

**FRIENDS OF BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 30, 2009 7:00 pm**

**Present:** Bill Aquario, Polly Hartman, Janna Harton, Geoff Kilpatrick, Marsha Levin, Mike Levin, Meryl Norek, Mary Kim Purcell, Mary Trev Thomas, Mike Viscuso and Sue Viscuso

**President's Report**

1. The previous meeting's minutes were approved with minor changes.
2. The business appeal was sent out presorted mail to reduce cost. To date 8 businesses have contributed a total of \$1000; last year 14 businesses contributed a total of \$2070. This may be a sign of the economic downturn. We didn't buy labels this year, just updated last year's list so our list different from the Chamber's list, however, we also have had many fewer returns than in previous years.
3. The Bronx Zoo trip was successful, but didn't make as much as we would have liked.
4. The NYC trip only sold out one bus. Polly is hosting this trip. Additional inquirers were sent to the Voorheesville Library which is also doing NYC bus trip.
5. The first A Little Sunday Music was well attended and the accompanying bake sale was successful, raising over \$100. The author talk wasn't as well attended.

**Treasurer's Report as of 11/30/09**

Balance forward		\$13,935.59
Receipts		
Bronx Zoo	\$1822.00	
Totes	116.00	
Personal applications (donations) <sup>1</sup>	280.00	
Business donations <sup>2</sup>	1080.00	
Bake sales	103.00	
Bears	6.00	
NYC trip <sup>3</sup>	<u>2370.00</u>	
		5,777.00
Expenditures		
Mailings	\$30.99	
Bronx Zoo	1626.00	
Postage	<u>236.66</u>	
Cashbox	30.00	
Concert	300.00	
NYC trip, refund	45.00	
Wal-mart	<u>20.04</u>	<u>2,288.69</u>
Balance in checkbook		\$17,423.90

## Friends of the Library Meeting Minutes 11/30/09 (cont.)

Allocated expenses		
Sunday concerts	1200.00	
Scholarships	1000.00	
Authors Series	<u>1000.00</u>	<u>3200.00</u>
 Net funds available		<u>\$14,223.90</u>

<sup>1</sup> Represents a total of 119 applications and \$4338 funds to date

<sup>2</sup> Represents a total of 8 contributors

<sup>3</sup> Represents a profit of \$944

Note: These totals were off by \$40 due to a late donation (i.e. available=\$14263.90).

### Liaison's Report

1. Mary Trev shared that we have 6 teddy bears left.
2. The Riverway Storytelling Festival was presented. Last year we spent \$1250 to host the final event and it went very well. The board approved spending the same amount this year.
3. Writers, Friends and Authors are not completely set yet. Mary Trev will share costs via email when she knows more.
4. The new liaison, the new Assistant Director, Geoff Kirkpatrick was introduced. Mary Trev shared that she has enjoyed working with us. The board thanks Mary Trev for serving with us these last few months.

### New Business

1. Eco Bags are running out, we have only 12 left. Mike Levin will order more bags, this time in dark green. We have been selling them at \$4 each (cost was \$561 for 250) and Mary Trev shared people see them as a good deal and buy several at a time and having different colors might be appreciated for families buying bags for several people.
2. 2010 bus trips:
  - We will charge an additional \$2 per traveler starting in 2010 to cover the cost of the driver tip and let everyone know the cost includes transportation and gratuity.
  - It was suggested that the Eco Bags be taken on the bus and sold if bags are needed. Bill will handle sales on the upcoming NYC trip.
  - Footnotes, the website and bulletin boards will advertise upcoming trips.
  - Mary Kim will call to reserve the Boston trip for April 24, 2010. Fees will be \$42 for members and \$47 for nonmembers. Mary Kim will host, Polly will be back-up if needed.
  - We made \$500 on the last Glimmerglass trip so there will be another in July or August. The group decided on The Marriage of Figaro.
  - Sue reported that Woodstock might not be the best bus trip as it seems more suited to smaller, more mobile family outings.
  - Janna reported back and provided a summary handout on the Sterling Renaissance Festival. The event runs weekends from 7/3/10-8/15/10 10am-7pm. Cost is \$24.95/adult, \$14.95/child, but there are reduced rates for groups and significantly reduced tickets if they are purchased by 12/31/09. Sterling is a 3-hour drive from Albany. This event appeals to a wide audience, draws large crowds and has many different activities, events, foods and crafts (outlined in the handout). Elissa will report

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on the Sterling Forest Festival at the next meeting. There was a concern that it not interfere with the Glimmerglass trip, but it was also felt that the audiences were sufficiently different. If we pursued a summer ren fest as well as Glimmerglass this year we might want to forego an autumn bus trip.

3. Responsibilities for upcoming A Little Sunday Music events were reiterated (Marsha and Mike will manage supplies, 12/6 Mary Kim and Janna, 2/14 Marsha and Mike, 3/7 Sue and Mike). Everyone should bake as they can for these events to help raise funds. Guests seem to like mini loaves. Michael will host the event and start the coffee maker.
4. Mary Trev shared library administration will support an antique appraisal fundraiser. Since Marianne was not present, discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
5. A scholarship topic was discussed. An essay on “what you’d say to the governor regarding maintaining libraries and why based on personal experience” was proposed, but then the topic moved to convincing legislators to commit more finances to libraries and finally to “how you’d convince non-users to support the library” in 500 words or less. Geoff will craft the proposed statement and share with all via email. Previous committee members stressed the importance of a personal aspect to reduce cookie cutter essays. The scholarships will be advertised in Footnotes and readers pointed to the website for details. It was suggested that names be removed from essays so they could be judged blind.
6. Diamond Tours provided information to Mary Kim on trips to US locations. She shared the materials with the group, but no other action on this will be taken at this time.
7. The March meeting date will be changed to March 22, 2010 to avoid the holidays.

Meeting adjourned 8:15 pm

Next meeting: January 18, 2010 at 7:00 PM