

From the Director's Desk

This is written with an ambitious agenda:

First, we are reaching out to remind you of the wonderful accomplishments and numerous services the Abington Free Library and Roslyn Branch have offered in this, our greatest year ever.

Second, we are asking you to continue investing in the uninterrupted success the Library has had in delivering first-rate services to the citizens of Abington – and beyond – as the No. 1 library in the MCLINC consortium.

Third, we must inform you about the foreboding storm clouds of funding shortfalls that loom over the Library, following the recent passage of the State budget.

If you have limited time to consider all this, but want to just look into your heart, reach into your wallet and reward the Library for an unprecedented year of first-rate work, by all means give, and give generously. For those of you who want to learn the full, exciting success story of your Library, read on.

We've set records over the past year for levels of patronage and delivery of services. Over 380,000 readers entered our doors to utilize books and magazines, to access the Internet, to revel in the quiet buzz of learning and share in the Library's unique sense of community. They've availed themselves of the direction and assistance our talented staff provides day in, day out throughout the year. The Board of Trustees firmly believes

no other library in the Commonwealth has a staff as well-trained, committed and effective as Abington's.

That super staff purchased materials and created programs with you in mind: Master Gardener lectures, pre-school education and story times, free lectures and discussion groups, Baby Days and World War II talks, all aimed at our diverse users who range from newborn to senior citizen, grade school and college students, parents, teachers, and life long learners. That brief litany does not come close to covering all that is done, for free, including our Adult Literacy Program, which makes a significant difference in hundreds of lives.

The most recent State budget has cut library funding dramatically, and the Library will be hard-pressed to continue to provide the same unprecedented level of services for which it is known. Therefore, your investment in and commitment to the library is essential to assure that important services are not cut. During these difficult financial times, people turn to libraries more than ever, finding a safe haven of opportunity for insight, education, discourse, intellectual growth, and a thriving community "living room."

Please invest, give, donate or bequeath, to the full extent of your capabilities. There is no other public entity that makes better use of your funds.

Thank you for your kind consideration and support.

- Garrett D. Page, Esq. *Trustee President*;
Kenneth A. Kind, *Trustee Co Vice-President*;
Nancy Hammeke Marshall, *Director*



Volunteer Spotlight - Norma Hurtado

One of the pleasures of my job as interviewer in chief for the Ab Lib is that I get to know so much about so many interesting people.

When I interviewed Norma Hurtado, my jaw almost dropped. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

Norma works as a volunteer in the children's department every Monday afternoon. Like so many of our volunteers, she shelves the books and checks the shelves for consistency. It's not glamorous work, but if the books aren't where they are supposed to be, the library may as well close. So, it's very important work.

I had never met Norma before. It turns out she's a slight elf of a woman, whose age I will not divulge, but I will say she looks 20 years younger than she is.

Norma grew up in Northwest Philadelphia, around 22nd and Allegheny. She didn't live far from Connie Mack Stadium, but baseball was not her interest.

She trained as a nurse at Germantown Hospital and when she graduated, she went to work there. She alternated between the E.R. and maternity, and this is where my jaw dropped. She was working in maternity the year I was born at Germantown Hospital. All these years later (but

we won't say how many), I was interviewing the woman who may well have given me my first bath.

She and her husband moved to Glenside in 1957; as a girl she had often visited her aunt in Glenside and had fallen in love with the area. Norma worked as a relief nurse at Abington Hospital while she raised her two sons and one daughter. She also worked for a few years as an industrial nurse for the Budd Company.

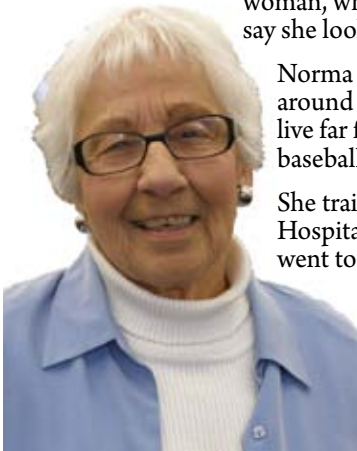
Eventually, Abington asked her to be the head nurse of the new emergency ward, a job that included getting the E.R. up and running. She was head nurse until 1974, when she went back to industrial nursing, or occupational health, first at Rohm and Haas and then at SPS. Amazingly, after all these years, she and her nurses still get together once a month for dinner. But if you get a chance to meet Norma, you'd want to go out to dinner with her too.

In her retirement, she stays busy with a charity started by her daughter, a retired teacher. It's called Kids School Cupboard, a small, local effort that uses money raised at a yearly yard sale to buy basic school supplies for kids at Copper Beech Elementary School.

Norma also enjoys her family, which has grown to include seven grandchildren. She notes that her extended family has plenty of nurses and doctors, but no lawyers.

