



President's Message

I just returned from the Trustee/Friends Institute at Grantville and feel really good about what I saw and heard. Based on what I have been told at the Institute in Pittsburgh, it also was a huge success.



The combined attendance for the two Institutes was just under six hundred with 28% of those being Friends. This far exceeded everyone's expectations, for both Trustees and Friends. Based on my conversations with those who organized the Institutes, the joint Institute concept could well be here to stay. I want to thank the Pennsylvania Library Association and the Commonwealth of Libraries for including PCBL with them in presenting our annual Institutes.

I want to express my sincere thanks to Nan Cavanaugh and Marcy Abrams for coordinating our involvement, to those who were presenters and everyone else who attended and stepped up to help out wherever and whenever needed. This was something a bit different for PCBL and I think we came through with flying colors.

The two sessions presented by PCBL which I attended drew full houses – included many Trustees – and were very well received. Based on the number and type of questions asked by the audience, there is a great deal of interest in the Friends so I think we have an excellent opportunity to reach out for new members. The Institutes produced eleven new individual memberships and one new affiliate membership.

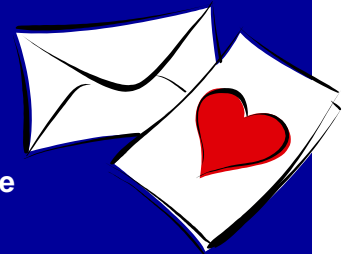
I made a special effort to speak with as many attendees as possible and, without exception, all were pleased with the content and presentation and felt they had gained a much better understanding of how Trustees and Friends can work together for the benefit of their library.

Continued on Page 2

SHOW US THE LOVE

We know you “love your library” but as advocates, it has never been more important than NOW to express your gratitude to Governor Rendell for including \$75.5 million in the proposed public library subsidy and to continue by corresponding with your local representatives and senators requesting them to endorse the Governor's proposal.

Public library dollars are the best investment across the Commonwealth that can be offered to its citizens.



How can you help? TODAY write a thank you letter to:

Honorable Edward G. Rendell, Governor Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capital Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

for the \$75.5 million recommendation for library services and send a copy to your local newspaper.

Send a letter to your state representative and senator thanking them for past support and request their endorsement of the Governor's \$75.5 million proposal focusing on the direct benefits this funding will provide for the legislators' constituents especially in this very important year.

Your “love” will insure this budget proposal brings success for all! We depend on your help.



Now available through PCBL
LIBRARY LOVERS LICENSE PLATE

See Details Inside

President's Message (cont.)

It is budget time again and we are delighted with the \$75.5 million public library subsidy Governor Rendell has included in his proposed 2006-07 budget. We thank the Governor for recognizing the need for a stronger state investment in library services and urge him to work with the legislature to include the \$75.5 million in whatever budget plan is agreed upon. In addition to the obvious benefits such as increased professional staffing, expanded operating hours, concentration on early reading experiences for children and the purchase of books and other materials needed to update and enhance collections, this level of funding will provide the incentives needed to improve local support in a long-term, consistent and realistic manner. Under the state formula used to distribute allocated funds to libraries, increased local support translates into increased funding from the state.

The most effective tools we have available to influence executive and legislative branches are our letters, calls and face-to-face conversations, so please make as many contacts as you can.

Phil Albright, PCBL President

Now available through PCBL **LIBRARY LOVERS LICENSE PLATE**

A visible sign of library advocacy

- Bright Yellow And Red Front Bumper License Plates
- For Friends-Advocates-Directors-Staff-Trustees-Volunteers
- Available For Individual Or Group Purchase

**Show everyone where your heart lies.
Let the world know you care about libraries.**

For specific information and price structure, contact John Fordon, PCBL License Plate Project Chair, at 1-717-761-3309 or call PCBL Executive Secretary, Carolyn Pfeifer, at 1-800-870-3858.

