

bookish

JUDITH'S
READING
ROOM
NEWSLETTER

SEP/OCT 2013
VOLUME 1
ISSUE 1

and discover that might just be the best way to get what you need. You can't have an excellent what you need to do your work without you're better off. It's not as if you're missing. One thing that is missing is the quality of the work that you're doing.

BANNED BOOKS WEEK SEPTEMBER 22-28, 2013

JUDITH'S READING ROOM CELEBRATES BANNED BOOKS WEEK

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)*

in this issue

JRR Around the World	2
Events Calendar	3
What's on Your Nightstand?	3
Volunteer of the Month	4

Judith's Reading Room
**AT A
GLANCE**

57
Libraries

Six States: IL, NJ, NY, OR, PA, & VA

\$602,715 945
values of books donated Volunteers
58,406 Books

9 COUNTRIES

Afghanistan Albania
Cambodia Costa Rica
India Indonesia
Iraq Namibia
Nigeria

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!

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

Judith's Reading Room volunteer Robert Lucas transported our books in his luggage for children in Cambodia.



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%.

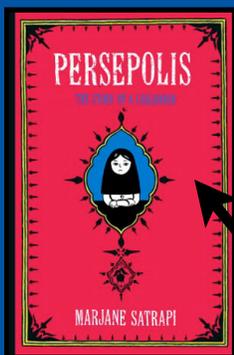
In May, Judith's Reading Room dedicated two libraries in Cambodia. The first library of 76 children's books in English was dedicated in collaboration with [A New Day Cambodia, a nonprofit in Phnom Penh](#) that provides food, shelter and education to more than 100 "scavenger" children, who were found 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.

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.

events



'Six Meters' student dancers will perform to selections from various books, including **Persepolis** by **Marjane Satrapi**. In March of this year, Chicago Public Schools removed the book from seventh grade classrooms after a complaint of "powerful images of torture" by an administrator. The book has yet to be added back to the curriculum.

September

3

Boxing Party #42

Join us at 5 East 3rd Street from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm when we will be boxing books for homeless female veterans, veterans at VA hospitals, and troops serving far from home.

26

"The Emotive Powers of Literature: Celebrating Banned Books through Dance"

Banned Books Week Event
Trexler Library at Muhlenberg College
12:30 pm & 7 pm | FREE!
Space is limited.

October

7

Boxing Party #43

It's National Book Month! Bring your favorite children's book to 5 East 3rd Street to ship to homeless female vets in N.C. 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

17

Black Poetry Day

I've known rivers:
I've known rivers ancient as the world and older than the flow of human blood in human veins.
My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

Langston Hughes

November

4

Boxing Party #44

Send your thanks during Military Family Appreciation month by sending a box of books to our troops far from home. 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at 5 East 3rd Street

9

Barnes & Noble Bookfair at Lehigh Valley Mall

ONE DAY ONLY! Support Judith's Reading Room by holiday shopping at B&N with special codes. Check our website for more details. All month long: Buy a children's book to donate on the spot for the B&N Holiday Book Drive.

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?

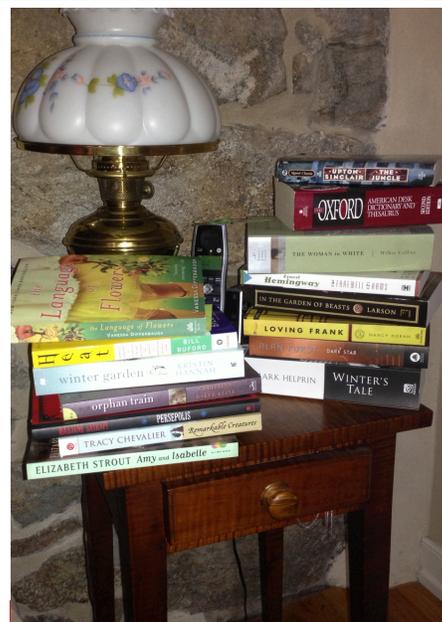
A Passage to India by E.M. Forster.

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 Vanessa Diffenbaugh
Heat Bill Buford
Winter Garden Kristin Hannah
Orphan Train Christina Baker Kline
Persepolis Marjane Satrapi
Remarkable Creatures Tracy Chevalier
Amy and Isabelle Elizabeth Stout
The Jungle Upton Sinclair
The Woman in White Wilkie Collins
A Farewell to Arms Ernest Hemingway
In the Garden of Beasts Erik Larson
Loving Frank Nancy Horan
Dark Star Alan Furst
Winter's Tale Mark Helprin



Judith's Reading Room was established in 2010 in memory of Judith F. Krug, cousin to the founders of the organization. Judy was a librarian for over 40 years and served as the Director of the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom. In 1982, during one of the nation's periodic censorship epidemics, Judy established Banned Books Week, a celebration of authors, their literature, and the Constitution's protection of free expression.

In her memory, Judith's Reading Room donates libraries and ships books to people who do not have access to books in America and around the world.



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.



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