

## President's Message

When I was elected as your president, I knew I had very large shoes to fill in following Sara Oates. Her leadership, evenhandedness, dedication, enthusiasm, and graciousness are but a few of her qualities that have enriched our organization.



I believe there are three areas where we should concentrate our efforts:

1. **Membership**
2. **Advocacy**
3. **Financial Support for Libraries**

**Membership** – Friends groups, libraries and individuals are the fuel that feeds PCBL. It was once said “You either get better or you get worse. You never stay the same.” We must continually get better by increasing our membership or we will gradually lose our effectiveness as a leading advocate for libraries. Our program of making Board members available to meet with existing Friends groups and groups wanting to organize has been successful and needs to be expanded. There is nothing like face-to-face contact to get things done.

**Advocacy** - The best way to support our libraries is to be an active advocate on their behalf. Your involvement with library related organizations, attendance at legislative breakfasts and supervisors’ and commissioners’ meetings and talking with and writing your legislators are a few of the ways we can influence the future of our libraries.

Continued on Page 2

## FIRST TIME

### Trustees AND Friends Together!

This year, the Annual Trustee Institute will join with the PCBL Friends Institute for a joint meeting of Trustees and Friends. It will be held in two locations: on April 7 and 8 in western PA at the Sheraton Four Points in Mars, and on April 21 and 22 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey in Grantville.

The theme of the Institute will be advocacy, a subject of vital importance both to Trustees and to Friends. The schedule is planned so that during each time period at least two of the sessions will relate to Friends.

Peter Pearson, President of the Friends of the St. Paul (MN) Public Library, is the keynote speaker. His topic, “Loving Your Library Isn't Enough: The Need for Library Advocacy,” should interest both Trustees and Friends. He will also speak on “Developing a Successful Local Advocacy Effort for Your Library.”

Other sessions planned for Friends include “Advocacy: Building Personal Relationships,” “Fundraising for Libraries,” “Not-So-Extreme Library Makeovers,” “That’s What Friends Are For,” “How to Improve, Re-energize, or Start a

Continued on Page 2



Seated Sara Jane Cate and Nan Cavanaugh;

Gary Wolfe and Marcy Abrams, standing

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## President's Message (cont.)

It is absolutely essential that all citizens be made aware of the critical role libraries play in their community.

**Financial Support** - The financial resources required to fund library services come from fundraising, local government and the Commonwealth Public Library Subsidy, with the later two being closely related. The state library code requires certain minimum levels of municipal support in order to qualify for the state subsidy. Given Pennsylvania's historically poor record of local funding, this is an opportunity for us to put our advocacy skills to excellent use. The devastating reduction in state library funding which occurred in 2003-04 has severely impacted services provided by practically all libraries.

Over the past several years we have encouraged everyone to write the Governor and legislators in Harrisburg, asking that they restore the annual state library subsidy to no less than \$75 million. We are once again asking that you write, underscoring how important it is to your community and the people served by your library to restore funding to the \$75 million level. I have spoken with quite a few legislators and they all have commented on the number of letters they have received regarding library funding. While we are far short of the \$75 million level, some progress has been made so it is important that legislators and the Governor be kept aware of our continued concern. The members of our board have a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience working with libraries and Friends groups. I certainly hope, should you have any questions or need help, you will call upon this valuable resource – all you have to do is ask.

*Phil Albright, PCBL President*

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## PCBL Mission Statement

The mission of the Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries is to:

- Stimulate public and governmental awareness of the libraries as essential community services;
- Encourage, train and support library Friends organizations;
- Advocate for improved library funding and legislation of benefit to libraries;
- Partner with other library associations, agencies, businesses and community groups to provide educational programs for library advocates.

## Trustees and Friends Together (cont.)

**Friends Group," and "What to Say to Public Officials."**

**Discover the combined strength of both organizations while learning more about library advocacy. Remember, too, the cost of the room and meals are provided by the Bureau of Library Development. The Commonwealth Libraries will send a registration form for this event to the President of each Friends Group soon.**

**For more information, please call: Bonnie Young, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Office of Commonwealth Libraries, Harrisburg, telephone 717.783.5732.**

## SAVE THE DATES

**20th ANNUAL TRUSTEE INSTITUTE**  
– for Trustees and Friends

**April 7 and 8 – Sheraton Four Points, Mars, PA**  
(Pittsburgh area)

**April 21 and 22 – Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey**  
(in Grantville)\*

*Note: In our last Newsletter dates were correct, but places were transposed.*

**For:** All PA Library Trustees and Friends

**Cost:** **FREE OF CHARGE** for any current Trustee or Friend of the Library

**Includes:** All meals, breaks and overnight hotel accommodations (double occupancy)

**Purpose:** To learn more about advocacy, to enjoy meeting other Trustees and Friends and to go back to your libraries refreshed and inspired.

