



Among Friends

WE NEED NEW MEMBERS

If you picked up your copy at the library, perhaps it's time you joined the Friends.

Join us at our regular Friends Meetings

Saturdays at 10 am

October 11

November 1

December 6

January 3 or 10*



*watch for signs at the service desk

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Marion Damick



Have you ever thought "Oh, if I only had some free time, I would...."? I have—frequently. Then I thought "What would I actually do if I really had some free time?" I know I would try to catch up on my reading. There are several books with bookmarks in them that I must have started. And, of

course, there are the magazines which look so enticing and which I promised myself to read and which keep coming in each month. Then, of course, there is the garden, which constantly needs weeding. And the newspapers, which, thank goodness, are still being printed.

I note that reading is involved in most of the items on my list. It's not only relaxing, but entertaining, informative, sometimes educational, occasionally objectionable, but, most important, stimulating to the brain. I need that – more as I age. What would you do if you had more time?

Weather is a great metaphor for life--sometimes it's good, sometimes it's bad, and there's nothing much you can do about it but carry an umbrella.

Terri Guillemets 1963-

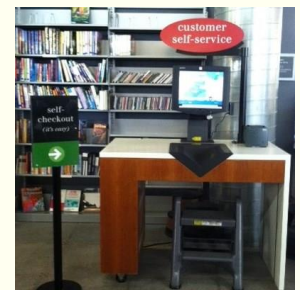
GIVE OUR SELF-CHECK MACHINES A TRY

by Jody Bell, Branch Manager



It goes without saying that Squirrel Hill is a busy library. Oftentimes there is a line waiting at our customer service desk. I don't know about you, but when I'm pressed for time, I get antsy standing in line, and always appreciate having options. One of the options our library provides to customers in a hurry is the self-check machines. We have two self-check machines, one in the front of the library to the left of our "Happening @the Library" white board, and one to the left of our customer service desk. I recommend picking a time when you aren't rushed to familiarize yourself with the process. All you need is your library card and your PIN number. (If you've forgotten your PIN we can reset it for you.) Follow the instructions on the screen:

1. Place your library card under the monitor to be scanned by the red beam.
2. Enter your PIN number.
3. Process each item:
 - a. Place your item under the same red beam to scan the barcode. (Our barcodes are located on the back right hand corner of the item.)
 - b. Desensitize the item so that you can leave the library without setting off the alarms. To do this, place your item in the V, spine side down, and push it forward until you hear a sound that lets you know the item was cleared.



Once all of your items have been processed, all you have to do is hit the "print receipt" button and you are done! It's that simple! So the next time you are in our library, give one of our self-check machines a try. It's always nice to have options, especially when you're pressed for time.

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The online newsletter is at www.pittsburghusedbooks.com/newsletters.

CLP—Squirrel Hill Participates in Literacy Unlocked

by Rebecca O'Connell

Literacy Unlocked, a partnership with the Allegheny County Jail, offers classes and book groups to selected inmates as well as storytimes and literacy experiences for the children visiting them.

On the third Saturday of each month, CLP children's librarians do outreach at the Allegheny County Jail. They bring picture books, craft materials, Lego blocks, and – sometimes – ukuleles.

The waiting room at the jail has a comfortable, carpeted section called the Family Activity Center. Children spending time there before their visits can have storytime with CLP librarians. The librarians bring an array of appealing picture books appropriate for a wide variety of ages. Children waiting in the Family Activity Center select books they would like to hear, and the librarian reads the books aloud to the group. Storytime in the Family Activity Center might also include storytelling, songs, rhymes, and finger plays.

Librarians also offer storytime inside the jail, at the conclusion of the contact visits. At contact visits, children have face-to-face time with their incarcerated parent. At the end of the visit, the parents are searched before they go back to their units. It can be a sad, scary time for the children. Library staff engage the children with music, movement, and irresistible picture books. These storytimes distract and comfort the children and the family members who brought them on the visit.

