

# The Library Chronicles



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

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## What to Love About the Library Cafe!

The Swedenborg Library offers many places for students to study, work, and hang out with friends. One of these areas is the Library cafe. The cafe area provides booths and tables for students to sit, while a TV plays calming study music. The cafe also has a self-serve coffee and tea station for people to grab a warm drink, whether they're sitting in the Library itself or headed off to class. When asked

why they found the Library cafe a nice place to sit and work, students came up with a variety of reasons.

The Library Cafe being the warmest place on campus, in terms of both temperature and atmosphere, came up multiple times. Students love the free coffee and tea, as well as the cute plants spread around the area. Another big draw of the Cafe for students is the events hosted in the space every term, such as the book hedgehog program. The Cafe also allows for a unique balance of

accomplishing assignments and hanging out with friends to take place, so people don't have to choose between being productive and enjoying themselves.

One student pointed out how, "I like the Library Cafe because it's so quiet and peaceful and you can do your work or talk to people. It's just a chill vibe. There's always multiple things going on, but you never feel like you're interrupting."

Stay tuned for more events taking place in the Library cafe soon!





## Get to Know The Swedenborgiana Special Collections!

The Swedenborgiana Special Collections occupy the lower part of the Swedenborg Library. It contains the largest collection of Emanuel Swedenborg's writings in the world. The Special Collections houses first editions of Swedenborg's works, along with various copies and editions of what he wrote. The Special Collections also has books Swedenborg cited in his works, as well as books he owned. New Church publications, while not written by Swedenborg but rather about him, have also found their way into the Special Collections. These items are acquired in multiple ways, such as auctions, rare book dealers, and even, on one occasion, eBay.

Carroll Odhner, Director of Swedenborgiana and New Church Research, and Marvin Clymer, Digital Collection Supervisor, the two main workers in the Swedenborgiana Special Collections, make sure to keep

the collection up to date. Ms. Odhner catalogues pieces in the collection, as many pieces have not been properly recoded and arranged. Mr. Clymer manages the digital collections.

As of now, the Swedenborgiana Special Collections are working on translating sermons regarding Swedenborg and translations of Swedenborg's works by Pap Antal, which are all in Hungarian. These writings date from 1923 and 1924. It is unclear, at the present moment, whether a Swedenborgian congregation existed in Hungary or for whom these works were for. A contact has been found to try to make sense of these writings, which are all on loose papers. Since cataloging is an ongoing process, the database and online catalog are continually being updated. However, documents must first be made sense of before it can be decided where best to put them.

The Swedenborgiana and New Church Digital Collections are primarily funded through grants. Mrs. Odhner is actively pursuing additional grants to support the



digitization and maintenance of these important and valuable collections. She also hopes to raise funds to invest in these collections and provide staffing. They are dedicated to preserving these works for future generations. The online catalog is immensely important. It allows a larger audience to have access to the materials while simultaneously preserving the originals.

However, these digital copies will never replace the originals. The Special Collections have papers and books with notes written in Swedenborg's own hand. It is imperative that these written materials remain protected, because that authenticity can never be replaced.



“I think being in a space with lots of people motivates you to do your work. It holds you accountable,” confides Marie Traversiere, a Junior who attended the event. She also recounted how, “There were dogs! I got to snuggle with one! I had a nice experience, and I was grinning ear to ear.”

Students aren’t the only ones who attend LNAP. Faculty also make their way to this event to help students in their classes prepare, and tutors are around to help if they’re needed. It’s amazing that faculty take the time to be there for their students when classes start to get hectic. The tutors also find LNAP a good place for students to take advantage of the Academic Success Center. When asked, two tutors mentioned how the laid-back atmosphere makes it so people feel more comfortable going to the tutors for help. On a normal day, students can feel intimidated simply going up to the tutors during their time at the Academic Success Center desk to ask them to quiz them for class. This is something they feel more comfortable doing during LNAP.

## LNAP and the Academic Success Center

On January 13th, the Swedenborg Library hosted Long Night Against Procrastination (LNAP). LNAP provides a space for students to come and study for their upcoming midterm exams. The library provided snacks, service dogs to aid students in staying calm, and simply a central place for people within the same classes to get ready for midterms.

