

Upper Merion Township Library Board Meeting
May 9, 2016 6:45p.m.-7:45p.m.

Attendees:

Jonathan Black, David Bristowe, Sharon Duris, Katie Kohler, Janet Medrow, Linda Noll, Karl Helicher-Library Director, Carole Keeney-Township Liaison

Minutes:

Minutes were approved from the April 11, 2016 meeting.

Adult Services and Director's Comments:

- Money Smart April was a huge success. Thanks to Upromise for sponsoring three major seminars for our patrons. The topics included Money Talks: Finance 101, Special Needs Trusts, and Estate Planning & Trusts. Along with the financial consultant, Attorney William Adair Bonner, Esq. assisted the seminar. As Wills and Trust was very well attended, we will have another seminar on September 27, 2016 at 7 p.m. Attendees received information packet and journals sponsored by Upromise.
- Zumba on Monday, April 4, 2016 was very well attended.
- Stephen Blumm, retired professor at the Montgomery County Community College, discussed the Holocaust and Nazi propaganda, on April 5, 2016. A small but engrossed audience also shared their own stories about the Holocaust. The talk was in conjunction with a very successful "One Book, One Country" event led by Daniel James Browns THE BOYS ON THE BOAT. Mr. Brown also discussed his New York Times bestseller on Book Chat, on April 19, 2016.
- Sixteen adults attended coloring Night on April 11, 2016, the next one will be on May 9, 2016 at 7 p.m.
- Meditation workshop on Thursday, April 14, 2016 was very informative and we received requests for conducting it more often. Our next one is on August 23, 2016.
- Spring Book Discussion continues. The last one is on May 15, 2016.
- Our April Tech Night was a full house and with a few on the waiting list. Our youth volunteers are doing a fantastic job in helping our patrons and we have started to see new faces every month. We have two new youth volunteers who joined the crew last month.
- Murder Mystery Night on April 27, 2016 was a HUGE success. We had 40 characters one of them being myself to investigate who killed Max Liter? Ms. Rochelle from Victorian Vanities did a wonderful job directing it. It was a fun night. There were 15 who just watched the show but they were asked to solve

the mystery as well. Very impressed to see the mid to late 20 age group join the library program.

- Count down starts for the Art Show on Saturday, May 21, 2016 from 10 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. The day will be filled with art displays, face painting, workshops, and presentation, sponsored by MCGOPA members followed by reception at 3 p.m. Our inside display case displayed art and photographs by MCGOPA. Our display table across reference desk will also go with the art theme.

Children's Services:

- Library Visit with the Little Vikings with Mrs. Clifton from the high school brought her Little Vikings class of thirteen preschool children along with the thirteen high school students enrolled in her child development lab to the library on April 4, 2016 for a story time presentation with Susan Kirkpatrick. Miss Sue shared stories and led the group with finger plays and songs centering on the theme Spring has Sprung. Participants took home bookmarks and magnets with the library's website and contact information.
- Fun Friday on April 8, 2016 twenty children in K-4th grade attended a presentation with educators from Winterthur for a program titled, "Once upon a Playtime". Participants learned about games and toys that were popular in the past and had the opportunity for hands on fun with what the educators brought including Alphabet Gymnastics, Jacobs Ladders, tops, and buzz saws.
- April was designated as Family Reading Month in the Children's Department. Calendar logs were created listing the special activities in April and providing tips for building early literacy skills. Parents were challenged to read 20 minutes a day with their children during April. Participants who reported 5 days of reading aloud with their children received an entry for a prize drawing that took place on May 3, 2016. There were sixty-four entries in the prize drawing. Two families received free family passes for a showing of The Secret Garden at the Arden Theater.
- The title featured by the state of Pennsylvania for the 2016 Pennsylvania One Book, Every Young Child campaign is Kite Day written and illustrated by Will Hillenbrand. This is the eleventh year that a children's picture book has been chosen by the state for a One Book Campaign to highlight the importance of early literacy development for preschoolers. Kite Day was featured in all of the library's daytime story time classes during the week of April 25, 2016. A copy of the book was given to each family enrolled in the library's story time classes as well as to each local daycare and nursery school involved in the library's outreach program.
- The library was selected as one of three libraries in Montgomery County to host

