



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 - GAIL LEYDEN

Do you remember the moment you got your library card? It was exciting, but getting there might have been confusing. Who can apply for a card, and how do you go about it? For more than 10 years, Gail Leyden has been at Abington Free Library's Circulation Desk to help you through this process and answer all of your questions.

Born and raised in North Philly, Gail first gained work experience at her father's family-owned photo finishing business. She attended a vo-tech school, and went on to work as a keypunch operator. After getting married and having her son, Gail took some time off work to raise him. After the family moved to Abington, Gail remembers taking her son to the library for the wonderful books and programs Abington Library offered.

When Gail did go back to work, she was "in a cube with a computer" for 15 years. In 2010, a friend suggested that Gail apply for a part-time position at Abington's Circulation Desk, and two years later Gail became a full-time library assistant. She processes registrations coming from

all different directions, keeps a handle on circulation policies, and is second-in-command for the department.

Compared to working in an isolated environment, Gail loves her job here at Abington, where communication with patrons is what she does best. "It's fun dealing with people. It's fun helping people and talking to them," she says.

A large part of what Gail does is process the online card registrations, and reach out to each person who applies with a detailed email about what to do next in the process. She loves when people come in to get their card and "ask for Gail."

Abington Library is so fortunate to have a hard worker like Gail as a face for the library. She has worked through all kinds of rough patches here, including when the building lost heat, lost air conditioning, and lost core functionality during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. "And I'm still here," she says proudly.

Gail wanted to acknowledge all the people in her life who helped her get to where she

is now, especially her late husband, Ken, and her now grown son, Zak. She also wanted to give a shout-out to the rest of the library staff. "I've made a lot of good friends here."

How does Gail use her own library card? Audiobooks! "Libby and Hoopla are my friend," she says.

Gail considers herself an "ambassador" for the library, promoting cardholder benefits wherever she goes. She wants more people to know that you can get an Abington card not only if you live in the township, but also if you work or go to school here. Not sure if you're eligible for an Abington card? Call our front desk or come in. If you're lucky, you'll get to talk to Gail, who would love to help you out!

- Angela Moretti



DEAR PATRONS, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

Dear friends and patrons,

As executive director of Abington Township Public Library, there is no limit to the number of wonderful things I could say about our libraries. I could tell you about our extensive lending collections, diverse classes and events, colorful children's programming and talented staff. I could sing the praises of our local partnerships, book clubs and craft sessions.

But why take my word for it? After all, who knows the libraries better than the communities we serve? We recently asked some of our visitors why they come to Abington Libraries and this is what they shared.

"I not only love to read; I really love the library as a part of our community. And the staff are awesome people!" — Jan-Kenneth S.

"We love attending events not just for the kids but the entire family and community. We also appreciate the access to materials available for all age groups. We love the Roslyn Library and the librarians!!!" — Yash C.

"It's an active place with lots going on. AND the staff is spectacular!" — Suzanne G.

"It is a peaceful, helpful and resourceful place to be. The staff is so accommodating." — Joani H.


"I like books!" — Edy M.

Every day, we strive to meet the community's needs by introducing new materials for circulation, adding exciting programs to our calendar, and helping children reach new heights through curiosity and creativity. But we cannot do this meaningful work alone.

Year after year, philanthropy helps make the library the special place it is. With gratitude and appreciation, we ask that you please consider making a donation to Abington Township Public Library. With your generosity, we will continue to strengthen our community and support our patrons as they read, learn, grow and thrive.

Sincerely,


Joseph Milano
President, Board of Trustees


Elizabeth Fitzgerald
Executive Director



RECENT SIGNIFICANT DONORS

The Friends of the Abington Township Public Library

Frank and Suzanne Ciambrano

Carol Doherty

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Marvin and Lillian Weilerstein



Check out our Black History Month programs for all ages in February!

DAY OF SERVICE FOR ALL AGES (DROP-IN)

Monday, January 20, 12:30 — 4:00 p.m.
Join us for volunteer projects perfect for all ages! Drop in any time to make cards for local veterans and coloring sheets for Color a Smile. We'll also be packing Care Kits for young patients at CHOP.

BLACK COMIC CREATORS AND CHARACTERS DISPLAY AT ROSLYN LIBRARY

February 14 — 17

STORYTIMES AT ABINGTON!

Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.
Ages up to age 6
No registration required

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Preschool
Registration required

WINTER READING CHALLENGES FOR ALL AGES

Starting February 1
Find out more at abingtonfreelibrary.org and abingtonfreelibrary.beanstack.com

AB LIB NEWSLETTER OPT-OUT

Use this QR Code or contact us by email or phone at abingtonlibrary@mclinc.org or 215-855-5180, ext. 113 if you'd no longer like to receive the Ab Lib by mail.



