

From the Director's Desk - The Abington Township Public Library Statement of Core Values



The Core Values of the Abington Township Public Library ("ATPL") represent the Library's highest priorities and its deeply held driving forces. The Library cultivates a community of its patrons, friends, supporters, staff and volunteers who equally aspire to realize and work by these values in their association with the Library, and, in so doing, advance these valuable qualities.

GROWTH - ATPL recognizes and adapts to changes afforded by new technology, changing demographics of the community it serves, and the diverse demands placed on it by a community eager to enjoy support for young learners and the resources for lifelong learning opportunities of the Library. The Library welcomes the challenge to meet these changes with standards of excellence, flexibility, imagination, enthusiasm and responsiveness.

An appreciation for sustained, continual learning and curiosity typifies both ATPL and its patrons, friends, supporters, staff and volunteers, all of whom are readers or, in a broader sense, users of information aspiring to greater knowledge, awareness, and the inspiration provided by personal achievement.

COMMUNITY - ATPL considers its patrons, friends, supporters, staff and volunteers a close-knit family of lovers of literature and information, all of whom work together to advance the Library's varied pur-

poses, such as: serving as the Township's "living room," providing all comers with access to a wide range of information and opportunities for study, and offering the Library's services and opportunities to those with diverse language and physical needs.

WELCOMING - ATPL is an enjoyable place to read, study, and work in a facility that is accessible to all while providing a current book collection and up-to-date technology. The Library staff strives to serve its community with enthusiasm, thoroughness and hospitality. Both indoor and outdoor space is maintained to be conducive to safe and accessible use of the Library.

STEWARDSHIP - ATPL is a steward of information for patrons, communities and organizations that need universal and equitable access to information, ideas and works of imagination for their social, educational, cultural, democratic and economic well-being. ATPL is an open and accessible source of information for its community, serving the information and research needs of its patrons with unsurpassed service.

INTEGRITY - ATPL serves the needs and demands of its community with commitment, integrity and excellence while supporting the concept of intellectual freedom. The Library stands by its conviction that delivery of high-quality service and information benefits the greater good. It is proud of the reputation it has earned and strives to hold itself to the high standards that our users have come to expect.



- Nancy Hammeke Marshall

Volunteer Spotlight - Barbel Tinsman

Barbel was born in East Prussia, on the edge of the Baltic Sea, during World War II. After the war, she became one of hundreds of thousands of refugees, fleeing her homeland as it was absorbed into the Soviet Union.

Her parents found refuge in West Germany, where Barbel attended school until the fourth grade. When she was 10, a relative sponsored them to come to the United States. She arrived and was sent to Southampton Elementary School not speaking a word of English. She remembers her first book was Ted and Sally, and she didn't know what a "Ted" was, nor a "Sally."

Barbel persevered, however, and learned to speak perfect English. After high school, she got a job working at a publishing company in Germantown. Every day she would take the train to Wayne Junction and then a bus to Fortress Publishing. One day a cheeky young man several rows away passed her a note, asking for her name. She started laughing so hard, she missed her bus. As fate would have it, one of her girlfriends scribbled her name on the note and dropped it back in the young man's lap.

Before long, he'd found her in the phone book and called, offering her a lift into work. Her mother said, "Don't you dare get off that train to meet him." And she really was planning to take her mother's advice, right up until the train pulled into Glenside station. And then she got off.

Barbel and Bill Tinsman were married two and half years later. Their two children, Leah and Aaron, were born on the same day, five years apart, which did not actually make celebrating birthdays any easier.

She went back to work to help put the children through college, first at the Fox Chase Cancer Center and then, for 20 years, at Prudential.

While at Prudential, she took evening courses at Montgomery County Community College. When she retired in 2002, she was on the management team working with the law department. While at Prudential, Barbel got involved with one of her favorite causes, the Linus Project, which provides hand-crocheted and hand-knit "blankies" for sick children.

Even while she was still working, Bill urged Barbel to volunteer with the Friends of the Abington Library. She started out a few hours a week, but in 2005, she was asked to be the treasurer of the Friends. In 2007, Barbel realized that the Friends could sell many of their books on Amazon.com. Since then, internet sales alone have accounted for \$17,159.50 in funds raised and donated to the library.

Every day, Barbel comes into the library, sorts through the donations, checks her Amazon account, packs up books and ships them out. She also helps with the jewelry auction, as well as keeping the books for the Friends.

It's a lot of work, but Barbel has found, in the course of a very interesting life, that helping out makes her happiest.

