

Upper Merion Township Library Board Meeting

February 8, 2016 6:45 p.m.-7:50 p.m.

Attendees:

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

Minutes:

Minutes were approved from the January 11, 2016 meeting.

Adult Services and Director's Comments:

- The library is pleased and honored to announce that it has received \$2,000 from the estate of Edward Dybicz. Mr. Dybicz was often known as "Mr. Upper Merion Township History," and was a wonderful library supporter and frequent patron.
- Winter Reading Program started on January 4, 2016 for Teens and Adults. Last date to submit reviews is March 20, 2016.
- Thanks to our Social Media Team the views and likes on Facebook is very impressive this month. Posting 2 posts a day on Facebook and Twitter. Already saw a significant increase in views and likes.
- New phone and tablet charging station is a great addition to our services. The public can recharge their electronic devices while in the library.
- Life Insurance 101 on January 11, 2016 was attended by a few of our regular patrons. As this is the first time we were hosting a talk on Life Insurance, we might try again later this year.
- Social Security Workshop was well attended by many of our regular patrons. The next session scheduled for March 24, 2016 will also highlight changes in social security laws.
- Fitness and Yoga programs are scheduled through out the year. 20 adults attended yoga in January. Exercise classes and yoga sessions will alternate each month. Fitness 101 is a new initiative that encourages our patrons and staff to lead a healthy lifestyle.
- Black History Celebration is February 27, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Please refer to flyer for more information). In addition, on Thursday, February 18, 2016, the officers of the Friends of Black History will receive proclamations from the Board of Supervisors and Senator Daylin Leach, recognizing their seventeen years of service to the township and inviting all township residents to enjoy "Flying High With Black History" the annual celebration, which will be held on Saturday, February 27, 2016, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 2016 Spring Book Discussion readers will meet from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The theme, "Love and Survival in the Past, Present & Futures," includes the following books:
 - March 13, 2016: We are not Ourselves, by Mathew Thomas
 - April 3, 2016: Regeneration, by Pat Barker
 - April 17, 2016: Station Eleven, by Emily St. John Mandel
 - May 1, 2016: Everything I Never Told You, by Celeste Ng
 - May 15, 2016: Partitions, by Amit Majmudar
- Drs. Carla Verderame and Erin Hurt, from West Chester University, return as discussion leaders.
- Free ACT practice test is confirmed on March 12, 2016 for high school students. We thank UMASD High School for its help publicizing the program.
- February Book Chat is: Golf, A Good Walk & Then Some: A Quintessential History of the

Game, by John R. Jenchura.

- Working on 2 big programs: Murder Mystery Night in April and Art show in May.

Children's Services:

