

From our Director

Just when I think our staff can't possibly work any harder, they pull magic out of their hats with a year like 2004. Below you will see a list of some of their outstanding accomplishments:

- Recorded the highest circulation of any MCLINC library – 413,781 items
- Welcomed 363,842 people into the library
- Issued 3,893 new library cards – 59% of Abington residents have a library card
- Turned on patron-placed renewals and reserves from home
- Added 9,000 items to the collection
- Library Book Cart Drill Team marched in Glenside 4th of July Parade to the acclaim of thousands
- Enrolled 1,133 children in the Summer Reading Club
- Received \$72,800 in grants
- Received \$63,000 from gifts and the Friends of the Library
- Redesigned and remodeled Technical Services Department—accomplished within existing budget
- Replaced all our circa 1957 windows with new, energy-efficient ones
- Staff took 227 hours of continuing education

This on top of all the regular duties and responsibilities of serving upward of 1,200 library patrons each and every day. Our staff is remarkable!

You'll notice that we added 700 gift books to the collection in 2004. Those were new, non-fiction items (we added hundreds of fiction titles, too), and the majority of them were special in some way: the book supplemented an existing collection, filled a gap, or was a beautiful, expensive book that we just couldn't afford within the confines of our regular budget. So keep those donations pouring in! They enhance our collection inexpensively and serendipitously. We never know what we're going to find in the bags and boxes brought in to our circulation desk.

Beautiful Book of the Month:

Apparently I'm the only person in Abington who isn't familiar with the artist Janet Fish. Janet Fish: (catalog); texts by Robert Berling (Dewey 759.13 FIS BER) is a recent donation we eagerly added to our collection. Her work shimmers with light and color, and she elevates everyday objects to things of beauty. If you're not in the know, like me, give yourself a treat and take a look at this lovely volume of gleaming, sparkling oil paintings.



Volunteer Spotlight – Alicja Fornalik

For information on becoming a volunteer: 215-885-5180, ext. 11 or abg.mclinc.org/Volunteer.htm

How far would you go to volunteer? Alicja came all the way from Poland. She was born in Chelm, in eastern Poland, and finished high school there. When she went on to university, she decided to major in Turkish language and culture. During her university years, she spent many vacations in Turkey, working as a tour guide; and she won a Rotary International scholarship that allowed her to study at the University of Bursa, near Uludag, the highest mountain in Turkey, which also allowed her to perfect her skiing.

Upon graduation, Alicja worked as a translator for Turkish companies operating in Poland and also taught both Polish and Turkish to business people.

On one of her trips to Turkey, she had met a young Polish medical student, Hubert, who was planning to finish his education in the United States. He is now a resident in obstetrics at a local hospital and Alicja came along as his wife.

Unable to work because of visa restrictions, Alicja sought out volunteer opportunities and wound up covering books for us.

Alicja says she finds the atmosphere at our library very homey, "You can sit and read, you have internet access and it's all very comfortable."

She also loves the Philadelphia area. She has found many opportunities for taking classes in painting and photography, exercising at the Y and making friends wherever she goes. She even found Turkish friends and tutored their small daughter.

Alicja plans to return to Poland some day and when she does, she will take many warm wishes from her friends at Abington Library. She'll also have to decorate a guest room for some of us, because Poland will definitely be on our map.



From the Roslyn Branch Library

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

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.

Join talented singing duo *TWO OF A KIND* for an interactive family concert in celebration of National Library Week (April 10-16, 2005).
Monday, April 4 from 7:15-8 p.m. *Registration begins March 14.*

BOOK DISCUSSION – 6-7 p.m. Registration begins March 14.

April 4 – *Frindle* by Andrew Clements - ages 8-12

May 9 – *Horrible Harry Moves Up to Third Grade* by Suzy Kline - ages 7-9

Books available at any library or may be purchased in any bookstore.

Bring a light dinner.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!



BABY DAYS

Tuesdays at 11 a.m. April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10 and 17. Stories, songs, fingerplays
Bring your baby & join the fun! Babies ages 8 months - 2 years.

SPRING STORY TIMES

April 18 through June 9. Mondays at 1:30 p.m. for ages 3-6. Thursdays at 11 a.m. for ages 2-3.
Registration begins April 4. See separate flyer for specific dates and times.

PAJAMA PARTY

June 6 from 6:30-7 p.m. – Ages 3-6. Registration begins May 9.

