Volunteer Spotlight - Richard Scofield

Some people have to be dragged into the spotlight. When asked to be the subject for this article, Richard insisted, “You don’t have to write anything about me!” But when told that telling his story could benefit the Library, his eyes lit up and he said, “Well, then in that case, okay.” When asked her opinion of him, Pat Seese, head of Circulation, exclaimed, “Oh, you never see Richard! He just comes and he works! He's a pleasant, steady worker!” T.R. Seiler, also of the Circulation Department added, “Richard is absolutely great!”

Born in Philadelphia and proud of his Scottish heritage, Richard enjoyed studying history among other subjects taught at the newly opened John Bartram High School. He went on to The University of Pennsylvania to study accounting, and, as his generation did, he served in the armed forces. He was in the Army in General Headquarters from 1943-1946. “I was lucky, I didn’t see any action.” But he did see California, Alabama, Oklahoma and the Philippines. After the Army, Richard worked for the Otis Elevator Company, then Sunoco Gas Station which led him to own his own tire business, aptly called, Richard’s Tire Company, in Feasterville. He was able to retire when he sold it to AAMCO Transmissions, which still runs it today.

Richard was married to his high school sweetheart, his first-mate, Elizabeth, for 60 years until her passing three years ago.

He fondly recalls how often they asked each other, “Well, what do you think?” Richard proudly talks about their two daughters: Linda who still lives locally and Karen in Northern New Jersey.

Richard had always been a frequent Abington Library user, so the idea to volunteer here was just a short hop. For the past two years he has come in every Monday and Wednesday morning, and gone directly to the grid behind the Circulation Desk where the returned books wait to be shelved. “People take 'em out and I put 'em back.” Richard announces proudly, “Mystery, Biography, Art - whatever needs to be put back. They're all numbered, so it's an easy job, but somebody's got to do it!”

Richard can also be seen every Friday volunteering at Abington Hospital, looking very sharp in his red volunteer’s jacket. He gets a kick out of music, particularly Irish bal- ladeer, Daniel O’Donnell.

As you see, Richard is generous with his time and quietly does his part to make sure the job gets done. But we can’t help but shout-out his fine qualities.

- Karen Burnham
BOOK CLUBS AND READERS ADVISORY TIPS
We are often asked for suggestions for book clubs or ideas for that next good read. Here are some tips you can use on your own. Please also stop by or call us at the Information Desk.

The Abington Free Library offers two discussion groups that meet right here. Please let us know if you would like to participate in one of our events. Call 215-885-5180, ext. 13, to confirm dates or sign up.

- The Daytime Book Discussion Group meets the first Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. The Daytime Book Discussion Group also lists their book selections on our website.
- Take a look at what the Ruth R. Abel Memorial Book and Film Discussion Group is reading. Books, movies and more are selected by our discussion leader, Edward Pettit. Join a discussion on a Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- We also offer several print and online resources that can help you in your quest for further reading.

PRINT REFERENCE RESOURCES:
- Contemporary Popular Writers edited by Dave Mote: REF 809.3 CON 1997
- Good Fiction Guide edited by Jane Rogers: REF 809.3 GOO
- The Salon.com Readers Guide to Contemporary Authors edited by Laura Miller with Adam Begley: REF 809.04 SAL 2000
- Fiction and Non-Fiction Reading lists prepared by Abington librarians (also available through our website http://abingtonfreelibrary.org)

The Vertical File contains resources from Reading Group Choices, which annually publishes Reading Group Choices: Selections for Lively Book Discussion.

ONLINE REFERENCE RESOURCES (AVAILABLE THROUGH OUR WEBSITE AT ABINGTONFREELIBRARY.ORG; LIBRARY CARD REQUIRED)
- Bloom's Literary Reference Online A great source for literary criticism. Authors, works, literary topics and themes, and timelines (chronology of events in world literature) are all searchable through Bloom's Online.
- Books and Authors You can search this database in the library or from home (if you are a resident of Abington). Not sure what to read next? Find award-winners or browse by genre. Want to read reviews of a title of interest? Books and Authors is for students, book clubs and readers of all ages.
- NovelistPlus This database, available through the PowerLibrary, contains over 200,000 fiction and non-fiction titles for all ages. You will also find over 400 annotated book lists on high-interest topics, book talks for older kids and teens, and Book Discussion Guides that will provide everything you need to ensure lively book club meetings or classroom discussions.
- ACQWEB's Directory of Book Reviews on the Web: http://www.acqweb.org/bookrev.html (No library card required.)

