

Fall 2009

President's Letter

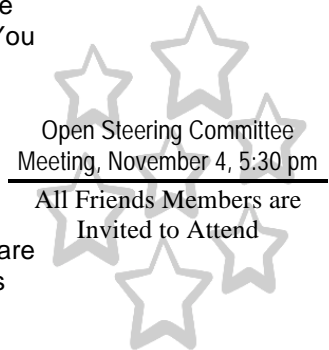
We so recently tottered on the brink of the unthinkable – no open libraries in the city of Philadelphia – that we now know exactly what it would mean if the libraries closed. A look at the list of programs to be canceled shows how critical the services of the Free Library are to the quality of life in this city. I am reminded of the “Great Expectations” forums I attended in 2007 and the optimism exhibited by the participants that Philadelphia could truly be the Next Great City. I only hope that once the economy recovers and the city’s finances stabilize we can get back on track toward that goal.

In the meantime we have to adjust to the current budget reality. There will still be rolling closures of branch libraries due to staffing shortages so please check the library’s website at www.freelibrary.org and click on the “Find a Location” menu item for a list of closures for that day or just call the branch. The Independence Branch is now paired with the PCI Branch on Rittenhouse Square to provide Saturday hours. The Independence Branch’s new hours are: Monday, Thursday, and Friday 10 am to 5 pm; Tuesday and Wednesday noon to 8 pm; closed Saturday. The PCI Branch will be closed on Monday but will be open Saturday 10 am to 5 pm.

In the midst of dealing with reduced staff and resources, Siobhan Reardon, president and director of the Free Library, announced six new library initiatives in support of Philadelphia’s economic recovery. I am pleased to see that we are beginning to, once again, look toward the future in how the library can serve the city. You can review these initiatives at www.libraryfriends.org and scroll down to “Library Initiatives.”

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the Friends received a \$2,500 gift from an anonymous donor, given through the Delaware Valley Legacy Fund, for the Barbara Gittings Gay and Lesbian Collection at the Independence Branch. We also received a \$1,000 grant from the Philadelphia Activities Fund for our Friends Present program offering programs for young children, teens, and adults. We thank our anonymous donor and we thank Councilman Frank DiCicco and his staff for their help in obtaining the grant.

-Joe Baker



Homework Help Livens the Library

LEAP has returned safely this school year to the Free Library, with adjusted scheduling to fit new hours of operation. Independence Branch’s new LEAP hours are Monday, Thursday, Friday—3-5 pm and Tuesday, Wednesday—3-6 pm.

LEAP helps students in grades 1-12 who drop by after school with their homework. Additionally, two enrichment programs—developing computer research skills or a lovely classical Indian dance performance, for example—are scheduled every week

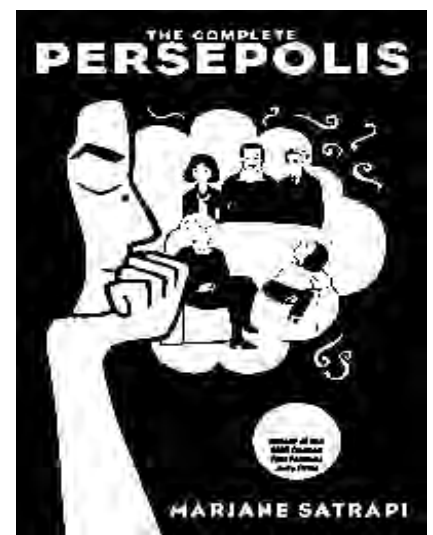
LEAP at Independence Branch provides bilingual assistance to local Mandarin speakers, and some parents who work in the area enroll their children in nearby schools and pick them up from LEAP after work, proving that the library is more than a stockroom of free reading material, but a lively hub of educational community organization and interaction.

Graphic Novel Picked For One Book, One Philadelphia

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome our newest One Book, One Philadelphia winner: *The Complete Persepolis*, Marjane Satrapi’s graphic novel memoir of her childhood during the Iranian Revolution of 1979 and its effects.

Persepolis is an international bestseller in several languages. In 2007, the film adaptation received an Oscar nomination for Best Animated Feature, and won the prestigious Jury Award at Cannes Film Festival in France.

Visit www.freelibrary.org for One Book, One Philadelphia’s schedule of events, supplementary resources, and more.



