

From our Director

So far this year 350,000 people visited the Abington Free Library, and 19,000 visited the Roslyn Branch. We hope you were one of them. If not, we hope you will visit us soon so that you can discover what so many of your neighbors already know: our libraries have something for everybody!

In 2007, our Reference Department added The Philadelphia Inquirer Historical Archives database, 1860 to 1922. We continue to offer wireless access to the Internet. This is a huge benefit to students and businesspersons who frequent the library. By the end of this year we will have installed all new public workstations. We know that keeping current in this age of technology is of utmost importance to our library users. We take the needs of our patrons seriously.

Our Young Adult Department added some popular events to its list of continuing favorites. We held an SAT preparation course (with a complimentary continental breakfast!) and a workshop for high school students and parents on the college admissions process. At Roslyn, our librarian worked with teen volunteers who created programs for children, including a juggling workshop and Japanese manga drawing lessons.

Story times for babies, toddlers and preschoolers are held throughout the year at both libraries. Summertime brings the popular Science in the Summer programs to Abington, while both libraries host the Summer Reading Club, arts

and crafts programs and performances by entertainers of all kinds. Our children's librarians also visit local schools, partner with the Center for Parenting Education and work closely with local homeschoolers.

We offer so much to our adult and senior patrons as well: tax help, daytime book discussion groups, one-on-one computer classes, and the BookCellar, our fabulous book store.

The Abington Township Public Libraries need the help of their patrons to sustain this level of service and to continue to improve it for you. We want to provide you with up-to-the-minute technology, the latest books, audiobooks and DVDs, programs that are relevant and entertaining, and a community center that is comfortable and welcoming. Therefore, we need your help.

The purpose of this letter is two-fold. If you're not already taking advantage of everything the Abington Free Library and our Roslyn Branch have to offer, we invite you to come in, look around, talk to a librarian and become part of our library family. Please consider making a donation, large or small, that will enable us to maintain our current standard of service.

Thank you for thinking of the Abington Township Public Libraries.
- Nancy Hammeke Marshall



Volunteer Spotlight – Ashley and Joseph Tsung

So long, Batman and Robin - the Abington Free Library Children's Department has its own "Dynamic Duo" in longtime volunteers Ashley and Joseph Tsung. Now in ninth and eighth grades, respectively, at Abington Junior High School, Ashley and Joseph have been collating children's program flyers, making promotional buttons, and shelving materials for three years now.

The siblings' association with Abington Free Library began sometime around kindergarten, when they enrolled in the Summer Reading Club. While most children typically complete one reading log by summer's end, Ashley and Joseph each turned in a whopping four or more. Needless to say, the Children's Department staff took notice of this highly motivated pair. Ashley and Joseph continued to participate in the Summer Reading Club, among other library programs, through the sixth grade.

Today the siblings are powerhouse shelvees, each dedicating two or more hours per week to pushing book carts. Both students aced the library's Dewey Decimal shelving test three years ago, and their skills have become even more polished since then.

In addition to volunteering at the library, Ashley and Joseph are involved in Teens Against Drugs and Alcohol (TADA), the National Junior Honor Society, and their church choir and youth group.

Ashley is co-president of the junior high's Builders Club, while Joseph made the seventh-grade baseball team last year. Both take lessons in violin and Chinese, and are gaining travel experience through the People to People Student Ambassadors program. Last year Ashley toured France, Italy and Greece; this year Joseph plans to visit London and France.

What have these two learned from their volunteer experiences at the library? "Shelving is not as easy as it looks," admits Ashley. Both enjoy seeing the new books that come in, and Joseph likes using the button machine. Hard-working, capable and reliable, these two are a welcome sight whenever books start piling up. Three cheers for our very own superheroes!

- Carolyn DuBois



Reference Department News

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



[The Philadelphia Inquirer Historical Archive](#) is a recent acquisition that we are very happy to boast about. The purchase of this database, which covers the years 1860 to 1922, was made possible by contributions from the Friends of the Library and funds from our collection budget.

All patrons can search the archive in the library, but only Abington Library card holders can search this database from home. In addition, we are able to provide our patrons (and all Montgomery County residents) with both in-house and remote access to *The Philadelphia Inquirer* from 1981 to the current date. This is made possible through a purchase made by our District Library, Norristown Public Library.

NewsBank provides the electronic form of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. NewsBank is in the process of obtaining copyright for the remaining gap (1923-1980) of the online newspaper.

Please stop by the Information Desk if you have any questions. Thank you!

- Mimi Satterthwaite, Head of Reference

Roslyn Branch Library

For information and to register for these programs, call 215-886-9818, go to abingtonfreelibrary.org or visit the Roslyn Branch Library, 2412 Avondale Avenue, Roslyn, PA 19001.



