



From the Director

Did you know the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has a Library Code? That Code provides the legal basis for the organization and governance of your local public library. And that Code provides for direct participation by the residents of the community by requiring that local government appoint a Board of Library Trustees.

Trustees represent the community, hire the Library Director, formulate policy, manage funds and advocate for the library within the community. Sounds rather dry, doesn't it? But if you ask any of the Abington Township Public Library Board of Trustees if their terms have been dull, I think they'd say "anything but!" In a library as busy as this one, issues, problems and challenges arise daily. Luckily for us, this Board is involved, interested and active.

Two of our most active members retired from the Board last month. I want to share with all of you the commendations presented to Barbara Rowland and Bob Hoag by the Commissioners of Abington Township at the January meeting, because Barbara and Bob were very special to everybody associated with the Library. They were dearly appreciated and will be greatly missed.

But time rolls on, and two new residents have been appointed to serve on our Board of Trustees: Teresa Scroggins and Tom Tyler. We look forward to working with them, and thank them for their commitment to quality library service and their willingness to work hard toward that end.

- Nancy Byouk Hammeke

The Reverend Robert M. Hoag

Abington Township Public Library Board of Trustees
1986 - 2002



Whereas, the Reverend Robert M. Hoag has served with distinction on the Board of Trustees of the Abington Township Public Library for 16 years, and

Whereas, during his tenure on the Board he served as President for eight years, and

Whereas, Bob has ceaselessly and generously represented the Library and its users in the legislative process, and

Whereas, Bob was named Pennsylvania Library Trustee of the Year in 1997, and

Whereas, as a result of Bob's diligent advocacy, the citizens of Abington Township can boast one of the finest libraries in the Commonwealth, and

Whereas, as a result of Reverend and Mrs. Hoag's generosity, the Library staff has a beautiful garden in the sun, and

Whereas, the residents of Abington Township and all the patrons, staff and Friends of the Library are grateful and appreciative of all his efforts,

Now, Therefore, on the occasion of Robert Hoag's retirement from the Board of Trustees of the Abington Township Public Library, we offer him our heartfelt thanks for years of service and wish him Godspeed.

Barbara S. Rowland

Abington Township Public Library Board of Trustees
1995 - 2002

Whereas, Barbara Rowland has served with distinction for eight years on the Abington Township Public Library Board of Trustees, and

Whereas, during her tenure on the Board she served as Vice President for eight years, and

Whereas, Barbara has committed countless hours and her talents to the renovation of the Library, and

Whereas, Barbara was awarded the Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Quality of Life Community Service Award in 1999 in recognition of her efforts on behalf of the Library, and

Whereas, Barbara's tenure has been marked by her unflinching kindness and generosity, warmth and enthusiasm, dedication and concern, and

Whereas, the residents of Abington Township and all the patrons, staff and Friends of the Library are grateful and appreciative of all her efforts,

Now, Therefore, on the occasion of Barbara Rowland's retirement from the Board of trustees of the Abington Township Public Library, we offer her our sincerest thanks for a job well done and our wishes for a happy, relaxed and fruitful retirement.



Volunteer Spotlight – Pat Burns

For more information: 215-885-5180, ext. 11 or abg.mclinc.org/Volunteer.htm



Reliable. Friendly. A great worker.

Those words were used to describe Pat Burns, who has volunteered in the Circulation Department for three years, processing registrations, filing, whatever needs doing.

"We all enjoy having her here," said Pat Seese, Head of Circulation. "She has such a nice way about her."

The feeling is mutual. "It's so cheerful," Pat Burns said of the library, "and the ladies are wonderful."

Pat worked 34 years for Core States Bank (originally First Pennsylvania), retiring in 1995 as executive secretary to the Head of the trust department. She wanted to try some volunteer work close to home in Abington and found her niche at the library.

Pat enjoys travel, theater and sports, especially baseball and football. She also plays piano. Volunteering once a week leaves time for the most important part of her life: family.

