

From our Director

As we approach the end of this year, one that has seen Abington Township Public Library withstand unprecedented financial pressures, the Library once again looks to the community it serves so well for financial support. The Library Staff and Board of Trustees, together with support from the Commissioners of Abington Township, have worked exceptionally well to overcome cuts of up to 35% of our previous state funding, by balancing our budget while continuing to provide a high level of service to the Abington community.



You are well aware of the fabulous transformation of the Abington Township Public Library over the past five years, including the complete renovation of the Library building's main level and the Children's Department on the lower level. Now that those renovations are completed, although we are happy to report that use and demands on the Library's operations rise to record levels, the Library faces increasing constraints on its operations, given the reduction in state funding.

As we conclude 2004, we ask that you consider a gift to the Abington Township Public Library. Your contributions may result in tax benefits this year for you if made by the end of the year. Your generosity in the past has been appreciated, and we thank you for your continued support in making the Abington Township Public Library an exemplary community resource.

- Nancy Hammeke Marshall

Volunteer Spotlight – Ilse Gravener

For all Friends activities call: 215-885-5180, ext. 36 or <http://abg.mclinc.org/Friends.htm>

Is there a German word that describes someone who is kind, fun, willing, energetic, quick-thinking and wonderful? It doesn't matter because at Abington Library, it's Ilse.

Ilse was born in Lauingen, Germany, a town on the Danube. Her dream was to come to America. She came over by herself in 1955 to live with an aunt who passed away a month after Ilse arrived. At 19 she was alone in a foreign country. Two years later she met her husband-to-be while they both were working at an A&P food store. Ilse worked for A&P (now Superfresh) until 1997. Her job varied, but always involved the public. Ilse, a widow for 18 years, has three sons and a daughter. Her two sisters still live in Germany.



At retirement her first thought was to be of use to Abington Library, so in 1997, she walked in to help. Trustee Barbara Rowland said, "Follow me!" and Ilse's been with us ever since. She helped us with *many* mailings. For "A Drop in the Bucket," she wrote hundreds of donors' names on paper "drops." When we switched to cards with barcodes, she paired up with Pat Greenlee to register thousands of Abington residents. She made filling out these forms a pleasant experience. In Circulation with Pat Seese, Ilse shelved books, mailed the reserve notices and entered new patrons in the database.

Fellow Library Friend Isabel Mitchell commented, "If she was a baseball player, Ilse would be the utility infielder – she can play all the positions." You can often find her selling used books in the Bookcellar. For bake sales, she makes sure the product is priced and stays to sell it. We were overwhelmed by the crowd at the Antiques Appraisal Fair. The queue to get in was long and the food and drink table was far inside the library. No one was willing to lose their place for refreshment. Ilse loaded trays with wine and cheese and served the participants in line.



She lights up when she talks about her hobbies, sports mostly: swimming, water aerobics at the Y and walking while listening to books on tape – always borrowed from Abington Library. She loves her flower and vegetable gardens and has a lot of grass to mow.

Just the smallest portion of what Ilse does and how much we love her is covered in this article. Ilse says her favorite aspect of all she does is talking with people. Her specialty is being cheerfully willing to make sure ideas come to fruition. She stays to the end.

- Karen Burnham

Computer Aides to the Rescue

For more information: 215-885-5180, ext. 13

This fall Abington Free Library has been fortunate to have eight Abington High School students volunteering as computer aides. Each student helps out for one 3-hour block per week. The students assist patrons (and occasionally staff) with computer questions or problems. In addition, four of the students have offered computer classes in the afternoon and evening.



These students are earning Community Service hours, which are required for Abington students beginning in 10th grade.

Look for the teenagers wearing yellow "May I Help You?" patches on their black vests.

- Mimi Satterthwaite

From the Roslyn Branch Library

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

AJAMA PARTIES

Mondays from 6:30-7 p.m.
Jan 10, Jan 31, Feb 7, Feb 21, March 7, 21



If you are unable to attend one or more sessions, kindly call the library in advance. This will allow others on the waiting list to attend the program as well as prevent waste of craft materials.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Jan 24, Ages 2-5 from 6-6:45 p.m. Ages 6-12 from 7-8 p.m.
Stories, games, crafts, refreshments and more!

STORY TIMES FOR AGES 3-6

Mondays at 1:30 p.m.: Jan 24, 31, Feb 7, 14, 21, 28, March 7

STORY TIMES FOR AGES 2-3

Thursdays at 11 a.m.: Jan 27, Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10

DR. SEUSS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Feb 28: Ages 2-5 from 6-6:45 p.m. Ages 6-12 from 7-8 p.m.
Dr. Seuss's birthday is March 2. Celebrate with stories, crafts, and refreshments!



ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

March 14 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Learn an Irish jig! Listen to Irish folktales! Crafts and refreshments!



Young Adult/Teens at Abington

For more information: Linda Jones, Young Adult Librarian, 215-885-5180 ext. 13 or e-mail ljones@mclinc.org

TEEN BOOK SWAP

Bring a book you have read and trade it for a book from the **TEEN BOOK SWAP CART** in the YA section of the library.



