



Abington Free Library
1030 Old York Road, Abington, 19001
215-885-5180, 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 - Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Friday - Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Roslyn Branch Library
2412 Avondale Avenue, Roslyn, 19001
215-886-9818, abingtonfreelibrary.org
Monday: 11:00 a.m.-9:00 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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STAFF SPOTLIGHT - JOHN ANTHONY

Dependable. Thoughtful. Conscientious.

When asked how to describe John Anthony, his co-workers immediately offered those words.

"He's willing to jump in to help with anything," said one. "And he doesn't even need to be asked."

John has worked at Abington and Roslyn libraries for some 13 years. He started as a teenager, working from 2005 to 2008, and came back in 2013. In between he earned a bachelor's degree in political science at Chestnut Hill College.

When he worked as a library page (the people who keep all of our books, DVDs, etc. in order) we appreciated his keen eye for detail, catching items in the wrong place, books in need of repair, even the occasional error on a spine label.

Now John is part of the team that keeps our buildings and countless programs running smoothly, whether it's setting up a room for dozens of people to attend a book discussion, or tending to the library's plants.

Although he says he's not a morning person, his day at the library usually begins at 7 a.m.

"There's a fair amount that needs to be done before other people come in, and time gets eaten up quickly," he said.

Library work runs in John's family. His mother, Meg Mitchell, is head of the Roslyn Branch Library. He remembers being amazed the first time she brought him to Abington Library as a boy. So much to read — and there were sequels!

He recalls thinking, "Oh, wow! 'The Wizard of Oz' has so many books."

These days, he's a fan of George R.R. Martin, especially "A Storm of Swords."

His non-fiction favorite is Alistaire Horne's "A Savage War of Peace," a history of the 1954-1962 Algerian War.

John explored local history after college, when he volunteered to help inventory gravestones at Fairview Cemetery in Willow Grove, founded in 1907. He worked with people from the Old York Road Genealogical Society, and former Township Commissioner Wayne Luker.

John didn't mention other volunteer work, but I learned he also has helped make deliveries to food pantries, once helped set up a volunteer-run library in Mt. Airy, and in 2016 worked on a state representative's first political campaign.

He also enjoys cooking, for which he has a simple equation: "I want this thing. I create this thing. I have it."

Apple pie with raisins and rum sauce is one of his specialties.

At home he also helps take care of the family dachshund, Lickorish, named "because that's what she looks like and that's what she likes to do."

When asked about his years at the library, he recalled his first boss, Pat Seese, the long-time head of circulation who passed away last year. She was soft-spoken, patient and kind, he said.

Those same words can describe John Anthony. We're lucky to have him as part of our library family.

— Cathy Kress

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 library does for our community. With your help, all things are possible!

— Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Executive Director

The Friends of the Abington Township Public Libraries

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	Penn Community Bank	
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	Natalie Zaslow Price	

SPRING LOCAL AUTHOR EXPO

Saturday, April 20, noon – 4:00 p.m.
Support local authors and learn about publishing a book from local experts. Shop for books for all ages and interests.



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY SPRING BOOK AND PLANT SALE FLEA MARKET
Saturday, April 27, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Environmental Advisory Council
Native Plants Sale
Gently Used Books, CDs and DVDs for adults and kids! 50% OFF
Raffle baskets, soft pretzels and cookies!
Flea Market treasures
All proceeds benefit Abington Libraries.

A CONVERSATION WITH AYANA MATHIS

Tuesday, June 4, 6:30 p.m.
NYT Bestselling Author will discuss her latest novel, *The Unsettled* at Penn State Abington



SUMMER READING FOR ALL AGES CHILDREN, TEENS, AND ADULTS. Join us on Monday, June 17, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Abington Free Library for a party to kick off Summer Reading! Find details at abingtonfreelibrary.org/events.



ROSLYN READS!
Children entering grades 1 – 3
Mondays, June 24 – July 1
1:30 – 2:15 pm or 6:30 – 7:15 p.m.
Registration starts June 3.

ABINGTON READS!
Children entering grades 1 – 3
Mondays, June 24 – August 5
6:00 – 6:45 p.m. or 7:00 – 7:45 p.m.
Registration starts June 3.

Teens interested in volunteering should contact YA Librarian Sara Huff: shuff@mclinc.org, or at Roslyn, Meg Mitchell: mmitchell@mclinc.org

REFERENCE NEWS

Art classes, film screenings, book discussions, concerts, and so much more are scattered throughout our calendar of events.

