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The Information Edge - Library Newsletter - Spring 2009 Issue

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The Birnbaum Library on the New York City campus is now partners with Better World Books! Better World Books (BWB) helps libraries dispose of their unwanted books in an environmentally friendly manner, while supporting literacy-based charities throughout the world.

When the librarians at Birnbaum determine that a book should be withdrawn from the shelf, either because we have too many extra copies, or the book is outdated or not useful to our collection, we send it to Better World Books, at no cost to us. They will then try to sell the book through their website, or through well-known online bookstores like Amazon.com. The library gets a percentage of the profit, and a percentage also goes to a non-profit literacy partner. Any books that cannot be sold will be donated or recycled, so they never end up in landfill.

You can also check out the Better World Books website for some fantastic deals on new and used books! Browse their “bargain bin” and get 5 books for $15!

Our literacy partner through BWB is The National Center for Family Literacy (www.famlit.org). NCFL has been helping bring American families out of poverty through its literacy initiatives since 1986. Please help us support this wonderful organization.

Any time you donate books to the Birnbaum Library, you can be sure that your donations will either grace the shelves of our library, be sold at our sale table to finance the purchase of new books, or be re-sold or donated through Better World Books with benefits for our library, the NCFL, and the environment. And remember, when librarians remove books from the shelves after careful consideration, we are making room for new items to be added to our collection so you can have access to the latest books in your field.

Browse the stacks some time, and let us know how we’re doing. Pace community members can suggest a new title any time by speaking to a Librarian at their home campus.
The spring reading in the new series Poets@Pace will take place on Tuesday, March 24 from 6-8 pm in the Schimmel Theater lobby on the New York campus. The readers are the poet, fiction writer and filmmaker Sherman Alexie and the poet and publisher Robert Hershon. Poets@Pace, which brings important writers to Pace each semester, is organized by Pace Poet-in-Residence Charles North and sponsored by the Office of the Provost.

Junot Diaz, author of Drown and The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, which won the John Sargent Sr. First Novel Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize and the 2008 Pulitzer Prize, will be on the Pleasantville campus on April 16th at 7:00 p.m in the Gottesman Room, Kessel Campus Center.

The Pace Library owns a number of titles by these two authors; you can see those titles by performing an Author search in the Pace Library Catalog at http://www.pace.edu/library.
Also available to you are additional titles not owned by the Pace Library, but available by request from Connect NY.

Connect NY is a group of 14 academic libraries within New York State whose members have created a combined Catalog of their collections. You can request items from Connect NY libraries for delivery to your Pace University home campus Library.

After performing your search in the Pace Library Catalog, click on the Connect NY button located to the right of your search results.

After clicking on the Connect NY button, you will see the additional titles available from the various Connect NY member libraries. Use the Request links to request the books to be delivered to your Pace University home campus library. You will be asked to enter your Pace Library Barcode. If you do not have a barcode, call your home campus library to request one, or send an email to barcodes@pace.edu. Connect NY books will arrive in 5 – 7 business days. Questions? Contact the Circulation Desk at (212) 346-1330 or (914) 773-3380.
As a librarian, I could not have been more pleased when, during her talk on Friday, October 10 at Pace’s New York City campus, Dr. Maya Angelou urged Pace students and other members of the audience to get help from librarians and library staff when they want information on any topic. She said to go ahead and ask friends, use Google, ask an Imam, a priest, etc., but to be sure to GO TO THE LIBRARY because librarians will spend time helping you find answers. It was all I could do not to shout out in the middle of her talk, “YES! Come to the library! We will help you!” Instead I contained myself, settling for a sotto voce “woohoo!” which turned only a few heads in the rows in front of me.

Dr. Angelou’s theme for her talk was rainbows in the clouds. Throughout her conversation with us, she told stories about these rainbows—people (including herself) who had overcome hardship in beautiful and unexpected ways, and literature that she found inspirational and uplifting in times of difficulty. She specifically cited the poetry of Paul Laurence Dunbar as a rainbow in her cloud.

To continue the dialogue Dr. Angelou started, I would like to share some works of literature that have been rainbows in our cloud.

(Alphabetical by Author)

**The Heart of a Woman**, Maya Angelou
Available at Birnbaum and Mortola; Call number: PS3551.N464 Z465

I admire the way that Dr. Angelou overcame her horrific childhood experiences to be the person that she is today—a great educator and a highly intelligent woman whose accomplishments astonish me. I’ve used her reflections on life and applied them to my own; they keep me going. She is a great role model as well as a very inspirational woman! ~Janell Carter, Instructional Services Librarian, Birnbaum Library

**The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar**, Paul Laurence Dunbar
Available at Birnbaum and Mortola; Call number: PS1556.A1

Included with thanks to Dr. Maya Angelou, who recommended Dunbar and cited his poetry as a rainbow in her cloud.