WORLD WAR II SERIES

Feb 17, 7-8 p.m. – Learn what it was like to live in and defend London during the Blitz. Registration begins Feb 7.

March 10, 6:30 – 8 p.m. – View the German occupation of Holland through a teenage girl's eyes. Registration begins Feb 28.

From the Children's Department

For information please call 215-885-5180, ext. 28. <http://abq.mclinc.org/Children.htm>



WINTER STORY TIMES

Jan 10 through Feb 14.

TWO-YEAR-OLDS: Tuesdays, 10:15-10:45. Parents/caregivers attend with their children.

THREE-YEAR-OLDS: Mondays, 10:30-11. Children may attend independently or with parents/caregivers.

FOUR-, FIVE- AND SIX-YEAR-OLDS: Thursdays, 10:30-11. Children may attend independently.

No advance registration is required.

STORY TIMES FOR CHILDREN AGES 12-23 MONTHS

Jan 12, 19, 26 & Feb 2, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. OR 11 - 11:30 a.m.

Register on the following dates:

Abington Township residents only: Jan 5-8. ***Open registration*** (first-come, first-served) starts Jan 9.

BUILD YOUR CHILD'S SELF-ESTEEM

Jan 13 - 7-7:30 p.m. "MOLLY THE DOORSTOP MOUSE"

Hear the story of a mouse who learns to value herself.

Ages 4-8 and parents. Registration begins Jan 3.

Jan 20 - 6:30-8 p.m. "CHILDREN'S ETIQUETTE AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS"

Ages 8-12. Registration begins Jan 10.

AFTERNOON STORY TIMES FOR AGES 4-6

Jan 17 & 31, Feb 14 & 28, March 14 & 28 - 2-2:30 p.m. No advance registration is required.

DROP-IN STORY TIMES

Tuesdays, 11 a.m., All ages welcome. Led by members of Jenkintown Kiwanis. No advance registration is required.

VALENTINE PARTY

Feb 10, 7 - 7:45 p.m. For families with children ages 3-8. Registration begins Jan 31.

WORLD WAR II SERIES FOR CHILDREN (AGES 7 & UP)

Parents and teens are welcome to attend both sessions.

Feb 17, 7-8 p.m. - Learn what it was like to live in and defend London during the Blitz.

Registration begins Feb 7.

March 10, 6:30 - 8 p.m. - View the German occupation of Holland through a teenage girl's eyes.

Registration begins Feb 28.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT ...

- has one of the largest Parent-Teacher collections in the county?
- has crates of books that can be delivered to day care centers?
- has story time kits that contain theme-related books, puppets, puzzles and music recordings for family learning?
- offers library orientations/tours for scout groups and home-schoolers?
- has reading lists to help people find books on different topics?



The Children's Department is committed to offering family programming.
However, it is our philosophy that as many children as possible be given opportunities to participate.
Therefore, it may be necessary at times to limit attendance to children only.
Thank you for your cooperation.

Calendar of Events for Adults

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

COMPUTER HELP FROM ABINGTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Monday-Thursday from 3-6 and 6-9 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 2-5 p.m.

As their school schedules allow, students are available to assist you.

Look for the yellow "May I Help You?" patches on the black vests worn by our computer experts.

ABINGTON TOWNSHIP BLOOD DRIVE – THE MOST PRECIOUS GIFT OF ALL

Wed, Dec 29 - 8:30-2:30 p.m. at the Township Building. Call the township at 267-536-1000 or see www.pleasegiveblood.org. Appointments are preferred. Walk-ins are gladly accepted.

DAYTIME BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP - Every first Thursday at 1 p.m.

Jan 6 - 1185 Park Avenue by Anne Roiphe

Feb 3 - The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

Mar 3 - Enemies, A Love Story by Isaac Bashevis Singer

OLD YORK ROAD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Jan 11 - Show and Tell ... bring a family heirloom and tell us its history.

Feb 8 - Most Famous Ancestor - I never had (or wish I had)

March 8 - Past and present, deeds/title - Frances Waite and Barb Reilly

WORLD WAR II LECTURE SERIES – Every third Tuesday of the month at 3 and 7 p.m.

Jan 17 – Bill Moses served in the Navy at Pearl Harbor, both Atlantic and Pacific theaters.

Feb 15 – TBA

March 15 – TBA

ADULT LITERACY

March 16 - 7 p.m. Tutor support meeting. Continuing education credit.

April 18 and April 19 - 6:30 p.m. Spring tutor training. Both nights mandatory.

May 10 - 7 p.m. Tutor support meeting: Citizenship. Continuing education credit.

June 8 - 7:30 p.m. Tutor-Student Reception. Plan to attend this gala event!

RUTH ABEL MEMORIAL SEMINAR – in the Shorday Room at 7 p.m.

April 20 – Poetry Month

May 18 - TBA

DEGAS: HIS WORK, HIS VISION, HIS CAMERA

April 17 at 3 p.m. – a lecture given by Richard E. Goldberg, M.D.