The Literacy Unlocked program has been active for about a year and a half. Librarians involved in the program find it to be a profoundly positive experience. Parents visiting the jail often tell the librarians how much they appreciate the stories, and the children appreciate the stories, too. They show it with their smiles.



Kids Summer Reading Update

by Megan Fogt, Manager of Children's Services

From June 9th – August 9th (the span of the Kids Summer Reading program), we presented 159 programs to 5,196 people, including kids and their grownups. In addition, 1,488 children, ages birth – 12, actively participated in Summer Reading either individually or by visiting the library with their preschool or camp group. The continued financial and advocacy support of the Friends of the Squirrel Hill Library is instrumental in making this vibrant, bustling, and often joyfully chaotic programming possible. Thank you!

Storytimes: Programs run from

Oct. 2, 2014 - April 30, 2015

Get up and get moving at the Library with stories, songs, rhymes, and silly fun. During these 20-30 minute programs, kids and their grownups will experience language, books, and playful activities in a positive and supportive atmosphere.

Preschool Pals (3 - 5 years)

Mondays, 1:30 PM

Terrific Tales for Toddlers (18 months - 3 years)

Tuesdays, 10:30 am & 11:30 AM

Baby & Me (birth - 18 months)

Thursdays, 10:30 am & 11:30 AM

Family Fun (all ages welcome)

Saturdays, 11 AM

Halloween: Costume Party!

Wednesday, October 29th, 6 - 7 PM

Calling all little ghosts and goblins! Take your costume out for a test run. Join us for some not-so spooky stories, gooey science, and creepy crafts for children from birth thru age 10 and their grownups.

Kids Create:

Wednesdays, October thru April

4:15 - 5 PM

The Library is the place to be for kids in grades Kindergarten – 4th! Kids Club programs vary weekly, and include crafts, games, science, technology and more. Meet new friends, hang out with old friends, and try something new.



In My Humble Opinion

by Margie Spenser, newsletter tech staff

Our printing company, Steel Valley Printers, has closed. They gave us

such a great discount on our printing that our membership fee covered the cost of producing the newsletter four times a year.

After a search that felt as if it took years, we found another affordable printer through Nancy Lewis in the CLP Graphics department. As I write this, I am finalizing the copy to email to AlphaGraphics. Our production schedule was delayed by 10 days. We aim to mail the newsletter to arrive by the first of the month, and when we know that at least one person has received it in the mail, we put it online and send an email announcement. This time, we had to reverse these two events in our schedule. I apologize.

BOOK SALE NEWS

by Pat Bender, book sale chairperson

It's amazing! Sometimes it's a single volume. Other times it is several boxes. It seems like magic that every day book donations arrive at the Friends' bookroom door. We truly appreciate it when donors think of us.

Another miracle is how books keep disappearing from our in-house sale shelves. Just a couple of years ago, who would have believed that we could sell over 1,000 books from those shelves in only one month? We did it in August.

We are looking forward to our annual holiday sale of gift-quality books for adults and children. We hope you are too. The sale will start in mid-November. If you would like to receive an email advising you of the exact date, send your email address to SqHiFriendsLib@gmail.com.



News from Teen Services

by Madeleine Siegel



Teen Summer Reading (TSR) 2014 was a huge success here at CLP-Squirrel Hill. We registered 255 teens, more than any other Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh location and our highest TSR registration to date!



During Teen Summer Reading 2014, we provided three outreach programs for 120 teens and 16 in-house programs for 211 teens. Programs included crafts, gaming and an awesome after-hours party! (Pictured below)

Our teen programs emphasized the scientific this summer. We created homemade "bath bombs," polymer bouncing balls, ice-cream and melted crayon art!



We have a lot of fun events coming up this fall including our "Tuesday Teen Scene" from 3:30 to 5:30 pm, a glow-in-the-dark Halloween party, and a month of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) programs in November!

Check out our Facebook page or stop by the Teen Space for more information.