What's on Schedule at the Library



Library Staff

Jennifer Chang
*Branch Manager,
Children's Librarian*

Margaret Bernardi
Children's Librarian

William Irby
Adult/Young Adult Librarian

William Clossley
Patricia Hunt
Diane Burgess
Beatrice Kuczynski
Naquawna Brown
Library Assistants

Mary Westbrook
After School Leader

Roy F. Baldwin
Jasmine Coleman
Teen Leadership Assistants

Xiaohang Pu
Philadelphia Youth Network

Lifu Su
Tianyu Zhang
Benxin Xu
Shanxiang Liu
Senior Assistants

Friends of Independence

Library Steering Committee

Joe Baker
President

Martha Cornog
Secretary

Tom Culbreth
Treasurer

Jennifer Chang
Library Branch Manager

Cynthia Arkin
Membership Chair

Lee Gutman
Used Book Sale Chair

Tal Noznisky
Newsletter Chair

Joan Behr
Nancy Frenze
Mary Anne Hunter
Lois Kaalund
Amy Michael
Jeanne Pond
Becky Stoloff

OCTOBER

For Children, Teens, & Families

7, 14, 21, 28 Wednesdays – 4 pm
Cool Crafts for Kidz! (Brand new program!)

8, 15, 22, 29 Thursdays – 10:30 am
Toddler Story Hour (ages 1-4)

8, 15, 22, 29 Thursdays – 4 pm
Scrabble with Leah (For all skill levels!)

23 Friday – 4 pm
Diary of a Wimpy Kid presented by
Mr. Malcolm's Interactive Theater

28 Wednesday – 4 – 6 pm
Tween Halloween! (ages 8+)

30 Friday – 4 pm
Spooky Movie and Terrible Treats

Every Monday, Wednesday 3-6 pm
Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 3-5 pm
LEAP After School Program

For Adult Readers & Friends

5, 12, 19, 26 Mondays – 2 pm
Tai-Chi Class

6, 13, 20, 27 Tuesdays – 6:30 pm
On Heavens and Humans presented by
the Wagner Institute

7 Wednesday – 6:30 pm
Gay Men's Book Club

7, 14, 21, 28 Wednesdays – 2 pm
Chinese Folk Dance

14 Wednesday – 6 pm
Four-Season Container Gardens
presented by the Philadelphia Horticultural
Society

27 Tuesday – 12 pm
Medicare Information Session presented
by Aetna

Every Monday, Wednesday – 2 – 3:30 pm
U.S. Citizenship Class in Chinese

Every Tuesday, Thursday – 2 – 4:30 pm
English as a Second Language Class

Every Thursday, Friday – 1-1:30 pm
Chinese Tutoring

NOVEMBER

For Children, Teens, & Families

5, 12, 19 Thursdays – 10:30 am
Toddler Story Hour (ages 1-4)

5, 12, 19 Thursdays – 4 pm
Scrabble with Leah (For all skill levels!)

10 Tuesday – 4:30 pm
*To Honor our Soldiers: a Veteran's Day
Concert* with Saul Broudy presented by
Friends of Independence Library

18 Wednesday – 6:30 pm
Books Aloud!

Every Monday, Wednesday 3-6 pm
Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 3-5 pm
LEAP After School Program

Call the branch or visit
www.freelibrary.org for more and updated
information on events!

For Adult Readers & Friends

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Mondays – 2 pm
Tai-Chi Class

10 Tuesday – 12 pm
Medicare Information Session presented
by Aetna

3, 10, 17, 24 Tuesdays – 6:30 pm
On Heavens and Humans presented by
the Wagner Institute

4, 18, 25 Wednesdays – 2 pm
Chinese Folk Dance

10 Tuesday – 6:30 pm
Gay Men's Book Club

6, 13, 20, Fridays – 12:30 pm
Italian Tutoring

Every Monday, Wednesday – 2 – 3:30 pm
U.S. Citizenship Class in Chinese

Every Tuesday, Thursday – 2 – 4:30 pm
English as a Second Language Class

Every Thursday, Friday – 1-1:30 pm
Chinese Tutoring

To Honor our Soldiers: a Veteran's Day Concert **With Saul Broudy Presented by Friends of Independence Library**

To Honor Our Soldiers is the first event of its kind at the Independence Branch: a Veteran's Day concert with Saul Broudy, Philadelphia's renowned folksinger and storyteller. For "To Honor Our Soldiers" Saul will demonstrate how soldiers' songs from the past 200 years reflect their lives at war, including material he collected on his tour of duty in Vietnam.

Saul's avid sense of American music has earned him positions on several local humanities councils, over 25 estimable album credits, global audiences, and a PhD in folklore from Penn.

The Friends of the Independence Branch encourage all ages to come learn and sing the songs soldiers sung from the Civil War to the Vietnam War with Saul. Independence Branch will host *To Honor Our Soldiers* on Tuesday November 10 at 4:30 pm.



Folk music icon Saul Broudy will perform at the Independence Branch Library on November 10

Shorter Reads for Shorter Days—Fall Reading Recommendations from the Editor

If the autumn winds blew your summer reading shut, try these. In keeping with the dwindling daylight, here are two titles from Independence Branch's new fiction releases shelf that are short on page numbers, not quality.

Atmospheric Disturbances by Rivka Galchen

Suddenly, a quixotic and unplanned plot whisks Dr. Leo Liebenstein to depressed Buenos Aires from his comfortable Manhattan apartment. His mission: to unmask the same weather-controlling conspiracy that replaced his Argentine wife, Rema, with a near-perfect impostress and to reclaim the real one.

