

## Upper Merion Township Library Board Meeting

April 11, 2016 6:45p.m.-8:00p.m.

### Attendees:

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

### Minutes:

Minutes were approved from the March 14, 2016 meeting.

### Adult Services and Director's Comments:

- After looking into the survey results, our staff will be taking a Mandatory Training course in Microsoft Word through
- Almost all of our staff received training from our tech volunteers during the week of March 21, 2016 on **eBook Training**.
- Winter Reading Program that started on January 4, 2016 for Teens and Adults ended on March 20, 2016. Adult and Teen winners were announced and each winner received Fitbit Zip. We had 192 reviews with 31 participants.
- The library will showcase MCGOPA's art collection during the month of April. The Art Show is on May 21, 2016.
- The Library will display books and DVDs on to promote our first ever Murder Mystery Night on April 27, 2016 at 7 p.m.
- Coloring Night is a new ongoing program for adults. Our first one on March 28, 2016 at 7 p.m. was a huge success with 16 adults participating. We will be hosting the coloring night the second Monday of every month.
- Free Act practice test on March 12, 2016 was attended by 27 high school students. Thanks to Kaizen Learning Center for sponsoring this test.
- Meet the Photographer Milt Dienes presentation on March 7, 2016 at 7 p.m. was well attended.
- Yoga with Kamini on March 21, 2016 at 7:15 p.m. in Freedom Hall was attended by 18 adults. Next yoga session is on May 16, 2016 at 7:15 p.m. Registration is required for patrons.
- Fitness 101 class on Monday April 4, 2015 was a Zumba session with Shannon, which was enjoyed by 16 adults. Thanks to Lucille Roberts King of Prussia for partnering with us.
- Upcoming Programs in April:
  - April 4, 2016: Financial Literacy
  - April 11, 2016: Special Needs
  - April 18, 2016: Estate Planning and Trusts

- Spring Book Discussion started on March 13, 2016. Readers will meet from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Love and Survival in the Past, Present & Futures  
 March 13, 2016: We are not Ourselves, by Matthew 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
- Mind and Breath seminar on Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 7 p.m. to learn breathing techniques and relax with a guided meditation. Come and explore the power of the breath!
- An audience of eight people heard Stephen Blumm discuss Nazi propaganda on Monday, April 5, 2016. Blumm is a retired history professor from Montgomery County Community College. His thought-provoking presentation was taped by UMGA-TV. This program is part of a county wide initiative that will bring Daniel James Brown to Montgomery County to discuss his New York Times bestseller, The Boys in the Boat. Mr. Brown will tape a Book Chat, the library's 244<sup>th</sup> author interview. This will close out Book Chat, which has aired since 2002.

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

- The eight week Crazy 8 math club for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders sponsored by the Bedtime Math Foundation, ended on March 9, 2016. The goal of the program is to put fun and discovery back into math. There were 18 participants on both March 2, 2016 and March 9, 2016. The library will offer monthly Crazy 8 workshops for this age group in the fall.
- The library offered a three-week spring Family Place workshop session in March for children ages 1 to 3 and their parent or caregiver. For three consecutive Fridays, beginning March 4, 2016, parents were invited to bring their children ages 1 to 3 to play and learn together using developmentally appropriate toys and different weekly activities in Freedom Hall. Three child development experts were invited to serve as resources to the families attending. Library staff members, Susan Kirkpatrick and Jeanne Kauffman, and retired kindergarten teacher, Jeannette Drendall, speech therapist, Erin Heinerichs, and pediatric dentist, Dr. Megan Smith were on hand at different sessions to answer questions and address the concerns of participating families. Library resource materials including books and child development brochures and pamphlets were available for parents to borrow or take home.
- There were two play workshops scheduled in March on March 7, 2016 and

March 21, 2016 that brought in sixteen parents and children for each workshop. During the workshop parents/caregivers and their children ages 1 to 3 played together in freedom Hall with the library's developmentally appropriate toys.