The Academic Success Center has recently added some new features. Now, people can schedule tutoring appointments to work on papers and have help editing papers. Deidré Bongers, a tutor, said she was happy about this slight shift in what the Academic Success Center offered. For some majors, such as those in the Humanities, tutoring might have seemed like a waste of time. With these classes putting such a strong emphasis on writings and papers, tutors can now provide more help to students in these majors.

The availability of the tutors, as well as what subjects they tutor in, can be found on the front door of the Swedenborg Library. While students can schedule a tutoring appointment online, walk-ins are welcome! If a student wants help with a particular subject, they may find it more beneficial to make sure they go during a time when a tutor in that subject is around. The schedule changes each term, so be sure to look out for when tutor times are available.



## Book Hedgehogs At the Library

On January 22, the Swedenborg Library held a book hedgehog making event. The first in a series of book related crafts, students could come make a book hedgehog of their very own. All the supplies needed were provided: glue, old mass-market paperback books, instructions on how to make the book hedgehog, and even stick-on eyes for when the hedgehogs were done! The craft itself involves folding the pages of a book in such a way that they end up making smaller, tapered off pages that resemble the spines on a hedgehog's back.

Since making a book hedgehog mostly consists of folding pages, it offers a great opportunity for people to gather and do it with friends. Two students met up there as a fun break from their studies. One student mentioned how thrilled they were for the event. "I like upcycling and I'm excited to put this on my shelf!"

"I like making this book hedgehog because I like crafts in general and this is something I haven't done before," explained their friend. "It's novel." It wasn't until after that he realized the pun he'd made and held up his up-and-coming hedgehog with a laugh.

Besides being a fun activity to do with friends, book hedgehogs are a great way to recycle old books. Books wear with age; it's simply the fate of a well-loved read. Book hedgehogs are a great way to keep a cherished book when the type starts to fade and it gets harder to read. Even if the book in question is one a person has never heard of, this craft lets the book take on a new purpose and look cute while doing it. A few finished hedgehogs can even be spotted around in the Library Cafe!

Other book related crafts are scheduled to appear throughout the rest of the school year. All are

Events to look forward to in the Spring Term:

- LEGO® Events every other Wednesday!
- More book art events! Dates coming soon!
- Poetry open mic night in April. Stay tuned for details!

Remember:

- Tutoring schedule changes! Check the library doors for an updated schedule!

planning to take place in the Library Cafe. Check the "This Week on Campus!" Newsletter, as well as physical flyers around campus, to see when more are planned to occur.



## LEGO® Event

One well-loved reoccurring event the Swedenborg Library hosts is their LEGO® event. Students are welcome to swing by the library to create whatever they desire. Bins of LEGO® bricks are provided, along with an instruction booklet. People can use that booklet or simply make whatever they dream up. The choice is theirs! No matter what a person wants to build with LEGO®s, they have the resources to do so.

“I like this event because I like making things,” says one student when asked why they enjoy attending this event. While building with LEGO® bricks does hold its own draw, this event offers more than that. It



allows students an opportunity to take a break from their studies with their friends while doing something hands on. Another student points out how, “It helps me socialize with people I may not have the opportunity to speak to otherwise!”

Stop by the Library Cafe to see what other students have built and keep a look out for future LEGO® Events, which usually occur every two weeks from

2 pm-4 pm on Wednesday afternoons! Flyers with updates about the LEGO® Events can be found on the front doors of the Swedenborg Library, on tables around campus, and on the “This Week on Campus” newsletter!

LEGO® Events are a great way to have fun, relax, and hang out with others!



## About This Issue

The BI-Lines Newsletter was published by the Swedenborg Library from 1998 to 2023 and is available on the Bryn Athyn College Website.

Last spring, the Library revived the newsletter with a new title, design, and more of a focus on student life. This issue was overseen by Andi Sibley, Library Director, and is headed by Nicholas Nalence, Reference and Technical Services

Librarian. All content was created by Mayzie Braun, an English 498 intern. For students interested in this opportunity, please contact Nicholas Nalence at the Library. Look forward to more issues coming in the future!

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