AUTHOR TALKS

Seth Fishman: An Inside Look at Working with a Literary Agent
Tuesday, January 28, 1:00 — 2:00 p.m.
Virtual

Black History in the Philadelphia Landscape Lecture
Tuesday, February 18, 6:30 — 8:00 p.m.
Abington Free Library

THE RUTH AND ROBERT ABEL MEMORIAL BOOK AND FILM DISCUSSION GROUP

Led by Dr. Karen Weekes.
Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Dates in March, April, and May and books TBD

REFERENCE NEWS

We moved a few things around on the Main Floor of Abington Library this fall. Audiobooks and Playaways are now located near the reference collection and large print is now located across from the Circulation Desk. Stop in and take a look.

Start out 2025 by joining our Winter Reading Challenge! Details about the dates and how to register for this Challenge are forthcoming.

Don't miss announcements about events and programs; sign-up for our bi-weekly email newsletter. Sign-up through our website here: abingtonfreelibrary.org/newsletters.

e-Resource Highlight:

Looking to find ratings for household repairs or for a veterinarian? We have the resource for you!

Explore Delaware Valley Consumer Checkbook to see ratings of local service companies, including auto repair shops, plumbers, veterinarians, banks, doctors, dentists, carpet cleaners, etc. You can read the current issues and find guides to health plans, hospitals, and top doctors (rated both by other doctors and by patients).

Get started right here: abingtonfreelibrary.org/e-resources.



— The Reference Department Staff

ROSLYN PROGRAMS

Please register online for all programs at abingtonfreelibrary.org/events. No registration needed for drop-in programs.



PLAYDATE ON AVONDALE
Fridays, 10:30 a.m. – noon
Ages 2 ½ to 6
Drop-in

STITCH AND CHAT
Fridays, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Adults and teens
Drop-in

TODDLER TIME Ages 18 – 36 months
Tuesdays, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m.
January 14 – March 11, March 25 – April 29

ROSLYN STORYTIME Ages 3 to 5
Thursdays, 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.
January 9 – March 6 (No session February 6.)
March 20 – May 15

BRICK BUILDERS
Saturdays through March
10:00 a.m. – noon
Ages 4 and up
Drop-in

BEGINNER CROCHET
Tuesdays: January 14, February 4, and March 11
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Adults and children ages 10 and up

ONLINE PAINTING CLASS
Adults and teens ages 14 and up
Spring Mountain
Wednesday, February 19, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Registration starts January 20.

GUITAR 101 Ages 5 – 10
Saturday, January 18, 1:15 – 2:00 p.m.

WINTER SOWING WITH MILK JUGS
Saturday, January 18, 10:00 – 11 a.m.
Adults and teens

TINY MACRAMÉ PLANTERS
Monday, January 20, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Adults and teens ages 12 and up

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

DRAGON STORIES Ages 3 – 8
Monday, February 3, 6:30 – 7:15 p.m.

BLACK SUPERHEROES Ages 4 – 10
Saturday, February 15, 11 a.m. – noon

HISTORY OF BLACK COMIC ART
Display at Roslyn Library
February 15 – 17

BEAT THE WEEDS with Master Gardener Kristi Wenrich. Adults and teens
Monday, February 17, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Registration starts January 27.

MINIATURE GREENHOUSES
Pick up kit starting March 4.
For ages 3 and up while supplies lasts

DESIGN YOUR OWN SLIME
Monday, March 24, 6:30 -7:30 p.m. Ages 6 – 12
Registration starts March 3.

PORCH PLAQUES
Monday, April 7, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Teens and adults
Registration starts March 17.

ANIMAL EXPLORATIONS
Monday April 21, 11 a.m. – noon. Ages 3 – 8
Drop-in

TINY RACECARS
Monday, April 21, 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. Ages 4 – 10
Registration starts March 31.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Please register online for all programs at abingtonfreelibrary.org/events. No registration needed for drop-in programs.



HOMESCHOOL MAKER CLUB MONDAY
Monday, February 3, 2:00 p.m. Grades 4-8
Design, build, and create!

DOGGONE GOOD READERS
Saturday, February 1, 10:00 a.m. OR 10:45 a.m.
Grades 1-5
Read to a certified therapy dog!

PLAY DOUGH PALOOZA
Tuesdays, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

January 7 – February 25
Ages 6 and under. Squishy sensory fun!
Drop-in

LEGO CLUB
Tuesdays, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. January 7 – February 25
Grades K-5. Drop-in

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME
Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. January 9 – February 27
Ages 3-5

THE VERY BUSY SPIDER ART WORKSHOP
Tuesday, January 14, 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)
Ages 4-7. Led by artist Anita Thompson.

GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB
Thursdays, January 16 and February 20, 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)
Grades 4-6
Attendees will receive a copy of the book. Activities will include drawing, games, and experiments.

SMOKE & MIRRORS MAGIC SHOW
Saturday, January 18, 2:00 p.m.
All Ages
Come see magician Danny Archer, owner of the Smoke & Mirrors Magic Theater.
Drop-in

HOMESCHOOL STEM: Spy Senses
January 22 or 24, 2:00 p.m.
Grades 2 to 5
Come up with your spy identity, write in invisible ink, and hone your observational skills by using your five senses.

DOG MAN PARTY
Wednesday, January 29, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Ages 6 and up
Make a police badge, play trivia, make your own comic, and more!
Drop-in

BE MY VALENSLIME
Thursday, February 6, 6:30 p.m.
Grades 3 to 8
Make some Valentine's Day Slime!

CARTOONING WITH KEVILLE BOWEN
Wednesday, February 12, 6:30 p.m.
Ages 8 to 12
Bring your sketchbook and learn how to draw comic and anime heroes!
Drop-in

VALENTINE'S DAY DROP-IN EVENT
Friday, February 14, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
For children of all ages and their families
Join us for a scavenger hunt, crafts, and treats!

STEM LAB
Monday, February 17, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Ages 4 to 11
Come experiment with our STEM kits, games, and activities!
Drop-in

HOMESCHOOL STEM: Optical Illusions
February 19 or 20, 2:00 p.m.
Grades 2 to 5

I REMEMBER DR. KING
Wednesday, February 19, 6:30 p.m.
Grades K to 5
Ki the storyteller explains why Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s holiday is important, and how he helped lead the Civil Rights Movement.

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.

FOLDED BOOK ART: HEART
Thursday, January 30, 7:00 - 8:15 p.m.
Teens and adults
Make a piece of art from a book! Bring your own or use one of ours.



BUILD YOUR OWN CRYPTID
Thursday, March 13, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Create a cryptid in this writing and collage workshop led by Robin Gow, local YA and middle-grade author. (Cryptids are creatures like Bigfoot. People claim they exist, but their existence has not been proven.)

CARTOONING WITH KEVILLE BROWN
Monday, February 10, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Ages 13 and up
Learn how to draw comic and anime heroes! Artist Keville Brown will discuss notable Black comic book and manga characters starting from the early '60s, and the cultural effects they had on their readers.

MEDITATIVE ART SERIES
Thursdays, February 20 through April 17
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Art classes funded by a generous "Keep It Safe" grant from Family Services of Montgomery County and the Montgomery County Alliance for Prevention.

ADULT PROGRAMS

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



ADULTS READ YA BOOK CLUB
First Thursday of the month, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Young Adult books aren't just for teens! Join YA Librarian Sara Huff for book discussions.

DAYTIME BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.
February 6: *The Art Thief*, by Michael Finkel
March 6: *James*, by Percival Everett
April 3: *The Little Liar*, by Mitch Albom

THE RUTH AND ROBERT ABEL MEMORIAL BOOK AND FILM DISCUSSION GROUP
Led by Dr. Karen Weekes.
Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Dates in March, April, and May and books TBD

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

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

BLACK HISTORY MONTH FILM SCREENINGS
Wednesday, February 5, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Black is the Color
White Scripts & Black Supermen
The Killing Floor
Saturday, February 15, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN MOVING TO A SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY
Wednesday, February 5, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
This overview touches upon all parts of the journey, helping you get prepared and more confident as you make this life-changing decision.

BECOME A FRIEND



The Friends raise money throughout the year to support library programming, museum passes, author events, charging stations, and summer reading programs. Our primary fundraiser is the BookCellar, a wonderful used bookstore in the lower level of Abington Library. Shopping at the BookCellar is like a treasure hunt, you never know what treasure you will find.

From February 10 to 15, there will be a Half-Price Sale on all books in the BookCellar.

You can bring gently used books to the lobby of Abington Library, and put them on the donation carts. We ask for books that are in good condition. Donation days are Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For details about what we can accept, please check the Friends page on the library website.

We thank all who have donated books, and those who have joined us by donating through our membership drive, which is ongoing.

We look forward to future events like our Spring Sale and our pop-up sales, which occur throughout the year.

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

ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM



Looking for a way of helping others in our community? Or perhaps you could use a little help yourself?

Our volunteer tutors and teachers help adults in our community improve their literacy skills. Our volunteers help others:

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. Become a volunteer tutor. No experience is necessary. We offer new tutor trainings three times a year. The next training will be in March.

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