- Laura Arnhold provided Fun Friday activities for eighteen children in 2nd-4th grade and six adult and Fun Friday Jr. activities for twelve children in kindergarten and 1st grade and eight adults on January 8, 2016. In anticipation of the American Library Association's (ALA) annual selection of best books, Laura ran a mock Caldecott judging session with the children. Participants looked through and evaluated illustrations in twenty-five picture books published in 2015 using a score sheet. Afterwards the children had snacks and discussed the books they picked as favorites. The year's Caldecott Medal announcement occurred on February 2, 2016. The winning Caldecott book was The Adventure of Beekle: the Unimaginary Friend by Dan Santat. This year's John Newbery award winner for the best story was Kwame Alexander's chapter book, The Crossover.
- Winter Story Hour registration for the library's six-week winter story hour session began the week of January 11, 2016. There are open spaces remaining in the Preschool and the Infant story hour classes. The other classes are full. The winter session began January 26, 2016 and will end the week of February 29, 2016.
- The Junior Friends Middle School Volunteer Group held their first meeting of the New Year on January 11, 2016. Twenty-two middle school students participated in a library service night that included pricing books for the upcoming book sale, writing book reviews for the Junior Friend's newsletter and decorating Valentine's Day Cards for local seniors that will be distributed by Comfort Keepers.
- There were 18 people who attended the Saturday Story time on January 16, 2016 with Donna Botzum. Donna read stories, led songs and finger plays in an interactive program for children ages 2-5 and their parents or caregivers.
- Forty-five children ages 3-5 and twenty-six adults participated in a dance party with Miss Laura on January 19, 2016. Participants moved and danced to old favorites like the Twist, the Freeze Dance, the Macarena, and various March and movement songs.
- Kamini Patel provided a yoga instruction class for 15 children ages 3-5 on January 19, 2016. The young participants learned movement and yoga poses.
- UMGATV'S Township Talk Features the Library: Children's librarian, Jeanne Kauffman and Laura Arnhold were interviewed by Chuck Curley for a segment on Township Talk on January 20, 2016 that focused on the resources and services provided by the library for families and young children. Library staff members, Sangeetha Srinivasan and Denise Long were also interviewed about adult resources. These Segments will be aired in the community at a later date.
- Six children and six adults attended the E-Tots class given by Laura Arnhold. Laura shared the interactive book, Press Here by Herve Tullet. This story instructs the reader to imagine interacting with the story's illustrations. After this imaginative time the kids were given the opportunity to interact with four educational Children's Apps that were loaded onto the library's I-pads. The children explored the popular children's Apps: Moo Baa, Fa La La La, Felt Board, Monsters, Farmyard and Toca Tea Party.
- The Crazy 8 math club is sponsored by the Bedtime Math Foundation, a non-profit group that seeks to put the fun and discovery back into math. The 8 week hands-on class is designed to get kids fired up about math by featuring fun topics like glow in the dark geometry and toilet

paper Olympics. The class is limited to 20 students. Twenty-two children in 3rd-5th grade participated in the first class which began on January 20, 2016 and twenty children attended the second class. Becky Ginther is leading this popular class.

- Planning continues for the township's 2016 summer reading program based on the theme: **On Your Mark Get Set: Read.** Family entertainment shows as well as art and other educational workshops are being planned for each age group.
- There are currently 65 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.
- During January and February Susan Kirkpatrick, Denise Bobok, Laura Arnhold, and Becky Ginther visited 40 classrooms as part of the library's outreach to local daycare and childcare centers involved in 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 times provide enrichment for both children and teachers at these schools and build important partnerships for the library.
- Eighteen children in 4th-8th grade and one adult participated in the library's Bristlebot workshop on January 25, 2016. Laura Arnhold introduced this experience with some discussion of open and closed circuits. She reviewed some of Newton's laws and asked the kids to think about how we control robots. The children then had the opportunity to create a mini battery powered robot using a small brush, a tiny motor, a battery, rubber bands and connecting wires. The kids followed the directions to put the Bristlebot robots together and then used blocks to create mazes and racetracks so that they could observe and experiment with their bots in different environments.
- The library partnered with Upper Merion Mother's Club on the Preschool/Childcare Expo held in Freedom Hall on January 27, 2016. The directors and staff member from twelve local schools were on hand to meet parents interested in enrolling their children in childcare and preschool programs in the fall. There were close to one hundred people who participated. Five community service groups including the library were also on hand to distribute information to the public. The library received very positive feedback from school directors who appreciated the opportunity to register families, schedule tours and make contacts in the community. Parents also appreciated the informal opportunity to meet and talk to the directors and teachers.
- Holiday Books for the New Year, Martin Luther King Day, and Groundhog Day were displayed in January as well as books on winter sports. Books and fairy tales by Charles Perrault and Laura Numeroff's series of books were also featured. The large display put together by Becky Ginther and Laura Arnhold titled Love Books showcases good books that patrons have overlooked. Rina Das featured robot books on the small table.

Library Friend of the Year:

- This years Library Friend of the Year is going to be John Egan.

Report from Carole Kenney-Township Liaison

- Carole updated the board on various township activities.

Upcoming Events:

- Celebration of Black History Month: February 27, 2016 10:00-3:00 pm
- Library closed Monday, February 15, 2016 for Presidents Day
- March 14, 2016 Library Board Meeting 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Duris".

Sharon Duris, Secretary