



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



It's difficult to think of something profound to say about the past eighteen months that hasn't been said already. From the start of the pandemic, the fall of 2021 was like some sort of a goal post for me, the start of a return to more normal, pre-COVID times. During this past spring and summer, it seemed like we were on track for that. But if we've learned anything during this time, it's that the only plan is to not make plans.

I've also learned how beautifully flexible we are. And so, we continue to adapt. For the Abington Township Public Library, we're adapting by making modifications to our buildings and points of service which allow us to open the doors of the Abington Free Library and Roslyn Library six days a week. We're adapting by offering in-person, outdoor programming for all ages in addition to our wonderful, ever-evolving virtual programs. We're adapting by providing reference services in person, over the phone, by email, and now through Chat with a Librarian, a statewide reference cooperative that's available 24/7. We're adapting by adding to our collections, from e-resources like LinkedIn Learning, which provides over 16,000 courses in seven languages, to the new Lucky Day collection, which has the newest and most in-demand books ready to be checked out, to Birding Backpacks that you can borrow to get started birdwatching. We're adapting by updating our systems, making our collections more accessible, our catalog more comprehensive, and the user-experience more uniform across all MCLINC libraries.

So while we might not be where I, and I'm sure many of you, had hoped we'd be, I'm reminded of the words of the author Michael Rosen, in his tome *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*: "We can't go over it, we can't go under it. Oh no, we've got to go through it!" We're right there with you and I know we'll get through it.



- Elizabeth Fitzgerald  
Executive Director of Abington Libraries

THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT SIGNIFICANT DONORS

I am moved and humbled by the generosity of the Abington community. Your support is critical to our success and we are grateful for your partnership. Thank you for your support for what the program does for so many. With your help, all things are possible!  
- Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Executive Director

The Friends of the Abington Township Public Libraries

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THE RUTH AND ROBERT ABEL BOOK AND FILM DISCUSSION GROUP

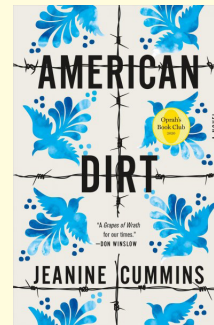
Discussions led by Dr. Karen Weekes.

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

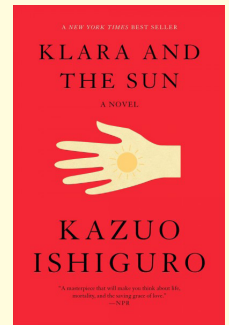
Watch the film or read the books, then discuss with us on Zoom.



September 22:  
*Nomadland*



October 20:  
*American Dirt*  
by Jeanine Cummins



November 17:  
*Klara and the Sun*  
by Kazuo Ishiguro



HOW TO CREATE A COLLEGE LIST  
Tuesday, September 28, 7:00 p.m.



HEALTHY AT HOME: MICROGREENS  
Pick up kit at Roslyn Library to make at home.  
Adults, teens, children ages 10 and up  
Reserve kit online starting October 25;  
pick up kit the week of November 8.



## REFERENCE NEWS



### Career Resources

Stop by the library in person to view our Job Center, which is well-stocked with resources, recommended job postings, and information for job seekers.

Visit Career Resources on our website for up-to-date links to online classes, free resume review, job postings, and the latest information from PA CareerLink, the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry's initiative to help people find good-paying jobs and help employers find the skilled candidates they need. [abingtonfreelibrary.org/career-resources](http://abingtonfreelibrary.org/career-resources)



### Program Survey

We want to hear from you!

Please complete this survey: <https://bit.ly/Abington-Library-Program-Survey>



If you've already completed the Fall Program Survey, thank you!

For more resources, check out our E-Resources page at [abingtonfreelibrary.org/eresources](http://abingtonfreelibrary.org/eresources).