She also finds happiness in her grandchildren, who are properly situated at the center of her universe, and in her garden.

She loves to travel, and has been as far west as the Grand Canyon, but she says she has never returned to Europe, for fear she'd be tempted to stay.



- Lois Odabas





Reference Department News

For more information call 215-885-5180, ext. 13 or go to abingtonfreelibrary.org/information



If you're curious about what the Library has to offer online, come join us for one or two sessions: March 11 from 3 to 4 p.m. and April 7 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

We have exciting news in Reference: We are offering three new online resources!

Mango Languages allows you to learn



a new language while you are online. All you need is your Abington library card. Go to our website at <http://abingtonfreelibrary.org> and click on Mango Languages. You can choose to log in with a username and password so that the software will remember where you are in the lesson, or you can enter your library card number as an anonymous user. The languages offered include: Japanese, French, German, Italian, Greek, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and more.

If you are foreign-born and wish to learn English, Mango Languages also offers English as a Second Language (ESL) for Brazilian Portuguese, Polish and Spanish.



Gale Pennsylvania Legal Forms is also available with your Abington library card. This resource offers thousands of free legal forms online to library patrons, with more forms added daily. The forms include those drafted by attorneys for a particular legal matter, forms from public records and participating companies and attorneys. Please note that Gale includes a disclaimer that public users should consult an attorney in Pennsylvania for serious legal matters.

Small Business Resource

Gale Small Business Resource is available with your Abington library card as well. The Small Business Resource Center offers users a combination of periodicals and reference content (full text of reference and book materials). Subjects covered range from conducting industry research to financial planning, to marketing a product and franchising a business.

Please stop by or call us (215-885-5180, ext. 13) at the Information Desk to find out more about these resources.



- Mimi Satterthwaite

Roslyn Branch Library

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

BABY DAYS

Ages 8 months-2 years
Tuesdays: 11 a.m.



March 26, April 2, 7, 14, 21, 28 and May 5
Babies and caregivers will sing songs, read stories and do finger plays. Registration begins March 4.

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAMS

Mondays: 7-8 p.m.
March 30 – "Gardening for Planet Earth: 10 Ways You Can Make a Difference," with Marc Radell
April 6 – "Gardening Tips and Tricks: A Show & Tell," with Kathy Klein
April 27 – "Tune Up Your Garden for Spring," with Connie Damon
All of the presenters are Penn State Master Gardener volunteers. Registration begins March 9.

SPRING STORY TIMES

begin April 13 and continue through June 4.
Mondays at 1:30 p.m. for ages 3-6.
Thursdays at 11 a.m. for ages 2-3.
Registration begins March 23.
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.

PAJAMA PARTIES

Ages 3-6
Mondays: April 20, May 18 and June 8, from 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 March 30.

GENE GALLIGAN & FRIENDS PUPPET SHOW

Ages 3 and up
Join Gene and his puppet pals for two fun-filled musical performances in honor of National Library Week (April 12-18).

Roslyn Branch Library:
Monday, April 13, 6:30-7:15 p.m.
2412 Avondale Ave., Roslyn
215-886-9818

Abington Free Library:
Tuesday, April 14, 7-7:45 p.m.
1050 Old York Road, Abington
215-885-5180, ext. 28

Registration for both shows begins Monday, March 30.



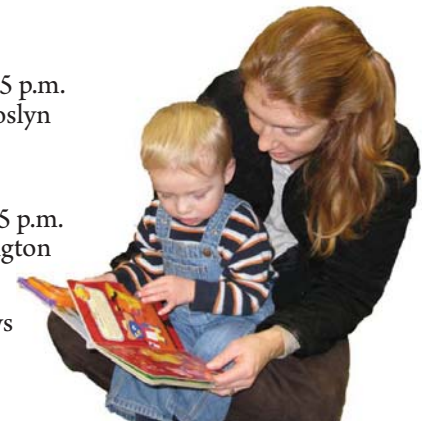
THE MAGICAL WORLD OF READING SHOW

All ages
Celebrate Children's Book Week (May 11-17) with two exciting, interactive magic shows presented by The Magical Illusions of Kyle and Kelly.

Roslyn Branch Library:
Monday, May 11, 6:30-7:15 p.m.
2412 Avondale Avenue, Roslyn
215-886-9818

Abington Free Library:
Wednesday, May 13, 7-7:45 p.m.
1050 Old York Road, Abington
215-885-5180, ext. 28

Registration for both shows begins Monday, April 27.



