

Upper Merion Township Library Board Meeting

February 9, 2015-6:45p.m.-8:00p.m.

Attendees:

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

Minutes:

Minutes were approved from the January 12, 2015 meeting.

Adult Services and Directors Comments:

- The 16th Annual Celebration of Black History will be held on February 21, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year's theme, Reaching Back, Moving Forward is inspired by the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act.
- The library is delighted to co-host the return of renowned historian and bibliophile, Dr. Charles Blockson who will discuss his recent book, The President's House Revisited Behind the Scenes: The Samuel Fraunces Story.
- Spring Book Discussion Series begins on Sunday March 29, 2015 and continues through May 31, 2015. The five book series, reading Love and Loss on Foreign Shores consists of discussions led by Drs. Carla Verderame and Erin Hurt from West Chester University. For more information about joining, please stop in the library or check our website (www.umtownship.org/library).
- Adult and Young Adult Winter Reading Program continues through March 20, 2015. Participants submit short reviews on books or DVD's and then become eligible for prizes.
- The library board acknowledges ORT for its recent generous donation of \$150, which will be used for books and library materials about Jewish culture and history.
- Tech Nights continue on February 23, 2015, March 23, 2015 and April 20, 2015. Please attend these sessions if you need help mastering hand held electronic devices. Tech Nights are held at the library at 7 p.m.
- Book Chat welcomes Dr. John Nagl, headmaster of the Haverford School, and career military officer who shares his experience of his service in both Iraqi Wars in his much praised memoir, Knife Fights: A Memoir on Modern War in Theory and Practice on March 18, 2015.
- Displays in the Atrium were filled with Mitch Bilker's collection of miniature figures from Tom and Jerry to the Philly Phanatic. The collection had figures from cartoons, comics, movies, etc.
- The inside case had a small part of Karen Hastings' mouse collection.

- The display in front of the Reference Office encouraged participation in the Winter Reading program for teens and adults. It highlighted book, movies and audiobooks related to anything winter, e.g.: Winter, ice, snow, cold, frozen, etc.

Children's Services:

- Registration for the library's six-week winter story hour session began the week of January 12, 2015. There are some open spaces in the Preschool Parachute and the Tuesday Family story hour classes. The other classes are full. Classes started the week of January 27, 2015 except for the Wednesday and Thursday Infant classes, which began February 4 and 5, 2015.
- BJ Miraglia provided two special family story times on January 14 and 15, 2015 during the interim period between regular story time sessions. She shared interactive books, finger plays and movement songs with children from birth to six years old. Approximately thirty-five children and parents attended each class.
- On January 13, 2015, Laura Arnhold provided two hands on art classes for children two to five years old. She provided a variety of homemade art materials for the children to explore including homemade finger paint, puffy paint, play dough, and slime. The children also tried stamping shapes using apple pieces and sponges and created stained glass window squares by placing colored paper pieces on a clear contact that had been taped to the window. Each family was given a handout with instructions and recipes to make these materials at home. There were 17 children in the 10:30 class and 15 in the 12:30 class.
- On January 19, 2015 the library held two Lego building parties for children in k-4th grade. Jeanne Kauffman shared the Lego book, Fight this Fire by Michael Anthony Steele and the children built their own creations. There were 45 children who attended the parties.
- The Junior Friends Middle School Volunteer Group held their first meeting of the New Year on January 13, 2015. Twenty-one middle school students participated in a library service night that included taking down the name tags on the bulletin boards, writing book reviews for the Junior Friend's newsletter and creating book themed snow globes to decorate the front bulletin board.
- Laura Arnhold provided Fun Friday stories and activities for fourteen children in kindergarten through 4th grade on January 16, 2015. In anticipation of the American Library Association's annual selection of best book, Laura ran a mock Caldecott judging session with the children. Participants looked through twenty-five picture books published in 2014 and evaluated their favorites using a score sheet. Afterwards the children had snacks and shared their favorites. The

announcement for this year's actual Caldecott Medal was held on February 2, 2105. The picture book selected this year for its outstanding illustrations was The Adventure of Beetle: the Unimaginary Friend by Dan Santat. This year's John Newbery award winning book was Kwame Alexander's book, The Crossover.

- Planning continues for the township's 2015 summer reading program based on the theme: **Every Hero Has a Story**. Family entertainment shows as well as art and other educational workshops are being planned for each age group.
- There are currently 50 active pairs of reading buddies. Program coordinator, Susan Kirkpatrick pairs older students in 5th-12th grade with emerging readers in kindergarten through third grade for weekly reading practice. Beginning readers practice their reading skills and the mentoring students receive valuable community service experience.
- Approximately seventy-five 4th graders from Roberts elementary visited the library on January 20, 2015 as part of a Community Helper study for the students. Students divided into three groups and alternated visits to the library, police department and the government access channel. At the library students were introduced to the resources and programs available to students, given a tour of the children's department and had fun competing a Library Trivia competition.
- On January 29, 2015, five students visited the library from the High School's class for students with special needs. Laura Arnhold gave them a tour and orientation. The class will be making monthly visits to the library.
- During January and February 2015 Susan Kirkpatrick, Kristine Pennese, Laura Arnhold and Becky Ginther visited 41 classrooms as part of the library's outreach program. At each site the library's story tellers, modeled practices that help young children develop early literacy skills. The traveling story time provide enrichment for both children and teachers at these schools and build important partnerships for the library.
- Families with children were invited to the library's first Fort Night on January 30, 2015. Families came before the library closed at 5 p.m. with their own blankets, books flashlights and games to create a fort in the library. Seventeen children and fifteen parents played games for an hour or read books in their own forts built with tables, chairs, and blankets. Children were given s'mores made from graham crackers, covered with marshmallow and chocolate spreads.
- On Saturday January 31, 2015 Laura Arnhold led a dance party for 39 children from birth to five and 35 adults. Families enjoyed moving and rocking to a variety of movement songs.
- Displays included Holiday Books for the New Year, Martin Luther King Day, and Groundhog Day. Clifford books by Norman Bridwell and Laura Numeroff's

series of books were also featured. The Large display put together by Becky Ginther featured books celebrating the Disney movie, Frozen. Rina Das Showcased the library's Lego Books.

Fundraising:

- The Library Board continued to discuss the Library Mini Golf Tournament that is set for March 28, 2015 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Report from Carole Kenney-Supervisor Liaison

- Carole updated the board on various township activities.

Upcoming Events:

- March 9, 2015 Library Board Meeting 6:45 p.m.
- March 28, 2015 Library Mini Golf Fundraiser 10 a.m.-5p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Duris, Secretary