

Fall 2008



Bib·li·o·FILE

President's Letter

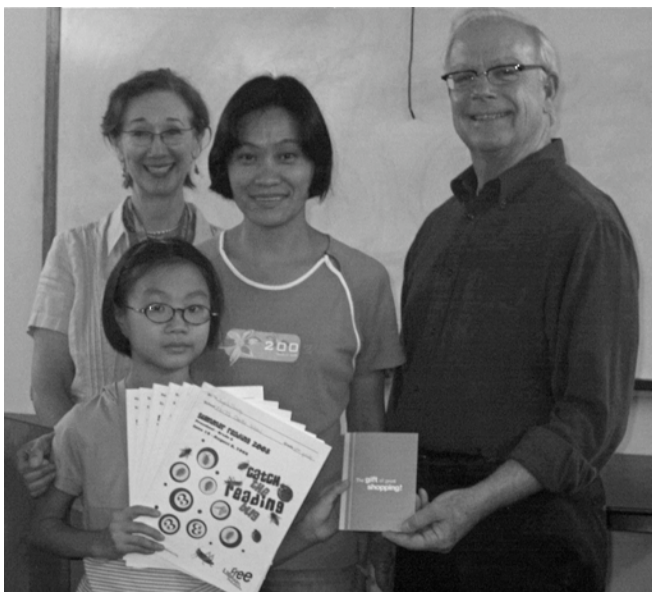
Ah, libraries...can there be more universal places of knowledge, community and resources available to the general public? I was reminded of this during my summer vacation in western North Carolina. I visited the local county library to check out some summer reading and to use my laptop. I needed to print out a document but due to their system's restrictions was unable to do so from my computer. The reference librarian was helpful in a way I know our own librarians at the Independence Branch to be. She went above and beyond her responsibilities by giving me her own email address to email my document to her so she could print it from her computer. I am not sure why I am always amazed by how helpful, friendly and knowledgeable librarians are because I have experienced those qualities so many times over the years in libraries across the country.

Later in my vacation I attended an author event at the same library featuring New York writer Calvin Trillin. The director of their library foundation introduced the program as the first in a series of four author events. He said that this was the very first program of its kind ever in the history of the library. I couldn't help but think how fortunate we are here in Philadelphia. The author programs at the Free Library are so frequent and numerous that we have the luxury of picking and choosing. What was for the people in that mountain community a first treasured event is for us an almost everyday occurrence.

Speaking of programs, the Friends applied for and received a grant from the Philadelphia Activities Fund to expand the programs we offer at the Independence Branch. I thank Councilman Frank DiCicco and his office staff for their help in obtaining this \$2,000 grant. The money will be used for "Friends Present" programs for children and adults during this fiscal year.

Finally, I urge you to follow the news regarding the city's budget crisis. The mayor and City Council have to make many difficult budget decisions as city revenue decreases while demand for city services increases. We must help assure that the library keeps its place as a major city priority.

Joe Baker



Front: Simin Zhang, Back: Margaret Bernardi, Jianzhen Zhang, Joe Baker

Outstanding Reader!

By the end of the children's summer reading program at the Independence Branch Library Simin Zhang had recorded 249 titles in her reading accomplishment folders. Simin admits some of the books were easy ... but some were hard, too. Her favorite book of the summer was *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. Simin is currently a fifth grader at Masterman.

The Friends supported this program and in recognition of her achievement the Friends awarded Simin a \$50 gift certificate to the Gallery. Joe Baker presented the gift certificate to Simin and congratulated her and her mother, Jianzhen Zhang, at the Friends October 6th steering committee meeting.

Childrens Librarian Margaret Bernardi reported that this summer's program had the highest number of participants since the library opened.

(Photo credit: Tom Culbreth)

Friends Present

With the help of the generous grant from the Philadelphia Activities Fund the Friends of the Independence Branch Library will offer fifteen "Friends Present" programs this year. About half the programs will be designed for adults and half for young children and teens. One major goal of the program is to provide a forum for area authors.

Here is an opportunity to volunteer with the Friends. We need three people to work with the programming committee to help organize these programs. We have a budget

and we have resource guides. We also expect to develop a few programs in conjunction with other cultural organizations in the neighborhood.

