



From the Director's Desk

The Abington Free Library is a terrific place to work. That is why hardly anybody ever leaves, which is a blessing, as we seldom have to say good-bye. But next month, we say a bittersweet farewell to one of our most beloved colleagues and friends, Pat Seese.

I met Pat 16 years ago on the first day of my new position as director. Her Irish brogue (now faint) was more pronounced back then, and she talked a mile a minute. I swear I couldn't understand a word she was saying. I was aghast. How would we possibly work together?

But it didn't take me long to discover that every word from her lips was one of kindness, her temperament was permanently stuck at patient, and her favorite expression was exclaimed as just one word: "Dear God and His Blessed Mother!"

I had hoped to never see this day come, as Pat Seese is the heart and soul of this building. Pat, I will miss your good counsel, your wonderful way with our staff and patrons, and your rare and generous nature. I know that everybody associated with the library, the Board, staff, our Friends and patrons, will join me in saying you are one in a million, and we love you. Slán agus ádh mór ort!



- Nancy Hammeke Marshall

Goodbye and Good Luck to Our Irish Rose

Pat Seese is leaving. Retiring. Funny, fiery, friendly and endearing Pat. She grew up on the very walls of Derry, Northern Ireland, walls so thick they could hold the foundation of a house. There was only one problem, then. There was no way down to the town or back to the house without mounting or descending a massive flight of steps. That would explain the figure she still cuts!

She grew up in a time and a place that seem idyllic, now ... without TV, visits to her grandparents' home where the only heat was from a fireplace, long walks and raucous games on the gorgeous green hills, and, when they were teenagers, weekly dances, with Pat and her friends swapping party dresses left and right.

When she was 22, Pat and a friend decided to immigrate to Australia. No, wait, maybe the States. No wait, just for a visit ... only a visit. Until she met Bob Seese and fell in love and set her destiny firmly on our shores. In 1963, she married her handsome, charming carpenter and they went on to have two children, Bob Jr. and Sharon.

When the children were little, Pat volunteered in the library at the Immaculate Conception parish school in Jenkintown, and, remembering her life-long love of reading, decided to try working in a library. Anyone who does work in a library can tell you that it's a lot more than books. When she started, as a temporary worker, Pat spent many hours typing library cards, and many more looking up the cost of replacement books in the old, multi-volume "Books in Print." She walked down the hill to her home every day muttering to herself, "Only six more months, only six more months."

But six months grew to 30 years, and her temp job yielded to a full-time position as head of the Circulation Department. In that position, she more or less created an Irish village among the staff. We worked together, ate together, partied together and, alas, mourned together. Pat keeps us focused on the human factor, which makes the library a pleasant place to be.

When Pat was made, it's been said, the mold was broken.

Pat's accent is a part of her charm, as is her constant invocation of "Jesus, Mary and Joseph!" Also endearing is the way she refers to her sister in Ireland as "our Margaret." Over time, we've all come to call her "our Pat."

Confusion sometimes reigns when Pat is busy. We have so many books on "hold" for patrons, she sometimes picks up the phone and asks a patron, "Can I hold you?" More than one has readily agreed.

What's also endearing about Pat is her compassion for her patrons, who have become friends over the years. It's not unusual to see Pat commiserating when the news is sad. However, we also see her happiness when the news is good.



Many reading this will remember Pat being a member of the Abington Library Book Cart Drill Team. Her moves were honed when she performed in the Saint Patty's Day parade with the Timoney Irish Dancers. Her enthusiasm for both translated into fun for anyone near her. Whether participating in or just attending the St. Patrick's Parade is a highlight of her year, a real connection to her roots.

One year, dressed in their Irish finery, Pat and a friend caught an early train to get the best seats. Happily anticipating the parade, they chatted about who they might see there. Slowly, though, they came to the realization that they were the only ones in Shamrock covered sweaters. The parade was the next week! Telling this story, she laughed so hard she cried.

Most of Pat's stories do end that way, and lately her stories have all revolved around a singular 3-year-old named Declan, who has stolen her heart. On May 31, her official title of Head of Circulation, which she has held for 25 years, will now change to simply Granny. Pat waited many years to take on that mantle, and it is one she will carry with delight. We will miss Pat with an ache for a while, but also realize that she has earned this well-deserved retirement with her beloved family.