We enjoy hearing from you! Stop by the Information Desk; call us at 215-885-5180, press 3; or email us at [AbingtonLibrary@mclinc.org](mailto:AbingtonLibrary@mclinc.org).

Mimi Satterthwaite  
and all the reference staff

## ROSLYN PROGRAMS

### STITCH AND CHAT

Fridays 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
Bring your handcraft projects to work on with others. COVID restrictions may change.

### 3-D PENS

Ages 7 – 10 with an adult, ages 11 – 12 on their own or with a helper. Friday afternoons  
Sign up for 20-minute session to create plastic designs using our 3-D pens.

### ART ADVENTURES

Pick up kit to make at home.  
Ages 4 – 10  
Thursday, September 16 and Friday, September 17  
Pick up a sampler set while supplies last. Includes air-dry clay, cardboard crafts, and other materials to experiment with. No registration necessary.

### CODES AND SECRET MESSAGES

Pick up kit to make at home.  
Grades 2 through 5  
Code books, UV pens and ink, and instructions for invisible writing. Reserve kit online starting October 18; pick up kit November 1 – 6.

### HEALTHY AT HOME MICROGREENS

Pick up kit to make at home. Adults, teens, children ages 10 and up. Reserve kit online starting October 25; pick up kit the week of November 8. Keep greens growing all year. Perfect for small spaces and those who miss their garden in the winter. Kits contain growing medium, seeds, and directions to make two crops of vegetables.

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

### VIRTUAL DOGGONE GOOD READERS

Grades 1 – 5  
Four Tuesdays: September 21, October 19, November 16, December 14, 7:00 – 7:35 p.m.  
Practice reading aloud to a registered therapy dog on Zoom! Online registration begins September 7 at [abingtonfreelibrary.org](http://abingtonfreelibrary.org). Children do not have to participate in all four sessions.

## FAMILY STORY SAFARI

"Abington Library Kids Go Wild in the Jungle!"  
Ages 3 and up, attending with parents/caregivers  
Saturday, September 25, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
Abington Free Library – North parking lot  
Join storyteller Don Dougherty on an exciting trek through the jungle. Bring lawn chairs – and your imagination! A snack and make-at-home craft will be provided. Online registration begins September 7 at [abingtonfreelibrary.org](http://abingtonfreelibrary.org).

## FALL STORY TIMES

Will resume in September. Dates, times, and formats to be announced.  
More children's programs (including our popular Virtual Art Workshops) are in the works. Please check [abingtonfreelibrary.org/events](http://abingtonfreelibrary.org/events) or follow us on social media for updates on our fall programs.

## TEEN PROGRAMS

### TAKE AND MAKE: NEON SIGN

Monday, September 6  
Grades 6-12  
Each Take and Make kit will include all you need for a craft project you can do at home.

### TINY ART SHOW

Grades 6-12  
Create a unique piece of art that will be displayed at Abington Library during the month of October.

### TAKE AND MAKE: MANDALA ROCKS

Monday, September 20th.  
Grades 6-12  
For this Take and Make you'll get a kit to create painted mandala rocks.

### HOW TO CREATE A COLLEGE LIST

Tuesday, September 28, 7:00 p.m.  
Online via Zoom  
Teens, is creating a list of potential colleges overwhelming? Find help at this Zoom event. Parents also welcome. Register online.

Coming Soon: AB-TAB The Teen Advisory Board (AB-

TAB) is a group of teens who participate in and influence the functioning of the library, especially for teen programming and library materials. AB-TAB is a forum to have your opinions and suggestions heard, expand your leadership skills, and earn volunteer service hours. AB-TAB meets monthly during the school year. Meetings will start in fall 2021.

Coming Soon: Q Crew LGBTQ+ teens and allies are invited to join the Q Crew! Hang out with new friends and discuss the past, present, and future of LGBTQ+ issues in a safe space. Meetings will start in fall 2021.

