

# bookish

JUDITH'S  
READING  
ROOM  
NEWSLETTER

MAY/JUN 2014  
VOLUME 2  
ISSUE 3



## JUDITH'S READING ROOM LEADING CHARGE TO CLOSE WORD GAP

### BIRTH-2-FIVE PROGRAM MAKING BIG IMPACT IN LEHIGH VALLEY

Judith's Reading Room implemented the Birth-2-Five Program in February 2013 after data suggested that children under the age of five who came from homes of cyclical poverty were most likely to start school not ready to learn. Since that time, The Clinton Global Initiative has begun a similar campaign called Too Small to Fail and the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley has begun to make early childhood education and literacy a primary goal in the Lehigh Valley. In the United Way's

2014-2018 Investment Plan, it is noted that "students who cannot read proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to not graduate high school."

Many people ask "what can I do?" in the face of what seem unbeatable odds. When faced with a whole generation of children growing up functionally illiterate—unable to complete simple tasks such as balancing a checkbook or reading nutrition labels, the prospect does seem grim. However, Judith's Reading Room is actively fighting this crisis and you can help.

Judith's Reading Room has many ways that you can help children start school ready to learn. We need new and gently-read children's books to replenish the mobile library carts as well as new baby board books for the Birth-2-Five (continued on page 3)

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

**75** LIBRARIES  
**1677** Volunteers

SIX STATES  
IL, NJ,  
NY, OR,  
PA, & VA

**\$814,496**  
value of books donated  
**81,157 Books**

Afghanistan  
Bhutan  
China  
India  
Japan  
Nigeria

**11 COUNTRIES**

Albania  
Cambodia  
Costa Rica  
Indonesia  
Namibia

## WHAT'S NEW AT JUDITH'S READING ROOM

### NEW LIBRARY OPENS IN BHUTAN

On March 26th, Judith's Reading Room opened and dedicated its 74th library – this time in the village of Khotakpha in Pema Gatshel, Bhutan! We donated a library of 53 children's audio books and books with CDs valued at \$1,254.



### INTERN AWARDED 2014 SCHOLARSHIP OF EXCELLENCE

Anthony Baker has been named winner of the 2014 Judith's Reading Room Scholarship of Excellence for his outstanding contribution to the goals, mission and values of Judith's Reading Room. The award, which will be given on May 5th at the 50th Boxing Party also includes a check in the amount of \$500. "Anthony has far surpassed the organization's expectation of a student intern," said Cathy Leiber. "He took it upon himself to re-design the organization's website which will go live on May 1st," she added.

### BECOME A FRIEND OF JUDITH'S READING ROOM!

Support Judith's Reading Room with a financial contribution of \$30 or more to become a sustaining donor. Your donation will directly get books into the hands of those who do not have access to them. For more information, visit our website.

[www.judithsreadingroom.org/donate](http://www.judithsreadingroom.org/donate)



Kirby Kernan at Judith's Reading Room (left) and the Anjali House library (right)

## JUDITH'S READING ROOM AROUND THE WORLD

### PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER VISITS JUDITH'S READING ROOM

Kirby Kernan, a Peace Corps volunteer, visited Judith's Reading Room on March 23, 2014. Kernan was a Peace Corps English teacher at Schlip Primary School in Namibia and the founder of a Judith's Reading Room library there. Kernan graduated from Dickinson College with a degree in Political Science in May 2011 and entered the Peace Corps immediately. Kernan spent two years in Namibia where he taught English and Math. He was joined by 35 other Peace Corps volunteers who were placed all over Namibia. Namibia is one of Africa's youngest countries, becoming independent in 1990. English was adopted at that date as the official language, but children are taught in local languages until the 5th grade when every class shifts to English. Kernan described this as a "world shaker" experience for these children.

Schlip, a desert village, was nothing more than hard-packed earth – no grass, just scrub brush and some shrubs. The school did have a modest library, but it was filled mostly with "age inappropriate" donated books like technical manuals and books in German and French. After reading an article about Judith's Reading Room in *The Express-Times*, Kernan's mother, Melissa, contacted Judith's Reading Room to see if we could ship children's books to Kernan, who was teaching English to 150 children without books. Melissa then brought boxes of donated books from her church, Flemington Baptist Church in Flemington,

NJ, and a check in the amount of \$600 to help defray the cost of shipping the books. Since the books she donated were not all age appropriate for the children in Schlip, we agreed that Judith's Reading Room would hand-pick the exact books out of our collection, buy picture dictionaries, and ship to Kernan. In all, Judith's Reading Room shipped 10 boxes of children's books containing 269 books with a cover price value of \$2,719.

### CAMBODIA UP CLOSE

Judith's Reading Room Board member Erin D'Amelio took a break from her duties as Fulbright Scholar in Malaysia recently to visit the Judith's Reading Room library donated to Anjali House in Cambodia last year. D'Amelio reports that there are about 100 children studying at Anjali House when they are not working, begging, or sifting through trash for food or something to sell. The students use the library twice a week with their classes, though many children spend free time in the library reading. "The sweetest moment of the visit occurred when Rattana, one of the students in the top class, came into the library while my friends and I were chatting with Rhonda, one of the directors," says D'Amelio. "Rhonda mentioned that he had written two stories in the literary journal the organization produced; and when we asked him if he could read us one of them, he confidently read both of them! It was heartwarming to witness his bravery, just as much as it moved me to see the great work of this organization and knowing that Judith's Reading Room was helping achieve its goals."

