**Abington Township Public Library Newsletter**

**Spring-Summer 2024 Vol. 23, No. 1**

**abingtonfreelibrary.org**

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**The Ab Lib Behind-the-Scenes Staff**

**Editor-in-Chief**
Elizabeth Fitzgerald

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Cathy Kress

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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 Reslyn 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) he 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!

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, Lickersh, 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 heading 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

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**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

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**The Friends of the Abington Township Public Libraries**

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**Follow us on social media @Abington Library**

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**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.

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**A Conversation with Aya Mathis**

Tuesday, June 6, 6:30 p.m.

NYT Bestselling Author will kick off Summer Reading! Find details at abingtonfreelibrary.org/events.

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**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.

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**Friends of the Library Spring Book**

**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.

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**The Ab Lib Newsletter**

**Follow us on social media @Abington Library**
One of the highlights in the new year was the first concert in a new program, the Elaine Woloson 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, 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 BallEx.

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, such as board games, puzzles, calculators, museum passes, backpacks, picknick baskets, 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 and find times and dates at abingtonfreelibrary.org/events.

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**ROSLYN LIBRARIES**

**PLAYDATE ON AVONDALE Ages 2 – 6**
Friday from May 17, 10:50 a.m. – drop-in.

**TODDLER TIME Ages 18 – 36 months**
Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m.
March 12 – April 30
June 22 – August 24

**BOSILY STORYTIME Ages 3 – 5**
Tuesday, 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.
March 21 – May 16 (No session April 18.)
Anita Thompson will provide instruction via Zoom. Art supply kits will be provided.

**DOGGONE GOOD READERS Grades 1 – 5**
Tuesday, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Read aloud to a registered therapy dog!

**SUMMER PROGRAMS**

**MAGIC SHOW Ages 3 and up**
Wednesday, June 27, 7:00 – 7:35 p.m.
Enjoy magic performed by your favorite magician, Sam Sandler, an amazing deal performer.

**TEEN CRAFT FAIR**
Thursday, June 27, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Join us solving the NYT Crossword. April 10: Rory Michelle Sullivan, April 17: Ruth and Robert Abel Memorial Book and Film Discussion Group led by Dr. Karen Weekes. April 24: Singer/Songwriter Rory Michelle Sullivan.

**COUPLES AGING GRACEFULLY**
Mondays, April 8 and May 13, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Led by Miss Andrea (a.k.a. Jungle Annie). Alverthorpe Park (Mini-golf pavilion)

**RAINBOW CONNECTIONS**
Grades 6 – 12
Tuesday, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8
Join LGBTQ+ kids and allies via Zoom! Talk about LGBTQ+ issues in a safe space.

**TEEN VOLUNTEER EVENTS**

**MAKING ARTS & CRAFTS**
Thursdays, 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Crocheting, and more! Events occur throughout the year and count for service hours.

**THE ARTHOUSE AND THE ART OF THE PERFORMING ARTS**
Tuesday, April 9, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Join us reading a book, doing STEAM projects at home, and inviting the public to vote for their favorite!

**THE ART OF THE PERFORMING ARTS**
Saturday, April 20, noon – 4:00 p.m. Drop-in.

**THAT SHIT IS NOT YOUR CRAP**
Saturday, April 27, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
We will have great bargain pricing, a tea market, plant sale (partnered with the Environmental Advisory Council), Bake sale, Pretzels, and more.

**ADULT PROGRAMS**

**BECOME A FRIEND**
Monday: Friday; 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
We welcome all to come to our quarterly membership meetings. The next two meetings will be on May 11, 2024 and September 14, 2024.

**FOOTBALL TRIVIA**
Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
**SUNDAY NIGHT**
Thursday: 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
**READ AND LEARN**
Thursday, June 22, 7:15 – 8:00 p.m.
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