There's no "should or "should not" when it comes to having feelings. They're part of who we are, and their origins are beyond our control. When we can believe that, we may find it easier to make constructive choices about what to do with those feelings.

Fred Rogers 1928-2003

Thanks to the generosity of our Friends, one lucky Teen Summer Reading participant won a brand new iPad Mini!



Art at the Squirrel Hill Library

Coming up are:

October: Yuri Mudrenko
Oils

November: Sue Schneider
Zen Tangle

December: to be announced

Our schedule is full through July, 2015! If you'd like to exhibit after that, contact Marion Damick, 412-521-3075.

The Squirrel Hill Adult Book Discussion Group meets Thursdays at 1:00. All are welcome.

October 23
Michelangelo & the Pope's Ceiling
by Ross King

November 20
Mayflower: a Story of Courage, Community, and War
by Nathaniel Philbrick

December – no meeting

One on One Computer Assistance

by Mark Russell, Librarian



Do you find yourself getting more and more frustrated every time you sit down at a computer? Have you resolved to learn how to use a computer but you're finding it difficult to fulfill that resolution? Maybe you've learned some basic computer techniques but you'd like to further advance your skills?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, you might be interested in One on One Computer Assistance, a special program offered by the reference librarians at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Squirrel Hill. The goal of this program is to provide personalized, customer-directed computer instruction. This means that we will help you acquire the skills you want to learn, at the pace that you are comfortable learning them.

We can help you learn basic computer operations, like using a mouse and opening programs, or assist you in searching the internet and finding information online, or teach you how to sign up for an email account so you can send and receive electronic mail. If you already know the basics, we can help you expand your knowledge with more advanced computer techniques.

One on One Computer assistance is currently offered on Thursday afternoons. If you would like to sign up for an hour session, just call us at 412-422-9650 or stop by the library. In addition to this program we can introduce you to a number of other computer resources, including a large collection of instructional books or classes that are offered by other Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh locations. If you are interested, just ask a librarian.

Language Classes

Beginner's Polish I 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 6:30 PM	Beginner's Polish II 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 6:30 PM	Mandarin for Beginners 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 6:30 PM	French for Beginners Saturdays at 10:30 AM
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Registration preferred; drop-ins okay.

We are the children of a technological age. We have found streamlined ways of doing much of our routine work. Printing is no longer the only way of reproducing books. Reading them, however, has not changed.

Lawrence Clark Powell 1906-2001



Stories of local 'superheroes' Les Banos; Malka and Moshe Baran; Dora Iwler; and Fritz Ottenheimer are brought to life by local author Wayne Wise and talented local professional artists Christopher Moeller, Dave Wachter, Marcel L. Walker and Mark Zingarelli

Local Author

Holocaust Center and Local Author Celebrate Local UpStanders in *Chutz-Pow! Superheroes of the Holocaust* Comic Book



Wayne Wise

When the Holocaust Center of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh wanted to undertake a multi-phase project to highlight UpStanders, or ordinary people who did heroic things during the Holocaust, they turned to the ToonSeum, our local art museum for fans of the comic and cartoon arts. The ToonSeum's Resident Comics Scholar and Resident Comic Book Historian, local author Wayne Wise, got on board and ended up not only providing guidance on the whole project, but also writing phase 2 of the project, a comic book for which he also recruited a cadre of experienced comics artists. Phase 1 was an exhibit at this year's Three Rivers Arts Festival, and phase 3 will be an ongoing educational program available to middle and high schools (there may be further phases and/or comic books as well).

Among the authors they might have turned to, Wise was perhaps uniquely prepared to spearhead the project. His degree in History has shaped his scholarly approach, and his nearly life-long love of the comics genre along with his job at Phantom of the Attic Comics in Oakland have kept him steeped in examples of that genre. That steeping and his own forays into comics creation led to good relationships with a number of artists he could invite to make the book a success. He also accidentally named the comic when he jokingly suggested 'Chutz-Pow!' during a brainstorming session, combining 'chutzpah', meaning audacity or courage, with the uniquely comic-based word POW!

