

FRIENDS OF THE BEL AIR LIBRARY
MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY January 22, 2024
6:00PM

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Annie Kovach, Amy Cedrone, Luvenia Woodward, Bill and Marie Kridenoff, Leslie and Cliff Riden, Cheryl DeScipio, and Amber Shrodes, Director of Philanthropy and Community Engagement for the Harford County Public Library Foundation.

Ms. Cedrone commenced the meeting at 6:05. The November 27, 2023 minutes were approved by all. Marie Kridenoff, the newly appointed Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report as follows:

a/o 11/18/2023: Checking Account balance: \$12,990.76 Savings Account balance: \$11,197.48
a/o 12/31/2023: Checking Account balance: \$5,301.11 Savings Account balance: \$11,197.66

LIBRARY FOUNDATION UPDATE: The Gala of Saturday, November 4, 2023 had a net profit of \$100,000.00, which was the goal. The foundation is hoping to bring in a Spring event, "Taste of Harford" at Vignon Manor Farm in Darlington on Sunday, May 19, 2024 from 1-4pm in partnership with the Restaurant Association of Maryland, The Farm Bureau, Chamber of Commerce, and wineries and breweries. There will be vendors, music, art, and a contest for the best Blue Catfish dish, and samples to taste from vendors and competitors. The next Gala will be October 26, 2024. The theme is "Night Circus" from the book by Aaron Morganstern. There are plans for a Pub Crawl called "The Santa Summit". The Foundation is looking into having an "Author Night Out" again. Any suggestions of authors should be sent to Amber Schrodes. Five new Foundation members will be inducted on January 23, 2024.

BRANCH MANAGER'S REPORT: Ms Kovach presented 4 requests for upcoming programs. Dr. Melissa Munro Boyd for "Mental Health Awareness Month", \$70; "Sarah Grimke Speaks", a living history program on 3/21/24, \$175; "Inclusive Mondays", once/month, \$200; and Summer Reading Presenters, \$2,000. The Friends approved a total of \$2,445. Past program highlights are: 125 people attended the Library's Holiday Open House. 86 attended "Birds of Maryland". 21 attended "Create a Hand Sewn Ornament". 426 registered for Winter Reading at the Bel Air Branch as of 1/21/24. It was suggested that for next year's open house to contact HCC and HCPS for the music.

NEW BUSINESS: There were no out of cycle requests. Ms. Kridenoff will explore higher interest rates for the Friends of the Library's maturing CD's as they come due in 2024.

The Spring Adult book sale dates are 4/11/24 through 4/15/24 with set up on 4/4, 4/5, 4/6, and 4/8. The Spring Children's book sale will be 4/25/24 through 4/27/24 with set up on 4/24. For the Friends' T-shirt fundraiser, Ms. Cedrone will contact the T-shirt printer for prices and quantities in sizes medium, large, and x-large. She will poll Facebook followers to see how much interest there would be to buy our T-shirts. It was approved that the signature of the T-shirt designer be put on it.

The County Meeting of the Friends will be held at the Abingdon Branch on Tuesday, January 30, 2024. Bill and Marie Kridenoff and Pat Easter will attend.

OLD BUSINESS: Marie Kridenoff is the Friends' newly appointed Treasurer. Mr. Garrison retired for health reasons. A reminder that no account is necessary to access the Friends' Facebook page and that

the Bel Air Friends now have a QR code that can be scanned for upcoming events. See below:
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089242780747>.

There being no further business, Ms. Cedrone adjourned the meeting at 7:06. The next meeting of the Friends of the Library Board of Directors will be on Monday, February 26, 2024 at 6:00pm at The Bel Air Branch of HCPL. All friends are encouraged and welcome to attend.



Respectfully submitted,
Pat Easter, Secretary