Roslyn Branch Library
For more information call 215-886-9818, go to abingtonfreelibrary.org/Roslyn, or visit 2412 Avondale Avenue, Roslyn, PA 19001

PAJAMA PARTIES FOR AGES 3-6
Monday, Jan 12, Feb 9 and March 16
6:30-7 p.m.
Registration begins March 17.
Please register for each program separately.
Stories, songs, fingerplays and crafts
Children are invited to wear their pajamas and bring a stuffed animal to cuddle.

WINTER STORY TIMES
begin Jan 28 and continue through March 13.
Mondays at 1:30 p.m. for ages 3-6.
Thursdays at 11 a.m. for ages 2-3.
Registration begins Jan 7.
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.

DR. SEUSS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION*
Join us on Feb 23 for a fantastic celebration!
Stories, crafts and refreshments.
6-6:30 - Ages 2-5
7-8:00 - Ages 6-12
Registration begins Feb 4.
Call or visit the Roslyn Branch Library to sign up.
*Dr. Seuss's actual birthday is March 2!

Enjoy an evening of Irish culture and dance with the TIMONEY IRISH DANCERS!
Learn Irish step and folk dancing.
Monday, March 9, 7-8 p.m.
For children K-6th grade
Refreshments
Registration begins Feb 16.
DROP-IN STORY TIMES (all ages)  
Every Thursday, 11-11:30 a.m.  (except Dec 25 and Jan 1)  
Led by Jenkintown Kiwanis Club members. No registration required. Children must be accompanied by parent/caregiver.

“FITNESS ’N FUN” (children ages 3-5 & parents/caregivers)  
Wednesday, Dec 17, 10:30-11:15 a.m.  
An introduction to yoga presented by the Aquatic & Fitness Center of Jenkintown. Registration begins Dec 8.

DOGGONE GOOD STORY TIMES (ages 3 & up)  
Three Mondays: Dec 29, Feb 16 & 23, 10:30-11 a.m.  
Enjoy stories with reader Karen Udell & her golden retriever, Mitzi. No registration required. Children must be accompanied by parent/caregiver.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIMES (ages 2-5)  
Winter story times begin week of Jan 5 and continue through week of Feb 9.

Two-year-olds: Tuesdays, 10:15-11 a.m.  
Registration begins Dec 15.

Three-, four- and five-year-olds: Mondays, 10:30-11 a.m.  
No registration required.

PRESCHOOL PAJAMA PARTIES (ages 3-5)  
Four Wednesdays: Jan 14, Feb 11, March 11, April 8, 7-7:30 p.m.  
Wear PJs & bring a stuffed animal to these evening story times. No registration required. Children must be accompanied by parent/caregiver.

FAMILY SQUARE DANCE NIGHT (ages 8 & up)  
Thursday, Jan 15, 7-8 p.m.  
Square dance demonstration with audience participation. Children must be appropriate age to attend. Registration begins Jan 5.

TODDLER STORY TIMES  
(ages 12-23 months & parents/caregivers)

Session I:  
Three Wednesdays: Jan 28, Feb 4 & 11, 10:30-11 a.m.  
Registration begins Jan 19 (Abington residents); Jan 23 (out-of-township residents).

Session II:  
Five Wednesdays: March 4, 11, 18, 25 & April 1, 10:30-11 a.m.  
Registration begins Feb 23 (Abington Township residents); Feb 27 (out-of-township residents).

“RAISING AN AVID READER” WORKSHOP  
Thursday, Jan 29, 7-8 p.m.  
Parents: Learn techniques to develop your four- or five-year-old child's pre-reading skills. Registration begins Jan 12.