- On March 8, 2016, Kristine Pennese provided a special math related story time for fifteen children with materials provided by the Bedtime Math Foundation. Participants ages 3-9 came to the library in pajamas and brought a favorite stuffed animal. Kristine read stories, led finger plays and songs centering on the theme of counting and math. Participants enjoyed doing animal census and took home animal tangram puzzles to continue the learning at home.
- Sixteen children and seven parents participated in Fun Friday and Fun Friday Jr. activities on March 11, 2016. Diane Shatzman shared the story Mmm, Cookies by Robert Munsch. Both classes enjoyed hands on fun, making their own creations with play dough that they had mixed together themselves. Fun Fridays are scheduled each month on the first or second Friday of the month when children are dismissed early from school.
- On March 12, 2016 nine members of the Junior friends of the library group auditioned for parts for the Spring Play. High school senior, Sarah Kirkpatrick conducted auditions and is student directing the Junior Friends Thespians in three fractured fairy tales. These presentations will be performed on May 3, 2016 as the culminating event for Family reading month. Play participants will rehearse every Wednesday evening in April.
- Susan Kirkpatrick focused on math and money with her Preschoolers Explorer's class on March 15, 2016. She shared special stories including 365 Penguins, 10 Little Rubber Ducks, Benny's Pennies and Bear Takes A Trip, sang songs, and provided special activities to expand the math concepts in the stories. Participants used pennies to purchase small items at the library "store" and made their own clocks with crayons and paper plates. A take home connect-the dot activity sheet and number board was given to each child to continue the learning at home. There were thirteen children ages 3½ -6 and thirteen parents who participated in this class.
- Sixteen preschool children and their parents attended the Saturday Family Story time with Kristine Pennese on March 19, 2016. These monthly story times provide opportunities for parents who work during the week to attend story times with their children.
- Twelve children in K-4<sup>th</sup> grade and four adults Participated in a Kids Create Spring Break Party on March 23, 2016. Participants enjoyed experimenting with left-over art project materials and a variety of art supplies to make their own creations.
- Monthly block parties have been planned for Mondays for children ages 3-6

through the end of the school year. Each workshop starts with a story and then the participants are invited to build whatever they wish using the blocks and other materials provided by the library. Eight children and eight adults participated in the February 29, 2016 block party and ten children and six adults participated in the March 29, 2016 party. Block playing requires fine and gross motor skills, enhances problem solving and spatial learning skills and is fundamental for later cognitive success with numbers and math.

- Five hundred sixty-eight children are participating in the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. The program is designed to educate parents and increase the amount of time they spend reading and participating in activities that enhance their children's early literacy skills.
- On March 22, 2016, 50 people (35 children and 15 adults) attended a showing of the movie, *The Minions* in Freedom Hall.
- Registration for the Spring Story time classes for children from birth to six years old began the week of March 16, 2016. There are seven separate story time classes offered. The six-week Spring Story time session begins the week of March 29, 2016 and will continue through the week of May 3, 2016. The evening family pajama story time class for children from two to five begins April 5, 2016. It runs concurrently with the daytime story hour classes and does not require registration.
- April is Family Reading Month at the library. During April, the library focuses on early literacy and the very young child. To kick off the month of activities the library sponsored a puppet show with *Puppet Pizzazz*. More than two hundred fifty children and parents attended the high-energy show focused on Health and Fitness.
- Calendars were distributed at the show listing April's events along with suggestions for activities that parents could do at home with their children. Parents were invited to use the calendars to log the amount of time they read aloud to their children. Parents reporting 20 minutes of reading for at least 5 days during April are eligible to enter the prize raffle held at the Spring Play on May 3, 2016.
- The children's department displayed holiday books for St. Patrick's Day, Purim, Holi and Easter. Laura Arnhold put together the large table display, which featured picture books for all ages. Rina Das showcased the library's children's magazine collection and Angie Dalasio created displays celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday, women's history, folktales from India, the Iditarod and sled dogs.

**Report from Carole Keeney-Township Liaison:**

- Carole updated the board on various township activities.

**Upcoming Events:**

- April 28, Joint Meeting with the Board of Supervisors 8:30 p.m.
- May 9, 2016 Library Board Meeting 6:45 p.m.
- October 10, 2016 Library Friend of the Year Presentation to Dr. John Egan before Library Board Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Sharon Duris, Secretary