GRAMMAR HIGHLIGHTS

April 28 at 10 a.m. – Bring grammar to life with Prof. Burton Klein.

THE RESUMÉ SPARKLES ... THE JOB FOLLOWS

May 12, 19, 26 and June 2 at 10 a.m. - "I wonder why my resumé didn't get me an interview?" "I thought I 'nailed' the interview. Where did I go wrong?" Learn the answers at a dynamic four-session series led by Prof. Burton Klein.

Thank you to our recent, significant donors

For more information: 215-885-5180, ext. 14 or abg.mclinc.org/Donate.htm

Wachovia Foundation

Galman Group & Books 'R Fun Fair

Wal-Mart Grant

Jenkintown Rotary Club

Virginia Kretschman

Abington Civic Club

Winnifred Sudler

Harry & Margaret Tillman

Frank Tholey

Andrew Allen Charitable Foundation

Rolfe & Ann Neill

and too numerous to mention - patrons who donated in memory of Philip Kind.

Did you leave a photo/memento in a book that you returned/donated to the library?

We save these found items for a short time. If you think your something precious is here, please, do not call, but come to the Circulation Department in Abington Free Library and ask.

From the Friends

For all Friends activities call: 215-885-5180, ext. 36 or abg.mclinc.org/aplfrnd.htm

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED! Overrun with holiday presents? Jewelry boxes overflowing? Bookshelves bowing from the weight? Would your company like to give gifts-in-kind? Consider donating to the Library Friends. We put on silent auctions of jewelry, raffle off baskets of goodies and sell books, movies, music etc. in the Bookcellar.

SILENT AUCTION OF JEWELRY Donate jewelry up until the end of January. Bid on items in the Display Case all February.

BOOKMARKS AND LIBRARY BOOK BAGS FOR SALE

Large tote bag - \$10, Tom Thumb tote - \$6



ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS FOR SALE for \$25.

BOOKCELLAR - PRE-OWNED BOOKS, VIDEO/AUDIO TAPES, CDs, DVDs FOR SALE on the lower level of the library! Mon-Fri, noon-4 p.m., Sat, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun - call 215-885-5180, ext. 36 for hours. **DONATIONS OF ALL OF THE ABOVE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED!**

VOLUNTEER AT THE BOOKCELLAR! Looking for a way to support your library? You can donate books etc., sort, price and shelve items, staff sales, or purchase from our wide selection. Volunteers needed to sell books. Call 215-885-5180, ext. 36.

Thank you!

Items may be purchased through the Friends at the Circulation Desk, Children's Department or in the Bookcellar. *All* proceeds benefit the Library and are tax-deductible.

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 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sun. 2 - 5 p.m.

Roslyn Branch Library

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

Hours

Monday, 11-9
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 11-6
and Saturday, 11-2

Roslyn Branch is closed on Wednesdays and Sundays.

The Ab Lib Behind-the-Scenes Staff

Nancy Hammeke Marshall - *Editor-in-Chief*
Karen Bumham - *Editor/Gadfly*
Cathy "The Wonderful" Kress - *Editorial Proofreader*

Library Trustees

Garrett D. Page, Esq.
President

Thomas E. Tyler, Esq.
Vice-President

Elaine Shay
Treasurer

Teresa Scroggins
Secretary

Douglas S. Callantine

Barbara A. Jacobs

JoAnn Werthner



Staff Spotlight – Aurelia Colding

Early in the morning, the library is eerily quiet. No computers are humming, no children are laughing, no phones are ringing, and nobody's asking questions. It's the library's time, not the public's time.

That's when Aurelia Colding comes to work. She is one of the library's custodians. Guardian angel would be a better description. Aurelia keeps the bathrooms spotless, the shelves dusted and the tables clean. No chewing gum under the desk ever escaped her eye.

Aurelia is Philadelphia born and bred. She moved to Willow Grove in 1974 and worked for years in the cafeteria of the Abington Friends School, before they went to an outside vendor. Lucky for all, that was just about when the library placed an ad for a part-time custodian.

She has one son, Robert. She describes their family as one that loves to read more than anything else. So it's no surprise that after getting his BA at Penn State, Robert went into publishing. Aurelia is well-supplied with books.

She also loves movies, with *All about Eve* being her favorite.

I asked her what the best part about working at Abington was and she said, "The people. The staff here was so nice to me when I came and still is. And I like just meeting people in the aisles and talking to them."

Aurelia like cats and dogs, although she can't have either one in her apartment. But she is inexplicably afraid of bears. Actually, it's kind of legendary around here. So I asked her why. After all, there aren't that many bears in Abington and they apparently stay out of sight. I thought maybe the teddy bears were coming to life in the children's department and not settling down in the morning.

But she said, "No. The teddy bears in the children's department are quite well-behaved. It's just those grizzly bears." So there you have it.

Aurelia is, however, no bear, but a dear to us. We are very lucky she answered that ad.

- Lois Odabas