From the Director’s Desk

Is there a soul out there who really cares how many items we have in our collection? I don’t think that number matters to our patrons. I think numbers like the following matter:

• We offer four technology classes monthly.
• We offer one-on-one computer help five or six times per week.
• Our Wi-Fi is lightning (140,000 mph) fast 😊

Our Adult Literacy program helps almost 200 adults improve their reading, writing and math skills, prepare for their high school equivalency diploma, the GED, and other tests. Those whose native language is not English benefit from our services, too. In addition to individual tutoring sessions, these adults can attend “Conversation Please!” – a class that meets on Monday nights and Tuesday mornings – and “Idioms and Grammar in Conversation” on Wednesdays. A writing class meets on Tuesday afternoons.

- Rob Naborn, Program Coordinator

Adult Literacy Program

We will offer training for new tutors on Sept. 23 and 25 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room at Abington Free Library. Additional training sessions (support meetings) for all tutors are offered once a month, along with weekly scheduled training opportunities in the area.

For information, please stop by the Adult Literacy office at Abington Free Library, call 215-885-5183, or email Rob Naborn at Ablit1@yahoo.com. Literacy office hours are: Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., and by appointment.

- Nancy Hammelke Marshall, Executive Director

Reference Department News - An Anonymous Collector Lives On

Late last year, we received a LARGE gift of music CDs. The man who brought them in told Circulation staff that his brother had died, leaving a large collection of CDs. With nowhere to put them, he brought them to us, hoping we could give them a good home.

At a rough count, the collection consists of 600+ CDs, nearly all of them classical music. The collector was a genuine audiophile of refined and very particular taste. Virtually all of the discs are in pristine condition, and many contain reviews, carefully clipped from audio magazines and journals.

Although the collection surveys some 900 years of Western art music, from Gregorian chant to 20th century masterworks, the collector had a special interest in the music of 19th century German Romantic composers and late 19th and 20th century British composers, as well as an abiding passion for the

recorded works of the Philadelphia Orchestra and violinist Isaac Stern.

This collection has enabled us to replace a large number of music CDs, many having been in our collection since 1999 or even earlier. For instance, we have replaced CDs of the entire Brahms orchestral cycle, nearly all of the Mahler symphonies, and a number of Wagner operas. It has allowed us to fill in significant gaps in our classical music collection (e.g., complete piano works of Ravel, major cycles of Schumann and Schubert piano works, and major Italian, Czech and Russian operas), as well as to make significant additions to the music collection held at our Roslyn branch. One particularly noteworthy addition is a set of 14 CDs of Gregorian chant performed by the monks of Solesmes, France, whose mission is the preservation and revival of the Gregorian chant tradition. Finally, discs that have no place in our collections are given to the Book Cellar, so the proceeds of these sales ultimately benefit both libraries.

Sadly, our generous benefactor didn’t leave his name, so this is the only way we have of letting him know how deeply we appreciate his brother’s collection.

As work progresses on the CDs, we thank our anonymous audiophile for his loving care of this superb collection.

- Michael Rechel, Head, Technical Services

Thank You to Our Recent Significant Donors

Friends of the Abington Township Public Libraries
Anonymous
Johnson & Johnson
(Driver matching gift)
Diversified Search
Kind Family
Foundation
Dollar General for
Adult Literacy
Helene Maruschak and
Michael Maruschak
Hoag Family
Patricia Timmins

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- Michael Rechel, Head, Technical Services

Roslyn Branch Library
For information and to register for these programs, email cfrankford@mclinc.org, call 215-885-5180, ext. 28, or go to abingtonfreelibrary.org.

PRE-SCHOOL STORY TIMES
begin Sept. 16 and continue through Dec. 5.
Ages 3-6: Mondays at 1:30 p.m.
Ages 2-3: Thursdays at 11 a.m.

PAJAMA PARTY
Ages 3-6
Mondays from 6:30-7 p.m.: Sept. 16, Oct. 14, Nov. 18, Dec. 9.
Stories, songs, fingerplays, and crafts. Children are invited to wear their pajamas and bring a stuffed animal to cuddle. Registration begins Aug. 26. Register separately for each program.

BABY DAYS
Ages 5 months-2 years
Tuesdays at 11 a.m.: Sept. 17, 24; Nov. 5, 12; Dec. 3, 10.
Babies and caregivers will sing songs, read stories, and do fingerplays.
Registration begins Aug. 27.