Letters to the Editor



A Word From Karen Rovegno, President of the Friends of *Bosler Memorial Library*

The Friends of the Bosler Memorial Library was founded in 1957. Since its beginning they have donated over \$1,000,000 to the Bosler Library. The Friends currently have approximately 800 active members with contributions starting at \$20 all the way to \$1000. In the past we have had major auctions which became THE social event for the community. Our next auction is scheduled for 2007 celebrating our 50th anniversary.

As a Friends organization we are also advocates for the Library. Monthly, we have a program called Booked for Lunch which bring in speakers on various topics. This is a free program for the community.

The Friends also manage a used book store located directly behind the Library. We have two major book sales annually in addition to The Bookery hours.

The Friends are proud to have also published two cookbooks. The first was in the spring of 1988 and the second was released in the fall of 2003.

Some of the projects which the Friends have underwritten include paving the parking lot, computerizing the Library operations, completing the construction on the second floor addition, refurbishing of the east wing, and building of our used book store called The Bookery.

A Word from Friends of the *Horsham Library*

By 1999 the Horsham Chamber of Commerce agreed to underwrite a consultant feasibility study to investigate establishing a public library. Residents had been talking about a library for more than a decade. Conducted by Pat Owens (PCBL Board member) and Leslie Burger (currently President-Elect of the American Library Association), the study showed public support for a public library with up-to-date technology, ample meeting space for civic groups, plenty of room for a growing collection, and a coffee bar to serve as an informal "village green" where residents of this suburban municipality with no formal town center could network with their fellow citizens.

Throughout the feasibility study period the Friends of the Horsham Library organized. Its members participated in focus group

Send us your letters. We'd love to hear from you!

Horsham Library (cont.)

sessions and attended planning meetings. When the Council scheduled the public referendum (at what is generally considered to be the toughest election cycle – the Presidential election), Friends of the Horsham Library swung into action. Their voter education efforts got library supporters to the polls. Friends members knocked on neighbors' doors, talked up the benefits of the township having its own library, held a program on Horsham Day, and distributed flyers at the polling places on Election Day.

The positive results of the feasibility study prompted Township Council to place a referendum question on the November 2000 ballot. The referendum asked voters to authorize the Township to borrow up to \$7 million to establish a library and construct a building.

With the tireless work of the Friends, the library referendum passed with a 57.8% "yes" vote.

Friends members participated in the planning committee formed after the referendum. They organized field trips to public libraries throughout the region to gather ideas about the type of building and services the community might want. They reacted to the concepts proposed by the architect and building consultant.

Organized under the umbrella tax-exempt status of PCBL, the Friends of the Horsham Library raised funds for the capital campaign.

As the Library took shape and opening day approached, Friends of the Library volunteered to help with the Library's "Book Brigade." They helped unpack the Library's new book collection and put books in shelf order, getting ready for the opening day of November 7, 2004.

Today the Friends of the Horsham Library raise funds to support Summer Reading Club programming. They have purchased equipment, such as a video projector, to enhance the Library's ability to conduct training and offer programming. The Friends of the Horsham Library is in the process of recruiting new members so as to expand its board and membership, thereby broadening support for the Library in the community.



A Word from Ruth Fitz-Randolph President of the Friends of *Parkland Community Library*

It wasn't until the first time I attended a PCBL Friends' Institute and talked with Friends of library group members from throughout the state that I realized that having a Friends membership of 300+ for one 5,000 square foot library serving 3 suburban/rural townships was unusual.

It must have seemed that way to PCBL too, because members of Friends of Parkland Community Library in South Whitehall Township were surprised and delighted to be selected as a 2005 PCBL Friends Group of the Year.

The date of this year's Institute for Trustees and Friends coincides with the opening day of our major fund-raiser of the year – our 16th annual used book sale. We collect, sort, and price books for three weeks and sell them for one week. Last year, due to the efforts of 157 volunteers who worked 1,538 hours, and hundreds of individuals in our community who donated books, we raised nearly \$30,000.

