



## From the Director

I really wish libraries and money weren't so inextricably intertwined. In a perfect world there would be unlimited resources to fund this oh-so-important institution, and everybody would agree with us that Abington Free Library should be above financial constraints and worries and should focus on loftier concerns like the classics or poetry or ESL programs. Not very likely, is it?

There's no getting away from it. Even our name brings thoughts of money to mind. Abington FREE Library. Often our users say, "If this is a free library why do I have to pay overdue fines for this book?" Because the word Free in our name has nothing to do with money. It means free access to information, it stands for the open exchange of ideas, and it implies that our users have the freedom to walk through our doors without constraint.

Thankfully, we don't run the library on the back of our overdue fines, but every little bit helps. Think of your fines as a small donation! (and remember, if you return your items on time there are no overdues – it's really as simple as that). Thanks to a generous Township and changes in State funding initiated by Governor Ridge (and encouraged, no doubt, by his librarian wife, Michelle) our Library is in much better financial shape than some.

But that could all change in one fiscal year, should the Legislature decide funding cuts would be aimed at library service. And that is where you can help to safeguard our future. Please consider naming the Library as a beneficiary in your will or charitable trust. We have received several such gifts in the past years, and they have allowed us to build a small endowment. Someday I hope that will be a big endowment! In the meantime, consider our Honor Books program the next time you need to purchase a present, include the Library in your end-of-the-year charitable contributions, and smile if you have to pay an overdue fine. OK, I know that last request is difficult. No smile required. ☺

- Nancy Byouk Hammeke

## Volunteer Spotlight

For more information: 215-885-5180, ext. 36 or [abg.mclinc.org/aplfrnd.htm](http://abg.mclinc.org/aplfrnd.htm)

Meet Mimi Zabel. She volunteers as a Friend of the Library. She was born and schooled in the area and later majored in English at the University of Pennsylvania. After graduation, she worked at Raymond & Whitcomb Travel Agency where she traveled from Mexico to Asia and throughout Europe.



Retirement does not mean slowing down for Mimi. She volunteered for the Book Store in Jenkintown whose entire proceeds supported the Jenkintown Library. After the Book Store closed, she worked for Encore Books. Mimi volunteered at the BookCellar's temporary site in the Atrium Mall while Abington Free Library was being renovated. She now serves on the BookCellar Committee and is helping to organize the Election Day Bake Sale. For fun, she does needlepoint and counted cross-stitch. As you see, she likes to keep busy. Mimi's "can-do" attitude, her energy, ideas and the countless hours she contributes to the library are greatly appreciated.

# Reference/Information Desk

For more information: 215-885-5180, ext. 13 or [abg.mclinc.org](http://abg.mclinc.org)

We have new faces at the Information/Reference desk and want you to meet them.

Rebecca Ritts, on the left, has joined our Reference/Information team as a librarian. She is not a stranger to Abington library users, as she has worked for eleven years in several departments. Most recently, she was a cataloger in our Technical Services department, and she also helped users at the Circulation Desk. She is already known to you for her skills and helpfulness, and has moved to the Information Desk to continue that service. Rebecca is a graduate of Messiah College and is enrolled at Clarion University for her MSLS degree. Rebecca is a reader of fiction and non-fiction, with a special interest in history and literature. It has been Rebecca's goal to become a reference librarian, and we know you will join us in helping her enjoy her new position.



Ann Fields, on the right, is our new Young Adult/Reference Librarian. She is a new resident of Pennsylvania, having recently moved here from Charlotte, North Carolina. Ann comes to Abington with experience working with adults and young adults in the nationally recognized Charlotte-Mecklenburg library system. She has also worked with children in a library setting. Ann is a graduate of University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and her MLIS is from University of North Carolina, Greensboro. She is an avid reader of mysteries and historical fiction and enjoys quilting, traveling and gardening. It is great to have her here to work with us.

- Karen L. Byrne

## Gifts to the Library

For more information: 215-885-5180, ext. 14 or [abg.mclinc.org](http://abg.mclinc.org)



### Give the gift of a lifetime

One of the most generous gifts you can give the library is a bequest through your will, life insurance policy or trust. All you need to do is contact your lawyer or financial advisor and ask them to include the library in your plans. Gifts such as these ensure that your memory will be perpetuated for generations through the Abington Township Public Library.

### Honor Books Program

How many times have you wondered what to give your grandmother for her birthday when she already has everything and is trying to move to a smaller apartment anyway? Honor Books are a wonderful gift to consider.

For as little as \$25, the library can purchase a children's book that will delight generations of readers. Larger donations will be used to purchase individual books for the adult collections. Very generous contributions may be used to purchase entire subject collections of books that our patrons will enjoy and refer to again and again.