LEGEND BLOCK PARTY!
Ages 5-12
Monday, Sept. 23, from 7-8 p.m.
Be creative! Design and build a one-of-a-kind Lego structure based on a given theme.
Registration begins Sept. 3. Limited to 15 participants. Legos will be provided but cannot be taken home.

MEET PIPPI LONGSTOCKING
Ages 3-8.
Monday, Sept. 30, from 7-8 p.m.
Come help us celebrate Sweden’s favorite storybook hero, Pippi Longstocking. Act out Pippi’s antics by becoming “thing-finders,” playing Pippi’s games, creating a Dala horse craft and tasting Pippi’s famous cookies. This program is brought to you by the American Swedish Historical Museum. Registration begins Sept. 9.

THE BUS FOR US
Ages 3-6.
Monday, Oct. 7, from 6:30-7:15 p.m.
This year’s selection for the “One Book Every Young Child” program is The Bus for Us, a picture book by author and illustrator Suzanne Bloom. The book introduces Gus, Tess, their friends and pets, and explores the many interactions found in waiting for the school bus. This award-winning program includes a traveling trunk of games, toys and activities. On Oct. 7, come to Roslyn Library to hear the story and have fun doing related activities. Registration begins Sept. 16.

RAINY DAY KATE CRAFT
Ages 3-6.
attending with parents/caregivers Tuesday, Oct. 29, 6:30-7:15 p.m.
Join guest reader Isabella Carrozza for a reading of Rainy Day Kate by Lenore Blevgad. Make a “rainy day friend” using paper bags, yarn, pipe cleaners and more. Registration begins Sept. 16.

DROP-IN STORY TIMES
All ages
Thursdays, 11-11:30 a.m., Oct. 3 through May 15 (No session on Nov. 28, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.)
Story times led by Jenkintown Kiwanis Club members. Children must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver. No registration required.

STORY TIMES WITH JEAN AND NIJI
All ages
Two Mondays: Oct. 21 and 28, 10:30-11 a.m.
Enjoy read-alouds with Jean Campellone and her yellow Lab, Niji, a registered therapy dog. Children must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver.

SCIENCETELLERS PRESENTS “POTIONS”
Ages 4 and up
Tuesday, Oct. 29, 7-8 p.m.
Popping potions, buckets of fog … explore the mysteries of matter during this interactive science show. Registration begins Oct. 21.

TODDLER STORY TIMES
Ages 12-23 months
Five Wednesdays: Oct. 23 and 30; Nov. 6, 13, 20, 10:30-11 a.m.
Children must be walking independently and attend with parents/caregivers. Registration begins Oct. 14.

CHILDREN’S E-BOOKS AVAILABLE THROUGH OVERDRIVE ADVANTAGE
Looking for children’s e-books? Log onto OverDrive using your Abington library card number and see our recently added titles by R.J. Palacio, Christopher Paul Curtis, Patricia Reilly Giff and others. More titles will be added as they become available.

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/kids

PRE-SCHOOL STORY TIMES
Session 1 begins week of Sept. 9 and continues through week of Oct. 14. Registration begins Aug. 26. Session 2 begins week of Nov. 4 and continues through week of Dec. 9. Registration begins Oct. 21. Two-year-olds meet on Tuesdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m.; three- to five-year-olds on Mondays, 10:30-11 a.m. (No session on Columbus Day, Oct. 14.)

RAINY DAY KATE CRAFT
Ages 3-6, attending with parents/caregivers Tuesday, Sept. 24, 6:30-7:15 p.m.
Join guest reader Isabella Carrozza for a reading of Rainy Day Kate by Lenore Blevgad. Make a “rainy day friend” using paper bags, yarn, pipe cleaners and more. Registration begins Sept. 16.

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CHILDREN’S E-BOOKS AVAILABLE THROUGH OVERDRIVE ADVANTAGE
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SCIENCETELLERS
Ages 6-12
Oct. 21, from 7-8 p.m.
Celia has to give me the date and time. Use science experiments to tell stories. Registration begins Sept. 30.

HALLOWEEN PARTY
Ages 2-5
Monday, Oct. 28, from 6:30-7:15 p.m.
Stories, dancing, a fun Halloween craft and refreshments. Children should wear their costumes. Registration begins October 7. Limited to 15 children.

