

Spring 2008



Bib·li·o·FILE

President's Report

Two recent articles about libraries in the New York Times caught my attention. While the articles are about the New York Public Library system they easily apply to our own Free Library of Philadelphia and to our Independence Branch library. Edward Rothstein (*With Expanding Library's Promise, Concern About Its Purpose*, March 17, 2008) discusses many issues of the modern library system chief of which is the temptation "to serve by deferring to the public rather than inspiring it." My childhood experiences at the library left me with the impression that the library should be a place of hushed silence, a place to sit and read a book or browse the dusty shelves in search of reading pleasure. Boy, am I behind the times! Rothstein observes that libraries are evolving to offer "an alluring mix of entertainment and enlightenment." He also notes that today's library more closely resembles the commercial model of a Barnes & Noble (coffee bar included) than the stodgy library of yesterday. Rothstein does report there is hope in the model represented by the modern Bronx Library Center, which is "too vital, too well stocked with possibilities for all ages, too inviting to browsers, readers and workers, to be characterized as a countermove in the evolution of public libraries."

Seth Schiesel (*Taking Play Seriously at the Public Library With Young Video Gamers*, March 22, 2008) picks up on one of Rothstein's issues in describing the pro-

gram "Game On @ the Library!" The New York Public Library owns 2,500 copies of 92 different video games and is following a trend in other large libraries across the country. Many branches offer video games for organized play sessions and for circulation. Apart from certain intrinsic educational and learning skills inherent in playing these video games, librarians believe by including video games in the collection the library becomes more relevant for a younger audience. As one young video gamer said, "I might have to check out the library some more."

The Independence Branch sponsored its first video game tournament last year and anticipates hosting a second event later this year. I must admit to being a bit skeptical when I first heard about the program but have since observed that for many teenagers, pre-teens and even much younger children video games are a big part of their lives. This was reinforced for me the other day when I was on a SEPTA regional train and saw a poster advertising Drexel's MBA program. What was the marketing ploy to attract graduate students to Drexel for this advanced degree? It was a picture of two young men locked in virtual battle. Their weapons? Video game controllers.

You can find the two articles at www.nytimes.com.

Joe Baker

H.O.M.E. Page Café

Drink coffee in the library? Eat a muffin at a reading table? Actually carry your drink into the stacks? Has the world gone mad? Well, no, it's just the newest thing at the Free Library of Philadelphia's Central library. The H.O.M.E. Page Café opened in April and serves hot and cold beverages, sandwiches, muffins and other good treats. This collaboration between the Free Library and Project H.O.M.E. is open from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Sunday. The Café is located in the hallway on the east side of the main lobby. There are tables and chairs in the café as well as a counter where you can plug in your computer. Feel the need to roam (or browse?) You can take your snack into other areas of the library as long as your beverage cup has a tight fitting lid. The H.O.M.E. Page Café is made possible through the participation of Metropolitan Bakery, Starbucks, Bank of America, the Harold A. Honickman Foundation, Project H.O.M.E. and the Free Library of Philadelphia.



Khalaf working at the H.O.M.E. Page Cafe

Your Independence Branch Library Staff

Jennifer Chang	<i>Branch Head</i>
Lee Payne	<i>Adult/Teen Librarian</i>
Julien Lee	<i>Adult/Teen Librarian</i>
Margaret Bernardi	<i>Children's Librarian</i>
Bill Clossey	<i>Librarian Assistant</i>
Nate Rogers	<i>Librarian Assistant</i>
Vernell Pacheco	<i>Librarian Assistant</i>
Bea Kuczynski	<i>Librarian Assistant</i>
Genette Hermann	<i>Librarian Assistant</i>
Wendy Boatwright	<i>Librarian Assistant</i>
Corey Dorsey	<i>Municipal Guard</i>
Barbara Cargo	<i>Municipal Guard</i>
Mandy Mai	<i>After School Leader</i>
Jenny Kuang	<i>Associate Leader</i>
Jeanne Mark	<i>Teen Leadership Assistant</i>
Roy Baldwin	<i>Teen Leadership Assistant</i>
Lifu Su	<i>Senior Chinese Assistant</i>
Tianyu Zhang	<i>Senior Chinese Assistant</i>
Shanxiang Lu	<i>Senior Chinese Assistant</i>
Runzhi Li	<i>Senior Chinese Assistant</i>

Munity!

