

bookish

JUDITH'S
READING
ROOM
NEWSLETTER

JUL/AUG 2014
VOLUME 2
ISSUE 4



GREEN YOUR BOOKSHELF & GIVE BOOKS A NEW LIFE!

REDUCE YOUR WASTE BY RECYCLING YOUR BOOKS FOR REUSE AROUND THE WORLD

On June 5, Judith's Reading Room was one of five local non-profits to benefit from Olympus's first-ever "Stuff-a-Truck" event. The event, part of the company's World Environment Day celebrations, encouraged Olympus employees to donate used household goods in order to keep them out of landfills. Over 900 employees participated!

It may be summer now, but it's never too late to start your spring cleaning. What better way to start

than dusting off your bookshelf and donating books to a worthy cause? Even the most literate and well-read of us can find at least a box of books to donate. They can be children's books no longer age-appropriate for children or grandchildren or adult novels that are either lovingly memorized or hastily read and forgotten. We ship such books to schoolchildren around the world who are learning English. Or the books could be donated to the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) programs in the Lehigh Valley to inspire a love of reading in children under the age of five. Maybe they will travel on the sea

aboard the USS George HW Bush and provide comfort to Sailors far from home.

Help us bring the adventure of books to a new audience. To donate your books, or to organize a book drive, visit www.judithsreadingroom.org.

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Judith's Reading Room

AT A
GLANCE

78
LIBRARIES
1677
Volunteers

SIX STATES

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

\$892,738

value of books donated

88,244 Books

Afghanistan
Bhutan
China
India
Japan
Nigeria

12 COUNTRIES

Albania
Cambodia
Costa Rica
Indonesia
Namibia
Philippines

WHAT'S NEW AT JUDITH'S READING ROOM

NEW LIBRARY OPENS IN CHINA

On June 1st, Judith's Reading Room dedicated a library at Da Chao Shan Elementary School in China. The library was made possible through the efforts of Jared Fantasia, who collected over 2,000 books, and Daisy Girl Scout troop members who packed books from their home libraries. Donated in honor of Cathy Leiber's former boss and his wife, Dinyar and Aashish Devitre, the collection represents the spirit of friendship the Devitres extended to Leiber when she and her family moved to China for her work.



NEW LIBRARY OPENS IN THE PHILIPPINES

On July 2nd, Judith's Reading Room dedicated a library at the Magarao Central School in The Philippines serving 1,300 students from K-6. Melissa Klauser (center) contacted us to help her create a library of children's storybooks in English as her Peace Corps service project. She has organized three-day training sessions for librarians, teachers, and students on library usage. We donated 292 books worth \$1,406 to help create a culture of reading for fun at this school.

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



Children enjoy donated books at a Philadelphia Boys & Girls Club

COMBATING "SUMMER SLIDE" IN THE CITY

JUDITH'S READING ROOM DONATES BOOKS TO THE GREATER PHILADELPHIA BOYS & GIRLS CLUB TO CURB "SUMMER SLIDE"

Some slides are better than others in childhood. The tall slide on the playground? Good. Summer slide? Not so good. "Summer slide" is the loss of skill, knowledge and motivation gained throughout the previous school year due to lack of practice over the summer. Researchers at the National Summer Learning Association have estimated that children can lose up to two months of instructional time, which is 22% of the school year. This loss lags down instruction at the start of the new school year as teachers have to take time to re-teach what has been forgotten. Additionally, students from low-income families are at a greater loss because of a lack of access to reading materials during the summer.

It is this particular problem that Judith's Reading Room seeks to impact with a donation of 300 books to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Philadelphia. The donation will give five books to each child.

"With these books we plan to encourage our young people to cultivate traits of a life-long learner," says Christopher Gale, Manager of Literacy Initiatives at Boys & Girls Clubs of Philadelphia. "We are committed to these young people and books are an essential tool to help us."

Judith's Reading Room and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Philadelphia established a partnership last year with the donation of five mobile libraries containing more than 1,800 books for five Boys & Girls Clubs in and around metro Philadelphia.

"We hope that the donation of wonderful children's literature will encourage these young people to read over the summer so that they can start school on an equal playing field in the fall," said Cathy Leiber, President and Co-founder of Judith's Reading Room.

events



AUGUST

12
Boxing Party #53

SEPTEMBER

2 (TUESDAY)
Boxing Party #54

OCTOBER

6
Boxing Party #55

**Could one of these Boxing Parties reach 100,000 DONATED BOOKS?
Bring a friend and help us attempt to break our records!**

5 East 3rd Street
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

5 East 3rd Street
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

5 East 3rd Street
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Banned Books Week 2014

September 21-27

Celebrate Banned Books Week by holding your very own event!

