



### *President's Letter*

As the disruptions to our library service caused by the city's financial problems in 2009 seemed to settle down and stabilize, the New Year brought the Independence Branch its biggest change since it

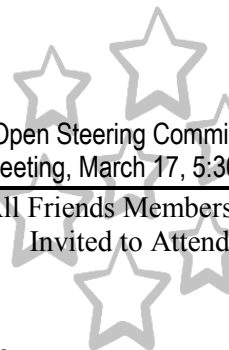
opened in 2001. Our beloved Branch Manager, Jennifer Chang, was promoted to Regional Librarian for the Northeast. Congratulations Jennifer!

She now manages the second largest library in the Free Library system with Central being the largest. As a part of a big government system, we know that library personnel get reassigned, promoted, laid off (unfortunately) and that change is a given. We've been fortunate to have Jennifer for so long. She began working for the Independence Branch well before it opened and we have much to thank her for. We miss her and wish her well in her new position.



We are delighted to welcome our new Branch Manager, Marianne Banbor, and wish her much success. Actually, we are welcoming her back to the Independence Branch, as Marianne was a member of the original library team that opened the library in 2001. The Friends look forward to supporting her work and the work of the other librarians in continuing to make the Independence Branch one of the most important assets of our neighborhood. We are fast approaching our annual meeting, which will be held in the spring. This is the meeting where we elect new Friends' officers. I invite you to consider becoming more involved with the Friends of the Independence Branch Library. For anyone interested in volunteering a little time to benefit our community, the Friends group offers maximum reward with just minimum effort. Please consider volunteering. For information email the Friends at [indyfriends@verizon.net](mailto:indyfriends@verizon.net).

Open Steering Committee Meeting, March 17, 5:30 pm  
All Friends Members are Invited to Attend



-Joe Baker

### **New Librarian Is a Confirmed Bibliophile**

Over the varied course of his career, Bill Irby, Independence Branch's new adult/young adult librarian, cultivated an extensive appreciation for books. Not to mention a weighty personal library that he hauled around when his previous jobs in designing and planning for shipbuilding firms lead him to different states.

Bill had frequently been told by friends who were satisfied with his reading recommendations that he should be a librarian. So when the time came for a career change, he enrolled in a Library Sciences Masters program at Drexel, funded by the Free Library.

His friends' advice served him very well. Bill happily learned the ropes and set his enthusiasm to help the public. He spent several years at the Kensington Branch of the Free Library, and was transferred to Independence Branch in the fall of 2009 where we welcome his ardor and affability.



Bill Irby, Independence Branch's newest librarian.

# 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*

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  
Nancy Frenze  
Mary Anne Hunter  
Lois Kaalund  
Amy Michael  
Jeanne Pond  
Becky Stoloff

## January

### For Children, Teens, & Families

6, 13, 20, 27 Wednesdays – 4 pm  
Cool Crafts for Kidz!

7, 14, 21, 28 Thursdays – 10:30 am  
Toddler Story Hour (ages 1-4)

7, 14, 21, 28 Thursdays – 4 pm  
Scrabble with Leah (For all skill levels!)

Every Monday, Wednesday 3-6 pm  
Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 3-5 pm  
LEAP After School Program

### For Adult Readers & Friends

4, 11, 25 Mondays – 2 pm  
Tai-Chi Class

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

6, 13, 20, 27 Wednesdays – 2 pm  
Chinese Folk Dance

20, 27 Wednesdays – 6:30 pm  
*Evolution in Action: A Study of Species'  
Options Over Time* presented by the  
Wagner Institute

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

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

## February

### For Children, Teens, & Families

12 Friday – 3:45 pm  
Penn Chinese Dance Group perform folk  
dances for the New Year

17 Wednesday – 12:30 pm  
Lion Dance with Holy Redeemer Elementary  
School students, a good luck ritual for the  
New Year

3, 10, 17, 24 Wednesdays – 4 pm  
Cool Crafts for Kidz!

4, 11, 18, 25 Thursdays – 10:30 am  
Toddler Story Hour (ages 1-4)

4, 11, 18, 25 Thursdays – 4 pm  
Scrabble with Leah (For all skill levels!)

