From the Director

By now I hope most Pennsylvania Library users have heard about Governor Rendell’s plan to cut State Aid to public libraries by 50%. This plan will be disastrous to the Abington Township Public Library and will devastate libraries across the Commonwealth. For Abington Libraries, this cut will mean a loss of $129,000 or about 22% percent of our operating budget. To put this in perspective, such a cut is equal to:

- 6% of the book budget
- 83% of building operating costs
- 27 days open operating costs

It is more than twice the cost of materials for public services such as library programming, computers, this newsletter and book supplies.

We know we are facing hard economic times, and Libraries across the state are willing to help. But a 50% reduction in State Aid is unfairly disproportionate. Hard times mean we see more students and job seekers using our resources, more people are using our computers and attending library programs than ever. Cutting library services affects precisely those hit hardest by the current economy. It hits preschoolers, students and business owners. It will affect the 48% of Abington Township residents who have a library card and the 113 people who enter this building every hour.

How can you help? You can contact your legislators using the information below. Tell them that a 50% cut in State Aid to public libraries is disproportionately harsh, tell them what the Library means to you and your family, and tell them you cannot afford to lose library services.

Volunteer Spotlight – Julie Capin

Meet Julie Capin. She is a cheerful, dependable volunteer who has been helping in the Reference Department since 1996. Julie is an avid fiction reader so she decided the library seemed like a good place to volunteer her time. She helps keep our annual reports file organized, works with one of the reference librarians to update the book collection, and checks for duplicates when we receive book donations.

Julie’s family lives in Abington, and she spent her senior year at Abington High School. She graduated summa cum laude from Temple University with a degree in early childhood education and worked at a day care center for several years. Both Julie’s brother and sister live in the area and each has a set of 9-year-old twin girls.

Julie also likes to collect dolls, make latch hook rugs, and enjoys a good movie. She is a delightful person to work with and know. Our library is lucky to have such a great volunteer.  

-Deanna Collins
Get in the Game @ the Library this Summer! READ! In the summer of 2002, 62 young adult volunteers and 125 K-2 grade students spent a total of 797 hours reading together in the Abington READS program. It's fun for the young adults – they get the chance to read great children's books while they inspire the younger readers. It's important for the younger readers – they practice reading and gain confidence in their reading ability. Read on for more details and join us for Abington READS!

For Young Adults, an Opportunity to Help Others!
Abington READS! will give you the opportunity to volunteer to help younger students (kindergarten through 2nd Grade) practice reading over the summer.

We need young adults (ages 12-17) to help make this program a success. You can sign up for one or two hours per week for at least 4 weeks.

Program begins the week of June 23 and runs until Aug. 14. Sign up begins May 27 in person or by phone.

Sessions:
- Mondays @ 6-7 p.m. . . . . . . . Thursdays @ 10-11 a.m.
- Mondays @ 7-8 p.m. . . . . . . . Thursdays @ 11-noon

Training Session:
Please join us on June 19 at 7 p.m. for a one-hour workshop on read-aloud techniques & receive your Abington READS! T-shirt. Sign up begins May 19.

For Young Readers, a Chance to Listen and Read
Abington Free Library will be offering an opportunity for your child to practice reading this summer with a young adult (a Junior/Senior High student) in our Abington READS! program.

This program is designed to offer encouragement in reading to young readers who have completed kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades. Your child will have the opportunity to listen to several stories, practice reading aloud and select books to borrow with their young adult partner. Join us!

Program begins the week of June 23 and runs until Aug. 14.

Sign up begins May 27 in person or by phone.

Sessions:
- Mondays @ 6-7 p.m. . . . . . . . Thursdays @ 10-11 a.m.
- Mondays @ 7-8 p.m. . . . . . . . Thursdays @ 11-noon

From the Friends
Thank you to our recent donors
For more information: 215-885-5180, ext. 14 or abg.mclinc.org/Donate.htm

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Ballinger  Overlook Hills Women's Club  Women’s Club of Wyncote
The Colonnade Hotel Boston

Don't miss the article featuring Abington READS! on page 2.