

**Library Board Meeting**  
March 14, 2016 6:45p.m.-7:40p.m.

**Attendees:**

*Some* Jack Black, David Bristowe, Sharon Duris, Katie Kohler, Linda Noll, Janet Medrow, Tracey Pasquale, Karl Helicher-Library Director, Carole Keeney-Township Liaison

**Minutes:**

Minutes were approved from the February 8, 2016 meeting.

**New Member:**

*Jonathan*  
The board welcomed Jack Black as its newest member.

**Adult Services and Director's Comments:**

- Winter Reading Program started January 4, 2016 for Teens and Adults and ends on March 20, 2016. Forms are available at the library and online. Prizes for winners.
- March Social Security Workshop has been rescheduled for June.
- Library display cases in March displayed our library services.
- Coloring Night for Adults is a new ongoing program. Our first one is March 28, 2016 at 7 p.m. Starting in April, it will be offered the second Monday of the Month.
- Free ACT Practice test on March 12, 2016 is confirmed for high school students. We thank UMASD High School for its promotion of this program.
- Meet the Photographer was held on March 7, 2016 at 7p.m. Included was a display of his pictures themed "Person, People, & Things".
- Yoga with Kamini is on March 21, 2016 at 7:15 p.m. in Freedom Hall. Registration is required.
- During our February Tech night, some of the staff received help from our tech volunteers. Kudos to our volunteers who managed to help our patrons with no working WIFI. The volunteers also wrote instructions on how to download eBooks using an Ipad. The printed instructions will be available as a flier.
- Black History Celebration on Saturday, February 27, 2016 was a grand success with more than 350 attendees. Excellent Tuskegee airman presentation, Daisy Century's Bessie Coleman reenactment, and Ralph Penn's musical. Awesome soul food was served. Free giveaways to the first 150 families (a bag with the theme imprint, 2 activity booklets, an information flier on African American Pilots, a booklet on the Tuskegee airmen).
- Spring Book Discussion starts March 13, 2016. Readers will meet from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. "Love and Survival in the Past, Present & Future".
  - March 13, 2016: We Are Not Ourselves, by Matthew Thomas
  - April 3, 2016: Reneneration, by Pat Barker
  - April 17, 2016: Station Eleven, by Emily St. John Mandel
  - May 1, 2016: Everthing I Never Told You, by Celeste Ng
  - May 15, 2016: Partitions, by Amit Majmudar
- Three major Programs are in the works:
  - Murder Mystry Night on April 25, 2016
  - Art Show on May 21, 2016
  - Fiesta Mexicana in May

- March Book Chats are:
- Rich Westcott, *The Champions of Philadelphia: The Greatest Eagles, Phillies, Sixers, and Flyers teams*
- Mitchell Nathanson, *God Almighty Himself: The Life and Legacy of Dick Allen*

### **Children's Services:**

- Fun Friday and Fun Friday Jr. the library schedules hands-on exploration classes on Fridays once a month when Upper Merion Schools dismiss early for teacher in-service days. On Friday February 5, 2016 sixteen children in 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade and 8 children in K & 1<sup>st</sup> grade participated in Fun Friday game day activities with Miss Laura. Fun Friday participants competed in relays, played library fruit basket upset and were asked to figure out a strategy to safely lead their team across "shark infested" river. Fun Friday Jr. attendees played musical chairs and participated in active, gross motor relays and games.
- The Junior Friends of the Library met on February 8, 2016 for a service night. Participants priced books for the book sale, wrote submissions for the Jr. Friends newsletter and discussed upcoming events.
- For Movie Matinee a group of 20 people came out for a showing of Dreamworks' Home on February 11, 2016.
- The Pete and Cat book series party with Miss Laura took place on February 12, 2016. Eight children in k-2<sup>nd</sup> grade attended. Participants listened to the Pete the Cat story, Valentine's Day is Cool by Kim Dean and used crayons to decorate a Pete the Cat figure, cut it out and glue it into his enlarged shoe.
- The eight week Crazy 8 math club sponsored by the Bedtime Math Foundation comes to an end on March 9, 2016. This course which seeks to put the fun and discovery back into math has been successful about getting kids fired up about math. It has featured fun topics like glow in the dark geometry and toilet paper Olympics. Becky Ginther is leading this class with close to twenty children in 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade who participate each week.
- The library offers monthly Saturday story times. Fifteen children and ten adults attended a chameleon themed story time with nLaura Arnhold on Saturday, February 20, 2016. Saturday story times are designed to provide opportunities for working parents to participate in story times and interact with their children at the library.
- Also on February 20, 2016, twenty-one children and thirteen adults worked together building their own LEGO block creations using the library's Lego blocks.
- The library held a Norse mythology program for middle school kids on February 22, 2016. Participants researched answers to trivia about Norse mythology using library reference books and the library's I-Pads and also created their own Norse runes with shrinky dinks. There were nine middle school students who attended this program.
- As a gesture of appreciation for the library's service to the community, the Upper Merion Mother's Club provided lunch for 12 library staff members on February 23, 2016. The Mother's Club has been a valuable library partner.
- Winter Story time Session was scheduled to end the week of February 29, 2016. Several classes offered story time during the week of February 8, 2016 to make up for story times missed due to weather cancellations. Registration for the Spring Story hour session begins the week of March 14, 2016.
- The children's department helped sponsor DIY activities for children as part of the library's

annual Celebration of Black History on February 27, 2016. There were 15 children who participated.

- The library partnered with UMGTV director, Don Herbert and camera man Andrew Macbride to produce a summer reading commercial starring the Junior Friends of the library on February 29, 2015. The PSA promotes the library's **2016 On Your Mark Get Set...Read summer reading club** and will air in the spring time. Eighteen members of the Junior Friends of the library assisted with this project.
- Susan Kirkpatrick presented a special story time for twenty-six children and twenty-two parents involved in the Upper Merion Mother's Club on February 18, 2016. She led stories, songs, and finger plays centering on the bedtime theme.
- Winter story hours continue through the week of March 16, 2016 for the infant, toddler, parachute, preschool and family story times. Numerous weather related cancellations have occurred this month. Registration for the Spring Story hours will begin the week of March 16, 2016.
- A three-week session of Parent/Child Workshops for Children ages 1 to 3 and their parent or caregiver began March 4, 2016 and will end March 18, 2016. Participants enjoyed free play with their children using the library's developmental appropriate toys in Freedom Hall. They also had the opportunity to bring questions or concerns to different child development experts each week. This three week session focused on early literacy, pediatric dental care and speechdevelopment for young children. Nineteen families registered for the program.
- Planning continues for the summer reading program based on the theme: **On Your Mark, Get Set...Read!** All of the summer shows have been booked.
- Book displays in February included holiday books for Ground Hog's Day, Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year, President's Day and Mardi Gras. Other displays featured marvelous math, books about book character, Pete the cat and books about hedgehogs and woodchucks.

#### **New Business:**

- Consideration of naming Book Discussion Series in Memory of Marian Palmer
- Self-Checkout for Children's Department
- Director's Retirement: September 7, 2016. Officially submitted resignation letter

#### **Report from Carole Kenney-Township Liaison:**

- Carole updated the board on various township activities

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- April 11, 2016 Library Board Meeting 6:45 p.m.
- April 28, 2016 Joint Meeting with the Board of Supervisors 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sharon Duris, Secretary