

Upper Merion Township Library Board Meeting

November 9, 2015 6:45p.m.-7:45p.m.

Attendees:

Sharon Duris, John Egan, Katie Kohler, Janet Medrow, Linda Knoll, Tracy Pasquale, Karl Helicher-Library Director, Carole Keeney-Township Liaison

Minutes:

Minutes were approved from the October 12, 2015 meeting

Adult Services and Director Comments:

- Monday October 5, 2015 presenter Darla DeMorrow discussed strategies for individuals and small businesses, Identity theft (good rules for shredding), using technology effectively to save time & money & organizing space.
- Performance by Veronica & her VEP Band for Jazz night on October 9, 2015 was well received.
- President Susan Shelton was here on October 13, 2015 to discuss Teen Safety. Parents and teens attended this very informative workshop.
- Gina Gormley returned to discuss "Healthy Eating" on October 21, 2015. Target donated raffle prizes for the evening and we supplied healthy snacks for the attendees.
- Tech Night was on October 26, 2015.
- Diwali at the Library on November was a huge success. This is the first year the adult and children's departments joined forces to celebrate Diwali. Library volunteers put together 15 table displays, each one uniquely representing different 9, 2015.
- Indian cultures. The tables also included information on different states of India, Henna tattoos, Saree draping and much more. The celebration attracted more than 225 people. Patrons appreciated our effort in educating the community about India. Table representatives were emotional, happy, and proud to celebrate Diwali here at the Library many thousands miles away from their homeland.
- Two Social Security Workshops will be held on November 5 and 12, 2105. Registration for this popular, recurring, and informative workshop continues to increase.
- Victorian Vanities will present "Castles of the Empire State", a new look at some of the most beautiful castles in New York State, many only a few hour's drive from King of Prussia. The program will be presented on Monday, November 9, 2015.
- Mr. Dixon will lecture on the 20th century on November 11, 2015.
- Dr. Steven will be here on November 16, 2015 to talk about food in Egypt and the

ancient world.

- Camera Club Volunteers agreed to do a session on Camera basics for our patrons on November 19, 2015.
- The third of five book discussions in the fall series will be on November 8, 2015. Dr. Erin Hurt will lead the discussion on, *An Unnecessary Woman*, by Rabih Alameddine.
- To help the library celebrate Diwali, Priya Mutha filled the library and Atrium cases with beautiful pieces of ceramics.

Children's Services:

- The six-week fall story hour session began the week of September 28, 2015 and will extend through the week of November 9, 2015 to make up classes due to staff absences. There are six daytime classes that require registration and one drop-in evening pajama story time. Each class has 25 or more students registered and many have waiting lists. The fall offerings included a yoga story time for the Toddler age group. Many of the classes celebrated Halloween with special stories and a costume parade through the library during the week of October 26, 2015.
- The library's four-week Fall Parent/Child Workshop series began on October 2, 2015. Thirty-two families registered and approximately twenty-four children ages 1-3 and their parent or guardian participated in unstructured free play with a variety of developmentally appropriate toys in Freedom Hall on October 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2015 each week. Jeanne Kauffman, Laura Arnhold and retired kindergarten teacher, Jeannette Drendall answered questions and shared resources related to early literacy skills. Different childhood experts were invited each week to informally offer suggestions and advice to parents wanting information about their child's behavior and /or development. This session the focus was on early literacy, healthy sleep development, and music. The library will offer a three-week Parent/Child workshop in March.
- On October 5 and 26, 2015 approximately 30 children ages 1-3 and their parent or caregiver participated in a play workshops using the library's developmentally appropriate toys in Freedom Hall.
- On October 17, 2015, twelve children and ten parents participated in a Saturday Story time featuring books, finger plays and music geared for children ages 2 to 5.
- On October 19, 2015, Laura Arnhold led a baby yoga workshop for parents and their infants. She guided the group of nine children and ten adults in fun yoga poses taken from the books, *You Are a Lion and Other Fun Yoga Poses* by Tae-eun Yo and *Itsy Bitsy Yoga* by Helen Garabedian.
- The Junior Friends Group met on October 20, 2015 to price books and put

together book reviews for the Junior Friends newsletter. Twenty members of the Junior Friends group met weekly on Wednesdays in October to rehearse lines for the Enchanted Library.

