

From our Director

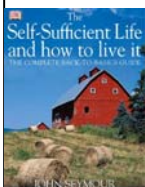
One trait most librarians hold in common is this: they take busmen's holidays. Our staff has been all around the country and even the globe this summer, and I do not believe a one of them hasn't visited a local library, whether it was in the Finger Lakes, Seattle or the grand libraries of Rome. It is endemic to this profession, I think. I doubt bankers visit the local Commerce branch in Orlando. Do workers at the local Blockbuster take care to rent a movie while visiting Papeete?



This year I've visited the Sarasota Public Library (a real beauty, with a walk-through aquarium as the entrance to the Children's Department. I heard it was built in Las Vegas and trucked in on a flatbed), the Mountain Home Library up in the Poconos (tiny, tiny and in a gorgeous setting) and the Cape May library, where I've struck up conversation after conversation with the librarians there about the differences in funding for New Jersey libraries vs. Pennsylvania libraries (I'm jealous).

We librarians are a naturally curious bunch – we delight in sussing out knotty questions, we love details. But I think one thing we're doing as we visit out of town libraries is this: taking stock of the competition. While I may admire other buildings and praise the collections, more often than not I'm thinking how terrific Abington Township Libraries are in every way, how much more attractive the building is, how the collection is wider and more useful, and how our staff smiles more – and knows more!

When I come back from vacation, reality hits: The Abington Library is not the utopia of the library world. But I think it comes pretty close. And by coming here every day I can take a mini-vacation anytime I want. All I have to do is open a book.



Beautiful Book of the Month: The Self-Sufficient Life and How to Live It by John Seymour. Just in case you ever want to chuck it all and learn how to make bricks, bale hay and which mushrooms to avoid.

- Nancy Hammeke Marshall

Volunteer Spotlight

For more information/Become a volunteer: 215-885-5180, ext. 11 or abg.mclinc.org/Volunteer.htm

"I come here a lot; I might as well help somebody while I'm here." So says 11-year-old Anna Staus, the youngest volunteer currently helping the Children's Department. Over the past year, Anna has straightened shelves, shelved and cleaned books, collated flyers, and assisted with Junior Fun Day programs. Her energy, enthusiasm and friendliness have been greatly appreciated by the Children's Department staff.

Now entering fifth grade at Roslyn Elementary School, Anna lives with her parents and older brother. Always on the move, Anna enjoys sports, especially figure skating and swimming. Recently she won the Johnny Clipper Award for good sportsmanship while competing for the Crestmont Clippers swim team. Anna takes percussion lessons and has played in her church's handbell choir. In her free time she likes to go skateboarding with her friend Ben.



Anna's commitment to service is exemplary. The Children's Department staff is proud of the contributions she has made to our library.

- Carolyn DuBois

Young Adult/Teens at Abington

For more information: please contact Ann Fields@ 215-885-5180, ext. 13, afields@mclinc.org or abg.mclinc.org/Teens.htm

Have you explored our Young Adult area lately?

Located behind the Circulation Desk, marked by bright YA signs, are materials selected especially for young adults ages 12 – 17. Explore our collection of books on CD and tape, teen magazines, paperback series, graphic novels and, of course, terrific fiction books written for young adults. Try out the seating area in the Teen Corner as you browse the magazines and be sure to look for upcoming events and reading lists posted here.



UPCOMING YA EVENTS:

- **CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS** – help plan fall events for young adults at the library. **Abington Teen Advisory Group** will meet Thu, Sep 18 at 6 p.m. Call, drop by or email to sign up.
 - **TEEN BOOK CAFÉ** – Join us for book discussion and dessert! Thursdays 6-7 p.m.
 - Sep 25 Burning Up by Caroline Cooney
 - Oct 16 Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson
- Ann Fields, Young Adult Librarian

Adult Literacy

For more information: please contact Marlyn Cohen 215-885-5183 or <http://abg.mclinc.org/apliter.htm>

Aug 26 - Tutor Support Meeting 7 p.m. New materials, computer (continuing education)

Sep 22 & 23 - Fall Tutor Training 6:30-8:45 p.m. Both nights mandatory!

Oct 7- Tutor Support Meeting 7 p.m. G.E.D. materials and G.E.D. test guest speaker

Nov 12 - Tutor Support Meeting 7 p.m. Learning styles. Materials and methods (continuing education)

Dec 8 & 9 - Pre-Winter Tutor Training 6:30-8:45 p.m. Both nights mandatory!

Dec 15 Tutor Support Meeting 7 p.m. This Works For Me. Open forum (continuing education)

From the Friends

For all Friends activities call: 215-885-5180, ext. 36 or abg.mclinc.org/Friends.htm



Sat, Nov 8 - Raffles, delicious food, and the auctioning of antiques, fine collectibles, goods & services. Auction starts at 10 a.m. (preview at 9 a.m.) at the Brownstone of Sunrise, 1801 Susquehanna Road (near Old York Road)

Donations of antiques and fine collectibles with a value of \$25 or more are greatly needed.

