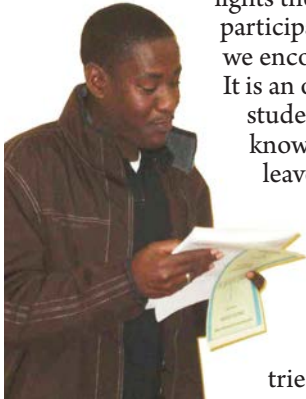


## From the Director's Desk - The American Dream

The American Dream is alive and well, right now, here at the Abington Township Public Libraries. We are involved every day in helping people achieve their own personal American Dream. We're referring to the library's Adult Literacy Program.

You may not be familiar with the program, so here's a little background: thanks to a grant from the State, the guidance of the program's coordinator, Rob Naborn, and the hard work and dedication of many, many volunteers, we provide English as a Second Language tutoring, reading instruction, help with preparation for the GED and encouragement for those who wish to become American citizens.

Every year in June we have a graduation ceremony that highlights the accomplishments of program participants. It is a wonderful evening that we encourage all library patrons to attend. It is an opportunity to share in the pride of students who come to us with little or no knowledge of the English language and leave with confidence that they can learn to communicate and become productive citizens of their adopted country.



Last year the Literacy Program tutored 189 students from 17 countries. Each has a unique and interesting

story. One student in particular stood out from this year's group. His name is Elhadj Saidou and he is from Burkina Faso, West Africa. He came to the program in March and, at that time, spoke only French and Fulfulde. In June he stood in front of the people at the graduation ceremony and spoke to us in English about customs in his native country and his dreams of life in America. What a success story!



Of course the Literacy Program is only one of many of the fine offerings at our libraries. With a glance at the Ab Lib, our quarterly newsletter, you will find details of interesting programming all year long (and if you don't currently receive the Ab Lib in the mail, just call the office and we'll be glad to put your name on the mailing list.)

The Abington Township Public Libraries are visited by more people each year than any other area library. Our circulation is the highest in the MCLINC consortium. Of course, the cost of maintaining all the services currently available at the library continues to rise, not to mention the need to keep up with the latest information technology. We need your help!

An investment in the library is an investment in learning and in our future. Please consider making a donation to support one of the busiest libraries in Montgomery County. Thank you for thinking of the Abington Township Public Libraries.



- Nancy Hammeke Marshall

## Volunteer Spotlight - Richard Scofield

Some people have to be dragged into the spotlight. When asked to be the subject for this article, Richard insisted, "You don't have to write anything about me!" But when told that telling his story could benefit the Library, his eyes lit up and he said, "Well, then in that case, okay." When asked her opinion of him, Pat Seese, head of Circulation, exclaimed, "Oh, you never see Richard! He just comes and he works! He's a pleasant, steady worker!" T.R. Seiler, also of the Circulation Department added, "Richard is absolutely great!"

Born in Philadelphia and proud of his Scottish heritage, Richard enjoyed studying history among other subjects taught at the newly opened John Bartram High School. He went on to The University of Pennsylvania to study accounting, and, as his generation did, he served in the armed forces. He was in the Army in General Headquarters from 1943-1946. "I was lucky, I didn't see any action." But he did see California, Alabama, Oklahoma and the Philippines. After the Army, Richard worked for the Otis Elevator Company, then Sunoco Gas Station which led him to own his own tire business, aptly called, Richard's Tire Company, in Feasterville. He was able to retire when he sold it to AAMCO Transmissions, which still runs it today.

Richard was married to his high school sweetheart, his first-mate, Elizabeth, for 60 years until her passing three years ago.

He fondly recalls how often they asked each other, "Well, what do you think?" Richard proudly talks about their two daughters: Linda who still lives locally and Karen in Northern New Jersey.

Richard had always been a frequent Abington Library user, so the idea to volunteer here was just a short hop. For the past two years he has come in every Monday and Wednesday morning, and gone directly to the grid behind the Circulation Desk where the returned books wait to be shelved. "People take 'em out and I put 'em back." Richard announces proudly, "Mystery, Biography, Art - whatever needs to be put back. They're all numbered, so it's an easy job, but somebody's got to do it!" Richard can also be seen every Friday volunteering at Abington Hospital, looking very sharp in his red volunteer's jacket. He gets a kick out of music, particularly Irish balladeer, Daniel O'Donnell.