In short, Norma is an amazing, energetic, caring and lovely lady, and we are so glad she decided to volunteer for the library.

- Lois Odabas





Reference Department News

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

OverDrive Audiobooks!

Do you like listen to books? Have you ever tried to download an audiobook from the library website? Here are a few things to know before you get started.

You can download to your PC, MP3 player, iPod or burn to CDs. Check the Overdrive website for a list of compatible devices: overdrive.com/resources/drc/.

The first time you use the program you will create an account using your library card number (the number under the barcode). You will also need to install the Overdrive Media Console, available at overdrive.com/software/omc/. Once this free software is installed on your computer you will be able to download books. Here are the most popular titles in Montgomery County:

- 1984 by George Orwell
- As Simple as Snow by Gregory Galloway
- The World is Flat (Updated and Expanded) by Thomas L. Friedman
- 1st to Die by James Patterson (Women's Murder Club Series, Book 1)
- 24 Hours by Greg Iles

Montgomery County residents can choose from over 3,700 titles. Most of these are available in WMA (Windows Media Audio) format. Slightly over 500 of these titles are available in iPod format.

SPECIAL EVENT - Richard Peck

Sunday, May 16, 3-5 p.m.

Richard Peck, award-winning author of books for children and young adults, will share his experiences with us at Abington Free Library. Registration begins April 5.

"I was born and brought up in Decatur, Illinois, the real Illinois a long way from Chicago. Back then, a boy knew when his adolescence was over. A notice to that effect came through the mail, from the draft board. And so I was a soldier in Germany, ghost-writing sermons for chaplains — my first writing job. I'd been a student in England too, and so I came of age in other countries.



Fiction bag sale

Looking for a great gift at bargain prices? Stop by and pick up some fiction books for \$5 a bag or 25 cents per book! The sale will run Dec. 1 through Jan. 4.

Looking forward to seeing you in the Library,
Mimi Satterthwaite and her staff

I live in one now, a third-world sort of island called Manhattan that knows very little about the real America, let alone the real Illinois.

Here in this exile I have reached the age of nostalgia....

I caught my first glimpses of the world and the future in books. Here in some other century I hope young readers still do."



- Richard Peck, 2001

Roslyn Branch Library

For information and to register for these programs, call 215-886-9818, or go to abingtonfreelibrary.org.

PAJAMA PARTIES

Ages 3-6

Mondays, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 15

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 Dec. 21.

Please register for each program separately.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC EXPRESS

Back by popular demand!

Monday, Jan. 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Children's Music Express welcomes families with children from birth to age 5 to share in a musical experience through playful expression, interactive activities and fun! You will be singing, dancing and playing a variety of rhythm instruments. Registration begins Jan. 4.

WINTER STORY TIMES

Feb. 1 through March 18

Ages 3-6: Mondays at 1:30 p.m.

Ages 2-3: Thursdays at 11 a.m.

This program is meant for the child and parent/caregiver to enjoy as a pair.

Registration begins Jan. 11.

DR. SEUSS BIRTHDAY* CELEBRATION

Join us on March 1 for a fantastic celebration!

Stories, crafts and refreshments.

Ages 2-5: 6-6:30 p.m.

Ages 6-12: 7-8 p.m.

Registration begins Feb. 8.

Call or visit the Roslyn

Branch Library to sign up.

*Dr. Seuss's actual birthday is March 2!

If you are unable to attend a program you have signed up for, kindly call the library in advance. This will allow others on the waiting list to attend, as well as prevent waste of craft materials.



Children's Department at Abington Free Library

For more information or to register for these FREE programs, call 215-885-5180, ext. 28 starting at 10 a.m., or go to abingtonfreelibrary.org/childrens.

All programs held in the Library's Community Room, Lower Level, unless otherwise noted.

WINTER PRESCHOOL STORY TIMES (ages 2-5)

Jan. 4 through Feb. 9

Registration begins Monday, Dec. 21, and is now required for all ages.

Two-year-olds meet on Tuesdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Three-, four- and five-year-olds meet on Mondays, 10:30-11 a.m.

DROP-IN STORY TIMES (all ages)

Led by Jenkintown Kiwanis Club volunteers, these story times will be held every Thursday at 11 a.m. through May 20. No registration is required; children must be accompanied by parent/caregiver.

PRESCHOOL PAJAMA PARTIES (ages 3-5)

Five Wednesdays:

Jan. 13, Feb. 10, March 10, April 14 and May 5, 7-7:30 p.m.

Wear PJs and bring a stuffed animal to cuddle during these evening story times. No registration is required; children must be accompanied by parent/caregiver.

TODDLER STORY TIMES (for ages 12-23 months)

Three Wednesdays: Jan. 27, Feb. 3 and 10, 10:30-11 a.m.