If you can help, please contact the Friends @ 215-885-5180, ext. 36.

Get more information at abg.mclinc.org

BOOKCELLAR-USED BOOKS FOR SALE on the lower level of the library!

Mon-Tue, 2-4 p.m., Wed-Fri, noon-4 p.m., Sat, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Donations of books, video & audio tapes, CDs & DVDs accepted gratefully!

VOLUNTEER AT THE BOOKCELLAR! If you're looking for a way to support your library, you can donate books (donations are tax-deductible), sort, price and shelf books, staff sales, or purchase from our selection of used books.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS will be available again Fall 2003 and Winter 2004 for \$25.

For use in Montgomery, Philadelphia & Bucks counties. Makes a great gift!

Calendar of Events for Adults

For more information: 215-885-5180, ext. 15 or abg.mclinc.org/calendar.htm

AUTUMN AUCTION! Sat, Nov 8 – Please donate antiques/collectibles. See Friends article for more details.

DAYTIME BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES – Meets every first Thursday at 1 p.m.

Sep 4 - The Far Euphrates by Aryeh Lev Stollman

Oct 2 - We Were the Mulvaneys by Joyce Carol Oates

OLD YORK ROAD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - Meets every second Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Sep 9 - Speaker from 25 years ago will present; Genealogy-A Look in Retrospect.

WORLD WAR II LECTURE SERIES - Meets every third Tuesday at 3 & 7 p.m.

Sep 16 - D-Day, Holland and the Battle of the Bulge, the 325th Glider Infantry Regiment

Oct 21 - Oflag 64: A Prison Camp for Officers

Nov 18 - The USS New Mexico

Johnstown Flood of 1889 Wed, Sep 24 at 7 pm

"The distance between the destroyed dam and Johnstown, (Pennsylvania) was 14 miles; the average speed of the wave, on its trip to Johnstown, was 40 miles per hour. The wave was 35-40 feet high at its crest as it hit Johnstown."

From: Johnstown Flood Museum- Flood Facts - jaha.org/flood/flood_facts.htm



People stand atop houses among ruins after flooding in Johnstown, Pa., May 30, 1889. (AP Photo)

Learn about the history of the dam, how the flood happened and how it could have been prevented, the social and political climate of the time and the environmental issues of the day.

Featuring:

- 70 slides - photos of the day of the flood and of buildings that survived the flood still in use.
- Question & answer period after presentation.

FILM SERIES – Meets every second Thursday (but Nov) from Oct - Jun

Film viewing at 6 - Refreshments provided - Discussion from 8-8:45

Oct 9 - "Sherlock Jr."/Two Chaplin shorts: "Easy Street" and "The Immigrant"

Nov 6 - "M"

Dec 11 - "The Maltese Falcon"

MEET THE AUTHOR – Mon, Nov 17 at 7:30 p.m. Feodor Pitcairn will be signing copies of his new book, Dreaming Wild in the Heart of the Pennypack and speak about his career in photography with an emphasis on underwater photography. His book may be purchased at the Pennypack Trust.

Thank you to our recent, significant donors

For more information: 215-885-5180, ext. 14 or abg.mclinc.org/Donate.htm

Friends of the Abington Township Public Library

Barbara Jacobs

Malcolm & Jean Hall

Kathleen Seweryn

From Roslyn Branch Library

For more information: 215-886-9818 or abg.mclinc.org/aplros.htm



THE ROSLYN BRANCH LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED FROM SEP 8 – 13 TO INSTALL NEW CARPETING.

Roslyn patrons may use their MCLINC card at the Abington Free Library, other neighboring libraries, as well as almost 3,000 Access PA Libraries.

THE GRAND REOPENING will take place on Mon, Sep 15, at 2 p.m.

STORY TIME – Sep 29 Ages 4-8 at 7-7:30 p.m.

STORY TIME FOR 3-6's - Mondays from 1:30-2 Oct 13 thru Nov 17

STORY TIME FOR 2-3's - Thursdays from 10:30-11 Oct 16 thru Nov 20

PAJAMA PARTIES – Oct 13, 20 Nov 10, 17 Dec 8, 15 Ages 3-6 at 6:30-7 p.m.

HALLOWEEN PARTY - Oct 27 Ages 2-5 at 6-6:30 p.m. Ages 6-12 at 7-8 p.m.

BABY DAYS – Tuesdays, Nov 11, 18, 25, Dec 9, 16 at 10:30 a.m.

SUMMER READING CLUB

Reading logs may be turned in to Abington Free Library or Roslyn Branch Library any time between August 18 and September 12. Every child who turns in a log will receive a free book.

From the Children's Department

For information please call 215-885-5180, ext. 28. <http://abg.mclinc.org/Children.htm>

SUMMER READING CLUB Reading logs may be turned in to Abington Free Library or Roslyn Branch Library any time between Aug 18 and Sept 12. Every child who turns in a log will receive a free book.



FALL PRESCHOOL STORY TIMES (Sep 15 - Oct 13)

Registration is required and starts Sep 2 for Abington Township residents – Sep 8 for everyone else.

