOKS FROM FRIENDS #2 By Carol Hansen

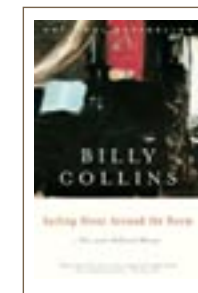
One of the purposes in forming the Friends of the Library and shamelessly asking you to support us-with your money as well as with your good will- is to develop and enrich our collection with things we should have, and things we would like to have. In the first category, we discovered some significant holes that your support helped us fill. This year we bought the complete poems of three major women poets: Christina Rossetti, Anne Sexton, and Elizabeth Bishop. Now we can hold our heads up again!



Poetry was big this year – from the *Oxford Treasury of Christmas Poems*, which will be greatly loved by student teachers, to Peter Abelard and Hildegard of Bingen, to the Persian poet Rumi, to Garrison Keillor's *Good Poems*, and to Billy Collins, the recent U.S. poet laureate. An excerpt from Collins's poem entitled *Books* from his book *Sailing Alone Around the Room*:

From the heart of this dark, evacuated campus  
I can hear the library humming in the night,  
a choir of authors murmuring inside their books  
along the unlit, alphabetical shelves,  
Giovanni Pontano next to Pope, Dumas next to his son,  
each one stitched into his own private coat,  
together forming a low, gigantic chord of language.

The poem goes on, and so will we, trying each year to anticipate the needs of our students and provide them with materials that will fulfill their requirements – help them get those assignments done well – but also perhaps help them find materials that will inspire them even a little and lead them deeper into the joys of learning.



#### RETURN OF A FRIEND By Verena Larson

Connie Larson, BUL reference librarian and charter member of the Friends, has been very visible in the library recently. She has been reacquainting herself with the BUL world, regaining her considerable computer skills, and catching up on many months of email messages. We are all thankful for her remarkable recovery from the serious illness that kept her away for two years.

Connie is currently away from the library recuperating from hip replacement surgery. She is making a good recovery and plans to have the second hip replaced in 6 weeks. Connie's fortitude and sense of humor are serving her well and she looks forward to returning to the BUL as soon as possible.

mystery series to the children of Friends.

Allison and Austin (2 1/2) have moved from the literal to the figurative consumption of reading material. Hearing delighted giggling coming from their room during naptime recently, I went to investigate and found monkey-boy Austin climbing into Allison’s crib. When I asked him why he got out of his crib, and trying not to reveal my a) shock that he was now master of this feat and b) resignation that the crib era was ending, he cheerfully replied that he was going to read to Allison—and he had indeed already shoved a few books into her crib!

I am looking forward to seeing many of you in September when we gather to celebrate new acquisitions made possible by your donations. Of course you will have an opportunity to give more to the work of the Friends at this time and to sign up to plan our annual winter event.

Happy to serve as your president,

--Diana Magnuson

### BOOKS FROM FRIENDS

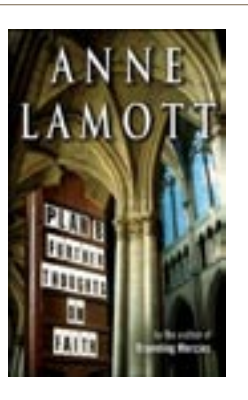
By Carole Hansen

Important as the academic resources are for our students at Bethel, we in the library also want to make available thought-provoking books that can lead those students further in their Christian walk as they figure out who they are and what they really believe. The Biblical and Theological Studies department buys many academic books, but I keep a sharp watch for those books that are more experiential and less scholarly. I often get recommendations from the students themselves and am so glad there is money from the Friends of the



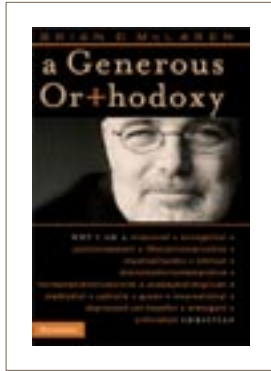
Library to buy such books.

