

**Friends of Bethlehem Public Library**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 24, 2008, 7:00 pm**

**Present:** Jeanne Biggins, Polly Hartman, Janna Harton, Meryl Norek, Marsha Levin, Mike Levin, Mary Kim Purcell, Sue Viscuso and guests, Bill Acquario and Elissa Zwiebach

Guests Bill Acquario and Elisa Zwiebach were welcomed and introductions were made. Bill and Elissa indicated interest in working with the Board.

**President's Report**

1. September's meeting minutes were approved.
2. The 12/13/08 bus trip is now full (55 seats/bus) with 3 people on a waiting list. Cost is \$37 for Friends members, \$45 for nonmembers. One of the 2 buses was canceled for the December trip. Jeanne will take the December trip off the library website. The deposit for the Boston trip 3/28/09 is now due. Itinerary: bus arrives 7am and departs 7:30am from Delmar, arrives 11am in Boston (drop off near Quincy Market), depart Boston 6pm, arrive Delmar 9:30pm.
3. This year's student scholarship theme will be "why public libraries are so important in tough economic times". Two \$500 scholarships are given annually to the seniors who provide the best essays. Participants must live in the Bethlehem Central School District. Jeanne will update the entry form to include parent signature and that by signing the student agrees to release of his/her name/photo and that the library has the rights to use any portions of the essay without compensation to the student, send information to Bethlehem Central High School's Counseling Center for promotion to school seniors, post the information on the library website, place it in the Jan/Feb Footnotes and Spotlight, send a press release and put it on Cable TV18. The entry deadline is 3/31/09. The Bethlehem awards ceremony is 5/28/09 at 7:30pm. Last year our student rep gave the award.
4. The bake sales (including sales of bags and bear) have made good profits. Sales concurrent with concerts seem to do well. The next concert (flute/piano) is 12/7/08 at 2pm. Mike will set up at 12:30pm and bring the money box and coffee/tea supplies. Sue and Polly will man the table. All those bringing baked goods should arrive at 1. The other concerts are 2/1/09 (vocalist) and 3/1/09 (Amherst String Quartet). We plan to offer bake sales at each event.

**Treasurer's Report as of 11/24/08**

Balance forward \$11,444.35

Receipts

Personal donations \$500.00

Corporate donations 1820.00

Donation from Trustees 150.00

Profit from bake sales 178.30

Teddy bear sales 40.00  
Tote bag sales 192.00 2880.25

#### Expenses

Bake sale start-up/supplies \$35.22  
USPS 16.80  
Concerts (Nov/Dec) 550.00  
Wade tours-December trip 1309.00  
Walker 119.00 2030.02  
Balance in checkbook \$12,294.58

#### Allocated future expenses

Refreshments for ESL \$300.00  
Author series 2900.00  
Winter concerts 1150.00  
Wade tours-March trip 1353.00  
Scholarships 1000.00  
NYS Library Asst Assoc 200.00  
NYS Library Assoc Anl Conf 25.00 6,928.00  
Net funds available \$5,366.58

These figures are exclusive of bus trip proceeds. We have already received corporate donations this year of \$2070 from 14 companies, which is better than last year.

#### **Liaison's Report**

1. The library roof is now complete.
2. We are approaching the end of this year's English as a Second Language (ESL) literacy project for which the Board provided \$300 for meeting refreshments and honoraria to the adult literacy volunteers. The project targeted families in the Bethlehem School District. The project ran spring and fall, doing better in its second session in fall when 8-13 individuals participated at each meeting in both the adult conversation club and homework help for students. Japanese, Chinese, Russian and Spanish speakers participated. As a result of the program, the library has created welcome to the library brochures in these languages.
3. The Riverway week-long storytelling festival is scheduled to be held 4/20/09-4/26/09. This program of the Upper Hudson Library System in its 7<sup>th</sup> year attracts annually 2200 participants and features 4-5 nationally known storytellers. As festival sponsors, the Friends hosted the finale event at BPL attracting 100 participants. UHLS sent a letter asking if the Friends would be a sponsor again at the same rate as last year, \$1250. The Board voted unanimously to sponsor the event and asked Jeanne to see if they could again provide a bonus of a second performance at a local school (this went over very well last year). The Board suggested there be more publicity and perhaps inclusion of the local middle school story-telling contest.

4. The Jeffery Deaver program was well received and he enjoyed the experience and his stay at The Red Cottage B&B in Slingerlands. Since the B&B was not very expensive and his experience was so good, the Board may use this inn for future guests.
5. The walker with seat and basket that the Friends purchased has arrived, is kept in the lobby and is being used.

### **New Business**

1. Polly reported the Glimmerglass opera trip Tuesday 8/11/09 to Verdi's La Traviata matinee will cost \$68/ticket, \$18/buffet lunch (includes tip and tax) and \$15/bus seat, a total of \$101. If we make \$15/person, tickets will cost \$126. The smaller bus we plan to use will hold 46. The deposit must be made 1 month in advance and Glimmerglass will purchase unused tickets back from us. Jeanne will post this event in the Mar/Apr Footnotes. The deadline for Wade is mid-January. A possible preview class was again discussed in which a guest speaker would provide an opera seminar. Polly will check with a possible speaker.
2. In light of the economic situation and its proximity to the Glimmerglass trip, the Board decided to postpone the wine country bus trip to fall 2010. This will also allow us to evaluate how the Glimmerglass event is received.
3. Eco-friendly, less expensive tote bags were discussed. Mary Kim is getting samples for the next meeting of a bag that would cost \$1.76 per bag if 250 are ordered. Further discussion was tabled to the next meeting.
4. Mary Kim will talk to the Spotlight about the holiday thanks ad and ensure all corporate sponsors are included.
5. The Italy trip has 5 attendees at present. The Friends should receive \$200-300 per person.
6. Membership applications should be changed to include a category for members who would be willing to bake for bake sales.
7. Mary Kim called the founder of Library Mini Golf ([www.libraryminigolf.org](http://www.libraryminigolf.org)) to investigate how this fundraiser works. For \$5000 the company designs and builds a mini golf course that fits the library, helps identify hole sponsors the first year, and set up a competitive tournament process (adult and youth divisions) with trophies (the founder will even give a \$250 scholarship to a youth tournament winner). If all holes are sponsored, there is a silent auction, there are 19<sup>th</sup> hole refreshments and there are 500-1000 players at \$5 each, libraries can make up to \$15,000-20,000 per annual event (subsequent years there is no additional cost to the company). An additional 2-3 holes can be made to cater to toddlers. Libraries remain open to the public for library services during mini golf events. This would be a full-day event (usually a Sunday in late winter at other libraries) and would require volunteers (cashbox, hole supervision, 19<sup>th</sup> hole sales, etc.). Many participants have been adult men who enjoy the indoor golf competition when it's cold outside. Mary Kim will inquire about Board members visiting an upcoming mini golf event and ask the founder how libraries have managed difficult situations (toddlers taking balls, teens rough housing, etc.).

Meeting adjourned 8:40 pm

Next meeting: January 26, 2009

