

Upper Merion Township Library Board Meeting

December 9, 2013 - 6:45 – 7:50 P.M.

Attendees:

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

Minutes:

- Minutes of the November 2013 Library Board meeting were approved.

Adult Services:

- The 15th Annual Celebration of Black History will be held February 8, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is organized by the Friends of Black History. The theme, *The Road to Freedom: Through Civil Rights, Community, and Culture* will be conveyed by special programs, vendors, soul food, and personal interaction.
- A good number of readers (roughly 20) attended each of the five book discussions led by Drs. Carla Verderame and Erin Hurt from West Chester University. Both will return to lead the 2014 spring series which is being planned.
- Adult librarian Sangeetha Srinivasan is introducing a new reading program for adults in early January. The program, held in the winter, will be similar to the summer adult PageTurners program and offer prize drawings for book, CD, and DVD reviews.
- The fifteenth and final Book Chat of 2013 was taped on December 4 with Dr. Janneken Smucker who chatted about her just published, *Amish Quilts: Crafting an American Icon*, which is a recommended purchase in the *New York Times Holiday Gift Guide*.
- Tech Night, a new initiative introduced by Sangeetha Srinivasan, offers one-on-one instruction for adults, provided by Upper Merion High School students, on how to operate various types of web-based technical devices.

Children's Services:

- Laura Arnhold, held a 3rd and 4th grade Book Discussion on the book, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* on November 5.
- Sixteen children and eight adults participated in a Lego Building Party on November 5.
- The popular Enchanted Library was held on November 8, with the theme *Mother Goose* from 6-8:30 p.m. Three hundred twenty-five people attended this very special event.
- Nineteen children in 2nd-4th grade participated in Origami Night on November 1. Participants listened to a story and created origami birds and jumping frogs.
- Twenty children ages 2-5, and 15 adults participated in Saturday story time with Laura Arnhold on November 16. The Saturday scheduling provides opportunities for working parents to participate.
- The Library partnered with Angela Della Valle, the Upper Merion Middle School's ELL (English Language Learners) Department Head to provide a library information night and orientation for Spanish speaking students and parents from the middle school. Twenty participants toured the library and received information about its services.

- The 39th Write and Illustrate Your Own Book Contest entries were read by a six judge panel and awards will be given to the winners in a ceremony on December 14.
- There are currently 57 active pairs of reading buddies – emerging readers who are matched with older students in grades 5-12.

Director's Comments:

- Karl mentioned that the MCLINC system crashed and was off-line from November 7-9, and as a result circulation figures were impacted as library materials had to be checked out off-line, a less efficient process, and could not be requested systematically.
- The raised platform floor in the center of the Children's Department needs to be repaired and will probably become a flat area going forward.

Budget:

- Karl informed the Library Board that the Board of Supervisors approved the budget on December 5th, without any tax increase.
- The Library Board brainstormed and discussed ideas to raise funding to help offset the library's operating expenses. Discussions ranged from concerns that the library's staff might have to de-prioritize some of the programs it currently offers to support some of the ideas (e.g., holding a large ball-type event), to creating a pamphlet or a permanent reminder to raise awareness and consideration for ways folks could give to the library (gifting, endowments), which was felt to be more viable. Karl will also look into how potential endowments could be managed under the township endowment fund.


Report from Carole Kenney-Supervisor Liaison:

- Carole updated the Board on various township activities.

Upcoming Events:

- January 13, 2014 (Monday) – Library Board meeting (Re-Organizational Meeting) at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


David Bristowe, Secretary