



10 Community Way
East Greenbush, NY 12061
eastgreenbushlibrary.org/friends-of-the-library
foegcl@gmail.com

February 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Julie Ann Price – President	Linda Kospa
Ei Aung - Vice-President-Elect	Linda Murphy
Liz Reyner – Treasurer	Mary Kolb
Eileen Riley - Secretary	David Gonsalves
Diana Valenchis - Adv. & Awareness Co-Chair	Lynne Shultis
Diana Vance - Adv. & Awareness Co-Chair	Theresa Mayhew
Alex Bellisario - Membership Co-Chair	Karen Preston
MaryAnn Baird - Membership Co-Chair	Betty Bellino
Jill Dugas Hughes - Library Director	Tom Grant
Mari Harris - Library Board Co-President	Judy Kendall
Susan Bell - Library Liaison	

Absences:

None

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM.

MINUTES: Minutes from the January 23, 2024 meeting were reviewed.

MOTION: Ms. Reyner made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. 2nd Mr. Gonsalves. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

No Motion made as there were discrepancies in the amounts for the End of Year Appeal and the 2024 Member Renewal Campaign. Report update pending further review.

PRESIDENT'S & VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Board Vacancy

- Ashley Behrle had to step down for work-related reasons.

- Diana Vance has volunteered to come on board and fill the vacancy for 1-year term. Has already worked with the existing co-chair to develop a planning calendar for 2024.

MOTION: Mr. Grant made a motion to accept the appointment of Diana Vance to Advocacy and Awareness Co-Chair to complete the 1-year term recently vacated by Ashley Behrle.

2nd: Ms. Bellino. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

- Presented an overview of the Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt and the partnership between the Library, the Friends, and the Town of EG. Egg locations this year will be the 5 elementary schools.

MOTION: Mr. Gonsalves made a motion to approve up to \$200 for the purchase of participation prizes for the Egg Hunt Ms. Preston 2nd the Motion. All in Favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

ADVOCACY & AWARENESS REPORT:

- Ms. Valenchis summarized activities on February 3 in preparation of Advocacy Day. 25 forms were completed.
- Recommend simplifying the children's version of the form for next year.
- Ms. Vance presented the 2024 Newsletter Planning Calendar.

FUNDRAISING/BOOK SALES:

- Spring Sale will be April 12-14 and will feature the first Friends Only shopping time slot.
- We will again use Maid Men to load in. Ms. Reyner suggested getting a quote ahead of time so payment could be presented the day of service.
- We will try giving our discards to the Bulk Book Warehouse. We will have to replace boxes as a result but that is a minor charge compared to previous disposal expenses.
- Call for volunteers will go out in early March.
- New baskets are Let the Good Times Roll with Coca-Cola and Luck of the Irish

MOTION: Ms. Shultis made a motion to purchase 6 tables up to \$525

2nd: Ms. Reyner. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

- The End of the Year Appeal raised just under \$4,000.
- The Member Renewal is just over \$8,700 with 155 renewals. 52 have qualified for the private shopping event.

LIBRARY REPORT:

- Ms. Dugas Hughes provided an update on the partial library closures on Monday, February 19, and Tuesday, February 20. There was a prevalent odor but the cause could not be found. The

odor did dissipate on its own. The plumber investigated but could not identify the issue. Preventative cleaning is going to be conducted in the coming weeks.

- Several attendees commented that they did not get the library email notices about the closure. Ms. Bell and Ms. Dugas Hughes will investigate further.
- Ms. Dugas Hughes presented a grant to fund the museum pass membership for the coming year. (see attachment for details)

MOTION: Mr. Grant made a motion to approve the grant for \$3,700 for the purchase of museum passes as detailed on the grant. 2nd: Ms. Mayhew. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

- Ms. Dugas Hughes presented a grant to fund adult programming for the coming year. (see attachment for details)

MOTION: Ms. Reyner made a motion to approved the grant in the amount of \$5,300 for the funding of adult programming in the coming year. 2nd: Ms. Murphy. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

- Ms. Dugas Hughes presented a grant to purchase a Yoto Audiobook collection for children. (see attachment for details)

MOTION: Ms. Bellino made a motion to approved the grant in the amount of \$3,100 for the purchase Yoto devices and necessary accessories. 2nd: Ms. Preston. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

- Ms. Dugas Hughes presented a grant to fund children's programming for the coming year. (see attachment for details)

MOTION: Ms. Murphy made a motion to approved the grant in the amount of \$2,500 for the funding of children's programs in the coming year. 2nd: Ms. Aung. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

- Ms. Dugas Hughes provided a reminder of the upcoming construction scheduled to start this spring and continue through the summer. Areas affected are the building structure itself, exterior skin, sidewalks, and windows. There will be three phases. The roof will be covered in Phase 2 and the bathrooms in Phase 3.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT:

- Ms. Harris discussed that more programming will be forthcoming to support the library's strategic plan. The Board is also actively search for other grants available to improve the library facility.
- She recommended that the Friends explore other opportunities to raise funds outside of the book sales and discussed cafes hosted by other Friends groups.
- Ms. Harris went over the new Trustees' leadership and made the group aware that 2 board vacancies are coming up. She asked the group to consider such a role or to pass along the news to other people who might be interested.