One of the highlights in the new year was the first concert in a new program, the Elaine Wolfson Magilner Memorial Concert Series. On January 11 we welcomed the Abe Ovadia Duo. The whole library filled with the beautiful sounds of their guitar and string bass, delighting patrons and staff alike. Some 75 people attended the concert officially, but many library-goers stopped to listen on their way in and out of the building.

We are very excited to make this a regular program. On May 16 we will welcome singer/songwriter Rory Michelle Sullivan, and this fall we will have a pop-up performance from BalletX.

Thank you to the Magilner family for their support which makes this program happen.

Alongside programming, we are enhancing the Library of Things collection and Tech Help Service.

The Library of Things includes unexpected or surprising items available to borrow: we have puzzles, calculators, museum passes, birding backpacks, pickleball sets, educational kits, and more. Stop by Abington or Roslyn to learn more about what we have to offer, or tap here if you're reading this online.

Do you need some basic tech assistance? Try One-on-One Tech Help on Tuesday mornings by appointment; or try walk-in help on periodic weekends. Browse the calendar of events to find dates and times: abingtonfreelibrary.org/ events.



– The Reference Department Staff

ROSLYN PROGRAMS

Registration required, except for drop-in programs. See online calendar to register.

PLAYDATE ON AVONDALE Ages 2 – 6
Fridays through May 17, 10:30 a.m. – noon
Drop-in.

TODDLER TIME Ages 18 – 36 months
Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m.
March 12 – April 30
June 25 – August 6

ROSLYN STORYTIME Ages 3 – 5
Thursdays, 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.
March 21 – May 16 (No session April 18.)
May 30 – August 1 (No session June 27.)

BEGINNER CROCHET
Adults, teens, children ages 9 and up
Monday, April 1 or April 15, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

CONTAINER GARDENING
Adults and teens ages 14 and up
Master Gardener Leigh Kieser
Monday, April 8, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

MLANJENI'S MAGICAL THEATER
STORYTELLING Ages 4 – 10
Monday, May 6, 6:30 – 7:15 p.m.
Registration starts April 15.

PUPPETS Ages 4 – 12
Saturday, May 11, 11:00 a.m. – noon
Registration starts April 22.

SHIZEN PAPER
Adults and teens ages 12 and up
Monday, May 13, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Registration starts April 22.

STITCH AND CHAT
Fridays, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Adults and teens, drop in with your handicrafts.

SUMMER PROGRAMS See website to register.

ADVENTURES WITH A STORY
Entering 2nd – 4th grades
Tuesdays, July 9, 23, and August 6, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

FRIDAY FUN 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT
Ages 2½ – 5, May 24, 31, June 7 and 14

SAND PAINTING Ages 5 – 12, June 21

WHO LIVES WHERE?
Center for Aquatic Sciences
Entering Grades 1 – 5, June 28

MAD SCIENCE Entering Grades 1 – 5, July 5

MAKE A MOBILE Ages 4 – 12, July 1

STUFFIE CAMP Ages 3 – 10, July 19

AUSTRALIAN HEELERS Ages 3 – 7, July 26

PLAY DOUGH! Ages 3 – 10, August 2 Drop-in

MONDAY FUN 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

LIFE-SIZE CHUTES AND LADDERS
Ages 4 – 10, July 8

SECRET CODES Ages 6 – 10, July 15

NATIVE ANIMALS OF PA with Briar Bush
July 22, 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

SEA MONSTERS
Ages 6 – 12, July 29, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Registration for all programs is required unless otherwise noted. Sign up at abingtonfreelibrary.org/events.

SPRING PROGRAMS

TODDLER STORY TIMES Ages 1 – 2
Tuesdays, April 23 – May 14, 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Led by Miss Jessica.
Register for any or all sessions starting April 9.

RAINBOW CONNECTIONS Grades K – 5
Mondays, April 8 and May 13, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Join LGBTQ+ kids and allies via Zoom! Talk about LGBTQ+ themed books and topics in a safe space.

MOVING DRAGON EYES ART WORKSHOP
Ages 8 – 11. Tuesday, April 9, 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.
Anita Thompson will provide instruction via Zoom. Art supply kits will be provided.

DOGGONE GOOD READERS Grades 1 – 5
Saturday, April 6, 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. OR
10:45 – 11:15 a.m. (Choose one.)
Read aloud to a registered therapy dog!

