

FRIENDS OF BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY
Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2009 7:00 pm

Present: Bill Acquario, Jeanne Biggins, Polly Hartman, Janna Harton, Marsha Levin, Mike Levin, Marianne Purcell, Mary Kim Purcell and Elissa Zwiebach

President's Report

1. The previous meeting's minutes were approved with minor changes.
2. The Glimmerglass bus trip (\$125 for all participants regardless of Friends membership) is full with 56 and a waiting list has been started. A Spotlight article on the trip was shared. The Oct 3 Bronx trip has 15 so far of 55 seats and will be advertised in the next Footnotes. The December 5 trip to NYC will also be in Footnotes and will cost \$45 for nonmembers, \$40 for members. Polly recommended that anyone making queries or sending money be advised to include the name of the trip to reduce confusion. The contact number is 478-7822.
3. The membership letter has been sent out. Historically we get most responses right away and only a few trickle in later. So far this year we seem to be behind last year's which was also the case last year.

Treasurer's Report as of 7/20/09

Balance forward		\$11,067.81
Receipts		
Applications (donations)	\$3600.00	(101 to date)
Bears & totes	<u>194.00</u>	
		3794.00
Expenditures		
Beth Public Library	\$1185.00	
Scholarships	1000.00	
Wal-Mart	50.66	
US Postal Service	55.34	
Wade Tours (bus)	1000.00	
Glimmerglass	3120.80	(total amt pd \$3748
Joyelle	<u>50.00</u>	6461.80
Balance in checkbook		<u>\$8400.01</u>
Allocated expenses		
Wade Tours	3978.00	
Otesaga (Aug trip)	990.00	<u>\$4968.00</u>
Net funds available		<u>\$3432.01</u>

Note: It's likely the Glimmerglass trip will make 1100-1200 with all seats full so the net figure may be under-represented.

Liaison's Report

Friends of the Library Meeting Minutes 7/20/09 (cont.)

1. The library has a new trustee, Joyce Becker.
2. Mary Trev Thomas was introduced and will be our new liaison in place of Jeanne who is retiring. Mary Trev has been with the library since 2002. Everyone was asked to add Mary Trev to their group emails.
3. A letter was sent out regarding the Project PARC construction which will be starting soon. Not everyone on the board recalled having received the letter.
4. The membership appeal information was shared with a list of donations and the amounts as of 7/16/09. Any questions about Friends membership numbers/reports should be directed to Michelle Gufrey in IT.
5. Writers and Friends has booked 3 authors and confirmed 2 dates. The cost (including 3 receptions) will be \$1000.
6. There are 13 bears left. We've sold eco bags since 4/15 and provided a complimentary bag to the writers as a thanks (the board felt providing complimentary bags to writers was a nice idea).
7. We have no insurance—it was too costly and unnecessary.
8. From the last Antiques event we netted \$730. There was low traffic in September. We distributed tickets via the circulation desk last time—each ticket was good for a 30 minute visit. We placed ads: on TV18, in the Spotlight, via library fliers, on the website. We can now also send eblasts. Someone from Hudson comes to do all the shows now. Hudson seems to be a hub. Marianne will make calls to ask if they'd still be interested.

New Business

1. 2010 bus trips are as follows: Boston spring trip, Glimmerglass opera in summer, Montreal in fall, NYC in December. Bill says the Montreal trip is definitely doable—he took a bus tour to Montreal and enjoyed the free jazz fest there. Their bus left at 6am from Crossgates, made 2 stops, were in Montreal at 11am and home by 10:30pm, including a stop at the duty free shop. A tour to visit libraries might be of interest.
2. Mary Kim started researching other travel agents and spoke with Jiradow (sp?) Plaza Travel, a retailer (Colette is wholesale). They'd cost more, but we wouldn't have to do any work answering phone calls/questions. They suggested the economy is poor now, but we might consider another trip in 2011. Mary Kim will invite them to the next meeting. Voorheesville did a Europe trip too and Mary Kim will check how that went.
3. The business appeal goes out in fall before the next meeting. Sue and Mary Kim will send a copy our for our review. The appeal form is being made accessible online, although users will still need to print and mail the form with their gift. We'd experimented with using PayPal online (the library doesn't do credit cards), but it didn't work too well, was expensive and few used it.
4. We're welcome to use the library eblast system to share information. 1200 people are registered to get the eblasts.
5. Elissa is working with the library on updating the address and making labels. The mail list is members and bus trip nonmembers.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm

Next meeting: September 21, 2009 at 7:00 PM