**The Secret Life of Bees**, Sue Monk Kidd
Available at Mortola, and Birnbaum Reserve; Call number: PS3611.I44 S38 2002

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle, Barbara Kingsolver
Available at Mortola; Call Number: S521.5.A67 K56 2007

King-solver’s Animal, Vegetable, Miracle truly changed the way I think about food, cooking, grocery shopping and eating.

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**Rainbows in Our Clouds**
Reprinted with Permission
**Shannon Kealey, Instructional Services Librarian, Birnbaum Library**

The Secret Life of Bees shares a rare honest interpretation about life and women and the profound relationships between women that include friends, mothers and daughters and the women that we learn the most from. The power of love perseveres and spiritually is embraced; each lesson learned is an evolution of human awareness. This is a great book to share among women and with the new evolved generation of boys and men. ~Ann M De Falco, Pace University Birnbaum Library Periodicals
It opened my eyes to the value of local produce, pasture raised cows and chickens, and sustainable and organic farming. It also exposed me to the dangers of cross-country shipping of goods and produce - not only how this has a negative effect on the quality of the food, but also the negative effect this could have on our environment. Because of Kingsolver's work, I now approach our weekly meal plans with the question, “what's in season?” Our interest in eating local prompted us this year to join our local CSA farm (community supported agriculture – check out http://www.localharvest.org/csa/ for one near you). Each week we pick up our produce share, and based on what is in the share, that is what we use to plan our meals. We supplement our weeks – and we have stocked our freezer - with further purchases from the local farmers market. What is in season is full of fresh, vibrant flavor and is what we should be eating at that time of year. That is not to say that we won’t eat local strawberries, blueberries, peaches, pears, tomatoes, squash, zucchini, bell peppers, green beans, broccoli, cauliflower or carrots once their season has ended – we will, because we have frozen these things to use come the dark, cold days of winter. This year we will be preparing an “all-local” Thanksgiving dinner, with a local pasture raised turkey and fixings made from ingredients we grew in our own backyard, or from a local farm. I challenge you to include one local dish in your Thanksgiving dinner this year! If you are at all interested in this issue, I highly recommend Animal, Vegetable, Miracle as an inspiring, thought-provoking and entertaining introduction into the world of eating local. ~Sarah Burns Feyl, Assistant University Librarian for Instructional Services

**Lies My Teacher Told Me**, James Loewen

Available through ConnectNY
Were you bored in U.S. History class? I surely was. I grew up thinking I hated history. James Loewen uses a critique of twelve United States History books to show that they, not we students, are the problem. Our history books gloss over, manipulate, and distort our country’s history in order to create blindly patriotic citizens. In showing readers the good, the bad, and the ugly sides of issues such as class stratification, racism, and foreign policy, Loewen shows us how U.S. History could (should!) be taught.

~Shannon Kealey, Instructional Services Librarian, Birnbaum Library

**Bel Canto**, Ann Patchett

Available at Mortola Library;
Call Number: PS3566.A7756 B4 2002
Inspired by a real life hostage situation which took place in Lima, Peru, Bel Canto, a novel, by Ann Patchett caused me to wonder what it would be like to be caught in such a situation. Patchett's story is set in the home of a wealthy Japanese businessman where a world famous opera singer, Roxane Coss, has been hired to perform. Thinking that the country’s president will be present, a revolutionary group invades and holds the guests hostage. As the situation drags on for months, captors and captives alike become helpless to change things. The houses' inhabitants fall into a regular routine in which music becomes an important part of their lives. Relationships and sometimes love develops among the group. Although the story’s outcome is basically tragic, a hopeful note is struck by studying the relationships, feelings, and memories of those involved. ~Michelle Fanelli, Part Time Reference Librarian, Birnbaum Library

**The Ultimate Gift**, Jim Stovall

Request through Interlibrary Loan

Fast read, filled with life’s most important lessons. ~Janet Kline, Staff Assistant to the University Librarian, Mortola Library

*What is the RAINBOW in your cloud?*

*Book Covers were collected from Syndetic Solutions, Amazon.com, and jimstovall.com.*
**Genevieve Podleski** is a library science graduate student at Pratt Institute and a reference and systems intern at the Birnbaum Library. She holds bachelor's degrees in history and anthropology, and her absolute favorite dorky thing to do is learn new languages. Before library school, she spent five years working in a university public relations department and a brief stint as a law clerk. She hopes to go on to a career in academic libraries, so she is thrilled to be a member of the team here at Pace!

**Gilana Chelimsky** is a reference intern in Birnbaum Library this spring. She comes to us from Pratt University where she is getting a master's degree in library science. Prior to starting library school, Gilana was a high school history teacher in the New York City public school system. She received her BA from Simon's Rock College in Massachusetts and her MAT from Bard College. She loves Jane Austen and contra dancing.

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**Hello, My NAME IS...**

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