

Foundation Report from Ruth Nisenshal: October 28, 2013

- Earlier in the month, the Foundation hosted bestselling author Tess Gerritsen whose presentation was attended by over 100 guests. She was thrilled to receive such a good reception and enjoyed her tour of the library. Consequently she wrote a very gracious thank you note that included a donation. This was certainly a very nice gesture on her part.
- On October 8 I attended the monthly Clay Township Trustee meeting that included the announcement of the grants that were being allocated to various not-for-profit organizations that had submitted a proposal in the late spring. I am delighted to report that our proposal in support of the 2014 children's summer reading program was approved in the amount of \$19,300 -- \$50 more than was requested.
- The Guided Leaf Book & Author luncheon was held last week and we enjoyed our highest attendance to date – a shade over 500. Comments were again received that this was the best program yet, which we also heard in previous years. Our major sponsor Guggenheim Life and Annuity sent the following note – *“I just wanted to let you know that everyone including our senior level executives were extremely impressed with the event yesterday. Thank you very much for your hard work in making the event such a success and we look forward to our continued partnership....”* Gareth Evans, Marketing Communications Specialist.

The event's financial details are still being recorded and will be presented at the next meeting in November.

- The January 29 Downton Abbey event continues to take form. Several discussions have been held with The Center for the Performing Arts' staff about event details. Ticket sales will be handled by their box office and will be available beginning November 15. The price structure will be \$25 for general admission, \$35 for premium seating and \$100 for a VIP component that will include hors d'oeuvres, wine and favors.

The “Save the Date” cards were mailed earlier in the month and the invitations will be sent within the next few weeks. We are very pleased that donors Joyce and Jim Winner will be honorary chairs for this event, in addition to being the honorary chairs for our new Centennial Society. Their \$100,000 4-year pledge will be the challenge for our fundraising drive, which is to encourage 100 donors to make a minimum donation of \$1,000 to the Society (in addition to their annual donation). The Society is being formed to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Carnegie Library. It will be the beginning of an endowment for the financial security of the Library's future: the next 100 years.

- The next direct mail appeal to the community will be sent within the next few weeks.