Each book purchased with your donation will contain a special bookplate, along with an inscription of the honoree's name, the occasion and the date. An announcement of your gift to the Honor Books Program will be sent to the person you designate, informing them of your thoughtfulness. As the donor, you will receive a letter of thanks as well as a receipt for your tax-exempt contribution to the library.

# Calendar of Events for Adults

For more information: 215-885-5180, ext. 15 or [abg.mclinc.org/calendar.htm](http://abg.mclinc.org/calendar.htm)

## Adult Literacy Events

**Family Literacy** - Beginning October 4 - 8 Friday mornings - 10-11:30 a.m.

**Tutor Support Meeting** - October 16 - 7:00 p.m.

**National Family Literacy Day** - November 1

**Tutor Support Meeting** - November 12 - 7:00 p.m.

**Tutor Support Meeting** - December 10 - 7:00 p.m.



Lois Odabas has contributed several articles for this issue.

**Daytime Book Discussion Group** - every 1st Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

November 7 - A Beautiful Mind by Sylvia Nasar

December 5 - Plain Truth by Jodi Picoult

January 2 - Out of the Shelter by David Lodge

February 6 - The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay by Michael Chabon

**Old York Road Genealogical Society** - every 2nd Tuesday, 7:00-8:45 p.m.

November 12 - Preserving Your Visual Heritage: Photography and Family History. This presentation is a program of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, supported in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

December 10 - Discussion Night - Genealogical Information Gleaned from Wills.

January 14 - 8th Annual Show and Tell - best gets a prize!

February 11, - Discussion Night - Solving Genealogical Problems.

**Ruth Abel Memorial Seminar** - meets at 7:30 p.m. - Dr. Richard Tyre is our discussion leader.

November 20 - Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

December 18 - "At Play in the Fields of the Lord" (film)

Registration is a must! - 215-885-5180, ext. 15

**Shakespeare - Who was that Masked Playwright?** - October 22, 7:30 p.m.

**World Travel Lecture Series** - Prof. Burton Klein - Thursdays, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

October 17, 2002 - Choosing the Land Tour: Considerations Galore...

November 7, 2002 - A Controversial Ranking of the World's World Class Cities

December 5, 2002 - Unusual United States and European Destinations

January 16, 2003 - Do's and Don'ts of Travel

February 6, 2003 - Gambling Around the World

**WWII Lecture Series** every 3rd Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

October 15 - Glider Field Artillery in Europe

November 19 - Anti-Aircraft Artillery & Automatic Weapons

December 17 - Hell From Heaven - Memoirs of a B-17 Bombardier

Reservations are required! Limited seating, call early 215-885-5180, ext. 15.

Call Don Lee at 215-659-5594 for information.

# From the Children's Department

For information or to register: 215-885-5180, ext. 28 or [abg.mclinc.org/aplkids.htm](http://abg.mclinc.org/aplkids.htm)

**Artwork Displays** – October features art by Copper Beech Elementary School Students

**Drop-In Story Times** - Tuesdays, October 1 - May 13, 2003, 11:00-11:30 a.m. - all ages

**The Legend of Sleepy Hollow** - Wednesday, October 30, 7:00 p.m. - ages 8-12

**Fall Preschool Story Times** – for ages 2-5 – November 4 through week of December 9. Call for details.

**Toddler Story Times** - November 4, 11, 18, 25 & December 2 - 10:30-10:50 a.m. - ages 12-23 months.

**Children's BookFest for ages 3 and up**

**Curious George's 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration** – November 6 – 7:00-7:45 p.m.

**Peter Rabbit's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party** – November 13 – 7:00-7:45 p.m.

**"If I Could Talk to the Animals"** – November 20 – 7:00-7:45 p.m.

**Origami Art Escape** – Tuesday, November 21, 7:00-8:00 p.m. – ages 6-10 & caregivers

**Preschool Pajama Party** – December 4, 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. – ages 3-5 & caregivers



# From the Friends

For more information: 215-885-5180, ext. 36 or [abg.mclinc.org/aplfrnd.htm](http://abg.mclinc.org/aplfrnd.htm)

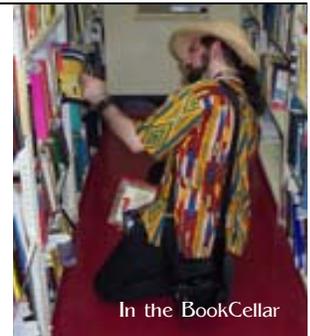
**Entertainment 2003 Books** have arrived and are only \$25.00! They are available at the Abington and Roslyn Branch Circulation Desks. Out-of-town books make great gifts and can be ordered at the Circulation Desk.

Stan Diamond, world traveler and educator, will present a **slide show on Mexico** on October 17 in the Community Room at 7:30 p.m.