SCIENCE STORIES IN THE PARK Ages 3 – 5
Thursdays, April 18 – May 9, 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Alverthorpe Park (Mini-golf pavilion)
Led by Miss Andrea (a.k.a. Jungle Annie).

HEY PLANET, IT'S YOUR EARTH DAY!
Grades 2 – 5. Tuesday, April 16, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Explore environmental issues through hands-on science experiments and STEM activities.

PRIDEFEST All ages
Thursday, June 6, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Rain date: Tuesday, June 11

Abington Free Library parking lot
Celebrate Pride Month with crafts, music, food, giveaways, community organizations and partners, and more. No registration required.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

MAGIC SHOW Ages 3 and up
Wednesday, June 26, 7:00 – 7:55 p.m.
Enjoy magic and comedy presented by Sam Sandler, an amazing deaf performer.
Registration begins June 19.

TODDLER STORYTIMES Ages 1 – 2
Tuesdays, July 2 – July 30, 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Led by Miss Beth.
Register for any or all sessions starting June 18.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIMES Ages 3 – 5
Thursdays, June 27 – August 1 (No storytime on July 4.), 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. Led by Miss Jessica.
Registration begins one week before each program date.

GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB
Entering grades 4 – 6
Thursdays, June 27 and July 25, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Children will read a book, do STEAM projects at home, then meet via Zoom to discuss book and projects.

RAINBOW CONNECTIONS Grades K – 5
Monday, July 8 (no meetup in June), 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Join LGBTQ+ kids & allies via Zoom! Talk about LGBTQ+ themed books and topics in a safe space.

DOGGONE GOOD READERS
Completed grades 1 – 5
Saturdays, July 13 and August 3, 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. OR
10:45 – 11:15 a.m. (Choose one.)
Read aloud to a registered therapy dog!

ANDREW'S BIG SHOW Ages 3 and up
Wednesday, July 17, 7:00 – 7:45 p.m.
This one-man circus show features comedy, juggling, and incredible physical stunts.
Registration begins July 10.

"ADVENTURE BEGINS AT YOUR LIBRARY"
– 2024 SUMMER READING CLUB
Children in preschool through entering fifth grade are invited to join our Summer Reading Club. Read at least 20 minutes per day and win free books and other prizes! All children's reading time will be recorded on paper logs. Register at Abington or Roslyn libraries starting June 17.

TEEN PROGRAMS

For grades 6 – 12 unless otherwise noted. Registration required, except for drop-in programs. See online calendar to register.

Ab-TAB
Third Monday of the month, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. during the school year.

The Teen Advisory Board is a group of teens who participate in library projects and make recommendations about teen programming and library materials. Drop-in.

Q CREW

Second Tuesday of the month, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
LGBTQ+ teens and allies are invited to join the Q Crew! Hang out with new friends and discuss LGBTQ+ issues in a safe space. Drop-in.

TEEN VOLUNTEER EVENTS

Window painting, library decorations, crocheting, and more! Events occur throughout the year and count for service hours.

THE ART OF THE APPEAL WITH MY COLLEGE PLANNING TEAM
Thursday, April 11, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. via Zoom
Workshop about financial aid and scholarship money.

PEEP DIORAMAS

Thursday, April 18, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Make a shoebox-sized diorama with the iconic Easter candies — PEEPS! — as the main characters. We'll display them in April and May, and invite the public to vote for their favorite!

TAYLOR SWIFT TRIVIA Teens and adults
Thursday, May 9, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Are you *ready for it?* Bring your friends and form a group, or you can go *on your own, kid*.

ART CLASSES

Thursday, June 27, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 8, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Led by local artist Anita Thompson, make a work of art to take home.

TEEN CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, July 6, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Sell your handmade wears at our first Teen Craft Fair! Information, including the vendor application, coming soon.

PUZZLEPALOOZA!

All ages
Thursday, July 18, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Race against other teams to see who can finish a 500-piece puzzle first.

ABINGTON READS! Teens and Children
Mondays, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. or 7:00 to 7:45 p.m.
Children entering grades 1 – 3 will pair up with a Teen Buddy, who will young readers build their reading confidence.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Registration required, except for drop-in programs. See online calendar to register.

VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS

From Murder to Atonement – Confronting My Son's Killer: Diane Foley and Colum McCann
Tuesday, April 9, 2:00 p.m.

A Literary Examination of Power, Love, and Art: Xochitl Gonzalez
Wednesday, April 17, 8:00 p.m.