a free author visit with award winning, Kite Day author/illustrator, Will Hillenbrand on April 12, 2016. Jeanne Kauffman interviewed Will Hillenbrand for Book Chat, which will be shown on UMGA-TV at a latter date. Afterwards the author did a presentation for 150 children and parents in Freedom Hall and stayed after to autograph a copy of his book for each family. Participants made their own kite and took home information about preparing their child for kindergarten.

- One hundred ninety-five children are participating in the 1,000 Books before Kindergarten program. The program is designed to educate parents and increase the amount of time they spend reading and participating in activities that enhance their children's literacy skills.
- Younger students in K-2 meet weekly with older students in 5th-12th grade to practice reading skills. There are currently 58 active pairs of reading buddies. On May 23, 2016, the library will host a Reading Buddies party celebrating the participants in this wonderful program.
- Jeanne Kauffman, Laura Arnhold and Becky Ginther attended the annual Kutztown University's Children's Literature Conference on April 16, 2016. They listened to presentations by children's book authors and illustrators including Jonathan Bean, Daniel Kirk, Andrea Pinkney and Emily Mcully.
- The library's annual environmental Jeopardy competition for 5th-8th graders took place April 18, 2016. Seventeen middle school students responded to questions compiled by Rina Das to test the group's knowledge of recycling and the environment. Mariah Nguyen was the 1st place winner. Nathan Dallas took second place and Amy Dallas was the third place winner. The winners received prizes and everyone enjoyed dirt cake and lemonade refreshments.
- Seventeen children ages 3½ to 6 and fifteen adults participated in the library's Earth Day Story time with Susan Kirkpatrick on April 21, 2016. Participants listened to stories and songs about caring for the earth and celebrated the earth's birthday with dirt cake. They made their own planet earth by gluing tissue paper pieces to paper plates and reinforced the learning with Earth Day worksheets and recycling book marks to take home.
- Six children ages 3-6 and five adults participated in a block party with Becky Ginther on April 25, 2016. Block playing requires fine and gross motor skills, enhances problem solving and spatial learning skills and is fundamental for later cognitive success with numbers and math.
- Outreach to local preschools and child care centers took place during April. Storytellers provided story times to 41 separate preschool classrooms focusing on the One Book Every Young Child selection, Kite Day. Storytellers modeled practices that build early literacy skills and provided handouts that introduced the

library and its programs and services to the staff members and families enrolled in these schools. There were 877 children and 145 adults who benefited from this service. Traveling story times will resume again in the fall.

- The library offered a special Saturday story times geared to children ages 2 to 5 on April 23, 2016. Story times scheduled on Saturdays provide opportunities for children whose parents work during the week to attend our story time programs. Approximately 15 children and their parents or caregivers participated in lively songs, stories and craft activities with Laura Arnhold.
- Nine members of the Junior Friends Thespian group presented skits and songs for 100 people at the Family Reading Month Closing event on May 3, 2016. The presentation included three fractured fairy tales. Sarah Kirkpatrick, a graduating high school senior directed the production to fulfill requirements for her senior project at Upper Merion High School. Laura Arnhold served as her advisor. Sarah handled the auditions, costuming, publicity, stage sets and was in charge at rehearsals. The camera crew from UMGA TV filmed the show.
- There were holiday displays for April Fool's Day, Arbor Day, Passover and Easter during April. There were also small displays on jokes, kites, spring, frogs, autism and science in honor of the annual Science Festival held each year in Philadelphia during April.

Report From Carole Keeney-Township Liaison:

- Carole updated the board on various township activities.

Upcoming Events:

- June 13, 2016 Library Board Meeting 6:45 p.m.
- No July 2016 Library Board Meeting
- October 10, 2016 Library Friend of the Year Presentation to Dr. John Egan before Library Board Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,


Sharon Duris, Secretary