



# Briarcliffe Library News

## Libraries are not made; they grow.

- Augustine Birrell, British politician and author

There is a lot going on at the Briarcliffe College Libraries. We have been working over the summer to improve our services. For example, we have added more than **four thousand** titles to our collections across all three campuses.

At the Patchogue campus library, in addition to increasing the size and quality of our print collection, we have been adding to the DVD collection in all subject areas.

Our silent study room is located at the back of the library and is for those students who need absolute quiet in which to study.

Stop by the library to see some examples of the photography by your fellow students. There is a photography display located on the wall behind

the computers.

A “Books & Bagels Breakfast” was held in Patchogue on Friday, September 19th. This was a terrific opportunity for the faculty to stop by for coffee and bagels (the only time eating and drinking will be allowed in the Library!) and to get a look at the new acquisitions. Thank you to all who attended!

At the Bethpage Library, artist Jeffery Allen Price has an exhibit called “Gross Domestic Products.” The library recently hosted a talk by the artist as well as a reception in his honor.

The book collection at Bethpage continues to grow and develop to meet the needs of the students and faculty.

All three campuses now have access to additional

Westlaw, ProQuest databases, CQ Researcher and Hoovers.

If you need help accessing or using any of the online resources, ask a librarian.

As always, if there is a book or a periodical that you would like to read but you do not see it in the collection, let us know.

**Hey Professors!**  
Let us know what topics your students are researching so we can help them find the resources they need.



## Briarcliffe College

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## Log In!

Check out the redesigned Briarcliffe College Library website:

<http://library.briarcliffe.net>

Access the newly combined Bethpage/Patchogue catalog, read the latest at the Tech Librarian’s Blog and find links to our electronic resources.

## October is:

- Global Diversity Awareness Month
- National Chili Month
- Positive Attitude Month

## November is:

- I Am So Thankful Month
- National Novel Writing Month
- National Scholarship Month

# Shipwrecks and Pirates and Ghosts, Oh My!

By Christine Rudkowski

It's the time of year when the leaves are falling from the trees and the harvest moon is shining bright. Black branches against the night sky cast a skeletal silhouette. It's the perfect time to snuggle under a blanket and read a spooky tale, maybe by Hawthorne or Poe. However, those stories are fiction. Settle in, reader, as I have a tale for you...one that will make you look a bit differently at Lakeview Cemetery right next door to Briarcliffe College in Patchogue. Located in the cemetery are the graves of the sailors of the shipwrecked schooner, the *Louis V. Place*.

The year was 1895. A fierce wind was blowing and a storm was heading in. The *Louis V. Place* was a seaworthy vessel, built in a prominent Maine shipyard only five years prior. However, her sails were heavy and wet, and below zero temperatures were causing her riggings to freeze. Winds in excess of seventy-five miles an hour were blowing, causing the ship to careen wildly. The sailors had not slept and were drinking whiskey to keep warm. By the time they heard the sound of the breakers, it was too late—they had hit the bottom—SHIPWRECK!

Her hull was leaking, but the captain tried to rally his men. Weak and tired, they did their best to free the ship from its landing place. The weather was merciless, and soon the men died, frozen in the riggings of their beloved vessel.

The bodies were recovered by the combined efforts of a lifesaving crew and pirates trying to scavenge anything they could from the sinking hull (yes, reader, pirates were alive and

well right here off Patchogue and Blue Point. If you would like to learn more about one of the most blood-thirsty pirates of all time, look up Charles Gibbs. His most famous line was, "Dead men tell no tales."). Most of the sailors were buried in what we now call "The Sailors' Plot" in Lakeview Cemetery. However...there were some that were not...

Sam was the ship's steward (cook). A cheerful man, he whistled all the time. Sam perished in the wreck, but his body was not brought back and buried with his fellow sailors. You see, Sam was black. In those days, people had many preconceived notions about people that were "different" than they were. It was presumed that Sam was a "pagan," someone who didn't worship the same God as the rest of the sailors. For this reason, Sam was buried on the beach.

A short time later, it was discovered that Sam not only was a religious man, he was a preacher. Realizing their mistake, the original lifesaving crew went back to retrieve the body to give it a proper Christian burial. *It was gone!*

It is said that on foggy nights, down by the beach, you can still hear someone whistling. And there have been reports of an apparition, walking along the shore—a black man, wearing a peacoat, even in the heat of summer. It's also said that if you are a sailor and you encounter "Whistling Sam," beware...your hour of death is at hand.

The story of Whistling Sam is a bit of local folklore. Unfortunately, it is also untrue—at least the way the lo-

cal tells it. Sam did not perish in the *Louis V. Place* wreck. In fact, Sam was not even on that ship. Sam was on the *Louise Randall* when she shoaled off Moriches five years earlier, and there was no loss of life in that wreck. But, why let the facts get in the way of a good story?

However...we are not yet through with the story of the *Louis V. Place*.

Eight men were aboard that fateful night. Captain Squires is believed to be buried in Good Ground Cemetery in Hampton Bays in the family plot. The fates of the other men were as follows:

1. Gustave Jailby, age between 44-55, first mate. Died holding rigging ropes and was buried with the rope in his hand.
2. Claus Stuvens, rescued. Was presumed dead, given a funeral and a gravesite. Had photographs of himself taken in bad weather gear behind his headstone and tried to sell them locally as memorabilia of the wreck. Died in a mental institution.
3. Soren Nelson, rescued. Died four weeks later of tetanus.
4. Charles Nelson, 28, deceased. His body was found ½ mile west of Moriches.
5. August Olson, 28, deceased.
6. Fritz Oscar Ward, 21, deceased.
7. Charles Morrison, cook. His body was never found. (Maybe it should be "Whistling Charles" instead.)

