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Both Libraries offer free WiFi and loan HotSpots and WiFi enabled Chromebooks!



The Abington Township Public Libraries Newsletter



Fall 2024 Vol. 23, No. 2
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.

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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.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - ANDREW CHRISTY FROM THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION



Have you looked outside at Abington Library's south parking lot lately? Ignore the cars and asphalt for a moment, and look at the trees and flowers. Beautiful, right? You can thank Abington Township's Shade Tree Commission (STC) and Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)—two volunteer-run organizations—for all of the wonderful flora growing outside the building. One member of the STC and the EAC, Andrew Christy, has played a central role in adding more trees and plants to the library.

A resident of Abington since 2016, Andrew's interest in the environment started with a love of birding and a desire to make a garden that allows birds and pollinators to thrive. He and his wife, Nicole, turned to Abington Library for information. They read books by Doug Tallamy and learned how important native plants are for the food web, wildlife, and the environment. With this knowledge, they turned their own home garden into a native-plant oasis and later started a small native plant gardening business, Homegrown Habitats.

Andrew joined the other STC and EAC volunteers who work hard to cultivate and improve the township's green spaces. One project Andrew proposed was to improve the landscaping at Abington Library, which library Executive Director Elizabeth Fitzgerald enthusiastically supported.

For the past two years, over a dozen volunteers have worked together to add native plants and trees to the site. They cleared invasive liriopse and planted a simple plant palette that blooms throughout the seasons, while also providing benefits for wildlife. It's a slow process—perennial plants take three years to reach their full potential—and they will only become more beautiful with age.

The new plants need routine watering while they establish, and Andrew wanted to give a shout out to Jim Sheridan, our building manager, for being on top of that task. "None of them would be alive right now without Jim's help."

Andrew also is one of the volunteers who helps organize the EAC's native plant sales at Abington Library. It's a mutually beneficial relationship, as the plant sales



help fund both township libraries, as well as the EAC's plantings at Abington Library.

"The library is a community hub. It's an important space, and we want to support that," he said. He also wanted to thank all the staff and volunteers for the work they do every day for the community, especially the Adult Literacy program, where volunteer tutors help adults improve their English language skills.

Looking to volunteer beyond the library? The STC and EAC are always looking for volunteers. If you're interested in trees, try the STC, and if you're interested in native plants (other than trees!) and natural resources, go for the EAC. We thank Andrew and the other volunteers for all that they've done, and we look forward to continually working with them!

- Angela Moretti

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abingtonfreelibrary.org Fall 2024 Vol. 23, No. 2

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

In libraries, we know that when the school doors close for the year, it's our time to shine. And this summer, we hope you've brought your shades. The Abington Free Library and the Roslyn Library have been busy!



Thanks in huge part to Ms. Carolyn's school visits—21 presentations to 2,700 children—more than 500 people attended our annual Summer Reading Kick-Off Party. The attendees enjoyed sweet treats from local businesses, arts and crafts, face painting, music, and of course, signed up for our Summer Reading Program. Since the kick-off, nearly 600 children signed up to participate in Summer Reading to date!

Beyond big community events like the Summer Reading Kick-Off Party, you've been coming to the library for Family Fun Nights, Creativity Workshops for teens, monthly meditation classes, book discussion groups, Creative Writing Workshops for adults, life-sized board games for families, and so much more.

Abington and Roslyn library staff have been bringing the library to where you are, too. This summer's Library Pop-Ups in the Park took us on a tour of Abington's parks and gave us a chance to meet new people and celebrate some of the township's most beloved open spaces.

Of course, programs and events are only part of the story. In the first six months of the year, you've borrowed 186,000 items—books, museum passes, connected Chromebooks, eBooks, audiobooks, graphic novels, board games, pickleball kits, and so much more.

I couldn't share this amazing list of accomplishments without the spectacular staff who keep the library moving forward. I would like to thank one staff member in particular, Carolyn DuBois. Ms. Carolyn served as the head of the Children's Department until her retirement this August. She spent 27 years bringing joy, wonder, and a love of reading to the children and families of Abington Township. Carolyn, thank you for all that you've given to our community. You will be missed.

Warmly,
Elizabeth Fitzgerald,
Executive Director



RECENT SIGNIFICANT DONORS



The Friends of the Abington Township Public Library

Robert and JoAnne Abrams	Kiwanis Club of Jenkintown	Old York Road Genealogical Society
A C Camacho	Pamela Konesky	Karen Wright Sanders
James Cook	Mary Jeanne Mahan	Herbert A. Schmidt
Ann Frey	Edward Mahoney	Salvatore M. Valenti
Thomas and Julie Gennaro	Joseph and Elizabeth Milano	

WINTERFEST
Saturday,
December 14,
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.



