

From the Director's Desk

By now many of you have seen the signs around the library noting some reductions in services due to the grim news out of Harrisburg. No library in the Commonwealth saw a 9 percent decrease in state aid coming. Pile that on top of last year's 20 percent cut, and funding to public libraries is being decimated.

The word "Free" in Abington Free Library pertains to free access. That means that anybody and everybody can walk in here, and I promise you, they do. What makes these cuts even more painful are the numbers we're seeing: 34,466 users were in the library in July. In the same period we moved 79,768 items across the circulation desk. We like to think of our library as a "community living room," and have even incorporated that idea into our Mission Statement. Apparently, you all think of the library that way, too!

The word "Free" in Abington Free Library does not pertain to finances or money. I smile a little when a patron

objects to an overdue fine by saying, "Isn't this a free library?" Again, free doesn't mean without cost. And we're about to have this hammered home because of the budget passed in Harrisburg this summer. Our patrons are going to see reductions in services, materials and programs. What they will not see, however, are reductions in the extras that our staff provides readily and happily, and that don't cost a cent. We'll ask you how you're doing, and "how's the family?" because we care. We'll recommend books, even deliver them to our homebound patrons' homes, share in smiles, and provide a welcoming home away from home. Lack of funding can't take that away from us or you!

Once we start losing our funding streams there is no assurance that they'll be found again. Communities that support their libraries are more desirable and have an undeniable advantage. (Why do you think *Money Magazine* chose Abington as the number 29 Best Place to Live in

America?) Please do what you can to help. Donate. And call your legislators and tell them you value your library.



- Nancy Hammeke Marshall

Thank You to Our Recent Significant Donors

Friends of the Abington Libraries
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Joan & Joel Bachman
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Helen Lutz Oughton
Teresa Scroggins
World Language Department of
West Chester Area SD

Reference Department News

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

This fall is full of exciting technology updates to explore. In mid-August we upgraded our online catalog. Please call or stop by if you need help with searching the catalog. You can continue to place holds on materials from in the library or from home. Please note that we have moved the

location for picking up hold requests. As you walk in the library, bear to the right around the



Access eBooks with your library card!

Circulation Desk. On the low shelves, you will find your requested items with a blue paper marked with the first three letters of your last name and the last four digits of your phone number. Please take all materials to Circulation for checkout.

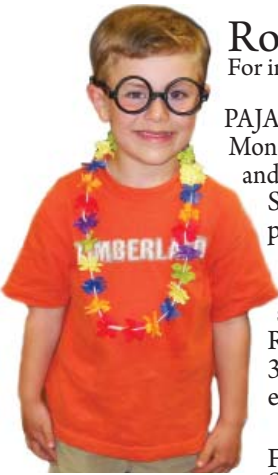
Many of you already listen to audiobooks on CD, on a Playaway®, or download them from Overdrive® through the library website. Overdrive® now also offers eBooks! Read books on your computer or transfer them to a compatible device. The eBooks are available to Montgomery County residents compliments of Montgomery County District funding.

Join me on Sept. 23 between 11 a.m. and noon or on Nov. 4 between 7 and 8 p.m. to learn more about eBooks, searching the online catalog, placing holds and other fantastic online resources offered through the library.

It was great seeing everyone at Abington Night Out. This is always a great event in our community. Please stop by and see us in the Library, too!

- Mimi Satterthwaite and her staff
at the Information Desk

215-885-5180, ext. 13



Roslyn Branch Library

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

PAJAMA PARTIES for ages 3-6
Mondays, Sept. 20, Nov. 15
and Dec. 6, from 6:30-7 p.m.
Stories, songs, finger
plays, crafts. Children
are invited to wear their
pajamas and bring a
stuffed animal to cuddle.
Registration begins Aug.
30. Please register for
each program separately.

FALL STORY TIMES
Sept. 27 through Nov. 18.

Note: There will be no story time on Nov. 11.
Ages 3-6: Tuesdays at 11 a.m.
Ages 2-3: Thursdays at 11 a.m.
This program is meant for the child and
parent/caregiver to enjoy as a pair.
Registration begins Sept. 7.

SAFETY PROGRAMS for ages 4-12
Presented by Pat Fallon from the
Montgomery County Health Department
Mondays from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Playground Safety: Sept. 27 (Registration
begins Sept. 7.) Play Playground Memory.
Halloween Safety: Oct. 18 (Registration
begins Sept. 27.) Play Halloween Jeopardy.
If you wear a costume you get a small prize!
Sledding Safety: Nov. 29 (Registration
begins Nov. 8.) Play Downhill Racer.



HENRY AND MUDGE CELEBRATION
for ages 5-9
Monday, Oct. 4, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Read any or all of the books about Henry
and Mudge and come prepared to share
them with a small group. We'll do a fun
craft and enjoy a delicious snack.
Registration begins Sept. 13.

HALLOWEEN CLAY CREATURES
for ages 8-13
Oct. 18 from 7:30-8:30 p.m.
Create your own Halloween figurines:
pumpkins, ghosts, scarecrows, witches, bats, etc.
Limited to 10 participants.
Registration begins Sept. 27.