Children must be walking independently to attend this one-on-one program, designed for parent/caregiver and child.

Registration for Abington Township residents begins on Monday, Jan. 18; for out-of-township residents, on Friday, Jan. 22.

POLYMER CLAY WORKSHOP (grades 5-8)

Thursday, Jan. 21, 7-8 p.m.

Use brightly colored polymer clay to bend, sculpt and shape crazy creatures and creative characters. Your creation will be baked to a finish in a toaster oven during class. Registration begins on Monday, Dec. 28; call the Adult Information Desk at 215-885-5180, ext. 13, to register. Space is limited to 25 students.

STAR WARS PARTY (ages 5 and up)

Thursday, Jan. 28, 7-8 p.m.

The best party in the galaxy is back for those who could not attend our Oct. 27 event. Come dressed as your favorite character and join us for cool Star Wars games, trivia and refreshments. Early registration (for those on our Oct. 27 waiting list) begins Monday, Jan. 11.

General registration begins Thursday, Jan. 14.

Space is limited to 60 children and adults (one adult per family).

DOGGONE GOOD READERS (grades 1-5)

Three Saturdays: Feb. 6, March 6 and April 3

10:15-10:45 a.m. OR 11-11:30 a.m. (choose one session per date) Children practice reading aloud to certified therapy dogs in small groups. Registration begins Monday, Jan. 18. Children do not have to attend all three Saturdays.

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.



CHESS ANYONE?

Grades 6-12. Adults welcome!

Fridays, 3:45-5 p.m.

Lessons from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Please register for instructions. For experienced and beginning players.

Something to do Friday afternoons!

Meet new friends!

Exercise your brain!

POLYMER CLAY WORKSHOP

Grades 5-8

Thursday, Jan. 21, 7-8 p.m.

Use brightly colored polymer clay to bend, sculpt and shape crazy creatures and creative characters. Your creation will be baked to a finish in a toaster oven during class. Registration begins on Monday, Dec. 28. Call the Information Desk at 215-885-5180, ext. 13, to register. Space is limited to 25 students.

Adult Programs at Abington Free Library

To register for these FREE programs, visit the Library Office, call 215-885-5180, ext. 15, or go to abingtonfreelibrary.org

WWII LECTURE SERIES

Every third Tuesday of the month, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Want to help? Call Brandon at 856-296-9256 or email him at brandon.traister@us.army.mil.

Dec. 15 - Dr. David Burton, 84th Infantry Division in WWII

Jan. 19 - TBA

Feb. 16 - Robert Jawer, 5th Air Force in WWII

March 16 - TBA

VALENTINE'S DAY WITH ELLEN TEPPER, CELTIC HARPIST

Sunday, Feb. 14, 3-4:30 p.m.

With Celtic harp, Ellen Tepper will lead us through 500 years of love songs.

RUTH ABEL MEMORIAL BOOK AND FILM DISCUSSION GROUP

Resumes in March. Call or go online for details.

DAYTIME BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Every first Thursday of the month, 1 p.m.

Jan. 7 - Saturday by Ian McEwan, led by Betty Good

Feb. 4 - The House of Mirth by Edith Wharton, led by Judy Segal

March 4 - The Hour I First Believed, by Wally Lamb, led by Geri Tyler

OLD YORK ROAD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Every second Tuesday of the month, 7-8:45 p.m.

Jan 12 - TREASURES TELL TALES Show and Tell: family heirlooms, treasures and great finds from scrapbooks, toys, photos, bibles, clothing, etc.

Feb 9 - LOVE AND MARRIAGE - Betty Smith and Dottie Clark of the OYRGS tell how to find marriage documents in the maze of courthouses, church registers and family bibles.

March 9 - DON'T FORGET THE LADIES ... Finding and Identifying the Women in Your Past, with Carol M. Sheaffer, Nancy C. Nelson, Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania.

SOCRATES CAFÉ

Every second Wednesday of the month, 10:30 a.m.-noon

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

What is truth, justice, moderation? Any and every question!



FICTION BAG SALE!

Looking for a great gift at bargain prices? Stop by and pick up some fiction books for \$5 a bag or 25¢ per book! The sale will begin Dec. 1 and end Jan 4.



Who's that Baby?

The photos of babies (and a dog named "Frolic") on the next page are of your library staff at Abington Free Library and Roslyn Branch Library. Your job, should you choose to accept it, will be to guess who's who. There are some from every department, Reference, Circulation, Children's, Technical Services, Roslyn Branch Library, Adult Literacy, and the Library Office. Can you find your favorite staff member? Our director's in there, too. Can you spot her?