- Jackie Guyton and Lois Odabas

Photo by Dimitra Seiler

Reference Department News

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



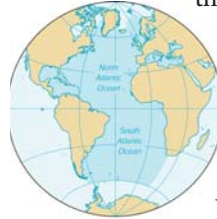
Did you stop by Abington Library on Mango Day (March 8)? Did you enjoy mango juice, dried mangoes and mango salsa? If you missed Mango Day, you may be wondering what it was all about. We offer a foreign language learning tool, Mango Languages, through the Library website. Mango Day was an opportunity to promote and instruct our patrons on how to access and use Mango to learn Spanish, French, Hindi, Greek and many more languages. Please call or stop by the Information Desk if you would like to learn how to access Mango Languages.

The Library also offers a new online resource called Teen Health and Wellness, which allows teens to search on a variety of topics, as well as ask questions online. The site also provides links to hotlines on subjects such as AIDS, teen pregnancy, eating disorders and suicide. This resource was made available, in part, through a gift from NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness).



Look for the Mango and the Teen Health and Wellness icons on the Library website.

We handle many reference questions each day, and some are more challenging than others. One that



stood out in the past month was, "What is the temperature of the air over the Atlantic Ocean?" We are pleased to report that after failing to find the answer online, one of our reference librarians found the answer in the New Encyclopedia Britannica Macropaedia, volume 25. Take a look under "oceans" to learn about the impact of ocean-atmosphere interactions on weather and climate.

Looking forward to seeing you in the Library, Mimi Satterthwaite and her staff at the Information Desk
215-885-5180, ext. 13



Dear Pat,



For all those years when I was a regular "fixtured" at the library, I always looked forward to being greeted by you with your beautiful smile and warm welcome ... as Barry still does! You have been a tremendous asset to the library and certainly will be missed very much.

May your retirement be one of relaxation, pleasant memories, good health and fun with your family and friends ... and continued absorbing interest to explore new vistas.

With fond best wishes for many happy and satisfying future years,

Barbara Rowland

Barbara Rowland served as Trustee vice-president from 1995-2002, and general chairperson for the capital campaign for Phase I and II. She put in countless hours supporting Abington Libraries, as does Barry Rowland, who continues to read at Drop-In Story Times run by Jenkintown Kiwanis and the children's department.

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



DAYTIME BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
Every first Thursday of the month, 1 p.m.

May 6 - Marriage, a History: From Obedience to Intimacy, or How Love Conquered Marriage, by Stephanie Coontz

June 3 - Books selected for 2010-2011

June 10 - Case of a Lifetime: a criminal defense lawyer's story, by Abbe Smith

July 1 - The forger's spell : a true story of Vermeer, Nazis, and the greatest art hoax of the twentieth century, by Edward Dolnick

OLD YORK ROAD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Every second Tuesday of the month, 7-8:45 p.m.

May 11 - Betty Smith, OYRGS: "18th Century Records and use of the Pennsylvania Archives"

June 8 - Dr. Jeffrey Kenneth Kohn: "Our American Flag"

July 13 - "Roadblocks, Tangled Roots and Wrong Turns"

Aug. 10 - Marion Rosenbaum: "DNA: A Genealogy Update"



WWII LECTURE SERIES

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

May 18 - Aaron Elson began recording the stories of World War II veterans in 1987 when he attended a reunion of the 712th Tank Battalion, with which his

father served. Read more about him at abingtonfreelibrary.org.

Get involved. Call Brandon at 856-296-9256 or email him at brandon.traister@us.army.mil.

RUTH ABEL MEMORIAL BOOK AND FILM DISCUSSION GROUP

May 26 - Hard Rain Falling by Don Carpenter
Available now in the Library Office for \$11 or may be borrowed from the library system.

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!

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.



DROP-IN STORY TIMES – All ages
Thursdays, through May 20, 11-11:30 a.m.
Led by Jenkintown Kiwanis Club members.
All children must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver.
No advance registration required.

"MAGNETIC MAGIC" WORKSHOP – Homeschoolers in grades K-6
Wednesday, May 5, 1 p.m.
Presented by Mad Science of West New Jersey
Register now. Space is limited.

