

Friends of Walnut West Library

November, 2008

NO Library Closings

Mayor Nutter announced the permanent closing of eleven (11) library branches out of the 54 that make up the world class Free Library system, starting in December as part of plans to address a deficit in the City budget. They include 4 Carnegies and 4 in West Philadelphia: Eastwick, Kingsessing, Haddington, and Durham.

The outrage has been immediate with rallies called at Kingsessing, Haddington, Fishtown ... 15 in all. There is concern that many are closing in poorer communities where they are vital for access to computers for school children and those seeking employment information, for after-school programs when there are no other resources, etc. In a city of neighborhoods, libraries play a critical role as a place where the community meets.

Amy Dougherty, President of the Friends of the Free Library, announced an initiative to save the 54 branch library system involving public and private partnerships to rescue the branches and create a stable system and the \$10 challenge (continued on p. 3).



Haddington Library Rally, November 17



Meet Tara Murphy . . . our new Adult Librarian

Our new Adult/Teen Librarian came to Philly a year ago by way of Florida and Baltimore. In 2001 she figured out that what she wanted to be was a Librarian. Tara's first career was technical writing and technical support utilizing her skills in photography and web design. Tara's passion is graphic novels, also known as comic books and a focus on teens.

Hobbies? they include photography and enjoying Philadelphia. Tara says she loves Philly: "I like my job" and "I enjoy working where I live".

Other big news is that Tara is engaged with a wedding planned for October in the Roof Terrace of the Central Library. Of course, her fiancée has to move to Philly.

The latest addition to our staff numbers among her passions books, photography, Philadelphia and music.

Come on in and meet Tara. She is all full of ideas for programming and is very welcoming—a great addition to the team.

Lotte Gottschlich, 1927— 2008

Lotte Ohlmann Gottschlich, 80, long time West Philadelphia resident, passed away on October 4, 2008 at the Quadrangle in Haverford.

Lotte Gottschlich, a neighborhood activist and leader, was treasurer of the Friends of the Walnut West Library. She spent many years on the corner outside the vacant library at the book-sales and rallies fighting to keep our branch. She served as President of Garden Court Community Association, was active in Hosts for Hospitals, and on the boards of the Maternity Care Coalition and the Funeral Consumer Alliance of Greater Philadelphia. She co-authored three cook books. Lotte was an avid stamp collector and bridge player.

As one of her many neighborhood friends said, "Lotte was a great listener, never said a bad word about anything or anybody and was non-judgmental. She was one great lady!!!"

Lotte was born in 1927 in Frankfurt Am Main, Germany. She escaped from Nazi Germany in 1939 and arrived in New York City. Lotte's parents Alice Israel and Julius Ohlmann, both pediatricians, settled in Dayton, Ohio where they opened a family practice. In 1949, Lotte graduated with a chemical engineering degree from the University of Cincinnati where she met her husband & lifelong companion, Chad F. Gottschlich, a fellow chemical engineering student.

Lotte served as the Administrative Director of the University of Pennsylvania Health Law Project, and later as an Assistant to the Chairman of Pharmacology at the U. of P. Medical School.

Lotte is survived by her loving family and friends, including her husband Chad, brother Walter Ohlmann, four children, David, Kenneth, Douglas, and Karen, and seven grandchildren.

Book Drop Box



Thanks again to Citizen's Bank for their contribution of \$7000.00 which made our new book drop possible. Please use the book drop only when the library is closed.

Enjoy additional lighting in front of our library. the street light installation was accomplished this past summer with a Grant procured by State Rep James Roebuck and Facilities and Real Estate Dept of the University of Pennsylvania.

The Friends of Walnut West Library and Garden Court Community Association have donated funds to purchase sturdy little chairs for the children's section as a memorial to Lotte.

A Remembrance Service will be held December 23, 2008 at 1 pm at the Quadrangle, 3300 Darby Road, Haverford, PA. In lieu of flowers, friends may wish to send a contribution to the Maternity Care Coalition, to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, or to a group of one's own choice.

SHARING THE WEALTH

The Friends have been the recipient of many book donations in the past months. We thank all who have donated. We did have more books than we could use, so we donated some to a Quaker library being set up in Liberia, Africa, a Mayan Indian children's school near Columbia, Belize, Central America and some paperbacks to the Fleisher Art Memorial.

In October, Walnut West was the 6th busiest branch!

Approximately 8,000 people passed through the library, including 166 new people registered, and we circulated 14211 items

There were 13 school age programs (attendance total 100); 7 preschool programs (94 in attendance) and 16 adult programs with 442 in attendance.

Computer use was 1526 (one half hour sessions),

access PC and CCTV for persons with visual impairment, total usage 20

4 outside groups used the community room with attendance total of 118 and

11 volunteers contributed 55.5 hours of community work in the library.

No Library Closings con'd from p. 1

All Philadelphians are being asked to donate just \$10 to go directly to keeping all 54 branch libraries doors open. You can donate at www.libraryfriends.info or at your local branch.

Civic, business and governmental leaders are invited to a summit to create The Committee for Learning to develop a 5 year strategy for building a strong library system. For more info, contact 215-567-4562.

Welcome New President and Director



Amy Dougherty, Siobhan Reardon, and
BethAnn Johnson

The Friends held a reception for the new Director and President, Siobhan Reardon on September 20, 2008 at the Book Corner. Mayor Michael Nutter was among the attendees.

and Farewell to Library Director Elliot Shelkrot



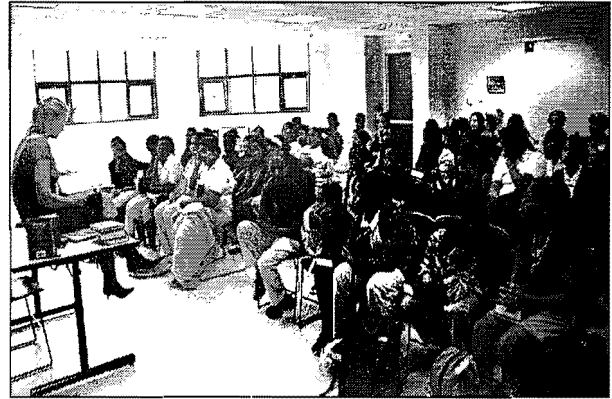
at a reception at the West Regional Library. Pictured above are the Director the West Philadelphia Regional Library, Freda Egnal, Elliot Shelkrot, State Rep. James Roebuck & Walnut West Librarian/Branch Manager, Ai Leng Ng.



Friends of Walnut West is donating \$1100.00 to the fund to keep all libraries open.



Programs and Happenings at Walnut West Library



120 local students participated in the Teen Author event with Cornelia Funke on October 17, 2008. Each received a free copy of Funke's new book *Inkheart*.



The Annual Halloween Party featured face painting, miniature pumpkin painting & refreshments



The Chess Club meets every Wednesday at 5 pm with Joe Clarke, adult adviser