Children's Department at Abington Free Library

For more information or to register for these FREE programs, call 215-885-5180, ext. 28, or go to abingtonfreelibrary.org/childrens. All programs held in the Library's Community Room, Lower Level, unless otherwise noted.

DROP-IN STORY TIMES FOR CAREGIVERS AND CHILDREN

All ages

Thursdays: 11-11:30 a.m., through May 21

These 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.

No registration required.

Children must be accompanied by parent/caregiver.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIMES

Ages 2-5

Story times begin the week of March 2 and continue through the week of April 6.

2-YEAR-OLDS

Tuesdays: 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Parents/caregivers attend this lapsit program with their children.

Registration required.

3-, 4- and 5-YEAR-OLDS

Mondays: 10:30-11 a.m.

No registration required.

TODDLER STORY TIMES

Ages 12-23 months and parents/caregivers

Wednesdays: March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1, 10:30-11 a.m.

Registration required.

DOGGONE GOOD READERS

Grades 1-5

Saturdays: March 7 and April 4, 10:15-10:45 OR 11-11:30 a.m.

Children practice reading aloud to licensed therapy dogs.

Sessions are full - taking names for waiting list only.

PRESCHOOL PAJAMA PARTIES

Ages 3-5

Wednesdays: March 11 and April 8, 7-7:30 p.m.

Wear PJs and bring a stuffed animal to these evening story times.

No registration required.

Children must be accompanied by parent/caregiver.

K'NEX FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Ages 6 and up

Thursday, March 12, 7-8:15 p.m.

Build a K'NEX seesaw, helicopter and more. Space limited to 30 children; one adult may attend per family. Registration begins March 2.

GENE GALLIGAN & FRIENDS PUPPET SHOW

Ages 3 and up

Join Gene and his puppet pals for two fun-filled musical performances in honor of National Library Week (April 12-18).

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2412 Avondale Ave., Roslyn, 215-886-9818

Abington Free Library:

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1050 Old York Road, Abington, 215-885-5180, ext. 28

Registration for both shows begins Monday, March 30.

DOGGONE GOOD STORY TIMES

Ages 3 and up

Mondays: April 13, 20, 27 and May 4, 10:30-11 a.m.

Enjoy stories with reader Karen Udell and her golden retriever, Mitzi, a certified therapy dog.

No registration required.

Children must be accompanied by parent/caregiver.

WORLD'S MOST WANTED

Wednesday, April 22, 1-2 p.m.

For homeschoolers in grades 3 and up.

A Briar Bush Nature Center educator will discuss endangered animals and the impact of humans on their survival. Space is limited to 30 children attending with parents.

Registration begins April 8.

LEARN TO SAVE MONEY WITH LESS THAN ZERO

Ages 6-10

Tuesday, April 28, 7-7:45 p.m.

Program will combine financial education with reading skills to teach importance of saving money. Presented by representatives from the non-profit Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Delaware Valley. Space is limited to 40 children attending with parents. Registration begins Monday, April 13.

THE MAGICAL WORLD OF READING SHOW

All ages

Celebrate Children's Book Week (May 11-17) with two exciting, interactive magic shows presented by The Magical Illusions of Kyle and Kelly.

Roslyn Branch Library:

Monday, May 11, 6:30-7:15 p.m.

2412 Avondale Avenue, Roslyn

215-886-9818

Abington Free Library:

Wednesday, May 13, 7-7:45 p.m.

1050 Old York Road, Abington

215-885-5180, ext. 28

Registration for both shows begins Monday, April 27.

SCIENCE IN THE SUMMER

Monday, June 22-Thursday, June 25

Four-day chemistry class for Abington Township children who have completed grades 1-5. Morning and afternoon sessions are available; parents may enter their children in the registration lottery by filling out a form in the Children's Department on May 18-31. Participants will be selected and notified in early June.

COMING THIS SUMMER:
"Be Creative @ Your Library"
A fabulous summer reading program celebrating the arts!
Details will be announced later this spring.



Teen Programs at Abington Free Library

To register for these FREE programs, stop by the Information Desk, call 215-885-5180, ext. 13 or go to the library website, abingtonfreelibrary.org.

DESIGN-A-BOOKMARK CONTEST!

Kindergarten through 12th grade

Your drawing must illustrate one of the following themes:

Worlds connect @ your library (the 2009 National Library Week theme)

OR

Why your library is important to you.

Find out more on the entry forms, which you can download from the website: abingtonfreelibrary.org.



TEEN LINE DANCING

Grades 6-12

Three Fridays: March 6-20, 7-8 p.m.

Bring your friends. Meet new friends.