PAJAMA PARTIES FOR AGES 3-6

Mondays, Jan 14, Feb 18 and March 10
6:30-7 p.m.

STORIES  SONGS
FINGERPLAYS  CRAFTS

Children are invited to wear their pajamas and bring a stuffed animal to cuddle. Registration begins Jan 3. Please register for each program separately.



DR. SEUSS BIRTHDAY* CELEBRATION!

Feb 25

Stories, crafts and refreshments.

(*Dr. Seuss' actual birthday is March 2!)

6-6:30 p.m. - Ages 2-5

7-8 p.m. - Ages 6-12

Registration begins Feb 4



ANDI JOSEPH, MUSICAL MOMMY

Jan 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Andi's concerts include audience participation, fun props and joyous, upbeat music.

For children from birth to 8 years. Registration begins Jan 7.



WEAR GREEN AND CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

March 17, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Dancing, folktales, crafts, and refreshments

For children K-6th grade

Registration begins Feb 25.



WINTER STORY TIMES

Jan 28 through March 13.

Mondays at 1 p.m. for ages 3-6.

Thursdays at 11 a.m. for ages 2-3.

Registration begins Jan 7.

BOOK SALE AT ROSLYN

We have an abundance of books that have just been withdrawn (mostly fiction). Books are 25 cents, 5/\$1.00.

Thank you!



Children's Department at Abington Free Library

For information or to register for these programs, call 215-885-5180, ext. 28, go to abingtonfreelibrary.org or visit the Children's Department.



DROP-IN STORY TIMES (all ages)

Every Thursday, 11-11:30 a.m., through May 22 (no session on Dec 27)

Led by members of the Jenkintown Kiwanis Club in cooperation with the Children's Department staff. No advance registration required. All children must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver.

WINTER PRESCHOOL STORY TIMES (ages 2-5)

Sessions begin the week of Jan 7 and continue through the week of Feb 11.

Two-year-olds: Tuesdays, 10:15-11 a.m. Registration begins Dec 17.

Three-year-olds: Mondays, 10:30-11 a.m. No advance registration required.

Four- and five-year-olds: Thursdays, 2-2:30 p.m. No advance registration required.



HOMESCHOOL BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP (grades 4-6)

Tuesday, Dec 11, 1-2 p.m.

The Magic Paintbrush by Laurence Yep
Registration is under way; pick up books at the Children's Information Desk.



TODDLER STORY TIMES

For children ages 12-23 months and their parents/caregivers

Four Wednesdays: Jan 23, 30 and Feb 6, 13
10:30-11 a.m.

Registration for Abington Township residents begins Jan 14; for out-of-township residents, Jan 18.



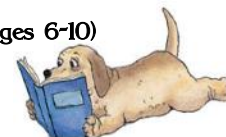
"WINTER TALES WITH KAREN & MITZI" (ages 3 and up)

Thursday, Dec 27, 10:30-11 a.m.

Karen Udell, accompanied by her gentle golden retriever, Mitzi, will read stories about winter. Every child will have a chance to pet Mitzi. No advance registration required; children must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver.

DOGGONE GOOD READERS (ages 6-10)

Practice reading in an exciting new way — read to a licensed therapy dog!



Three Saturdays: Feb 2, March 1, and April 5
10:15-10:45 a.m. or 11-11:30 a.m.

(choose one session for each date)

Registration begins Monday, Jan 14.



FATHER-SON PROGRAM: CRAZY CONSTRUCTIONS

An exciting, hands-on activity for men and their sons, ages 8-12
Thursday, Jan 24, 6:30-8 p.m.

Bring your toolbox and get ready to create! Make a sculpture or other three-dimensional assemblage from scavenged materials such as scrap wood, wire, nails, metal mesh, old gears, springs, rope, toy parts, broken tools with interesting shapes, Plexiglas, corrugated cardboard, kitchen utensils, old clocks, light bulbs with wires, and more. Your creation can be mobile or stationary — use your imagination! We will provide materials for the program, but feel free to bring your own. If you do not have basic tools (hammer, wire snips, etc.), there will be extras on hand. **Registration begins Jan 14.**

Young Adult/Teens at Abington Free Library

REGISTER for these programs or get more information @ Information Desk, abingtonfreelibrary.org or 215-885-5180, ext. 13.

TEEN JOURNALING

Grades 6-12
Wednesdays,
from 6:30-8 p.m.
beginning Jan 9.



Join Diana Trout (artist and journaling enthusiast) for creative journaling. Use art, poetry and writing to put your thoughts on paper. Bring your own journal or notebook, other supplies provided.

TEEN CHESS

Grades 6-12
Fridays, 3-5 p.m.
beginning Jan 11.
For experienced and beginning players. Includes instruction.



