Volunteer Spotlight - Terry Bianco, President of the Library Friends

The BookCellar, special sales, raffle baskets and the Lucky Day collections at Abington and Roslyn libraries all have something in common. These wonderful resources are provided by the Friends of Abington Township Libraries, a group of dedicated volunteers who support the libraries and our community on their own time. Leading the Friends is their president, Terry Bianco.

Terry grew up nearby in Philadelphia and is the youngest of four siblings. She received her undergraduate degree at La Salle College (before it was La Salle University) and her graduate degree at Beaver College (before it was Arcadia University). She worked as a special ed teacher for 36 years in Philadelphia and loved the job more than anything. We earnestly believe that going fine free will eliminate such barriers for many in our community.

We know that some library users view fines as their donation to the library, but the truth is, the philanthropic support we receive through our annual appeal is critical to the library’s mission to educate, engage and empower. With deep appreciation, we ask you to consider making a gift to support and expand our wonderful programs, resources and services as we move towards the future. Together we can put our values into action as we continue to provide an enriching, welcoming space within our community.

On behalf of the library and the board of trustees, we wish you and your loved ones a safe, happy and healthy holiday season, and we hope to see you at Abington and Roslyn libraries soon.

Sincerely,

Joseph Milano
President, Board of Trustees

Libraries

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Joseph Milano
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Laveta N. Graves
Vice-President
Emily M. Cooper
Treasurer
Elaine Cassidy Shahan
Secretary
Daniel Kue
Dr. Maurice Markman
Nancy J. Wright, Esq.
Garrett D. Pago, Emeritus
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The Ab Lib Behind-the-Scenes Staff

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The Ab Lib Staff

Cathy Kress
Executive Director

Follow us on social media @Abington Library

Dear Patrons, Friends and Supporters,

Many of you have been part of the Abington Township Public Library community for years — even decades. You have seen us go through changes to adopt new technologies, upgrade our buildings, elevate the library experience and meet the public’s evolving needs. Moreover, you have embraced these changes along the way. We are excited to share our newest change: As of January 1, 2024, the library will be going fine free. Quite simply, this means that we will no longer issue fines for overdue materials, with the exception of a limited number of items in our Library of Things. In doing this, we join many neighboring libraries and libraries around the country who have eliminated fines so that all people have access to library materials.

We did our homework to assess the consequences of going fine free. Studies have shown that there is no clear benefit to administering fines to patrons. Eliminating fines does not change return rates. If anything, return rates increased slightly at fine free libraries. In researching the issue and through discussions with the board of trustees and the township manager, it is apparent that when people return their books to the Abington and Roslyn libraries, they are staying to check out their next stack of books, attend a program, use our computers and be an active member of our library community.

When life gets in the way and you’re a few days late in returning your books, whether your children misplaced them in the bottom of their toy bin or it took you a little longer than anticipated to get through the end of a really good book, you won’t get a fine, you’ll simply get a “Thank you!” Of course, it’s still your responsibility to return library materials when you are finished with them. We want to get them back into circulation so they can be enjoyed by all! But for many, the stress of accumulating overdue fines is enough to keep them and their families from visiting the library. Ultimately, we earnestly believe that going fine free will eliminate such barriers for many in our community.

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Joseph Milano
President, Board of Trustees

Recent Significant Donors

The Friends of the Abington Township Public Libraries

Family of Patricia Amon
Estate of Susan Cohen
James Cook
Carol Doherty
Lynda Ewald
Sandra & Ronald Friedman
James Gulla
Jeffrey Kahn
Pamela & George Konesky III
Dr. Faren Williams & Luke Maki
Charles Silverman
Edward Stevenson
Patricia Timmins
Salvatore Valenti
Lucille Van Hook MD
Beth & Tom Warns
Marvin Weilerstein

Ruth and Robert Abel Memorial Book and Film Discussion Group

Led by Dr. Karen Weekes. Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
March 15: “How Soon Quits the Dawn?” by Rebecca Makkai
April 10: “Beauvoir” by Richard Powers
May 15: Tom Lake by Ann Patchett

Stitch n Chat

@Abington: Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
@Roslyn: Fridays, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Embrace Love in the New Year: A Heartfelt Conversation with Rebecca Serle

New York Times Bestselling Author of One Italian Summer, In Five Years, and The Dinner List

Wednesday, January 10, 8:00 p.m.

Doggone Good Readers

Via Zoom

Tuesday, December 19
7:00 – 7:35 p.m.

Practice reading aloud to a registered therapy dog online! Grades 1 - 5.

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Thank you!

We welcome your efforts to spread the word about resources we offer.

Would you consider sharing this information?

We offer new tutor trainings three times a year.

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 2:00 – 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.; and by appointment.

For more information, contact the Adult Literacy Office: 215-885-5183 or ablity@abingtonlibrary.org.

Elizabeth Spirering
Program Coordinator

We train volunteer tutors and match them with students who would benefit from their literacy skills. We also offer small classes where English language learners can practice English in a supportive environment.

We help adults—non-native English skills.

Increase their reading, writing, or math skills.

Prepare to test a test—such as a high school equivalency test, and the U.S. citizenship test.

Many people in our community would appreciate your help.

Become a Friend tutor.

No experience is necessary.

We offer new tutor trainings three times a year. The next training will be March 15.

Adult Literacy Program

The weather may be getting colder, but that won’t stop the Friends of Abington Libraries from celebrating WinterFest on December 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. The fest will feature a concert by the Abington Senior High School Choir, as well as vendors, crafts, and a photo booth. We will sell hot chocolate to help keep you warm, along with a variety of delicious cookies.

Inside, come visit our cozy BookCellar in the lower level of the library. We’ll have a special pop-up sale all day on December 9 featuring wonderful children’s books and books for grownups, too! All proceeds from the Friends BookCellar benefit both Abington and Roslyn libraries.

The Friends of Abington Township Library maintains a variety of other programs and services, such as museum passes, Lucky Day loans, community events, and more.

We hope you’ll join us for a fun and informative day!