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The Abington Township Public Libraries Newsletter

Winter 2022-2023 Vol. 21, No. 3
abingtonfreelibrary.org

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Abington Free Library
1030 Old York Road, Abington, 19001
215-885-5180, abingtonfreelibrary.org
Circulation Desk ext. 112
Information Desk ext. 113
Children's Department ext. 128
Executive Director ext. 114
Office ext. 115
Adult Literacy 215-885-5183
Friends of the Library ext. 136
Monday - Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Friday - Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Roslyn Branch Library
2412 Avondale Avenue, Roslyn, 19001
215-886-9818, abingtonfreelibrary.org
Monday: 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday: 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Friday: 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Closed Wednesdays and Sundays.

The views and opinions expressed in various library programs are solely those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of the Abington Township Public Library or the Friends of the Abington Township Public Library.

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STAFF SPOTLIGHT - MEG MITCHELL: COMMUNITY CONNECTOR

Storyline leader. Outreach coordinator. Volunteer organizer. Craft creator. 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 1990s, 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 on its long tradition of serving, educating – 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 iPhone, learn to knit, or maybe just meet with a friend. Whether you are a child just starting to sound out letters 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 out in the community. From events like Youth Meals at Crestmont Park Clubhouse, the Roslyn Car Show, to Ardsley Community Day, you can find Meg sharing information about the library's many offerings while simultaneously leading a craft or other hands-on activity. Children and families know to check out the library's table at these community events to see what fun project is in store for them.

If you haven't checked out the Roslyn Branch Library, we encourage you to! Head on over to 2412 Avondale Avenue, say hi to Meg and see for yourself how much of an asset she is to the community.

-Sara Huff
Young Adult Librarian



The Abington Township Public Library

Abington Township Public Libraries Newsletter
abingtonfreelibrary.org Winter 2022-2023 Vol. 21, No. 3

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 to come.

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 civil 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. Best wishes from all of us here at the library!

Warmest Regards,

Joseph Milano
President Library Trustees

Elizabeth Fitzgerald
Executive Director



THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT SIGNIFICANT DONORS

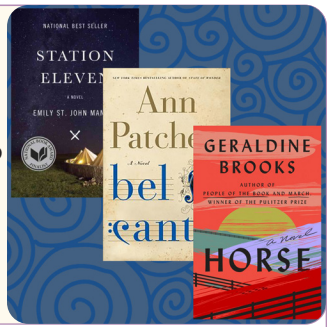
I am moved and humbled by the generosity of the Abington community. Your support is critical to our success and we are grateful for your partnership. With your help, all things are possible!
- Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Executive Director

Friends of the Abington Township Public Libraries

Dr. Robert Abel Jr.	Randal J. McDowell	Patricia A. Timmins
James Cook	Maureen Miller	Salvatore M. Valenti
Carol Doherty	Louis Raggi	Dr. Faren H. Williams
James Gulla	Daniel Rollo	PaLA - David J. Roberts
Barbara, Bob and Allison Lewis Family	Charles M. Silverman	EXCEL Award
Estate of Phyllis B. Linn	Julie Sinnamon	The Summit House
Edward Mahoney	Julianne Teitman	

Ruth and Robert Abel Memorial Book and Film Discussion Group

Wednesdays
March 15,
April 19, May 17
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.



ONE-ON-ONE TECH HELP
Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. - noon
Register for a 30 minute session.

WINTERFEST!
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17
2:00 - 4:00 P.M.
ASHS SELECT CHOIR PERFORMANCE
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY SURPRISE SALE
THEMED CHILDREN'S CRAFT
AND MORE!

ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMEN
In-person, for all ages
Saturday, February 11, 1:00 p.m.

I LOVE THE '90's
TRIVIA NIGHT: I LOVE THE '90'S
Thursday, February 23, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
We will cover all things '90's including movies, music, fashion, and more!

REFERENCE NEWS



Questions?

Librarians at the Information Desk are always ready to help. You can find us under the neon "Information" sign. Can't make it to the library? You can reach us by phone, email, or through the library website.

Phone:
215-885-5180, option 3

Email:
abington@mclinc.org

Web:
abingtonfreelibrary.org/chat

We are happy to assist with placing requests for items, navigating an online resource, such as Libby or hoopla, registering for a program, or searching for a book or movie for research or entertainment.

We are introducing a new service, One-on-One Tech Help, on Thursday mornings between 10:30 a.m. and noon. Each session is 30 minutes and by appointment only. Please call or stop by to make an appointment.

 - The Reference Department staff

ROSLYN PROGRAMS

Please register online for all programs at abingtonfreelibrary.org/events.

STITCH AND CHAT
Adults and teens, drop in with your handicrafts. Fridays, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

PLAYDATE ON AVONDALE
Fridays, 10:30 a.m. - noon
Drop in for playtime with toys most appropriate for ages 2½ to 6 years.

