February 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE:
Julie Ann Price – President 
Ei Aung - Vice-President-Elect 
Liz Reyner – Treasurer 
Eileen Riley - Secretary 
Diana Valenchis - Adv. & Awareness Co-Chair 
Diana Vance - Adv. & Awareness Co-Chair 
Alex Bellisario - Membership Co-Chair 
MaryAnn Baird - Membership Co-Chair 
Jill Dugas Hughes - Library Director 
Mari Harris - Library Board Co-President 
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children’s Programming Grant Request $2,500</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is requested? Children’s Programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requestor: Jill Dugas Hughes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date requested: February 20, 2024</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adult &amp; Intergenerational Programming Grant $5,300</th>
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<tr>
<td>What is requested? Adult &amp; Intergenerational Programming Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requestor: Jill Dugas Hughes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date requested: February 20, 2024</td>
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children’s Audiobook Collection</th>
<th>$3,100</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is requested?</td>
<td>Yoto Audiobook Collection for Kids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requestor:</td>
<td>Amy McCarthy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date requested:</td>
<td>February 20, 2024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yoto brand Audiobook players (10 Yoto Players)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Yoto player (3rd generation)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Protector cover</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Carrying Case</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Yoto mini</strong> (currently out of stock)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Protector cover</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Carrying Case</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Yoto story cards</strong> (various prices)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Museum Pass</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
<th>Total Usage (2023)</th>
<th>Year of Purchase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albany Institute of History &amp; Art</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bennington Museum</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berkshire Botanical Garden</td>
<td>$120.00</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berkshire Museum</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Museum at Saratoga</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark Art Institute</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Crailo State Historic Site
- Price: $25.00
- Description: (1 pass for 4 people)
- Count: 4
- Year: 2009

### Empire Pass
- Price: $160.00
- Description: (2 passes for 1 vehicle each)
- Count: 55
- Year: 2019

### Empire State Aerosciences Museum
- Price: $60.00
- Description: (1 family pass)
- Count: 9
- Year: 2018

### Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art
- Price: $150.00
- Description: (1 family pass)
- Count: 15
- Year: 2019

### FASNY Museum of Firefighters
- Price: $75.00
- Description: (1 pass for 2 adults and 2 children)
- Count: 10
- Year: 2014

### Hancock Shaker Village
- Price: $250.00
- Description: (1 pass for 2 adults and 2 children)
- Count: 40
- Year: 2013

### Hildene (Lincoln Family Home)
- Price: $100.00
- Description: (1 pass for 2 adults and 2 children)
- Count: 12
- Year: 2016

### Historic Cherry Hill
- Price: $25.00
- Description: (1 pass for 4 people)
- Count: 1
- Year: 2016

### The Hyde Collection
- Price: $100.00
- Description: (2 family passes)
- Count: 12
- Year: 2010

### MASS MoCA
- Price: $275.00
- Description: (1 pass for 2 adults, children free)
- Count: 52
- Year: 2009

### miSci – Museum of Innovation and Science
- Price: $200.00
- Description: (1 pass for 2 adults & 4 children)
- Count: 43
- Year: 2009

### Norman Rockwell Museum
- Price: $100.00
- Description: (1 pass for 2 adults at $12 each, children free)
- Count: 43
- Year: 2018

### Olana
- Price: $150.00
- Description: (1 pass for 2 adults)
- Count: 19
- Year: 2014

### Saratoga Automobile Museum
- Price: $150.00
- Description: (1 pass for 2 adults and 2 children)
- Count: 20
- Year: 2018

### Schuyler Historic Mansion
- Price: $25.00
- Description: (1 pass for 4 people)
- Count: 6
- Year: 2016

### USS Slater – Destroyer Escort Historical Museum
- Price: $130.00
- Description: (2 passes for 2 adults & 2 children each)
- Count: 15
- Year: 2011

### The Wild Center
- Price: $90.00
- Description: (1 pass for 2 adults at $10 each and 4 children)
- Count: 17
- Year: 2018

### World Awareness Children’s Museum
- Price: $119.00
- Description: (1 pass for 6 people)
- Count: 6
- Year: 2016

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**Total: 24 Museum Pass Renewals $2,919.00**

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**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

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**Total: 6 New Museum Passes $725.00**