

Friends of Walnut West Library

May 3, 2007

Dear Friends,

Our biggest event of the year, the seventeenth annual egg hunt is behind us and it is time to thank the many people who made it possible. Brent Ellison of the Second Mile, Betty Allen and Ann Sterrit for the stuffed animals (and we know that Hope Ligori, recovering from a fall in New York City was here in spirit). Mary Goldman and Beth Ann Johnson cooked twenty dozen eggs that were then dyed by Circle K Penn students and their advisors, Mariza Shavelle and her husband. Diane Adler contributed the soft pretzels, fifth graders at Germantown Academy contributed gently used books. On the day itself, cold and windy, Circle K played games with the children and did face painting, The eggs peaked out from many hiding places in the children's department. Freda Egnal and Peter Manoogian put out the refreshments and prizes (orange drink from McDonald's at 40th and Walnut, who also contributed cups and napkins), John Andrews-Labenski was the photographer and Pauline Borkon our story reader. To the animals and special books, the Friends bought notebooks and pencils for the children. Most of the event was indoors. The weather did not co-operate, although Valerie Johnson of the Office of Community Relations at Penn had secured permission for us to use Penn's big field. Extra animals were donated to Trevor's Place. Circle K's advisors were very helpful in all of the hauling of items and set-up and break-down.

All told, there were twenty-four programs at our library in the month of March, including Dr. Seuss' Birthday Party with volunteers: Freda Egnal, Pauline Borkon, Mary Allegra and Carol Walker (brownie cake and decoration by John Andrews-Labenski and Beth Ann Johnson) and back in February (if you can remember before the big storms) Joan Taylor and Beth Ann led Valentine making by children for their families and the families at Ronald McDonald House.

There are programs coming up in the next few months:

Monday, May 21, 6pm

Books Aloud Workshop

Learn narrative skills through questions. For parents of pre-schoolers, pre-school teachers, day-card providers and other adults interested in early childhood literacy.

Please register by calling the Office of Public Support 215-686-5372

Tuesday, June 5

3:30pm

Line Dancing with Martina Martinas

Saturday, June 2 1:30pm **More Murals and the Stories They Tell**
Jane Golden and Robin Rice talk about their new book and the murals in University City

Saturday, June 9 1:30pm **Paul Santoleri and the Art of the Fresco**
Muralist Santoleri who did the art in Walnut West Library will present his murals and discuss the fresco process

Friday, June 22 * 11am **Cat's Pajamas**
preschool story program

yet to be scheduled: Beth Ann Johnson will present a demonstration of Chinese ink painting and calligraphy

And how do we stack-up for use with respect to other branch libraries in the city?

We are number ten, among the branches. The highest circulation consistently goes to Independence Branch. Of the top ten, two branches are in center city, three in the Northeast and four in the Northwest. We registered ninety-three new library users in March.....and we now have wireless access and each day sees at least one or two users. There were 6348 visits to the library and Library computer use was 1367 user periods.

Now that you know much of what happens at our library, we hope you will want to be a more active participant: renew your Friends membership, mention the library as a good conduit for various ethnic groups to interact with each other, suggest a favorite book/or DVD for a discussion group, sign up your new neighbor for a library card, be an advocate for increasing hours and days for our branches (they are air-conditioned in the hot Philadelphia summer). Volunteer to help at the branch or with one of the Walnut West Friends' activities (our Friday booksales from 12:30pm to 2:30pm will resume on every nice weather Friday). The Walnut West Friends provide healthy snacks for children's chess club after school on Wednesdays and also for the LEAP film showings on Fridays. The possibilities for volunteering are as numerous as library users. The library is a city department, the operating budget never covers all of the needs. Our library staff works for you. As a Friend, you can help.

One more thing: **Metropolitan Bakery** at 4013 Walnut Street has "Pannini Day", the second Tuesday of every month, and a non-profit group benefits from a percentage of sales on that day. Stop by for a delicious lunch or supper and know you are also helping our library on this next "second Tuesday", **May 8.**