PRESCHOOL PAJAMA PARTY – Ages 3-5
Wednesday, May 5, 7-7:30 p.m.
Children may wear PJs and bring a stuffed animal to cuddle during this evening story time.
No advance registration required.
All children must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver.

LAUGH, DANCE AND SING WITH PETER MOSES – Ages 2 and up
Two shows:
Thursday, May 6, 7 p.m.
(Abington Free Library) and
Monday, May 10, 7 p.m.
(Roslyn Branch Library)
Register now for both events.
Call 215-885-5180, ext. 28 (Abington) or 215-886-9818 (Roslyn).



RICHARD PECK PRE-VISIT CELEBRATION – Grades 4-6
Wednesday, May 12, 7-8 p.m.
Author Richard Peck is coming to Abington Free Library on Sunday, May 16. On May 12 we'll discuss his Newbery Honor book, [A Long Way from Chicago](#). Each child who attends will receive a free copy of the book to keep. Registration/book pickup is underway. Books must be picked up within three days after call-in registration.

SCIENCE IN THE SUMMER – "BIOSCIENCE"
A four-day science course for students who have completed grades 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5
Monday, June 21 through Thursday, June 24 – Morning and afternoon sessions available. Parents/guardians: Register in person Monday, May 17, through Tuesday, June 1. Bring your child's library card and sign a GlaxoSmithKline permission slip at the time of registration. Children will be selected by registration lottery. Acceptance notices will be mailed in early June.

2010 SUMMER READING CLUB – "MAKE A SPLASH – READ!"
Registration for this year's Summer Reading Club begins on Friday, June 18. Abington Township children of all ages (including preschoolers) are encouraged to read 20 minutes per day and record their progress in a log. Children may read independently or be read to by others. Those who also keep a time log will be eligible to receive prizes upon completion of five, 10 and 15 hours of reading (while supplies last). Children may turn in their reading logs to Abington Free Library or Roslyn Branch Library any time between Aug. 9 and Sept. 9 to receive a free book.

Watch for our summer program flyers, or check abingtonfreelibrary.org for our complete summer program listings.



Abington Free Library will be offering an opportunity for your child to practice reading this summer with a young adult (a Junior/Senior High student) in our program Abington READS. This program is designed to offer encouragement in reading to young readers who have completed Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades. Your child will have the opportunity to listen to several stories, practice reading aloud and select books to borrow with their young adult partner. The summer is an important time for young readers to practice and gain confidence in their reading ability.

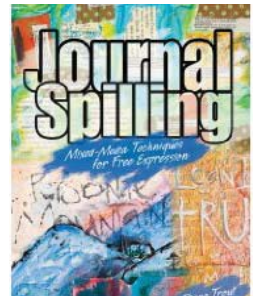
The Abington READS! program begins Monday, June 21 and runs until July 27.
Sessions: Select one session per week
Mondays from 6-7 p.m.
Mondays from 7-8 p.m.
Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Tuesdays from 10:15-11:15 a.m.
Sign-ups will begin on May 24 in the library at the Adult Information Desk by phone, please call 215-885-5180, ext. 13.

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.



Join us this summer for Abington READS! Help younger students (K-2nd grade) practice reading over the summer. Young adults (ages 12-17) may sign up for one hour per week for at least four weeks. It's fun -- and you get to inspire young students to become better readers. A training session on read-aloud techniques is required for young adults new to Abington READS! The training will be Saturday, June 12, from 10-11 a.m.
The program begins Monday, June 21, and runs until Tuesday, July 27. Registration begins May 24.
Sessions: Mondays from 6-7 p.m. or 7-8 p.m., and Tuesdays from 10:15-11:15 a.m. or 6:30-7:30 p.m.



TEEN JOURNALING
Grades 6-12
Wednesdays, June 24-July 29 from 6:30-8 p.m.
Join Diana Trout (artist 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 Monday, June 1.





Roslyn Branch Library

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

Roslyn READS!

The Roslyn Branch offers a fun program where beginner readers (kindergarten through entering third grade) are matched with a young adult (ages 12-17) to listen to stories and practice reading aloud.

Program dates: June 21-Aug. 16.

Monday afternoons from 1:30-2:30 p.m. OR

Monday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Registration begins May 25.