- On October 15, 2015, Laura Arnhold provided a begging coding workshop for 3rd and 4th grade students. The children participated in foundational exercises including Simon Says as well as several exercises that involved following simple instructions to move on a grid. Afterwards participants used the library's I-Pads that had been loaded with two coding Apps, Daisy the Dinosaur and Hopscotch to practice coding instructions to create different cartoon sequences.
- Susan Kirkpatrick coordinated October visits to 21 local preschools and daycare facilities involved in the library's outreach program. The library's storytellers modeled techniques to enhance early literacy skills as they shared stories, finger plays and songs with each of the classes. This program provided library services to 761 children and 141 teachers. This session focused on autumn.
- Reading Buddy coordinator, Susan Kirkpatrick pairs emerging readers in k-3rd grade with older students in 5th-12th grade for reading practice. These students meet weekly in the library. There are 61 Reading Buddy Pairs currently meeting each week as part of the program.
- Twenty-six children in 1st-4th grade participated in Fun Friday with Diane Shatzman and Jeanne Kaufman on October 9, 2015. The theme was Parachute Fun. Diane shared two fall stories books and then the children all participated in active parachute games in Freedom Hall.
- The library participated in the Jumpstart's Read for the Record program by reading Not Norman: a Goldfish Story by Kelly Bennett to 22 participants on October 22, 2015. This is the World's largest shared reading program. Participants from all over the world read this book to close to 2.5 million children.
- There were 307 entries submitted for the library's 41st annual Write and Illustrate Your Own Book Contest. Diane Shatzman, Judy Snook, Terry McArdle, Joan Shaw, Jim Carracappa and Laura Selinsky are reviewing the manuscripts and will select first, second, third, and honorable mention winners for each grade level. The winners will be notified on Monday, November 23, 2015.
- On October 30, 2015, the library was magically transformed for the seventh annual Enchanted Library. Artistic directors, Laura Arnhold and Stephanie Spangler created the scripts and organized the event with the help and support of the entire library staff. This year's theme focused on superheroes from children's literature including Melvin Beederman, Captain Underpants, Lunch Lady, Princess in Black, Skippyjon Jones, Superfab, and Gumazing Gum Girl.

Middle school guides led tour groups through the darkened library to meet book characters who had come to live. Two hundred ninety-two children and family members participated in this tour.

- Rina Das coordinated two special children's programs on November 2, 2015 focusing on Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights. For children ages 2 to 5 there was a story time presentation of the story Lights for Gita by Rachna Gilmore. There were 24 children and 35 parents who took part in this program. Traditional savory snacks, a colorful bookmark and a coloring sheet were given to the children to take home. Children ages 6 to 9 participated in a separate program. They listened to a puppet presentation of the story, Shaira's Secret taken from the book Indian Tales by Shenaaz Nanji and Christopher Corr and created festive Diya lamps using recycled jars, fall leaves, colored paper and stickers. Students from Devashre Javalkar's dance studio provided a dance demonstration for both groups with child and adult performers in traditional costumes and make-up. More than one hundred twenty-five people were on hand for the dancing. Participants in both story times were invited to visit stations in the library's atrium featuring traditional food samples, clothing, and music from regions all over India. Close to 250 people were on hand for the library's cultural celebration of Diwali.
- On November 3, 2015, Laura Arnhold facilitated two Lego Building workshops.
- Sue Kirkpatrick and Laura Arnhold created separate large table displays in October for the library's book contest and graphic novel collections. There were also displays showcasing holiday books on Halloween, Christopher Columbus Day, the Muslim New Year, and Day of the Dead. Rina created a display highlighting Hindu books in anticipation of this year's Diwali festival. Other displays featured fire safety, monsters, dinosaurs and books about St. Francis of Assisi.

Report from Carole Keeney-Supervisor Liaison

- Carole updated the board on various township activities

Upcoming Events

- December 14, 2015 Library Board Meeting 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sharon Duris, Secretary