TEEN KNITTING CLASS

Grades 6-12, all levels.
Saturdays from 1-2 p.m.
beginning Jan 12.
Learn from the teacher, just get together to knit, or share your expertise!
Bring your friends!



TEEN BREAD MAKING

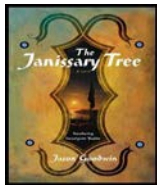
Grades 6-12
Saturday, March 8, 1-3 p.m.
This will be a hands-on class. Each participant will bring his/her own bowl and utensils and make delicious whole-grain yeast bread.
Learn techniques of making and kneading yeast bread
Take home rising bread to bake later
Sample hot bread at the end of class



Adult Events at Abington Free Library

REGISTER in the Library Office, call 215-885-5180, ext. 15 or email from abingtonfreelibrary.org.

These library programs are **FREE** and take place in the Library's Community Room on the Lower Level unless another location is specified. REGISTER in the Library Office, call 215-885-5180, ext 15 or go online at abingtonfreelibrary.org.



THE RUTH R. ABEL MEMORIAL SEMINAR

Tuesday, Dec 11, at 7 p.m. in the Shorday Room, Main Floor

[Janissary Tree](#) by Jason Goodwin

Books may be purchased for \$8 in the Library Office or [reserved through the library hold system](#).

Edward Pettit is our discussion leader. Registration is a must!

Register in the Library Office, 215-885-5180, ext. 15 or email from abingtonfreelibrary.org.



WWII LECTURE SERIES

Third Tuesday at 3 and 7 p.m.

Dec 18 – Pearl Harbor and 9/11 Attacks, Tom Kimmel

Jan 15 – The First Team – WWII Naval Aviation, Jim Krombach

Register in the Library Office, 215-885-5180, ext. 15 or from email abingtonfreelibrary.org.



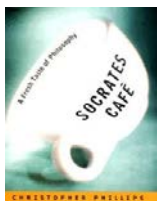
WRITER'S SUPPORT GROUP

Mondays, Dec 17, at 7 p.m.

Batsheva Friedman is our discussion leader.

A supportive writer's group is where members critique, suggest and offer feedback with a constructive "touch." A member can sort through what he/she wants to hear, and decide what to keep and what to reject. This Writer's Support Group is open to all levels of experience. All of us bring our ideas, our writer's blocks, our goals, and hopefully, our humor!

Register in the Library Office, 215-885-5180, ext. 15 or from email abingtonfreelibrary.org.



SOCRATES CAFÉ

Every second Wednesday from 10:30–noon

AND

Every fourth Friday from 7–8:30 p.m.

Community Room, Lower Level. 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 at 1 p.m.

Jan 3 – [Snow Flower and the Secret Fan](#) by Lisa See

Feb 7 – [Possession](#) by A.S. Byatt

March 6 – [Ghostwalk](#) by Rebecca Stott

April 3 – [Water for Elephants](#) by Sara Gruen

May 1 – Planning Meeting

No registration required. Walk-ins welcome!



OLD YORK ROAD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Every second Tuesday, 7-8:45 p.m.

Jan 8 – Show & Tell your Family Heirlooms – Individual Stories

Feb 12 – "Love Found, Love Lost" Stories; marriage and divorce records, panel/story telling

March 11 – Roots in the Rhineland 1560-1900, Heather Bolander, National Archives



Celebrate Halloween with the Library. On Oct 31, staff dressed as the cast of Hairspray. From left: Lois Odabas, Margie Mathauser, Pat Seese, Jackie Guyton, Anne Morrison and T.R. Seiler

Adult Literacy at Abington Free Library



Thank you, Marlyn Cohen!
Goodbye and good luck!

Can you read this? Many can't.

You could help by sending a student and/or becoming a tutor at the Abington Free Library Adult Literacy Program. Free tutoring is provided to adults who are unable to read, or are learning English as a second language, or need to improve their writing or math skills.

Learning to read can change a life ... help make it happen!

Call Rob Naborn at 215-885-5183 or email him at ablitl@yahoo.com.



Welcome, Rob Naborn!



Miss Ellanie – Upstairs Fiction Book Sale

Where can you find the latest best seller fiction title for \$5, and many other titles for much less? The best bargains are found at the Abington Library, where a

wonderful fiction book sale is ongoing upstairs. Come peek at the variety of titles in hardcover and trade paperback formats.

Many patrons have taken advantage of this sale, which is made possible by the many book donations so generously given by our library users. Sometimes a bargain book is bought, read, then donated again and bought again! All proceeds from the sale go to our Friends of the Library, who then use it in various ways to help improve our libraries.

