



**HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

February 8, 2022

Present

Lauren Casper (President), Joanna Riesman (Treasurer), Jacqueline Weitzman (Secretary), Tim Donahue, Peter Swiderski, Debbie Quinn (Director), and Allee Manning (Youth Services Librarian) joined us at the beginning of the meeting.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the January 4 meeting were approved.

Personnel

Congratulations to Ursula Cornely, who won WLA's 2022 Bonnie Katz Award for exemplary service to the Library!

Allee Manning, our Youth Services Librarian, started work on January 18, and is roundly winning accolades. She joined the beginning of the meeting to talk about her initiatives: She has contacted local business owners, the Historical Society, P-CoC (Parenting Children of Color), and the schools about joint programming plans. She will begin a middle school book club, resume the Toddler Time and "Stories that Speak" programs, and she expressed interest in a program around the idea of book banning. She is weeding and adding to the YA and children's collection, with a particular lens toward inclusion and diversity. She also has ideas about the configuration of the children's section.

Day-to-Day Operations

Limits on browsing, sitting, etc. were lifted on Monday, January 31st. The public reading areas and study rooms are getting heavy use.

On February 6, the Library re-opened for regular Sunday hours, from 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Canasta, Girl Scouts, and Chess are back in the library. Girls Who Code will be starting up again in April, for ten weeks.

The Library was closed on Saturday, January 29th because of a snowstorm. On Friday, February 4th, the Village and school district closed, but the Library was open and filled with kids.

The phones and computers went down on Monday, February 7th at 3:00 p.m. and remained down until Tuesday around 1:30 p.m. The diagnosis: a nesting squirrel. Beyond this, there have been “constant computer issues”: freezing, shutting down, etc. Steve from WLS thinks the building may need to be rewired. There could be federal money for this. Wilson from WLS will be coming to inspect and Debbie will continue monitoring.

Budget time is here. Peter will be meeting with Debbie to review.

Sue Feir has been systematically weeding the book collection, now a bit squeezed for space. Allee has started weeding the Juvenile and YA areas. This is a long-term project; Debbie will help.

Programming

Mike’s Keeping it Real book group met on January 21st with a small group to discuss Margo Lee Shetterly’s *Hidden Figures*. Next up is *Caste*, by Isabel Wilkerson, on Friday, February 25th at 11:00 a.m.

Nora is back in person, hosting two classes each Monday.

Cornelius Vanderbilt: The First Tycoon, co-sponsored by six WLS libraries, is set for February 9, at 7:00 p.m.

The African Burial Ground National Monument virtual tour is set for Thursday, February 10, at 7:00 p.m.

Allee will lead Toddler Time for ages 3-5 -- with songs, fingerplays, and interactive stories -- Mondays at 11:30.

Stories That Speak resumes on Thursday, February 17th with Jacqueline Woodson’s *The Day You Begin*.

African and African-American folktales with Eshu Bumpus: A Night of Storytelling for Kids and Families happens Thursday, February 23rd at 7:00 p.m. It is co-sponsored by Greenburgh, Hastings, and Somers libraries.

Frank Silverstein and Maya Lang will be in conversation about “Lousy: Love in the Time of Dementia” on Thursday, February 17, at 7:30 p.m.

The three-part Read, Watch, Discuss series begins on Wednesday, February 23 at 7:30 with *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Sharon will facilitate this discussion; Joanna, then Tim will lead the next two.

Five Towns: One Book—*The Sum of Us*, by Heather McGhee. Several discussions will take place during February and March. Moderators have been identified. This culminates at New Rochelle Library on March 27th with Heather McGhee herself.

On Thursday, March 3rd at 7:30 p.m., Emma Snyder will be (virtually) presenting her film “Takeover,” about a group of Puerto Rican activists who took over the South Bronx’s Lincoln Hospital in 1970.

Ed McNamara of SOVA (Steward of Vast Abundance) farms would like to present a Power Point that answers the question “What do we mean by organic foods and farms?”

Pending: Fred Charles and Andrew Bordwin on the Battle of Edgars Lane; Kate Tolson and the SEED Project; the My Adirondack Story podcast, and David Beinstein and his film “Are You Happy Now?”

Facilities

Debbie and Lauren signed the contract for Donald MacDonald to develop plans and specifications for the roof overlay. It includes competitive bidding and construction phase administration. A copy was sent to Mary Beth.

Carpet tiles have been installed in the Barnes Room. The installer will return to address a few problem areas.

DPW will remove the bookcase, two black sofas, and more from the Barnes Room.

Steve from WLS replaced two problematic computers. Wilson from WLS will be coming to inspect wiring.

Website

The move to Flywheel’s services seems to be successful. No problems thus far. And there’s plenty of programming on the carousel.

Miscellaneous

Recent honorary donations raise questions about how such donations might be recognized. The board suggested custom-made bookplates in books purchased with these funds. This idea spawned other fundraising ideas to be discussed in the near future.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting has been scheduled to be in-person on Tuesday, March 15, at 4:30 p.m.