

Upper Merion Township Library Board Meeting

March 10, 2014-6:45-8:00P.M.

Attendees:

David Bristowe, Sharon Duris, Aleta Duey, John Egan, Tracy Pasquale, Linda Noll, Janet Medrow, Karl Helicher-Library Director, Carole Kenney-Township Liaison

Minutes:

Minutes of the February 10, 2014 Library Board meeting were approved.

Adult Services:

Twenty-nine readers have registered to date for the Spring series, Women's Struggles and Triumphs. Then and Now. The five-book program will begin on March 16 and conclude on May 18. Drs. Carla Verderame and Erin Hurt, from West Chester University's English Department, will return to lead the discussions.

On February 26 David Updike, co-editor of, Philadelphia Mural [Arts@30](#), chatted about the book.

Dr. Andrew Isenberg, author of, Wyatt Earp: A Vigilante's Life will appear on April 2.

Despite several snowstorms, one hundred people enjoyed the 15th annual Celebration of Black History on February 8. Music, food and crafts highlighted the program: The Road to Freedom through Culture, Community, and Civil Rights. The director acknowledges the excellent and dedicated work of the officers of the Friends of Black History: Patricia Ackah, Winona Brown, Ruth Harmon, Virginia Hammond, and Cecelia Crommarty and several staff members who also helped to plan the event.

Twenty adult readers are participating in the Inaugural Winter Reading Program that encourages reading during the bleak winter months, and this has been among the bleakest.

Fourteen people attended the February 24 Tech Night, at which they received individualized instruction from volunteer high school students in how to make good use of I Pods, I Pads, and downloadable reading devices. The next Tech Night will be held on March 24 at 7pm.

To date residents from fourteen countries will offer entertainment, food, and crafts from their native countries on March 18 at 6 p.m.

Charmaine Rusen presented Immune Booster Natural Health Workshop on March 3.

On Monday April 7, Traditional Chinese Culture will be explored. The program is appropriate for all ages six and up. Registration is required. To register, call the library at 610-265-4805 or do so through our online calendar.

The Atrium Display currently has items for Neighborhood Meals on Wheels on display.

Children's Services:

On February 6, Sue Kirkpatrick coordinated a special story and craft time for twenty moms and children involved in Upper Merion Mother's Club. She led a Valentine's themed story time with stories, songs, and finger plays. Lakeshore Learning provided supplies for the participants to make Valentine's Day cards for themselves and to give to residents of the King of Prussia ManorCare Services facility.

On February 8 twenty-five children in 1st-4th grade participated in Fun Friday with Laura Arnhold. Miss. Laura read Windblown by Ann Tompart, a story about colorful, oddly shaped scraps of paper that are blown by the wind and combine to make different characters. Participants in Fun Friday used scissors to cut shapes in order to create the book characters and to make their own creations.

On February 10, Camera crew members, Jim Carracappa and Andrew MacBride from UMGA TV partnered with library staff members to film a Public Service Announcement starring

members of the Junior Friends of the Library. The PSA highlights the exciting programs offered at the library during the **2014 Fizz, Boom Read** Summer Reading Club and will air in the spring time. The Junior Friends not involved in the filming participated in a Do-It-Yourself Spa and Game night. Participants tried recipes for homemade lip gloss, body scrubs, nail polish, body glitter, facial masks, and played cards and other board games.

On February 12 sixteen children in 1st-4th grade participated in Star Wars book series party. Laura Arnhold shared books from the series and directed the children in groups through various Star War challenges including pin the light saber on Yoda, an Origami Yoda folding activity, a bean bag blast and saber training with a pool noodle.

On February 17, the needed repairs were made to the Children's Department Preschool Place area. The damaged raised floor was removed, the inner shelving units were lowered and new carpeting was installed. Removing the interior platform has made it easier for wheel chair bound patrons to use the library's picture book collection.

The library is offering monthly S.T.E.M.(Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) story times for children ages 3½ to 6. On February 25, Susan Kirkpatrick presented the science behind stories about the human body and anatomy. She shared stories, games and hands on activities exploring respiration and digestion. Participants were given life sized pictures of internal organs to take home along with instruction on how to glue them to butcher paper outlines of their own bodies.

On February 25, twenty middle school students came out for a showing of Despicable Me 2. The library was the beneficiary of a grant received by Montgomery County Norristown Public Library that provided funding for special equipment and training to libraries in Montgomery County willing to offer adapted story times for children with disabilities. As part of this grant, the Children's Department is offering bi-weekly Saturday Story times in March for children ages 3 to 8 with disabilities. These story times provide more structured story sharing experiences and smaller class sizes than traditional library story times. On March 1, Laura Arnhold presented a story and activity time to five children, one of whom was in a wheel chair. The Children's department continues to seek ways of reaching out to children of all abilities.

On February 26, ten children in kindergarten-2nd grade attended a book party celebrating popular children's picture book character, Fly Guy. Laura Arnhold shared two Fly Guy stories with participants, Hi, Fly Guy, and a pre-released version of A Pet for Fly Guy, both written by Ted Arnold. In addition the children created their own personal Fly Guys using cardstock and wax paper and made a flew a paper folded airplane.

Currently there are 52 preschool children enrolled in the library's 1,000 Books before Kindergarten Program. Parents record what they have read to their children on special reading logs. For each 100 books read, the children receive stickers or other small prizes. Children who complete the program are invited to a special celebration in August and get their names and accomplishment listed on a bookplate inside one of the books added to the library's circulating collection.

Winter story hours continue for the infant, toddler, parachute, preschool and family story times. Numerous weather related cancellations have occurred this month. All of the story hour classes except for the pajama story time have been extended past the week of March 17 when registration for the Spring Story hours will begin.

Planning continues for the summer reading program based on the theme: **Fizz, Boom, Read**. All of the summer shows have been booked. This year's culminating event will be a visit from Stubby the helicopter.

Book displays in February included holiday books for Ground Hogs Day, Valentine's Day, and Presidents' Day. Books on winter sports were featured on the small table Winter Olympics display. Other displays featured Flat Stanley's visits to various locations, books on dragons,

famous people and birds. The large table display showcased African American culture and history in honor of Black History Month.

Report from Carole Kenney-Supervisor Liaison:

Carole updated the Board on various township actives.

Upcoming Events:

April 3, 2014 Workshop 7:30pm

No April 14, 2014 Library Board Meeting due to joint meeting on April 29, 2014.

April 29, 2014 Joint Meeting with Board of Supervisors at 7:30.

May 12, 2014 Library Board Meeting 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Duris".

Sharon Duris