

## President's Letter

On March 1<sup>st</sup> Mayor Michael Nutter hosted a meeting of representatives from library branch Friends' groups from across the city. I attended on behalf of the Friends of the Independence Branch Library. The mayor announced that in his budget for the coming fiscal year he was not proposing any further cuts to the Free Library's budget. He did qualify that by

saying his proposed budget depended on eliminating the looming budget deficit. I urge you to let city council and the mayor know how important it is to resolve the deficit and approve a budget that does not further cut library services. Mayor Nutter did say that when the city's revenues improve, libraries would be among his top priorities in restoring budgets.



Siobhan Reardon, Michael Nutter, Michael DiBerandinis, Greg Benjamin

Once the mayor finished his opening statement Friends' members commented (ripped into him is the more accurate term) about the unscheduled branch closings across the city. The primary cause of the closings was a shortage of guards and the mayor assured us the city was in the process of hiring more guards. (This has happened and the Independence Branch has a new, full-time guard, Robert Barnes. Robert is a welcome and enthusiastic addition to the library's staff and I hope you will say "hello" to him when you visit the library.) Unexpected branch library closures may still occur because of staff shortages although the frequency of closures should be less than before.


I had the opportunity to ask Siobhan Reardon, president and executive director of the Free Library, how the materials budget compared to the year before the recession. She said that the system's materials budget was at 40% of the 2008 amount. While she said they were trying to maintain the children's materials budget, the McNaughton

program (new fiction and non-fiction) was cut in half and many periodical subscriptions, both paper and electronic, as well as electronic database subscriptions have been seriously cut. On a more

positive note, the new staff at our library continues to work to make a visit to the Independence Branch a pleasant and worthwhile experience. You'll notice a new subject category arrangement and a more open feeling in the main room. The new Critic's Choice shelves, located between non-fiction and fiction on the shelves just inside the entrance, highlight award winning books. What with budget cuts, staff

reductions and staff changes the idea took a while to be implemented. The Friends will buy books for these shelves if the library doesn't already own them. But don't be surprised if these shelves aren't exactly full. We expect these books to be popular and to circulate frequently.

Finally, our annual meeting is on Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. As usual we will have a short business meeting to elect new officers followed by a program, which this year features author and historian Tom Keels, whose new book *Wicked Philadelphia* promises to be historically delicious. Please join us.



Open Steering Committee  
Meeting, June 15, 6:00 pm

All Friends Members are  
Invited to Attend

-Joe Baker

# What's on Schedule at the Library



## Library Staff

Marianne Banbor  
*Branch Manager,  
Adult/Young Adult Librarian*

Margaret Bernardi  
*Children's Librarian*

William Irby  
*Adult/Young Adult Librarian*

William Clossey  
Patricia Hunt  
Diane Burgess

Beatrice Kuczynski  
Naquawna Brown  
*Library Assistants*

Mary Westbrook  
*After School Leader*

Robert Barnes  
*Guard*

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*

Marianne Banbor  
*Library Branch Manager*

Cynthia Arkin  
*Membership Chair*

Lee Gutman  
*Used Book Sale Chair*

Tal Noznisky  
*Newsletter Chair*

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

## July

### For Children, Teens, & Families

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

6, 13, 20, 27 Tuesdays – 4 pm  
Scrabble with Leah (For all skill levels!)

9, 16, 23, 30 Fridays – 10:30 am  
Totally Pre-K Hurray: summer stories and songs with Miss Margaret

1 Thursday  
America's Birthday Celebration  
10 am-12 noon: Bilingual Storytime with librarian Jennifer Chang  
12:30-2:30 pm: Free concert with Walter Bell Trio

Wednesday Night Family Programs  
Presented by Friends of the Independence Branch

7 Wednesday – 6:30 pm  
One Man Sideshow with Dave Smith: comedy and a juggling workshop

14 Wednesday – 6:30 pm  
Snake Party! with Scott Prior

21 Wednesday – 6:30 pm  
Marcus the Magician

28 Wednesday – 6:30 pm  
Ronald McDonald Show: You, Me, and Ecology

### For Adult Readers & Friends

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

7, 14, 21, 28 Wednesdays – 2 pm  
Tai-Chi Class

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

## August

### For Children, Teens, & Families

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

3, 10, 17 Tuesdays – 4 pm  
Scrabble with Leah (For all skill levels!)

6, 13, 20 Fridays – 10:30 am  
Totally Pre-K Hurray: summer stories and songs with Miss Margaret

Wednesday Night Family Programs  
Presented by Friends of the Independence Branch

4 Wednesday – 6:30 pm  
Children's Sing-Along with Peter Moses

11 Wednesday – 6:30 pm  
Puppet Show with Steve Abrams: Northwest Native American Myths

Call the branch or visit  
[www.freelibrary.org](http://www.freelibrary.org) for more and updated information on events!

