

Fall 2007



Bib·li·o·FILE

President's Report

The summer of 2007 might be remarkable for what didn't happen at the library: no floods from burst pipes, no city financial crisis, no staff layoffs. So it was business as usual for the Independence Branch and for the Friends which meant: the library was busy with summer reading programs for children (partly underwritten by the Friends); people were checking out vacation reading and using the extended vacation checkout benefit; residents and visitors kept the library's computers fully occupied; and the Friends' volunteers helped the librarians spend over \$2,000 for new collection material.

At our Friends' open house meeting in April one of our members asked if we could possibly have a second catalog computer installed in the library. It appears to be the policy of the library system to have one computer in each branch library dedicated to providing access to the catalog. Can you imagine in the old days of library card catalogs having a roped off line, such as at the post office, and only allowing one person at a time to use the catalog? Yes, the online catalog is a vast improvement over the three by five cards and the search functions make it so much easier to find books and other material.

And it is true that we can access the library catalog from home or from any computer connected to the internet to search, renew material, place a hold or check for fines on overdue books. But if you are in the library and want to do a search and there is a line to use the catalog computer, well, it's just frustrating.

We've had several discussions with our librarians about the possibility of getting a second catalog station at our branch. It is our understanding that due to a combination of library policies, budget priorities and the way computer equipment contracts are written, it might be 2009 at the earliest before we'd see a second catalog computer. Our Friends' executive committee has enlisted the help of the Friends of the Free Library of Philadelphia (often referred to as the "Big Friends"). We now understand the library will be assessing the need for a second catalog station at the Independence Branch. If the need is considered great enough there might be a way to speed up the process to obtain a second computer. We invite comment from our membership regarding the need for a new catalog computer. Please write us or email us (indyfriends@verizon.net) with your comments.

Did you know?

The Independence Branch Library is now a wireless hotspot, as are all the branches of the Free Library.



You can now take your wireless enabled laptop computer or PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) to the library and access the internet.

Friends Used Book Sale

The used book sale at the Independence Branch raises over one thousand dollars a year. All of this money is used to help improve your library.

We now need donations of paperback fiction and cookbooks. To assist our Friends' volunteers in processing books, and due to a very limited storage area, please donate no more than one or two bags of books at a time. You can give your donation to any librarian specifying they are for the used book sale.

If you need to dispose of a large number of books you can donate your collection to the Book Corner, the used book store of the Friends of the Free Library. The Book Corner is at 311 North 20th Street, behind the Central Library. Call 215 567-0527 for details.

Teen Outreach at the Library

This past summer, the Independence Branch held its first ever Comics, Graphic Novels, & Video Game Tournament for teens. By answering trivia questions about superheroes and competing with one another by playing video games, each participant earned points towards winning comic books or, the grand prize, DC and Marvel Comics Encyclopedias. The library was pleased with the teen turnout; there were 20 participants on each day of the two-day tournament, with a strong showing of teen boys, a normally difficult to reach demographic.

Independence Branch is proud to be at the forefront of this exciting new trend. Gaming in libraries has been a hot topic among librarians, and was the subject of many discussions at recent conferences with the American Library Association (ALA). Additionally, it was a major focus of the latest President's Forum held at Central in early September, where we were pleased to report on

Congratulations!

"The Bilingual Story Time" program developed by head librarian Jennifer Chang and children's librarian Margaret Bernardi has been nominated for a Pennsylvania Library Association Best Practices in Early Learning Award. The award category is "Programs that Serve 'At-Risk' or Underserved Children Under the Age of 6, their Families or Caregivers." Congratulations to Margaret and Jennifer.

Generous Donation

The Friends thank the Philadelphia Film Festival for their very generous gift of \$1,000 to the Barbara Gittings Gay and Lesbian Collection. Thom Cardwell presented a check to Independence Branch librarian Lee Payne and Friends president Joe Baker at a tribute to Barbara Gittings during the Philadelphia International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival in July.

The Gittings collection, one of four special collections at the Independence Branch, is the largest circulating gay and lesbian collection in a public library east of San Francisco.

our branch's success. The idea is not new: by being responsive to teens and providing a service they are excited about, we can draw them into the library and instill the idea that the library is a fun place to be. By using this fresh, fun, and teen-friendly approach, we establish a good relationship with teens and connect them with content throughout the rest of our collection (i.e. books and film.)

Our success this summer paved the way for future tournaments including one in October and, most likely, two more tournaments during the upcoming school year. We expect teens who use our branch will continue to show strong interest and continued excitement about these events. We encourage the view that the library is a fun, enjoyable place to be that meets our teen patrons on the level of their interests.

Thank You!

Contributions by the Friends help the librarians buy books and other collection material. Among the recent acquisitions are:

Awaken the Giant Within by Anthony Robbins

Live the Life You Love by Barbara Sher

Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers by Mary Roach

Secret Edge by Robin Reardon

Strings Attached by Nick Nolan

Tin Star by J.L. Langley

First Person Plural by Andrew W. M. Beierle

Lois Lenz Lesbian Secretary by Monica Nolan

Killer Storm by Jo Spencer

Romancing the Zone by Kenna White

Turn Back Time by Radclyffe

52 by Geoff Johns, DC Comics

Manhunter by Marc Andreyko, DC Comics

Men Like Us: the GMHC Complete Guide to Gay Men's Sexual, Physical, and Emotional Well Being by Daniel Wolfe

Halloween Scary Delights

Awfully Terrific TWEEN Party

萬聖節派對

For TWEENS (ages 11-14)

萬聖節快到了！

歡迎 11 至 14 歲 小朋友們參加萬聖節派對！



Wednesday,
October 31, 2007

星期三, 十月三十日

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm



Frightfully Fun Movie
電影

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Everyone welcome!

FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA
INDEPENDENCE BRANCH

18 South 7th Street, Philadelphia, PA. 19106

費城獨立宮公立圖書館

南七街 18 號, 費城, 賓州 19106

215 - 685 - 1633

Calendar Highlights (for a complete listing check the branch calendar at <http://www.library.phila.gov/>)

For Children, Teens and Families

Tuesdays, 10:30 am

Toddler Story Hour – This program is for children ages 1 to 4 and parent/caretaker.

Friday, October 19, 3:45 pm

Kala Jojo – Storyteller Extraordinaire! A very special and creative story hour for children and families.

Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Leap Program Grades 1 through 12

Wednesday, October 31, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Awfully Terrific TWEEN Party (ages 11 – 14)

For Everyone

Wednesday, October 31, 3:30 – 5:00 pm

Frightfully Fun Movie

Saturdays, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Chinese Tutoring – join this free Chinese language class

Fridays, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Chinese Web Class – Learn about computers with a teacher who speaks Chinese

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 – 3:30 pm

English as a Second Language Class. No pre-registration required.

Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

United States Citizenship classes in Chinese – call for more information

United States Citizenship Classes in English

Please call the library at 215 685-1633 to register and schedule times.

Fridays and Saturdays in October 1:30 – 4:30 pm

Scrabble Tournament, individuals and groups welcome

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



Joe Baker
President

Martha Cornog
Secretary

Tom Culbreth
Treasurer

Lee Payne
Joe Baker
*Contributing
Writers*