DOC BRESLER’S CAVITY BUSTERS
Ages 2-7
Monday, Nov. 4, from 6:30-7 p.m.
Oral hygiene information for both children and their parents in a fast-paced, interactive program.

COWGIRL KATE AND HER HORSE,
COCOA DISCUSSION GROUP
books by Erica Silverman
Ages 5-9
Monday, Nov. 25, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Registration begins Nov. 4.
Teen Programs at Abington Free Library
To find out more, stop by the Information Desk, call 215-885-5180, ext. 13, visit abingtonfreelibrary.org/teens or email LCummings@mclinc.org.

MEET THE AUTHOR AT TEEN BOOK CLUB
Ages 14 and up. Tuesday, Aug. 6, 6-7 p.m.
Everybody Sees the Ants by A.S. King
Come talk about the book and meet the award-winning author! Sponsored by the Friends of Abington Libraries, and part of the “One Summer, One Book” program of Montgomery County libraries. Register online, by phone, or at the Information desk.

FOOD & IDEAS
Coff ee, a.m. Please join us. New members are always welcome.

COLLEGE ESSAY BOOT CAMP
Wednesday, Aug. 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Attention high school juniors and seniors! This program will boost your resume and college application essay writing skills. Learn tips that will sharpen your written presentation to college admissions officers. Beat the crowds and the crunch time by getting your application writing skills in shape now! Pizza will be served. Presented by Linda George, professional writing coach. Register online, by phone, or at the Information desk.

CHESS FOR BEGINNERS
Ages 8 and up. Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Sept. 26 – Nov. 21
Don’t know how to play chess? Learn the basics from Richard Arrayo. No registration necessary; just drop in!

JOIN AB-TAB
Abington Free Library’s Teen Advisory Board
Get active at the library by planning teen programs and selecting books. Earn community service hours. Check us out at our next meeting on Monday, Sept. 16, from 6 to 7 p.m., or pick up an application at the Information desk.

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

A YEAR OF AUSTEN IN BOOKS AND FILMS
Read the book and/or watch the film, come discuss.
Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m.
Sept. 12: Mansfield Park
Nov. 14: Persuasion
Feb. 13: Northanger Abbey
April 17: Pride and Prejudice

SOCRA TES CAFÉ
4 p.m.
Th ose planning to attend are encouraged to bring mementos of their experiences related to the theme of the meeting. All are welcome.

SOCIETY HILL AND OLD CITY
Sun., Sept. 22, at 2 p.m.
Author Robert Morris Skaler will present a program, including slide images from his book Society Hill and Old City.

WORLD WAR II LECTURE SERIES

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

SOCRATES CAFÉ
Every second Wednesday of the month from 10:30 a.m.-noon. Giving Philosophy Back to the People. Let’s discuss ... What is truth? What is justice? What is moderation?

OLD YORK ROAD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Every second Tuesday of the month from 7:845 p.m.
Those planning to attend are encouraged to bring mementos of their experiences related to the theme of the meeting. All are welcome.

CORMAC MCCARTHY BOOK DISCUSSION
Tues., Feb. 4 at 7 p.m.
We’ll discuss All the Pretty Horses, led by Chad Whitman.

BOOKCEL LAR 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. Donated books arrive every day. Please come by and browse through our extensive collection. We are located in the lower level of the Abington Free Library. All our books, movies and music are for sale at bargain prices!

WIE RED WEDNESDAYS
Every first Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m.: Learn about our online catalog, your patron account, and how to use online databases to learn a language, search newspapers, trace your family tree, and much more!

EFFICIENT ESSAYS
Learn tips that will sharpen your written presentation to college admissions officers. Beat the crowds and the crunch time by getting your application writing skills in shape now! Pizza will be served. Presented by Linda George, professional writing coach. Register online, by phone, or at the Information desk.

News & Views of the Friends of Abington Libraries
Learn about our activities: Call 215-885-5180, ext. 36, or go to abingtonfreelibrary.org/about-us/friends

The Friends raise funds for and foster public awareness of the Abington Township Public Libraries.

The Friends meet in the Community Room in the lower level of Abington Free Library. Our next meeting is Saturday, Sept. 7, at 9:30 a.m. Please join us. New members are always welcome. We are looking for new fund-raising ideas; please bring your suggestions. Coffee, tea and cake are available. Additional meeting dates are Nov. 9, Feb. 8 and May 10.

