



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Approved Minutes**  
January 7, 2025

**Present**

Tim Donahue (President), Peter Swiderski (Treasurer), Jacqueline Weitzman (Secretary), Lauren Links (via Zoom), Lauren Casper, Debbie Quinn (Director)

**Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the November 21st meeting were approved.

**Budget**

Village Manager Mary Beth Murphy asked Debbie to attend a meeting with her and Village Clerk Anthony Costantini to go over the library's finances. Mary Beth said that we need to be very careful with our spending for the remainder of the fiscal year so that we don't go into a deficit. Although our fund balance was \$132,000, \$80,000 of it was appropriated by the Village for FY 2024-25. They are planning to appropriate another \$80,000 for FY 2025-26, so we don't have enough in our fund balance to get us through to the end of the fiscal year. Debbie pointed out that we have very little money in our book line and that we cannot get through the remaining five months with what's in there. Debbie had been told that we could take money from surplus if that happened, but now it doesn't seem as though we can do that. Anthony will be printing out our latest budget on Thursday and Debbie will sit down with Peter to review, and then request another meeting with Mary Beth and Anthony.

**Day-to-Day Operations**

With staff taking some time off around the holidays, Juan and Greg filled in several times. Not only are they great workers but they are pleasant and efficient, and patrons are always happy to see them.

The library has been busy since January 1<sup>st</sup>, especially the children's area. The school district had two full weeks off and now with the FMS disaster, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be off until Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Close to closing time on Saturday, Regina was cleaning up the newspapers and magazines and noticed political notes written in several of our magazines by a patron who lives in Yonkers but uses our library. He also left a bulletin from a local church with a political statement written on it by hand. When she brought the material to the desk to throw away, his wife came in, and Regina asked her to return them to her husband and to ask him to stop leaving propaganda on our shelves and to stop defacing our property. He came storming to the desk saying he was expressing his freedom of speech. Regina disagreed and said he was defacing our property. The patron then said, "You know, I can hit you!" She unwisely replied, "And I can hit you back!" She then collected herself and she suggested they take the matter up with the police. She walked with him over to the police station and they both made statements.

### **Adult Programs**

Keeping It Real discussed Patti Smith's *M Train* on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. At this point, Mike has his regulars, but a few new people came as well.

Three intermediate ukulele classes took place in December. Those who participated loved them.

The last Local Luminaries of 2024 with Melanie Hoopes and JT Rogers was fantastic. They brought six actors with them who performed one of Melanie's plays, one of JT's, and one that Melanie and JT wrote together. The layout of the evening was great, they were so charming and engaging, and an audience of about 60-70 people loved it. Joanna Reisman is going to ask Riverarts if they would support a reading of Melanie's play to be presented at the library.

Vicky Bugbee's showing of *State of Grace* was a technical disaster. Although it didn't help us at the time, we later learned that it was not our AV system that was the problem but the way she was trying to project it from her personal laptop. Vicky was so gracious about it all, as was the audience, and after stopping the movie about halfway through, she gave a lovely talk about the making of the film and she also answered questions. The audience was sympathetic and with her throughout, and many went home to screen it on their own.

The knitters have continued to meet without Jeanne.

Mahjong is going well.

Dance for Parkinson's had their first class in the Orr Room today. Julie Worden loves the space and is grateful to be able to use it. Only a few people showed up, probably due to the cold and wind. Next class is on Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Children's Programs**

Allee has cancelled Yoga with Pooja for now and will try to figure out a better time to offer it in spring or summer.

Adam Hart has been attracting a good crowd as does Fiesta with Flor.

Gigglethump is catching on. Richard is sort of new to doing this so Allee has helped with managing the kids.

The various book clubs continue.

### **Upcoming Programs**

Tim's Pastoral Literature Class will start tomorrow, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and will run for six weeks. The class is full.

Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, Daniel Belasco will give his talk about ten mid-century women artists based on his book, *Artists in Midcentury America: A History in Ten Exhibitions*. He'll have a PowerPoint presentation followed by a Q & A.

The Senior Council will show *Good Morning Vietnam* on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> as part of their Senior Thursdays monthly program.

The Ringston-Ward Duo was hoping to be back in February, but both of their schedules make it impossible, now that they are no longer at Purchase. Jack wrote a lovely note, thanking us for having them here. They will be missed.

Local Luminaries starts off the new year with the Rivertowns Ramblers and "Old Time" music. They'll perform and talk about Bluegrass music.

Marie Miller approached Allee about sponsoring Book Buddies at the library for Grades 1 to 4. So far, the two parents who registered thought it was at Hillside where it was during the summer, and cancelled when they heard it was at the library, which was logistically tricky for them. We'll see who shows up on Thursday for the first session.

Allee is working on a Lunar New Year celebration, but Early Voting may nix it. She was aiming for February 2<sup>nd</sup>, but now she might need to reconsider.

A teen's mother approached Allee and asked if he could offer tech help to seniors as part of his Bar Mitzvah project. He and a friend are offering to help on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup> from 3:45 to 4:45. Peter suggested they might wish to coordinate with senior programming at the Rec Center.

Keeping It Real is meeting on Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss *Best Minds: A Story of Friendship, Madness and the Tragedy of Good Intentions* by Jonathan Rosen.

Regina has scheduled a talk for Black History month with Danielle DeSouza who worked here many years ago. She is going to talk about starting her own business as a Black woman and the important role libraries played for her in pursuing her career. It's set for Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

For Women's History month, Regina invited MaryJane Shimsky to speak about the Voting Rights Act on Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

Gil Reavil, a Hastings resident who presented at the library a few years ago on his book, *Nordic Noir*, is working on a new novel about John Singer Sargent and an artist's model whom he painted about 300 times. He will give a talk on Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 3pm, to include an overview of Sargent's life and work and his relationship with the model, Rosina Ferrara, that he met on the island of Capri. She later married an artist, George Randolph Barse, and lived in Katonah.

### **Facilities**

This is the first time in recent memory that we did not have any facilities issues to discuss.

### **Friends**

The Friends' Annual Giftique was a huge success, raising over \$3,732.

Barron Lerner will be one of the presenters of this winter's Gamut lecture series.

At their next meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Friends will get an update on the decoration of The Young Room as well as begin planning for the spring gala.

### **Next Meeting**

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 11th at 7pm.