There is one more ghost story that has come to light in the past few years. It has been published in several newspapers and is currently being investigated. Lakeview Cemetery is cur-

rently being cleaned up and restored after having been neglected for many years. There have been a number of sightings of a white figure that is often seen standing over one of the sailor's graves. This figure, a man dressed in white with a white beard, has also been seen walking around the cemetery and around the site of the demolished Lace Mill (now Briarcliffe College). He will often settle down under a tree and start shrieking and flailing.

Is it possible that this is one of the sailors, "reliving" his final moments, freezing to death while tangled in the riggings?



*Photo of Claus Stuvens.*

*It is reported that Claus was found alive, floating in the water, quite a distance from the wreck. One report gives Brooklyn as the location. Claus recuperated from shock and frostbite after the wreck and soon went back to sea. Realizing that the allure of a mariner's life had paled for him at this point, Claus had professional pictures of himself in foul weather gear (as seen here) taken while standing behind his headstone. He then went door to door in Patchogue, selling these pictures as morbid mementos of the tragedy and sent the money back to his mother. He had a nervous breakdown soon after which was attributed to "Survivor's Guilt" and spent the remainder of his days in a mental institution.*

## Letter from the Director

*By Joseph Williams*

This is the second edition of the *Briarcliffe College Library News* and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Briarcliffe College community for providing a fulfilling experience during my tenure here. At the end of September I will be leaving my position here. I will miss the people that have made this place so special for me. The dedication of the library staff and the college faculty is to be admired for their flexibility of hours and their student-focus.

The library has improved its service greatly: From the expansion of print holdings, to the acquisition of new databases, to the continued integration of library research and services into the curriculum, the library has seen advancement in all areas. As the college's pedagogical model transforms to a more online environment, it is important for library ser-

vices to integrate into the online community. At the American Library Association's Annual Meeting I had the opportunity to meet with a librarian from Capella University. Capella, which follows a total online model, stressed the importance of integrating librarians into the curriculum as being 'embedded' research experts. In their case, librarians were assigned to online classes and served as the research instructor for their online classes.

We can expect further changes like this in the future. The ability of the libraries to adapt to these new demands are crucial for keeping the college up-to-date in the learning needs of the students. This requires coordination between library professionals and faculty to create an overarching plan for the next library model. In the case of Briarcliffe College, this means keeping on

ground libraries where print holdings are still needed especially in those subject areas which rely heavily on print material such as Graphic Design, while deepening our online holdings in other areas. In addition, this requires the further integration of library professionals into the faculty.

I would like to close this letter by sending special thanks to Jennifer DeVito, the Patchogue Campus Librarian, for taking charge of the transition and also to Caroline Zebrowski for allowing the libraries freedom to update and change as needed. I would also like to thank the faculty who have consistently helped build the collection and use library services for workshops: Harold Naideau, Marilyn Hluszko, Tom Ruggio, and others. Your input has helped make our library an excellent resource for our students. It is our students and their education, after all, that matter most.

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## Briarcliffe Goes Green

Have you noticed the large green receptacles popping up around campus? Thanks to Jennifer DeVito, our Patchogue librarian, we are creating an eco-friendly learning community. A paper recycling program has been underway since mid-July.

Paper accounts for a significant portion of the garbage we throw away. Out of every 100 pounds of trash, 35 pounds of it is paper. One ton of paper sent for recycling saves 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space. The paper recycled by the Briarcliffe Patchogue community will be used in items such as Marcal paper towels and toilet paper.



## Evaluating Websites

### By Jeremy Lauber

Picture this scene: there is a student sitting in front of a computer, and it is late. Maybe it's 2am or 5am, the exact time doesn't matter. Empty cans of Red Bull and Coke are strewn about haphazardly. The student is paying absolutely no attention to the cleanliness of the room at this moment. All of the student's attention is fixated on the glowing pixelated screen, while alternating between feverishly typing, thinking, deleting, or Googling.

And what is all this effort being put into? That there is some essay X, which is due for class Y, at time T. And to make things even better the essay is 178% of the final grade. There the nameless student sits; trying to find some sources and glean a last few scraps of information to patch together this Frankenstein of a document.

In this flurry of essay writing, how does this student know that the websites being visited have the information that is needed? Odds are also that the websites being cited were probably found within the first page or two of search results on Google, or some other search engine like Yahoo.

Just as important as finding an informative website, is being able to

judge the quality of the information found within the website before utilizing it. The scene portrayed above is played out on countless computers, but how many of those students take the 2 or 3 minutes to stop and look at the website to judge if the information contained is accurate and unbiased.

Taking the time to learn how to evaluate at a website is just as important as finding the information. Learning the cues to look for could potentially tip one off to an inaccurate website and may mean the difference between passing and failing. While searching through any search engine can always turn up results, the ability to judge the authority, accuracy and truthfulness of that website is infinitely more valuable.

This is a very important skill that can be practiced every time a webpage is visited by just keeping in mind a few simple guidelines.

**Author** – Things to consider about who wrote the document:

Is the author qualified to write the document? A lawyer would not necessarily write about how to program.

Is the author's contact information

provided?

**Organization** – Things to consider about who is hosting the document:

What kind of organization is it? This can be quickly seen by looking at the Top Level Domain of an internet address. For example '.com' is commercial websites and '.gov' is used for government websites.

What sort of interest does the organization hosting the web document have? For instance an article on smoking being hosted by a tobacco corporation.

**Publication** – Things to consider about the document itself:

When was the last time the web document was updated?

Is the information still accurate?

Is it fact or opinion based?



These guidelines very often won't help students finish essays the night they are due. No one, but the poor soul writing the essay can help with that. But by keeping these guidelines in mind can help insure greater accuracy when an essay is submitted.