From the Director's Desk

Dear Friend,

Over the course of 2022, Abington Township Public Libraries took part in a very exciting project. In collaboration with library staff, board members, township leaders and hundreds of community members, we set out to develop a new strategic plan that will guide our organization in the years ahead.

This plan was informed by our past years of operation and the successes and challenges that went along with them. More importantly, it was inspired by a shared vision for what our library could be in the future. Through public surveys and meetings, focus groups, interviews and brainstorming sessions, we collected feedback, assessed our strengths and areas for improvement, and crafted a new mission statement that will serve as our North Star on the road ahead. We are thrilled to share it with you now:

We champion learning and foster connections for everyone in our community.

You spoke and we heard you. More opportunities to gather and build relationships. More classes on everything from learning languages to learning home and car repairs. Safe spaces for civic discourse. Safe spaces for kids and teens. Programs and events for all ages. Social services and accessible resources. A place to study, a place to check out books, a place to play Dungeons & Dragons. For all the diverse interests and needs that were expressed, the common threads were lifelong learning and creating connections. These two tenets are at the heart of everything we do.

Accompanying our new mission statement are our four core values: Knowledge, Trust, Inclusion, and Thinking Big. We will continue to infuse these values into our interactions and our work. It is our goal to be a pillar of the township and a destination where all people are welcome to learn, enrich their lives, be themselves and feel at home. We extend these same values to our dedicated staff, whose unique talents make us better every day.

As we embark on the next chapter of our story, we humbly ask you to consider making a gift to the Abington Township Public Libraries. Your support can help us expand our resources, improve our facilities, increase our community programming and so much more. We look forward to living out our new mission, together.

We hope you and your loved ones have a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.

Warmest Regards,

Joseph Milano
President Library Trustees

Thank You to Our Recent Significant Donors

I am moved and humbled by the generosity of the Abington community. Your support is critical to our success and we are grateful for your partnership. With your help, all things are possible! - Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Executive Director

Friends of the Abington Township Public Libraries

Dr. Robert Abel Jr.
James Cook
Carol Doherty
James Gulla
Barbara, Bob and Allison Lewis Family
Estate of Phyllis B. Linn
Edward Mahoney
Randy J. McDowell
Karen Burnham
Maureen Miller
Louis Raggi
Daniel Rollo
Charles M. Silverman
Bradley S. Wolcott
Charles M. Silverman
TRIVIA NIGHT: I LOVE THE ’90S
Thursday, February 2, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
We will cover all things ’90s including movies, music, fashion, and more!

Click here to register.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT - MEG MITCHELL: COMMUNITY CONNECTOR


Information provider. Program leader.

You would be hard-pressed to find someone who wears as many hats as Meg Mitchell. Meg, the head of our Roslyn Branch Library, has been a staple in area libraries for almost 30 years. She started her time at Roslyn in the mid 1990's, left in 1999 to pursue other professional goals, and came back to the Abington Township Public Libraries in 2005 and Roslyn in 2017. We couldn't be luckier to have her back.

Meg’s passion for libraries started at a young age. Her family was involved in many local organizations, including the library, and Scout troops. When asked what her favorite part of being a librarian is, Meg said: “The democracy ... being able to provide information and resources to all kinds of people.”

You can see this reflected in the commitment to public service at Roslyn Library. Whatever you need, Meg and the Roslyn staff can help you find it.

Looking for the next book in that mystery series you can’t put down? Need to find a travel book for an upcoming vacation? Wondering how to use one of the library’s Hotspots to bring Wi-Fi to your home? Meg and her staff have got you covered.

Under Meg’s leadership the Roslyn Branch Library, though small in size, has expanded its role in the community. Education – and entertaining – the local community. The library’s cozy atmosphere is a perfect place for people to read the newspaper, explore books and activities with their children, receive help with an iPone, learn to knit, or maybe just meet with a friend. Whether you are a child just starting to sound out words or an adult who has been reading all your life, there is something for everyone at the Roslyn Branch.

Activities are constantly changing and evolving to reflect the community’s interests and needs. This fall library programs included “Dinovember” activities for young scientists, story times for little ones, hands-on crafts for teens and adults, and a lecture on local history.

Not only does the community go to the Roslyn Branch, Meg and her staff regularly represent the branch at the Abington Township Library or the Friends of the Abington Township Public Library. If you haven’t checked out the Roslyn Branch Library, we encourage you to! Head on over to 2412 Avondale Avenue, go to http://bit.ly/e-NewsletterSignUp

Get e-Newsletters, go to

 LIVE STREAMING & SUSTAINABLE LITURGY
SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2022
3:00 p.m.