LAPTIME STORIES FOR 2-YEAR-OLDS - Tue, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m.

3-YEAR-OLD STORY TIME - Mon, 10:30 to 11 a.m.

4- AND 5-YEAR-OLD STORY TIME - Thu, 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Children attend this program independently. Parent/caregivers and siblings may wait in the Children's Room while story times are in session.

STORY TIMES FOR TODDLERS (Ages 12-23 months) - Mondays, 10:30 - 10:50 a.m. Oct 27 & Nov 3, 10, 17, 24. Registration begins Mon, Oct 20. Please see separate flyer for details.

The next session of fall preschool story times will begin Nov 3. Watch for upcoming flyer.

DROP-IN STORY TIMES – Tue, 11 a.m. Oct 7 - May 25. Except Dec 23 & 30. No registration required

AUTUMN AUCTION! Sat, Nov 8 - Family Fun - See Friends article for more details.

Library Weeding Reveals a Treasure



The author – of this article – shows her find.

Just as our backyard gardens require attention to keep their beautiful flowers from being choked by weeds, so, too, the library collection must be periodically “weeded” to eliminate old materials and give new materials room to “bloom.” A few months ago, as I was working my way through the religion section in an attempt to sort through the old, the worn, and the dated, I came upon an unusual find: a slim volume entitled *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth*.

The first thing I noticed about this work was that it had the telltale buckram binding and white lettering of a book that had been sent to our local bindery at some time in its past. The second thing that struck me was the name of its author, Thomas Jefferson. I was immediately intrigued by the thought of a religious book penned by our illustrious founding father. Upon closer inspection, I discovered that Jefferson was not actually the author of the book, but the compiler. This small 84-page volume is an early parallel-text compilation of the words of Jesus taken from the four Gospels. It includes translations in Greek, Latin, French and English. Jefferson literally cut and pasted sections of text from the Bibles of his day to make a four-translation work for his own use.

Excited by my find, I decided to see if any other libraries in our MCLINC system owned this fascinating item. A quick check of the on-line catalog revealed a record for an item whose copyright date was 1989. However, the volume in my hand was produced in 1904. I therefore took the book to our head of Technical Services, Michael Rechel, and asked if he would catalog it. A day or two later, Michael appeared in the Reference office with the volume in hand. “Do you know what you have found here?” he asked me. “This is a first facsimile edition of the ‘Jefferson Bible.’” The Jefferson Bible, as it is called, was created by Thomas Jefferson sometime between 1816 and 1819. Further research revealed that this particular edition was commissioned by Congress and produced by photo-lithographic process in 1904. A total of 9,000 copies were made.

I’d like to be able to conclude this article by announcing that our slim little volume is worth enough money to balance the potential state funding cuts that we face this year; unfortunately, such is not the case. Nevertheless, not everything can be measured by simple monetary value and we are proud to have this early edition of Jefferson’s work in our Reference collection. Like all our materials, it belongs to the people of Abington Township. Come in and visit it sometime soon!



Jefferson inserted a map of the Holy Land

- Rebecca Ritts

Abington Free Library

1030 Old York Road, Abington, 19001
215-885-5180, <http://abg.mclinc.org>

Circulation ext. 12
Information ext. 13
Children's ext. 28
Director ext. 14
Adult Literacy ext. 27
Friends ext. 36

Hours
Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sun. 2-5 p.m.

Roslyn Branch Library

2412 Avondale Avenue, Roslyn, 19001
215-886-9818 <http://abg.mclinc.org/apros.htm>

Hours
Mon. 2-9 p.m., Tues., Thurs., Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wed. 2-8 p.m., Fri. 2-5 p.m.



Hope you caught the Abington Book Cart Drill Team
in Glenside's 100th 4th of July Parade!
Catch the photos @ <http://abg.mclinc.org>

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Staff Spotlight

"Mommeeee! You're doing it wrong!" Those were the first words Trudy McDonald-Egitto heard when she started doing story hour at the Roslyn Library 17 years ago. The 4-year-old heckler was her own daughter, Jackie, now a junior at Penn State.

Luckily for us, Trudy actually does a lot of things very, very well, including story time for 3-year-olds. She started working part-time at our Roslyn Branch and now works full time at Abington, in the Children's and the Circulation departments. She was also instrumental in the fund-raising that preceded the renovations of the library.

Although Trudy is multi-talented, her greatest contribution to the library is her wicked sense of humor. She never misses a chance to crack a joke and never misses a beat with her comebacks. She keeps the staff smiling all of the time and laughing most of the time.

Trudy enjoys crocheting and last winter made scarves for all her co-workers. Other hobbies include reading and yoga.

She is also known for her culinary expertise and unsurpassed devotion to the Beatles and Bruce Springsteen.

On her vacation, Trudy enjoys traveling with her family, the aforementioned Jackie; daughter Ali, a senior at Gwynedd-Mercy College; and husband Joe who recently caught a Jim Thome foul ball. Their most recent trips include Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic and Cancun, Mexico.

-Lois Odabas

