



From our Director

Several years ago I was working the Reference Desk at a New Jersey public library. A lady came in and asked me "Where are your Spanish books?" Naturally, I needed more information, so I tried to conduct what we librarians term a "reference interview." I asked, "Do you mean books written in the Spanish language, or about Spain's history? Are you planning a trip to that country?" My inquiries were met with silence. At this point I started to feel like her interrogator rather than her librarian. I asked again. Finally, I got to the root of the matter – she wanted a recipe for paella. I took her to the cookbooks (641.5).

I've never forgotten that incident, because it underscored the importance of communicating. Why was this lady so reluctant to tell me what she really wanted? Why couldn't I finesse it, draw it, wriggle it out of her? Perhaps she was embarrassed to admit she didn't know how to find what she needed. Perhaps she had never outgrown a fear of librarians. (Why isn't there a word for that? Bibliophobia doesn't fit, but comes closest.)

I recently read where a Seattle toy company has produced a Librarian Action Figure. Yes, she's rather stereotypical in her sensible shoes, and the action she makes is a shushing motion. But it's still a hoot, and I think the profession should be thrilled to know we're Avengers of Information, right up there with the Man of Steel!

We have so many thousands of people using this library that it hardly seems possible that there's a soul left in Abington we haven't helped. But I know I'm wrong about that. If you are reading this, this is what I want to leave you with: We can't help you if you don't ask. Please don't be reluctant. Our staff has *chosen* this helping profession in order to guide you to whatever you need through any and all of our resources. Librarians can work magic (but we're not magicians!)



Beautiful Book of the Month: Robert Irwin Getty Garden by Lawrence Weschler is a dazzling, stunning account of the marriage of gardening and contemporary art at the Getty Center in Los Angeles.

- Nancy Hammeke Marshall

Volunteer Spotlight - Jack Waite

For more information/Become a volunteer: 215-885-5180, ext. 11 or abg.mclinc.org/Volunteer.htm

Five years ago it would have been hard to imagine lawyers, ministers and retired dentists reading to children at Abington Free Library. Thanks to volunteer Jack Waite, however, Jenkintown Kiwanis Club members have been leading weekly drop-in story times here since October 1999.



"It's fun to do, and the members of Kiwanis have supported it," Jack says of the program, which was established in memory of late member Victor Lewis. In addition to serving as a reader, Jack schedules and recruits the Kiwanis drop-in story time volunteers.

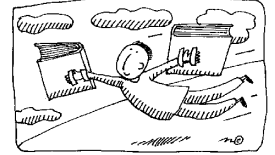
Jack is no stranger to the world of children. He and wife Lynne raised three sons and now have five grandchildren. A retired actuary, Jack enjoys reading English murder mysteries, playing golf, and traveling abroad with Lynne. Previously, he served on the library's Phase I renovation committee.

Jack and the Jenkintown Kiwanis Club are to be commended for their strong commitment to serving children. May their outreach benefit families for many years to come!

For more information on drop-in story times, see page 2.

- Carolyn DuBois, Head, Children's Department

Young Adult/Teens at Abington



ATTENTION! HELP with HOMEWORK!

If you are in need of free homework help, *you're in luck!* Starting Jan 22, 2004 on Thursdays from 4-5 p.m. Teen Tutors will be available to work with students grades K-6.

To register: call Ann Fields, Young Adult Librarian@215-885-5180, ext. 13 or email: afields@mclinc.org

Thank you to our recent, significant donors

For more information: 215-885-5180, ext. 14 or abg.mclinc.org/Donate.htm

Friends of the Library

Jenkintown Rotary

Louis Nayovitz Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Greene

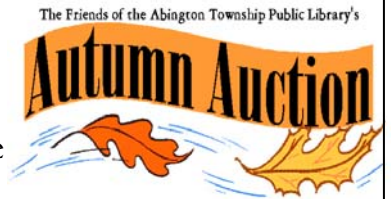
Pat and Philip Kind

Kathleen Seweryn

From the Friends

For all Friends Activities call: 215-885-5180, ext. 36 or abg.mclinc.org/aplfrnd.htm

Thank you! Whether you promoted, sponsored, collected, donated, organized, stored, worked, bid or bought thank you to all the people who contributed to the success of the Friends 2003 Autumn Auction. Because of your help, the auction earned **\$16,570.50** for the Library's book budget.



SILENT AUCTION OF JEWELRY – February in the Display Case. Let us turn your lovelorn jewelry into books. Bring donations to the Circulation Desk.

SILENT AUCTION – March in the Display Case. Bring donations to the Circulation Desk.

BOOKCELLAR-USED BOOKS FOR SALE on the lower level of the library!