- Ms. Harris discussed that the Little Free Libraries are being closed. One is already down and one is still operational but not being updated regularly. They are looking for someone who would like to take it over and steward them going forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Baird offered therapy dog services to the Library as she and her husband have a dog trained for this purpose. Ms. Dugas Hughes will consider it.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION:

Ms. Preston made a motion to adjourn at 7:15 PM. 2nd Ms. Baird. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Ann Price

***To: Friends of the East Greenbush Community Library
Regarding: Children's Programming Grant Request***

Approved Job Code: FR-40-2024 YS Prog \$2,500

Children's Programming Grant Request \$2,500

What is requested? Children's Programming

Requestor: Jill Dugas Hughes

Date requested: February 20, 2024

We are reaching out to respectfully request a grant of \$2,500 to further enhance our children's programming. As a vital community hub, we are dedicated to providing enriching and educational experiences for children of all ages by offering engaging and educational experiences. In 2023, we provided 227 programs targeted at children ages 0-5 with 13,346 participants, and 112 programs targeted at children ages 6-11 with 6,448 participants. We hope to increase our offerings for the 6-11 age group in 2024, based on patron feedback and new staffing capacity.

With your support, we plan to allocate the grant towards the following initiatives:

1. **STEAM Workshops:** We aim to organize STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) workshops tailored for children, where they can participate in hands-on activities and experiments. These workshops will encourage curiosity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.
2. **Guest Performers:** We plan to invite guest performers such as musicians, storytellers, and puppeteers to entertain and inspire children through live performances, workshops, and interactive educational sessions. These interactive sessions will spark imagination, satisfy curiosity, and promote literacies.

Your generous grant will directly contribute to the success of these initiatives, allowing us to create meaningful and impactful experiences for the children in our community. By investing in children's programming, we are investing in the future leaders, thinkers, and innovators of tomorrow. We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our grant request.

***To: Friends of the East Greenbush Community Library
Regarding: Programming Grant Request***

Approved Job Code: FR-41-2024 AIS Programming \$5,300

Adult & Intergenerational Programming Grant \$5,300

What is requested? Adult & Intergenerational Programming Grant

Requestor: Jill Dugas Hughes

Date requested: February 20, 2024

We are dedicated to providing engaging and enriching experiences for adult and intergenerational audiences in our community. Our programming, ranging from seasonal reading programs to book clubs, workshops, and educational seminars, aims to cultivate inspirational lifelong learning, cultural enrichment, and community connections.

In 2023, the library hosted 328 programs tailored for adults aged 19 and older, attracting 4,800 attendees. Additionally, we hosted 21 intergenerational programs with 1,332 attendees.

With your generous support, we aim to further enhance the quality and reach of our adult and intergenerational programming. By offering a diverse range of events that cater to the interests and needs of our patrons, your contribution will enable us to secure experts, acquire necessary materials, and effectively promote our events, ensuring maximum participation and impact. Our 2023-2028 Strategic Plan has identified several target areas: increase program opportunities for community members to engage meaningfully with one another across lines of difference, identifying current underserved communities and craft initiatives to increase usage by identified groups, increasing the overall awareness that community members have of the library's programs, collections, and services, and increasing opportunities for hands-on and intergenerational learning, as well as opportunities for local businesses and entrepreneurs to network and build skills.

Investing in adult and intergenerational programming not only enriches the lives of individual community members but also strengthens the fabric of our community. Your partnership is invaluable in achieving these goals.

To: Friends of the East Greenbush Community Library
Regarding: Audiobooks Grant Request- New Collection

Approved Job Code: FR-42-2024 YS AudioBks \$3,100

Children’s Audiobook Collection \$3,100
What is requested? Yoto Audiobook Collection for Kids
Requestor: Amy McCarthy
Date requested: February 20, 2024

We are eager to introduce a new Audiobook collection for children, utilizing innovative Yoto brand players and story cards. The recent surge in inquiries from our patrons regarding this technology underscores the growing interest in and need for these resources.

Yoto players are uniquely designed for children, providing a user-friendly experience where kids simply insert a Yoto story card, akin to a credit card, into the player and the story begins playing. Even our youngest library visitors can easily navigate these devices independently. Moreover, Yoto players offer versatility as they accommodate a wide range of content, from picture books to chapter books, ensuring they remain relevant as children grow. Additionally, the availability of blank cards enables children to record and share their own stories, fostering creativity and engagement.

By circulating Yoto players along with packs of cards, we aim to enhance the library’s offerings in alignment with our 2023-2028 Strategic Plan. Specifically, this initiative will support our objectives to increase both on-site and online access to resources that promote literacy skills, raise awareness of the library’s programs and services within the community, and diversity within the collections we lend. Moreover, through this project, we aspire to identify and serve currently underserved communities by crafting initiatives tailored to their needs.