"I don't want to sound corny, but my husband is a very important part of my life," Pat said. "I was widowed and I know what it's like to be without a partner."

She and her husband, Francis, who also had been widowed, have been married 28 years. Pat's extended family includes his three children and two grandchildren, as well as her mother, Ella Chesco, who will celebrate her 100th birthday in March.

"I don't live an extraordinary life," said Pat. "It's a very pleasant, happy life for me."

- Cathy Kress

Young Adult/Teens

For more information: please contact Ann Fields @ 215-885-5180, ext. 13, afields@mclinc.org or abg.mclinc.org

N.A.A.C.P. Art Exhibit –All February Local Student & Adult Artists in Shorday Room & Lower Level

N.A.A.C.P. Art Exhibit Reception and Program on February 23, 2:00 - 5:00



Teens & Adults CALLIGRAPHY PROGRAM - February 25, 7:00 - 7:45



Read for the
FUN of it!

Teen 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!
- Listen to what's new!
- Bring a friend
- Enjoy a snack :)

*Wednesday, February 26 @ 7 p.m. – Discover MAGIC! Read a Fantasy book!!

*Friday, March 21 @ 7 p.m. – Take a journey @ the Library – read an Adventure book!

Friday April 25 @ 7 p.m. – Get Graphic @ the Library – Check out the new graphic novels.

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

*Need ideas? See the display in the YA area or ask at the Information Desk for a booklist.

Calendar of Events for Adults

For more information: 215-885-5180, ext. 15 or abg.mclinc.org/Calendar.htm

N.A.A.C.P. Art Exhibit – Local Student and Adult Artists, All February, Shorday Room and Children's
N.A.A.C.P. Art Exhibit Reception and Program on Sunday, February 23, 2:00-5:00

Friends Silent Auction of Jewelry – In the Display Case All February!

Teens and Adults Calligraphy Program - February 25, 7:00-7:45

One Book, One Philadelphia! – Read The Price of a Child by Lorene Cary - March 5, 7:00–8:30

Feng Shui and Creating Environments for Success – May 7, 7:00

Ann Molewski will guide you to the organized, productive and pleasing environment you seek.

World Travel Lecture Series - Prof. Burton Klein - Thursdays 10:00–11:00

March 6 - The Best State in the Country & Do's and Don'ts of Travel

April 3 - The World of Swarovski

May 1 - How to Make It Incredible

Daytime Book Discussion Group - every 1st Thursday at 1:00

March 6 - Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress by Dai Sijie

April 3 - The Last Chronicle of Barset by Anthony Trollope

May 1 - The Chosen by Chaim Potok

June 5 - Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich



Karen Byrne, Head of the Reference Department, strives to do what's best for the Library

Old York Road Genealogical Society - every 2nd Tuesday, 7:00-8:45

March 11 - Uncover Genealogical Information by Researching Deeds

April 8 - Eighth Annual Dinner Meeting - Williamson Restaurant, *reservations required.*

May 13 - Resources of the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center

June 10 - Unlocking the Mysteries of your Nineteenth Century Family Photos

Adult Literacy Events

March 12 - Tutor Support Meeting—7:00, This Works for Me!

April 7 and April 8 - Spring Tutor Training—6:30-8:45, both nights mandatory!

April 21 - Tutor Support Meeting—7:00, ESL (English as a Second Language)

May 14 - Tutor Support Meeting—7:00, Learning Disabilities--film, discussion

June 11 - Student Tutor Recognition Reception—7:30 Come one, come all!

