



FRIENDS OF THE  
CHESTER COUNTY LIBRARY

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# Friends News

450 Exton Square Parkway, Exton, PA 19341

Spring 2010

## Spring Book Sale

It's Book Sale time again! Shelves and shelves of books for good reading, CDs for happy listening, DVDs for great old movies, a treasury of good things to be had for pitifully low prices! [See the enclosed flyer for details of times, prices and categories of materials available.] And please don't fail to browse the Special Books on display in the Board Room, most of them being virtually new hardbacks in mint condition but selling for much less than their original book store price.

Keep in mind that as a member of the Friends you are entitled to the Preview Night, **Friday evening, April 16**, before the opening of the sale to the general public, **Saturday, April 17-Sunday, April 18**. Preview Night gives you first crack at the collection, so that's the night you should plan to come!

### FALL 2009 BOOK SALE: A NEW RECORD

Last November's sale was the most successful book sale ever! Our net total of **\$20,429.55** exceeded the previous high by **\$400.05**. Thanks to all the volunteer-workers for making it such a success.

## Where Do Friends Get Their Money

**Fall and Spring Book Sales:** This is our biggest source of income. The 2009 Book Sales brought in over \$20,000 each.

**Lobby Books:** We often make over \$500 in a given month from the sale of books in the lobby.

**Entertainment Books:** These coupon books are on sale for \$30 at the Circulation Desk and offer great discounts at hundreds of establishments around the area. They bring a profit of several hundred dollars each year.

**Annual Membership Dues and Donations:** Last fall our membership renewals, new memberships and donations brought in a total of \$1,265.

All of our funds (minus expenses like that of mailing this newsletter to more than 300 members) go to the Library for improvements not covered by the Library's operating budget.

## Recent Donations to the Library

The Friends have given the Library a total of **\$56,069**. The top seven items were:

Front entrance landscaping (2009)	\$11,100
Replacement of Early Learning Centers in Youth Services (2010)	\$9,500
First floor improvements (2009)	\$8,440
E-book start-up collection (2010)	\$5,000
Professional conferences for staff (2009)	\$4,000
Endcap book carts for Youth Services (2010)	\$2,760
Outdoor benches and bike rack (2010)	\$2,700

## Friends Group of the Year

We are still dizzy with the astounding news that our group won the **2009 Friends Group of the Year Award**, the prestigious award conferred annually by the Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries (PCBL). The award was presented to "the group that has provided the greatest assistance to its library."

The award was presented to our president, **Judy Wadsworth**, by the PCBL Awards Chair, **Al Kamper**, at the PCBL luncheon at the Harrisburg Hilton on Sunday, October 18, 2009. Several members of our Friends attended the ceremony (L-R):



**Alex Draper, Pete Anderson, Judy Wadsworth, Barbara Coffey** and **Donna Anderson** (not in photo, **Cora Ellett**).

Congratulations again to all who have worked so hard over all the years to make our Friends group such a success in funding so many good projects for this library: over \$820,000 contributed to supplement the operating funds of the Library since our founding in 1988. Thanks as well to you, over 300 and more members, who supported the group's efforts so faithfully over the years.

And thanks for being regular customers of this library, one of the finest public libraries in Pennsylvania.

## Raffle Winners

Each fall and spring, before the Book Sale, six names are randomly drawn from the Friends membership list and are designated the winners of the Membership Raffle. They each receive coupons to be used in the next Book Sale.

The winners of the Membership Raffle are: **Michele & Matthew Adkins, Donna Carso, Cindy Block, Cindy Heck, Bart Seara,** and **Fernando & Raudi Fougeca.** Congratulations to them.

## Spring Volunteer Luncheon

Every spring the Library holds an annual luncheon honoring our fabulous and faithful library volunteers, including those from both the Exton and Hankin Libraries. This year it will be held on **Wednesday, March 31** at the Downingtown Country Club.

As has been said here many times before, this library could not stay in operation without the daily assistance of the many good-spirited, hard-working people who put in many hours a week to keep this library functioning. Favorite example: if you checked a book out recently, how do you suppose that book got back on the shelf after the users brought it back? You betcha: a **volunteer**, put it there, that's how! (Actually it's a combination of several jobs, involving a succession of staff and volunteers, that gets that book back in its proper alphabetical or Dewey Decimal place on the shelf...along with all the other hundreds of books, videos/DVDs, CDs, etc. that were checked in that day.) Have a great luncheon, volunteers, with our heartfelt thanks.

### FRIENDS WEBSITE

Much useful information about our organization can be found on our website. To access it: [www.ccls.org](http://www.ccls.org)>Find a Library>Chester County Library & District Center>Friends of the Chester County Library.

## Former Staff Member Publishes Book

**Bill Nelson**, who recently retired after 24 years of employment in the Circulation Services Department, has written and published a book called ***Doug and the Old CJ***. You can find it on Google, which gives the following synopsis: "Twelve-year-old Doug discovers fixing up an old car is fun and educational. Under Gramps' mentoring, he learns to repair problems. But the most important skill he gains is thinking."

Google then gives a short biography of our friend Bill: "Bill Nelson believes the purpose of life is to do constructive activities. This philosophy of 'visualize, create and enjoy' had served him well for over 60 years. When his twelve-year-old son expressed a desire to buy a Jeep with a plow

on it to do driveways, they went to work searching for the right vehicle. They found one and spent years fixing it up and driving it around their acres in Chester Springs, Pennsylvania. Projects, collecting and crafts are how they spend their time. He has worked as a teacher and as a counselor."

We wish Bill well and hope his book does well, too.

## Ben Franklin Knew it All Along!

In his Autobiography, as Ben recounts his early days in the printing trade in Philadelphia, he mentions a book discussion group he started, called the Junto, which led to another book-related project:

"And now I set on foot my first Project of a public Nature, that for a Subscription Library. I drew up the Proposals, got them put into Form by our great Scrivener Brockden, and by the help of my Friends in the Junto, procur'd 50 subscribers of 40 shillings each to begin with and 10s. a Year for 50 Years, the Term our Company was to continue. We afterwards obtain'd a Charter, the Company being increas'd to 100."

"This was the Mother of all the North American Subscription Libraries now so numerous...These Libraries have improv'd the general Conversation of the Americans, made the common Tradesmen and Farmers as intelligent as most Gentlemen from other Countries, and perhaps have contributed to some degree to the Stand so generally made throughout the Colonies in Defense of their Privileges."

## New Non-Fiction: Biography of a Criminal Mastermind

Don't be fooled by the title: **Jason Kersten's *The Art of Making Money*** is not a book on how to get rich. The subtitle explains: it is ***The Story of a Master Counterfeiter***. Given that it involves a highly illegal activity, it is nevertheless an engrossing biography of a brilliant counterfeiter named Art Williams, who made millions of dollars for years printing fake money, defeating the most advanced anti-forging technologies ever invented, outwitting the Secret Service for years...until, fatefully, he began a determined search for his long-lost father in the wilds of Alaska. This is a well-researched and well-written book by an accomplished journalist. It is also available as an audiobook.

### 2010 Friends of the Chester County Library

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