Genius, Power, and Deception on the Eve of World War I: Douglas Brunt
Wednesday, May 1, 3:00 p.m.

A Murder Mystery, Family Story, & Love Letter to Strong Women Everywhere: Nina Simon
Wednesday, May 8, 7:00 p.m.

Asian American Representation in Literature: Rebecca F. Kuang. Tuesday, May 21, 7:00 p.m.

DAYTIME BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
First Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m.
May 2: *Demon Copperhead*, by Barbara Kingsolver
June 6: *A Fever in the Heartland*, by Timothy Egan

COUPLES AGING GRACEFULLY
April 10 and 17, 10:30 a.m. – noon

RUTH AND ROBERT ABEL MEMORIAL BOOK AND FILM DISCUSSION GROUP
Led by Dr. Karen Weekes. Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
April 10: *Bewilderment*, by Richard Powers
May 15: *Tom Lake*, by Ann Patchett

VIRTUAL ART CLASS FOR ADULTS

National Grilled Cheese Day watercolor
April 12, 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

Mini Lighthouse at Night painting
May 16, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Bird Collage. July 23, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION

Saturdays, April 13, May 4, July 6, 11:00 a.m. – noon

SPRING LOCAL AUTHOR EXPO
Saturday, April 20, noon – 4:00 p.m. Drop-in.

THE LAST GARDEN IN ENGLAND
BY JULIA KELLY
Book discussion led by Dr. Karen Weekes.
Wednesday, April 24, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

BRIDGERTON SEASON 3 RELEASE PARTY
Sunday, May 5, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

ELAINE WOLFSON MAGILNER MEMORIAL CONCERT SERIES
Singer/Songwriter Rory Michelle Sullivan
Thursday, May 16, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

A CONVERSATION WITH AYANA MATHIS
Tuesday, June 24, 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAYS ON MONDAY

Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Join us solving the NYT Sunday crossword. Drop-in.

ADULTS READ YA BOOK CLUB

First Thursday of the month, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Join YA Librarian Sara Huff for this book club. Drop-in.

STITCH AND CHAT

Thursdays, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Bring your projects and stitch with us. Drop-in.

ONE-ON-ONE TECH HELP

By appointment: Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., or 11:30 a.m.
Walk-in hours on some weekends. Check the online Events calendar and filter by "Tech Learning" to find dates and times for tech help.

BECOME A FRIEND



The Friends of Abington Library is a group of volunteers who support the township libraries through fundraising and advocacy. We support the library by raising funds through events and primarily our Book Cellar Store which is located in the lower level of Abington Library.

The fundraising supports programs such as Museum passes, Lucky Day Books, Author Series events, and more. We raise money through membership which you can join by visiting our Friends page on the website.

Our primary fundraisers are the Book Cellar, Jewelry Auctions, and our big sales in the Spring and Fall Special Sales. The upcoming Spring Sale is Saturday, April 27, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. We will have great bargain prices, a flea market, plant sale (partnered with the Environmental Advisory Council), Bake Sale, Pretzels, and more.

We are excited to host two author events this year in partnership with Penn State Abington. Jennifer Weiner joined Library Board Vice-President Lauren Greaves for a conversation on April 8. Ayana Mathis sits down with Julie Haywood on June 4 to discuss her latest novel *The Unsettled*. Tickets at abingtonfreelibrary.org/events.

The Friends accept donations of gently used books on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. See the Friends page for more information.

Please support us by visiting our store on a regular basis, or by coming to our events, which are always fun. Look for us at special events too.

Our Book Cellar hours are:

Monday-Friday: noon-4:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

We welcome all to come to our quarterly meetings. The next two meetings will be on May 11, 2024 and September 14, 2024.

We would love to see you and welcome you as a Friend.

Thank you for your support.

– Terry Biansco, President of the Friends of Abington Township Libraries

ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM



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

We help adults:

Improve their non-native English skills.

Increase their reading, writing, or math skills.

Prepare to pass 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 volunteer tutor. No experience is necessary. We offer new tutor trainings three times a year. The next training will be March.

Office hours: Monday and Thursday, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.; and by appointment.

For more information, contact the Adult Literacy Office: 215-885-5183 or ablit1@yahoo.com.

– Elizabeth Sperling,
Program Coordinator

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!
267-245-7337 (Text us)



E-Newsletter sign up



Email us



Chat with a Librarian