

**Upper Merion Township Library Board Meeting**  
December 8, 2014-6:45-7:30P.M.

**Attendees:**

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

**Minutes:**

Minutes were approved from the November 10, 2014 meeting.

**Fundraising:**

The board continued to discuss the Mini-Golf Tournament that is set for March 28, 2015.

**Adult Services and Directors Comments:**

- The library board and staff thank California Pizza Kitchen for contributing \$390 to a fundraising event held on November 13, 2014.
- The Upper Merion Township Shade Tree Commission recently donated several beautiful books about trees to the library.
- On November 7, 2014, for the sixth consecutive year, the library was turned into a magical place: the Enchanted Library. More than 300 children and adults were captivated by the famous children's detectives on the case. The Enchanted Library, which was created by children's librarian Laura Arnhold, has become one of the library's most popular events. All acting roles were performed by the Junior Friends of the Library and much of the beautiful artwork was done by Stephanie Spangler.
- Wireless printing will soon be available in the library where patrons may print from their own electronic devices.
- Winter reading programs for teens and adults will begin on January 5, 2015. We look forward to another successful year with many participants who realize that curling up with a book in cold weather is a worthy endeavor!
- Tech Night will be held on Monday December 15, 2014 at 7 p.m. The library will also demonstrate its new ipads, recently bought for library programs.
- The library cannot guarantee that December will be without stress for those who attend a series of workshops on how to avoid holiday season tensions, but attending them sure will help. Please see the library's website ([www.umtownship.org/library](http://www.umtownship.org/library)) for details on these programs and all others at the library.
- The final Book Chat of 2014 will be taped on December 16, 2014 with Harlow Giles Unger who will discuss his most recent book, John Marshall: The Chief Justice Who Saved the Nation. Mr. Unger, the author of twenty books, has previously appeared on Book Chat.

**Children's Services:**

- Seventeen kids in 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade participated in Captain Underpants book party on November 3, 2014. Laura Arnhold came dressed as Captain Underpants wearing a red cape, and tights with men's jockey underwear over the top. Participants listened to a chapter from the recent Captain Underpants adventure, used crayons to draw their own Captain Underpants adventure page and participated in relays that involved pulling the elastic waist band of a pair of men's jockey shorts back to catapult it to the end of aisle and lobbing toilet paper rolls into a real toilet seat.
- On November 4, 2014, forty people attended the library showing of the Lego Movie.
- The library replaced the eight-year-old AWE Learning Computer Station with a new Bi-lingual version that features educational games for children in both English and Spanish.

- This years Enchanted Library theme focused on famous detective book series including Cam Jansen, Nancy Drew, Encyclopedia Brown, Sammy Keyes, Lemony Snicket, Nate the Great, and Sherlock Holmes. Middle School guides led tour groups through the darkened library to meet book characters and help solve The Mystery of the Lost treasure.
- Laura Arnhold and a group of seven 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders discussed the book, Flora & Ulysses by Kate Dicamillo on November 12, 2014.
- Six children and five adults attended the monthly sensory story time with Laura Arnhold on November 8, 2014 for children with special needs. The next one will be held on December 13, 2014.
- Fall story hours ended officially the week of November 10, 2014. Holiday story times for Hanukkah and Christmas will be offered on December 2, December 9, 10 and 11, 2014. Storyteller, BJ Miragila will provide two special story times on January 14 and 15, 2015 for children from birth to 3 years old during the interim between the Fall and Winter class sessions. Registration for the six-week Winter class session will begin the week of January 12, 2015.
- Twenty-four children in first through fourth grade participated in Fun Friday with Laura Arnhold on November 14, 2014. This month's theme was electricity. Laura shared the book, Night Light and demonstrated how to create a battery to power a small light using real lemons, coins, nails and connector cables. Participants used balloons to create static electricity in their hair and participated in an energy circle.
- Sue Kirkpatrick shared stories and activities to introduce electrical science concepts to twenty children ages 3½ to 5 on November 17, 2014. She shared stories including the book, Night Light by Nicholas Blechman. The kids got to experience the conductivity of electricity by holding hands in an energy circle.
- Twenty members of the Junior Friends members met November 17, 2014. The newly elected officers discussed plans for the upcoming year. The middle school participants also listened to book talks and viewed book trailers of a wide variety of recently published books for this age group.
- Moms from Upper Merion Mother's Club brought their children to the library for a special Thanksgiving themed story time with BJ Miraglia on November 19, 2014. Thirty children from birth to 5 years old participated in songs, finger plays, shaker eggs and flannel board activities surrounding the theme.
- This years **Write & Illustrate Your Own Book Contest** judging panel included Judy Snook, Diane Shatzman, Joan Shaw, Terry McArdle, Laura Selinsky, and Jim Carracappa. They concluded their work during the third week in November and winners were announced on November 24, 2014. Book contest winners along with the summer art contest winners will be honored at an awards ceremony on December 7, 2014. All of the winning entries will be bound, cataloged and added to the library's circulating collection. The 2014 Book Contest Winners are as follows:

#### **Kindergarten:**

1<sup>st</sup> place-Max Belmonte  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place-Siddarth Sankar  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place-Dhanmish Yugeswardeenoo  
 Hon. Mention-Talia Smerecki

#### **First Grade**

1<sup>st</sup> place-Nikilai Nawrocki  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place-Kristen Naraga  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place-Jayaditya Palai  
 Hon. Mention-Kieran Lamey  
 Hon. Mention-Nishan Bouloutian

**Second Grade**

1<sup>st</sup> place-Sam Belmonte  
2<sup>nd</sup> place-Sierra Martello  
3<sup>rd</sup> place-Shamili Kochervu  
Hon. Mention-Sailor Abraham

**Third Grade**

1<sup>st</sup> place-Rujuta Gandhi  
2<sup>nd</sup> place-Megan Chaing  
3<sup>rd</sup> place-Cooper Abraham  
Hon. Mention-Nathan Gomes

**Fourth Grade**

1<sup>st</sup> place-Devanshi Bhargava  
2<sup>nd</sup> place-Niru Vijakrishanan  
3<sup>rd</sup> place-Sofia Lydecker  
Hon. Mention-Maya Eberlin  
Hon. Mention-Svara Mazumder

**Fifth Grade**

1<sup>st</sup> place-Mahitha Penmetsa and Siri Dandu  
2<sup>nd</sup> place-Miya Shin  
3<sup>rd</sup> place-Elijah Canete  
3<sup>rd</sup> place-Anna Walmsley  
Hon. Mention-Adam Hox

**Sixth Grade**

1<sup>st</sup> place-Sarah Adams  
1<sup>st</sup> place-Diya Das  
2<sup>nd</sup> place-Dona Bardakjian  
3<sup>rd</sup> place-Razeen Akbar and Sophie Kvetan

**Seventh Grade**

1<sup>st</sup> place-Alyssa Galban  
2<sup>nd</sup> place-Maha Moghal  
3<sup>rd</sup> place-Regan Cherelli  
Hon. Mention-Sevag Yeopyan

**Eighth Grade**

1<sup>st</sup> place-Brennan Leach  
2<sup>nd</sup> place-Laura Rendon  
3<sup>rd</sup> place-Lena Bardakjian

- The Reading Buddy Program matches emerging readers with older students in 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. Currently there are 48 active pairs of reading buddies.
- The displays showcased art and artists' books with a tower of handmade soup cans created a la Andy Warhol. Rina Das highlighted bedtime stories on the small table display. Books on ballet, elephants and holiday books for Hanukkah, Thanksgiving, and the Day of the dead were also

displayed.

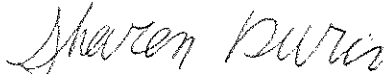
**Report From Carole Kenney-Supervisor Liaison:**

- Carole updated the Board on Various township activities.

**Upcoming Events:**

- January 12, 2015 Library Board Meeting 6:45 p.m.(Re-organizational Meeting)
- March 28, 2015 Library Mini Golf

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Sharon Duris, Secretary