As you see, Richard is generous with his time and quietly does his part to make sure the job gets done. But we can't help but shout-out his fine qualities.

- Karen Burnham



# Reference Department News

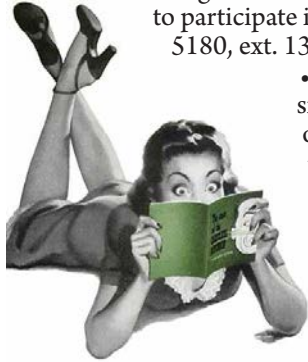
For more information call 215-885-5180, ext. 13 or go to [abingtonfreelibrary.org/information](http://abingtonfreelibrary.org/information)



## BOOK CLUBS AND READERS ADVISORY TIPS

We are often asked for suggestions for book clubs or ideas for that next good read. Here are some tips you can use on your own. Please also stop by or call us at the Information Desk.

The Abington Free Library offers two discussion groups that meet right here. Please let us know if you would like to participate in one of our events. Call 215-885-5180, ext. 13, to confirm dates or sign up.



- The Daytime Book Discussion Group meets the first Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. The Daytime Book Discussion Group also lists their book selections on our website.

Take a look at what the Ruth R. Abel Memorial Book and Film Discussion Group is reading. Books, movies and more are selected by our discussion leader, Edward Pettit. Join a discussion on a Wednesday at 7 p.m.

- We also offer several print and online resources that can help you in your quest for further reading.

## PRINT REFERENCE RESOURCES:

- Contemporary Popular Writers edited by Dave Mote: REF 809.3 CON 1997
- Good Fiction Guide edited by Jane Rogers: REF 809.3 GOO
- The Salon.com Readers Guide to Contemporary Authors edited by Laura Miller with Adam Begley: REF 809.04 SAL 2000
- Fiction and Non-Fiction Reading lists prepared by Abington librarians (also available through our website <http://abingtonfreelibrary.org>)

- The Vertical File contains resources from Reading Group Choices, which annually publishes Reading Group Choices: Selections for Lively Book Discussion.

## ONLINE REFERENCE RESOURCES (AVAILABLE THROUGH OUR WEBSITE AT [ABINGTONFREELIBRARY.ORG](http://ABINGTONFREELIBRARY.ORG); LIBRARY CARD REQUIRED)

- Bloom's Literary Reference Online A great source for literary criticism. Authors, works, literary topics and themes, and timelines (chronology of events in world literature) are all searchable through Bloom's Online.
- Books and Authors You can search this database in the library or from home (if you are a resident of Abington). Not sure what to read next? Find award-winners or browse by genre. Want to read reviews of a title of interest? Books and Authors is for students, book clubs and readers of all ages.
- NovelistPlus This database, available through the PowerLibrary, contains over 200,000 fiction and non-fiction titles for all ages. You will also find over 400 annotated book lists on high-interest topics, book talks for older kids and teens, and Book Discussion Guides that will provide everything you need to ensure lively book club meetings or classroom discussions.
- ACQWEB's Directory of Book Reviews on the Web: <http://www.acqweb.org/bookrev.html> (No library card required.)



## Roslyn Branch Library

For more information call 215-886-9818, go to [abingtonfreelibrary.org/Roslyn](http://abingtonfreelibrary.org/Roslyn), or visit 2412 Avondale Avenue, Roslyn, PA 19001

### PAJAMA PARTIES FOR AGES 3-6

Monday, Jan 12, Feb 9 and March 16  
6:30-7 p.m.

Registration begins March 17.

Please register for each program separately.

Stories, songs, fingerplays and crafts

Children are invited to wear their pajamas and bring a stuffed animal to cuddle.

### WINTER STORY TIMES

begin Jan 28 and continue through March 13.

Mondays at 1:30 p.m. for ages 3-6.

