

From our Director – 2007 Accomplishments

I am very proud of everything the Abington Township Public Library staff has accomplished in 2007. Another banner year for all involved! Highlights include:



- Circulated 432,644 items – the highest of any MCLINC library and an increase of 6% over 2007
- Filled the highest number of reserves of any library in the consortium – an average of 200 daily
- Our employees raised \$600 for the Helping Hands Foundation as part of our annual charity commitment
- Created a core Abington History Collection, including 86 of 95 years of the AHS yearbook, The Oracle
- Added 1,246 audio-visual items to the collection
- Processed more than 11,000 withdrawals
- Added the Historical Philadelphia Inquirer database
- Installed all new public access computers
- Offered 9% more children's events, attended by 10% more children (8,371)
- Gratefully accepted the Friends of the Library donation of \$46,510
- Launched an Elementary Reading Olympics Book Discussion Group in partnership with the School District
- Offered two Science in the Summer courses (the only library in MCLINC to warrant two programs)
- 444 children attended Doggone Good Readers.
- Replaced loading dock doors and installed cement dumpster pad. Bought new A/V shelving in Children's Department, new benches for Hoag Garden, new TV, new microfilm cabinets, and a Hillyard C3 Compact Cleaning Companion
- Roslyn Branch circulation increased by 7.5%.
- Successfully managed our budget, in excess of \$2.3 million, including grants
- Registered 2,990 people for library cards
- Began using email notification for holds and expired library cards

Whew! Can we top this in 2008? We'll try!

- Nancy Marshall



Volunteer Spotlight – Peter Nowak

Brought in your register tapes lately? Ever wonder where they go? How does Acme know you donated them to the library? Our volunteer in charge of register tapes and eScrip is Peter Nowak. Since 1995 he has been collecting and processing the register tapes.

These were Genuardi's tapes until June 1997, when Acme tapes became useable. Peter handled both until 2003, when Genuardi's tapes began being processed by eScrip. Peter collects the (welcome) jumble of tapes and assembles them into an orderly pile so that he can calculate their value and have an acceptably neat package to submit. He hand-delivers the tapes and redemption form to the Jenkintown Acme, being careful to sign their tally-in book, and retains a carbon copy of the form. Subsequently, he matches up this form with the corresponding redemption check.

Peter was born in Cleveland, Ohio and spent the first ten years of his life there; thus dooming him to be a lifelong Cleveland Indians fan. After graduating MIT in metallurgy, he spent almost his entire working life in army ordnance research and development. It was after he retired from that line of work that he first volunteered at the library and then became its bookkeeper. Bookkeeping was quite traumatic for Peter: the figures had to add up. As a metallurgist experimenting with materials, a plus or minus margin of error was just fine.

Peter retired from bookkeeping after five years, just as the library was automating. But he was soon back as a volunteer. And as a volunteer, he demonstrates the value of volunteering. He does one specific job for the library, he does it conscientiously, and he does it well. As a consequence, the library has been receiving several thousand dollars a year from Acme and Genuardi's. This money is used to purchase audio books and also for adult literacy. However, since eScrip does not include the months of August and September and does not automatically renew for each subscriber, the intake has dropped. Therefore it is very important for every library patron to renew eScrip annually. You should look for the renewal card enclosed in their annual mailing (US mail) around October. Otherwise, the library staff will be happy to help you renew.

In his spare time, Peter, along with his wife Carol, enjoys international folk dancing, ethnic restaurants, bakeries, great ice-cream, and halvah. Even his license plate reads HALVAH. And a few years back, Peter won the Philadelphia Inquirer informal Cheapskate of the Year award for a method of prolonging dental floss (Business section of 3/24/2002 and 3/28/2002).

Peter is funny, generous, and lively, and we are lucky to have his talents. So keep those Acme tapes coming. And don't forget to sign up for eScrip.

- Lois Odabas



Reference Department News

215-885-5180, ext. 13 or abingtonfreelibrary.org

There's a new database available to you! Need Readers Advisory? Want to find who writes like your favorite author? Check out Books and Authors. This database is available in the library or from home for Abington Township residents. We have often turned to What do I read next? for assisting patrons with questions regarding fiction readers advisory. This new database

Books & Authors

Powered by *What do I read next?*

will provide us with powerful search tools and access to non-fiction readers advisory as well. Please take a look and let us know what you think.

Mimi Satterthwaite
Head, Reference Department
Satterthwaite@mclinc.org



Adult Literacy is dedicated to enhancing English-speaking abilities and improving reading and math skills. Remember, you can become a tutor at any time. Call 215-885-5183.

