

# BI-Lines

Notes and News from the SWEDENBORG LIBRARY



## SPECIAL SCHEDULES

The Library Building will be CLOSED Nov 21 - Jan 10. We will be working remotely and welcome your calls, emails, and chat messages to serve you.

### REMOTE SERVICES EXAM WEEK

Thu, Nov 19 7:30am - 10pm  
Fri, Nov 20 7:30am - 1pm  
Sat - Sun, Nov 21 -22

CLOSED

Mon - Wed, Nov 23-25  
7:30 am - 10 pm

### REMOTE SERVICES, BREAK Nov 30 - Jan 10

Mon - Fri 9 am - 1 pm  
Sat - Sun CLOSED

### HOLIDAYS (NO SERVICES) Thu - Sun, Nov 26 - 29 Thu - Mon, Dec 24 - 27 Thu - Sun, Dec 31 - Jan 3

College Grounds Café is closed for the year.

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

## Introducing *Open Education*

How do you talk about a revolution without sounding like a revolutionary? Open education is not just a method of teaching, and it's about more than course materials created and made available to Retain, Reuse, Revise, Remix, and Redistribute (the 5Rs of Open Educational Resources [OER].)

I was recently challenged and inspired by attending a virtual conference on open education held from November 9 - 13.

<https://openeducationconference.org/>  
Over the course of these five days, with over 250 presentations available to over 1,700 participants from all over the globe, I not only learned about what is being done in open education, but also what is possible to achieve within a community whose overwhelming commitment is to 'build a bigger table' (Lee Miller) that includes everyone.

As OpenSource.com states:  
*"Open education is a philosophy about the way*

*people should produce, share, and build on knowledge.*

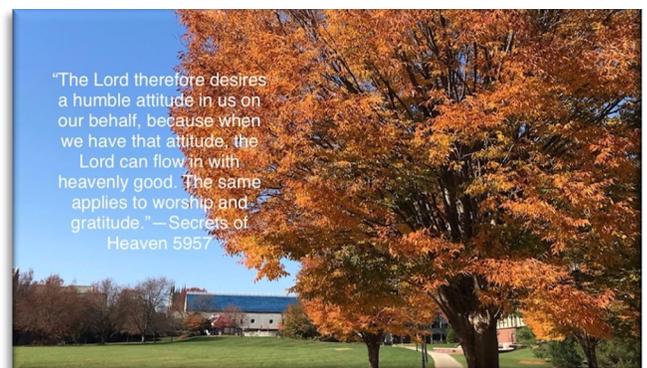
*Proponents of open education believe everyone in the world should have access to high-quality educational experiences and resources, and they work to eliminate barriers to this goal."*  
<https://opensource.com/resources/what-open-education>

As you can imagine, this field, philosophy, or movement is multi-faceted. In many cases, open education first develops to satisfy a need for affordable, accessible textbooks. In a COVID-19 environment, this has become especially important. High student loan debt, exacerbated by the high cost of 'traditional' textbooks, is considered a major deterrent to the nation's economic growth,

and to the success of our young people, particularly minority and 'first-generation' students whose financial foundations are already fragile. Open education includes practices that use OER to engage students and instructors in partnerships to create and share knowledge. This is not only empowering for students, but invigorating for educators, and evidence shows both tremendous cost-savings and equal or increased learning outcomes.

Having barely skimmed the surface of open education and all it entails, I invite you to delve more deeply by taking a look at the many organizations, tools, and resources offered online by this community. I'm looking forward to your questions.

- Carol Traveny





## Three new books with connections to the Philadelphia area

*A Hopeful Journey, Memoirs of an Only Child*, by **Beatrice Sharp Pitcairn** covers many historical anecdotes from 1914 through the 1950s. It is written in an unusual format of short vignettes about different subjects, not as a continuous narrative that covers the personal story of a young girl's growing up as she described it "with helpful angels and roiling black spots."

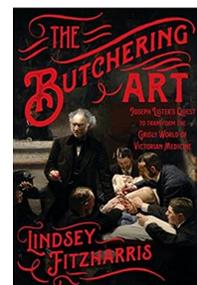
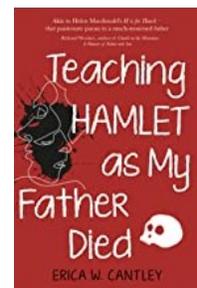
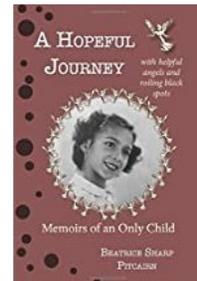
The tension of the book lies between Bea's childhood in an austere environment and her experiences at the Academy of the New Church Girls School with its connection to the Pitcairn family and Glencairn's opulence. Coming of age in an explosive time in our history that included Prohibition, the Great Depression, and World War II also affected her greatly!

*Teaching Hamlet as My Father Died*, by **Erica W. Cantley** Erica reflects on her passion for teaching Shakespeare's "Hamlet" at the Academy of the New Church Secondary School while grappling with her emotions as her much-beloved father was actively dying. She writes so vividly about her classroom lessons; it takes the reader back to the feelings of being in high school with a teacher who can totally involve you in the subject. She contrasts or equates passages from "Hamlet" with her own relationship with her father and the personal grief she was experiencing. She says, *...Shakespeare's genius, the parent child relationship, Death, and Grief. I learned that Death is the ultimate teacher. That Death has in it everything you need to know about life. And Grief will teach you about yourself.*

*The Butchering Art*, by **Lindsey Fitzharris** is a well-documented account of changes in surgical practices from 1846 when mainly amputations and no anesthesia was the norm, to the more humane and less deadly operations of the early 1900s. This is the story of Joseph Lister, an Englishman, and how he pioneered surgery in antiseptic conditions. He was praised by Queen Victoria yet was derided by many doctors. He faced opposition especially in Philadelphia at a meeting of surgeons during the Philadelphia Centennial. One of his opponents, Samuel Gross, a nonbeliever in germs, went so far as to commission the famous artist, Thomas Eakins, to paint his (Gross's) portrait performing an operation. This celebrated painting, *The Gross Clinic* still hangs in the Philadelphia Museum of Art. This book is a must-read for those who are entering or in the

medical field, but may not be for those who are squeamish!

- Rosanne Bostock



## National Voter Registration Day at Bryn Athyn College

We were delighted to receive a grant for funds to support our student involvement in National Voter Registration Day on September 22. The event was spread over time and space with over 50 students participating, which is an astounding number for an event during Covid times!

We placed tables outside on a beautiful sunny day, with

posters, stickers, paper registration forms, balloons, snacks, and QR codes to voter registration and voter information websites. Everyone wore masks, and followed physical distancing procedures, of course!

Most of the students had already registered to vote, nevertheless they appreciated the opportunity to talk and

find resources to learn more about the election and the ballot.

The grant was awarded by NVRD, which more than supported our event. The balance of the funds will go towards a new large screen TV for the Library lounge area, where we plan to teach seminars and workshops,

host watch parties, and hold other events.

<https://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/>



Photo by Andi Sibley

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## 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.



Chat with a librarian from our library webpage!



Follow us on Instagram and Facebook!



### REGULAR HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday	7:30 am - 6 pm
Wednesday	7:30 am - 9 pm
Friday	7:30 am - 1 pm

Closed Weekends & Holidays

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