So if you'd like to lend a hand, offer some program suggestions and help make the "Friends Present" a success, please email the Friends at indyfriends@verizon.net, leave a note for the Friends with one of the librarians at the Branch or call the Branch and leave a message for us with your name and phone number. Now is a perfect time to get involved!

Welcome to Our New Librarian!

Adult/Teen Librarian Susan Golding joined the Independence Branch staff this past August. She brings to the library's staff a wealth and depth of experience in library services. Susan's previous positions include academic libraries, public libraries in New York, the Institute for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies, and Temple University where she worked in government publications. She continues to work on Sundays in government publications at the Central Library.



Susan is enjoying the variety in her new position at the Independence Branch as she works on collection development and patron programs. The Friends welcome her and look forward to supporting her work at the Independence Branch.



Children's magician, The Great Holtzie, takes a beating (just kidding) at the first Friends Present program. Seventy people attended.

Library Update

At the October 6th Friends steering committee meeting Independence Branch Head Librarian Jennifer Chang reported that for the June 1, 2007, to July 31, 2008, year* the library experienced a 40% increase in the number of people attending programs at the Branch. There was also a 10% increase in circulation and the Independence Branch has the highest circulation among neighborhood branches. The Chinese collection and cultural programs continue to attract people from throughout the city and the region.

Jennifer thanked the Friends for their continued support in helping the library expand its programs and collections. Additionally, and in response to an inquiry from the Friends about the state of the carpet in the heavily used community room, Jennifer announced that the city will clean the carpet every six months. The Friends also approved purchase of a new bulletin board, to be installed by library staff, for the wall just inside the entrance and across from the circulation desk. That area has been subject to a creeping scotch-tape-it-to-the-wall method of posting notices. We want to keep our library looking good!

*Compared with 2005 – 2006 (2006 – 2007 was an off year as the library was closed for repairs so often.)

Your Independence Branch Library Staff

Jennifer Chang	<i>Branch Head</i>
Lee Payne	<i>Adult/Teen Librarian</i>
Susan Golding	<i>Adult/Teen Librarian</i>
Margaret Bernardi	<i>Children's Librarian</i>
Bill Clossey	<i>Librarian Assistant</i>
Nate Rogers	<i>Librarian Assistant</i>
Diane Burgess	<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>
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>

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/> 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

Tuesday mornings @ 10:30 am

Stories, Songs and Crafts for children (ages 1-4 years) with parent/caretaker

Independence Branch Knitting Circle

Learn the basics of knitting. Both beginners and advanced knitters welcome. Wednesdays. 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Bollywood Film Festival

Om Shanti Om – Nov. 1 @ 1:00 pm

Golmaal: Fun Unlimited – Nov. 8 @ 2:00 pm

Lagaan: Once Upon a Time in India – Nov. 15 @ 1:00 pm

Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna – Nov. 22 @ 1:00 pm

"Monday Chess Club" (for school-age children)

Mondays @ 4 pm

Gay Men's Book Group

Nov. 1 @ 6:30 pm – *The Untouchable* by John Banville

Dec. 3 @ 6:30 pm – *The Indian Clerk* by David Leavitt

Italian Tutoring, free, Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 – 2:00 pm, check schedule with library.

Special PAWS Dog/Cat Adoption Event – The Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society will be at the library with adoptable dogs and cats. Additionally, books and videos featuring pet care and pet stories will be on display. Wednesday, Dec. 3, 6:00 pm

Check the library's website or call the library for day and time for the following programs:

Tai Chi Class

Chinese Tutoring

Chinese Web Class

United States Citizenship Classes in Chinese

Folk Dance

English as a Second Language Class

"Philadelphia Plays SCRABBLE"



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.

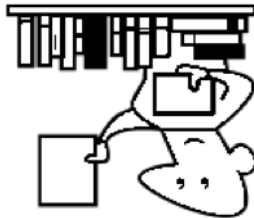
Please mail this form to:

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.

The used book sale run by the Friends raises over \$1,200 a year to help support the Independence Branch. Your donation of used books, especially paperback fiction, cookbooks, children's books and travel books are especially welcome. Please give your donation, one or two bags at a time, to a librarian and specify it for the Friends book sale. Visit the used book sale in the Friends nook at the northwest corner of the library.

We Need Books



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



Fall 2008

Joe Baker
Acting President
Martha Cornog
Secretary
Tom Culbreth
Treasurer