Learn a new dance! Enjoy a dance you know!

Exercise that's fun

Adults welcome.

TEEN CHESS

Fridays: 3:30-5 p.m.

Ever wanted to learn to play chess or improve your game?

Beginner and advanced players welcome.

Experienced players can earn service learning hours.

Tournaments

Something to do Friday afternoons

Exercise your brain.

TEEN KNITTING CLASS

Saturdays: 1-2 p.m.

All skill levels

Learn from the teacher.

Knit lap blankets for an area nursing home.

Just get together to knit.

Share your expertise.



Check the website and flyers for future Teen Journaling.

Adult Programs at Abington Free Library

To register for these FREE programs, visit 1030 Old York Road, Abington, call 215-885-5180, ext. 15, or go to abingtonfreelibrary.org

FOLK GUITAR WORKSHOP SERIES

Mondays: March 16, 30, April 13, 27, May 11, 18 at 7 p.m.

For age 15 and up. Instructor Rich Kaufman will bring some guitars to lessons.

Register for this free event

WWII LECTURE SERIES

Every third Tuesday at 3 and 7 p.m.

March 17 - Rob Naborn will discuss a book he recently translated, Criminal Case 40/61: The Trial of Adolf Eichmann by Harry Mulisch. Register for this free event.

A JOURNEY WITH ANGEL GUIDES

Tuesday, March 31, at 7 p.m.

Do angels or "unseen friends" guide us through our everyday lives?

Register for this free event.

DAYTIME BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Every first Thursday at 1 p.m.

April 2 - The Falls by Joyce Carol Oates

May 7 - Planning Meeting

June 4 - The Prodigal Summer by Barbara Kingsolver

No registration required. Walk-ins welcome!

Friends' Event!

MEET

BERNIE CHAVIS
on March 29,
at 2:30 p.m., author
of The Games of
Tennis: An African
American Journey.

OLD YORK ROAD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

April 14 - At Williamson Restaurant. Mills of the Pennypack

May 12 - Influenza

June 9 - Early land records

No registration required. Walk-ins welcome!

THE RUTH R. ABEL MEMORIAL

BOOK AND FILM DISCUSSION GROUP

Will resume in April. Edward Pettit is our discussion leader.

AN AFTERNOON WITH GEORGE GUIDALL:

The Art and Artifice of Audiobook Narration

Sunday, April 19, at 2:30 p.m.

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.

Register for this free event.

SOCRATES CAFÉ

Every second Wednesday of the month from 10:30-noon

Every fourth Friday of the month from 7-8:30 p.m.

Giving Philosophy Back to the People.

No registration required. Walk-ins welcome!

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.

The whole year round, the Adult Literacy Program is buzzing with activities to help people improve their reading, math and/or English skills.

In addition to our classes (Conversation Please! on Monday nights and Tuesday mornings, Idioms and Usage in Conversation on Wednesdays), we offer one-on-one tutoring during Library hours for basic education (reading, math), GED, and English as a Second Language. We also offer an on-site workplace class on Tuesdays, and a Family Literacy component in a Head Start classroom once a week.

We have about 100 tutors in our program, who typically meet with their student for one to four hours a week. Students interested in our program always outnumber our tutors. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a tutor, please contact us. We offer training for new tutors on March 23 and 25, in the evening.

You can contact us by e-mail (AbLit1@yahoo.com) or by phone (215-885-5183).



- Rob Naborn

Abington's Favorite Computer Icon

Considering the number of "hits" Abington Free Library receives daily, whether it is questions about our programs or bestsellers or electronic requests for reserves, some of us who work here sometimes wonder if we are an icon on computer screens, right up there with the blue "E" for Internet Explorer.

Our statistics show a dramatic increase from the time we renovated in 1999. The number of reserves reached 90,000 items in 2008, check-outs are up by 62%, and patronage is up by 26%.

The one constant in the last 10 years is the staff here at the library.

The first department patrons encounter as they step through the door is Circulation, ably run by Pat Seese. People may think all we do is either check items in, or check them out. Think again. Circus jugglers are given praise when they keep aloft three to four items, adroitly catching



and releasing whatever comes to hand. Oh, if they only knew about our Circulation staff! In the space of 15 minutes one staff member was observed checking out items for two patrons, answering the phone and directing those calls to the appropriate departments, assisting three people filling

Miss Ellanie



out applications for library cards, and entering those into the computer!

Yes, there are times the library is less hectic, but those days are few and far between and usually occur during blizzards or when the Phils are winning the World Series.