Condensing complicated stories into a comic book format can be challenging, Wise says, "but in the end I am happy with the result. I believe the stories we told are good representations of their lives. I know I can never really do justice to the reality of their experience, given six pages or six hundred. These are glimpses into their history, a small window on an immense vista. My hope is that these stories will inspire the reader to learn more: about the Holocaust, about these people and others like them, and about their own potential to be heroes."

Wise's previously published novels include *King Of Summer*, *Scratch*, *This Creature Fair*, and *Bedivere: The King's Right Hand*.

They can be found on Amazon. His blog, in which you can read much more about the details of the project, is at www.wayne-wise.com. See also www.apcollector.net/ap-collection/2014/3/8/wayne-wise-author-comic-guru and thetartan.org/2011/4/11/pillbox/comics.

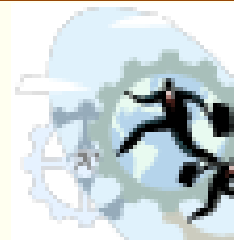
Currently, Phantom of the Attic is the only place to buy *Chutz-POW!*, but the Holocaust Center hopes to be able to sell it soon. For each copy purchased, one will be given to a student for free.



ADULT PROGRAMS

October – December 2014

by Aisha Hallman



Programs begin at 6:30 unless otherwise noted.

Where registration is required, speak to a librarian, call 412-422-9650, or email us at squirrelhillprograms@carnegielibrary.org.

Monday, October 6 at 6:30 PM Ethnic Vegan Recipes with Mya Zeronis
Mya Zeronis, founder and chef-preneur of Lean Chef en Route and Zest Wishes, will prepare several different vegan recipes from around the world.

Monday, November 17 at 6:30 PM Holiday Gift Ideas from the Library
Come to our literary/library holiday program! Learn about books we think would be excellent gifts, get information on Donor cards, and look at e-readers at our Gadget Fair.

Monday, December 1 at 6:30 PM Polish Christmas Traditions/Crafts
Learn about Polish Christmas traditions and make traditional Polish crafts with our Polish language teacher, Paulina.

Genre Book Club

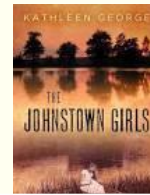
Third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM

October (Historical Fiction) *The Johnstown Girls* by Kathleen George

Novelist Kathleen George masterfully blends a history of the Johnstown flood into her heartrending tale of twin sisters who have never known the truth about that fateful day in 1889 – a day that sent their lives hurtling down different paths.



Kathleen George will be at this book club meeting to discuss the novel and sell her books. George was born and raised in Johnstown and her newest work has been called “complex and rewarding”, “compelling” and “so real that it’s sometimes hard to remember the book is a work of fiction”. Please join us for this special opportunity to meet one of Pittsburgh’s most celebrated authors. (For more information about Kathleen George, see www.pittsburghusedbooks.com/George.)



November (Debut Novel) *American Rust* by Philipp Meyer

In his unrelentingly downbeat debut, Meyer offers up a character-driven near-noir set in Buell, a dying Pennsylvania steel town, where aimless friends Billy Poe and Isaac English are trapped by economic and personal circumstance.

December (Novel in Verse) *Love, Dishonor, Marry, Die, Cherish, Perish* by David Rakoff

Written with humor, sympathy, and tenderness, this intricately woven novel proves Rakoff to be the master of an altogether different art form. *Love, Dishonor, Marry, Die, Cherish, Perish* leaps cities and decades as Rakoff sings the song of an America whose freedoms can be intoxicating -- or brutal.

In Memory: Hirsh Wachs



Staff and volunteers at CLP - Squirrel Hill are mourning the loss of a beloved longtime volunteer and friend, Hirsh Wachs. "So many of us at the Squirrel Hill library will truly miss seeing Hirsh several times each week. A devoted volunteer, he was such a learned, funny and charming man. My deep condolences to the Wachs family for your enormous loss," said Tay Rose, a fellow volunteer.