ROSLYN STORY TIME
Ages 3 - 5 Thursdays, 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.
December 1 - 15, January 5 - 26, February 9 - March 2, March 16 - April 6
Stories, play and a take-home craft. See website to register.

TODDLER TIME
Ages 18 - 36 months
Tuesdays, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m.
December 6 and 13
January 10 - February 28
Rhymes, stories and play. See website to register.

NEEDLE FELTING
Adults and teens ages 16 and up
Thursdays, December 1 - 15 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Registration starts November 14.

WINTER GARDENING
Windowsill Crocuses. One kit per household distributed mid-January. Registration starts January 2.

START A MINI-GREENHOUSE
Adults and teens
Saturday, February 11, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Registration starts January 23.

AFRICAN DRUM CIRCLE
Ages 3-12
Monday, January 16, 6:30 - 7:15 p.m.
Registration starts January 2.

ART CLASSES 2023
Adults and teens.
Wednesdays via Zoom

WINTER TREES WATERCOLOR PAINTING
January 18, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Registration starts January 2.

WATERCOLOR BOOKMARKS
February 1, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Registration starts January 8.

WINTER FOX ROCK PAINTING
February 15, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Registration starts January 22.

HAND DYE A SILK SCARF
Adults and teens ages 16 and up
Friday, February 17, 11:00 a.m. OR
Monday, February 20, 7:00 p.m.
Registration starts January 30.

LIFE-SIZE GAMES
Ages 3 - 10
Monday, February 13, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Registration starts January 23.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT
Ages 2 - 5
Tuesday, March 7 to April 11
Registration starts February 20.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Please register online for all programs at abingtonfreelibrary.org/events.

RAINBOW CONNECTIONS
(via Zoom)
LGBTQ+ kids and allies in grades K - 5. Second Monday evening of every month. Start and end times will vary. Meet new friends and talk about LGBTQ+ themed books and topics in a safe space. Registration required.

RAYMOUR & FLANIGAN STORY TIME
All ages
Saturday, December 17
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.
Raymour & Flanigan, 939 Old York Road, Jenkintown
Enjoy stories, songs, and more presented by Abington Free Library staff. Attendees will be eligible for a \$1,000 gift card raffle and exclusive store discounts. No registration required.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIMES
Recommended for ages 2 - 4
Thursdays, January 12, 19, 26, and February 2, 9, 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.
Community Room
Miss Jessica will share stories, songs, activities, and take-home crafts. Register one week before each story time date.

SNUGGLE-UP STORY TIMES
(via Zoom)
Recommended for ages 2 - 6
Mondays, January 23, February 27, and March 27, 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Wear pajamas and snuggle up with your stuffies during these story times with Miss Jessica. Registration begins one week before each session.

"OH, BABY!" STORY TIMES
Ages 8 - 23 months
Wednesdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22
11:00 - 11:30 a.m. Community Room
Join Miss Carolyn for stories, songs, and movement activities that promote caregiver-child interaction. Registration starts January 23.

DOGGONE GOOD READERS
(via Zoom) Grades 1 - 5
Tuesdays, January 17, February 21, March 21, April 18, 7:00 - 7:35 p.m.
Read aloud to a registered therapy dog via Zoom. Registration starts January 3.

THE WAY WE SAY HELLO
Launch party with author Andrea Denish. Ages 3 - 8
Tuesday, February 7, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.
Celebrate the release of Miss Andrea's new picture book, *The Way We Say Hello*, with music, crafts, and more. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing. Registration begins January 24.

NATIONAL DAY OF READING: A CELEBRATION OF STORIES SUPPORTING TRANSGENDER AND NON-BINARY YOUTH
(in-person and via Zoom)
Ages 4 and up
Thursday, February 16, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Join Miss Jessica and friends for book readings and fun activities. Registration begins February 2.

ART WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN (via Zoom)
Tuesdays, January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11, 6:30 p.m.
Please check our website event calendar for age/project updates.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Register with Young Adult Librarian Sara Huff at shuff@mclinc.org, 215-885-5180 ext. 147, or abingtonfreelibrary.org/events

AB-TAB
Third Monday of the month from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
The Teen Advisory Board (Ab-TAB) is a group that helps plan library programs, as well as recommend materials to add to the Young Adult collection. Ab-TAB is a forum to have your opinions and suggestions heard, expand your leadership skills, and earn volunteer service hours. No registration required—just come by!

Q CREW
Second Tuesday of the month from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
LGBTQ+ teens and allies are invited to join the Q Crew! Hang out with new friends and discuss LGBTQ+ issues in a safe space. No registration required—just come by!

ART CLASS: CLAY PLAY
Thursdays, December 8 and 15
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Session 1 explores hand-building techniques with air-dry clay. Session 2 covers acrylic paint finishes. Teens should be able to attend both classes (but you only need to register once).

