



Dear Library Patron, Friend and Investor,

This is written to ask you to help your Library continue to serve you and your fellow citizens of this great community. We are reaching out to ask for your support, and to remind you of some of the wonderful accomplishments and valuable services the Abington Free Library and Roslyn Branch have offered to the citizens of Abington – and beyond – as the No. 1 library in the MCLINC consortium. Sadly, we again have to alert you to the ongoing challenge the libraries face in light of state budget cuts.

If you have limited time to consider all this, or are already aware of and impressed by all that the libraries do, then by all means save your valuable time, stop reading, and please give, and give generously. For those of you who want to learn more about all that has been accomplished, as well as come to understand just how vital your support is, please read on and then, please give, and give generously.

The Abington Township Public Libraries set another record this past year for both levels of patronage and delivery of services. Our numbers go up every year! Almost 400,000 users entered our doors to utilize

books, download eBooks, read magazines, borrow DVDs, access the Internet, or just to revel in the quiet buzz of learning and share in the Library's unique sense of community. Add to that 330,000 virtual users who entered through our website, abingtonfreelibrary.org.

The state funding shortfall means both libraries need your assistance to continue offering the breadth of programming that meets all Abington residents' interests. Over 500 programs enjoyed by 20,000 people were offered last year (a record among MCLINC libraries). Programs such as adult and children's book discussions, Abington and Roslyn Reads! Doggone Good Readers, pre-school education, story times, free lectures, Baby Days, World War II lectures, and Teen Journaling classes. This list highlights just a few of our many programs and makes no mention of all that is accomplished in our Adult Literacy Program, which makes a significant difference to hundreds of lives.

Your investment in and commitment to our libraries is essential to assure that important services and

unique programs are not curtailed. Please invest, give, donate or bequeath to the full extent of your capabilities. Your gift will help us continue to meet the needs of the thousands of families, students, teachers, children and seniors who count on our libraries to brighten their lives, and it will allow us to continue to brighten yours.

Thank you for your kind consideration and support.

- Ken Kind, Co Vice-President, Board of Trustees
- Nancy Hammeke Marshall, Executive Director

Thank You to Our Recent Significant Donors

Friends of the Abington Libraries

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Stanley Greene

Rotary Club of Jenkintown

Virginia Klipstein

Michael & Helene Maruschak

Harry M. Meyers, Jr. Charitable Trust



Abington Adult Literacy Program Faces Budget Crisis

For additional information, please stop by the Adult Literacy office, or call 215-885-5183 or email us at AbLit1@yahoo.com.

For 27 years, the Adult Literacy Program at Abington Free Library has helped adults improve their English language skills. The program serves more than 100 students a year at no cost to participants. Volunteer tutors help both native English-speakers, and those who speak English as a second language, improve their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Tutoring is also available for the GED test.

foreign-born students, but without additional funding, the program cannot continue to serve English-speaking students. Unfortunately, there are no other literacy providers in Eastern Montgomery County to serve many of these students. The need for literacy skills in our community appears to be rising just as state funding has been cut.

The Literacy Program now faces an uncertain future. Rob Naborn and Elizabeth Sperling, who both work part-time for the program, have reached out to state and local officials, initiated new fundraising efforts, and are pursuing other possible funding sources. Although the literacy program is inexpensive, like every other organization, it has expenses that must be covered.

"It's inconceivable that the Literacy Program may close when it makes such a positive impact on our community. The individual success stories of participants have been truly inspirational. Many participants have earned a GED or became U.S.

citizens. Others got a job or became comfortable reading to their children with the skills they learned through the Literacy Program," said Nancy Hammeke Marshall, executive director of the Abington Township Public Library.

During this challenging period, the Literacy Program continues to hold classes for adults learning English, Rob and Elizabeth continue to train tutors, and tutoring pairs continue to meet in the Library.

In light of the funding crisis, the Friends of the Abington Libraries recently gave the program a generous contribution. However, more money is needed. Donations may be made to the Adult Literacy Program in care of the Friends of the Abington Libraries. For more information, please call Rob Naborn or Elizabeth Sperling at 215-885-5183, or e-mail them at AbLit1@yahoo.com.