With those funds and others from bus trips, sales of *Entertainment* and *Kid Stuff* books and book bags, charges for use of the copy machine in the Library, and more, we provided funds for numerous Library programs and materials. In the current year alone, the Friends supported activities for the Library's summer reading program (attended by 1,260 children); underwrote a proposed new web page; funded an exciting "Hot Title" book collection, trendy "I Love Libraries" rubber wristbands, a Talk Tote program which includes 5 copies of a book and a guide for book discussion groups, and other items not covered in a sometimes tenuous Library budget.

Friends of PCL also lends a helping hand with author visits and book signings and assists our Library's Teen Group with events they host for the younger children. We also contact our local and state politicians regarding the Library, and do lots of other things to keep members involved.

The Library Board is currently in the process of searching for land to build a new Library that will better accommodate the needs of our expanding population. Friends will be at the forefront of community involvement and will support the board and our Library Director, Karen Gartner. We can hardly wait for funds we've saved to be converted to an oversized \$100,000 cardboard check photo op to kick off the Capital Campaign.

Combined Institute is a F

From the East



Above: Elizabeth Heim, Dottie Shoemaker, Linda Baer, Marcy Abrams

Below: Mary Clare Zales, Commonwealth Libraries Speaker



Above: Linda Baer Pres. Berks County Friends conversing with Phil Albright, PCBL President

Below: Pat Owens, PCBL Board Member



Left: PCBL Executive Secretary Carolyn Pfeifer with PCBL Display.



Right: Sara Jane Cate with the I Love Libraries license plate. Nan Cavanaugh is in the background.

Far Right: Nan Cavanaugh & Marcy Abrams



From 2 PM on a Friday afternoon until 3 PM on Saturday afternoon Pennsylvania's Library Trustees and Friends joined together as advocates for better public libraries at the 20th Annual Trustee Institute. Sponsored by the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries and the Pennsylvania Library Association's Trustee Division, the Institute enabled just under 600 people to meet and explore compelling library issues.

Sessions addressed interests of both trustees and friends with topics that included "What to Say to Public Officials," "That's What Friends are For: A Panel of Success Stories," "Developing a Successful Advocacy Effort for Your Library," "So, What Do Boards Do?," "Fundraising for Libraries," "Starting, Expanding or Energizing Your Friends Group," "Planning for Success: The Importance of Strategic Planning," "Pols R People Too," "Not-So-Extreme Library Makeovers," and "Personnel Issues and the Law."

Outlines of sessions and supplemental materials including current web sites of library interest were organized into a large binder that was given to each participant.

Networking time in between sessions and during meals extended informal discussion of issues raised at the sessions. Libraries small, medium and large were represented. Attendees came from all parts of the state to two different locations on two different weekends: April 7-8 in Mars (Western PA) and April 21-22 in Grantville (Eastern PA).

Response to the first combined Institute was overwhelmingly positive. Attendees responded with oral opinions as well as written evaluations:

"I feel energized and can't wait to bring this back to my board."

"I gained specific and helpful information that will help me in my library."

"The speakers had good information and practical advice."

"I can think of at least ten new ideas that I am going to bring back to my board."

"I realized that my library's problems with funding were shared with the majority of Pennsylvania's libraries. We need to do more to have a more stable funding base."

"The range of issues covered was excellent."

"What fabulous ideas—I'm so glad I had a chance to hear them!"

"I'm more aware of library issues and hope that we can work together to increase the public's knowledge. We need to have meetings like this to maximize our skills and influence."

"I'm looking forward to the next combined Institute!"

Huge Success

& From the West



Above: Mount Lebanon Library Director Cynthia Richey

Above Left: Mary Elizabeth Colombo addresses the crowd.

Above Far Left: Registration

Left: Mary Elizabeth Colombo, Director of B. F. Jones Memorial Library in Aliquippa

Below: Northern Cambria Library Friend Kathy Thiec

Below Left: PCBL Board Members Kathy Kennedy and Lois Albrecht



Left: Carolyn Pfeifer and Jan Stebbins with PCBL Display.