# events

## Barnes & Noble Bookfair

Supporting  
Parkland High School  
Judith's Reading Room

In-store May 8<sup>th</sup> to May 10<sup>th</sup>  
Online May 8<sup>th</sup> to May 13<sup>th</sup>

Barnes & Noble  
Lehigh Valley Mall

Bookfair ID# 11340411

Please present this voucher prior to making your purchase. A percentage of the net sale will be contributed to your school/organization.\*

\*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships, textbooks, magazine subscriptions, video games, purchases made at Cafes owned and operated by Starbucks, and other items Barnes & Noble may exclude from time to time in its sole discretion are not eligible for bookfair sales. Institutional discounts may not be applied. See [BN.COM/bookfairs](http://BN.COM/bookfairs) for more details and to shop online.

## MAY

### 5

Boxing Party #50  
Celebrate the mothers serving far from home by sending a special Mother's Day note!  
5 East 3rd Street  
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

## JUNE

### 2

Boxing Party #51  
Join us as we try to reach \$1 million in books donated!  
5 East 3rd Street  
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

## JULY

### 7

Boxing Party #52  
Honor Independence Day by sending a box of books to our troops far from home.  
5 East 3rd Street  
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

### 8

Barnes & Noble Bookfair sponsored by Parkland High School Key Club  
Join us for Fun Kid's Activities:

- ◆ 5:30-6:00 pm: Storytime featuring *Olivia* and a free craft
- ◆ 6:00-7:00 pm: Hear fun stories and plant a seed to start your garden
- ◆ 7:00-7:45 pm: Make a card and craft for your Mom
- ◆ Vote for your favorite drink name with a purchase of drink at our Cafe
- ◆ Face Painting

Lehigh Valley Mall Barnes & Noble

## WHAT'S ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND?

### WE ASK KIMBERLY BUSH, BOOKISH EDITOR, ABOUT HER NIGHTSTAND.

#### What is special about your nightstand?

It isn't a nightstand at all! I've repurposed a small bookshelf in order to house all the books I want to read as well as my pen and notebook for late-night bouts of inspiration.

#### Do you judge a book by its cover?

Yes! I'm sure there are a few book jacket designers happy to hear that someone is taking their art into account. However, I try to give all books a chance.

#### What genre do you find yourself reading the most?

Young adult fiction and the classics are my go-to genres. I'm also guilty of re-reading my favorite books often!

#### What is the best book you've ever read?

I'll pick from each of my favorite genres: for Young Adult fiction, I'd choose the *His Dark Materials* trilogy by Phillip Pullman; for the classics, *100 Years of Solitude* by Gabriel García Márquez.

#### What book are you most looking forward to reading?

All of them! More specifically, *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn and *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern.

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

[info@judithsreadingroom.org](mailto:info@judithsreadingroom.org)



A selection of books from Kimberly's nightstand:

*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* JK Rowling  
*Anne of Green Gables* LM Montgomery  
*The Phantom Tollbooth* N Juster  
*Here and Now* S Dunn  
*Code Name Verity* E Wein  
*Gone Girl* G Flynn  
*The Night Circus* E Morgenstern  
*Native Son* R Wright  
*Neon Vernacular* Y Komunyakaa  
*Taboo* Y Komunyakaa  
*The Complete Persepolis* M Satrapi  
*Behind a Mask* LM Alcott  
*Wide Sargasso Sea* J Rhys  
*Different Hours* S Dunn  
*The Read-Aloud Handbook* J Trelease  
*Fahrenheit 451* R Bradbury  
*White Noise* D DeLillo

### LEADING CHARGE (continued from page 1)

program at the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) centers at Casa Guadalupe in Allentown, PA and Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley in Bethlehem, PA. You can hold a book drive at your work, school or religious organization and encourage friends and neighbors to donate their unused children's books.

You can sponsor a bookfair at a Barnes & Noble location to benefit Judith's Reading Room. On specific days, the participating Barnes & Noble store will accept vouchers (see above) that will indicate that a portion of the net sale will be contributed to Judith's Reading Room. Just like the Parkland High School Key Club on May 8<sup>th</sup>, your group or organization can hold a bookfair event with children's activities to encourage shoppers to mention Judith's Reading Room at the cash register.

Want to do more? We have lots of other volunteer opportunities, such as reading aloud to children at the WIC centers, sorting, boxing, and delivering books to the WIC centers monthly. You can also support the Birth-2-Five Program financially and know that your money is directly impacting the future of the Lehigh Valley.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, please email Cathy Leiber at [info@judithsreadingroom.org](mailto:info@judithsreadingroom.org). Donations can be mailed to 5 East 3rd Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015 or donate online at [www.judithsreadingroom.org/donate](http://www.judithsreadingroom.org/donate).



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.



**Rosemary Baker**

**VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH:**  
**ROSEMARY BAKER (April)**  
**TONI HOFFMAN (May)**

Rosemary has been to 26 Boxing Parties, starting in December 2010 at Boxing Party #9 and Toni has been to 20 Boxing Parties, starting magically with Boxing Party #2 in 2010.

Both helped to invent the concept of "Virtual Boxing Parties" which is an idea that appears on our website.

We have gained virtual boxers from out of state as a result! And, thanks to Toni's leadership in AAUW, Judith's Reading Room has had tremendous access to all three Lehigh Valley branches of AAUW. We have been the lucky beneficiaries of donated books and access to AAUW Book Sales.



**Toni Hoffman**