Thursdays at 11 a.m. for ages 2-3.

Registration begins Jan 7.

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.



### DR. SEUSS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION\*

Join us on Feb 23 for a fantastic celebration!

Stories, crafts and refreshments.

6-6:30 - Ages 2-5

7-8:00 - Ages 6-12

Registration begins Feb 4.

Call or visit the Roslyn Branch Library to sign up.

\*Dr. Seuss's actual birthday is March 2!

Enjoy an evening of Irish culture and dance with the

TIMONEY IRISH DANCERS!

Learn Irish step and folk dancing.

Monday, March 9, 7-8 p.m.

For children K-6th grade

Refreshments

Registration begins Feb 16.



# Children's Department at Abington Free Library

For more information call 215-885-5180, ext. 28 or go to [abingtonfreelibrary.org/childrens](http://abingtonfreelibrary.org/childrens). All programs held in the Library's Community Room, Lower Level.

## DROP-IN STORY TIMES (all ages)

Every Thursday, 11-11:30 a.m. (except Dec 25 and Jan 1)  
Led by Jenkintown Kiwanis Club members. No registration required. Children must be accompanied by parent/caregiver.

## "FITNESS 'N FUN" (children ages 3-5 & parents/caregivers)

Wednesday, Dec 17, 10:30-11:15 a.m.  
An introduction to yoga presented by the Aquatic & Fitness Center of Jenkintown. Registration begins Dec 8.

## DOGGONE GOOD STORY TIMES (ages 3 & up)

Three Mondays: Dec 29, Feb 16 & 23, 10:30-11 a.m.  
Enjoy stories with reader Karen Udell & her golden retriever, Mitzi. No registration required. Children must be accompanied by parent/caregiver.

## PRESCHOOL STORY TIMES (ages 2-5)

Winter story times begin week of Jan 5 and continue through week of Feb 9.

Two-year-olds: Tuesdays, 10:15-11 a.m.

Registration begins Dec 15.

Three-, four- and five-year-olds: Mondays, 10:30-11 a.m.

No registration required.



## PRESCHOOL PAJAMA PARTIES (ages 3-5)

Four Wednesdays: Jan 14, Feb 11, March 11, April 8, 7-7:30 p.m.  
Wear PJs & bring a stuffed animal to these evening story times. No registration required. Children must be accompanied by parent/caregiver.

## FAMILY SQUARE DANCE NIGHT (ages 8 & up)

Thursday, Jan 15, 7-8 p.m.  
Square dance demonstration with audience participation. Children must be appropriate age to attend. Registration begins Jan 5.

## TODDLER STORY TIMES

(ages 12-23 months & parents/caregivers)

### Session I:

Three Wednesdays: Jan 28, Feb 4 & 11, 10:30-11 a.m.  
Registration begins Jan 19 (Abington residents); Jan 23 (out-of-township residents).

### Session II:

Five Wednesdays: March 4, 11, 18, 25 & April 1, 10:30-11 a.m.  
Registration begins Feb 23 (Abington Township residents); Feb 27 (out-of-township residents).

## "RAISING AN AVID READER" WORKSHOP

Thursday, Jan 29, 7-8 p.m.  
Parents: Learn techniques to develop your four- or five-year-old child's pre-reading skills. Registration begins Jan 12.



## DOGGONE GOOD READERS (grades 1-5)

Three Saturdays: Feb 7, March 7, & April 4, 10:15-10:45 OR 11-11:30 a.m.  
Children practice reading aloud to licensed therapy dogs. Registration begins Jan 12.

## UNDERGROUND RAILROAD PROGRAM

(homeschoolers in grades 3-9)  
Tuesday, Feb 10, 2-3 p.m.  
Explore African-Americans' freedom struggle before the Civil War. Registration begins Jan 26.

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN 200th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION (ages 8 & up)

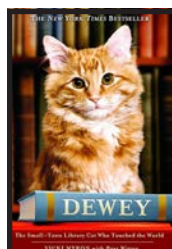
Thursday, Feb 12, 7-8 p.m.  
Celebrate the people and influences that shaped the life of our 16th President. Registration begins Feb 2.