DOGGONE GOOD READERS (grades 1-5)  
Three Saturdays: Feb 7, March 7, & April 4, 10:15-10:45 OR 11-11:30 a.m.  
Children practice reading aloud to licensed therapy dogs. Registration begins Jan 12.

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD PROGRAM  
(homeschoolers in grades 3-9)  
Tuesday, Feb 10, 2-3 p.m.  
Explore African-Americans’ freedom struggle before the Civil War. Registration begins Jan 26.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN 200th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION  
(ages 8 & up)  
Thursday, Feb 12, 7-8 p.m.  
Celebrate the people and influences that shaped the life of our 16th President. Registration begins Feb 2.

K’NEX FAMILY FUN NIGHT (Younger group: Ages 3-5)  
Tuesday, Feb 24, 6:30-7:15 p.m.  
Build “Very Hungry Caterpillars” using child-safe Kids’ K’NEX. Space limited to 30 children attending with parents/caregivers. Registration begins Feb 16.

K’NEX FAMILY FUN NIGHT (Older group: Ages 6 and up)  
Thursday, March 12, 7-8:15 p.m.  
Build a K’NEX seesaw, helicopter & more. Space limited to 30 children; one adult may attend per family. Registration begins March 2.

Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World by Vicki Myron, an inspiring book about a cat in Iowa, saved by librarians, has been discussed on American television and featured in films and articles all over the world. Folks in the library business were thrilled by this book’s popularity, as it discloses some of what library staff does. Librarians observe their population. They find national trends. They look for books, databases, websites, newspapers, magazines, etc. where their people can find solutions. So, in this internationally-known book, woven in the story of a saved cat who saves a town, is one librarians’ story of what libraries do for you.
TEEN KNITTING CLASS  
Saturdays, beginning Jan 17, 1-2 pm  
Grades 6-12. Adults welcome!  
All skill levels.  
Learn from the teacher.  
Knit lap blankets for an area nursing home.  
Just get together to knit.  
Share your expertise!  
Bring your friends!  

TEEN BREAD MAKING  
Saturday, Feb 7, from 2-3:30 p.m.  
Grades 6-12.  
Make – Take – Taste  
This will be a hands-on class. Each participant will bring his/her own bowl and utensils and make delicious whole-grain yeast bread. Learn techniques of making and kneading yeast bread. Take home rising bread to bake later. Sample hot bread at the end of class.  

TEENS WANTED:  
to create and lead programs for elementary age children. Possible ideas include skits, games, journaling, creative writing, etc. You will be awarded service hours for your time.  
Roslyn Branch Library, 2412 Avondale Avenue, Roslyn, PA 19001, 215-886-9818

Ever wanted to learn to play chess or improve your game?  
YOUNG ADULTS CHESS  
Fridays, 3:30-5 p.m.  
Grades 6-12. Adults welcome!  
For experienced and beginning players  
Instruction, Tournaments, something to do Friday afternoons,  
Meet new friends., exercise your brain.  

Wwii Lecture Series  
Every 3rd Tuesday @ 3 & 7 p.m.  
Dec 16 - Gordon Myers of Levittown, PA - GI Carmen and the 63rd Infantry Division  
Jan 20 - Fernande Davis of Gwynedd, PA - Girl in the Belgian Resistance: A Watchful Eye in the Underground  
Feb 17 - George Stiftinger – 8th Airforce in World War II  

Daytime Book Discussion Group  
Every 1st Thursday @ 1 p.m.  
Jan 8 - Angels and Insects by A.S. Byatt  
Feb 5 - Those Who Save Us by Jenna Blum  
March 5 - The Mayflower by Nathaniel Philbrick  
No registration required. Walk-ins welcome!

Old York Road Genealogical Society  
Every 2nd Tuesday, from 7-8:45 p.m.  
Jan 13 - Entire Club – Show and Tell. Look What I Found!  
Feb 10 - Climbing Brick Walls: The Elusive Ancestor  
March 10 - The Lighter Side of Genealogy

Socrates Café  
Every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 10:30 - noon  
Every 4th Friday of the month 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!