- Maureen Flanagan, Bonnie Dalzell, and Sheila Stieritz
Adult Literacy Volunteers



Unfortunately, this year the Pennsylvania Department of Education eliminated its funding for the program for the next three fiscal years. The program was able to secure a federal grant to continue to teach English literacy and civics to

Reference Department News

For more information call 215-885-5180, ext. 13 or go to abingtonfreelibrary.org/information



You may already be reading your favorite book as an eBook on your favorite device. But, if you are still wondering if you can use your device to download eBooks or audio books, please stop by and see us. This fall, eBooks became available for Kindle through the library's website.



Don't miss "First Wednesdays"! Stop by on the first Wednesday of each month and learn about using the online catalog and your patron account. You can also discover online resources that are made available to you as a resident of Abington Township, Montgomery County and Pennsylvania. Join us in 2012 from 2 to 3 p.m. on Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 1 and March 7.



A "Get to Love Your Gadget" program will be held on Thursday, Feb. 16, in conjunction with staff from Best Buy (Willow Grove). Stop by between 6:30 and 8 p.m. to learn how your gadget can access the library catalog, eBooks and more!



"Apple Devices @ Abington Free Library" will be held on Thursday, March 8, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. This will be an opportunity to learn how devices such as iPads and iPods can be used to read eBooks, access the MobilePAC and much more. Staff from IT Solutions Consulting Inc. will be available to answer questions.



Lisa Norton, a graduate student at the University of Maryland, collaborated with us this fall as she completed her independent study on Web 2.0. Lisa has conducted surveys of staff and patrons, collecting suggestions on how the library can better serve patrons using social media tools (like Facebook) and Web 2.0 programs (like Wikipedia and blogs).

- Mimi Satterthwaite and her staff
Email: AskAbington@gmail.com

Roslyn Branch Library

For information and to register for these programs, email cfrankford@mclinc.org, call 215-886-9818, or go to abingtonfreelibrary.org



BABY DAYS

Ages 5 months-2 years
Tuesdays, Dec. 6 and 13, at 11 a.m.
Babies and caregivers will sing songs, read stories and do finger plays.

PAJAMA PARTIES

Ages 3-6
Mondays, Dec. 12 and 19 from 6:30-7 p.m.
(Registration is open.)

Registration begins Jan. 2 for 2012 Pajama Parties:
Mondays, Jan. 23, Feb. 13, Mar. 12, from 6:30-7 p.m.
Please register for each program separately.
Stories * Songs * Fingerplays * Crafts
Children are invited to wear their pajamas and bring a stuffed animal to cuddle.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIMES

begin Jan. 30 and continue through March 22.
*Note: No story time on Thursday, Feb. 16.
Ages 3-6 - Mondays at 1:30 p.m.
Ages 2-3 - Thursdays at 11 a.m.
Registration begins Jan. 9.

Children's Department at Abington Free Library

For more information or to register for these FREE programs, call 215-885-5180, ext. 28, or go to abingtonfreelibrary.org/childrens.
All programs held in the Library's Community Room, Lower Level, unless otherwise noted.

PRESCHOOL PAJAMA PARTIES (ages 3-5)

Five Wednesdays: Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 14 and April 18, 7-7:30 p.m.
No registration required for these evening story times.

STORY TIME with PATRICIA & GRACIE (ages 3 and up)

Tuesday, Dec. 27, 10:30-11 a.m.
Listen to stories and pet Gracie, a gentle therapy dog (Pekingese). No registration required.

STAR WARS BINGO & BOWLING (ages 5 and up)

Tuesday, Dec. 27, 1:45-3 p.m.
Star Wars-themed fun - no costume required.
Registration begins Dec. 19.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIMES (ages 2-5)

Winter story times begin week of Jan. 9 and continue through week of Feb. 13; registration begins Dec. 26.
Spring story times begin week of March 5 and continue through week of April 9; registration begins Feb. 20. Two-year-olds meet on Tuesdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m. Three-, four- and five-year-olds meet on Mondays, 10:30-11 a.m.

