

# Friends of Walnut West Library

July 4, 2008

Dear Friends,

A very tardy wish for a good summer. Your Friends' Board have been very busy so far this year with many projects.

The Famous Egg Hunt, now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, went very well. Many thanks to all who helped to make it a very special hunt for th fifty-eight children and their grown-ups who attended. Held indoors because of the chilly weather, there were twenty dozen hand-colored eggs thanks to Penn's Circle K, their Kiwanis leader, new board member Daphne Harris, and Beth Ann. Brett of the Second Mile came through with stuffed animals (cleaned and brushed by Betty Allen and Ann Sterrit). Diane Adler brought the soft pretzels, and Freda Egnal and Peter Manoogian served up the juice. Stories by Daphne and Beth Ann, followed by all the goodies: the egg hunt within the stacks of the children's library, school supplies, the animals and plastic eggs eggs full of stickers.

The book drop was installed in the spring (thank you, Citizen's Bank). Use it to return items when the library is closed. A recent morning at the library showed that many people indeed had used it over night.

Watch for the street light. The actual pole is on back order, but Penn has promised a temporary pole to get the light under way while waiting. Many thanks to Horace Smith who helped with understanding the language of the grant and the accounting of the state money.

What else have we been doing? Working on the wish list of the library staff. New (Krupps) toaster oven, small space heater, new plants, repairs to the book carts for the out-of-door book sales, annuals for the library gardens, maintenance on the soaker hoses to water those gardens, and some bits you don't see: filing cabinet for the Friends' book closet, mat to facilitate getting those book carts out for the sales, chock blocks to hold doors open, and of course the juice and snacks twice /week for the children's chess on Wednesdays and LEAP movie on Friday afternoon. We are still working on a wireless door bell and new chairs for the computer stations.

Children's chess club has ended for the summer, but the Summer Reading Program got off with an amazing BUG Party, attended by seventy-seven children, a branch attendance record. The Friends are again underwriting snacks for the hungry readers, books for weekly prizes (well, we came close to running out at that first event)!! Teens have their own book club for summer reading and there is a program (with prizes) for adults, too. Thanks to Joe Clark and Will Garrett who played chess with the children throughout the school year.

Our children's librarian, Angela, is on an early maternity leave, this summer. Adult librarian, Tara Murphy, will be covering for her. And yes, Tara is new to Philadelphia and has only been in our branch for a few months, but she has loads of ideas, some of which have already been set in place to help Ai Leng Ng, our branch head. Tara is looking to expand adult programming at our branch. If you have ideas about this, stop in and chat with Tara for a few minutes. And watch for a conversation with Tara to be in our next news letter.

When Penn students moved out, the Friends got a car load of books for the sales. Tara also picked out a small carpet, used now for the children's story hours.

We had a great wealth of duplicate books, this spring. At a Citizen's Bank reception, Beth Ann met Mr Walter Burrwell, who with Mr Charles Woodson is heading up a book drive for a Quaker Library in Liberia. The Friends shared several boxes of books for this effort. Sometimes our donated books go further than just Walnut West Library.

The Free Library has a new president and director. Siobhan Reardon will be in Philadelphia at her new post after Labor Day. Most recently, Reardon was director of the Westchester New York Library system.

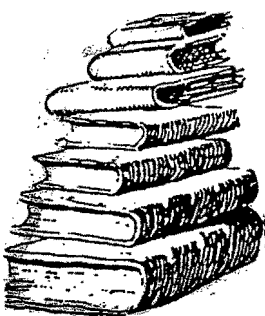
This week, the Fort Mifflin Historical Society put on a special program, American Patriotism, for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The Friends made a contribution to the Society for this event. Children and adults learned of life and clothing at the time of the Revolutionary War. Refreshments were served.

We are hoping in the future to include photographs in the newsletter (a picture is worth 1000 words...), but this letter being so over-due, the old format is still in place.

Looking for a good summer book? How about Jhumpa Lahiri's recent Unaccustomed Earth or Molly O'Neill's Mostly True (a memoir about food, family and baseball). Both are in the library system.

Finally, the Board held an appreciation breakfast for the Library Staff. Co-ordinated by Diane Adler, Board and staff sat down together to many tasty homemade dishes. Everyone enjoyed this event so much, it will be repeated in the beginning of 2009 .

Your board will meet before summer's end and the next newsletter will help you know of fall events at our library.



Sincerely,  
Beth Ann Johnson