

**FRIENDS OF BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**Meeting Minutes**

**March 30, 2009 7:00 pm**

**Present:** Bill Acquario, Jeanne Biggins, Polly Hartman, Janna Harton, Marsha Levin, Mike Levin, Marianne Purcell, Mary Kim Purcell, Meghan Seely, Sue Viscuso and guest Penny Koburger, Library Board Member

**President's Report**

1. The previous meeting's minutes were approved.
2. The Boston bus trip went well. Polly, Bill and Mary Kim attended and were very pleased with the driver and will ask for him again. Usually reservations are slow early on, but by the end we easily get a bus of 55. This time of year is good. The trip cost \$37 for members, \$45 for nonmembers.
3. The August Glimmerglass bus trip has 46 tickets and 1 comp ticket. 20 seats are filled already. Polly expects the others will fill.
4. A NYC Zoo bus trip is planned for 10/3/09. Polly will get information (including the zoo ticket prices) into the July/August Footnotes by the May 16 deadline. Participants will purchase their own tickets at the door because prices differ for different groups (youth, adult, senior). The board decided to charge \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. Group scan get reduced rates. Polly will arrange for a coupon at the gate for the reduced rate.
5. The NYC Holiday bus trip 12/5/09 is already reserved with Wade. Polly says they have been very good to work with.
6. Mary Kim has been trying to contact Library Golf for more information but has not received a response. She will try again. If there is no response, we will not pursue it at this time.
7. Bake sales have gone well, earning almost \$440 so far. The group decided to provide a bake sale for the Friends-sponsored Riverway Storytelling Festival Sunday 4/26/09 at 2pm (Sue, Polly and Mary Kim will host the table 1-4pm—we anticipate 100-120 attendees) and for the Sunday 4/5/09 2pm Improv Club with 9 stand-up comics (Marianne and Jeffrey will host the table). So anyone who can bake, please do. Jeanne will have the custodians set up the table.
8. New tote bags samples were discussed. The group decided to order khaki bags with white lettering. Jeanne shared the library is revising its logo, but that the new look won't be ready in time for the bag order and shared a mock-up for an interim Friends image. The bags are about \$2.25 each (250 for \$560.97). A note will be added to the Footnotes that these recycled, eco-friendly bags are available for purchase at the library's front desk for \$4 each.
9. 5 went on the Italy trip. Sue will create a survey for them (and share with the board for input) for feedback about whether to continue this type of fundraiser. We should get about \$1700 from this, but it took much time and effort. If we do this again, we might choose another company to work with.
10. Fundraising ideas were discussed. A 50/50 raffle was suggested where ½ the profits of an event like a bake sale would go to a raffle winner. Jeanne will check with the library to see if there are any legal concerns with a raffle. Mike shared that Price Chopper has given tickets out to organizations before. Another suggestion was a garden party/garden tea/Victorian garden event when the library's gardens are in bloom (ideally early June) perhaps with chamber music from the high school. The parking lot may be in construction this year. A bus trip to Montreal was proposed. An autumn event might be an antiques road show was suggested—Jeanne did this in 2002, charging \$5 for appraisals, but attendance was free. Appraisers donated their time. Further discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

**Treasurer's Report as of 3/30/09**

Balance forward	\$12,986.02
Receipts	
Bake Sales of 2/09 and 3/09	\$189.00

## Friends of the Library Meeting Minutes 3/30/09 (cont.)

Redeposit of Start-up funds	25.00	
Personal donations	45.00	
Boston bus trip	2266.00	
Tote bag sales	204.00	
Teddy bear sales	36.00	2765.00
Actual Expenses		
Delmar florist	\$40.00	
Kara Cornell	500.00	
Upper Hudson Library Assn	1250.00	
Amy Bateman	600.00	
Steve Hamilton	200.00	
Bethlehem Public Library	2046.99	
Wade Tours (bus)	1353.00	<u>5989.99</u>
Balance in checkbook		\$9761.03
Allocated expenses		
Wade Tours (Aug)	700.00	
Scholarships	1000.00	
NYS Library Assoc Conf	25.00	
Glimmerglass (Aug trip)	2508.00	
Otesago (Aug trip)	900.00	<u>5133.80</u>
Net funds available		<u>\$4627.23</u>

### Liaison's Report

1. Writer's and Friends cost \$3281.54, of which Friends paid \$2900. One of the goals of this series is to feature prominent authors and the library staff have successfully worked to book such authors at no fee or a reduced fee and also less prominent authors. If anyone knows local or NY state authors or has contacts or connections with other groups sponsoring writers, please share this with Jeanne. Jeanne will send a list of authors the library is pursuing. We would like to decide by June how much we will support this event.
2. The Riverway Storytelling Festival will be April 20-26, with the final event at BPL and sponsored by the Friends.
3. New skylights have been installed in the building, replacing cloudy 30 year old ones and making the building brighter.
4. The Trustees have been working on Project Parc (Parking Access Renewal Community) for a year. There will be 30% more parking spaces, more and more handicap spots in a better location, it will be safer, traffic will go counterclockwise to permit safer drop offs. \$42,000 from the state funds are available for this.

### New Business

1. Meghan's last day with the board is today. All wished her well. Michael Viscuso, Sue's son will take her place this coming year. Meghan still plans to award the scholarship at school.
2. The annual meeting (a voting meeting) is May 18 and will be at 6:00 PM. Jeanne will schedule it in the usual library meeting room. The meeting is open to the public and pizza will be provided (Mike will arrange this). The board proposed the same slate of officers as this year.
3. The scholarship deadline is 3/31/09. Jeanne will make copies and put them in the Friends mailbox for the scholarship committee to review. Committee members who know an applicant should recuse themselves.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm

Next meeting: May 19, 2009 at 6:00 PM