The free-wheeling winds of Dr. Leo's paranoid fabulation fill Galchen's pages out with deliriously mastered fear and longing in her debut, a first person account of love and madness.

240 pages

Nobody Move by Denis Johnson

National Book Award winner Denis Johnson spares none but the harsh words in this overripe pulp fiction.

A one-night stand passes from seedy cohabitation into a cliff-hanging series of impromptu criminal collaborations. To extract themselves from cycles of underworld revenge plots, star-crossed boozehounds Jimmy Luntz and Anita Desilvera bait a pack of hit-men, debtors, and ex-husbands through a merciless circuit around mangy L.A. outskirts.

208 pages

Local Scientists Discover Free Astronomy Classes at Independence Branch

Learn to read the skies—without lifting a page. The Wagner Free Institute of Science invites space buffs and starry-eyed novices to a veritable People's History of Astronomy at the Independence Library this fall. Come and discuss the billions and billions of uses to which humanity has put what it knows of the cosmos.

After Philadelphia merchant William Wagner retired, he parlayed his lifelong devotion to science into the Free Institute of Science, the philanthropic initiative that has provided priceless science education to his hometown since 1855. An enduring partnership with the Philadelphia Free Library began in 1890 when the Institute housed the First Branch of many more that still carry Wagner's founding mission citywide.

This fall, Independence Branch welcomes Dr. Sylwester Ratowt from the Institute as he presents *On Humans and Heavens: a Brief History of Astronomy and its Influence on Our Lives*.

Dr. Ratowt specialized in the history of astronomy and has taught science and technology writing seminars at Philadelphia University. He is excited to make astronomy "palpable and relevant" to Philadelphians

Under the banner that what we see in the sky influences how we think about astronomy, Dr. Ratowt loaded ample graphics into *Of Humans and Heavens* to illustrate each week's discussion. Those attending can drop in on whatever subjects most interest them with topics ranging from political controversy (then and now, intriguingly) to Philadelphia's starscape before light pollution.

The class meets at 6:30 pm every Tuesdays until November 24. No reading or registration is required. Independence Library will also host Institute professor Mary Beth Davis' *Evolution in Action - A Study of Species' Options Over Time* beginning in January.

For more details on the "Of Humans and Heavens" and other programming from the Wagner Free Institute of Science please visit www.wagnerfreeinstitute.org.

Fall 2009



Bib·li·o·FILE

Curl Up With a Classic!

Winter is coming so what better time to curl up on a couch with a classic you have always meant to read! Or, maybe you are a student looking for a classic novel at a bargain price!

Our Used Book Nook has a row of classics available from 25 cents (paperback) to \$1.00 for a hardcover book. For example, we have D. H. Lawrence's book *Sons and Lovers*, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*--perfect for October 31, Cliff's Notes, J. R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, some Shakespeare, and many others. These donated classics are put on this shelf as fast as they come in. So, come on in and check them out. Be sure to check the new library hours first!

-Lee Gutman

Your Friends Need You

Our Friends' group needs volunteers to:

- Help publish our newsletter, the BiblioFILE. We need people to write articles and people with basic word-processing skills to lay out the newsletter. Assistance is always available. Our goal is to produce a newsletter quarterly.
- Join the steering committee. This small group meets about every six weeks for an hour to discuss our wonderful library and decide how we can help.
- We need volunteers to help plan new programs with Philadelphia Activities Fund grant we received.

To volunteer, email indyfriends@verizon.net or leave your name and number for us with a librarian.

BiblioFILE Is Online

Are you relying more and more on email to keep current with the organizations you belong or subscribe to?

Distributing the BiblioFILE by email will save the Friends the cost of printing and postage. Volunteers label, add postage, and seal the print copy.

When you join or the next time you renew, you now have the option to check a box to receive the BiblioFILE by email as a PDF file. This is an experiment on the part of the Friends, so be patient as we work this process out.

Independence Branch's
New Hours of Operation

Monday, Thursday, Friday —10 am to 5 pm
Tuesday, Wednesday ——— 12 to 8 pm
Saturday, Sunday ————— CLOSED

Nearby Saturday Service at:
Charles Santore Branch and Philadelphia City Institute



Friends Membership Application

I want to join the Friends of the Independence Library as a:

- Friend \$5 Sponsor \$50
 Patron \$25 Benefactor \$100+

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____ BiblioFILE by email

I'd like to volunteer to help with:

- Membership Newsletter
 Program Planning Hospitality
 Fund Raising Library Volunteer
 Public Relations

Make checks payable to & mail with completed form to:

Friends of Independence Branch Library
18 S. 7th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

The official registration and financial information of the Friends of the Free Library of Philadelphia may be obtained from the Philadelphia Department of State by calling toll free, within Philadelphia, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



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