TEEN MURDER MYSTERY PARTY

**Wednesday, October 30
OR Thursday, October 31,
6:00 — 8:00 p.m.
Community Room**
Find the killer before it's too late!



STITCH N CHAT

@Abington: Thursdays,
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
@Roslyn: Fridays,
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.



LOCAL AUTHOR EXPO

Saturday,
September 21,
Noon – 4:00 p.m.



THE FRIENDS BOOK AND PLANT SALE

Saturday, September 28
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



THE RUTH AND ROBERT ABEL MEMORIAL BOOK AND FILM DISCUSSION GROUP

Led by Dr. Karen Weekes.
Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.



September 4 – film,
American Fiction
October 9 – James McBride,
The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store



November 13 –
Hernan Diaz, *Trust*



REFERENCE NEWS

Many of you know that we offer museum passes to Abington library card holders. We have just added a membership to the Please Touch Museum in Philadelphia! You can borrow passes for three days, at Abington or Roslyn.



More exciting news! There is a new charging station for devices at Abington Free Library, located near the windows facing York Road. If you need a charge, try it out next time you are here.

Charge 12 Devices at Once:

- (4) USB-C
- (4) Lightning Cables
- (2) Wireless Charging Pads
- (2) Universal Electrical Receptacle Outlets

This Charging Station is provided by the generosity of the Friends of Abington Township Public Library (ATPL). ATPL not responsible for lost or stolen items.

e-Resource Highlight:

Have you tried one of our digital resources recently? We offer over 40 of them! Get started right here: abingtonfreelibrary.org/e-resources.

Explore Universal Class and learn something new or enhance your knowledge about photography, using MS Office, writing skills and more. Dive into Consumer Reports online to get the latest information on many products, including appliances, electronics, and home and garden items.

— The Reference Department Staff

ROSLYN PROGRAMS

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

TODDLER TIME - Ages 18 to 36 months
Tuesdays, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m.
September 10 – October 29
November 12 – December 17
Registration starts August 20 and October 22.

ROSLYN STORYTIME - Ages 3 to 5
Thursdays, 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

August 15 – September 26
(No session September 5.)
Registration is open.

October 17 – December 12
(No sessions Nov. 21 and 28.)
Registration starts September 30.

PLAYDATE ON AVONDALE
Fridays, 10:30 a.m. – noon
Drop in for toys and fun! Ages 2½ to 6.

STITCH & CHAT - Fridays, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Bring your project to work on with others.

PAINT THE STARS - Ages 4 to 10
In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month
Monday September 23, 6:30 – 7:15 p.m.

PRUNING TECHNIQUES AND TOOLS
Saturday, October 5, 11:00 a.m. – noon
Registration starts September 15.

MONSTER WREATHS - Adults, teens, and children ages 8 and up
Monday, October 14, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Make one monster wreath per household.
Registration starts September 23.

LUCKY'S FALL HARVEST - Ages 2½ to 8
Storytelling with Mlanjeni Magic.
Tuesday, November 5, 10:15 – 11:00 a.m.
Registration starts October 14.

DINOVEMBER - Ages 4 to 11
Monday, November 11, 6:30 – 7:15 p.m.
Registration starts October 21.

COOKIES - Ages 4 to 12
Monday, December 9, 6:30 – 7:15 p.m.
Decorate cookies for yourself and make special ones for the birds.
Registration starts November 18.

ONLINE PAINTING CLASSES - Adults and teens ages 14 and up
Wednesday, January 15, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Registration starts December 23.

Wednesday February 12, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Registration starts January 20.

Supplies can be picked up at Roslyn Library until one week before each class.

AFRICAN DRUM CIRCLE - Ages 4 to 12
Monday, January 13, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Registration starts December 23.

BUILD-A-MANIA - Ages 4 to 10
Monday, January 27, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Registration starts January 13.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

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

RAINBOW CONNECTIONS - Zoom LGBTQ+ kids and allies in grades K-5
Mondays, September 9, October 14,
November 18, December 9, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Meet new friends and talk about LGBTQ+ themed books and topics in a safe space.
Registration required.

FALL TODDLER STORY TIMES – Session 1
Ages 1-2
Tuesdays, September 17-October 22, 10:30-11:00 a.m.
Community Room
Join Miss Susie for stories, songs, movement activities, and a craft.
Registration starts September 10.

GLOW-IN-THE-DARK BLACK CAT ON A FENCE PAINTING WORKSHOP
Ages 8-11
Tuesday, October 8, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Zoom
Led by Anita Thompson. Art supply kits and black-light keychains will be provided.
Registration starts September 24.