Because we are so busy we need stress relief. Three years running we performed in Glenside's Fourth of July parade, along with staff from other departments, as the Abington Free Library Precision Book Cart Drill Team. Our moves were enlightened, and we amazed the crowds lining the parade route. We hope to participate again, but age is starting to take its toll. You never know!

Halloween finds the staff dressing up for our adoring public. On Halloween 2007, many patrons found the cast of "Shampoo" working behind the desk. The facial expressions of the patrons ranged from mildly interested to utterly delighted. One particularly warm and fuzzy year found us in our PJs with curlers in our hair, slippers on our feet, and makeup smudged under our eyes. That elicited double takes!

While Internet use has impressively swelled our numbers, I think a more subtle reason for the crowds is the excellent, professional service the public receives from those of us lucky enough to work here. While computers are helpful, a machine is not going to combine needed information with a cheerful smile, or ask after a patron's family, or provide a word of kindness when the patron seems troubled. It's that little bit of "above and beyond" that makes the Abington Free Library such a special place to work.

 - Jackie Guyton


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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

The Friends hold their meetings in the Community Room in the lower level of Abington Free Library. Our next business meeting is May 16 at 9:30 a.m. The annual meeting, our Picnic in the Park, will be June 8 at 5:45 p.m., at Alverthorpe Park.

SPRING ACTIVITIES:

Design-a-Bookmark Contest for children grades K-12.
Entry deadline is March 20. 

MEET & GREET BERNIE CHAVIS on March 29 at 2:30 p.m. Mr. Chavis, a Meadowbrook resident, is the author of The Games of Tennis: An African American Journey.

Election Day Bake Sale – May 19

Picnic in the Park – Join us June 8 at the Pavilion at Alverthorpe for a pot luck supper. Bring a dish to share and a \$1 donation.

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE FRIENDS:

- Bake for our Election Day Bake Sale
- Donate books, movies, audiobooks, music and current textbooks.
- Volunteer at the BookCellar or help with Friends' activities.
- Become a member.

BOOKCELLAR – Please come by and browse through our extensive collection. New books arrive every day. 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!

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



The **AB LIB**

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US Postage Paid
Abington, PA
Permit No. 48

Abington Township Public Library Newsletter
abingtonfreelibrary.org Spring 2009 Vol. 8, No. 1

Happy retirement and good luck, Heidi Bardsley!
Thank you for 28 years of service to Abington Township Public Library!

Abington Free Library

1030 Old York Road, Abington, 19001
215-885-5180, abingtonfreelibrary.org
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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.
Closed Wednesdays
and Sundays.



The Ab Lib Behind-the-Scenes Staff

Nancy Hammeke Marshall
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Karen Burnham
Editor/Gadfly
Cathy Kress
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Staff Spotlight - Deanna Collins

When asked to write this article about my colleague, Deanna Collins, I agreed without hesitation because I consider myself privileged to have the opportunity to work with her at the Information Desk. To those of us who work the desk, Deanna is our rock. She is dependable, reliable and patient. She demonstrates a tenacity that few can match when it comes to researching reference questions. Deanna never gives up until she has satisfied the information needs and/or curious questions of our library patrons. She also oversees and schedules our library computer classes.

Deanna was born in California and moved about quite a bit in her childhood. Her father was in the service and the family spent time in Kansas before moving to Washington State, where Deanna was raised. She received her bachelor's degree in art education from Washington State University and her master's degree in library science from the University of Washington. In between degrees, she spent a year teaching art at a small high school in the eastern part of Washington State. She also worked in the high school library, and her work there inspired her to pursue a career in librarianship.

After marrying, Deanna and her husband moved east to Long Island, where Deanna worked in a public library. In the early 1990's they relocated to Bucks County, and Deanna found a

part-time job at the Doylestown Library. Then in 1996, much to our delight, she answered the call to work here at Abington. In 2007 Deanna and her husband moved to Elkins Park. She now relishes her substantially shortened commute. Deanna is blessed with two married children and three grandchildren, all of whom live in the greater Philadelphia area.

Deanna's hobbies include gardening, knitting, cooking and, of course, reading. She is currently reading Devil's Gate by David Roberts, a book about the Mormon pushcart migration to Salt Lake City. One of Deanna's ancestors participated in the migration and so the story is particularly meaningful to her. When asked what she likes most about her job as a librarian, Deanna mentioned the opportunity to learn new things about varied subjects every day. She also loves the Reference Department staff. I can assure you that that sentiment goes both ways – we love working with Deanna!



 - Rebecca Ritts