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## PCBL Vision Statement

By the year 2010, Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries will be acknowledged as the leading organization advocating for library users and Friends groups throughout the Commonwealth. In cooperation with other organizations, PCBL will advocate to improve free access to library services for all. We will maintain open communication with all public officials and advocate for stabilized funding sources for all libraries.

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# Letters to Editor

Dear Editor:

I thought I should share with the recipients of the **PCBL CONNECTION** what an outstanding job the Friends of the Easttown Library do for us. I am so proud of this outstanding group of dedicated volunteers. Here are just some of the special things this group does:

- Donates \$15,000/year for library materials, display cabinets, etc.
- Have donated over \$200,000 in the past 20 years for computers, adult and children's programs, copy machines, furniture, etc.
- Holds ongoing and twice yearly book sales.
- Has made nearly \$15,000 just from grocery store receipts since its inception.
- Raised \$40,000 during our recent Capital Campaign to have their own storage room for book sales.
- Consistently holds fundraising projects such as raffles, afghans, trips, entertainment books – you name it – they've done it!
- Served on the Building and Community Campaign committees for our new library.
- Started a thriving Junior Friends Board of young mothers.
- Won the *2004 Friends Group of the Year* award from PCBL.
- Has two local members on the state PCBL Board who work tirelessly on advocating for public libraries.

This group has participated in many state Friends conferences and has been asked many times to talk to other new Friends groups to encourage them in their endeavors. They are truly our friends who give so much to our Library. I commend them for their commitment and dedication.

Sincerely,

*Peggy J. Mahan*

Director of Easttown Library & Information Center, Berwyn, PA

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## Happy 300<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Ben Franklin !

Franklin's influence in Philadelphia is vast and wide. Besides the landmarks of Independence National Historical Park, many of the city's buildings owe their existence to him including the American Philosophical Society, The Library Company of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Fire Department, the University of Pennsylvania, and Pennsylvania Hospital.



### Franklin Facts

Ben Franklin's contributions to Philadelphia are endless. Here you'll find some of the greatest highlights of his prolific career:

1728	Opens his own printing office in Philadelphia
1732	Publishes first issue of <i>Poor Richard: An Almanack</i>
1737	Appointed Postmaster of Philadelphia
1742	Proposed the idea for the University of Pennsylvania
1752	Performed his kite experiment
1776	Signed the Declaration of Independence
1778	Negotiated and signed Treaty of Alliance with France

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**PCBL Board Executive Directors:**  
 Phil Albright, President;  
 Dennis Leeper, Vice President;  
 Barbara Grater, Treasurer;  
 Carl Mitchell, Secretary

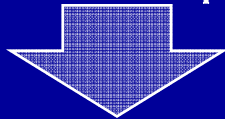
**We encourage you to send us your library Friends' events for publication.**

**See Editor's Corner.**

### PCBL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- |                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Marcia Abrams (Marcy)*      | Dennis P. Leeper*            |
| Lois K. Albrecht*           | Carl Mitchell, Secretary*    |
| Philip Albright, President* | Marilyn D. Moody             |
| Allan J. Brodsky            | Diana Murphy                 |
| Pat Carey                   | Patricia L. Owens*           |
| Sara Jane Cate*             | Carolyn M. Poff              |
| Nan Cavanaugh               | Julie Rinehart*              |
| John Crispino               | Dorothea A. Shoemaker        |
| Kay Dowhower*               | Jan Stebbins                 |
| John Fordon                 | Karen Temple                 |
| Carrie Gardner              | Gary Wolfe                   |
| Barbara Grater*             | Carolyn Pfeifer, Secretariat |
| Kathy Kennedy               | * Executive Committee        |

### PCBL CONNECTION from Start to Finish – How Does It Happen?



PCBL Board Member Marcy Abrams, in conjunction with Editor Dottie Shoemaker, work in a collaborative effort assembling articles for each PCBL CONNECTION.