HALLOWEEN FAMILY FUN NIGHT - Ages 4-8
Wednesday, October 23, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Community Room
Enjoy not-so-scary stories, make a craft, and receive some treats! Costumes encouraged.
Registration starts October 10.

SURPRISE GIFT DRAWING WORKSHOP
Ages 4-7
Tuesday, November 12, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Zoom
Draw a wrapped present with a pop-up surprise! Art supply kits will be provided.
Registration starts October 29.

FALL TODDLER STORY TIMES – Session 2
Ages 1-2
Tuesdays, November 12-December 17, 10:30-11:00 a.m.
Community Room
Join Miss Susie for stories, songs, movement activities, and a craft.
Registration starts November 4.

FALL PRESCHOOL STORY TIMES
Ages 3-5
Thursdays, November 7-December 19, 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Community Room
Join Miss Jessica for stories, songs, movement activities, and a take-home craft.
Register one week before each story time date.

MATISSE-INSPIRED NAME PROJECT WORKSHOP
Ages 8-11
Tuesday, December 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Zoom
Create a cut-paper collage containing your name.
Art supply kits will be provided.
Registration starts November 26.

VERY BUSY SPIDER WORKSHOP - Ages 4-7
Tuesday, January 14, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Zoom
Create a mixed-media spider inspired by Eric Carle's book *The Very Busy Spider*. Art supply kits will be provided.
Registration starts December 30.

Science Story Times with Jungle Annie (a.k.a., Miss Andrea) will return to Alverthorpe Park on September 19. Doggone Good Readers will be on hiatus until late 2024 or early 2025. For updates on both programs, visit abingtonfreelibrary.org/events or call 215-885-5180, ext. 128.

TEEN PROGRAMS

All programs are for grades 6 – 12 unless otherwise noted. No registration needed for drop-in programs.

AB-TAB
Third Monday of the month, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. during the school year
The Teen Advisory Board (Ab-TAB) is a group of teens who participate in library projects and make recommendations about teen programs and the selection of library materials. Drop-in.

Q CREW
Second Tuesday of the month, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
LGBTQ+ teens and allies are invited to join the Q Crew! Hang out with new friends and discuss the past, present, and future of LGBTQ+ issues in a safe space. Drop-in.

TEEN VOLUNTEER EVENTS
Library window painting and decorations, crocheting, and more! These events occur throughout the year and count for service hours. Check our website for more information and to register.

PAINT YOUR OWN BOOKEND
Thursday, September 12, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Bookends don't have to be plain and boring! Paint your own to add style to your bookshelves.

HEARTSTOPPER PARTY
Friday, October 4, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Heartstopper season three is here! Celebrate with crafts, trivia, and more.

MURDER MYSTERY PARTY
Wednesday, October 30 OR Thursday, October 31, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
A murder has occurred at the library! Can you find out who did it before it's too late? Put your detective skills to the test!

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK
Monday, November 18, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Bring a dish that your family enjoys during the holidays. Learn about different cultures via yummy international/national cuisines. We'll also try games and activities that represent other nations.

DIY MOON WREATHS
Teens and adults
Thursday, November 21, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Celebrate fall by making a moon wreath!

ADULT PROGRAMS

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

ADULT'S READ YA BOOK CLUB
First Thursday of the month, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Adults, YA isn't just for teens! Join YA librarian Sara Huff for book discussions.

THE RUTH AND ROBERT ABEL MEMORIAL BOOK AND FILM DISCUSSION GROUP
Led by Dr. Karen Weekes.
Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
September 4 – film, *American Fiction*
October 9 – James McBride, *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*
November 13 – Hernan Diaz, *Trust*

PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOTS
Fridays, monthly (dates TBD), noon – 2:00 p.m.
Make an appointment for a free headshot with photographer Laurel Harish. Registration required.

STITCH AND CHAT
Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Drop-in

MONEY MANAGEMENT & PERSONAL FINANCE
Wednesday, September 4, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Learn practical skills to manage your personal finances. Discussion topics include budgeting, saving, credit management, and financial planning. This class is designed for new adults, but all are welcome!

MONTCO ROOTS

Wednesday, September 11, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds, Jeanne Sorg, will review the types of documents recorded with the office, and explain how to search their database for current and historical deeds for your property.

THE ELAINE WOLFSON MAGILNER MEMORIAL CONCERT SERIES - POP UP PERFORMANCE FROM BALLETX
Thursday, September 12, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
BalletX, Philadelphia's premier contemporary ballet event, free, family-friendly, world premiere choreography, music, and a special Q&A with BalletX dancers.

THE CONSTITUTION & CURRENT EVENTS
Tuesday, September 17, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
On Constitution Day, Jules Mermelstein will explain why we have the Constitution, its major principles, and discuss Supreme Court decisions and upcoming cases.

