From the Director’s Desk

I’ve been a reader my whole life. One of my clearest early memories is visiting my prospective fourth-grade classroom with my mother to meet the teacher (Ben Franklin Elementary, Glen Ellyn, Ill.). The teacher had created a display of books available in the classroom, including Elizabeth Enright’s The Four-Story Mistake. I couldn’t wait to get my hands on it. I still remember the story, its prequel and sequel, and to this day I’ll recommend them to young readers.

Next to actually reading, I most love to talk about books: sharing titles, discussing plots, trying to remember old reads that are now hazy around the edges of my memory. Rock-star librarian Nancy Pearl calls this “book lust.” So apt! Luckily, for people like me, our library buzzes and abounds with book discussions year-round, for all ages.

You’ll find our groups spotlighted below. We offer discussion groups for children (“Let’s Read Math” at our Roslyn Branch is intriguing), and daytime and evening groups for adults. If you’ve never come, why not join us at the next session? Both our daytime and evening book discussions are informal and relaxing (I bring my needlepoint). You may join in or just listen, which in itself can lead to new levels of enjoyment. Plus, the personal experience and social interaction are priceless. And, at the Ruth Abel Memorial discussion group, you get cookies! 🍪

Abington Libraries’ Book Discussion Groups
Read more about them and how to register throughout this issue.

At Abington Free Library:

THE RUTH R. ABEL MEMORIAL BOOK AND FILM DISCUSSION GROUP
Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
- Sept. 21 - Winter’s Bone (a film)
- Nov. 30 - The Finkler Question, by Howard Jacobson.

DAYTIME BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
Every first Thursday at 1 p.m.
- Oct. 6 - The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lack, by Rebecca Skloot
- Nov. 9 - Cutting for Stone, by Abraham Verghese
- Dec. 1 - Olive Kitteridge, by Elizabeth Strout

At Roslyn Branch Library:

LET’S READ MATH!
Monday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m.
 Ages 5-9.
 Benny’s Pennies by Pat Brisson and Hannah’s Collections by Marthe Jocelyn

CAM JANSEN
Read any or all of the books in the Cam Jansen series (written by David Adler)
Monday, Nov. 28 from 7-8 p.m.
 Ages 5-10.

ARTHUR: A BOOK CELEBRATION
Monday, October 3, from 7-8 p.m.

PRE-SCHOOL STORY TIMES
Mondays at 1:30 p.m.
Story times for ages 2-3
Thursdays at 11 a.m.

TODDLER STORY TIMES (ages 12-23 months)
Three Saturdays:  Oct. 1, Nov. 5, & Dec. 3, 10:15-10:45 OR 11-11:30

DOGGONE GOOD READERS (ages 6-10)
Four Wednesdays, Oct. 26 & Nov. 2, 9, 16, 10:30-11:15 a.m.

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

JAPANESE ORIGAMI & TALES (ages 8 and up)
Thursday, Nov. 10, 6:45-8 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 10, all day, there will be a BOOKFAIR at the BARNES & NOBLE in Willow Grove, 102 Park Ave., to benefit Abington Libraries. Activities from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. include crafts, story times, Legos, and a scavenger hunt.

Support Abington Libraries by shopping with a Bookfair voucher. A percentage of the net sales using the voucher will be donated to the libraries.

Purchases of food or drink in the café, CDs, DVDs, toys, the Nook Color eReader and its accessories also will contribute to the total.

Note: The voucher may be used at any Barnes & Noble location on Dec. 10. Online shoppers can help by making purchases at bn.com/bookfairs from Saturday, Dec. 10, through midnight Friday, Dec. 16, using the voucher number 10543197. Pick up a voucher at Roslyn or Abington Library.
Enjoy read-alouds with Jean Campellone and her yellow lab. 

**BABY DAYS**
Ages 5 months-2 years
Tuesdays at 11 a.m.
Babies and caregivers will sing songs, read stories and do finger plays.
Registration begins Aug. 23.
Register for each program separately.

**PAJAMA PARTIES**
Ages 3-6
Mondays from 6:30-7 p.m.
Sept. 26, Oct. 10, Nov. 21, Dec. 12 and 19
Stories ~ Songs ~ Fingerplays ~ Crafts
Children are invited to wear their pajamas and bring a stuffed animal to cuddle.
Registration begins Sept. 6.
Please register for each program separately.

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.

