

## From the Director

### The NEW Children's Department

Six years ago the Friends of the Library made an innocent suggestion at a regular Board meeting – why not partner with the Board in order to automate the Library? That imminently doable suggestion snowballed, gathering support and momentum from everybody at the Library and in the community. Five short years later, this building has been renovated top to bottom and stem to stern, countless volunteer hours have been invested and literally millions of dollars have been spent.

But all the time and effort have been worth it. We always have had the well-deserved reputation of having the best collection in Montgomery County, the nicest and most talented staff, but our building was most famous for the shag carpet on the walls.

Four years ago we completed Phase I. We saw our usage increase by 40%, and people had nothing but praise for the changes. We wondered, could we summon the energy and support to do Phase II hard on Phase I's heels? The answer was a resounding, enthusiastic yes, a mandate from the staff and community that our children deserve the same top-notch services and atmosphere as our adult users.

*(continued on page 4)*



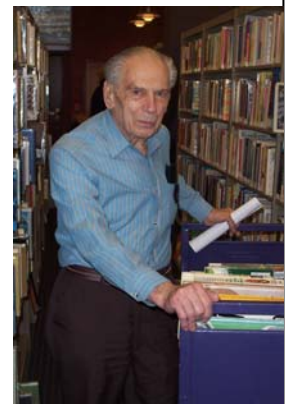
## Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Lou Feinschil. For the past five years he's been a diligent volunteer for the Circulation Department. Along with his other duties, he reshelves the biggest books so others won't have to struggle with them.

Lou was born in 1913 in the Romanian side of the Ukraine. He and his family came to the East Side of New York when he was 7 months old. He spoke only Yiddish until he was 4 and can speak it still. The family later moved their grocery business to Philadelphia, where he earned his Degree in Dentistry from Temple University in 1935. He started his practice in the middle of the Depression. As a Captain in the Army Air Force during World War II he traveled from Normandy to the Rhineland to Central Europe where he ended up full circle in the Romanian oil fields. After the war he resumed his practice until he retired in 1978.

Lou and his wife, Lelo, live in Abington. Once a month, he helps cook, pack and deliver over 200 meals for "Cook for a Friend" at Temple Beth Shalom.

Our Lou always has a big smile and laughs easily. He's a joy to be around. Thank you, Lou!



# Calendar of Events for Adults

For more information: 215-885-5180, ext. 15 or [abg.mclinc.org/calendar.htm](http://abg.mclinc.org/calendar.htm)

## AARP Tax Help

Fridays from February 1 to April 12, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Community Room.  
For all taxpayers with middle & low income, with special attention to those age 60 & older. Toll-free number: 1-888-AARPNOW (1-888-227-7669) [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide)

## Daytime Book Discussion Group

Every first Thursday at 1:00 p.m. 215-885-5180, ext. 15

Mar. 7 - The Shipping News by Annie Proulx

Apr. 4 - The Dress Lodger by Sheri Holman

May 2 - The Bridge of San Luis Rey by Thornton Wilder

## Old York Road Genealogical Society

meets 7:00 - 8:45 p.m. every 2nd Tuesday of the month.

March 12 - An Exploration of Ancient and Medieval Genealogy by Don Stone, Chairman of the Technology SIG, Genealogy Society of Pennsylvania.

April 9 - Seventh Annual Dinner Meeting - Williamson Restaurant in Horsham. Frances Wise Waite, professional genealogist, lecturer and author, examines Family Tradition vs. Truth. Reservation required.

## The Ruth R. Abel Memorial Seminar

meets at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 14 - in the Shorday Room - We Were the Mulvaney's, by Joyce Carol Oates. Books are available in the Library Office for \$8.00.

Wednesday, April 17 - Poetry of Robert Frost. Packets will be available soon.

Wednesday, May 15 - to be announced.

Richard Tyre is our discussion leader.

Reservations are required. Call the Library Office phone: 215-885-5180, ext. 15

## World War II Lecture Series

3rd Tuesday of the month 3:00 & 7:00 p.m.

February 19 - WWII Poetry

March 19 - RADAR

Reservations are required! Limited seating, call early 215-885-5180, ext. 15.

[www.communities.phillyburbs.com](http://www.communities.phillyburbs.com). Call Don Lee at 215-659-5594 for information.

**O**ur mission has always been to connect people and information. Today we sometimes use different tools to achieve that goal. The Abington Township Public Library is committed to providing the resources our users need with the wiring and connections, hardware and software, electronic and print resources, and staff to help you make the best use of it all.

But we are still committed to books and reading. We spent \$198K on books and materials in 2001, more than 1,300 children joined our Summer Reading Club, and our book discussion groups for adults, teens and kids are all thriving.

The extensive renovations we undertook in 1999 and 2001 have resulted in an attractive, functional, up-to-the-minute library that was used by more than 1,000 people per day in 2001. Visit the Abington Township Public Libraries and you'll find them filled with people of all ages studying, using the computers, sharpening professional skills and enjoying the process of life-long learning.