FANTASTIC FOOD (ages 7 and up)

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 6:45-8 p.m. (Snow date: Tuesday, Jan. 31)
Create your favorite food out of clay. Pick up finished project two weeks after program date.
Registration begins Jan. 16.

Teen Programs at Abington Free Library

To register for these FREE programs, stop by the Information Desk, call 215-885-5180, ext. 13 or go to the library website, abingtonfreelibrary.org.



STITCH ALONG: A Place to Learn, Stitch and Share
Thursday, Dec. 29, from 6:30-8 p.m. 6th grade and up. Adults welcome! Diana Trout (artist, author and sewing enthusiast) will teach us basic embroidery stitches, followed by a chance to stitch and share. Thread, needles and muslin will be provided. Feel free to bring your own projects. Bring your own hoop if desired.

MR. DAVID

Ages 2-9
Monday, Jan. 30, at 7 p.m.
Armed with guitar and jumbo markers, artist/musician/comedian Mr. David (David C. Perry) serves up a creative concoction of music, pictures (some drawn on-the-spot), puppets and props - with a healthy helping of laughs!
Registration begins Jan. 9.

DR. SEUSS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

(Dr. Seuss's birthday is March 2.)
Stories, crafts and refreshments
Ages 6-12: Monday, Feb. 20, from 7-8 p.m.
Registration begins Jan. 30.
Ages 2-5: Monday, Feb. 27, from 6:30-7 p.m.
Registration begins Feb. 6.



Enjoy an evening of Irish culture and dance with the **TIMONEY IRISH DANCERS!**
For children K-6th grade
Monday, March 5, from 7-8 p.m.
Learn Irish step and folk dancing.
Refreshments included.
Registration begins Feb. 13.

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Monday, March 19, at 7 p.m.
REJUVENATING YOUR GARDEN
Five years ago your garden was perfect. Now there are bare spots, scruffy struggling plants, non-blooming disasters, wildly overgrown plants, etc. What can you do? We'll look at common problems for older gardens, maintenance plans for older gardens, and review steps you can take to accommodate the garden you have now. It may never be the same as your first garden, but we will learn ways to make it your best garden! Master Gardener Peggy Rastiello will present this program. Registration begins Feb. 27.

Join us for our second annual

LEGO BLOCK PARTY! Ages 5-12
Monday, March 26, from 7-8 p.m.
Use your imagination! Use your ingenuity! We'll explore, design and build a one-of-a-kind Lego structure. Parents are welcome to join in. Refreshments will be provided. Registration begins March 5. Limited to 15 participants. Legos will be provided but cannot be taken home.

Five Wednesdays: Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 14 and April 18, 7-7:30 p.m.
No registration required for these evening story times.

Tuesday, Dec. 27, 10:30-11 a.m.
Listen to stories and pet Gracie, a gentle therapy dog (Pekingese). No registration required.

Tuesday, Dec. 27, 1:45-3 p.m.
Star Wars-themed fun - no costume required.
Registration begins Dec. 19.

Winter story times begin week of Jan. 9 and continue through week of Feb. 13; registration begins Dec. 26.
Spring story times begin week of March 5 and continue through week of April 9; registration begins Feb. 20. Two-year-olds meet on Tuesdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m. Three-, four- and five-year-olds meet on Mondays, 10:30-11 a.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 6:45-8 p.m. (Snow date: Tuesday, Jan. 31)
Create your favorite food out of clay. Pick up finished project two weeks after program date.
Registration begins Jan. 16.

DROP-IN STORY TIMES (all ages)

Every Thursday (except Dec. 22 and 29) through May 31, 11-11:30 a.m.
Led by Jenkintown Kiwanis Club members.
No registration required.

TODDLER STORY TIMES

(for ages 12-23 months with parents/caregivers)
Session 1: Three Wednesdays, Jan. 25 and Feb. 1 and 8, 10:30-11 a.m.
Registration begins Jan. 9.
Session 2: Five Wednesdays, Feb. 29 and March 7, 14, 21 and 28, 10:30-11 a.m.
Registration begins Feb. 20.

STORY TIME WITH KAREN (ages 3 and up)

Monday, Feb. 20, 10:30-11 a.m.
Join retired teacher Karen Udell for this lively story time. No registration required.