Above: Crowd at the PCBL presentation.

Congressional Visit on May 2nd Advocating Library Programs

On May 2nd, library trustees, Friends, and members paid visits to Congressional offices to advocate for Federal library programs. Pictured here are Federal Relations Coordinator Deborah Malone (DeSales University) and Tom Carollo (Trustee, Royersford Public Library) with Yevgeny Bendersky, Legislative Aide to Congressman Curt Weldon (R), 7th District.



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

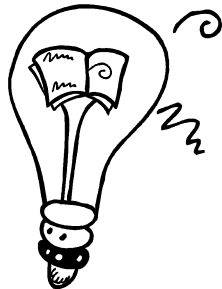
DottieShoemaker@aol.com
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Editorial Committee:

Marcy Abrams, Kathy Kennedy,
Dennis P. Leeper, Dorothea Shoemaker

Ideas That Work ~ From the Institute

- “Once in a Blue Moon” When you ask for volunteers for Friends activities, appeal to new helpers with a “Once in a Blue Moon” pledge. They provide you with their names and contact information with the understanding that they will be called to help just once this year.
- The Friends of the B.F. Jones Library in Aliquippa holds a St. Patrick’s Day dance in the social hall of a nearby fire company.
- The Friends of the Beaver Library hold a “Pick a Party” event on a Sunday afternoon. They negotiate with businesses that usually ask someone to host a party. The representative keeps the gift, but the Friends earn the commission on items sold.
- A “Junior Friends” Group of the Easttown Library & Information Center has been formed by the parents of children who are in the storytime programs and have held fundraisers and other programs highlighting children and youth activities.
- Marple Public Library has used teens required to do community service to help with the book sale. They worked with the probation department to find teens suitable for the job and rewarded them with free books.
- The Friends of the Monroeville Library suggest that if you need new active Friends, try recruiting former teachers.
- The Friends of Mt. Lebanon Library offer volunteers a new form of incentive, payment in chocolate chip cookies.
- The Friends of the Selinsgrove Library sell ceramic crocks each year with a different design.
- The Friends of the Simpson Library worked out a community partnership with a local restaurant for Dine Out to Benefit the Library Night. If diners present a coupon from the Library, the restaurant donated a percentage of the check to the Friends.
- Warminster Library Friends have 3 levels of business memberships: Bronze at \$100, Silver at \$500 and Gold for \$1,000. Business members get special invitations to functions and Gold donors get their names on a plaque in the Library.



PCBL ANNUAL AWARDS

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

It is time again for making nominations for the nine 2006 Awards to be presented at the Annual Awards Luncheon during the Pennsylvania Library Association Conference on Sunday, November 12, 2006 at the Hilton Hotel in Pittsburgh. Nominations will be accepted for the following awards:

Citizen of the Year: a Citizen who has contributed the most to the improvement of Pennsylvania libraries.

Corporate Citizen of the Year: a business or company that has been supportive of a local library as well as the entire Pennsylvania library community.

Friends Group of the Year: a Friends group that has provided the greatest assistance to its library.

Friends Newsletter of the Year: the best Friends group newsletter.

Elected State Official of the Year: an official who has been a leader in promoting and supporting Pennsylvania’s libraries.

Library Public Relations Award: a library that has conducted an effective public relations campaign for a specific program or event that has resulted in significant community support.

Lifetime Achievement Award: a citizen or group who has shown exceptional meritorious service to libraries.

Local Public Official Award: a local public official who has been supportive of his/her local library.

Media Award: the best newspaper, radio or TV editorial, article or video in support of libraries.

