

Upper Merion Township Library Board Meeting

December 14, 2015 6:45p.m.-7:50p.m.

Attendees:

David Bristowe, Sharon Duris, Janet Medrow, Tracy Pasquale, Karl Helicher-Library Director, Carole Keeney-Township Liaison

Minutes:

Minutes were approved from the November 9, 2015 meeting

Adult Services and Director's Comments:

- Paper Towns by John Green was well attended by our high school students on Sunday November 1, 2015.
- Diwali was a huge success. This is the first year the adults and children's department worked together for the Diwali celebration. Our library volunteers put together 15 table displays, each one uniquely representing different Indian cultures.
- A Social Security Workshop was held on November 5, 2015 with 36 patrons attending. There was a noticeable increase in attendance when compared to the past sessions.
- Victorian Vanities presented "Castles of the Empire State," on Monday November 9, 2015 to 20 patrons. The program offered a new look at some of the most beautiful castles in New York State.
- An Art Lecture by Mr. Dixon on 20th century paintings was held on Wednesday, November 11, 2015.
- Dr. Steven talked about food in Egypt and ancient Rome on Monday, November 16, 2015. The program was enthusiastically received and patrons expressed their interest in attending more such informative and educative programs. We will be contacting Dr. Steven again to host another program on Egypt.
- Upper Merion Camera Club Volunteers hosted a fantastic class on Camera basics on Thursday, November 19, 2015. Twenty-five patrons benefited from the program. We have requested the club to return and host more sessions in 2016.
- Café Style Wi-Fi is back in action.
- Bookmas Tree is ready for patrons to guess the number of books used to build the literary Christmas tree. Winners will get a gift certificate from our local sponsors.
- Winter Reading Program will start on January 4, 2016.
- Bertucci's Fundraiser is on December 10, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fifteen percent of the proceeds will be donated back to the library.
- Stress Free December will continue throughout 2016 as Kamini will be conducting yoga classes for our patrons regularly.
- Fall Book Discussion Series concluded on December 13, 2015 on, On Such A Full Sea, by Chang-Rae Lee, led by Dr. Erin Hurt.
- Book Chat on December 16, 2015, James McClelland and Lynn Miller discussed their beautifully illustrated City In A Park: A History of Philadelphia's Fairmount Park

System.

- Friends of Black History Annual Celebration "Flying High With Black History" is the theme of this popular annual event, which will be held on Saturday, February 27, 2016.

Children's Services:

- On Saturday November 7, 2015, Kristine Pennese presented a special story time book sharing, songs and finger plays for fifteen children ages 2 to 5 and their parents. The library offers monthly Saturday story times as an outreach to children whose parents both work during the week.
- The library reprised three Enchanted Library skits, "Princess in Black", "The Amazing Gum Girl", and "Lunch Lady" for customers shopping at the Devon Barnes & Noble on November 10, 2015 to support the Upper Merion Middle School library's fundraiser.
- Laura Arnhold instructed 11 middle school students on the ins and outs of arm knitting. They learned how to knit a loosely woven scarf without knitting needles using a ball of yarn looped over the arms and woven in and out with the hands. The students were excited to create attractive scarves that they could be given as gifts during the holidays. Twelve students returned the following week on November 18, 2015 with their own yarn to work on additional scarves and blankets.
- One child and two adults attended the special sensory story time with Laura Arnhold on November 8, 2015 for children with sensory issues. Due to small attendance, the library will focus future outreach efforts to this population of children to classes of students with special needs.
- Fall story hours ended officially the week of November 9, 2015. Registration for the six-week winter class session will begin the week of January 11, 2016. There will be six daytime classes for families to choose from as well as evening class.
- The library offered a passive card making station during the month of November. The station included colored paper, crayons, stickers and ribbons for children to make holiday cards to give shut-ins and seniors during the holidays. Ninety-five cards were created. These cards will be distributed by staff members in Comfort Keepers to seniors in local nursing homes.
- Eighteen children in second through fourth grade and thirteen children in kindergarten and first grade participated in Fun Friday activities with Laura Arnhold on November 13, 2015. This month's theme was popcorn. Students shared interesting facts about popcorn, watched a short video on the science behind popping corn kernels, sampled three different flavored popcorns and used a straw and a piece of popcorn to experiment with and discover some of the properties of popcorn.
- Sue Kirkpatrick shared stories and activities to introduce building concepts to six children ages 3½ to 5 and 8 parents on November 16, 2015. Participants had the opportunity to explore the strength of paper folded in different shapes and to build their own creations with different materials including Legos, marshmallows and toothpicks.

