

Upper Merion Township Library Board Meeting
June 8, 2015 6:45p.m.-7:45p.m.

Attendees:

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

Minutes:

- There were no minutes to approve, as we did not have a quorum in the month of May.

Adult Services and Directors Comments:

- The library board and staff gratefully acknowledge the Upper Merion Township Board of Community Assistance for awarding the children's department totaling \$2,965. The two grants are for the "Write and Illustrate Your Own Book Contest" and for the Summer Reading Program.
- More than sixty relatives and friends of the Burbano family attended the dedication of "Eric's Alcove," on Sunday, May 17, 2015. Ellen and Jim Burbano dedicated this quiet reading and reflection area in memory of their son, Eric.
- Zinio: the new e-magazine platform that provides free access to hundreds of downloadable magazines is now available. Funding is through the Montgomery County Library District.
- The library staff thanks Upper Merion High School teachers, Ms. Durland and Mr. Bontempo for leading a recent "Writers' Workshop for Teens". More than thirty teens participated and the teachers agreed to return in the fall to present another session.
- Users of the library's WIFI network will no longer need a barcode to access it. Users will only have to agree to the library's rules and regulations about WIFI usage.
- Summer reading for Adults and Teens begins on June 15, 2015. The program is for students entering grades 7 through 12 and for adults of all ages.
- The library has begun a program called "Patrons Presents" where library users can share their knowledge. On Wednesday, August 5, 2015 at 7 p.m., Gina Gormley will discuss "Eating Healthy."
- The library plans to offer quarterly fitness programs with the first ones on Tuesday, July 21, 2015 at 7 p.m. Patrons can enjoy an hour of Zumba with Shannon.
- The next Tech Night will be on Monday June 15, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the Henderson Room.
- Fred Dixon will present an Art Lecture "Van Gogh: From Abject Failure to Superstar," on Tuesday June 16, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the Valley Forge Room.
- The Spring 2015, Book Discussion Series, Reading Love and Loss on Foreign Shores, concluded on May 31, 2015 with a discussion of Transatlantic, by Colum McCann. Our longtime discussion leaders, Drs. Carla Verderame and Erin Hurt will return in the fall. The readers have been meeting to discuss notable works ten times a year since 1997.
- Book Chats: Unfair: The New Science of Criminal Injustice, by Adam Benforado, June 3, 2015. The Chocolate Trust: Deception, Indenture and Secrets at the \$12 Billion Milton Hershey School, by Bob Fernandez June 17, 2015, and Gil Hodges: A Hall of Fame Life, by Mort Zachter.
- Displays in the library included colorful artworks created by the kindergarten and first grade girls of Daisy Girl Scout Troop 70827, from Candlebrook Elementary School.

Children's Services:

- During the month of May, registrations were taken for the Science o=in the Summer program sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline in partnership with the Franklin Institute. Participants will receive an introduction to oceanography. The library will host both afternoon and morning classes for children entering 2nd -6th grade on July 13-16. To encourage sign ups, Rina Das created a book display featuring the library's collection of children's books on oceans, sea creatures, and fish on the large display table.
- Eighteen middle school students attended the Junior Friend's end of the year ice cream party on May 4, 2015. Participants made their own sundaes, played games and posed for a group picture. Graduating 8th grade students were honored and received copies of the popular book, Are You Experienced by Jordan Sonnenblick for the library's upcoming author visit on June 22, 2015.
- Seventeen children in 1st-4th grade attended an interactive music workshop for Fun Friday with musicians Erica Cherry and Tim Feil on May 8, 2015. Erica and Tim demonstrated their clarinet and oboe and performed pieces for the children highlighting musical imagery.
- The six week spring hour sessions ended the week of May 5, 2015. Registration for the Summer Story Hour begins the week of June 2, 2015. The evening Pajama Story time class will not be offered during the summer but will return again in the fall.
- On May 19, 2015, Miss Sue presented a S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) story and activity class for children ages 3½ to 6. These classes use hands on activities to look at the science concepts behind simple children's stories.
- Staff members, Sue Kirkpatrick and Laura Arnhold represented the library at the Upper Merion High School's literacy night. The keynote speaker was former library staff member, Kristen Pedemonti who discussed her international literacy advocacy efforts.
- Five children from the Upper Merion Baptist Nursery School visited the library for a S.T.E.M. story and hands on activity time with Sue Kirkpatrick on May 29, 2015.
- Jeanne Kauffman and Laura Arnhold visited Roberts, Candlebrook, Caley, Bridgeport, Mother Theresa Regional Catholic School and the Upper Merion Middle School to award reading medals and to preview this summer's reading club. The Upper Merion Middle School visit included an after school recognition party co-hosted by the middle school librarians.
- Susan Kirkpatrick coordinated a Reading Buddies Celebration on May 19, 2015 for participants in this year's Reading Buddies Program. Fifty-four pairs of reading buddies are currently meeting weekly at the library for reading practice.
- Four 3rd and 4th graders participated in book discussion with Miss. Laura on the graphic novel El Deafo by Cece Bell on May 13, 2015.
- Eight children in second through fourth grades attended a Geronimo Stilton themed book party on May 26, 2015 with Miss Laura. Participants listened to a section of the Geronimo Stilton book, I'm Not a Super Mouse Book.
- The children's department is gearing up for the Summer Reading Program, which starts on June 15, 2015. Students in kindergarten through eighth grade may sign up for the program to earn stickers, food coupons, reading medals and small prizes for reading whatever books interest them. The library's kick-off program on June 16, 2015 will feature the hilarious magic of Sam Sandler, America's only deaf illusionist.

- Books in Spanish and Spanish culture were featured at the small table display in celebration of Cinco de Mayo. Other special displays featured holiday books for Mother's Day, Shavuot, Memorial Day, and Flag Day. Books for babies, books on ducks, and gardens were also displayed.

Report From Carole Kenney-Supervisor Liaison

- Carole updated the board on various township activities

Upcoming events

- No July 13, 2015 meeting
- August 10, 2015 Library Board Meeting 6:45 p.m.
- September 14, 2015 Library Board Meeting and presentation of Library Friend of the Year 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Duris, Secretary