ANSWERS:
1. Lois Odabas, 2. Susan Cohen, 3. Jackie Guyton,
4. Nancy Hammeke Marshall, 5. Linda Jones, 6. Joy Fine,
7. Trudy McDonald-Egitt, 8. Andy Simpson, 9. Rob Naborn,
10. Marla Benjamin, 11. Celia Frankford, 12. Deanna Collins,
13. Mimi Satterthwaite, 14. Jeanne Zucker, 15. Sherrie Diamond,
16. Karen Burnham, 17. M. G. Snyder, 18. Susan Wu,
19. Dimitra Seiler Kohler

Adult Literacy Events



The Adult Literacy Program, a year-round program of volunteer tutoring, helps over 150 students each year to improve their reading, writing, and/or math skills. Some students get help preparing for their high school equivalent diploma or GED, and those whose native language is not English can attend conversation classes, in addition to meeting with a tutor one-on-one.

Training for new tutors is scheduled for March/April, and support meetings for all tutors are offered about once a month.

For additional information, please stop by the Adult Literacy office at Abington Free Library, on the lower level, across from the Children's Department.

You also can call Rob Naborn at 215-885-5183, or email AbLit1@yahoo.com.

Thank You to Our Recent Significant Donors

Karen Burnham
Friends of the Abington Township Public Library
Charles and Judith Freyer
Malcolm and Jean Hall

James and Susan Mayhall
NAMI
- The National Alliance on Mental Illness, Montgomery County
The William Penn Foundation



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.

We'll meet on the following Saturday mornings at 9:30:
Feb 20 and May 15.

The annual meeting, our Picnic in the Park, will be June 7, 5:45 p.m., at Alverthorpe Park.

Winter Activities:

Design-a-Bookmark Contest for children grades K-12
Details to come: Check at the Library or website:
abingtonfreelibrary.org.

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE FRIENDS:

- Donate books, movies, audiobooks, music and current textbooks.
- Donate jewelry and small collectibles.
- Volunteer at the Bookcellar or help with Friends' activities.
- Become a member.

NEW BOOKS ARRIVE EVERY DAY AT OUR BOOKCELLAR – Please come by and browse though 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!

BOOKCELLAR hours: 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

In This Issue: Overdrive Audiobooks, County Budget, Friends' News & Views Non Profit Org.
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Baby Pictures! Spotlights Abington, PA

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Fiction bag sale! Looking for a great gift at bargain prices?
Stop by and pick up some fiction books for \$5 a bag or 25 cents per book! The sale will run Dec. 1 through Jan. 4.

Abington Free Library

1030 Old York Road, Abington, 19001
215-885-5180, abingtonfreelibrary.org
Circulation Deskext. 12
Information Desk.....ext. 13
Children's Department...ext. 28
Executive Directorext. 14
Officeext. 15
Adult Literacyext. 27
Friends of the Libraryext. 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.
Closed Wednesdays
and Sundays.

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Staff Spotlight - T.R. Seiler

I have always been fond of that type of woman's voice one could characterize as "husky" (think Lauren Bacall, Suzanne Pleshette, Tallulah Bankhead), so it's not surprising that when I first encountered T.R. Seiler on the phone, I made a mental note of her name. At the time, around 2000, I worked at East Cheltenham Library, and I needed to call Abington fairly regularly. As often as not, T.R. would answer the phone and, with unfailing helpfulness, direct my call. Even so, it would be a couple years before we met in person.

T.R.'s parents emigrated from the Epirus region of Greece in 1920. The family story is that they came here on their honeymoon and never went back, eventually becoming American citizens. T.R., one of eight children, was raised in Philadelphia, and eventually lettered in four sports (badminton, volleyball, softball and basketball) at Germantown High.

As a newly single mother of a young daughter, T.R. worked at a variety of establishments, always in people-oriented, customer service capacities; these include Penn Fruit, several Food Fair stores, and the Glenside Post Office, from which she retired – after 28 years! – in 1996. When, in 1997, she began volunteering here at Abington Free Library, T.R.'s chief assignments were shelving videos and books. She was hired as an additional part-

timer in Circulation in 1998, and has been here ever since, filling in wherever and whenever needed. (Most of us can tell that T.R. is in the building by the seductive smell of coffee emanating from the staff room.) As has been the case throughout her working years, T.R.'s chief assignment is waiting on our patrons, but she also finds time to "read" shelves, chiefly in the fiction, mystery and science fiction areas. T.R. is also proud of her participation as a member of ATPL's Book Cart Drill Team from 2003-2006.

These days, T.R.'s main interests include reading (chiefly fiction, mysteries and biographies) and bowling. She is a Civil War buff, an ardent fan of the Gettysburg National Military Park, and she believes that ghosts still inhabit the Gettysburg battlefield. T.R. is the mother of Dimitra, ATPL's fiscal manager, and – with an enigmatic smile – indicates that the given names represented by the initials "T.R." will remain a secret known to few.

– Michael Rechel