Friends Executive Board for 2013-2014:
Linda Connelly, president
Linda Jarow, vice president
Jay Freedman, treasurer
Ruth Gebhardt’s mother, corresponding secretary
Ellen Baxter, corresponding secretary

FRIENDS FALL ACTIVITIES
Fall Book and Flower Sale: Saturday, Sept. 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in front of Abington Library. Rain or shine. All books will be half price. Colorful mums will be on sale.

SCARECROW CONTEST: month of October. Scarecrows should resemble a character from your favorite children’s or young adult books and will be on display in the lobby. Entry forms and contest rules will be available at the Circulation Desk.

MIMI ZABEL JEWELRY AUCTION:
month of November. Please start dropping off your jewelry at the Circulation Desk.

ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE:
Tuesday, Nov. 5. Please consider donating home-baked goods to this event.

BOOKCEL LAR 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. Donated books arrive every day. Please come by and browse through our extensive collection. We are located in the lower level of the Abington Free Library. All our books, movies and music are for sale at bargain prices!

HOW CAN YOU HELP THE FRIENDS?
Donate books, audio books, music and jewelry. Donations are gratefully accepted daily at the Circulation Desk. Support our annual appeal in June. Become a member and help with Friends’ activities.

Last fiscal year the Friends donated $46,000 to the libraries. Thanks to all of you who support the BookCellar and our fund-raising activities. Please remember to return your annual contribution form.

- Linda Connelly, President, The Friends of Abington Township Public Libraries
BOOKFAIR at Barnes & Noble on Dec. 14

On Saturday, Dec. 14, there will be a bookfair at the Barnes & Noble in Willow Grove, 102 Park Ave. Activities from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. include crafts, Legos and a scavenger hunt. A percentage of the net sales using the voucher number will be donated to the libraries. (Look for the voucher number on our website in a month or two.) Voucher number will be donated to the libraries. (Look for the voucher number on our website in a month or two.) Voucher number may be used at any Barnes & Noble location on Dec. 14.

Online shoppers can make purchases with the voucher number at bn.com/bookfairs from Saturday, Dec. 14, through midnight Thursday, Dec. 19.
You can pick up a voucher this fall at Roslyn or Abington Library, or find it online at abingtonfreelibrary.org. Contact Celia Frankford at 215-886-9818 or email cfrankford@mclinc.org.

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 Ayvondale 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 Hammemeke Marshall
Editor-in-Chief
Karen Burnham
Editor/Gadfly
Cathy Kress
Copy Editor
Lois Odabas
Staff Writer

Volunteer Spotlight - Joan Rarick

It’s funny, but every story about working or volunteering at Abington Library invariably starts with fondly remembered visits to a small town library, redolent of dusty books and the allure of ever more stories to be read.

For Joan Rarick, who volunteers at the front desk preparing hold requests for pickup, that library was in Mahanoy City, in upstate Pennsylvania, where she was born and grew up.

Joan attended nursing school at Pottsville Hospital. She got married and worked as an emergency room nurse until the birth of her first child. Her husband’s new job brought the Raricks to the Philadelphia area.

Joan stayed home for 10 years, until their three children were in school, then started a long career in long-term care, eventually becoming a nursing home administrator.

After she retired about six years ago, Joan stopped by the library one day to pick up a book and got chatting with her friend Jackie Guyton, the Head of the Circulation Department. Jackie may have looked a bit overwhelmed that day, because Joan offered to help and has been coming in ever since. Her administrative skills are clearly on display when she marshals her crew of volunteers to process up to a hundred books at a time.

In her “spare” time, Joan volunteers for Aid for Friends, through her church, Living Word Lutheran of Roslyn. She and her buddies there cook, freeze and deliver meals for the homebound elderly.

In her other spare time, Joan loves to visit with her far-flung family, including seven grandchildren. She has daughters living in Cupertino, CA, and Chicago, and a son in Atlanta. Among many interesting tidbits are that her twin grandsons were born in London, and her son’s company designed the glass dome over the swimming pool at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Joan also enjoys celebrating many holidays with her multi-cultural family, which includes three different religions.

She and her husband have also traveled to Denmark, Amsterdam and London.

Everyone who knows Joan comes away with the overwhelming impression of a helpful and caring person. We are so lucky she is willing to share some of her “spare” time with us.

- Lois Odabas, Staff Writer