The Rev. Dr. P. J. Gleason (in-person)
The Rev. R. A. Ginter (via Zoom)

Liturgy in English – Local Family from Ferguson, Missouri

REGISTRATION: bit.ly/AgapeZoomReg

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Charle...
Adult programs
Register at the Information Desk, 215-885-5180, ext. 113, or abingtonfreelibrary.org/events.

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RUTH AND ROBERT ABELE MEMORIAL BOOK AND FILM DISCUSSION GROUP
Wednesdays, 7:00–8:00 p.m.
Zoom
March 15: Bel Canto, by Emily St. John Mandel
March 22: My Name is Margaret, by Geraldine Brooks

ART WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN (via Zoom)
Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.
Join Miss Jessica and friends for book reads and fun crafts.
Registration begins February 2.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS
Third Tuesday of the month:
December 20, January 17, and February 21, 10:00 a.m.–noon.

MURDER AT THE HOLIDAY SWEEPER PARTY
Thursday, February 23, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
Grab your ugliest holiday sweater and join us for a night of MURDER AT THE LIBRARY!

CIVIL RIGHTS ZOOM WEBINAR
Presented by the National Constitution Center
Friday, January 6, 1:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTION TO PERSONAL STORYTELLING
Wednesday, January 18, 7:00–6:30 p.m.
On Zoom
Led by professional storyteller Terry Widlich-Cle To Me Another.

CUP OF COCOA
Adults and teens ages 16 and up Monday, January 23, 7:00–8:00 p.m.
Registration begins January 5.

THE LEGACY OF THE HOLOCAUST
Friday, January 27, 2:00–3:00 p.m.
In-Person & Zoom
For Holocaust Remembrance Day, a lecture by James Robertson. Registration required.

ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMEN
All ages
Saturday, February 11, 1:00 p.m.
Learn about the lives and experiences of the Tuskegee Airmen and World War II.

TRIVIA NIGHT: I LOVE THE '90s
Saturday, February 11, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
Zoom
Covers all things '90s, including music, movies, fashion, and more.

WOODMERE ART MUSEUMS ILLUSTRATING CHANGE
The Red Rose Girls & The 20th Century Suffrage
Tuesday, March 7, 7:00–8:00 p.m.
Zoom
Learn about the lives and experiences of the Tuskegee Airmen and World War II.

Questions?
Send an email to: abingtonfreelibrary.org/about-us/Questions

Library News

CRAFTS FOR ADULTS
Join Wine Educator Dolores Peralta to learn about different wines.
First Tuesday of the month:
January 3, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 4, August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7, December 1.
Show and tell your favorite book!
Free to all adults and teens.

Materials needed: a bottle of wine that you enjoy.
No registration required.

Friends of Abington Libraries
Friends of Abington Libraries is a group of volunteers and members who support the township libraries through fundraising and advocacy. The Friends Book Club and other successful fundraisers include the Silent Jewelry Auction, Book and Plant sales, and other events, as well as our annual membership drive. Funds raised directly benefit both township libraries and their many programs.

The Friends Book Club will be inaccessible for the foreseeable future, pending construction work and repairs in the lower level of the library. We have books for sale on the Friends shelves online.

You can place book donations in the blue cart in the foyer of the library. Please refer to the library website for information: abingtonfreelibrary.org/about-us/Friends

The Friends of the Abington Township Libraries are always ready to help. You can reach us by phone, email, or through the library website.

Phone: 215-885-5180, option 3

Email: abington@mclinc.org

Questions?
Send an email to: abingtonfreelibrary.org/about-us/Questions

Our various community and library groups offer a wide range of services to promote the library as an inclusive cultural center and a home for learning and expression. For more information, please send an email to: FriendsATP@gmail.com

Best wishes,
Terry Bianco, president, Friends of the Abington Township Libraries

Since 1984, volunteer tutors, working through the Adult Literacy Program, have helped thousands of adults improve their reading and writing skills. Some of our students are working to improve their reading and writing skills. Some of our students are working to improve their reading and writing skills.

DIGITAL SKILLS READY
50+ LECTURES
12:30–1:30 p.m.
Zoom
A variety of one-hour lectures will be offered in December.
Registration required.
Stop by the Info Desk or call 215-885-5183 ext. 113, or register online: abingtonfreelibrary.org/tech-learning.

Adult Literacy Program
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