

Upper Merion Township Library Board Meeting

October 12, 2015 6:45p.m.-7:45P.M.

Attendees:

David Bristowe, Sharon Duris, John Egan, Kati Kohler, Janet Medrow, Linda Noll, Karl Helicher-Library Director, Carole Keeney-Township Liaison

Minutes:

Minutes were approved from the September 13, 2015 meeting.

Adult Services and Directors Comments:

- Book discussion series now in its 18th year, the library's biannual series begins on October 11, 2015. Drs Carla Verderame and Erin Hurt return to lead discussions on five books. Based on the theme Living on the Edge: Novels of Futures and Pasts on the Brink.
- Tech Night will be on October 23, 2015 at 7 p.m.
- Clarifi representatives led a workshop on how to obtain financial aid and how to manage debt in a college finance workshop.
- Blind Date with a book a new venture that will not allow you to judge a book by its cover. Patrons check out staff favorites, which are wrapped in brown paper, so the reader will be escorting an unidentified book from the premises. I chose one and got the title: Valley of The Sun by Louis L'Amour, which happens to be a collection of stories of American Heroes. While I could not get into this book, I did like the idea and plan on picking another book in the future this way.
- The most recent TAG (Teen Advisory Group) was held on September 23, 2015 and the book The Martian, by Andy Weir was discussed.
- What to Do When Loved One Passes by Elizabeth Shamir and Adam Peltzman was well attended on September 24, 2015 discussed financial implications of these sad and trying circumstances.
- The popular Darla DeMorrow Organizing Paper: Lose 30 Pounds in 30 Minutes returned on October 5, 2015 with strategies for organizing business information with the aid of electronic technology.
- Susan Shelton, president of Cast will appear on October 13, 2015 at 7 p.m. to talk about teen safety.
- Thanks to Jessica Cavaliere, library staff member, for creating this month's display, on photography.

Children's Services:

- Freedom Hall was set up on September 14, 2015 for a life size game of the popular

children's game, Chutes and Ladders.

- Registration for the six-week story time classes began on September 14, 2015. The library offers six separate classes for preschool age children during the day and one drop in class during the evening. All classes have filled. Classes begin the week of September 28, 2015.
- Tryouts were held September 16, 2015 for this year's Enchanted Library. Twenty middle school students auditioned and were given parts in this year's Enchanted Library event, which will focus on popular superhero characters from Children's Literature. This year's show is scheduled for Friday, October 30, 2015.
- The Junior Friends of the Library met on September 21, 2015 for the first monthly meeting of the school year. Officers were elected and students broke up into small groups to price book sale books, create questions for the upcoming author visit with Chris Grabenstein and to put the music CDs and DVDs in order.
- Monthly Fun Friday programs resumed on September 11, 2015. This year the library will offer two separate Fun Friday classes, a Fun Friday program for children in 2nd-4th grade and a Fun Friday Jr. program for children in K-2nd grade. Twenty-eight elementary age children participated in literacy extension activities based on the story The Dot by Peter Reynolds which tells the story of a young girl, who through her teacher's encouragement learns to celebrate her own creativity through her artistic dots.
- On September 29, 2015, five children participated in activities related to the Lunch Lady Book series. Miss. Laura read the book, Lunch Lady and the Schoolwide Scuffle by Jarrett Krosoczka.
- On September 21, 2015, Sue Kirkpatrick presented a STEM related story time for seven children ages 3 to 5 and 12 parents exploring the concept of opposites.
- Laura Arnhold attended Parents Night at the Upper Merion Middle School on September 17, 2015. She was on hand to share information about the library's programs and services and to invite families to register for library cards. She also attended Bridgeport Elementary's Open House on September 22, 2015. Sue Kirkpatrick was on hand for Parent's Night at Roberts Elementary School on September 24, 2015.
- Thirteen middle school students were on hand for a Skype visit with the popular children's book author, Chris Grabenstein who has authored New York Times bestsellers, the Island of Dr. Libris and Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library and co-authored books with James Paterson. Chris Grabenstein shared interesting information about his career path to becoming a children's book author. The students took turns asking him questions about his books and writing process.
- On September 28, 2015, two separate classes of children explored art activities with their parents at a hands-on class put together by Laura Arnhold. Participants had the

opportunity to create pictures with finger paints, stomp on bubble wrap, and create stained glass windows by positioning bits of tissue paper on clear contact paper, use cookie cutters and other tools with pumpkin spice play dough and play with water toys in ivory soap foam.

- The fall Parent/Child Workshop is a four-week series, which began October 2, 2015. Twenty-seven children ages 1-3 and their parent or guardian had the opportunity to participate in unstructured free play with a variety of developmentally appropriate toys in Freedom Hall. Jeanne Kauffman, Laura Arnhold and retired kindergarten teacher, Jeannette Drendall answered questions and shared resources related to early literacy skills.
- The library has begun receiving entries for the 41st annual Write & Illustrate Your Own Book Contest for children in kindergarten through eighth grade. The deadline for entries is October 21, 2015. The front display table in the children's department displays previous winner's books.
- The Reading Buddy Program pairs children in kindergarten through second grade with children in 4th-12th grade for reading practice in the library. There are currently 56 pairs of reading buddies meeting weekly in the library.
- The fall's Traveling Story time program provides outreach to local childcares and preschool programs. Coordinator, Susan Kirkpatrick has scheduled visits to each of twenty sites during October and November. Laura Arnhold will provide outreach services to four classes of children with autism and other disabilities.
- Laura Arnhold put together 2 September book displays on the front table, one featuring Back to School books. Rina Das displayed faith related books in honor of the Pope's visit and anticipated Dalai Lama's visit. There were also smaller displays in September featuring holiday books Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, eid-al-adha and Succoth as well as displays about crocodiles and books by children's book author, Bernard Waber.

Report From Carole Keeney-Supervisor Liaison

- Carole updated the board on various township activities

Upcoming Events

- November 8, 2015 Citizens Board Appreciation Lunch at Maggiano's 11:30 a.m.
- November 9, 2015 Library Board Meeting 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sharon Duris, Secretary