Register at [abingtonfreelibrary.org/events](http://abingtonfreelibrary.org/events) or contact YA Librarian Sara Huff at 215-885-5180, ext. 113 or [shuff@mclinc.org](mailto:shuff@mclinc.org).

## ADULT PROGRAMS

Virtual programs. Register online to receive a Zoom link.

### THE RUTH AND ROBERT ABEL BOOK AND FILM DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.  
Led by Dr. Karen Weekes.  
September 22: *Nomadland*  
October 20: *American Dirt*, by Jeanine Cummins  
November 17: *Klara and the Sun*, by Kazuo Ishiguro

### DAYTIME BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

1st Thursday of the month, 1:00 p.m.  
September 2: *Caste*, by Isabel Wilkerson  
October 7: *The Ten-Year Nap*, by Meg Wolitzer  
November 4: *Vesper Flights*, by Helen McDonald

### FINDING LOST ANCESTORS

African American Genealogy  
Monday, October 11, 7:00 p.m.  
Presented by Dean Henry

### WRITING THE PEOPLE IN OUR LIVES

(memoir writing with some help from Mary-Louise Parker)  
October 19, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

### A CONVERSATION WITH LORENE CARY

Wednesday, November 10, 7:00 p.m.  
Award-winning Philadelphia author and playwright.

## JOIN THE FRIENDS! SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARIES!

The Friends are very excited that both the upper and lower levels of Abington Library have reopened, as well as the Roslyn Branch. The BookCellar, on the lower level of Abington Library, has historically been the Friends' biggest fundraising source, offering great bargains on gently used books, fiction and non-fiction, for adults, teens, and children, as well as audiobooks, music CDs, and DVDs.

BookCellar inventory sold on Amazon has generated additional revenue. The Friends were hopeful that these efforts would coincide with the library reopening. Unfortunately, the challenge of resurrecting computers and Amazon accounts after a year of dormancy, combined with the recent COVID surge, has delayed the reopening of the Book Cellar and the relaunch of the Amazon book sales.

On a more positive note, in June, the Friends held an outdoor children's book sale, which was a huge success! The turnout was excellent, and it was gratifying to see so many happy faces of all ages. Our supply of children's books sold out early!

The Friends are also pleased to support the museum pass program at both libraries. (<http://www.abingtonfreelibrary.org/about-us/museum-passes>)



The Lucky Day program is a new Friends project. The Lucky Day collection – bestsellers, new and notable books – can be found where the rental books used to be at Abington Library, and in the new book corner at Roslyn. There is no charge to borrow a Lucky Day book, and they are not available for holds or renewals. Take a look next time you visit. Who knows? It could be your lucky day!

The Friends meet quarterly. Our next meeting will be Saturday, September 11, 9:30 a.m. by Zoom. If you would like a Zoom invitation to attend, please email the Friends at [FriendsATPL@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsATPL@gmail.com). We welcome new members and ideas!

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Abington Township Public Libraries!

- Ellen Baxter,  
President, Friends of  
Abington Libraries



The views and opinions expressed in various library programs are solely those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of the Abington Township Public Library or the Friends of the Abington Township Public Library.



## ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM

Seemingly, COVID has changed everything, and the Adult Literacy Program is no exception. However, our commitment to helping area adults improve their literacy skills is as strong as ever. Until COVID is better controlled, tutoring, training for new and existing tutors, and classes have moved online.

If you, or someone you know, needs help improving their English, reading skills, or want help to pass a high school equivalency test, please contact the Literacy Office. We couldn't do the work we do without our wonderful volunteer tutors. We hope to offer a Zoom training for new tutors in the fall. If you're interested please contact us for details at 215-885-5183 or [ablit1@yahoo.com](mailto:ablit1@yahoo.com).

For more information, call 215-885-5183 or send an email to [ablit1@yahoo.com](mailto:ablit1@yahoo.com).



- Elizabeth Sperling,  
Literacy Coordinator



QUESTIONS?  
CONTACT US!