LOCAL AUTHOR EXPO
Saturday, September 21, noon – 4:00 p.m.
Support local authors and learn about book publishing from local experts.

TAX PLANNING AND RETIREMENT
Financial Advisors Jesse Raines and Scott Stern from Wealthbridge Financial will lead two sessions:

Tuesday, September 24, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Learn how the tax system works and solutions to common tax problems.

Tuesday, October 1, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Learn about investment strategies when approaching retirement.

EVOLUTION OF BASEBALL IN PHILADELPHIA
Thursday, September 26, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Enjoy an evening steeped in Philadelphia baseball history, beginning not long after the Civil War and continuing through the 1960s.

ESTATE PLANNING 101
Tuesday, October 15, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Learn the ins-and-outs of estate planning, and how you can get started today.

VIRTUAL ART CLASS: COMPARATIVE SKULL DRAWING WITH THE MÜTTER MUSEUM
Tuesday, October 29, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Zoom
Students will learn a step-by-step approach to create a drawing from images of real human skulls from the Mütter Museum's famous Hyrtl Skull Collection.

STORIES OF IDENTITY BOOK CLUB
Join a lively discussion about stories that focus on the forces that forge our identities.
Thursday, November 7, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
The Painted Drum by Louise Erdrich
Thursday, February 6, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead

PHILADELPHIA: A NARRATIVE HISTORY LECTURE
Tuesday, November 19, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Join historian Paul Kahan to explore the people, places, and events that make Philadelphia unique: from Independence Hall to Eastern State Penitentiary, from Benjamin Franklin and Betsy Ross to Cecil B. Moore and Mayor Cherrille Parker.

WINTERFEST
Saturday, December 14, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
WinterFest is back for another year of winter-themed fun! Enjoy a choral concert by the Abington Senior High School Choir, a Friends of the Libraries sale, themed crafts, a photo booth, a vendor fair, and more!

BECOME A FRIEND

The Friends of Abington Township Public Library invite you to join us in celebrating the fall with some wonderful events at Abington Library.



We will host a Fall Book and Plant Sale on Saturday, September 28, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Come enjoy a day with fall flowers, books, a bake sale, raffle baskets, and meet some Friends. We would love to see you there.

Gently used books will be on sale that day for half price in the Community Room on the lower level – with a bag sale from 2:00 until 3:00 p.m. Purchase one of our bags and fill it to the brim with books for \$5. Our BookCellar store will be open with half-price books on sale, too.

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) is partnering with us to sell native plants, and to give lots of good advice on fall planting. Come shop for plants outside of the library. (We'll move inside if it rains.)

The Friends Silent Jewelry Auction begins on November 1 and runs through November 30. You can donate custom jewelry or finer pieces up until October 14. Donations accepted at the Circulation Desk at both Abington and Roslyn libraries. All proceeds from our sales and the Book Cellar benefit both township libraries.

The Friends gratefully receive books in good condition to sell in the BookCellar. Donation days are Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday between 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Please check the website for what we can accept. There is a limit of three grocery bags or three medium-size boxes at a time.

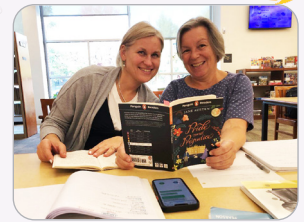
This year's Friends of the Library Week is October 20 – 26. Please look for us as we celebrate. Check our page on the library website for information.

Our Election Day Bake Sale is Tuesday, November 5, 10:00 a.m. – noon.

Please come to our next meeting to learn more about what the Friends do to support and advocate for Abington and Roslyn libraries. We will meet in the Community Room of Abington Library from 9:45 to 11:15 a.m. on the following Saturdays: September 14 and November 9, 2024, and February 8 and May 10, 2025.

Best wishes,
Terry Biansco, President of the Friends of Abington Library

ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM



Many adults in our community need help with their literacy skills. We train volunteer tutors and match them with students who want help to:

Improve their non-native English skills.

Increase their reading, writing, or math skills.

Prepare to pass a test – such as a high school equivalency test.

Pass the U.S. citizenship test.

We also offer small classes where English language learners can practice English in a supportive environment.

We have students waiting for help – both native English speakers and people who are improving their non-native English skills. Become a volunteer tutor. No experience is necessary. We offer new tutor trainings three times a year. The next training will be in October.

For more information, contact the Adult Literacy Office: 215-885-5183 or ablit1@yahoo.com.

— Elizabeth Sperling,
Program Coordinator

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

267-245-7337 (Text us)



E-Newsletter sign up



Email us



Chat with a Librarian