Twice a year in June and December, we have a 25-cent book sale. Every title is marked 25 cents for the whole month. If you are looking for gifts (and yes, many books are in such pristine condition that they look like they just came from Barnes & Noble), or just looking for books to relax with, this is the time to come look for bargains.

Since 2001, our patrons have donated over 5,000 different fiction titles, over 1,400 different mystery titles, and over 350 different science fiction titles. My trusty database contains all this nifty information. We have added many titles to our collection, and replaced many old copies with the newer copies. In 2006 alone, we added 409 fiction titles (including paperbacks and out-of-print books), replaced 583 fiction titles, and sold over 4,000 fiction books. Thank you, library users, for your enormous generosity and for bargain hunting here! Hooray for all book and library lovers!



- Miss Ellanie (as told to Gloria Bors)

Thank You to Our Recent Significant Donors

Robert Abel, Jr. MD
Judge and Mrs. Arlin Adams
Charles and Judith Freyer
Friends

Galman Group Books R Fun Fair
Malcolm and Jean Hall
James and Susanne Harris
Jenkintown Rotary Club

Kenneth Kind
Courtney Pitt
Patricia Timmins

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.

NEW BOOKS COME IN EVERY DAY TO OUR BOOKCELLAR – You are invited to browse our selection. We are located in the lower level of Abington Free Library, next to the Children’s Department. All books, movies and music are available for sale at very reasonable prices!

Hours: Monday, noon-8 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, noon-4 p.m.; Wednesday, noon-8:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

DONATE BOOKS, ETC.

Haven’t watched that video in a while? That book gathering dust on the shelf? Root through your books, DVDs, videos, CDs, books on CD or tape, and drop off unwanted items at the library. What’s lingering in your house could be what someone else is looking for – and the BookCellar is in dire need of donations. The more we get in, the better the selection, the better the sales, which means a larger donation to the library. Ask for a tax receipt, as your donation may be tax-deductible.

NEW MEMBERS/BOOKCELLAR VOLUNTEERS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED - Support your Library by joining a very sociable group and enjoy the comradery and satisfaction of being a part of your Library’s growth! Funds from the Friends activities go to support your Library. Get engaged now!

- W. O. Bill Tinsman, President, The Friends of Abington Township Public Libraries

Another imaginative way our Friends contribute. Each year the Silent Auction of Jewelry and Collectibles produces hundreds of dollars for the Library.



Abington Free Library

1030 Old York Road, Abington, 19001
215-885-5180, abingtonfreelibrary.org

Circulation Desk ext. 12
Information Desk ext. 13
Children's Department ext. 28
Executive Director ext. 14
Office ext. 15
Adult Literacy ext. 27
Friends of the Library ext. 36

Hours

Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sun. 2 - 5 p.m.
Closed Sundays in August.

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.
Roslyn Branch is closed on Wednesdays and Sundays.

The Ab Lib Behind-the-Scenes Staff

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Cathy Kress - *Copy Editor*

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Staff Spotlight – Katie Gaines

Normally, librarians are not as associated with coffee as say, programmers. But Katie Gaines is our queen of decaf. As you might guess, she is enthusiastic, energetic and perpetually excited. She works part time in our children's department, but part time only describes her hours. There is nothing part-time about the contributions she makes to the library.

Katie was born in Cleveland, Ohio. Like many fathers of his era, Katie's father suggested teaching as a secure career, so she dutifully went off to American University to study education. Her husband still remembers the time and place, during second semester, that they met. He also claims that their small, home-based wedding was the nicest he ever attended.

While her husband went to law school, Katie taught in Pittsburgh, first in a Catholic school and then in a public school. In the era before specialization, she was placed in the library to teach all subjects. It was then she decided to get her master's degree in library science at the University of Pittsburgh.

As soon as they both finished school, they moved back to Philadelphia, where her husband had grown up. Katie's first job was with the Upper Moreland School District, where she had the pleasure of renovating an elementary school library. She left that job when her son was born, and started as librarian at the Meadowbrook School when he was 3. She was there for 10 years and then took some time off to reflect.

It was then that the former director of Abington Library called and asked if she'd like to do a couple of story hours and perhaps cover the children's desk during lunch breaks. Katie said yes, and she's been here ever since. Katie still does story hours; she also is responsible for ordering most of the books for all ages up to third grade. Her enthusiasm for picture books is infectious.

Katie loves the children who come in and she loves watching the myriad people who pass the children's desk on their way to other programs. In her spare time, she likes to read (of course), do crossword puzzles, Sudoku, play mah-jongg and crochet. She hates to cook but loves to eat. She loves the shore most of all and is lucky to have a house in Margate. Her coworkers in the children's department appreciate her enthusiasm and excitement and her willingness to help others.