After a long career as a doctor, Hirsh volunteered steadily at CLP - Squirrel Hill for years. Hirsh's dedication to the Library and his willingness to do any job were remarkable enough, but his influence went far beyond the tens of thousands of books he shelved, the volunteers he trained, or the books he repaired. Hirsh was a model of the gifts that can come and are given from volunteering.

One gift he gave was the reminder to us all that it's never too late to educate oneself. Well into his 70s, Hirsh set his mind to learning Spanish. He would diligently check out all of the language learning CDs that the Library had, and would practice what he learned with our Spanish-speaking staff at the Library. In this way, he demonstrated another gift: his manner of connecting with others. When Hirsh would speak Spanish you got the sense that it wasn't just learning he craved, but a real human connection and the ability to relate to others from their starting point.

Hirsh's love of lifelong learning was exhibited in other ways, too. He loved to talk about books and enjoyed discovering new ones. He was quick to make recommendations, and even quicker to hear your thoughts on a book. Finally, Hirsh gave us all a lasting gift with his quiet modeling of how to do things with intentionality. Showing up and being present were not simply ideas to him, but standards. Hirsh was unwavering in his dependability. Even when he went through health struggles, he never failed to call in if he couldn't come.

His commitment to the Library, library staff and community meant something to him; we hope he knows it meant something to us too.

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Is your Friends Membership up to date? Please check your mailing label. ➔

If the date is before 10/14, you need to renew. Mail us the form below.

your donation is tax deductible as a charitable contribution

10,000 Villages Shopping Night Fundraiser Monday, December 1, 6-8 pm
Hanukkah begins on December 17, Christmas on December 25, and Kwanza on December 26. Begin your Holiday Shopping on December 1 with the Friends fundraiser at the 10,000 Villages store on Forbes Avenue. Depending on the final net sales for the evening, we can earn up to 15% of the sales for the CLP Friends Council, to help all Friends groups.

HOLIDAY HOURS AT THE LIBRARY

Thanksgiving

Wed, November 26th, closed at 5:00 pm
Thurs, November 27th, closed

Christmas

Wed, December 24th, closed
Thurs, December 25th, closed

New Years

Wed, December 31st, closed at 5:00 pm
Thurs, January 1st, closed

October 2014

Among Friends

Volume VIII, No. 4

make checks payable to:
Friends of the Squirrel Hill Library
and mail to:
Allison Marciszyn
7716 Francis St.
Swissvale, PA 15218

Check one box:

New Member Renewal

Check one OR two boxes:

\$5.00 \$10.00 \$15.00
 \$25.00 Other ___ DONOR (free for first year)

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(Last) (First)

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone(s): _____ Date: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please check all activities you can help with:

- Periodic Book Sales
- Adopt-a-Shelf Program
- Library Advocacy (lobbying, writing letters)
- Sorting Used Books
- Gardening
- Newsletter/Website

COMMENTS _____

Editor's Message
by Joan Schwartzman



“There is no season in all the year so beautiful, so radiant with glory, as the early autumn. There is no time when the human soul drinks in so fully the glory and beauty of nature. All objects of beauty are more beautiful while passing away from us. The closing up of a beautiful life--the fading of the holy stars in the dim light of morning--the ending of a quiet summer day and the passing away of the bright summer glory, are all more sweet and lovely as they are lost to us. The death-glow always beautifies anything that wears the trace of beauty ere it goes back to nothingness. We do not understand the secret of this principle, yet we know that it is some law of the infinite mind.”

Northern Advocate - (The New Zealand Herald)

Finally, the weather matches its season. After our grumbling about the less-than-ideal summer, fall feels just right. The air is crisp, the weather is cool and nature is about to put on a colorful show.

As you will see throughout the Newsletter, our library has a lot of new and innovative programs, geared to a variety of interests and ages. We hope that you will attend any or all of them.

And when you are in the library, check out the improved “Friends” section by the Marlborough entrance. We hope that you will find something of interest on our sale racks!