267-245-7337 (Text us)



Email us



E-Newsletter  
sign up



Chat with a  
Librarian

Find more programs and features at [abingtonfreelibrary.org](http://abingtonfreelibrary.org)

Both Libraries offer FREE Wi-Fi!

Abington Library offers wireless printing.

Find more about Abington and Roslyn Libraries: Browse our full calendar @ [abingtonfreelibrary.org/events](http://abingtonfreelibrary.org/events).

Get e-Newsletters, go to <http://bit.ly/e-NewsletterSignUp>

# The Abington Township Public Library Newsletter

**Join Abington and Roslyn Libraries socially:** Like us @ [facebook.com/AbingtonLibrary](https://facebook.com/AbingtonLibrary)  
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[abingtonfreelibrary.org](http://abingtonfreelibrary.org)

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Abington Free Library  
1030 Old York Road, Abington, 19001  
215-885-5180, [abingtonfreelibrary.org](http://abingtonfreelibrary.org)

Circulation Desk ext. 112  
Information Desk ext. 113  
Children's Department ext. 128  
Executive Director ext. 114  
Office ext. 115  
Adult Literacy 215-885-5183  
Friends of the Library ext. 136

Monday-Tuesday: 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.  
Wednesday-Friday: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Saturday: 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.



Roslyn Branch Library  
2412 Avondale Avenue, Roslyn, 19001  
215-886-9818, [abingtonfreelibrary.org](http://abingtonfreelibrary.org)

Monday: 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday & Thursday: 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.  
Friday: 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Closed Wednesdays and Sundays.

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## SPOTLIGHT ON ELLEN BAXTER

Ellen Baxter is the current (and Past) President of the Friends of the Abington Library. Ellen has led a somewhat peripatetic life, but she settled in Abington a good while ago, and we're so glad she did.

Ellen was born in Buffalo, N.Y. and still sports a Buffalo face mask. She loved growing up in Buffalo, and still visits her elderly father for weeks at a time. One of her fondest memories is Friday afternoon story hours at the Crane Library. She still remembers her mother picking her children up after school and walking them to the library. Actually, libraries play a big role in Ellen's memories. She was so proud when she got her own library card; and she recalls taking the bus to the Buffalo and Erie County Central Library when she was a teenager and needed the bigger library's resources.

Ellen's educational track throughout high school and college followed a pretty traditional liberal arts curve, which she doesn't regret. She credits her high school, the Nichols School, with teaching her how to write well and fostering an appreciation of the written word.

She attended Union College in Schenectady, NY, long considered a "Hidden Ivy", noted especially for being the first liberal arts college in the US to offer engineering. It was here that she chose chemistry as her major.

She went on to earn a PhD in chemistry from the University of Virginia, where she also met her Philadelphian husband.

Ellen works for Johnson & Johnson, in Spring House. She started as a drug discovery chemist in neuroscience research and then began a second career

in regulatory medical writing. She writes protocols for human clinical studies as well as the results for the FDA and its European equivalent, the EMA. Talking to Ellen about her work is a fascinating lesson in how science works and how thorough scientists are in their research.

Her first home in Montgomery County was just outside Lansdale, where she had to pay for a library card. When her husband Rob finally joined her, after post-doctoral work in Colorado, they chose to move to the much more walkable neighborhood of Glenside, and of course, the first thing Ellen did was apply for an Abington library card.

She started volunteering, and has been an active member of the Friends ever since. In addition to her full time job and her work at the library, Ellen is also a volunteer for the Mural Arts



Program in Philadelphia and gives guided tours of the city's amazing murals.

It is clear that all of Ellen's many pursuits have in common trying to make the world a better place. We salute her for that. And for her cheerful smile and effervescent presence. It's always a pleasure to see Ellen, and we look forward to many more years of working with her and our indefatigable Friends of the Abington Free Library.



- Lois Odabas  
Staff Writer