## K'NEX FAMILY FUN NIGHT (Younger group: Ages 3-5)

Tuesday, Feb 24, 6:30-7:15 p.m.  
Build "Very Hungry Caterpillars" using child-safe Kids' K'NEX. Space limited to 30 children attending with parents/caregivers. Registration begins Feb 16.

## K'NEX FAMILY FUN NIGHT (Older group: Ages 6 and up)

Thursday, March 12, 7-8:15 p.m.  
Build a K'NEX seesaw, helicopter & more. Space limited to 30 children; one adult may attend per family. Registration begins March 2.



Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World by Vicki Myron, an inspiring book about a cat in Iowa, saved by librarians, has been discussed on American television and featured in films and articles all over the world. Folks in the library business were thrilled by this book's popularity, as it discloses

some of what library staff does. Librarians observe their population. They find national trends. They look for books, databases, websites, newspapers, magazines, etc. where their people can find solutions. So, in this internationally-known book, woven in the story of a saved cat who saves a town, is one librarians' story of what libraries do for you.

## Teen Programs at Abington Free Library

To register for these FREE programs, stop by the Information Desk, call 215-885-5180, ext. 13 or email from the library website, [abingtonfreelibrary.org](http://abingtonfreelibrary.org)



**TEEN KNITTING CLASS**  
Saturdays, beginning Jan 17, 1-2 pm  
Grades 6-12. Adults welcome!  
All skill levels.  
Learn from the teacher.  
Knit lap blankets for an area nursing home.  
Just get together to knit.

Share your expertise!  
Bring your friends!

Ever wanted to learn to play chess or improve your game?  
**YOUNG ADULTS CHESS**  
Fridays, 3:30-5 p.m.  
Grades 6-12. Adults welcome!  
For experienced and beginning players  
Instruction, Tournaments, something to do Friday afternoons,  
Meet new friends., exercise your brain.

**TEEN BREAD MAKING**  
Saturday, Feb 7, from 2-3:30 p.m.  
Grades 6-12.  
Make – Take – Taste  
This will be a hands-on class. Each participant will bring his/  
her own bowl and utensils and make delicious whole-grain yeast  
bread. Learn techniques of making and kneading yeast bread.  
Take home rising bread to bake later. Sample hot bread at the  
end of class.



**TEENS WANTED:**  
to create and lead programs for elementary age children. Possible ideas include skits, games, journaling, creative writing, etc. You will be awarded service hours for your time.

Roslyn Branch Library, 2412 Avondale Avenue, Roslyn, PA  
19001, 215-886-9818

## Adult Programs at Abington Free Library

For more information or to register for these FREE programs, visit 1030 Old York Road, Abington, call 215-885-5180, ext. 15, or go to [abingtonfreelibrary.org](http://abingtonfreelibrary.org)

**WWII LECTURE SERIES**  
Every 3rd Tuesday @ 3 & 7 p.m.  
Dec 16 - Gordon Myers of Levittown, PA - GI Carmen and the  
63rd Infantry Division  
Jan 20 - Fernande Davis of Gwynedd, PA - Girl in the Belgian  
Resistance: A Watchful Eye in the Underground  
Feb 17 - George Stifinger – 8th Airforce in World War II  
March 17 - Rob Naborn recently translated a book Harry  
Mulisch entitled Criminal Case 40/61: The Trial of Adolf Eich-  
mann.

**DAYTIME BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**  
Every 1st Thursday @ 1 p.m.  
Jan 8 - Angels and Insects by A.S. Byatt  
Feb 5 - Those Who Save Us by Jenna Blum  
March 5 - The Mayflower by Nathaniel Philbrick  
No registration required. Walk-ins welcome!

