

Spring 2007



Bib·li·o·FILE

President's Report

Much has happened at the library since our last newsletter. The flood from the burst frozen sprinkler pipe in February closed the library for two weeks. As a small indication of the importance of our little library, the closing generated both newspaper and radio articles recognizing just how busy and important the library is to people who live and work in the area. Fortunately the water didn't damage the collection and after repairs and a thorough cleaning the library reopened a little earlier than expected.

The Friends used email messages to members to inform people about the closing and reopening. If you'd like to be included in future email messages, which we promise to send only infrequently, please send us your email address. (You can contact us at indyfriends@verizon.net)

The library is back in full operation with some new staff members who have innovative ideas about the collections and programs. The Friends are pleased to support them in their work.

We are going to hold our first Friends' Open House on Monday, April 30th, from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. You are in-

vited to come by the library to meet the librarians, learn about the many programs at the Independence Branch, and share your enthusiasm for our library with your neighbors. We will take just a few minutes to elect new officers. We also want to discuss the future of the Independence Branch. Does the library need more space? Is there another location in the same general area that might give us more room? We want to explore these questions.

At the Open House we will also be viewing the 2007 documentary "Precious Places" (a Friends' donation to the library's collection) which examines twelve Philadelphia neighborhoods including some served by the Independence Branch.

I want to thank Friends' member Nancy Frenze who retired as editor of the BiblioFILE in January. She has done an excellent job producing our quarterly newsletter since we began in 2001. We are looking for another volunteer to edit the BiblioFILE. Please contact me if you are interested.

Joe Baker

Friends Open House

**Monday, April 30th
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm**

**Join with us in supporting the Independence
Branch.**

Learn more about library services.

**Discuss the question "What is the future of the
Independence Branch?"**

**We will also view the new documentary
about Philadelphia neighborhoods**

"Precious Places - 2007"

**Free and open to the public
Light Refreshments**

Our New Chess Club Needs Your Help!

The Independence Branch just kick-started its weekly Chess Club for beginning or advanced players and it is proving to be very popular. However, the program is short on resources. "Whatever assistance you can provide, whether tutoring or chessboards, that would be a great help," said Corey Dorsey, the branch's municipal guard and who began the program.

We welcome donations of new or old chess sets (complete sets only, please.) You can leave your donation with a librarian at the branch.

To volunteer as a tutor call 215 685-1633.

The chess club meets every Monday at 3:30 PM.

New Adult/Teen Librarian

Lee Payne, the newest addition at Independence, always thought that he would end up in politics. And he took the right steps to get there: earning a bachelor's in political science at Arizona State University and a degree from Harvard law School. However, after practicing law for a year, the now adult/teen librarian realized that it wasn't his calling after all.

"It didn't have longevity for me as a career," he said, citing reasons such as an 80-hour work week and being restricted to law specializations, instead of learning a variety of topics. So, influenced by his partner, who worked in libraries during that time, Lee enrolled at Drexel University for his library sciences degree. And now, he's more than satisfied by his new chosen career path.

"Libraries are more dynamic, it's always changing," he said, adding that the amount of public service he provides as a librarian is more satisfying than when he was

a lawyer. "I'm constantly confronted with questions at the library. As a lawyer, it's like constantly walking on a treadmill. I like this environment; it's more hands on," he said.

Only being at the branch for a few months (he transferred from Blackwell Regional), Lee has already made efforts to better the experience for the branch's patrons. Among some of his prouder achievements so far are re-organizing and remerchandising the branch's Gittings Collection and planning several activities for adults and teens in correlation with the Philadelphia Shakespeare Festival. In the future, Lee hopes to engage more teenage patrons at the branch by adding more graphic novels for its teen collection and making that specific area more eye-catching. "I think that the role of this branch is to serve its diverse population. We have a role to be an

ple to the community as a commitment to [diver- he said.

We Love
Libraries!

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

For Children, Teens and Families

Wednesday, May 2, 4 pm

"Fresh Take on Folktales for Families"

Presented by the CAPA Caravan Players

Friday, May 4, 4 pm

"MOM READ" storyteller

Presented by Carla Wiley

Wednesday, May 16, 6:30 pm

Mutya Philippine Dance Company

Monday and Wednesday 3 pm to 6 pm

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 3 pm to 5 pm

Leap Program Grades 1 through 12

For Adults

Wednesday, May 2, 6:30 pm

Evolution and Society: The Social History of the Scientific Idea, a Wagner Free Institute Lecture

Monday, May 7 6 pm

Philadelphia Shakespeare Festival: Panel Discussion & Raffle - Talk back Members of the Artistic and Educational staff of the Philadelphia Shakespeare Festival will present an informal panel discussion about its 10th Anniversary Season.

Book Discussion Groups (All groups meet at 6:30 pm)

Wednesday, May 2

Gay Men's Book Group - *Another Country* by James Baldwin

Monday, May 7

Fiction book Group - *The Moviegoer* by Walker Percy

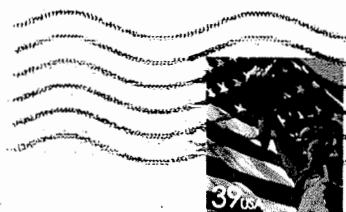
Monday, May 21

Jewish Interest Book Group - *Good Harbor* by Anita Diamant

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