Training session for young adults: Join us at Abington Free Library on Saturday, June 12, from 10-11 a.m. for a workshop on read-aloud techniques. Attendance is mandatory if you have not attended a training session previously. T-shirts will be available. Earn service learning hours! Certificates will be awarded.

DRAW MANGA

Manga is a Japanese word that means "comics." We use it to describe Japanese-style comics. (Anime is Japanese cartoons, such as Pokemon and Dragon Ball Z.)

Want to learn how to draw Manga characters? Local high school students will be at the Roslyn Library on Friday, June 25, at 11 a.m. to teach you.

You can learn to draw Naruto, Pokemon and Yu-Gi-Oh. Make up your own stories!

This program is for children and teens ages 9 and up, and is limited to 10 people. Registration begins June 4. Call or visit the Roslyn Branch to register.

PETER RABBIT

will be visiting the Roslyn Branch Library on Friday July 2 at 11 a.m.

Courtesy of Barnes & Noble Booksellers.

There will be stories and an activity.

Program is for ages 2-7. Bring your camera and take a picture of your child with Peter Rabbit. Registration begins June 11.

SUMMER FUN DAYS

Fridays at 11 a.m.:

July 9-Aug. 13.

Six performers for ages 3 and up.

Two of a Kind (musicians)

Dick Rainer (juggler)

Tom Yurasits (magician)

Don Dougherty (storyteller)

Gene Galligan (puppeteer)

Mad Science of West New Jersey-Wacky Waves program



PRESCHOOL FUN DAYS

Stories, songs and crafts

July 6-Aug. 12

Tuesdays, 11-11:30 a.m., ages 3-6

Thursdays, 11-11:30 a.m., ages 2-3

2010 SUMMER READING CLUB

"MAKE A SPLASH - READ!"

Registration for this year's Summer Reading Club begins on Friday, June 18. Abington Township children of all ages (including preschoolers) are encouraged to read 20 minutes per day and record their progress in a log. Children may read independently or be read to by others. Those who also keep a time log will be eligible to receive prizes upon completion of 5, 10 and 15 hours of reading (while supplies last). Children may turn in their reading logs to Abington Free Library or Roslyn Branch Library any time between Aug. 9 and Sept. 9 to receive a free book.

Thank You to Our Recent Significant Donors

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Marilyn Wright
Nancy Wright
Cynthia Guzzo & Gerald Zubkoff



Adult Literacy Events

For information, call 215-885-5183, email ablit1@yahoo.com, or go to abingtonfreelibrary.org/adult_literacy

Our year-round Adult Literacy Program helps about 150 students each year improve their reading, writing and math skills. In addition, we help students prepare for their high school equivalency diploma, the GED, and those whose native language is not English.

A training for new tutors is offered twice a year, and the next training will be offered in September/October. Support meetings for all tutors are offered about once

a month, in addition to weekly scheduled training possibilities in the area.

For additional information, please stop by the Adult Literacy office at Abington Free Library, on the lower level. You can also call us, 215-885-5183, or email us at AbLit1@yahoo.com.

- Rob Naborn, Adult Literacy Supervisor

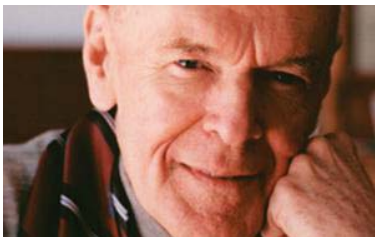


Friends of Abington Libraries Design-a-Bookmark Contest Winners

The Friends of the Libraries gave a reception for the winners of the Design-a-Bookmark Contest and their families. Each winner received a gift bag and a balloon, while everyone enjoyed cookies made by Andy Freedman and other refreshments. Watch for next year's contest in the Libraries and on the website, abingtonfreelibrary.org.

Pick up one of the winning bookmarks in the children's department and at the Roslyn Branch.

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. Register for this FREE event at the Library Office, call 215-885-5180,

ext. 15, or through the website: abingtonfreelibrary.org.

Made possible by the support of the Friends of Abington Libraries.



Front row: Ava Scout Leone (4th grade), Alyssa Schaaf (2nd grade), Nathanael Cheng (6th grade), Arden Weilheimer (3rd grade), Pippa Young (kindergarten), Alex Kubel (1st grade), Second row: Jessica Ruggieri (5th grade) and Lydia Johnson (9th grade) Photo by Lydia Parke



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. Our last business meeting is Saturday, May 15, at 9:30 a.m. The annual meeting, our Picnic in the Park, will be June 7, 5:45 p.m., at Alverthorpe Park.