Working in tandem with Dottie, Heidi Sproat (right), System Administrator at Easttown Library & Information Center in Berwyn, Pennsylvania, collates and prepares a draft digital newsletter.

## PCBL Board Members – Getting to Know You Jan Stebbins



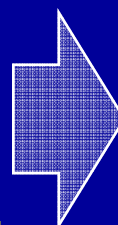
Jan Stebbins has been on the PCBL board for six years, chairing the PR committee for most of those years. Her academic background includes a B.S. degree from Lycoming College plus an M.S. and doctoral studies from Penn State University. Using some of this impressive background, Jan was a biology instructor at Lycoming College.

In 1981 her life changed when she and her husband, Wayne, started JanWay, a unique company which assists librarians and Friends groups in their promotional and fundraising activities. When Wayne entered full time ministry for the United Methodist Church in 1988, Jan assumed full time management of JanWay. Shortly after that, her son and daughter-in-law joined her management team.

JanWay, under Jan's direction, is committed to the importance of libraries as they work with Friends and librarians to increase public knowledge of and support for libraries. Jan and JanWay support libraries with sponsor level memberships in PaLA (Pennsylvania Library Association) and (FOLUSA) Friends of Libraries USA as well as Library Champion status in ALA (American Library Association) and PLA Gold Partner status (Public Library Association). In addition, Jan is a board member of the West Branch Chapter of PaLA and both Jan and Wayne serve on the J.V. Brown Library Capital Campaign Steering Committee.

While celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of JanWay this year, Jan will also find time for her family (especially her five grandchildren), church activities and gardening.

PCBL, a beneficiary of Jan's expertise in public relations, is appreciative of the many contributions from Jan and JanWay.



These women have been working together now for the past five quarterly editions of the PCBL CONNECTION. In a combined effort, Dottie and Heidi transform the multitude of article and photographic submissions into a cohesive, readable format which we then submit to Jane Noel, President of Jane's Computers Made Easy located in Grapeville.

## Happenings Around the State

### Ephrata Public Library Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Building

To celebrate their building's anniversary, staff at the Ephrata Public Library decided to celebrate their community. The recently-established Alliance of Educational Nonprofits in the Ephrata Area (AENEA), a project spearheaded by the Library, sponsored an all-day nonprofit expo and presented programs throughout the day. The anniversary celebration drew hundreds of people and highlighted how important the Library has become to its community. A special Happy Birthday Party had children making birthday cards for the building and featured a huge birthday cake with construction equipment and mounds of dirt icing.



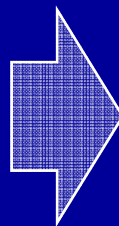
CONGRATULATIONS  
10 YEARS

### PCBL New Affiliates

Friends of the Blossburg Memorial Library  
Friends of Flenniken Library, Carmichaels, PA  
Friends of Ludington Library, Bryn Mawr  
Friends of Upper Moreland Free Public Library



Jane then yet transforms the draft again into a printable newsletter. Jane is a web designer with a graphic arts background and graduated with a Visual Arts degree. After multiple revisions, "tweaking" and proofreading drafts by several people, Jane submits the newsletter to our printer.



Dave Davies at Huggins Printing located in Camp Hill prints the newsletter and manages mail distribution. A new issue of PCBL CONNECTION is born.

## Editor's Corner

The PCBL CONNECTION newsletter connects our readers from across the state. Do you have an idea that worked well for your group? Why not share it so others can benefit from great ideas. Do you have a particular success you are proud of? Announce it to all your friends in PCBL!

Newsletter articles in Microsoft® Word format may be sent to

**PCBL NEWSLETTER**

**c/o Marcy Abrams**

**P.O. Box 412**

**Broomall, PA 19008**

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[Marcy\\_Abrams@juno.com](mailto:Marcy_Abrams@juno.com)

Editorial Committee:

Marcy Abrams,

Kathy Kennedy,

Dennis P. Leeper,

Dorothea Shoemaker

### News Flash!

Patricia Owens, PCBL Board Member and Mary Sieminski of RPA Associates, located in Williamsport, PA have been awarded the contract to write a Handbook for the Friends of Connecticut Libraries. The Handbook will be completed in the Summer of 2006.