Mon-Tue, 2-4 p.m., Wed-Fri, noon-4 p.m., Sat, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Donations of books, video & audio tapes, CDs & DVDs accepted gratefully!



VOLUNTEER AT THE BOOKCELLAR! If you're looking for a way to support your library, you can donate books (donations are tax-deductible), sort, price and shelve books, staff sales, or purchase from our selection of used books.

HONOR BOOKS – For a donation of \$25 or more, the library will add a book to the collection in honor or in memory of your loved one.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS - \$25 For use in Montgomery, Philadelphia & Bucks counties. Makes a great gift!

LIBRARY BOOK BAGS

LARGE TOTE BAG - \$10 - 18"W x 12"H with a 6" bottom gusset

TOM THUMB TOTE - \$6 - 13"W x 10"H with a 5" bottom gusset.

Items may be purchased through the Friends at the Circulation Desk or in the Bookcellar.
All proceeds benefit the Abington Township Public Libraries.

Calendar of Events for Adults

For more information: 215-885-5180, ext. 15 or abg.mclinc.org/calendar.htm

ABINGTON TOWNSHIP BLOOD DRIVE - Please consider donating.

Abington Township Building Boardroom, 1176 Old York Road, Abington

Wed, Dec 31 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Appointments can be made by contacting Dorothy Dougherty - ddougherty@abington.org,

Abington Township Building - 267-536-1000. Drop-ins are welcome.

ENHANCE THE NOVEL SERIES – Meets every second & fourth Thursday from 10 – 11 a.m.,

Jan 22, Feb 12 & 26, Mar 11 & 25, Apr 8 & 22 Prof. Burton Klein is our instructor.

This course will cover the 29 components of novel writing in the hopes of enhancing the reader's experience. No registration necessary.

DAYTIME BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES – Meets every first Thursday at 1 p.m.

Jan 2 - Good in Bed by Jennifer Weiner

Feb 5 - Louisa by Simone Zelitch

Mar 4 - Tuxedo Park by Jennet Conant

Apr 1 - The Coffee Trader by David Liss

OLD YORK ROAD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - Meets every second Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Jan 13 - 9th Annual Show and Tell

Feb 10 - Climbing My Genealogical Brick Wall

Mar 9 - Mills and Millers of the Pennypack Creek

WORLD WAR II LECTURE SERIES - Meets every third Tuesday at 3 & 7 p.m.

Dec 16 - The USS French (DE-367) - Edward J. Lontz

Jan 20 - From Private to Captain in the 1st Infantry Division - Jacob Hartman

Feb 17 - Battle in the Philippines with the 25th Infantry Division - William Barber

Mar 16 - From the National Guard to the 8th Air Force - Gilbert D'Alonzo



Master Gardener Series

4 Mondays at 7 p.m.:

March 22 The Four Season Garden - Selecting Plants for Four Seasons of Interest

March 29 Landscaping for Birds, Bees & Butterflies

April 5 Container Gardening with Perennials for Sun and Shade

April 12 Morris Arboretum Slide Show

*Registration is a MUST! Please drop by the Library Office
call 215-885-5180, ext. 15, or email kburnham@mclinc.org*

From Roslyn Branch Library

For more information: 215-886-9818 or abg.mclinc.org/aplros.htm



FAMILY FUN NIGHT Mon Jan 19 Ages 2-5: 6-6:45 Ages 6-12: 7:15-8:15.
Fantastic juggling, stories, games and refreshments. Registration begins Jan 2.

PAJAMA PARTY on Monday evenings: Jan 26, Feb 2 & 9, Mar 15 & 22, 6:30-7 p.m. Stories, songs, fingerplays and crafts. Children are invited to wear their pajamas and bring a stuffed animal to cuddle. Registration begins Jan 2.

WINTER STORY TIMES begin Jan 26 and continue through Mar 25. Story times for ages 3-6 will be on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. Story times for ages 2-3 will be on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Registration begins Jan 2.

If you are unable to attend one or more sessions, kindly call the library in advance. This will allow others on the waiting list to attend the program as well as prevent waste of craft materials.

From the Children's Department

For information please call 215-885-5180, ext. 28. <http://abg.mclinc.org/Children.htm>



Kala JoJo, the Tall Storyteller

DROP-IN STORY TIMES FOR ALL AGES - No advance registration required.

Every Tuesday (except Dec 23 & 30) at 11 a.m. Informal story times are led by members of the Jenkintown Kiwanis Club in cooperation with the Children's Department staff. Come discover new stories and enjoy old favorites. Parents/caregivers must attend with their children.

WINTER STORY TIMES - No advance registration required. Week of Jan 12 through week of Feb 16.

Two-year-olds: Tuesdays, 10:15-10:45 - Parents/caregivers attend this lap-sit program with their children.