- Twenty members of the Junior Friends members met November 16, 2015. The middle school participants wrote short book reviews and created holiday cards for shut-ins and seniors in the community.
- Two children and two adults out of the fifteen registered participants attended the E-Tot class with Laura Arnhold offered on November 23, 2015. Participants used the library's I-pads to explore interactive apps geared toward toddlers and preschoolers.
- On November 20, 2015, eleven kids and six adults came near closing time with their blankets, sheets, board games and flashlights to join Miss. Laura for Family Fort Night. Families were free to choose a location within the library and use materials they brought from home as well as library tables and chairs to create their own forts for sharing stories, games and family fun after hours in the library. Everyone enjoyed library S'mores made from graham cracker cereal, chocolate bits and mini marshmallows.
- On December 2, 2015, the library offered special programming to 24 students and 6 teachers and aids from the middle schools class for children with disabilities. Susan Kirkpatrick and Jeanne Kauffman shared music and a story with the students and introduced them to some of the resources available to them in the library.
- The library offered a Star Wars Party on December 1, 2015 for children in kindergarten through third grade in celebration of the upcoming movie. Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens which opens in movie theaters December 18, 2015. Eleven students and two Junior Friends helpers participated in Star Wars Bingo and created their own R2D2 replica to take home.
- This year's Write & Illustrate Your Own Book Contest judging panel included Judy Snook, Diane Shatzman, Joan Shaw, Terry McArdle, Laura Selinsky and Jim Carracappa. They concluded their work during the third week in November and winners were announced November 23, 2015. Book Contest winners along with the summer art contest winners were honored at an awards ceremony on December 6, 2015. Close to 200 contest winners and their family members attended. All of the winning entries will be bound, cataloged and added to the library's circulating collection.
- The 2015 Book Contest winners are as Follows:
 - **Kindergarten:**
 - 1st Place-Shourya Kancharla
 - 2nd Place-Natalie Ford
 - 3rd Place-Samik Vsyyaraju
 - **First Grade:**
 - 1st Place-Max Belmonte
 - 2nd Place-Nagsai Kodali
 - 3rd Place-Dharunish Yugeswardeenoo
 - Hon. Mention-Nick Adams
 - Hon. Mention-Daniel Stabinski
 - **Second Grade:**
 - 1st Place-Maria Butterworth

- 2nd Place-Kieran Lamey
- 3rd Place-Sohan Bingi
- Hon Mention-Snehasudah Panda
- **Third Grade:**
- 1st Place-Sailor Abraham
- 2nd Place-Shamili Kochervu
- 3rd Place-Yasmin Estrada Ramirez and Vennela Chittineni
- Hon. Mention-Meredith Zimmerman
- **Fourth Grade:**
- 1st Place-Megan Chaing
- 2nd Place-Joy Lu
- 3rd Place-Cooper Abraham
- Hon. Mention-Emma Pallante
- **Fifth Grade:**
- 1st Place-Sofia Lydecker
- 2nd Place-Miya Shin
- 3rd Place-Elijah Canete
- 3rd Place-Anna Walmsley
- Hon. Mention-Adam Hox
- **Sixth Grade:**
- 1st Place-Fiona McDaid
- 2nd Place-Rose West
- 3rd Place-Meghan Galban
- Hon. Mention-Cady Legerton and Kaiya Rang
- **Seventh Grade:**
- 1st Place-Sona Bardakjian
- 2nd Place-Diya Das
- 3rd Place-Teni Jehanian
- Hon. Mention-Kevork Zeibari
- **Eighth Grade:**
- 1st Place-Regan Cherelli
- 2nd Place-Alyssa Galban
- 3rd Place-Maha Krishnan
- Hon. Mention-Hamna Chaudhry

There were two additional awards given out. The Susan Lomax Award was awarded to the book with the best illustrations. Sixth grader, Rose West received this award for her book, A Special Friendship and the Joane F. McNamara Award for the best overall book was given to Fiona McDaid for her book, I Big Boy.

- On December 3, 2015, Diane Shatzman presented a Hanukkah story time for 17 children and family member. She shared special Hanukkah stories, songs, puppets and finger plays explaining the origin of the holiday and its traditions and foods.

Participants tossed paper latkes into a frying pan and took home chocolate gelt, a dreidel and a coloring sheet.

- Two groups attended the Christmas story times offered on December 8, 2015. Storytellers, BJ Miraglia and Kristine Pennese along with student helpers, Connor and Poppy Pennese shared stories, songs and puppet shows celebrating Christmas traditions for the 80 people who attended. Two additional Christmas story times were held on December 9 and 10, 2015 for participants in the daytime classes. Thirty-five people attended each of these classes.
- Eighteen members of the Junior Friends middle school group attended a holiday and spa night party at the library on December 9, 2015. They enjoyed refreshments and participated in a variety of fun activities including board and card games. They also had the chance to create DIY spa products including lip gel made from Vaseline and Kool Aid, foot scrubs, yogurt facemasks and bath scrubs.
- The Reading Buddy Program matches emerging readers with older students in 5th-12th grade. Currently there are 65 active pairs of reading buddies meeting weekly at the library for reading practice.
- Becky Ginther showcased all things Star Wars on the large table display in November. Rina Das highlighted Diwali and Christmas. Holiday books for Hanukkah, Thanksgiving, the Day of the Dead and Mexican stories were also displayed.


Report from Carole Keeney-Supervisor Liaison

- Carole updated the board on various township activities

Upcoming Events

- January 11, 2016 Library Board Meeting 6:45 p.m.-Re-organization Meeting

Respectfully Submitted,


Sharon Duris, Secretary