Learning to read can change a life.
Help make it happen!

April 7, 7 - 8:45 p.m. Tutor Support Meeting.
How do you teach reading?

May 6, 3 - 5 p.m. Tutor Support Meeting.

June 3, 7 p.m.: Reception honoring students and tutors. Guests invited.

June 5, 7 - 9 p.m. Tutor Support Meeting.

Roslyn Branch Library

For information and to register for these programs, call 215-886-9818, go to abingtonfreelibrary.org or visit the Roslyn Branch Library, 2412 Avondale Avenue, Roslyn, PA 19001.

Roslyn Branch Librarian Celia Frankford is branching out this spring, offering three **SPECIAL STORY TIMES** around the township. Come see her at:

ROSLYN FIRE COMPANY
1128 Bradfield Road, Roslyn
Monday, March 31 at 6:30 p.m.
For ages 3-6



Celia will read stories about fire trucks, and the children will have a chance to climb on a real fire truck. Parents and children should assemble at the firehouse at 6:20 p.m. Call or visit the Roslyn Library to sign up. 215-886-9818



WILLOW GROVE BARNES & NOBLE
102 Park Ave., Willow Grove
Friday, April 11 at 7 p.m.
For ages 3-6
Call or visit the Roslyn Library to sign up.



BRIAR BUSH NATURE CENTER
1212 Edge Hill Road, Abington.
Friday, April 4 at 9:30 a.m.
For ages 3-6



Hear stories about animals, sing songs, and create a special craft to take home. Please call Briar Bush at 215-887-6603 to sign up.

Back at the branch, there's lots more coming up:

BABY DAYS

For ages 8 months-2 years
Tuesdays, April 1, 8, 22, 29, May 6 and 13
11 a.m.
Babies and caregivers will sing songs, read stories, and do finger plays. Babies ages 8 months-2 years.



PAJAMA PARTIES

For ages 3-6
Monday, April 7, May 5 and June 16
6:30-7 p.m.



Please register for each program separately.
STORIES SONGS + FINGERPLAYS CRAFTS
Children are invited to wear their pajamas and bring a stuffed animal to cuddle.

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAMS

Join us for this series on Mondays from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

April 14 -- Mark Radell, Master Gardener,
"Introduction to Flower Gardening"

April 21 -- Mary Concklin,
"Growing Tree Fruit in Your Home Garden is Easy"

May 19 -- Jim Bobb, Master Gardener, "The Amazing Honeybee"
You can register for the entire series or for just one program.
Registration begins March 24.

All Master Gardener volunteers are a part of the Penn State Cooperative Extension in Montgomery County.

Pat Fallon, from the Montgomery County Health Department, will be presenting two programs on

EXTREME SPORTS SAFETY

Monday, May 12

Sports include rollerblading, skateboarding, biking, scootering and more.

K-6th grade from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

7-12th grade from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Call or visit the Roslyn Branch Library to register. Registration begins April 21.



Would you like to see your favorite fairy tale. Join local teens and become part of a mini-production of one of the greatest fairy tales ever told, the timeless **CINDERELLA**.

June 2 and 9 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

For ages 5-8

Children will be guided through the process of writing a skit and then acting it out. Call or visit the Roslyn Library to register.

Registration begins May 12.



WHAT'S BUGGING YOU?

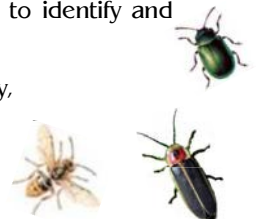
Friday, June 20 and 27 at 11 a.m.

If the study of insects is your calling, this program is for you! Children in grades K-6th will learn how to make an insect collection, where to look for insects and how to identify and classify insects.

Rachel Davies, Master Gardener from the Cooperative Extension in Montgomery County, will lead both programs.

Registration begins May 30.

Participation is limited to 25 children.



Do You Know Our Ruth Abel Memorial Seminar Book Discussion Leader? - She heard it on NPR.

I thought Ed Pettit was chosen to lead the Ruth Abel book discussion because many staff members have had wonderful literary discussions with him in the library, at the coffee shop he had owned next to the Keswick Theater or just around town. But I was wrong. The origin was Daisy ... or, to be more precise, our boss Nancy Marshall's lunchtime run home for Daisy, her Goldendoodle. One day Nancy's car radio was tuned to Marty Moss-Coane's program, "Radio Times," on 91 FM. Her guest, Edward Pettit, intrigued Nancy with his warm, personable demeanor, his obvious breadth and depth of literary knowledge and, praise be, he's local!