## *Facts* (Abington Free Library and Roslyn Branch)

### **Expenditures**

<b>Library Services</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2000</b>
Turnstile Attendance	363,208	269,770
Loans	385,250	377,241
Reference Questions	33,184	36,776
Resources	149,328	146,971
Program Attendance	13,381	14,645
Registered Users	26,475	n/a

### *Figures*

Salaries	\$ 1,020,110	\$ 958,995
Maintenance	99,250	101,793
Library Operations	204,188	152,719
Books/Materials	198,575	175,250
	<b>\$ 1,522,123</b>	<b>\$ 1,388,757</b>



**Library Board of Trustees** Seated: Barbara S. Rowland, Vice President, Douglas S. Callantine, President, Garrett D. Page, Esq., Treasurer. Standing: Lydia Parke, President of the Friends, Elaine Shay, Nancy Byouk Hammeke, Executive Director, The Reverend Robert M. Hoag, Barbara A. Jacobs, Secretary. Not pictured: JoAnn Werthner

*(Continued from the front page)*

And look at the transformation! We are proud to offer:

- Preschool computers and software
- Internet access
- ADA compliance
- Yellow brick road
- Fabulous lighting
- More shelving
- BookCellar
- State-of-the-art meeting room
- Literacy office



A year ago, we turned the Children's Department over to a group of strangers who promptly tore it apart with sledgehammers, Bobcats, and brute strength. It was more than a little traumatic to see our environment so thoroughly and completely destroyed in a matter of days. But my wonderful staff soldiered on, our Literacy program never missed a beat, and the Friends kept storing and sorting books, all muttering all the while, mid-June this will all be over.

I must thank my Children's Department staff for all their input, the countless extra hours they spent planning, all on top of their regular job of providing Children's services. Carolyn DuBois, department head, and her staff deserve our thanks. I want to thank the Friends of the Library, especially past President JoAnne Werthner, and our BookCellar volunteers for their hard work and love of red linoleum flooring.

There is always one person who takes over a project and makes it theirs. This time it was our building manager, Rick Guyton, without whom I would not have made it through this project. He was more than my right hand; he was the patient, thorough and tireless worker who made this project happen. Rick took charge from the very beginning – counting shelves, making layouts, arranging for the closure. And once the construction started, he was here every day, creating a harmonious atmosphere and clearly enjoying himself.

So, our work regarding the building is done. Hundreds of people have worked together for five years to create this jewel for Abington Township. Now we can get back to doing what we do best – providing excellent library service to our community.



Nancy Byouk Hammeke  
Executive Director of the  
Abington Township Public Library

## For Children – from the Ferris wheel

For more information: 215-885-5180, ext. 28 or [abg.mclinc.org/aplkids.htm](http://abg.mclinc.org/aplkids.htm)

**Drop-In Story Time** for caregivers and children of all ages Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m.

**Laura Ingalls Wilder 130th Birthday Party!** Thursday, February 21, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. for ages 7 - 11. Come dressed as your favorite "Little House" character.

**Color Your World with Reading - Be part of Family Reading Month 2002** From February 25 to March 8, pick up a log at either library, read with your family, return the filled log to either library by Monday, April 8, to receive a **FREE BOOK**.

**Family Story Times (All Ages Welcome)** Two Wednesdays: March 6 and 20, 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.  
No registration is required.

**Irish Dance Program (Ages 5-10) with Nathalie Rovner** Thursday, March 14, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
No dance experience is necessary. Registration begins Monday, March 4.



## For Teens

For more information: 215-885-5180, ext. 13 or [abg.mclinc.org/YA\\_Programs.htm](http://abg.mclinc.org/YA_Programs.htm)

**Book Café** 

Monthly Book Group spotlighting different authors/themes - You decide what to read within that theme. Bring the book and tell us about it! Bring a friend and enjoy a snack : )

**February 28 @ 7:00 pm** --Read any book by **Walter Dean Myers**

**March 21 @ 7:00 pm** --Read a book written as a **Diary or Journal** - see suggestions @ the Library

Help us plan future Book Café themes! Sign up at the Information Desk

## From Roslyn Branch Library

For more information: 215-886-9818 or [abg.mclinc.org/aplros.htm](http://abg.mclinc.org/aplros.htm)

**Dr. Seuss' Birthday Celebration** - February 25

**Pre-School Story Times** - Ages 4-6 - Mon., Jan. 28 - Mar. 11 at 1:15 p.m.  
& Tues. Jan. 29 - March 12 at 10:30 a.m. Ages 2-3 - Thurs., Jan. 31 - March 14 at 10:30 a.m.

**Author-of-the-Month Club** Fridays 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. for grades 3 & 4, and 5 & 6

**Baby Days** ages 8 months to 2 years Tues., March 19, 26, April 2, 9 at 10:30 a.m.



## From the Friends

For more information: 215-885-5180, ext. 36 or [abg.mclinc.org/aplfrnd.htm](http://abg.mclinc.org/aplfrnd.htm)



**Used Book Sale!** The BookCellar on the lower level of the Library.  
Monday - Friday, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Donate books** (donations are tax deductible) **Volunteer** - Help sort, price, shelve books, staff sales.

**Proceeds benefit the Library.**



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### Abington Free Library

1030 Old York Road, Abington, 19001  
215-885-5180, <http://abg.mclinc.org>

Circulation Desk	ext. 10
Information Desk	ext. 13
Children's Department	ext. 28
Executive Director	ext. 14
Adult Literacy	ext. 27
Friends of the Library	ext. 36

#### Hours

Mon.-Fri. 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sun. 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

### Roslyn Branch Library

2412 Avondale Avenue, Roslyn, 19001  
215-886-9818, <http://abg.mclinc.org/aplros.htm>

#### Hours

Mon. 2:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Tues., Thurs., Sat. 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Wed. 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Fri. 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

## Look what Jay Found...

### LOCAL INFORMATION

**Performing Arts Center of Abington**

<http://pacabington.org/>

**Wyncote Audubon Society**

<http://hometown.aol.com/sialial/index.htm>

**Abington**

<http://www.digital-neighbors.com/city/pa/abington979.htm>

**Things to do in Abington**

<http://www.digital-neighbors.com/city/pa/abington979e.htm>



Jay Bhatt, a librarian on staff, sends us wonderful sites whenever he comes across them. He is also the Information Services Librarian for Engineering at Hagerty Library, Drexel University.  
<http://www.library.drexel.edu/research/eng.htm>