DOGGONE GOOD READERS (grades 1-5)

Three Saturdays:
March 3, March 24 and April 14, 10:15-10:45 a.m. OR 11-11:30 a.m.
(Choose one session per date.)
Children read aloud in small groups to therapy dogs. Registration begins Feb. 13.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR TEETH (ages 2 and up)

Monday, Feb. 27, 10:30-11 a.m.
Learn how to brush and care for your teeth with Doc Bresler's Cavity Busters.
Registration begins Feb. 13.

DR. SEUSS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

(ages 4 and up)
Tuesday, Feb. 28, 7-7:45 p.m.
Janet Barron will present Dr. Seuss's Horton Hears a Who and Horton Hatches the Egg.
Registration begins Feb. 20.

CREATIVE YOGA & PLAY (ages 6-8)

Tuesday, March 27, 7-7:45 p.m.
Dawn and Stan Reese will help children use yoga to relax and develop self-awareness.
Registration begins March 19.

GROW WITH ME (ages 4-7)

Tuesday, April 24, 7-7:45 p.m.
Listen to spring stories and plant seeds in honor of Earth Day.
Registration begins April 16.

Donate safely online through abingtonfreelibrary.org

Just Give.org



BOARD GAMES

Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Starting January - Fridays from 3:30-4:45 p.m.
Scrabble, dominoes, chess, checkers, Othello, and other board games. Meet new friends! Exercise your brain! Board games are always available!

Adult Programs at Abington Free Library

To register for these FREE programs, visit the Library Office, call 215-885-5180, ext. 15, email kburnham@mcclinc.org, or go to abingtonfreelibrary.org

Support Abington Libraries! Flip this page and read how the BOOKFAIR on Saturday, Dec. 10 at Barnes & Noble will support Abington Libraries!



WORLD WAR II LECTURE SERIES

Every third Tuesday of the month at 3 and 7 p.m.

Dec. 20 - Carol Shultz Vento will tell the story of her father, Arthur "Dutch" Schultz, who served with the 82nd Airborne and was featured in the book and movie, *The Longest Day*.



STITCH ALONG: A Place to Learn, Stitch and Share
Thursday, Dec. 29, from 6:30-8 p.m.
6th grade and up. Adults welcome!

Diana Trout (artist, author, and sewing enthusiast) will teach us basic embroidery stitches followed by a chance to stitch and share. Thread, needles and muslin will be provided. Feel free to bring your own projects. Bring your own hoop if desired.



OLD YORK ROAD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Every second Tuesday of the month from 7-8:45 p.m. Persons attending are encouraged to bring illustrations or examples of their experiences related to the stated theme of the meeting. All are welcome.

SOCRATES CAFÉ

Every second Wednesday of the month from 10:30 a.m.- noon

Giving Philosophy Back to the People. Let's discuss... What is truth? What is justice? What is moderation? Any and every question under the sun!

DAYTIME BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Every first Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.

No registration required. Walk-ins welcome!

Jan. 5 - *The Invisible Bridge*, by Julie Orringer

Feb. 2 - *A Stroke of Insight*, by Jill Bolte Taylor

March 1 - *Someone Knows My Name*, by Lawrence Hill

April 5 - *Truth and Beauty*, by Ann Patchett

May 3 - *Old Filth*, by Jane Gardam

KEEPING A WRITER'S JOURNAL:

From Sue Grafton to Virginia Woolf
Thursdays, March 15, 22, 29
and April 5 at 7 p.m.

This workshop is designed for writers of all levels. We will look at excerpts from the journals of poets as well as fiction and non-fiction writers, examining the strategies they use in order to discover our own smartest, funniest, most sincere, most risk-taking, and most I-never-thought-I-could-write-like-this kind of writing. Over four weeks, we will look at other writers' work and their journals and delve into the task of beginning to keep our own journals, then work together to develop some of what we observe and record into poems, stories and essays.



SHERLOCK HOLMES:

A Talk by Sam Feinberg
Wednesday, April 4 at 7 p.m.