Ed Pettit



Daisy Marshall

Learn more about him by reading the *Bibliothecary* blog. Here's an excerpt:

"Edward Pettit is a freelance book reviewer. He writes the *Bibliothecary* blog on which you can read his recently published book reviews. He also pursues his graduate work in literature at bucolic Lehigh University in Pennsylvania and teaches writing at La Salle University in Philadelphia."

We're reading Paul Auster's *The Brooklyn Follies* for the next Ruth Abel Seminar on March 18. To find out more, check out the *Adult Programs* on page 4. Come and join the fun!

- Karen Burnham

Children's Department at Abington Free Library

For information or to register for these programs, call 215-885-5180, ext. 28, or visit the Children's Department.

TODDLER STORY TIMES

Four Wednesdays: March 5, 12, 26 & April 2, 10:30-11 a.m.
(No session on March 19)

For children ages 12-23 months (walking independently) and their parents/caregivers. Advance registration required.



PRESCHOOL STORY TIMES (ages 2-5)

Sessions run through the week of April 7. Two-year-olds meet on Tuesdays, 10:15-11 a.m. Advance registration required. Three-year-olds meet on Mondays, 10:30-11 a.m. Four and five-year-olds meet on Thursdays, 2-2:30 p.m.



LITTLE CRAWLER STORY TIMES

Three Fridays: May 2, 9 & 16, 10:30-11 a.m. For children ages 6 months and up who are not yet walking and their parents/caregivers. Registration begins April 21 for Abington Township residents; April 28 for out-of-township residents.



DOGGONE GOOD STORY TIMES

(ages 3 and up) Two Mondays: April 14 & 21, 10:30-11 a.m. Join former teacher Karen Udell and her certified therapy dog for story time. Children must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver.



DROP-IN STORY TIMES (all ages) Thursdays, 11-11:30 a.m., through May 22

Led by members of the Jenkintown Kiwanis Club. Children must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver.



FAMILY POETRY EVENT

"Not Your Traditional Poetry" Thursday, March 27, 7-8 p.m. (all ages) Facilitator Kimberly Bradford will encourage adults and children to find their poetic voices in a relaxing, fun-filled atmosphere. Registration begins March 17.



DOGGONE GOOD READERS (ages 6-10)

Saturday, April 5, 10:15-10:45 a.m. OR 11-11:30 a.m. Children practice their reading skills by reading aloud in small groups to certified therapy dogs. *Both sessions are full; look for more programs this summer.*



"DRAGONS & DREAMS" featuring PICCIRILLO SCIENCETELLING

Thursday, April 17, 7-7:45 p.m. (Ages 4 and up) Learn how two children save a castle from an evil ice sorcerer. Be dazzled by popping potions and dry ice/fire experiments as the story unfolds! *Loud noises may disturb very young children.*



CELEBRATE CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK WITH MR. MALCOLM

Wednesday, May 14, 7-8 p.m. (Ages 4 and up) Actor Mr. Malcolm will perform a classic children's story. Registration begins Monday, April 28. See separate flyer or our website for details.



SCIENCE IN THE SUMMER

Monday, June 23-Thursday, June 26 Four-day "Genetics" program for Abington Township children entering grades 2-6. Morning and afternoon sessions are available. Registration is by lottery; fill out applications in person May 19-June 1.



Young Adult/Teens at Abington Free Library

REGISTER for these programs or get more information @ the Information Desk, abingtonfreelibrary.org or 215-885-5180, x 13.



TEEN CHESS
Fridays,
3:30 - 5 p.m.
Continuous.

For experienced and beginning players. Includes instruction.



Join us this summer for **Abington READS**. This successful volunteer program offers an opportunity to help younger students (K-2nd grade) practice reading over the summer. Young adults (ages 12-17) may sign up for one hour per week for at least four weeks. It's fun -- you get to read great children's books and inspire young students to become better readers.

There will be a required workshop on read-aloud techniques. Attendance is mandatory if you have not previously attended a training session.

Check the website for updates. abingtonfreelibrary.org

Adult Programs at Abington Free Library

REGISTER in the Library Office, call 215-885-5180, ext. 15 or email from abingtonfreelibrary.org.

THE RUTH R. ABEL MEMORIAL SEMINAR

Tuesdays, 7 p.m. in the Shorday Room
Edward Pettit is our discussion leader.
Registration is a must!

March 18 - The Brooklyn Follies by Paul Auster. Books may be reserved through the library hold system.