FROG AND TOAD CELEBRATION
for ages 5-9
Monday, Nov. 1, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Frog and Toad are the best of friends. Read
about their many adventures, and come to
the library to share what you know with a
small group. We'll do fun frog and turtle
crafts and enjoy a delicious snack.
Registration begins Oct. 4.

LEGO BLOCK PARTY for ages 5-12
Monday, Nov. 8, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Refreshments will be provided.
Limited to 15 participants. Legos will be
provided but cannot be taken home.
Registration begins Oct. 18.

BABY DAYS for ages 5 months to 2 years
Tuesdays at 11 a.m.
Nov. 9, 16, 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14.
Babies and caregivers will sing songs, read
stories and do finger plays.
Registration begins Oct. 19.
Register for each program separately.

KNITTING BASICS for ages 9 and up
Monday, Nov. 22, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Bring your own needles -- at least a size 10.
Bring a ball of worsted weight yarn (No. 4)
in a solid color.
Limited to 8 participants.
Registration begins Nov. 1.

BARNES & NOBLE BOOKFAIR Support Abington Township Public Libraries!

On Saturday, Dec. 11, all day, there will be
a bookfair at the Barnes & Noble in Willow
Grove, 102 Park Avenue.

Pick up a voucher at Roslyn or Abington Library,
or on the website: abingtonfreelibrary.org.
A percentage of the net sales using the voucher
will be donated to the libraries.

Activities from 10-4 p.m. include crafts, story
times, and ThinkFun games.

*Note: You may present your voucher at any Barnes
& Noble store on that day to benefit Abington
libraries. More details soon!*

Adult Literacy Program

For additional information, please stop by the Adult Literacy office, or call 215-885-5183 or email us at AbLit1@yahoo.com.

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

We will offer a training for new tutors in
October. Support meetings for all tutors
are offered once a month, in addition to
weekly scheduled training possibilities in
the area.

We are working on special tutoring sessions
and classes dedicated to English Language
and Civics in the fall.

- Elizabeth Sperling,
Tutor/Student Coordinator

- Rob Naborn, Program Coordinator



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.
We meet on Saturday mornings at 9:30.

Scheduled meetings:
Sept. 11 and Nov. 13, Feb. 12 and May 14, 2011

The annual meeting, our Picnic in the Park, will be
June 13, 2011, 5:45 p.m., at Alverthorpe Park.

Fall Activities:

- Election Day Bake Sale – Nov. 2
- Jewelry Auction – month of November

Winter Activities:

- Design-a-Bookmark Contest for children
grades K-12

Spring Activities:

- Election Day Bake Sale – May 2011
- Annual Meeting – June 13, 2011

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE FRIENDS:

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

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.

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

Friends Executive Board
for 2009-2010:

- Lydia Parke,
President
- Ellen Baxter,
Vice President
- Elizabeth Christian,
Treasurer
- Linda Connelly,
Recording Secretary
- Ruth Gebhardtshauer,
Corresponding Secretary



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.



PRESCHOOL STORY TIMES

Session 1 begins week of Sept. 13 and continues through week of Oct. 18. Registration begins Aug. 30. Session 2 begins week of Nov. 8 and continues through week of Dec. 13. Two-year-olds meet on Tuesdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m., 3- to 5-year-olds on Mondays, 10:30-11 a.m.

PRESCHOOL PAJAMA PARTIES

Ages 3-5
Three Wednesdays:
Oct. 6, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8, 7-7:30 p.m.
No advance registration is required for these evening story times. Children must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver.

HAND-BUILDING CLAY PUMPKINS

Ages 5 and up
Tuesday, Oct. 26, 6:30-8 p.m.
Use clay to form, build and paint your own pumpkin. Children 6 and under must be accompanied by an adult.
Registration begins Oct. 11.

DROP-IN STORY TIMES

All ages
Weekly story times led by
Jenkintown Kiwanis Club members.
Dates and times to be announced.

DOGGONE GOOD READERS

Ages 6-10
Three Saturdays: Oct. 2, Nov. 6 and Dec. 4
10:15-10:45 a.m. OR 11-11:30 a.m.
Children practice reading aloud in small groups to certified therapy dogs.
Registration begins Sept. 13.

TODDLER STORY TIMES

Ages 12-23 months
Four Wednesdays:
Oct. 27 and Nov. 3, 10, 17, 10:30-11 a.m.
Registration for Abington Township/
Rockledge Borough residents begins Oct. 18.
All others may register starting Oct. 22.



STORY TIMES WITH JEAN & NIJI

For children ages 3 & up
Two Mondays: Oct. 25 & Nov. 1, 10:30-11 a.m.
Listen to stories read by volunteer Jean Campellone. Pet her yellow Lab, Niji, a therapy dog. No advanced registration required. All children must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver.

NATIVE AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP TALES

Ages 6-10
Thursday, Nov. 18, 7-7:45 p.m.
Explore the mystery of human-animal friendships through folktales presented by Irene Harris. Registration begins Nov. 8.

