

Spring 2009



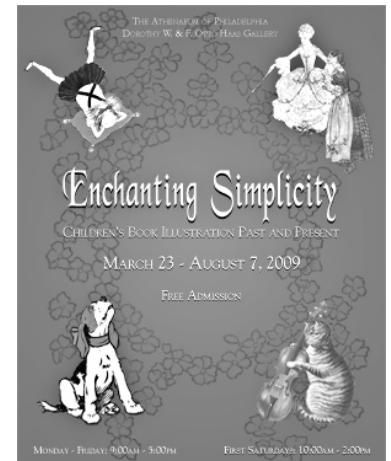
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President's Letter

With all the woeful news about the economy and the city budget, it's nice to be able to focus on something positive for a change. The Friends of the Independence Branch Library are collaborating with the Philadelphia Athenaeum to coordinate its spring exhibit with the Children's Collection at the Independence Branch. The Athenaeum's exhibit is *Enchanting Simplicity*, an exhibit of children's books from their collection with a special emphasis on children's book illustrations. The Athenaeum's exhibit, from March 23rd to August 7th, is free and open to the public. The Athenaeum is at 219 S. 6th Street on the east side of Washington Square.

The Athenaeum does not actually have a children's lending library so the Friends will make available at the Independence Branch those books from the exhibit that are still in print. Margaret Bernardi, the Branch's Children's Librarian, is preparing a special display to encourage people to borrow and read the books they've seen at the Athenaeum's exhibit.

Also, in conjunction with the exhibit and as part of our Friends Present series, the Friends are sponsoring two bookmaking workshops on Saturday, May 16th. Maria Pisano, a well-known artist and bookmaker, will conduct a morning workshop for adults and older teens and an afternoon workshop for younger teens and middle-school-age children. Each workshop is limited to fifteen participants. The workshops are free but we ask people to register with one of the librarians at the Independence Branch.



Joe Baker

Library Budget Update

Congratulations to the Friends of the Free Library of Philadelphia (FFLP) for success in moving the mayor to keep open the eleven branch libraries that were slated to close. (The Friends of the Independence Branch Library is a subsidiary organization of the FFLP.)

The mid-year budget cuts still affect the Free Library system. Because of staff reductions and layoffs due to the budget cuts, there are not enough people to keep all the branches open all the time. The Free Library has instituted rolling closures of branches where the staff from a closed library is reassigned to another branch to cover staff shortages due to illness, vacation, personal leave, etc. The goal is to spread the closings throughout the system. So it is likely that from time to time the Independence Branch may be closed. It will happen infrequently but it will happen. So how do we know if the library is open on any particular day? The Free Library posts the branch closings for that day on its website. If you have access to the Internet, log on to www.freelibrary.org and then click on **Find a Location**. The left-hand column of that next page will have a list of the branch closings for the day. You can also call the Independence Branch directly.

On March 19th the mayor presented to City Council his proposed budget for 2009–2010. This budget does not appear to require the closing of any library branches. However, libraries have already taken severe cuts to their budgets. One of our Independence Branch librarians told us they had already lost their entire discretionary budget and had taken reductions on the budget for books, DVDs, periodicals, and programming. He said that the Friends support is now “making the difference” in being able to serve the public. In fact, the next day he asked us if the Friends would be willing to subsidize the Branch's subscription to the *Wall Street Journal* and we said, “Yes, of course.”

City Councilman Bill Green proposed creating a dedicated source of funding for the library. He proposed dedicating a fraction of the city real estate tax millage to the Free Library. The concept of dedicated funding is not new and has its

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The Friends Nook at the Independence Branch

Friends Present

Here is an opportunity to exercise your artistic side. You are invited to a free workshop on Saturday, May 16th, hosted by the Friends of the Independence Branch Library in conjunction with the Athenaeum's spring exhibit "Enchanting Simplicity."

From 10:30 am to 12:30 pm adults and older teens will create a Flexigon art book.

From 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm younger teens and middle-school-age children will create an accordion book based on poetry and art.

Materials, other than personal items, will be provided at the workshop.

Each workshop is limited to fifteen participants. While the workshops are free, please register by calling the library at 215-685-1633. If more than fifteen people register for a workshop, a standby list will be created in case of cancellations.

These workshops are funded in part by a grant from the Philadelphia Activities Fund.