Attention all bakers: the **Election Day Bake Sale** will be held Tuesday, November 5. Donated baked goods can be dropped off at the Circulation Desk Monday evening or Tuesday morning.

Friends meet the second Monday of every month. Everyone is welcome!

- Lydia Parke



# From Roslyn Branch Library

For more information: 215-886-9818 or [abg.mclinc.org/aplros.htm](http://abg.mclinc.org/aplros.htm)

Celia Frankford  
and Vanca Muller,  
celebrating  
Dr. Seuss' birthday



**Story Times** - Mondays at 1:30 p.m. - ages 3-6. Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. - ages 2-3.

**Author-of-the-Month Club** - October 21, November 25 & December 16, 6:30-7:30 p.m. - ages 9+

**Halloween Party** - October 28, 6:30-7:00 p.m. ages 2-5, 7:30-8:15 p.m. ages 6-12

**Meet author Susan Katz** - November 4, 7:30-8:15 p.m. - ages 5-12.

**Pajama Party** - November 4, 11, December 2, 9, 6:30-7:00 p.m. - ages 3-6

**Enter the Poetry Contest** by November 11 and get a prize! Winner announced November 18

**Baby Days** - November 12, 19 & 26, 10:30 a.m. - ages 8 months to 2 years

**"If I Could Talk to the Animals"** – November 18 – 6:30-7:15 p.m.

Learn how people **celebrate Hannukah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa** - December 7, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Schools and preschool or daycare providers are welcome to call to arrange a visit to the Branch.

# Visual Assistive Technology

For more information: 215-885-5180, ext. 13 or <http://abg.mclinc.org>

Do you need help with reading because of eyesight problems? We are here with many tools for your information and reading pleasure. Please let us help you!

- Large Type books in fiction and non-fiction.
- Large print versions of Readers Digest and New York Times.
- Books-on-Tape in fiction, biography and non-fiction. These tapes play on "regular" speed cassette players. Ask us for help in selection.
- Books-on-CD.
- Instruction and assistance with all machines, Internet search and locating materials.
- Questions answered by telephone. Call 215-885-5180, ext. 13 for the Reference/Information Desk. We have librarians on duty 65 hours per week to help you.
- Two Internet computers with large 21-inch screens.
- A VERA (Very Easy Reading Machine) which will scan a page and read it back to you. The text can also be enlarged on a computer screen.
- Magnasite ZoomText machine which magnifies print and projects it on to a television screen. This is useful for reading mail, signing checks and reading small print. This machine was presented by the Delaware Valley Chapter of the Association for Macular Diseases.

## Abington Free Library

1030 Old York Road, Abington, 19001

215-885-5180, <http://abg.mclinc.org>

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

### Hours

Mon.-Fri. 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sun. 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

## Roslyn Branch Library

2412 Avondale Avenue, Roslyn, 19001

215-886-9818 <http://abg.mclinc.org/aplros.htm>

### Hours

Mon. 2:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Tues., Thurs., Sat. 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Wed. 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Fri. 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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## Staff Spotlight

"You know, the tall redheaded one?" How many times has the Circ staff at the library heard that one? The ubiquitous, tall redheaded one is Pat Seese, the Head of the Circulation Department.

She oversees all aspects of circulation, from routine checkouts to books that are twelve years overdue! On a typical day, that could mean 2000 books passing through the hands of Pat and her able staff. On a really busy day, the number has gone all the way up to 6000. On days like those, Pat keeps her cool with an indefatigable sense of humor and a repertoire of sayings from her native Ireland.

Pat was born in Derry, Northern Ireland. As a girl, her only entertainment was reading. "We didn't have TV then," she says. "Only books and the radio. So I read all the time. I always loved books." She came to America in 1962, and a mere year later met and married Bob Seese. She worked first at Holy Redeemer Hospital and thought about becoming a nurse, but, after volunteering at the library at Immaculate Conception Elementary School, she realized that she really wanted to work in a library.

Pat started at Abington Free Library in 1980, typing up the old pink library cards. Ten years later, she became the Head of Circulation. Her favorite part of the job is the constant flow of people in and out of the library, most of whom stop by the desk to ask questions, give capsule reviews of the books they just read or to chat.

Pat and Bob have two grown children, Bobby Jr., who is Vice-President of the Pioneer Fire Co. in Jenkintown and Sharon, who is busily planning her wedding next year. They also have two cats, Emily and Danny Boy. She danced with the Timoney Dancers at parades and ceilis for years, until her knees gave out. Now her favorite pastimes include reading (what else) and listening to music, especially Enya and Phil Coulter.

With her red hair, Irish brogue and front-desk position, Pat is definitely a distinctive presence at the library, but ask her staff what they appreciate the most about her and they will all tell you it's her invisible heart of gold.

- Lois Odabas