The first Sherlock Holmes story appeared in 1887 - 124 years ago! From that day until the present, Sherlock Holmes has been a permanent fixture on detective readers' radar. What is it about the character that has kept his memory alive in thousands of articles, essays and stories? Join us for a unique visit to 221b Baker Street and the rich treasure trove to be found there. With DVDs we'll compare Holmes' interpreters in movies and TV. Whether you are a seasoned Sherlock Holmes aficionado or have never read a single story, this talk will prove both interesting and educational.



THE RUTH AND ROBERT ABEL MEMORIAL BOOK AND FILM DISCUSSION GROUP

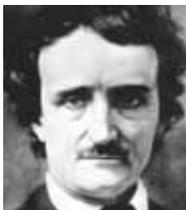
One Wednesday a month at 7 p.m.

April - Poe's Poetry.

Ed Pettit is our discussion leader.

May - TBA

June - TBA



COMPUTER CLASSES

Abington Free Library offers a one-hour class, one-on-one with a volunteer computer aide, tailored to a person's need. The class could cover basic computer skills, the Internet, email, Microsoft Word or Excel.

COMPUTER RESOURCES/ RESEARCH AND COMPUTER CATALOG CLASS

First Wednesdays: Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 7 from 2-3 p.m.

Learn about: using your library account, accessing resources online, Mango Languages, magazines and newspapers, audio and eBooks.



GET TO LOVE YOUR GADGET

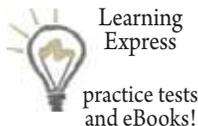
Thursday, Feb. 16, from 6:30-8 p.m. Get answers to your tech questions at this event. If you can't quite figure out that gadget, android, tablet, or eReader you just got, head to the library on Thursday, Feb. 16. Bring your new gadget with you and representatives from Best Buy (Willow Grove) will be available to answer questions.

APPLE DEVICES

Thursday, March 8, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. This will be an opportunity to learn how Apple devices such as iPads and iPods can be used to read eBooks, access the MobilePAC and much more. Staff from IT Solutions Consulting Inc. will be available to answer questions.

To register for the programs in this box, or for more information, visit the Information Desk; call 215-885-5180, ext.13; or email AskAbington@gmail.com.

Check out these and more
Online Resources on
AbingtonFreeLibrary.org/information!



eBooks and audiobooks



BOOKCELLAR

News & Views of the Friends of Abington Libraries

Learn about our activities: Call 215-885-5180, ext. 36, or read about us at abingtonfreelibrary.org

The Friends hold their meetings in the Community Room in the lower level of Abington Free Library. Our next meeting is Saturday, Feb. 11, at 9:30 a.m.

The 45th anniversary of the Friends was celebrated at our meeting on Nov. 12. Over the years the Friends have contributed over \$800,000 to the Abington Township Public Library. This is due to the amazing generosity of the public, who support the Friends by giving during our annual membership drive, donating items to our used-book store, providing baked goods, and purchasing and participating in our many fund-raising activities. We thank you all and appreciate you continuing to support the Abington Township libraries.

Congratulations and thanks to all who made a scarecrow for our contest. Their creations made an interesting group to welcome all our patrons into the library during the fall season. There were 1,223 votes cast. First place (\$75): Jessica Ruggieri, 12 years of age, for Yoda. Second place (\$50): Pfeiffer Family, Madison, 17; Billy, 14; and Brooke, 12, for Wicked Witch of the West. Third place (\$25): Kiahn Davis, 11, for Harry Potter.

Mimi Zabel "Silent" Jewelry Auction - If you have been notified that your bid has won, please go to the Abington Free Library Circulation Desk to pay for and pick up your jewelry. Thank you to those who donated, bid and/or worked on the auction. See you next November!

Winter activities include a Valentine's raffle basket full of all things chocolate, and the Design-a-Bookmark contest for children grades K-12.

Be sure to visit our BookCellar, located next to the Abington Library Children's Department. All of our books, DVDs, music and videotapes are on sale at bargain prices. Visit our expanded young adult section, next to the children's section. Books always make wonderful gifts. BookCellar hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, noon-4p.m.; Wednesday noon-8:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Donations are gratefully accepted at the Circulation Desk. Please be sure the books donated are in good condition.