WWII Lecture Series every 3rd Tuesday at 3:00 and 7:00

March 18 - A Nurse at War, Col. Julia Paparella, Harvard University Unit, 5th General Hospital

April 15 - Hell From Heaven - Memoirs of a B-17 Bombardier by Dr. Leonard Streitfeld, 8th Air Force, 398th Bomb Group, 600th Bomb Squadron

May 20 - Operation Iceberg - The Battle of Okinawa, Eric Turner, 6th Marine Division

June 17 - Shot Down and Captured, Dean Francis, 8th Air Force Veteran and Ex-POW

From the Children's Department

Advance registration is required for most programs. For information please call 215-885-5180, ext. 28.
For information on programs: <http://abg.mclinc.org/Children.htm>

Drop-In Story Time - all ages - every Tuesday from 11:00-11:30 through May 13

Art Escape! – Weaving Cultures Together - ages 6-10 - February 20, 7:00-8:00

Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration! - ages 3 and up - February 27, 7:00-8:00

Spring Preschool Story Times - ages 2, 3, and 4-5 - March 10 – week of April 14
Laptime Stories for Two-Year-Olds - Tuesdays, 10:15-10:45
Three-Year-Olds - Mondays, 10:30-11:00
Four- and Five-Year-Olds - Thursdays, 10:30-11:00

Spring Toddler Story Times for ages 12-23 months. - March 10, 17 & 24, 10:30-10:50

Teddy Bear Jubilee! - all ages - March 20, 7:00-7:45

National Library Week (April 6-12) program featuring “Two of a Kind” - ages 3 & up, April 3, 7:00-7:45

Family Reading Month - February 24-March 9 – pick up your reading log, read & receive a book!



Andy Simpson, Children's Department, books meeting rooms & is always helpful.

From the Friends

For more information: 215-885-5180, ext. 36 or abg.mclinc.org/aplfrnd.htm

The Friends are a group of successful fundraisers who promote the Library in the community. We recently gave a \$15,000 quarterly donation. We are always interested in new ideas in advocacy and fundraising. Please join us on the second Monday of each month (3/10, 4/7 & 5/12) at 7:30.

Friends Annual Meeting/Picnic in the Park. June 9, 6:00 Alverthorpe Park, Fox Chase Entrance.
Pot Luck Supper - bring a dish of your favorite food and a \$1.00 donation.

The Bookcellar (our used book store) is open Monday thru Wednesday from 2 to 4, on Friday & Thursday from 12 to 4, and on Saturday 10 to 4. Book donations are always welcome. Anyone interested in working in the Bookcellar should contact JoAnn Werthner (215-886-1269).

- Lydia Parke

From Roslyn Branch Library

For more information: 215-886-9818 or abg.mclinc.org/aplros.htm

Author-of-the-Month Club - ages 8 & up - February 17, March 24, April 28, 6:30-7:30

Winter Story Times - ages 2-3, Thursdays February 6 - March 13, 10:30
and ages 3-6, Mondays February 3 - March 10, 1:30

Pajama Party - ages 3-6, Monday February 3 - April 14, 6:30-7:00

Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration - February 24 - ages 2-5, 6:15-7:00
and ages 6-12, 7:30-8:30

Baby Days - 8 months-2 years - Tuesdays, March 11, 18, and 25. 10:30

St Patrick's Day Celebration - K - 6th grade, March 17, 6:30-7:30

National Library Week (April 6-12) - ages 3 and up - April 7, 7:15-8:00

Family Reading Month - February 4 to March 9 – pick up your reading log, read and win a book!

Schools and preschool or daycare providers are welcome to call to arrange a visit to the Branch.



Cathy Kress, Roslyn Branch, writes for and is on the editing crew for the *Ab Lib.*



Happy 85th Birthday, Pearl!

Homebound Service from Roslyn Branch

For more information: 215-886-9818 or <http://abg.mclinc.org/aplros.htm>

Do you know about Abington Free Library's service to the homebound? We offer this service to anyone who lives in Abington Township and is truly homebound.

Here's how it works:

First, place a call to the Roslyn Branch and ask to speak to Celia or Cathy. Inform them that you would like homebound delivery and they will ask for such information as your address, phone number, directions to your house, delivery day preference, and author/subject preferences. On your delivery day you will receive at least five, but usually no more than fifteen, books on the subject or by the author you requested. Books are checked out for a three-week period. It's as easy as that!

