

Between April 5 and May 17, 2006, we received 341 different stories from Philadelphians of all ages and backgrounds. You can use this map to find twenty of them—and here's one more, for luck!

Olivia Gilbert's Autobiography

I was born in Philadelphia, a twin sister to a boy named Oliver Patterson. Going to school I was always afraid, because we had to go through the area that was infested by gangs. My brother Oliver had to look out for me, my other brother, named Hamp, and my sister, Brenda. I myself thought the job was too heavy for a ten-year-old who was also afraid. As a child, what was he to do? Every morning I dreaded getting up for another day of school, wondering what my brother was thinking as he stared out the window. Should I try and comfort him? Should I dare ask him if everything was O.K.? I knew he wouldn't let us in on the secret he kept inside himself. Although it was no secret to us, it took him a long time to share his feelings.

I can remember times when he had to fight the boys who attended our school. He had to keep them from lifting up our skirts and pulling down our panties. He had to show them he would not permit the mistreating of his sisters. He was not allowed to fail. The one fight I remember the most was when he had to fight this big boy, twice his size, who liked scaring little girls into liking him. My brother didn't know what to do. I wanted to ram that boy into the wall, but I was smaller than my brother and more terrified. I was not alone, my sister and my other brother were there, but not one of us would help my brother. I was so ashamed. I hoped they felt the same. My brother fought that big boy and lost, but the boy shook his hand. It turned out that no one would stand up to the boy but my brother. He gained respect from every boy and girl that day.

The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin is the most widely published autobiography of all time. In honor of Franklin's 300th birthday, the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary and *One Book, One Philadelphia* invited today's Philadelphians to submit a memoir of their own, using no more than 300 words. At the end of the project – May 17, 2006 – a panel of judges selected twenty autobiographies to appear on bus shelters throughout the city. Visit www.theautobiographyproject.com for more information about the project, and to read more Philadelphia stories.

The Autobiography Project is presented by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary and *One Book, One Philadelphia*, with the support of Drexel University and the Greater Philadelphia Wordshop Studio.

The Autobiography Project is sponsored by *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Daily News* and *Philly.com*, and by SEPTA (the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority).

The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, a non-profit organization supported by a lead grant of \$4 million from The Pew Charitable Trusts, was established to mark the 300-year anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's birth (1706-2006) with a celebration dedicated to educating the public about his enduring legacy and inspiring renewed appreciation of the values he embodied. The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary was founded in 2000 by a consortium of five Philadelphia cultural institutions: the American Philosophical Society, The Franklin Institute, The Library Company of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the University of Pennsylvania. In addition, an Act of Congress in 2002 created the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission, a panel of fifteen outstanding Americans chosen to study and recommend programs to celebrate Franklin's 300th birthday. The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary can be found online at www.benfranklin300.org.

One Book, One Philadelphia is a project of the Mayor's Office and the Free Library of Philadelphia. Lead sponsor Independence Blue Cross.



Greater Philadelphia
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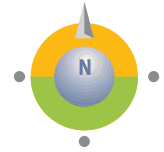
THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY PROJECT

* Use this map to find all twenty
"Bus Shelter Autobiographies"

June 26 – July 23, 2006
Center City Philadelphia

Map of Center City Philadelphia showing the "Bus Shelter Autobiographies"

June 26 – July 23, 2006



The Autobiographers are:

Jessica Anderson
 Anonymous
 Tim Bowman
 Dennis Capoferri
 Robin Fradkin
 Shawn Hart
 Raymond Horton
 Jinwon Jong

Tahirah Karim
 Oni Lasana
 Melissa Mandos
 Phyllis Mass
 Fouzia Musse
 Nidy Rivera
 Kimberly Rothwell
 David Sanders

J. L. Schnabel
 Jim Staerk
 Sage Waring
 Marguerite Wunsch

Bus Shelter with Autobiography

Bus Shelter with Autobiography from June 26 – July 9 only



Map courtesy of: Center City District