Spring Activities:

- Richard Peck program - May 16
- Election Day Bake Sale - May 18
- Picnic in the Park - Join us June 7 at the Pavilion at Alverthorpe for a pot luck supper. Bring a dish to share and a \$1 donation.

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE FRIENDS:

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

All proceeds from Friends' activities go directly to support the township libraries.

Congratulations to the winners of the Design-a-Bookmark Contest 2010! Pick up one of their bookmarks in the children's department and at the Roslyn Branch.

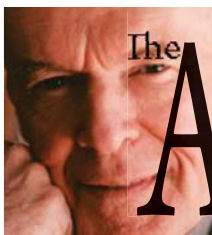
The winners are: Pippa Young (kindergarten), Alex Kubel (1st grade), Alyssa Schaaf (2nd grade), Arden Weilheimer (3rd grade), Ava Scout Leone (4th grade), Jessica Ruggieri (5th grade), Nathanael Cheng (6th grade), and Lydia Johnson (9th grade).

NEW BOOKS ARRIVE EVERY DAY AT OUR BOOKCELLAR - Please come by and browse through 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 are: 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.



- Lydia Parke, president, The Friends of the Abington Township Public Libraries



The

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Mango Languages, Teen Health,
Print Encyclopedia's great save.

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Bookmark Winners!

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Jenkintown, PA

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Abington Township Public Library Newsletter
abingtonfreelibrary.org Spring/Summer 2010 Vol. 9, No. 1

The Library is pleased to offer a special event made possible by the Friends of Abington Libraries. On Sunday, May 16, from 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. To register for this FREE event, stop by the Library Office, call 215-885-5180, ext. 15, or sign up on the website: abingtonfreelibrary.org.

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
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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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Volunteer Spotlight - Sheila Stieritz

Busy describes the lives of many of our retired volunteers, but busy seems inadequate to describe Sheila Stieritz, one of over 80 volunteers in the Library's Adult Literacy Program.

A native of Kentucky, Sheila moved to Abington with her husband over 35 years ago to raise a family and pursue their careers in health care. Together, they raised three children, and are the proud grandparents of seven grandchildren – ages 3-19. (We caught up with Sheila by phone in Colorado where she was enjoying a visit with her son's children.)

Prior to her retirement three years ago, Sheila worked in area hospitals, first in critical care nursing and then in risk management. In 2007 a colleague (and fellow tutor), Arlene Franco, introduced Sheila to the founder and then director of the literacy program, Marlyn Cohen.

Sheila volunteered to help "in any capacity." She quickly joined the Tutor Support Committee and helped out in the office.

Seizing on Sheila's knowledge and interest in nursing, Marlyn paired Sheila with a nurse from Korea with limited English ability. At first, their weekly meetings were a little rocky, but Sheila persevered by exploring various ways to communicate – especially by allowing her student to talk about her background, about Korea and about her experience coming to the United States.



Like so many of our literacy volunteers, Sheila talks about the rewards of becoming a tutor, and says she has learned as much if not more than her student. She has learned not only about Korea and Korean culture, but as she has interpreted American culture for her student, she has gained more insight into our country as well. Sheila was extremely gratified to help her student navigate through our health care system when her student became pregnant. She has also gained a friend.

Before joining the literacy program, Sheila's student lacked the English skills needed to feel comfortable in her new country, or to help her children with their homework. Although trained as a dialysis nurse, she was unable to work until her English improved. While she continues to study for an English proficiency test, to work as a registered nurse, she has found work in a dialysis clinic. She no longer relies on her electronic translator, and she has notified the school district that she no longer needs a translator for parent-teacher conferences. Happily, she can now help her children with their homework.

In addition to her volunteer activities at the library, Sheila is an occasional driver for Meals on Wheels. She also volunteers to sit with dying patients at Abington Memorial Hospital when they would otherwise be alone, as part of the No One Dies Alone program. Even in retirement, Sheila works "extremely part time" as a consultant for special projects for the hospital. Sometimes she's busy.



- Elizabeth Sperling