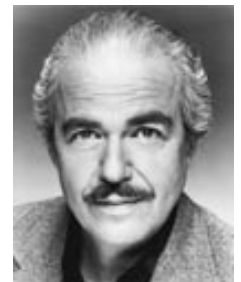


**OLD YORK ROAD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
Every 2nd Tuesday, from 7-8:45 p.m.  
Jan 13 - Entire Club – Show and Tell. Look What I Found!  
Feb 10 - Climbing Brick Walls: The Elusive Ancestor  
March 10 - The Lighter Side of Genealogy

**SOCRATES CAFÉ**  
Every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 10:30 - noon  
Every 4th Friday of the month from 7 - 8:30 p.m.  
Giving Philosophy Back to the People. Let's discuss ... What  
is truth? What is justice? What is moderation? Any and every  
question under the sun!

**THE RUTH R. ABEL MEMORIAL BOOK AND FILM DIS-  
CUSSION GROUP**  
Edward Pettit is our discussion leader.  
Wednesdays at 7 pm  
TBA. Watch for dates in March and April.

**AN AFTERNOON WITH GEORGE  
GUIDALL: The Art and Artifice of Au-  
diobook Narration**  
Sunday, April 19  
Recipient of two Audie Awards and more  
than 50 Ear Phone Awards, Mr. Guidall  
will read from some of his 900+ books he  
has recorded and tell us of the process,  
preparation and performance decisions  
that have made him a favorite.



## Adult Literacy Events

For more information, call Rob Naborn at 215-885-5183, email [AbLit1@yahoo.com](mailto:AbLit1@yahoo.com), or visit the Literacy Program Office, Abington Free Library, Lower Level.



Our Adult Literacy  
Program is dedicated  
to enhancing English-  
speaking abilities for  
foreign-born students  
and reading and math  
skills for anyone who  
needs help.

You can become a tutor at any time. Call 215 885 5183 or e-mail  
[AbLit1@yahoo.com](mailto:AbLit1@yahoo.com) to find out more.

A special training for new and prospective tutors will be held  
in March. Please tell all your friends and relatives who may be  
interested about this!



- Rob Naborn

# Miss Ellanie - Calculate Your Savings

See the new calculator at [abingtonfreelibrary.org/calculator.htm](http://abingtonfreelibrary.org/calculator.htm).

How much would you guess your library use saves you in out-of-pocket expenses? What would you find if that could be measured? The result could be surprising, because it's so easy to use the library.

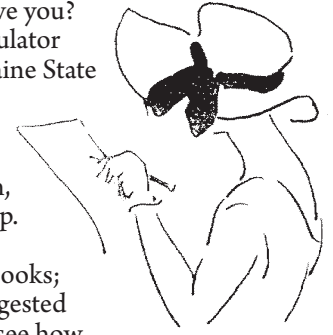
When patrons go to the Circulation Desk to check out what they found to borrow, sometimes they hand us the wrong cards, usually their credit cards. For store purchases, when using a credit card it seems easy and painless, until you get the bill. When you use your library card, and you return those items when they're due and unharmed, there's never a bill. It's so easy no one has to think about it.



Except we do. In tough economic times library use goes up, funding either stays flat, or if budget cuts are on the table, libraries may be the first to go.

So how much does your library save you? We've put a Personal Savings Calculator on our website, courtesy of the Maine State Library, which created it and allows other libraries to adapt and use it. As you type in the number of library items you use in a month, you can see your total savings go up.

So pile up the DVDs, music, and books; go online to the databases and suggested websites and use the calculator to see how much the Library saves you.



- Miss Ellanie



## Thank You to Our Recent Significant Donors

Andrew Allen Charitable Trust  
Mr. and Mrs. Arlin Adams  
Concordia Lodge  
Judith and Charles Freyer

Rotary Club of Jenkintown  
Rebecca and Arnold Shapiro  
David and Gabrielle Sellei Sinkway



## News & Views of the Friends of Abington Libraries

Learn about our activities: call 215-885-5180, ext. 36, or read about us at [abingtonfreelibrary.org](http://abingtonfreelibrary.org)

The Friends hold their meetings in the Community Room in the lower level of Abington Free Library. We'll meet on the following Saturday mornings at 9:30: Feb 21 and May 16. The annual meeting, our Picnic in the Park, will be June 8, 5:45 p.m., at Alverthorpe Park.