CURIOUS GEORGE PROGRAM – Bring your camera – and your favorite stuffed animal!

June 24 at 2 p.m. – Sponsored by Barnes & Noble Booksellers. Registration begins June 6.

Roslyn READS! – Mondays from 1:30-2:30 p.m. and 6:30-7:30 p.m.

June 27 through Aug 8. Training for Young Adult volunteers will be on Wednesday, June 22 from 6-8 p.m. at Abington Free Library. Registration begins June 6.

MASTER GARDENER SERIES – 7-8 p.m.

April 18 – Vegetable Gardening with Marc Radell

April 25 – Detering Pests with Marc Radell

May 16 – Container Gardening with Pat Conn

May 23 – Basic Flower Arranging with Barb Lawson

Sign up for the entire series or register for each program separately. Registration begins April 4.

LA FRANCE DIVISÉE (France Divided), explores the two sides of France

(collaborators and resisters) during World War II. (In French with English subtitles)

Produced, directed and authored by Eileen M. Angelini, Ph.D., and Barbara P. Barnett, M.A.

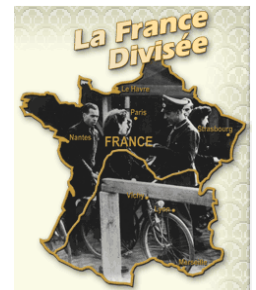
Eileen M. Angelini, Ph.D. will lead a discussion after showing the documentary.

Mon, May 2 from 7-9 p.m. at Roslyn Branch Library.

Registration begins April 11. Call 215-886-9818.

Wed, May 11 from 7-8:45 p.m. at Abington Free Library.

Registration begins April 11. Call 215-885-5180, ext. 15.



Adult and Family Literacy at Abington Free Library

For information 215-885-5183 or <http://abq.mclinc.org/apliter.htm>

April 18 and April 19 from 6:30-8:45 p.m. **SPRING TUTOR TRAINING.** Both nights mandatory.

May 10 at 7 p.m. **TUTOR SUPPORT MEETING.** Citizenship. Continuing education program.

June 8 at 7:30 p.m. **TUTOR-STUDENT RECEPTION.** Plan to attend this gala event!

Children's Department at Abington Free Library

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

DROP-IN STORY TIMES FOR CAREGIVERS AND CHILDREN

Join us in the Community Room every Tuesday from 11-11:30 a.m. through May 24.
All ages welcome – no advance registration required.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

JOIN TALENTED SINGING DUO TWO OF A KIND for an interactive family concert in celebration of National Library Week (April 10-16, 2005)
Wednesday, April 13 from 7-7:45 p.m. *Register now.*



MOTHER-DAUGHTER TEA PARTY

Thursday, May 5 from 7-8 p.m., Community Room
For mothers & daughters ages 5-9 (grandmothers also welcome). Wear your Sunday best and join us for plenty of fun! Listen to stories about mothers and share a favorite story about your own mother or daughter. Make a craft to be given to Mom or another special family member. Please bring a wallet-sized photo of each girl attending for the craft. Registration begins April 25.

SCIENCE IN THE SUMMER

This four-day course for children who have completed grades 1-5 has tentatively been scheduled for June 27-30. This year's topic is "Simple Machines." Participants will be selected by registration lottery. Please watch our website for details - <http://abg.mclinc.org/Children.htm>.

SUMMER READING CLUB

All Abington Township children are invited to register at Abington Free Library or Roslyn Branch Library starting June 16. Participants read for 20 minutes a day and receive a free paperback book upon completing the program. Open to children of all ages, including preschoolers.

UPCOMING SUMMER PROGRAMS

These include book discussion groups for children entering second through seventh grades, Family Fun Nights for ages 3 and up, teen-led Reading for Rascals programs for ages 6-9, art workshops, preschool story times and more. Dates and times will be announced later.

AFTERNOON STORY TIMES FOR AGES 4-6

Joins us on four Mondays-April 11, 25, May 9 and 23 at 2 p.m.
Parents are encouraged to sit in with their children.

**ALL LIBRARY
PROGRAMS
ARE FREE!**

Young Adult/Teens at Abington Free Library

For registration and more information: Linda Jones, Young Adult Librarian, 215-885-5180 ext. 13.

ANIME EVENT - 6th-9th grades. Please register now.