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.

CHESS AND OTHER MIND GAMES

Grades 6-12. Adults welcome!

Fridays, 3:30-5 p.m. beginning Oct. 8.

Chess, checkers, Othello and other board games.
Something to do Friday afternoons!
Meet new friends! Exercise your brain!

Check out our ever-expanding
Young Adult area!

Check the website for updates on
Teen Programs.
abingtonfreelibrary.org



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

THE RUTH R. ABEL MEMORIAL BOOK AND FILM DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Shorday Room
Sept. 15 – *Bright Star*, a film about John Keats and Fanny Brawn. Reserve your copy from the Library Office.

Oct. 20 – *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson. Available in the Library Office for \$9.

Nov. 17 – *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel. Available soon in the Library Office.

You may also borrow any of these titles from the library system.

WWII LECTURE SERIES

Every third Tuesday at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sept. 21 - The Malmedy Massacre - Ted Paluch of the 285th Field Observation Battalion will also discuss his experiences at The Battle of the Hurtgen Forest and the Battle of the Bulge.

ONLINE RESOURCE CLASS

What your library card can do for you!
Learn about our online resources and searching the library's online catalog.

Thursday, Sept. 23, from 11 a.m.-noon
Thursday, Nov. 4, from 7-8 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA A-Z: Ah, The Good Ol' Days!
Wednesday, Oct. 13, at 7 p.m.

Rick Spector will raid his Nostalgia Cabinet to present memories of Philadelphia from A to Z. The slide show features beautiful digital images, Rick's inspiring live commentary and music. Audience participation is encouraged.

OLD YORK ROAD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Every second Tuesday from 7-8:45 p.m.

Sept. 14 – Tracking Those Fugitive Ancestors
Oct. 12 – My Legacy
Nov. 9 – Immigration Records
Dec. 14 – DNA: A Genealogy Update

FOLK GUITAR WORKSHOP SERIES

Six lesson course Mondays at 7 p.m.
Sept. 20; Oct. 4, 18; Nov. 1, 15, & 29.
For age 15 and up.

PROF. BURTON KLEIN SPEAKS

Thursdays at 10 a.m. in the Shorday Room

Oct. 7 – Swarovski Plus ...
Oct. 14 – Doctorow Said!
Oct. 21 – The Luddite World ...
Oct. 28 – The Stress of Breathing ...

SOCRATES CAFÉ

Every second Wednesday of the month from 10:30-noon
AND every fourth Friday of the month from 7-8:30 p.m.

DAYTIME BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

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





In This Issue: From the Director's Desk
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Abington Township Public Library Newsletter
abingtonfreelibrary.org
Fall 2010 Vol. 9, No. 2

No, the middle page of your newsletter hasn't fallen out. Because of budget cuts, we have had to find ways to lower the cost of this newsletter so we could continue to send it to you. We've changed the format from six pages to four, and we're sending three rather than four a year. Consider getting your library information through email rather than through the post office. Email kburnham@mclinc.org and ask to be switched to paperless. *Thank you!* Check our website for current information.

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
Officeext. 15
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.

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.

The Ab Lib Behind-the-Scenes Staff
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Staff Spotlight - Susan Wu

We who work at Abington Library know that one of the most exciting moments of Susan Wu's life was touching the hand of the future president of the United States. In October 2008, when then-candidate Barack Obama made a campaign stop at Abington High School, he went on to buy his wife flowers from Penny's Flowers in Glenside. As the motorcade wound its way down Easton Road, Susan made eye contact with Obama, who reached his hand out to her. Since his car was moving, she just grabbed his hand and ran next to the car for a few moments.

Susan was born in China during the Cultural Revolution. Her mother was a doctor, who had become separated from her family in Hong Kong because she was studying medicine on the mainland when the revolution came in 1949.

Susan's grandparents were able to emigrate to America in the 1950s, along with her aunts and uncles, but she and her family could not get here until 1980. The first thing Susan did when she got here was to spend three months in a school learning to speak English. Then she took a series of jobs working in restaurants.

She came to Abington 17 years ago, when her children were quite small, only planning to stay for two years. She has three children who all went through the Abington School District.

Her youngest son, Adam, was a kindergartener at Highland Elementary when author Peter Catalanotto visited the school as part of an artist-in-residence week. He later wrote a book called *Emily's Art*, which is available at the library. Smack in the middle of a picture of a group of kindergarteners is a picture of Adam. That was definitely another exciting moment in her life. And Adam is now an 11th-grader, who shelves books in the library on weekends.

Susan's love of books and her desire to share that with her children led her to Abington Library. While her children were busy reading to themselves one day, she offered to help the children's librarian fold some brochures. One task led to another, and soon she had been hired as a page, to shelf books in the children's section.

A few years later, Susan added more hours and responsibilities as an office assistant.

Susan brings to her job, and to her co-workers, an infectious enthusiasm. She loves working at Abington Library, saying that it's the best place, with the best people, that she has ever worked.

- Lois Odabas