5, 12, 19, 26 Fridays – 10:30 am  
Totally Pre-K Hurray: winter stories and  
songs with Miss Margaret

Every Monday, Wednesday 3-6 pm  
Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 3-5 pm  
LEAP After School Program

### For Adult Readers & Friends

3 Tuesday – 6:30 pm  
Gay Men's Book Club

1, 8, 15, 22 Mondays – 2 pm  
Tai-Chi Class

3, 10, 17, 24 Wednesdays – 2 pm  
Chinese Folk Dance

3, 10, 17, 24 Wednesdays – 6:30 pm  
*Evolution in Action: A Study of Species'  
Options Over Time* presented by the  
Wagner Institute

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

## Highlight on Dance Events at the Library

**February 17, Wednesday**, usher in the Year of the Tiger with the Lion Dance, performed by Holy Redeemer Elementary School students. **12:30 pm**

**February 28, Friday**, the Penn Chinese Dance Group will perform classical and exquisite Chinese dances with traditional music and full costumes. **3:45 pm**

**March 26, Tuesday**, enjoy Persian dances performed by the Rangeen Kaman group and stick around to learn around to learn a few moves. **3:45 pm**



Penn Chinese Dance Group in action.

---

## Four Ways to Get Involved with One Book, One Philadelphia This Year

Marjane Satrapi's memoir of childhood in revolutionary Iran, *The Complete Persepolis*, now has the distinction of being the first graphic novel selected for One Book, One Philadelphia's citywide reading and discussion. Like previous selections, it focuses strongly on social-political issues. As a graphic novel, however, *Persepolis* promotes unique discussions on how important, and often unheard, stories can be told to large audiences. Below are some ideas on how to join in and support the 2010 program.

- Current events in Iran are controversial, but *Persepolis* and the sea of programming surrounding present an informative historical perspective. Approach One Book for pleasure, education, and an eye toward finding your personal connection.

- The popularity of Internet media and censorious public opinion has fostered an uphill battle to include comics and graphic novels in library collections. If you liked *Persepolis*, borrow more illustrated books to boost their circulation and give the medium a fighting chance against the computer terminal.

- Browse the Free Library for movies, books, or music that matches an interest sparked by the book. Borrow what you like and help the library do what it does best: connect you with the media you personally want for free.

- See a related movie! Reading and interpreting images is a skill so natural that a well composed view often glides right by us before we stop to realize that the picture itself had something to say. The One Book people are screening a lot of good ones, and who doesn't love a good movie to stop and think about later?

Don't forget to grab a copy of the calendar brochure and visit [freelibrary.org/onebook](http://freelibrary.org/onebook) for the real details.

---

## Recent Releases Recommended by the Editor

*Gus and His Gang* by Chris Blaine (graphic novel)

If they're not on a heist, Gus and his criminally gifted gang of outlaws are chasing matters of the heart across the famously bawdy settings of America's old frontier. And yet despite their penchant for gunslinging, when professional and romantic misbehavior catches up with them, Gus and his gang are forced against their dreams to seek safer and civilized lives.

In this addictive revision of the genre, Blaine's dashing pen strokes and profuse color-filling whip the storytelling into a gallop that neither tramples the tropes of Westerns nor rears from them.

176 pages

*Inherent Vice* by Thomas Pynchon

It's 1970 and hippie detective Leo "Doc" Sportello must interrogate any and all weirdoes to find his distressed ex-girlfriend amidst a viciously disorganized crime syndicate. To make matters weirder, Doc's mission will be incomplete unless he frees a hapless saxophonist from a maze of ghastly subcultures and returns him to his family.

Pynchon's hilarious use of dialect propels this comic detective tale, as one eccentric informant after another comes forth to divulge another piece of the plot before drafting back into Doc's mystery.

384 pages



## Calling All Cookbooks!

The used book corner is once again in need of much-in-demand cookbooks! Also, paperback fiction, especially mysteries, sells well.

You can give your book donations (two full bags at a time, please) to any staff person at the Independence Branch. We don't have space for many cartons of donated books even though I sort them once a week.

Due to staff requirements, it is best to check first that the library is not closed.

-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 \$5                       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 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*