This year we bought Donald Miller’s *Blue Like Jazz: nonreligious thoughts on Christian spirituality* to shelve next to his *Prayer and the Art of Volkswagen Maintenance: finding God on the open road*. My copy of *Blue Like Jazz* got borrowed before I could get very far into it, but I’ve heard rave reviews of how it speaks to today’s generation. Brian McLaren’s *A New Kind of Christian: a tale of two friends on a spiritual journey* and his *Generous Or+hodoxy: why I am a missional, evangelical, post-protestant, liberal/conservative . . . incarnational, depressed-yet-hopeful, emergent, unfinished Christian* (whew!) are the kind of books that can resonate with seeking students.



Anne Lamott has just followed up her wonderful *Traveling Mercies: some thoughts on faith* (which students adore) with *Plan B: further thoughts on faith*. It hasn’t arrived yet, but when it does, I get to be first to read it. Hey, there have to be a few perks for us dedicated library-types! And then I know that it will bless the many Anne Lamott fans who will share her real-life struggles with faith and find insights into their own lives.

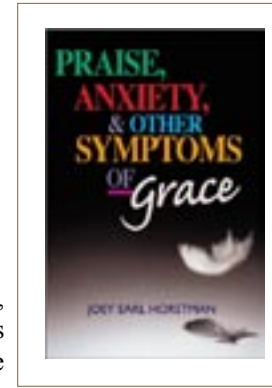
Thank you so much for helping us provide materials for all aspects of our students’ lives as Bethel seeks to do what it says it does – raise up young people dedicated to advancing God’s kingdom on earth – and we seek to help wherever we can.



### BETHEL AUTHOR CORNER

By Nancy Olson

*Praise, Anxiety, & Other Symptoms of Grace*  
by Joey Earl Horstman,  
Associate Professor of English  
at Bethel University



This is a delightful, insightful read. Horstman has the uncanny ability to describe our post-modern psyche through witty, and often hilarious, analogies to our American way of life. For instance, in *Summer Commandments* (which is, I think, addressed to kids) he says things like, “Touch not the poison oak, nor the poison ivy, nor rub your face with its leaves, for it will afflict you for seven days and seven nights. Red will be the color of your skin and in Aveeno you will bathe.”

In contrast to the humor, Horstman jolts you, from time to time, with insightful biblical principles. In *Heaven, Hollywood’s Biggest Headache* he states, “In the age of plutonium and cashmere and Donald Trump, even streets of gold don’t capture the imagination.” You find yourself exclaiming over and over, “By George, he’s hit it right on the head again!” So, settle in for a refreshing read that will have you giggling at every turn of the page, but will also leave you with biblical insights that build your faith.

### A HISTORY MYSTERY

By Verena Larson

*The Kitchen Boy: a novel of the last Tsar* by Robert Alexander

Who hasn’t been fascinated by the story of the Romanovs, Russia’s royal family, imprisoned and murdered during the Russian Revolution in 1918? Questions still abound, such as why the bodies of two family members were missing when the secret grave was discovered in 1991, what happened to some of

the imperial jewels, and what happened to the kitchen boy who was abruptly sent away from “the House of Special Purpose” on the night the royal family and the other servants were assassinated. In this historical novel, Robert Alexander weaves these mysteries into an intriguing tale told by the kitchen boy.

The reader is introduced first to Kate, an American, whose possession of a cassette tape from her late grandfather propels her on a trip to Russia. The tape reveals the grandfather as Leonka, the kitchen boy who is brought to serve the Romanovs in their prison in Siberia. The 94 year-old narrator of the tape struggles to articulate still painful memories of his friendship with the Tsar, Tsarina, their four daughters and son, the heir to the Empire. Leonka becomes more than a kitchen boy; he is a playmate for the heir and a messenger for the Tsar and Tsarina, who ask him to smuggle notes to and from the outside world in the hope of a rescue.

Leonka’s story gives the reader insight into the mindset of the Tsar and his family. The author has made extensive use of letters, diaries, memoirs, and photographs to create a portrait of a close and loving family that spends its time praying, worshipping, reading aloud, writing letters and diary entries, playing games, and comforting each other. The women of the family also take on the practical task of “arranging medicines”, their code for sewing their extensive jewelry collection into the linings of their corsets in anticipation of a rescue.



The portrait also shows the inability of Nicholas and Alexandra to understand the part they played in the political upheaval of their country. The Tsarina’s reliance on Rasputin as a spiritual guide and her considerable influence on the Tsar and affairs of state has poisoned the populace