Three-year-olds: Mondays, 10:30-11 - Children may attend independently or with parents/caregivers.

Four-, five- and six-year-olds: Wednesdays, 1:30-2 OR Thursdays, 10:30-11 - Children are encouraged to attend independently.

FAMILY STORYTELLING CONCERT "WORDSONGS DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE" with KALA JOJO

Jan 15, 7 - 8 p.m. Advance registration is required. Ages 3 and up.

STORY TIMES FOR WALKERS UNDER 24 MONTHS AND THEIR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

Jan 21, 28 & Feb 4, 10:15 - 10:35 a.m. OR 11-11:20 a.m. Advance registration is required.

COMING SOON! STORY TIMES FOR PRE-WALKERS (aged 4 months and up) and their parents/

caregivers on three Wednesday mornings, Feb 18, 25 and Mar 3, 10:15-10:45 a.m.

Offered by the AFL Children's Department in cooperation with The Little Gym,

Abington/Jenkintown. Advance registration is required.



Adult Literacy

For more information: please contact Marlyn Cohen 215-885-5183 or <http://abg.mclinc.org/apliter.htm>

Mon, Dec 15 - 7 p.m. Tutor Support Meeting Job-related materials for ABE (Adult Basic Education) and ESL (English as a Second Language) students. Guest speaker from Career Link. Tutors and students invited. Attendance earns continuing education credit.



Mon, Mar 8 - 6:30-8:45 p.m. and Tue, Mar 9 - 6:30-8:45 p.m. Tutor Training
Both nights mandatory! R.S.V.P. 215-885-5183

Tue, Mar 23 - 7 p.m. Tutor Support Meeting.

Tutoring Tips for ABE, ESL, GED. Practical suggestions for teaching methods and materials. Attendance earns continuing education credit. Guest speaker.

Services for Job Seekers

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

The library provides information and tools for people searching for jobs. The Job Center is near the audio-visual materials, before the front window. Here you will find:



Deanna Collins, Librarian,
at the Job Center

The Pennsylvania Civil Service Job Listing

Non-Profit Jobs

Montgomery County Job Postings

Federal Jobs Digest

Current Classified sections of the Inquirer and the Record (also kept at the Reference Desk)

Internet Job Search listings

CareerLink postings from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Need information on resumes or writing cover letters? The reference librarians will assist in locating helpful examples. Researching a company for that all-important interview? It is easy with our book and Internet-based information. Ask us for tips on locating the right resource.

When you are ready to write your resume, check out our Friends' Computer Center to write and save your work on our word processing computers. And when you are ready to go on the Internet to fill out an online job application, use one of the ten Internet computers in the "Information Alley," which runs down the center of the main floor. Many job-seekers and job-changers start their successful searches at the Abington Free Library Reference Department.



The author and Deanna Collins, at the
Information Desk

- Karen Byrne, Head, Reference Department

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 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sun. 2 - 5 p.m.

Roslyn Branch Library

2412 Avondale Avenue, Roslyn, 19001
215-886-9818 <http://abg.mclinc.org/aplros.htm>

Hours

Mon. 2 - 9 p.m.
Tues., Thurs., Sat. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wed. 2 - 8 p.m.
Fri. 2 - 5 p.m.

Non Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Abington, PA
Permit No. 48



Staff Spotlight - Karen Byrne, Head of Reference



From her early childhood on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State, Karen Byrne has been a lover of books. She was blessed with a mother who regularly read to her and her three sisters.

Karen spent her undergraduate years at Whitworth College, where she was an English major. Although she trained as a teacher, Karen's heart was drawn toward librarianship. She worked in her town's public library during her high school years. There she learned to love the exchange of ideas that takes place daily in the public library.

Karen received her library training the University of Washington. Over the years she has worked in a variety of library settings. When asked which position was her favorite, she responded with characteristic aplomb by suggesting that she has learned from each situation. She says, "For variety, and the I-am-never-bored feeling, I think of public libraries. For getting in-depth experience with reference, I remember my academic job. For having an effect on people, I think of my school job."

I asked Karen how the library profession has changed since she first entered it. She answered with one word – technology! She stressed that it is necessary for librarians to understand technology in order to utilize it fully for good public service.

Karen has a wide range of interests and hobbies. She is an avid traveler and she gardens and cooks with what she calls "wild enthusiasm." In addition to a healthy dose of reading each and every week, she has recently discovered the joys of books on tape. She is always appreciative of her colleagues' recommendations for quirky mystery reading.

Karen Byrne demonstrates true commitment to her profession and to her philosophy of public service. We are fortunate to have her here at Abington as our Head of Reference!

- Rebecca Ritts, Reference Librarian