- Linda Connelly, president, The Friends of the Abington Township Public Libraries

The Ab Lib

Abington Township Public Library Newsletter
abingtonfreelibrary.org Winter 2011-12 Vol. 10, No. 3

Roslyn Branch Library
2412 Avondale Avenue, Roslyn, 19001
215-886-9818, abingtonfreelibrary.org
Hours: Mon., 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Tues., Thurs. & Fri., 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat., 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
cfrankford@mclinc.org

Abington Free Library
1030 Old York Road, Abington, 19001
215-885-5180, abingtonfreelibrary.org
Circulation Deskext. 12
Information Deskext. 13
Children's Departmentext. 28
Executive Directorext. 14
Officeext. 15
Adult Literacyext. 27
Friends of the Libraryext. 36
Hours: Mon.-Thurs.: 9:30-9
Fri. and Sat.: 9:30-5, Sun.: 1-5

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BookFair Supports Abington Libraries

On Saturday, Dec. 10, all day, there will be a BOOKFAIR at the BARNES & NOBLE in Willow Grove, 102 Park Ave., to benefit Abington Libraries. Activities from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. include crafts, story times, Legos, and a scavenger hunt.

Support Abington Libraries by shopping with a Bookfair voucher. A percentage of the net sales using the voucher will be donated to the libraries.

Purchases of food or drink in the café, CDs, DVDs, toys, the Nook Color eReader and its accessories also will contribute to the total.

Note: The voucher may be used at any Barnes & Noble location on Dec. 10. Online shoppers can help by making purchases at bn.com/bookfairs from Saturday, Dec. 10, through midnight Thursday, Dec. 15, using the voucher number 10543197. Pick up a voucher at Roslyn or Abington Library.

Staff Spotlight - Joy Fine

An amazing, true thing about libraries is how many writers and artists work in them. Sadly, art does not pay the electric bill for too many people. But how lucky for us that so much creative energy is gathered under one roof every day.

One of our resident artists is Joy Fine. Joy works in technical services, where, among other jobs, she is responsible for processing books. Depending on the day, she can also be found working in the Children's Department or Circulation.

Joy grew up in West Philadelphia, close enough to walk to the Zoo. She learned early to love animals, owning three German shepherds, a hen named Trixie and innumerable cats in her life. Her current cuddlies are Pumpkin, Colette and Zhooklet.

Joy's mother was a talented pianist and artist, and her father, in order to help support his family, quit school at age 12 to work in vaudeville and burlesque. He knew Al Jolson, Eddie Cantor and George Jessel personally. By the time Joy and her sister came along, he was employed as a projectionist, a job he kept for the rest of his life.

One of the heirlooms Joy has from her father is an old wire recorder, a technology that preceded tape recorders. If she knew how to work it, she could hear recordings of herself singing in Yiddish at the age of 3. With that background, Joy felt a life on stage would be perfect, and she was encouraged to act and pursue a career in musical comedy by her high school drama coach.

Her parents had other ideas, though, in particular her mother, who wanted her to be a painter and art teacher.

Joy, who had been drawing for as long as she can remember, got her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Philadelphia

College of Art, and took graduate courses at Moore College of Art and Design. She worked in television and advertising for 10 years, before eventually coming to work at the library.



She has been a docent at the Philadelphia Museum of Art since 1986; among her special collection tours are French Impressionism, Portraits and Women in Art. She also leads tours of the blockbuster shows that the museum puts on, such as those dedicated to Van Gogh, Matisse, Dali, Chagall and Cezanne.

Joy has had her work featured in several juried shows, including Riverrun Gallery at the Laceworks in Lambertville, The Hill at Whitemarsh, the Cheltenham Center for the Arts, and twice at Phillips Mill in New Hope. She was a featured artist in an exhibition, "4 Visions," along with three other artists at the Tyme Gallery in Havertown. She also makes jewelry.

Working with Joy is a lot of fun. It's a free art appreciation class, with a lot of Yiddish thrown in. She keeps a steady crew of volunteers entertained and appreciated.

- Lois Odabas

The Ab Lib Behind-the-Scenes Staff

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