Winter Activities:

- Design-a-Bookmark Contest for children grades K-12

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE FRIENDS:



- Donate books, movies, audiobooks, music and current textbooks.
- Volunteer at the BookCellar or help with Friends' activities.
- Become a member.

NEW BOOKS ARRIVE EVERY DAY AT OUR BOOKCELLAR – Please come by and browse through our extensive collection. We are located in the lower level of the Abington Free Library, next to the Children's Department. All our books, movies and music are for sale at bargain prices!

BOOKCELLAR hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and

**BOOKCELLAR** Friday, noon-4 p.m.;  
Wednesday, noon-8:30 p.m.;  
and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Donations are gratefully accepted daily at the Circulation Desk.

All proceeds from the Friends' activities go directly to support the township libraries.

- Lydia Parke, president,  
The Friends of the Abington Township Public Libraries

# The AB LIB


In This Issue: American Dream  
Tips for Clubs and Readers  
Calculate Your Savings

Friends' News & Views  
Library Programs  
Spotlights

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Abington Township Public Library Newsletter  
abingtonfreelibrary.org Winter 2008-09 Vol. 7, No. 4


## Abington Free Library

1030 Old York Road, Abington, 19001  
215-885-5180, abingtonfreelibrary.org  
Circulation Desk .....ext. 12  
Information Desk.....ext. 13  
Children's Department.....ext. 28  
Executive Director .....ext. 14  
Office .....ext. 15  
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.  
Closed Sundays in August.


## Roslyn Branch Library

2412 Avondale Avenue, Roslyn, 19001  
215-886-9818, abingtonfreelibrary.org  
Hours: Mon, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Tues, Thurs & Fri, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Sat, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Closed Wednesdays  
and Sundays. 

## The Ab Lib Behind-the-Scenes Staff

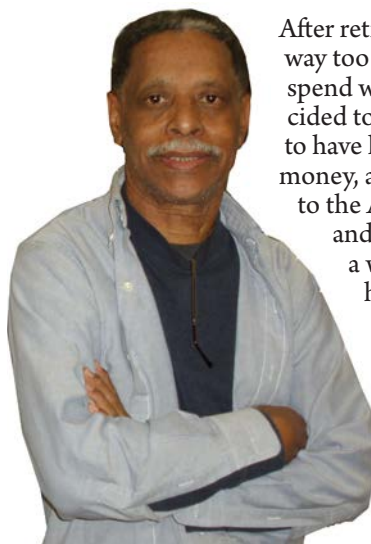
Nancy Hammeke Marshall  
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Karen Burnham  
*Editor/Gadfly*   
Cathy Kress  
*Copy Editor*  
Lois Odabas  
*Publishing Assistant*

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## Staff Spotlight - Bill Boone

Bill Boone was born in Philadelphia and went to school in West Philadelphia. He earned a degree from Philadelphia College of Art. In 1992 he made his way to Wyndmoor in order to be closer to his job. Bill worked at Merck & Company in West Point, Pa. for 32 years.



After retirement Bill found he had way too much free time and used it to spend way too much money. He decided to find a part-time job as a way to have less free time and a little more money, and we're glad he did! He came to the Abington Free Library in 1996 and has been spending two nights a week and one Sunday a month here ever since.

If you stand back and watch Bill at the Circulation Desk, you might notice two things: first, he seems to know everybody who comes into the library, and



if he doesn't know you by name, he'll still greet you with a warm "Hello" and "How are you?" Second, if there's a little break in the action and no one is in line to check out, he'll pick up a piece of scrap paper and start to sketch.

Art is one of Bill's passions. He especially likes to paint watercolors. He attends two art classes each week in Philadelphia, one at the Academy of Fine Arts and the other at the Philadelphia Sketch Club. As a matter of fact, we have one of his sketches as a screen saver on one of our circulation desk computers. He's very talented!

He's also very active. After a heart attack in 1984 and bypass surgery in 2000, Bill is dedicated to keeping healthy. He attends exercise classes at the Abington Fitness Center three times a week and is now the picture of health!

We're so happy that Bill's path led him to the Abington Free Library. We hope he'll be our "official greeter" for many, many years to come!



- Trudy McDonald-Egitto