Here is a breakdown of the funding needed for this project:

Yoto brand Audiobook players (10 Yoto Players)		
Yoto player (3rd generation)	\$100 x 10 =	\$1000
Protector cover	\$25 x 10 =	\$250
Carrying Case	\$30 x 10 =	\$300
Yoto mini (currently out of stock)	\$70 x 10 =	\$700
Protector cover	\$20 x 10 =	\$200
Carrying Case	\$15 x 10 =	\$150
Yoto story cards (various prices)	\$7 - \$10 (individual stories) \$25 - \$60 (story bundles)	\$500
	Total	\$3100

We firmly believe that by investing in this project, we will not only enrich the lives of children in our community but also foster a love for reading and learning from an early age.

***TO: Friends of the East Greenbush Community Library
Regarding: Museum Pass Collection Grant Request***

Approved Job Code: FR-43-2024 MusPass \$3,700

Museum Pass Program for 2024: \$3,700

What is requested: Museum Pass Memberships

Department: Admin

Requestor: Sue Dague

Date requested: 2/16/24

The Friends have generously funded the museum pass program since 2009. We currently have 27 passes from 24 institutions located in New York, Massachusetts, and Vermont. Museum passes are available to borrow by East Greenbush Community Library cardholders and Friends of the East Greenbush Community Library.

Our request for funding from the Friends is \$3,700.00. \$2,975.00 covers the current cost of the passes with a small cushion for some likely price increases plus \$725.00 to cover the addition of six new passes listed below.

Why do the library patrons need this?

Our library patrons continue to tell staff how much they enjoy and value the museum pass program making it affordable for families and people on fixed incomes to take advantage of the many cultural, historical, and scientific sites in our area. Our passes were borrowed 609 times in 2023. During school vacation breaks and the summer especially, the museum pass program offers our patrons opportunities for enriching and fun outings they might otherwise be unable to afford.

See the list below for museum pass cost, admission rules and usage.

Museum Passes and Costs for 2024 – 2025

	Total Cost for Library		Total Usage (2023)	Year of Purchase
Albany Institute of History & Art	\$100.00	(1 pass for 2 adults and 2 children under 18)	38	2013
Bennington Museum	\$90.00	(1 pass for 2 adults, children under 18 free)	4	2012
Berkshire Botanical Garden	\$120.00	(1 pass for 2 adults and 2 children)	27	2012
Berkshire Museum	\$125.00	(1 pass for 2 adults & 2 children)	24	2009
Children’s Museum at Saratoga	\$300.00	(1 pass for 1 adult and 1 child)	76	2011
Clark Art Institute	FREE	(1 pass for 1 adult, children free)	61	2009

Crailo State Historic Site	\$25.00	(1 pass for 4 people)	4	2009
Empire Pass	\$160.00	(2 passes for 1 vehicle each)	55	2019
Empire State Aerosciences Museum	\$60.00	(1 family pass)	9	2018
Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art	\$150.00	(1 family pass)	15	2019
FASNY Museum of Firefighters	\$75.00	(1 pass for 2 adults and 2 children)	10	2014
Hancock Shaker Village	\$250.00	(1 pass for 2 adults and 2 children)	40	2013
Hildene (Lincoln Family Home)	\$100.00	(1 pass for 2 adults and 2 children)	12	2016
Historic Cherry Hill	\$25.00	(1 pass for 4 people)	1	2016
The Hyde Collection	\$100.00	(2 family passes)	12	2010
MASS MoCA	\$275.00	(1 pass for 2 adults, children free)	52	2009
miSci – Museum of Innovation and Science	\$200.00	(1 pass for 2 adults & 4 children)	43	2009
Norman Rockwell Museum	\$100.00	(1 pass for 2 adults at \$12 each, children free)	43	2018
Olana	\$150.00	(1 pass for 2 adults)	19	2014
Saratoga Automobile Museum	\$150.00	(1 pass for 2 adults and 2 children)	20	2018
Schuyler Historic Mansion	\$25.00	(1 pass for 4 people)	6	2016
USS Slater – Destroyer Escort Historical Museum	\$130.00	(2 passes for 2 adults & 2 children each)	15	2011
The Wild Center	\$90.00	(1 pass for 2 adults at \$10 each and 4 children)	17	2018
World Awareness Children's Museum	\$119.00	(1 pass for 6 people)	6	2016

Total: 24 Museum Pass Renewals \$2,919.00

New museum passes to be added to our collection:

Hudson River Maritime Museum in Kingston, NY -- \$100
Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA -- \$100
Opus 40 Sculpture Park in Saugerties, NY -- \$175
Stephen and Harriet Myers Residence: Underground Railroad in Albany, NY -- \$150
Thomas Cole National Historic Site in Catskill, NY -- \$100
Ulysses S. Grant Cottage in Gansevoort, NY -- \$100

Total: 6 New Museum Passes \$725.00