The Ruth R. Abel Memorial Book and Film Discussion Group  
Edward Pettit is our discussion leader.  
Wednesdays at 7 pm  
TBA. Watch for dates in March and April.

An Afternoon with George Guidall: The Art and Artifice of AudioBook Narration  
Sunday, April 19

Recipient of two Audie Awards and more than 50 Ear Phone Awards, Mr. Guidall will read from some of his 900+ books he has recorded and tell us of the process, preparation and performance decisions that have made him a favorite.

Adult Literacy Events  
For more information, call Rob Naborn at 215-885-5183, email AbLit1@yahoo.com, or visit the Literacy Program Office, Abington Free Library, Lower Level.

Our Adult Literacy Program is dedicated to enhancing English-speaking abilities for foreign-born students and reading and math skills for anyone who needs help.  
You can become a tutor at any time. Call 215 885 5183 or e-mail AbLit1@yahoo.com to find out more.  
A special training for new and prospective tutors will be held in March. Please tell all your friends and relatives who may be interested about this!

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

The Friends hold their meetings in the Community Room in the lower level of Abington Free Library. We’ll meet on the following Saturday mornings at 9:30: Feb 21 and May 16. The annual meeting, our Picnic in the Park, will be June 8, 5:45 p.m., at Alverthorpe Park.

Winter Activities:
· Design-a-Bookmark Contest for children grades K-12

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE FRIENDS:
· Donate books, movies, audiobooks, music and current textbooks.
· Volunteer at the BookCellar or help with Friends’ activities.
· Become a member.

So how much does your library save you? We’ve put a Personal Savings Calculator on our website, courtesy of the Maine State Library, which created it and allows other libraries to adapt and use it. As you type in the number of library items you use in a month, you can see your total savings go up.

So pile up the DVDs, music, and books; go online to the databases and suggested websites and use the calculator to see how much the Library saves you.

- Miss Ellanie

Thank You to Our Recent Significant Donors

Andrew Allen Charitable Trust
Mr. and Mrs. Arlin Adams
Concordia Lodge
Judith and Charles Freyer

Rotary Club of Jenkintown
Rebecca and Arnold Shapiro
David and Gabrielle Sellei Sinkway

News & Views of the Friends of Abington Libraries

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 our books, movies and music are for sale at bargain prices!

BOOKCELLAR hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, noon-4 p.m.; Wednesday, noon-8:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Donations are gratefully accepted daily at the Circulation Desk.

All proceeds from the Friends’ activities go directly to support the township libraries.

- Lydia Parke, president,
The Friends of the Abington Township Public Libraries
Bill Boone was born in Philadelphia and went to school in West Philadelphia. He earned a degree from Philadelphia College of Art. In 1992 he made his way to Wyndmoor in order to be closer to his job. Bill worked at Merck & Company in West Point, Pa. for 32 years.

After retirement Bill found he had way too much free time and used it to spend way too much money. He decided to find a part-time job as a way to have less free time and a little more money, and we’re glad he did! He came to the Abington Free Library in 1996 and has been spending two nights a week and one Sunday a month here since.

If you stand back and watch Bill at the Circulation Desk, you might notice two things: first, he seems to know everybody who comes into the library, and if he doesn’t know you by name, he’ll still greet you with a warm “Hello” and “How are you?” Second, if there’s a little break in the action and no one is in line to check out, he’ll pick up a piece of scrap paper and start to sketch.

Art is one of Bill’s passions. He especially likes to paint watercolors. He attends two arts classes each week in Philadelphia, one at the Academy of Fine Arts and the other at the Philadelphia Sketch Club. As a matter of fact, we have one of his sketches as a screen saver on one of our circulation desk computers. He’s very talented!

He’s also very active. After a heart attack in 1984 and bypass surgery in 2000, Bill is dedicated to keeping healthy. He attends exercise classes at the Abington Fitness Center three times a week and is now the picture of health!

We’re so happy that Bill’s path led him to the Abington Free Library. We hope he’ll be our “official greeter” for many, many years to come!

- Trudy McDonald-Egitto