

Welcome to 2021!

The terms of the Bylaws of the Friends of the Ossining Public Library include an annual meeting and election of officers. Because COVID-19 restrictions preclude holding our in-person meeting, this email serves as the report from the Board. Minutes of last year's meeting are attached for your review.

Election of Officers

The current Board officers are:

President	Dennis Neuberger
Vice President	Barbara Henninger
Secretary	Bonnie Zitofsky
Treasurer	Michele Tagg

We are each willing to continue our tenure for another year; please respond only if you disagree with this action.

Annual Treasurer's Report

The Annual Treasurer's Report is attached for your review. You will note the following line items:

- ❖ We were unable to enjoy our many book sales, thus the low amount of income.
- ❖ County Grant: The Friends entered into an Agreement with the County of Westchester, through its Office of Youth Bureau, to provide services related to its Garden Scholars program. You may view this program in action on the OPL website in the Teens section.
- ❖ Unsolicited renewals of dues and donations have been received throughout the year. If you would like to confirm your renewal date, do not hesitate to respond to this email. Additional receipts are generated by the coin drop located near the circulation desk – especially popular among our younger patrons.
- ❖ Page Scholarships: Three awards of \$500 each were given to Orla Hagan, Punita Sander, and Lucia Vallejo.
- ❖ Reimbursements: A small amount of this money is for postage. In recognition of the extraordinary efforts of the OPL staff providing programs and services during the pandemic, the Friends gave all staff a "Thank You" gift bag which included a "thank you" poem, milk, cookies, and a \$25 Amazon gift card in the form of a bookmark.



- ❖ The Bob Minzesheimer Author Series continues online. Registration is open for January 14 at 7:00 PM, "His Very Best: Jimmy Carter, A Life" written by Jonathan Alter.

New and Miscellaneous Items

- ❖ When the Friends have an excess of books in storage, we deliver them to multiple charitable organizations rather than destroy them. We are also assisting the library's Home Bound Delivery program. I am pleased to inform you that these activities were resumed in a limited capacity once lockdown was lifted. Thank you to Dennis Neuberger for the time and energy these programs require.
- ❖ Free Books carts placed outside the library continue to provide the community with an alternative reading resource and we are grateful that library staff continues to stock these shelves with the books we have in storage. Patrons are making this a huge hit!
- ❖ The library is currently undertaking several projects which will be fully or partially funded by the Friends:
 - Restoration of the painting by Robert Goodnough
 - Renovation of Budarz Theater (carpeting, electrical upgrades, repainting)
 - Refurbishment of the Camille Budarz Steinway piano
 - Replacement with new furnishings and accessories in the Teen Room.

The Ossining Public Library Foundation was founded in 2007 and funded the popular Words & Music Concert series. It was subsequently dormant for several years and is now resuming as an active entity. We anticipate concurrent fundraising efforts for larger projects which cannot be supported by Friends' funding alone.

On behalf of the Board of the Friends, I extend our best wishes for a happy and peaceful New Year.

We eagerly look forward to the time when we can return to the Library and continue our efforts to produce the book sales which are enjoyed by all.

Michele Tagg
Treasurer

FRIENDS OF THE OSSINING PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020

Dennis Neuberger, President of the Friends, called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M and welcomed the assembled group. The other Board members were introduced, as follows: Barbara J. Henninger, Vice President; Bonnie Zitofsky, Secretary; and Michele Tagg, Treasurer.

The attendees were then asked to introduce themselves. Among those in attendance was Robin Larido of the Northeast Etsy Artists Association, who had brought with her samples of some handcrafted items. Dennis thanked everyone for joining and supporting the Friends and acknowledged those who participate in the weekly task of preparing donated books for the book sales and assisting in those events.

Copies of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on January 27, 2019 had been distributed and were reviewed by those present. They were unanimously approved after motion made by Anita Kopff and seconded by Linda Levine.

Michele Tagg, Treasurer, reported the following:

- There are currently 150 members of the Friends. Membership renewal reminders are being mailed quarterly.
- The 2019 opening balance in the Treasury was \$33,717.60. Receipts of \$23,974.71 and expenditures of \$11,505.34 resulted in a closing balance of \$45,786.97.
- In addition to membership dues and donations (including the coin drop box), income in 2019 was derived from book sales and in-house children's book cart sales; 125th Anniversary events; the Bob Minzesheimer Author Series; a two-day Etsy Holiday Market; and a "Shop for a Cause" day at Holbrook Cottage.
- Examples of expenditures are funding for family and children's programs, museum passes and \$500 scholarships which were granted to 3 students who worked as pages for the Library during their senior year of high school.
- Future funding possibilities are citizenship classes; renovations in the Budarz Theater, as well as reconditioning of the Steinway piano; and restoration of a painting.

Dennis reported that a portion of the books which remained unsold had been donated to the American Legion, Open Door, Sunshine Children's Home, Goodwill and the Peace Corps. And, Home Bound deliveries were made to Cedar Manor and Maryknoll. He also informed the group that the equivalent monetary value of the time generously donated by volunteers to the Friends in 2019 was \$16,300.

Nominations for the re-election of the current Board were put forward by Elaine Desimone and seconded by Honore Beletti. The Friends present voted to re-elect Dennis Neuberger as President, Barbara Henninger as Vice President, Bonnie Zitofsky as Secretary and Michele Tagg as Treasurer for the coming year.

There was general discussion which included suggestions that books be made available for sale at the weekly Farmers' Market and also at the annual Etsy Holiday Market.

Due to construction in the area where the Friends volunteers work, no book donations are being accepted at the present time and no upcoming events are scheduled.

Dennis extended thanks to Matthew Weiss, President of the Board of the OPL; Karen LaRocca-Fels, Director of the OPL; and Molly Robbins, OPL Liaison to the Board of the Friends.

Matthew Weiss added his thanks to the Friends and volunteers, on behalf of the community and the Library Board.

Adjournment of the meeting took place at 2:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Bonnie Zitofsky, Secretary

ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT
Friends of the Ossining Public Library
Annual Meeting
JANUARY 2021

2020 OPENING BALANCE **\$45,786.97**

\$ 45,786.97

2020 RECEIPTS*

Interest Income	\$ 1.11
125th Anniversary Events	\$ 238.00
Bob Minzesheimer Author Series	\$ 460.00
Book Sales	\$ 24.00
Dues & Donations	\$ 3,205.28
Merchandise Income	<u>\$ 92.00</u>

\$ 4,020.39

2020 EXPENDITURES*

Bob Minsesheimer Author Series	(\$1,143.60)
County Grant	(\$5,000.00)
Page Scholarships	(\$1,500.00)
OPL Programs	(\$6,033.58)
Reimbursements	(\$1,701.01)
Tax Filing Fee	<u>(\$25.00)</u>

(\$15,403.19)

2020 CLOSING BALANCE

\$ 34,404.17

**OPL Friends' Objective:*

To raise funds to pay for programs and items deemed desirable by the Library that are not included in its budget.