## “Libraries: A Testimonial”

Surely everyone who reads this article knows the value of libraries. Employers looking for skilled labor, parents looking for communities that give their children the best possible academic start in life, and local governments that want to attract business and industry -- all know the value of schools and libraries. But there are other, less obvious benefits to having libraries in a community.



I came from a medically disadvantaged family, the oldest of four siblings. I counted thirty-five hospitalizations, excluding maternity deliveries, in the first seventeen years of our parents' marriage.

What made my life bearable then was that I had discovered books. On the scattered days when my mother felt well enough to take over household chores, she gave me permission to take off, and I either went on long bicycle rides or to the libraries. We lived outside Harrisburg, so I had access to the State Library and to the Walnut Street Library. Without adult guidance, I read just about anything whose spine caught my eye. The first thing I remember reading was Herodotus' account of the Peloponnesian War; I thrilled to the march of the four-hundred. I also discovered *Call of the Wild*, by Jack London. *White Fang* became my hero.

The reading took me away from my reality, carried me to strange, exotic places, showed me worlds far different than the one I inhabited. And, quite literally, it saved my life.

Still, my struggle was real enough to me, and libraries got me through. I survived and will be forever indebted to libraries and the world of books and ideas they opened to me.

*Carl P. Mitchell, PCBL Secretary*

# SAVE THE DATES

## 20th ANNUAL TRUSTEE INSTITUTE – for Trustees and Friends

**April 7 and 8 - Sheraton Four Points, Mars, PA (Pittsburgh area)**  
**April 21 and 22 - Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey (in Grantville)**

### Please Visit Our Friend's Group!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Library: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Day & Time of Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: PCBL, PO Box 752, Camp Hill, PA 17001

Your net worth  
to the world is  
usually determined by  
what remains after  
your bad habits  
are subtracted  
from your good ones.

Ben Franklin

# Make Your Voice Count!

- Be involved! Take part in National Legislative Day for library advocates. Check the PCBL website at <http://www.pcbllpa.org/> for the specific date and information about participation from your area.
- Send a copy of your Friends' group newsletter to the **PCBL CONNECTION** editors by adding their names to your mailing lists. Look for news about Pennsylvania's Friends in future editions.
- Be sure your Friends group has a designated mailbox at your library so that you can receive all mailings.
- Check the PCBL website and become a member of the PCBL Listserve to keep current with PCBL.
- Keep in touch with your local officials so that they know you and your library interest. Be informed about the status of library funding and always inform officials about the need for increased library funding.
- Look for local library events during National Library Week April 2-8, 2006. Use the library-friendly time to promote membership in your Friends group.

## Come Help Celebrate National Library Week!

The Council of Friends of Lancaster County Public Libraries

### 6th Annual National Library Week Author Luncheon Featuring New York Times Best Selling Author Chris Bohjalian

Tuesday, April 4th, 2006 Noon Tickets \$35.00

Where: The Ballroom at Doneckers, Artworks Complex 100 N. State Street, Ephrata, PA

Ticket Sales begin February 1. Kindly RSVP Ronnie Kepchar 717.569.6850

## Don't Put it Off—Apply for PCBL Membership Today

PCBL MEMBERSHIP FORM \*      New \_\_\_\_ Renew \_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ or Group Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (Fax) \_\_\_\_\_

Individual: Personal \$20 \_\_\_\_ Sustaining \$50 \_\_\_\_ Sponsor \$100 \_\_\_\_ Patron \$500 \_\_\_\_

Organization: Group \$40 \_\_\_\_ or 501(c)3 affiliate \$70 \*\* \_\_\_\_ Corporate \$250 \_\_\_\_

Tax Deductible Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Educational & Legislative Efforts

Mail check payable to: PCBL, PO Box 752, Camp Hill, PA 17001

\* All memberships are based on a calendar year.

\*\* Application required.

Applications available online at <http://www.pcbllpa.org/Membership.htm> or by phone at 1-800-870-3858.

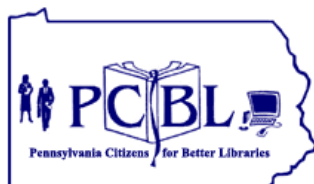
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