April 15 - Match Point a film by Woody Allen. DVDs may be borrowed from the Library Office or through the library hold system.

May 20 - The Gravedigger's Daughter by Joyce Carol Oates. Books may be purchased soon in the Library Office or reserved through the library hold system.



UNLOCKING THE SECRETS TO YOUR DREAMS

Tuesday, March 25 from 7 - 8:45 p.m.
Dream Facilitator, Ken Kaplan.
Intrigued by your dreams?

- Ⓢ Discover the Importance of Dreams
- Ⓢ Learn How to Remember your Dreams
- Ⓢ Gain Techniques for Dream Interpretation
- Ⓢ Explore Communication of the Dreaming Mind



GUITAR WORKSHOP SERIES

Five lesson course at 7 p.m.
for ages 15 and up.

Instructor Rich Kaufman
will bring some guitars to lessons.

Tues, April 1; Wed, April 16; Tues, April 29;
Tues, May 13; Tues, May 27.



THE ART OF LOOKING AT ART

Tuesday, April 22 from 7-8:30 p.m.

Comedian and art scholar Sheldon Weintraub
will discuss: "Is She Nude or Is She Naked?"



WWII LECTURE SERIES

Every 3rd Tuesday @ 3 & 7 p.m.

March 18 - 9th Airforce fighter pilot, Frank Luckman

April 15 - 1944 Rangoon disaster, Karnig Thomasian

May 20 - Growing up in London during WWII, Elaine Good



GREEN TALKS

Discussion Series on the Environment
Three Wednesdays from 7 - 8:30 p.m.

April 23 - Low-effort, Long-lasting Gardens:
A talk about practical, low-effort methods for planting low-maintenance perennial gardens. *Diana Weiner and Ethan Simon, Everyone Can Garden Project*

April 30 - Reducing Your Global Footprint: What individuals can do to reduce their impact on the environment. *Dawn Wales, Earth Force*

May 7 - Where Does Your Trash and Recycling Material Go after it gets picked up from our curbs?
Ed Micciolo, Abington Township



SOCRATES CAFÉ

Every 2nd Wednesday from 10:30 - noon
Every 4th Friday from 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Giving Philosophy Back to the People.

Let's discuss ... What is truth? What is justice? What is moderation? Any and every question under the sun!



JAMES WARREN

Sunday, May 4 at 3 p.m.

Often imitated but never equaled leader of the horror/science fiction comics industry, Warren published *Famous Monsters*, *Creepy*, *Eerie*, *Vampirella*, and *Blazing Combat*, for which he hired the finest illustration artists.



DAYTIME BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Every first Thursday at 1 p.m.

March 6 - Ghostwalk, by Rebecca Stott

April 3 - Water for Elephants, by Sara Gruen

May 1 - Planning Meeting



OLD YORK ROAD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Every 2nd Tuesday, from 7-8:45 p.m.

April 8 - A Pictorial History of Courier and Ives.
Williamson Restaurant, Easton & Blair Mill Roads.

May 13 - Do Family Research at the David Library of the American Revolution. Kathy Ludwig, David Library



Miss Ellanie - From the Kindness and Generosity Department

Miss Ellanie has heard that one of our patrons, a science fiction enthusiast, came to pay a \$14.40 fine for overdue books. He paid with a \$20 bill and donated the change to our library. Upon our sincere thanks he smiled, reached into his wallet – and donated another \$20.

We have a lot of stories like this, in which our fine-payers say, "Keep the change," and we put the extra in the donation jar. As one regular "keep the change" donor explained: "Well, of course I give you the change. You save me so much money – and I get to read! I was given a \$20 gift certificate to a bookstore. I don't know what to do with it!"

Children see the donation jar at the front desk and beg their parents for money to drop in. And there are those who stop, drop in all their coins and keep walking. They can barely hear our thanks.

– Miss Ellanie (as told to Marla Benjamin)



Thank You to Our Recent Significant Donors

Nancy Abel
Abington Bank
Walter and Jean Annon Jr.
Anonymous
Joan Bachman
Christina Kind Baiocchi
Leigh Bardsley
Leah and Parmatma Greely Basickes
Robert and Evelyn Betz
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Douglas and Pamela Callantine
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Marilyn Wright
Gerald and Cynthia Guzzo Zubkoff

News & Views of The Friends of Abington Libraries

Learn about our activities: Call 215-885-5180, ext. 36, or read about us at abingtonfreelibrary.org.

NEW BOOKS ARRIVE EVERY DAY AT OUR BOOKCELLAR - Please come by and browse through our extensive collection. We are located in the lower level of the Abington Free Library, next to the Children's Department. All of our books, movies and music are for sale at bargain prices!