June 21, 1783 ... Revolutionary war soldiers from Pennsylvania surround Independence Hall and demand back pay. Congress is held hostage. Despite a plea from George Washington Congress had refused to provide adequate food, clothing, and pay for these soldiers. In frustration and anger they marched to Philadelphia.

In conjunction with the 225th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Line Munity the Friends of the Independence Branch Library present author John Nagy. Mr. Nagy's new book is **Rebellion in the Ranks: Mutinies of the American Revolution**. He will speak and present visual slides about the actual rebellions that were fomented in the revolutionary army while it was in the field. The program is on **Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.** in the community room of the Independence Branch. It is free and open to the public.

John A. Nagy is an active member of the American Revolution Roundtable of Philadelphia. He is an expert in antique documents and has appeared on the History Channel.

This is one in a series of "Friends Present" programs featuring area authors, youth and cultural themes. Please come and support the Friends and your local library.

Book Donations Needed

The Friends inventory of used books is rapidly disappearing. Our Friends book sale volunteer coordinator requests donations of used books, CD's and DVD's. The greatest need is for fiction paperbacks, cookbooks, travel books and children's books. Books for summer vacation reading are especially popular.

The Friends used book sale raises over \$1,000 a year. This is money that directly supports the Independence Branch.

You can give your book donations to any librarian at the Independence Branch but please, no more than two full bags at a time.

The first of the summer Friends courtyard used book sales will be on **Thursday, May 29th from noon to 2:00 p.m.** in front of the library. This is a great opportunity to stock up for your summer reading (or drop off a bag of last summer's books.) Two more courtyard used book sales are planned for July 3rd and September 25th. These outdoor events are weather permitting, of course.

Friends Officers Re-elected

At the April 7th general meeting of the Friends of the Independence Branch: Joe Baker was re-elected as vice president serving as acting president; Tom Culbreth was re-elected as treasurer; and Martha Cornog was re-elected as secretary.

The Friends issued an open invitation to members to become more involved by joining the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee meets about every six weeks to discuss the library's needs and how best to serve the community. The next meeting is June 11th at 5:30 p.m. Please contact Joe Baker at indyfriends@verizon.net for more information.

Following the short business meeting Danny Curca of Voree, Inc. presented a program on personal computer security and maintenance and answered questions about computer issues. The Friends thank Mr. Curca for donating his time. Voree, Inc. computer services is at 1601 Walnut Street, Suite 1514, Philadelphia, PA 19102. The phone number is (215) 825-5143. Danny invited Friends' members to call for a free phone consultation about computer issues.

Book Reviews by Teens for Teens (and everyone else)

His Majesty's Dragon (Temeraire, Book 1) by Naomi Novik

This book is about a navy man named Laurence. He is captain of his ship and a runaway from home. One day he comes across an enemy French warship. After his victory over the French he searches the ship and finds an extraordinary treasure, a dragon egg. Lawrence nervously waits while his crewmen tally a vote on who should care for the dragon. Laurence is picked and at first he sees his new fate as a tremendous chance. After he discovers the awesome friendship he makes with the dragon he finds himself grateful and with a lifetime friend. This book was sophisticated, well adapted to its timeframe, and magically astounding.

Nicholas Gray, age 15
Charter High School for Architecture and Design

Twilight (The Twilight Saga, Book 1) by Stephanie Meyer

This is about a young girl who falls madly in love with a boy who turns out to be a vampire. This book was amazing! It was really well written and many, many teens will enjoy reading it, but mostly girls. The book might look a little hefty since it's so thick but it's a great book to read. It's full of drama, romance, adventures and other interesting emotions and plot. This book is so good you won't want to put it down until you're done. It's interesting how the main characters meet Edward and Bella. Bella meets Edward because he's an incredibly good-looking guy. Edward wants her blood. He can hear her thoughts and that's his special ability.

