



FRIENDS OF THE
CHESTER COUNTY LIBRARY

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Friends News

450 Exton Square Parkway, Exton, PA 19341

Fall 2009

Friends Win Major Award!

by Dwight McCawley

Our own organization, **Friends of the Chester County Library, Exton**, has won this year's **Friends Group of the Year Award**, conferred annually by the prestigious **Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries (PCBL)**. This is a major award and a great honor for our group. Everyone who has contributed time, energy and effort to the endeavors of this Friends group at any time since its inception in 1988 should feel tremendous joy, pride and satisfaction at having our organization recognized in this way.

We are indebted to our library director, **Marguerite Dube**, for nominating us for this award. In her letter to the PCBL she looked back through all our records and laid out all the contributions our group has made over the years. Here is just one example, from her opening paragraph: *"Since their incorporation in 1988, they have contributed over \$820,000 to supplement the operating funds of the Library. These funds are generated primarily through their tireless work in collecting, sorting, and mending thousands of donated books and other materials for their semi-annual book sales, which earn an average of \$18,000 each."*

The Award will be presented to our President, **Judy Wadsworth**, at the annual PCBL luncheon being held as part of the Pennsylvania Library Association Conference at the Hilton Harrisburg on Sunday, October 18. A report on this presentation will appear in the next newsletter. Meanwhile, here's a toast to all of us, the award-winning **Friends of the Chester County Library, Exton**. *Well done, Friends, well done!*

Fall Book Sale

Oodles and oodles of books, CDs, DVDs, Books on Tape! Back in the Closed Stacks the book sorters are

hard at work sorting new donations and shelving them for the Friends upcoming book sale. There are more materials available for the sale this time than the shelves will hold! (Imagine: the Westtown School donated 50 boxes of books!)

Please see the enclosed book sale flyer for complete details of prices and categories of materials available. And be sure not to overlook the truly outstanding collection of Special Books available in the Board Room.

As a member of the Friends, you may attend the Book Sale Preview Night,
Friday November 6.

Memberships are available at the door.

The sale is open to the public

Saturday, November 7-Sunday, November 8.

Our book sales depend on donations. If you have books, CDs, DVDs, etc. that are in good shape that you would be willing to contribute to the sale, please bring them to the back door of the Library at the loading dock and put them in the Donations Only bookdrop or leave them inside the back lobby. Be sure to fill out a donation form for tax credit located on the table in the back lobby.

New Friends Website

You can now access our new Friends website: www.ccls.org>Find a Library>Chester County Library & District Center>Friends of the Chester County Library.

The site will give you information about upcoming book sales, Library events, donations the Friends are making to the Library, reasons for becoming a member, etc.; it will also provide a copy of our current newsletter. The website is just getting started, so check it regularly for more new features.

Second Annual YouTube Contest

At the Friends Board meeting on August 4, **Nicole McCourt Socha**, Program Coordinator, reported on this year's YouTube Contest, *It Happened at the Library*, and requested funds to defray expenses for the contest, which the Board approved. The goal is for young adults in grades 6-12 to make a two-minute video of a scene taking place inside or outside a library in Chester County and put it on YouTube.

To help generate interest in the contest, Nicole arranged for **Gene Donahue**, from **Comcast**, to conduct three two-hour workshops in August on the basics of movie making: how to get good picture and sound, how to use movie-editing software and how to do advanced editing.

The contest runs from September 1-October 31, 2009. Winners will be selected in November by the Library System's YouTube Committee, on the basis of how entertaining or informative the video is. Prizes will be awarded at both the 6th-8th and 9th-12th grade levels.

An attractive flyer that presents all necessary information about the contest is available at the Library. Look for the brightly colored words **Lights, Camera, Library!**.

Now for Sale: Entertainment Books

The 2010 Entertainment Books have arrived and are on sale at the Library's Circulation Desk for \$30. The Friends of the Library receives a percentage of the price for each book sold, so buy one for yourself and tell your friends...these make great holiday gifts.

The book offers discount tickets for restaurants, movie theaters, museums, portrait studios, arboretums, as well as travel agencies, cruises and airlines. A typical coupon for a restaurant reads as follows: *"Enjoy one complimentary dinner entree when a second dinner entree of equal or greater value is purchased."* As another example, two adults visiting the Brandywine River Museum can get in for the price of one. Thus one can soon recover the original \$30 price by using the coupons for even a very small number of occasions.

Please stop by the Circulation Desk and leaf through the display copy, so as to weigh for yourself the usefulness of the Entertainment Book for you and your family.

Flat Panel Digital Screens

The Friends donated funds to purchase the two flat panel screens which are located in the main lobby and in the Audio Visual Department. They continually scroll through information of interest to library customers: author

appearances, book sales, YouTube Contest details, new fiction and non-fiction books, book discussion groups and other upcoming events. These screens are an attractive and useful addition to the ambience of the Library. Stop in and take a look!

New Database

Sue Frederick, Information/Reader Services Supervisor, reports there is an interesting new database for antique collectors who would need help in pricing rare items, *Price It! Antiques and Collectibles*. She says that although you cannot buy or sell anything on this database, it will tell you what something sold for and give you a good idea what you might expect to pay for a certain kind of item, or what price you could expect to get for an item you want to sell. The staff will be glad to assist you with this database if you're interested.

New Non-Fiction: Highly Recommended

Desert Queen: The Extraordinary Life of Gertrude Bell: Adventurer, Advisor to the Kings, Ally of Lawrence of Arabia, Janet Wallach (B 956.02 Bell)

This is a fascinating account of an extraordinary life. Gertrude Bell, a highly educated, intellectually curious woman learned all the major European languages; but then, intensely interested in archaeology of the Arabian desert lands, she learned Arabic, the hardest language of all. Then, in the early years of the 20th century, at great peril to herself, she set out to explore the land with only native guides to help her. She stunned many an Arab sheikh by walking right into his domain and beginning to talk with him in his native tongue. In her journeys she met a young man named T.E. Lawrence, and eventually acted as advisor and assistant to him in his organizing and marshalling the Arab nations into a fighting force against the Turks.

The book is exceptionally well written, full of interesting details, and gains its feel of total authenticity through reliance on the voluminous letters and diaries of this remarkable woman.

2009 Friends of the Chester County Library

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