Our Hours are: Monday, noon-8 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday
Wednesday, noon-8:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.



DONATIONS ALWAYS WELCOME -- Haven't watched some of your videos lately? Are some of your books getting dusty on your shelves? Do some spring cleaning with your collections of books, DVDs, videos, CDs, books-on-CD or tape and donate them at Abington or Roslyn libraries. What you no longer need might be just what someone else is looking for. The BookCellar is in great need of your donations. The more items we receive, the better our selection, the better our sales -- which means a larger donation to our libraries.

Ask for a tax receipt, as your donation may be tax-deductible.

NEW MEMBERS/BOOKCELLAR VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOMED -- Support our libraries while joining a pleasant, sociable group. Enjoy the camaraderie and the knowledge of being a part of our libraries' growth

PICNIC IN THE PARK - Annual Meeting. Monday, June 9, at 5:45 p.m. Alverthorpe Park, Fox Chase Entrance. Pot Luck Supper Bring a dish of your favorite food and \$1.00 donation. There will be a short business meeting followed by a social hour and fun! Bring the whole family!

All funds from the Friends' activities go directly to support the Abington Township Libraries

Come aboard now!

- W. O. "Bill" Tinsman, President, The Friends of Abington Township's Public Libraries

Abington Free Library

1030 Old York Road, Abington, 19001
215-885-5180, abingtonfreelibrary.org

Circulation Desk ext. 12
Information Desk ext. 13
Children's Department ext. 28
Executive Director ext. 14
Office ext. 15
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.
Closed Sundays in August.

Roslyn Branch Library

2412 Avondale Avenue, Roslyn, 19001
215-886-9818 abingtonfreelibrary.org

Hours

Mon, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Tues, Thurs & Fri, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Roslyn Branch is closed on Wednesdays and Sundays.

The Ab Lib Behind-the-Scenes Staff

Nancy Hammeke Marshall - *Editor-in-Chief*
Karen Burnham - *Editor/Gadfly*
Cathy Kress - *Copy Editor*

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Staff Spotlight – Lois Odabas

"I thought libraries were heaven," Lois Odabas says, recalling her childhood days, climbing the creaky stairs up to the children's room at Jenkintown Library.

"The sense of anticipation ... what books am I going to find?"

To her mind, she found treasure, whether it was "The Saturdays" by Elizabeth Enright" or the latest adventure of the Borrowers.

Lois loves books – and it's a good thing for the Abington libraries that she didn't always return them on time. How she made her way to her current job as library computer maven is a story in itself.

In the fall of 1995, Lois, then a single mom with two sons, found herself driving along Old York Road looking for work. She had tried Elkins Park Library, Zany Brainy and the old Hechinger's hardware store. In Hechinger's parking lot, she noticed a library book in the back seat. She remembers it clearly: "Dave Barry's Complete Guide to Guys." She also remembers that it was overdue.

Lois decided to stop at the library and pay the fine (\$1.05, she recalls). While waiting in line she saw a help wanted sign, which said to "see Mrs. Seese," a.k.a. Pat Seese, head of circulation.

"I asked for Mrs. Seese – and the rest is history," said Lois. "My whole entire life changed."

Lois started working at the circulation desk, and eventually became the library's "MAC" (MCLINC automation coordinator). Her territory, along with work in reference and circulation, includes "all the hardware and all the software in the library – and all the printers."

An accomplished writer, Lois earned a degree in English literature from Temple University and will graduate in May from Clarion University of Pennsylvania with a master's in library science. She is grateful for "a very generous township policy" that provides tuition reimbursement.

So yes, libraries have been good to Lois Odabas. She jokes that she found her husband, Ihsan, a carpenter, through interlibrary loan. (She met him through Susan Cohen, who handles ILL at the library.) The two were married in 1997 and have a daughter, Leyla, the third of her "awesome kids."

One of Lois' favorite library moments involves a French woman who came in once a week to learn English through the literacy program. One night Lois saw her talking with two people, and she assumed they were the French woman's tutors.

"When I passed the table, I realized that she was teaching them French!" Lois recalled with a smile. "She was no longer an outsider needing help, she was part of the community, giving help."

Community is important to Lois, who grew up in the township. Her lifelong love of the Middle East took her to Egypt, where she lived from 1981-84, but she's lived in Abington ever since. She has found that working in your hometown does have its pleasures.

"I like seeing my neighbors," she said. "I like being known as the library lady in the supermarket."

– Cathy Kress