Bound by Donna Jo Napoli

This book is about a young girl with naturally tiny feet. She lives with her step mom and her stepsister. Her step mom is mean to her but her stepsister is not so mean. She has a pet fish that her step mom kills for food. Her fish's ghost

sends her a message and she gets a fabulous transformation and changes back at midnight. Her shoe falls off and the prince finds it and tries to find her. They find her, fall in love, and get married. This book is a Chinese version of Cinderella. It's an interesting mix because it's like east "meets" west.

Tammy Wang, age 15
Central High School

New Moon (The Twilight Sage, Book 2) by Stephanie Meyer

If you read *Twilight* and you enjoyed it, you will also enjoy this book. The relationship between Bella and Edward isn't what you might consider as a "normal" relationship. It was interesting to see how they would over-come their obstacles and defeat their enemies. I enjoyed reading this book and after I was done I wanted to read *Eclipse*, the next book in the series.

Molly Moon, Micky Minus, and the Mind Machine by Georgia Byng

Molly Moon finds out from her parents that she has a twin brother. Her brother was kidnapped when they were born and has never been seen again. Using her crystals Molly, Rocky, and Molly's pig go back in time. They arrive at the scene of the crime and follow the criminals behind it. They get caught and Molly's memory of hypnotism is taken, but the machine gives Molly the ability to read minds. With this, she defeats the bad guys and goes home with her friends and her brother. I think this is a great book filled with loads of adventures. I have read the Molly Moon series and I also liked this book.

Judy Huang, age 15
Central High School



Join the Friends of the Independence Branch Library!



Your membership or extra donation helps the library offer enhanced services to our community. Basic membership is \$10. We welcome your additional contribution.

- \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 or more

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____ (We only send email a few times a year and never share email addresses.)

Please mail this form to:

Friends of the Independence Branch Library
18 South 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 Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Event Highlights at the Independence Branch Library

Call 215-685-1633 to confirm programs or for additional information.

For a complete listing check the branch calendar at <http://www.library.phila.gov/>

Library Hours: Monday, Wednesday 12-8 pm; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10 am-5 pm; Saturday 1-5 pm

**Italian Tutoring, free, every Tuesday and Thursday,
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 pm**

Tai Chi Class, Fridays 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 pm

**Friends Present – John Nagy author of *Rebellion in the Ranks: Mutinies of the American Revolution*,
Wednesday, May 21, 6:00 p.m.**

**Toddler Story Hour for children ages 1-4 years with
parent/caretaker, Tuesdays at 10:30 am**

**Knitting Class, Wednesdays, May 14, 21, 28 from
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 pm**

**Grease Movie Night! Calling all Teens for a '50's
themed event featuring the film *Grease*, Wednesday,
May 21, 3:00 p.m.**

**Scrabble Club with Leah, Wednesdays, June 4, 11,
18 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Family Training Program: Presentation on Sub-
stance Abuse and Its Effects, Wednesday, June 18,
5:00 p.m.**

**Author Event: Josh Emmons author of *Prescription
for a Superior Existence*, Monday, June 16, 5:30 p.m.**

**Catch the Reading Bug! Summer Reading Family
Programs**

**The Amazing Mr. Q, "Extraordinary Magic,
Wednesday, June 11, 4:00 p.m.**

**Brian Richards presents "Catch the Reading Bug
Magic Show", Wednesday, June 18, 6:30 p.m.**

**Lara & Joe Show, "Bringing Books to Life with
Music", Wednesday, June 25, 6:30 p.m.**

**Father's Day Craft – "Show the Love!", Friday, June
13, 4:00 p.m.**

**Summer Snake Party! Live snake presentation, all
ages, Wednesday, July 16, 2:30 p.m.**

Friends of the Independence Branch Library
18 South 7th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106



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Joe Baker
Acting President

Martha Cornog
Secretary

Tom Culbreth
Treasurer