Please submit a letter of recommendation along with supportive documentation no later than September 1, 2006 to:

Lois K. Albrecht, PCBL Awards Chair,
4953 Cline Hollow Road, Apartment # 147,
Murrysville, PA 15668
Telephone 724-327-9410

Dear Trustees and Friends,

If you know of some fellow Trustees or Friends who might want to have copies of the handouts you received at the Institute, direct them to our website page:

www.statelibrary.state.pa.us/libraries/cwp/view.asp?a=15&q=119605

Bonnie Young, Public Library Advisor
Office of Commonwealth Libraries

PCBL New Affiliates

Chartiers-Houston Community Library Friends

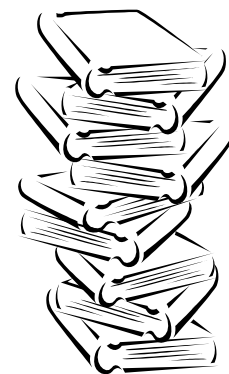
New Groups

Bellwood-Antis Public Library
Bosler Memorial Library Friends
Cheltenham Township Library System
Cranberry Public Library Friends
Galeton Public Library Friends
Pittston Memorial Library Friends
Warminster Library Friends

Welcome

PCBL New Members

Lisa Gerhart, Houston
Carrie Turner, Glenside
Pat DiFiore, Cranberry Township
Beverly Crawford, Galeton
Karen Eibert, Warminster
Susanne Ament, Monroeville
Paula A. Calabrese, Oakmont
Tom Carollo, Royersford
Faustino Dunckhorst, Pittsburgh
Victoria A. Gerstenfeld, Broomall
Karla Marsteller, Palymra
Sylvia Nagle, Butler
Sandra A. Nork, New Cumberland
Susan Priest, Washington
Judith Ann Roche, Butler
Virginia O. Schott, Dubois
Monica Stoicovoy, Jefferson Hills
Pamela Voytko, Westover
Blanche Woolls, Glendale, California



Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library.

The only entrance requirement is interest.

~Lady Bird Johnson

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Family Place and the Parent/Child Workshops at the Easttown Library & Information

The best thing I can say about this program is that my two children don't want it to end! - Laura, mother

We felt the same way at the end of our first five-week session of the Parent/Child Workshop here at the Easttown Library & Information Center! We are pleased to display our banner as a member of The Family Place Project, a network of nationwide youth service librarians who believe that literacy begins at birth and that by supporting the parents and caregivers of young children as their first teachers, each community is strengthened.



A fabulous experience!

The Parent/Child Workshop is a five-week program for children from infancy to age 3 and their caregivers. The workshop features developmentally appropriate toys, books and art supplies in a relaxed environment. Each week, a resource professional from a community agency

attends the workshop to talk with caregivers and answer questions about their children. Our resource professionals addressed topics including library services and early literacy, health, nutrition and preschool education.

Our Family Place training was funded by a grant from the Chester County Library System. The Parent/Child Workshops were funded by our Friends who also contributed generously to increase the materials in our Parent Collection. Our Friends and Jr. Friends also purchased a puppet theatre and Lego table for our children's library and our Jr. Friends purchased two chess tables for our adults and youth. We could not have done it without our Friends!

Becky Sheridan, Youth Services Librarian
Easttown Library & Information Center

If your Library is participating in the Family Place Library and Parent/Child Workshop programs, we would love to hear from you and your participants about your experiences.

**Requirements to
enjoy the Benefits of a
501(c)(3) DESIGNATION
THROUGH PCBL**

- Available to any Friends group
- Complete application form affiliating your group with PCBL
- Agree to submit an annual financial statement to PCBL
- Send in your application with the \$70 fee
- PCBL submits a consolidated return to the IRS
- For more information, see the Tax Exemption page at www.pcbllpa.org

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PCBL MEMBERSHIP FORM * New ____ Renew ____ Date _____

Name _____ or Group Name _____

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Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ (Fax) _____

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

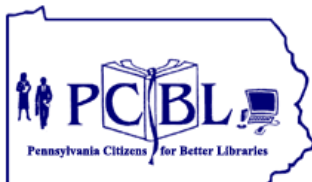
Organization: Group \$40 ____ or 501(c)3 affiliate \$70 ** ____ Corporate \$250 ____

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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