Hear what our homebound patrons have to say about our service:

"God bless you and your family, & I sincerely hope your entire holiday season will be a happy one for you. May the New Year bring you as much pleasure as you give to me and others. You have been a blessing in my life."

"Thank you very much for all the books you picked out for me. I am very grateful for all you do."

In 2002 we had 14 homebound patrons and we delivered 935 books! If you are homebound and want to read some great books, give us a call. We look forward to serving you!

- Celia Frankford

<http://abg.mclinc.org> - **The Library website** has a new look. Deanna Collins, Rebecca Ritts and Ann Fields designed it and Karen Burnham converted it into html. We hope you'll find it easier to use and enjoy the fresh appearance. We divided the website into these categories:

- **Library FAQ** (Frequently Asked Questions) covers all the basics: when we're open, who the Friends are, what's Adult Literacy, what can be checked out and for how long, etc.
- **Information/Reference** acts as your on-line librarian showing you where to find an article or booklists, where to look for a job, and what websites have the information you need.
- The **Children's** and **Teens'** sites display library programs, homework help, etc. geared to the young.
- If you love the written word, whether in a book, tape or CD, go to our **Reading Room**.

Our website continues to be updated weekly. We made the website to give you as much assistance as a library can, so your input is valuable. Please contact the webmaster or the Reference Department with any suggestions. We hope you'll enjoy the changes as much as we have enjoyed putting it together for you.

Abington Free Library

1030 Old York Road, Abington, 19001

215-885-5180, <http://abg.mclinc.org>

Circulation Desk ext. 12
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.

Non Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Abington, PA
Permit No. 48

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.



Before

Staff Spotlight – Rick Guyton Building Manager

A public library should be a "clean, well-lit place," a warm and welcoming haven for reading and research. And so ours is! Have you ever wondered who keeps it this way? Probably not, since it appears effortless. But indeed, we do have a man behind the curtain, our very own wizard of widgets, Rick Guyton.

Rick is our building manager and he is responsible for every last nut and bolt in the library. He manages the heating and air-conditioning, the plumbing, all the alarm systems, the phones, the copiers...Rick is in charge of so many systems that "Call Rick" is a kind of mantra around here.

Rick is also the author of the Library's Disaster Preparedness Manual that has been called one of the best of its kind on the East Coast. He makes sure the staff receives safety and first aid training on a regular basis; and he conducts weekly staff tours of the most important systems in the building, in case we are ever confronted with an emergency.

And he coordinates an extraordinary array of volunteers to keep the floor vacuumed and the shelves dusted.

Rick was born in Altoona, PA, a railroading town famous for its Horseshoe Curve. He wanted to work for the railroads, but his father wouldn't hear of it. So Rick picked the next best way to see the world and joined the Navy. He toured the Far East for years, putting in at Hong Kong, Taiwan and Subic Bay, saw the World's Fair in Osaka and bought a motorcycle in Sasabo, Japan.

When he returned to Altoona with the motorcycle, he went to get it registered. Unfortunately, the sprightly blond at Motor Vehicles was not very accommodating. She kept holding up his application, asking for one kind of verification after another. It took him three or four trips to the office to wise up and propose.

Now he's been married to Jackie for 28 years. They have two daughters, Jennifer and Melissa, one charming grandson, Kiahn, a dog and a cat.

Asked what he liked most about working at the library, Rick grinned and said, "If I ever start working here, I'll let you know. Up to now, I just can't believe I get to come in here every day and play with all these big toys."

And the worst thing? No hesitation, "Plunging the toilets."

In addition to everything else he does, Rick keeps us laughing with his wry and cornball sense of humor.

So, when you walk in that door and forget about the world outside, thank Rick Guyton.

- Lois Odabas