Can't make it to a Banned Books Week event? Hold your own! Here are a few ways to get involved:

- **Read a banned book!** The American Library Association has a list of frequently challenged books—everything from *Where's Waldo* to *Captain Underpants*! www.ala.org/bbooks
- **Get the word out!** Send a note to your friends and colleagues about the importance of Banned Books Week
- **Donate your favorite banned books to Judith's Reading Room!**

WHAT'S ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND?

VOLUNTEER ANTHONY BAKER TALKS ABOUT HIS NIGHTSTAND

What is special about your nightstand?

My nightstand is also my stereo—an old pair of Yamaha speakers hooked up to a new mini-amp from Lepai. In addition to reading, I love listening to all types of music.

Do you judge a book by its cover?

If I am browsing for a book in a bookstore or library, I definitely judge a book by its cover, especially if it's a book I haven't heard of. Other than that, I don't really judge. The cover doesn't matter at all to me if the book is by an author I like or if the book got good reviews.

What genre do you find yourself reading the most?

I find myself reading a lot of short fiction. I have read some excellent collections of short stories from David Huddle, Raymond Carver, Haruki Murakami, and I also love the "Best American" Collections.

What is the best book you've ever read?

The absolute best book I have read recently is without a doubt *The Family Fang* by Kevin Wilson. It is one of those books you can't put down. I don't know if I have ever laughed out loud while

reading a book as much as I did while reading *The Family Fang* (Watch out, David Sedaris). But as funny as it was, it was also thought-provoking and touching. What book are you most looking forward to reading?

I am excited to read all of these! *Infinite Jest* is a landmark novel and David Foster Wallace is one of my favorite authors. I love Donna Tartt and Dave Eggers. It is fun to browse *The Marquis* (a collection of Lafayette student writing). I would have to say I'm most excited to read *The Power of Now*. It was recommended to me by a friend after it changed his entire outlook on life. Summer is as good a time as any to gain some spiritual wisdom, and from everything I've heard, this is an amazing book.

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



On Anthony's nightstand:
The Power of Now Eckhart Tolle
The Circle Dave Eggers
Infinite Jest David Foster Wallace
The Goldfinch Donna Tartt
Ogilvy on Advertising David Ogilvy

WE READ BANNED BOOKS!

JUDITH'S READING ROOM TEAMS UP TO CELEBRATE THE LEGACY OF JUDITH F. KRUG

This September will mark the 32nd anniversary of Banned Books Week, and Judith's Reading Room is excited to team up with Moravian Academy and The Doylestown Bookshop.

Moravian Academy students and teachers are currently planning events to coincide with Banned Books Week, and The Doylestown Bookshop will host Scott Leiber, co-founder of Judith's Reading Room and Judith F. Krug's first cousin, for a presentation about Krug and the history of Banned Books Week. The store, located in downtown Doylestown, PA, has a Banned Books Week featured display each year.

The American Library Association tracks the most frequently challenged and banned books each year. Below are the top ten (out of 307) most frequently challenged books as of June 2014.

The 2014 Top Ten List of Challenged Books:

1. *Captain Underpants* (series) Dav Pilkey
2. *The Bluest Eye* Toni Morrison
3. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* Sherman Alexie
4. *Fifty Shades of Grey* E. L. James
5. *The Hunger Games* Suzanne Collins
6. *A Bad Boy Can Be Good for a Girl* Tanya Lee Stone
7. *Looking for Alaska* John Green
8. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* Stephen Chbosky
9. *Bless Me Ultima* Rudolfo Anaya
10. *Bone* (series) Jeff Smith

www.judithsreadingroom.org | www.facebook.com/JudithsReadingRoom | www.twitter.com/JReadingRm



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.



Bob & Ellie Conti

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH: **BOB & ELLIE CONTI (June)** **JARED FANTASIA (July)**

Ellie Conti began volunteering in February 2012 and soon brought her husband, Bob, with her. Between them, they have attended a combined 29 Boxing Parties. Bob, a veteran of the US Air Force, fought in the Korean Conflict. Their family tree includes generations of military service, and it is this tie to our servicemen and women and veterans that keeps them volunteering month after month.

Jared Fantasia became acquainted with Judith's Reading Room through his high school library. Jared organized a book drive on his own and collected 2,871 books. He has also inspired 3 generations of his family to volunteer at Judith's Reading Room—his grandmother, mother, and sister.

**Thank you Bob,
Ellie, and Jared!**



Jared Fantasia