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**NEW PROGRAMS**

**PRETEND TIME**

Ages 3-5
Six Wednesdays:
Oct. 12, Nov. 16 and Dec. 14, 7-7:30 p.m.
No registration required.

**CREATIVE YOGA & PLAY** (ages 4-6)
Tuesday, Sept. 27, 6:30-7:15 p.m.
Dawn and Stan Reese will help children develop coordination, balance and body awareness. Yoga mats provided.
Registration begins Sept. 19.

**DROP-IN STORY TIMES**
(ages 3-5)
Thursdays, 11-11:30 a.m.
Enjoy read-alouds with Jean Campellone and her yellow lab, Niji. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

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**STORY TIMES WITH JEAN AND NJIJ** (ages 3 and up)
Two Mondays, Oct. 24 and 31, and
Tuesday, Dec. 27, 10:30-11 a.m.
Enjoy read-alouds with Jean Campellone and her yellow lab, Niji. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**PRETEND TIME**

Ages 3-5
Six Wednesdays:
Oct. 12, Nov. 16 and Dec. 14, 7-7:30 p.m.
No registration required.

**CREATIVE YOGA & PLAY** (ages 4-6)
Tuesday, Sept. 27, 6:30-7:15 p.m.
Dawn and Stan Reese will help children develop coordination, balance and body awareness. Yoga mats provided.
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**TEEN PROGRAMS**

**TEEN JOURNALING**
Grades 6-12
Five Wednesdays beginning Oct. 12, from 6:30-8 p.m.
Join Diana Trout (artist, author and journaling enthusiast) for creative journaling. Use art, poetry and writing to put your thoughts on paper. Bring your own journal or notebook, other supplies provided. Registration begins Sept. 5.

**BOARD GAMES**
Every Thursday from 6:30-7:30 p.m.,
starting Sept. 8.
Scrabble, dominoes, chess, checkers, Othello, and other board games.
Meet new friends! Exercise your brain!
Adult Programs at Abington Free Library

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

WORLD WAR II LECTURE SERIES
Every third Tuesday of the month at 3 and 7 p.m.
Sept. 20 - John Shepherd will discuss how the Protective Mobilization Program built up the nation’s industrial and military capabilities to prepare for mobilization.

COMPUTER RESOURCES/RESEARCH AND COMPUTER CATALOG CLASS
First Wednesdays
Sept. 7, Oct. 5 and Dec. 7 from 2-3 p.m.
Nov. 2 from 11 a.m.-noon
• Using your library account
• Accessing resources online
• Mango Languages
• Magazines and newspapers
• Audio and eBooks

To register, or for more information, visit the Information Desk; call 215-885-5180, ext.13; or email AskAbington@gmail.com.

COMPUTER CLASSES
Abington Free Library offers a one-hour class, one-on-one with a volunteer computer aide, tailored to a person’s need.
The class could cover basic computer skills, the Internet, email, Microsoft Word or Excel.
To register, or for more information, visit the Information Desk; call 215-885-5180, ext.13; or email AskAbington@gmail.com.

DAYTIME BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
Every first Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
No registration required. Walk-ins welcome!

SOCRATES CAFE
Every second Wednesday of the month from 10:30 a.m.- noon
AND
Every fourth 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!

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

The Friends raise funds for and foster public awareness of the Abington Township Public Library, which includes Abington Free Library and the Roslyn Branch. The Friends hold their meetings in the Community Room in the lower level of Abington Free Library. Our next meeting is Saturday Sept. 10 at 9:30 a.m.
Please join us. New members are always welcomed. Additional meeting dates are: Nov. 12, Feb. 11 and May 12.

Friends Executive Board for 2011-2012:
Linda Connelly, president
Ellen Baxter, vice president
Elizabeth Christian, treasurer
Alice Hungerford, recording secretary
Ruth Gebhardtzuber, corresponding secretary

News & Views of the Friends of Abington Libraries

FRIENDS FALL ACTIVITIES:

BOOK AND PLANT SALE: Saturday, Sept. 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in front of Abington Free Library.
All books will be half price.

SCARECROW CONTEST: month of October. Scarecrows should resemble a character from your favorite children’s book and will be on display in the lobby of Abington Library. Entry forms and contest rules are available at the circulation desk. Judging will be done by the public.

MIMI ZABEL JEWELRY AUCTION: month of November.