ECONOMY GOT YOU DOWN?

There are bargains to be found at our library's used book sale corner! Imagine paying 25¢ for a paperback book or \$1.00 for a hard cover book, DVD, CD, or a video. Fresh stock is put out weekly. As well as a bargain for you, since the items are all donated, all of the money collected goes straight to our library! In turn, the library is able to buy more books of your choice and more CDs, DVDs, etc. So this is a double bargain for you.

This year the Friends' Courtyard Book Sales (same low prices) will be held from noon to 2 pm on Thursday, May 28th and on Thursday, September 24th. Rain dates are the following day, Friday. Since July 4th falls on a Saturday this year, Independence Library in partnership with Welcome America will have a celebration July 1st, July 2nd, or July 3rd and our Courtyard Book Sale will be on that day. The exact date will be posted in the library when the date is confirmed.

Library Budget Update Continued

supporters and detractors with both sides making good arguments. What is important is thinking creatively about library funding and recognizing the importance of our Free Library to all citizens.

You can help now as City Council and the mayor work on next year's budget. Communicate to them by letter, phone call, email, and in person that we need a fully funded Free Library. As the city plans for the future, we want a fully restored library budget and a plan to fully utilize our Free Library system to be part of that future.

Friends of the Independence
Branch Library

General Meeting

Monday, June 8, 2009

6:00 PM

in the Community Room of
the Independence Branch at
18 South 7th Street.

Please plan to attend, meet
other Independence Branch
Friends, elect new officers,
and learn more about library
issues.

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 www.freelibrary.org by selecting "Find a Location" and then "Independence."

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

Toddler Story Hour

Enjoy seasonal stories, songs, and a take-home craft!

For children (ages 1-4 years) with parent/caretaker.

Tuesdays, May 5, 12, 19, and 26th @ 10:30 am

Daycare centers, please call (215)685-1633 for a separate fun-filled appointment.

Scrabble with Leah *(for beginners and winners)*

Wednesdays, May 6, 13, 20, and 27th @ 4:00 pm

Lil' Filmmakers Workshop: **KIDZ R STARZ!!**

Janine Spruill teaches tweens how to make a short film, act, direct, and operate cameras and sound equipment.

A Friends Present program funded by the Philadelphia Activities Fund grant.

Monday, May 11th @ 4:00 pm

Celebrate Asian-American Heritage Month with **MUTYA PHILIPPINE DANCE CO.**

MUTYA, the premier Delaware Valley Filipino-American dance troupe, performs indigenous cultural and traditional folk dances, songs and music. *Funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and sponsored by the Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.*

Wednesday, May 13th @ 6:30 pm

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Marcus the Magician

He performs awesome magic and spectacular card tricks!!

A Friends Present program funded by the Philadelphia Activities Fund

Friday, May 15th @ 4 pm

Book Arts Workshops with artist and publisher **Maria G. Pisano**

"A Book of Poetry and Art": For younger teens and middle-school-age children. Create an accordion book, a versatile structure with historical Oriental origins. Add your very own poem, alongside collage designs and popups.

Saturday, May 16th from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

"Flexigon Book Workshop": For adults and older teens

Saturday, May 16th from 10 am to 12:30 pm

Space is limited: Please call for information and to RSVP!!

A Friends Presents program funded by the Philadelphia Activities Fund and in partnership with The Athenaeum of Philadelphia.

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 Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Date: _____

Email: _____ (We never share email addresses.)

Check the box to receive our quarterly newsletter electronically as a PDF.

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.

Thank You Friends!

During the past few months, at the request of the librarians and with your help, the Friends provided the money to purchase three new paperback bookracks to replace the four flimsy paperback book towers that were next to the circulation desk.

In the first three months of 2009 the Friends also spent over \$900 for additions to the General Collection, the Barbara Gittings Gay and Lesbian Collection, the Chinese Collection and the Children's Collection.

Finally, during the same period, the Friends Present program, with the help of the Philadelphia Activities Fund Grant, paid for a Kwanza event, a Chinese Cultural program, a Conversations on Jazz program for teens and adults, and a Native American Cultural program for teens and adults.



New Paperback Book Racks

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



Spring 2009

Joe Baker
Acting President

Martha Cornog
Secretary

Tom Culbreth
Treasurer