

Creative Readers thanks its graduating volunteers



(L-R) Elise May, Rebecca Hirsch, Juliana D'Alessandro, Emily Polk, Adeline Lerner; Ann Marie Fitzpatrick. Not pictured: Eric Fishbin, Annie Kline, Gabrielle Sanft, Benny Schaub

Since the spring of 2012, Creative Readers has brought many special people to the Library on Saturday mornings. An inclusive arts and literacy program which brings books alive through dramatic enactment, music, movement and art, the program matches teen buddies with elementary school students for sessions throughout the school year. Creative Readers is co-sponsored by PWPL and PW SEPTA.

Creative Readers Developer and Program Director Elise May and Administrative Director Ann Marie Fitzpatrick, along with Library Director Nancy Curtin, would like to recognize the dedication of the long-time volunteers who are graduating this June: Juliana D'Alessandro, Eric Fishbin, Rebecca Hirsch, Annie Kline, Adeline Lerner, Emily Polk, Gabrielle Sanft and Benny Schaub.

"Our volunteers extend our reach with their passion and commitment," says Curtin. "Whether to advise, teach or lend a helping hand, we are so lucky to have a reserve of volunteer talent committed to the Library."

May shares, "Our Creative Readers volunteers are fabulous! They train, work hard, face chal-

lenges with grace and keep coming back. Some have been with us since the program started. We are so proud of them."

Fitzpatrick agrees, "It has been a wonderful four plus years watching these volunteers mature into adults. These seniors gave up their Saturday mornings to work with their 'buddies.' Their commitment to the program is commendable and they became role models for our new volunteer crew. We will miss them."

A program initially designed to benefit its younger participants, it was quickly realized this was a special program for all involved. In the words of senior Emily Polk, "I thought Creative Readers would be just another bullet to add to my laundry list. Little did I know that my Saturday mornings would become the highlight of my week, and that my experiences and 'buddies' in this program would allow me to grow as a person, and change how I view myself and others.

"On Saturday mornings, these kids are not defined by what they can't do, but rather by their strengths. Creative Readers gives them a platform to break away from their so-called "disability" and express who they truly are."