A PRESTIGIOUS GRANT FROM THE ALA’S FREEDOM TO READ FOUNDATION

The American Library Association has awarded Judith’s Reading Room with a grant in the amount of $1,000. This is the second consecutive grant for Judith’s Reading Room, established in 2010 in memory of librarian Judith F. Krug. Seven grants were awarded to libraries, schools and community organizations in support of Banned Books Week events.

Banned Books Week, which will take place Sept. 22–28, 2013, celebrates the freedom to access information, while drawing attention to the harms of censorship.

“The quality of this year’s applications was tremendous,” said FTRF Executive Director Barbara Jones. “We couldn’t be more pleased by the care and thought that was put into the proposals. From a dance performance and an art show to online and offline readings, discussions, and lectures, we’re confident that the chosen projects represent a range of innovative, creative ideas that will result in great events!”

Thanks to Judith’s Reading Room volunteers Marissa Bottino and Ana Luhrs for developing our winning proposal called, “Emotive Powers of Literature: Celebrating Banned Books through Dance.” Judith’s Reading Room will collaborate with Muhlenberg College’s Six Meters improvisational dance group on (continued on page 2)
JRR Core Focus:
Birth-2-Five Initiative

Judith’s Reading Room and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Programs at Casa Guadalupe in Allentown and the Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley in Bethlehem have joined forces to jumpstart early reading skills and close the poverty gap. Below are our five tips for raising great readers.

Five Tips for Reading to Your Infant

Good Times
Choose a good time for reading. Bedtime is ideal for infants.

Point It Out
Use the pictures to think of new things to say and let your infant play with the book.

Brain Power
Reading aloud to your infant early on increases brain capacity for language and literacy skills.

Listen Carefully
Expose your infant to new vocabulary and language patterns to improve listening skills.

It’s Never Too Early
Early exposure to books and language lay the foundation for future success in learning to read—so start now!

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS JUDITH’S READING ROOM?

NOTABLE DONATIONS AROUND THE WORLD IN 2013

The first half of 2013 has been momentous for Judith’s Reading Room. In February we donated 1,000 children’s books valued at $8,870 to Bethlehem, PA’s Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley’s Women, Infants & Children’s Program (WIC). The custom library includes an extensive collection of bilingual books and specifically targets children not enrolled in daycare or pre-K. Every child enrolled in the WIC program whose parent has signed a pledge to read aloud daily will receive a new book from Judith’s Reading Room on their newborn visit, estimated at 50 children per month. HCLV serves 800 individuals every month.

Judith’s Reading Room donated a mobile book cart with 438 pre-K books valued at $4,511 to Allentown PA’s Casa Guadalupe’s Women, Infants & Children’s Program (WIC). On an annual basis, we will donate up to 6,000 pre-k books and bi-lingual educational materials with “Five Tips for Reading to Infants” (see sidebar on left) in an effort to help build a community of readers. As with HCLV, our books will be handed out when the parent signs a “Pledge to Read” 20 minutes each day.

On World Book Night in April Judith’s Reading Room opened its inaugural library in Central America. A donation of 182 children’s books valued at $1,337 was made to Academia Teocali, a private school that serves 150 children who are the future leaders of Costa Rica. The donation increased the size of that school’s English-language library by 800%.

In May, Judith’s Reading Room dedicated two libraries in Cambodia. The first library of 76 children’s books in English was dedicated in collaboration with A New Day Cambodia, a nonprofit in Phnom Penh that provides food, shelter and education to more than 100 “scavenger” children, who were found climbing through trash to survive. The second, containing 87 children’s books, was inaugurated at Anjali House, in Siem Reap, near Angkor Wat, which serves 110 children between the ages of 4 and 18 who are so poor they are forced to beg on the streets.

LEND A HAND

Our organization thrives on the spirit and hard work of people who believe in our mission. From corporate volunteers to retired teachers, hundreds of volunteers support our literacy initiatives. Why not join them? info@judithsreadingroom.org

BANNED BOOKS WEEK (cont. from page 1)

a dance performance focused on Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi with readings from many books banned or challenged in the U.S. in the last 31 years. The event will take place in the Trexler Library on September 26 at 12:30 pm and 7 pm and is free. Space is limited.

Many other Banned Books Week events around the country will be listed at www.bannedbooksweek.org.
Author Jerry Spinelli Talks Books, Pet Rats, and Persistence

The award-winning author sat down with Judith’s Reading Room and Teens from Children’s Home of Easton for an intimate book chat.

On May 5, 2013, members of the Judith’s Reading Room Board of Directors hosted teens from the Children’s Home of Easton on a trip to Malvern, Pa. to meet Newbery-winning author Jerry Spinelli. The group spoke to the author at the People’s Light and Theater before attending the play adaption of Spinelli’s novel Stargirl.

Spinelli, who won a Newbery Award in 1991 for Maniac Magee and a Newbery Honor in 1998 for Wringer, spoke with the group for an hour and a half. Topics ranged from his first rejected novels to his zeal for pet rats. The teens from Children’s Home of Easton, all of whom are members of the Judith’s Reading Room weekly book club, had just finished reading his novel Stargirl. The teens asked questions and had their books signed.

When asked why he writes for children and young adults, Spinelli pointed out that he writes books about children but not specifically for children. “I let the kids rise up to the story,” Spinelli emphasized. On the subject of writing, he spoke about how he had sent his first novel to forty publishers, all of whom had rejected it. All four of his first novels were rejected. His fifth book, Space Station Seventh Grade, was published in 1982. His overarching message: “Never give up.”

What’s on your nightstand?

We take a look at a bedside stack of books—and ask Cathy Leiber, co-founder and President, five questions about her reading list.

What’s special about your nightstand?

My nightstand is always piled high with books recommended by trusted friends and topped with my dictionary.

Do you judge a book by its cover?

I hate to admit it, but covers catch my eye in the bookstore. It doesn’t mean that I buy the book, but much like a wine label, the cover does pull my attention.

What genre do you find yourself reading the most?

I love historical novels and the classics.

What is the best book you ever read?

A Passage to India by E.M. Forster.

What book are you most looking forward to reading?

I’m most looking forward to reading Persepolis, a banned book, that my book club chose to read in September during Banned Books Month. The book, a graphic novel style memoir written by an Iranian young woman, is thought to be the first of its genre.

Want your nightstand featured here? Just email us a picture of your nightstand and the answer to our six questions!

info@judithsreadingroom.org

The books on Cathy’s nightstand:

- The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh
- Heartless by Laini Taylor
- The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson
- Fifty Shades of Grey by E.L. James
- The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah
- The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern
- The Book of Henry by Kate Concannon
- The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh
- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot
- The Book of Henry by Kate Concannon
- The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern
Volunteer of the Month: Ann Shanley

Ann Shanley was at the first-ever boxing party, held April 2010 in the home of co-founders Scott and Cathy Leiber. Since then, Ann has attended nearly all monthly boxing parties. Ann fulfilled a term as a Charter Member of the Judith’s Reading Room Board of Directors and was singularly responsible for connecting Judith’s Reading Room and St. Luke’s Health Network. To date, that partnership has resulted in 6 library donations with 3,761 books worth over $38,000, the largest donation in Judith’s Reading Room history. Ann was instrumental in launching “Storytime at Judith’s Reading Room” in local schools and was a frequent storyteller. She also sorted and packed 2,362 books for the first Casa Guadalupe donation. Additionally, Ann volunteers often, helping to process and organize books on a regular basis.

We are happy to honor Ann’s passion and enthusiasm for Judith’s Reading Room with the first Volunteer of the Month Award.