HANDMADE FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Monday, December 19
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Make gifts for your friends and family: a hot cocoa kit, hanging ornaments, and more. The Library's Ab-TAB will co-facilitate this program. For more info on Ab-TAB, head to abingtonfreelibrary.org/teens.

ART CLASS: PEEL & REVEAL
Thursday, January 19
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Make art using high-contrast color pallets and painter's tape to create bold, layered compositions. Local artist Taylor Cole will lead the class. Teens should wear clothing they won't mind possibly getting painted.

ADULT PROGRAMS

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

RUTH AND ROBERT ABEL MEMORIAL BOOK AND FILM DISCUSSION GROUP
Wednesdays, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Zoom
March 15: *Bel Canto*, by Ann Patchett
April 19: *Station Eleven*, by Emily St. John Mandel
May 17: *Horse*, by Geraldine Brooks

VIRTUAL DAYTIME BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
First Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m.
January 5: *The Lincoln Highway*, by Amor Towles
February 2: *The Midnight Library*, by Matt Haig
March 2: *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, gene editing, and the future of the human race*, by Walter Isaacson

ONE-ON-ONE TECH HELP
Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. - noon
Sign up for a free 30-minute, one-on-one session with a trusted digital navigator, who can help you connect to digital resources. Register online or call the Information Desk at 215-885-5180, ext. 113.

ADULTS READ YA
First Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Join YA Librarian Sara Huff for a new monthly book club.

ABINGTON UNCORKED: WINE 101
Thursday, December 8, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Join Wine Educator Dolores Peralta to learn how to pair wines with holiday meals. \$10.00 recommended donation. Registration is required and is subject to approval.

WINTER FEST!
Saturday, December 17
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Abington Senior High School Select Choir, Friends Surprise Sale, themed children's crafts... and so much more! Sponsored by the Friends of Abington Libraries.

WINTER TREES WATERCOLOR
Adult Virtual Art Class
Monday, December 19, 4:30 p.m.
Registration begins December 1.

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

MURDER AT THE HOLIDAY SWEATER PARTY
Thursday, December 22
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 p.m. on Zoom
Led by professional storyteller Terry Wolfisch Cole of Tell Me Another.

CUP OF COCOA
Adult Virtual Art Class
Monday, January 23, 7:00 p.m.
Registration begins January 5.

THE LEGACY OF THE HOLOCAUST
Friday, January 27, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
In-person and virtual
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 Women.

TRIVIA NIGHT: I LOVE THE '90s
Thursday, February 16, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Covers all things '90s, including movies, music, fashion, and more!

WOODMERE ART MUSEUM'S ILLUSTRATING CHANGE
The Red Rose Girls & 20th Century Suffrage
Tuesday, March 7, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
In-person and virtual
Learn the stories of Philadelphia artists Jessie Willcox Smith, Elizabeth Shippen Green, and Violet Oakley, who exemplified the possibilities for women in the workforce during the suffrage movement. Registration required.

JOIN THE FRIENDS! SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARIES!

The Friends of Abington Township Libraries is a group of volunteers and members who support the township libraries through fundraising and advocacy. The Friends Book Cellar 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 Book Cellar will be inaccessible for the foreseeable future, pending construction work and repairs in the lower level of Abington Library. We have books for sale on the Friends library shelves on the main floor.

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

Another way to donate is to use Amazon Smile and designate "The Friends of the Abington Township Public Library" as your charity of choice. You can access that by going to the Friends page listed above.

The Friends will participate in the upcoming Winter Fest event at the Abington Library on December 17, and will help host other programs this winter.

The Friends welcome new members. Our next quarterly meetings will be on Saturday, February 11, and May 13, 2023, at 9:45 a.m.

For more information, please send an email to: FriendsATPL@gmail.com.

Best wishes,
- Terry Biansco, president,
Friends of the Abington Township Libraries

DIGITAL SKILLS READY @50+ LECTURES
In-person or via Zoom


A variety of one-hour lectures will be offered in December. Registration required. Stop by the Info Desk or call at 215-885-5180, ext. 113. To register online: abingtonfreelibrary.org/tech-learning

ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM



Since 1984, volunteer tutors, working through the Adult Literacy Program, have helped thousands of adults improve their literacy skills.

Some of our students are working to improve their reading and writing skills. Others want to improve their English and math skills to pass a high school equivalency or other test. Many others, who grew up speaking a language other than English, are working to improve their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in English. Our goal is to help area adults so they can prosper in our community.

Our volunteer tutors are the heart of our program. If you have a desire to help, and time to give, please consider becoming a volunteer tutor. Our spring New Tutor Training will be held on three evenings in March. We also offer workshops for our tutors throughout the year.

Please contact us for details at 215-885-5183 or ablit1@yahoo.com.

Literacy Office hours: Monday and Thursday, 2:00-6:00 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:15 a.m.-2:15 p.m.; and by appointment.

- Elizabeth Sperling,
Program Coordinator

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!
267-245-7337 (Text us)



E-Newsletter sign up
 
Email us Chat with a Librarian