April 21 from 7-8 p.m. Learn about and draw Manga, the art style used in Japanese graphic novels.



Abington READS! Teens and young readers spend an hour each week reading together. Young readers, who have finished kindergarten through 2nd grade, practice their reading skills coached by a junior/senior high school student. Young adults earn service hours while they inspire a younger reader and enjoy great children's books.

Young Adults, ages 12-17: **REQUIRED TRAINING SESSION:** Wed, June 22 from 6-8 pm.

Reading Sessions: Mondays from 6-7 p.m. Thursdays from 10-11 a.m.

Mondays from 7-8 p.m. Thursdays from 11-noon

Program begins Mon, June 27 and finishes Thu, Aug 11. Signup begins: May 23.



WITH ART AND JOURNALING – Young Adults – ages 13-18.

Wednesdays, June 29, July 6, 13 & 20 from 6:30-8 p.m.

Registration begins June 13. Join Diana Trout (artist and journaling enthusiast) for creative journaling. Use art, poetry and writing to put your thoughts on paper. Bring your own journal or notebook, other supplies provided.

Thank you to our recent, significant donors

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

Nancy Abel
Abington Bank
Abington Civic Club
Walter and Jean Annon
B. Dalton (Willow Grove Mall)
Ellen Bard
Leigh Bardsley
Ellen Baxter
Mark and Marla Benjamin
Robert and Evelyn Betz
Len Blumenthal
Douglas and Pamela Callantine
EMCCC - Women's Business Network
Edythe Farlow
Vincent and Barbara Ferrara
Timothy and Mariane Fortmann
Joseph and Peggy Frankenfield

Cecilia Frankford
Friends of Abington Library
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Galman Group - Books 'R' Fun
Joseph and Margaret Gartland
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May Harrow
Timothy and Debra Hilbert
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Brian and Catherine Keim
Regina Litman
Ruth Moore
John and Shirley Neff
Charles Niles

Robert O'Brien
George and Kathleen O'Connell
James and Maxine O'Neill
Garret and Olivia Page
Penny's Flowers
Baron and Barbara Rowland
Frances Rubinsohn
Karen and Craig Sabatino
John and Beth Santangelo
Elaine Shay
Max M. Solomon
Paul Stone
Wachovia Bank
Cynthia Wadsworth
Shirley Walker
Margery Wolf



Some Library News

- As of April 1, 2005, the Abington Library will no longer provide date due cards. We realize our patrons value those cards. In fact, we are one of the few libraries left in MCLINC that still uses them. However, the company that made the date stamping machines no longer manufactures them. Therefore, when checking out, keep your receipt. It lists all your due dates.
- Watch for the Abington Library's Book Cart Drill Team in this year's Glenside 4th of July Parade!
- Check out our new-to-us donated shelving! We hope it improves access to films, audio-books and music at Abington Free Library.
- Coming soon – new children's book-and-CD sets, courtesy of a grant from Wachovia Corporation.

Friends of Abington Library /News and Views

Find out about the various activities of the Friends: call 215-885-5180 ext. 36, <http://abg.mclinc.org/Friends.htm>

The Friends are supporting and funding the "READING FOR RASCALS" CHILDREN'S YOUTH PROGRAM, chaired by Hannah Sutin. Carolyn DuBois, head of the Children's Department, will be happy to supply all particulars of the second year of this highly successful program.

EVENTS:

May 17, 7 a.m.-8 p.m. **PRIMARY ELECTION BAKE SALE!** Bring/buy baked goods.
June 13, 5:45 p.m. **ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC** at Alverthorpe Park (Fox Chase Entrance)
You may assist in planning other fund-raising events!

BOOKS WANTED FOR OUR FABULOUS BOOKCELLAR

JEWELRY NEEDED FOR OUR SILENT AUCTIONS

BOOKMARKS AND LIBRARY BOOK BAGS FOR SALE AT THE CIRCULATION DESK

VISIT OUR BOOKCELLAR, peruse our fine selection of pre-owned books, video/audio tapes, CDs, DVDs. Find us in the lower level of the Library, Monday to Friday noon to 4 pm, Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday, call 215 885-5180, ext. 36 for hours.

WE INVITE YOU TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER FRIEND!