BOOKCELLAR
BookCellar hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, noon to 4 p.m.; Wednesday, noon to 8:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
New books arrive every day at BookCellar. Please come by and browse through our extensive collection. We are located in the lower level of Abington Free Library, next to the Children’s Department. All of our books, movies and music are for sale at bargain prices!

SHAKESPEARE WROTE SHAKESPEARE or “Shakespeare Was Too Dumb To Have Written All Those Plays” and other nonsensical claims of Shakespearean authorship

Tuesdays, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m.
Come hear literary historian Edward Pettit discuss the history of what he calls “one of the strangest conspiracy theories of all time.”
Pettit writes: “The evidence that William Shakespeare of Stratford was the author of the works that bear his name has always been so overwhelming that Shakespearean scholars have rarely bothered to engage those few (those very few) who have claimed that Francis Bacon or the Earl of Oxford or Christopher Marlowe or fill-in-the-blank were the true authors of all those plays and poems.

“However, the fictional controversy persists. And now comes Anonymous, a big-budget Hollywood movie (Sept. 30) directed by Roland Emmerich, that will further disseminate the phony controversy that Shakespeare was just a dumb country bumpkin who could not have been a literary genius. Well, enough is enough.”

Pettit has taught at La Salle University and Lehigh University and has lectured widely on various literary topics. He is a member the National Book Critics Circle and is the current president of the Oak Lane Shakespeare Club, an organization founded in 1908 and dedicated to reading Shakespeare aloud. He is also moderator of Abington Library’s Ruth Abel Memorial Book and Film Discussion Group. He can be found online at www.edwardpettit.com.

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE FRIENDS

Donate books, movies, audio books, music and current textbooks. Donations are gratefully accepted daily at the circulation desk.

Donate jewelry.

Become a member.

Volunteer at the BookCellar or help with Friends’ activities.

Donate online.

Proceeds from fund-raising benefit the Abington Libraries. From September 2010 to May 2011 the Friends donated $48,500 to the libraries. Thank you for your generosity in supporting all of the Friends’ fund-raisers. Help us to keep Abington Township Public Library the gem that it is.

– Linda Connelly, president, The Friends of the Abington Township Public Libraries
Introducing First Wednesdays!

Please join us on the first Wednesday of the month for a computer resources/research and computer catalog class. The class will be held on Sept. 7, Oct. 5 and Dec. 7 at 2 p.m., and on Nov. 2 at 11 a.m.

Learn how to access resources either here in the library or from your home computer. You will learn how to search databases, download audio books or ebooks, place requests on library materials and much more.

Please call 215-885-5180, ext.13, or stop by the Information Desk to register for this program.

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.-Thurs.: 9:30-9
Fri. and Sat.: 9:30-5, Sun.: 1-5

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.

Volunteer Spotlight - Leslie Filemyr

If volunteer Leslie Filemyr were a cartoon character, she'd be Tigger. She's just that full of irrepressible energy and enthusiasm.

Leslie was born and raised in Glenolden, PA, a professed tomboy who played basketball and hockey at Interboro High School and wished with all her heart she could play baseball.

She completed East Stroudsburg State College (now University) in three and a half years and started looking for a teaching position. She was hired by Cheltenham School District and spent more than 35 years there, happily teaching 7th and 8th graders. She has the rare gift of really liking teenagers. She also coached almost every sport and, even in retirement, still coaches the girls' track team.

At Cheltenham, she met and married her husband, who taught industrial and graphic arts and later became a manager of the district's computer systems. They have two children: a daughter who works in Austin TX as a full-time computer programmer and almost full-time stage manager, and a son who is a Navy helicopter pilot, most recently assigned to the Persian Gulf. They raised their children in a modest home in Rockledge and moved to a bigger house after the children moved out. Leslie explains, “Well, we like to entertain.”

Since moving and retiring, Leslie has found several new interests. Much to her surprise, she discovered that she loves gardening.

She has two perennial gardens in her yard, a “hot” garden full of red, gold and orange flowers, and a “cool” garden full of pinks, lavenders and blues.

She and her husband have always loved traveling. When their children were young, they went tent camping all over the United States. They still go skiing in Colorado and dude ranching in Washington State. Leslie has been to China and Scotland, and next up will be either Ireland (her roots) or Germany (his).

As a volunteer, Leslie processes hold requests, covers books, cleans our CDs and DVDs and takes on various projects involving cataloging. She is never afraid of a challenge and loves learning new things. We are very lucky she has time in her busy life to volunteer here.

- Lois Odabas