### For Adult Readers & Friends

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

4, 11, 18, 25 Wednesdays – 2 pm  
Tai-Chi Class

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

## Tom Keels, author of *Wicked Philadelphia*

will present *Philadelphia's Devious Dames and Wicked Wenches: Cherchez la femme* with a close-up look at some of the female swindlers and sirens who have enlivened the Quaker City over the years.

6:00 PM, Tuesday, June 15, 2010

in the Community Room of the Independence Branch Library

18 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

This is the annual meeting of the Friends of the Independence Branch Library

Free and open to the public



February's Chinese New Year Celebration presented Independence Library Friends

## Proposed Changes to the Bylaws of the Friends of the Independence Branch Library

As with many small, volunteer organizations we originally structured and adopted a set of bylaws that now, in hindsight, makes us ask, "What were we thinking?" So our Steering Committee has approved the following changes for the vote of the general membership. These changes should bring our bylaws in line with how we operate. A complete set of the current bylaws is available for your review on the bulletin board in the Friends Nook at the Independence Branch. The proposed changes are:

1. Wherever "Executive Committee" occurs in the bylaws change to "Steering Committee." (We find the word "executive" tends to scare people off. We prefer the friendlier and more accurate "steering.")
2. In ARTICLE IV OFFICERS, delete Section 1, e) Assistant Secretary. (Sounded like a good idea at the time but in fact we've never filled the office.)
3. In ARTICLE VI MEETINGS AND VOTING, Section 1, delete "in the month of January" and replace it with "on a date determined by the Steering Committee." (This concerns our annual meeting and is a good example of "What were we thinking?" Remember the recent snowstorms?)
4. In ARTICLE IX, ELECTIONS, Section 1, Replace "In September" with "Before the annual meeting"; delete "in January." (This has to do with nominating officers.)
5. In ARTICLE X, Section 2: change to "All checks issued from the bank account shall be signed by the Treasurer of the Organization, or, in the absence of the Treasurer, by another officer." (This replaces a requirement for two signatures on a check. We tried to do this early on and it proved to be quite cumbersome. Our procedures now specify that a check be written only in response to a check request signed by a person other than the treasurer.)

## Election of Officials

At the annual meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Friends members will vote for officers for the coming year. The nominating committee has made the following nominations: Joe Baker for president, Tom Culbreth for vice-president, Jeanne Pond for treasurer, and Martha Cornog for secretary. We invite and welcome any other nominations prior to the annual meeting. Nominees must be members of the Friends of the Independence Branch Library in good standing and interested in helping guide the Friends in their efforts to support the Independence Branch. For more information, contact the Friends at [indyfriends@verizon.net](mailto:indyfriends@verizon.net) or leave a note at the library addressed to the Friends.

## New Friends Bookstore Open

If you've walked down Chestnut Street lately you may have noticed a new store in the 700 block. It is The Next Page at 722 Chestnut. The Next Page is the new bookstore of the Friends of the Free Library of Philadelphia, the "Big Friends" as we like to call them. You will find here a large selection of quality used books, videos, CD's and more.

It also offers a convenient location to drop off a large number of books. But don't forget the used book sale at the Independence Branch! If you have a bag or two of popular fiction, travel, cook or children's books please take them to the Independence Branch. But if great-aunt Sally is downsizing and you have boxes and boxes of books to relocate, you can take them to The Next Page. Please call first at 215 925-0722. The Next Page does not accept encyclopedias, textbooks or periodicals.

Spring 2010



# Bib·li·o·FILE

## A Great Big Thank You!

To all you wonderful book, video and CD donors: A Great Big Thank You! Without all of your constant help, Friends of the Independence Library would not be able to support the library in many ways, such as the green book drop and blue baskets for you to carry your books to the check out (hint: enables you to check out many books instead of one or two!). Friends also assist with funds for refreshments and prizes for the summer reading program, as well as guest speakers for adult programs. Keep up the good work!

-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 a Philadelphia Activities Fund grant we recently received.

To volunteer, email [indyfriends@verizon.net](mailto: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  
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 \$10                       Sponsor \$50  
 Patron \$25                         Benefactor \$100+

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to volunteer to help with:

Membership                       Newsletter  
 Program Planning                 Hospitality  
 Fund Raising                         Library Volunteer  
 Public Relations

Make checks payable to & mail or deliver with completed form to:

Friends of Independence Branch Library  
18 S. 7<sup>th</sup> 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.



# Bib·li·o·FILE

is published 4 times a year by  
**Friends of  
Independence  
Branch Library**  
18 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
Phone: 215-685-1633  
Email:  
[indyfriends@version.net](mailto:indyfriends@version.net)

BiblioFILE Staff  
Tal Noznisky  
*Editor*  
Joan Behr  
*Copy Editor*  
Joe Baker  
Lee Gutman  
*Contributors*