- Bill Tinsman, President, Friends of Abington Library



Adult Programs at Abington Free Library

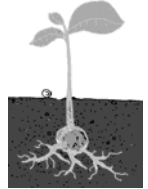
For information contact Library Office 215-885-5180, ext. 15, abg.mclinc.org/calendar.htm or kburnham@mclinc.org

MASTER GARDENER SERIES – 3 Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Registration is a MUST!

March 23 – SIMPLY ROSES & FRIENDS with Mary McKnight

March 30 – LANDSCAPE DESIGN - FOR YOUR GARDEN with Sue Lake

April 6 – MOON GARDENS with Mary Brandley Hull



WORLD WAR II LECTURE SERIES – Every 3rd Tuesday at 3 & 7 p.m. Registration is a MUST!

April 19 – Stories from Battleship Tennessee by Ralph (Bud) Galow

May 17 – TBA

June 21 – TBA

DAYTIME BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP – Every 1st Thursday at 1 p.m.

April 7 – The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

May 5 – Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides, 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

June 2 – One Thousand White Women : the Journals of May Dodd by Jim Fergus

OLD YORK ROAD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY – Every 2nd Tuesday at 7 p.m.

April 12 – 10th Annual Banquet at Williamson Restaurant. "Rebels & Redcoats"

May 10 – Christine Friend, Philadelphia Archdiocesan Historical Research Center

June 14 – Summer Project: "Scrap booking" for entertainment or for historical benefit.

SOCRATES CAFÉ – Every 2nd Wednesday from 10:30–noon.

Giving Philosophy Back to the People. Open discussion.

DEGAS: HIS WORK, HIS VISION, HIS CAMERA

April 17 at 3 p.m. - Richard E. Goldberg, M.D. will lead the discussion underscoring Degas' ability to continue creating art despite a progressive visual impairment.



Self-Portrait With Zoé Clozier

THE RUTH R. ABEL MEMORIAL SEMINAR

April 20 at 7 p.m. - Poetry Month – Mary Oliver. Packets will be available in the Library Office.

May 18 at 7 p.m. - TBA

Dr. Richard Tyre is our discussion leader. Registration is a must!

GRAMMAR HIGHLIGHTS

April 28 at 10 a.m. in the Shorday Room. Bring grammar to life with Prof. Burton Klein.

LA FRANCE DIVISÉE (France Divided), explores the two sides of France

(collaborators and resisters) during World War II. (In French with English subtitles)

Produced, directed and authored by Eileen M. Angelini, Ph.D., and Barbara P. Barnett, M.A.

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THE RÉSUMÉ SPARKLES ... THE JOB FOLLOWS

May 12, 19, 26 and June 2 at 10 a.m. in the Shorday Room

"I wonder why my résumé 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.



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 Burnham - *Editor/Gadfly*
Cathy Kress - *Copy Editor*

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Staff Spotlight – Jay Bhatt

Information Desk: 215-885-5180, ext. 13. See more of Jay's links at <http://abg.mclinc.org/Search.htm>.

Do you have any information on science fair projects? Where can I find information on black holes? These are the kinds of questions that we hear over and over again at the Reference Desk at AFL. Thanks to able librarian Jay Bhatt, helping students answer such questions is easy. You see, in addition to purchasing materials for our science collection, Jay developed a science fair page (<http://abg.mclinc.org/LinksScienceFair.htm>) for the library's website and works hard to keep our science web-links up to date.

Jay, a native of India, has worked part-time at AFL since 1993. He lives in Delaware County with his wife, Parul, and their two children, Shivani 11 and Ishaan 5. In addition to his work at Abington, Jay is a full-time reference librarian at Drexel University's Hagerty Library, where he also teaches in Drexel's Information Science program. Jay holds master's degrees in four subject areas: electrical and computer engineering; instructional design; special education; and information science and technology. After putting in a full day at Drexel, Jay boards the train and travels north to work four evenings a week at AFL. He also spends two weekends a month at our Abington Reference Desk.

As you might imagine, we are delighted to have Jay working with us. His commitment to public service is exceptional, and his expertise in the fields of science and education makes him an invaluable addition to our Reference staff. Despite his Herculean schedule, Jay is never too busy to spend time helping adults and students find the information they need. The other day I asked Jay what he most enjoys about working here at Abington and he responded by saying "helping our library users." Jay told me that he appreciates the opportunity to grow as a librarian by serving a diverse user group with unique information needs. Just as we appreciate the opportunity to work with Jay!

- Rebecca Ritts

