



## GUIDELINES FOR "LIVING BOOKS"

**How the Bainbridge Island Living Library Will Work:** "Readers" will be welcomed in the library's large meeting room, where they can enjoy coffee and snacks and browse through a catalog of the various Living Book titles. If they spot a title they would like to "check out," they reserve a time slot with a Librarian. With the Book's permission, more than one "Reader" can check out a Book together, such as a husband and wife or a small group of friends. At the appointed check-out time, the Book and Reader adjourn to a quiet area in the library for a one-on-one conversation of up to 30 minutes in which they can explore their differences honestly, openly, and respectfully. At the end of the conversation, the Book is returned to the library "stacks" for another Reader to check out.

**The Role of Librarians:** Library staff and volunteers will be available to answer questions, help Readers select Books, introduce Readers to their Book selections, and escort them to their assigned reading areas. Librarians will also circulate throughout the reading areas to assist if any difficulties arise.

**Questions?** Contact Bainbridge Library Branch Manager Rebecca Judd at (206) 842-4162, ext. 9802, [rjudd@krl.org](mailto:rjudd@krl.org), or Kathleen Thorne at (206) 842-0985, [dthorne@ix.netcom.com](mailto:dthorne@ix.netcom.com).

### Living Library Guidelines for Readers

1. Checkouts are for up to 30 minutes. One to three readers can check out a Book together.
2. If there are no holds, and the Book agrees, the title can be "renewed" for another 30 minutes.
3. The Reader must return the Book in the same condition as borrowed!
4. The Reader accepts that the Book can end a conversation if he or she feels that the Reader has treated him or her in an inappropriate or disrespectful manner.

### Sample Questions for Readers

1. Why did you decide to participate in the Living Library.
2. What makes you stereotypical? Not stereotypical?
3. Can you give me an example of how you have been accepted in society? Not accepted in society?
4. What makes you who you are?
5. What is the most rewarding experience you have had?
6. How have your experiences shaped your life personally and professionally?
7. What has been your biggest obstacle?
8. Do you have a defining moment? If so, what?