

Board of Trustees  
Beth Binde, Pres  
Mireya Alfonso  
Deborah Celey  
Carmen Diaz  
Nilda Gutierrez  
Josephine Marchetta  
Russell Marchetta  
Karen Monus  
Benito Ortiz  
Cecilia Clafien, Emeritus

# New Brunswick Free Public Library

60 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick NJ 08901

732-745-5271

## Minutes, Board of Trustees

February 25, 2015 5:00 p.m.

1. Announcement of Compliance with Open Public Meeting. Notice of the meeting was sent electronically to the Home News Tribune and was posted in the library, on the library website, and at City Hall.
2. Call to Order.
3. Roll Call. Present: Alfonso, Binde, Diaz, J. Marchetta, Monus, Ortiz; Excused: Clafien, Gutierrez, R. Marchetta; Absent: Celey; Staff: Belvin, Crittenden.
4. Approval of Excused Absences. Ortiz (J. Marchetta), unanimous.
5. Approval of Agenda. Ortiz (J. Marchetta), unanimous.
6. Approval of Minutes of the January 28 and November 19. Ortiz (J. Marchetta), unanimous.
7. Approval of Bills. Ortiz (J. Marchetta), unanimous.
8. Financial Disclosure Statement.
  - 8.1. Belvin urged the Board to complete these forms early. The online site will be open from March 30 to April 30, 2015.
9. Committee Reports.
  - 9.1. Policy Committee.
    - 9.1.1. Meeting Room Policy: The library received a complaint that a poetry workshop was holding a reading at the library and was soliciting donations on their website. After investigation, it was found that the reading was at George Street Coop and the program at the library was separate.
  - 9.2. Finance Committee.
    - 9.2.1. Budget: No update was available.
  - 9.3. Friends' Liaison: The Friends' February Noontime program was *Paddy Has Gone for a Soldier*, featuring Mike Plunkett, a musician specializing in Civil War era songs and ballads. The March program will be Abena Busia, a poet, short-story writer, and chair of the Department of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University who will speak on *Nelson Mandela and the Poetry of Social Justice*. Gerarda Pizzarello has led a team down to the basement to sort book sale books. She has also secured a \$1,000 matching grant for the book sale.
10. Director's Report.
  - 10.1. Programming and Activities: The Friends of the Library asked for a list of library programs and activities. Belvin supplied them with the following list:
    - Monday Movies which are supported by the Friends who paid for a movie license. Ongoing.
    - Computer Skills Tutoring done by volunteer Rutgers' students. Ongoing.
    - ESL Conversation Groups run by volunteers. Ongoing.
    - Conversation Cafes in cooperation with Rutgers Graduate School of Education and The Collaborative Center for Community-Based Research and Service. Ongoing.
    - Citizenship Classes with Jewish Family Services. Ongoing.

Knitting/Crocheting Club. Ongoing.

Black History Month program or exhibit in February generally in cooperation with the New Brunswick African American Heritage Committee.

Income Tax Preparation in cooperation with Beta Alpha Psi, the Accounting and Finance Honors Society at Rutgers. February to April.

Chinese New Year (new but probably will be repeated if successful)

Poetry Contest with the Raritan Valley Federation of Libraries. Spring.

Holi Festival with the Rutgers Indian Graduate Student Association. March or April.

Photography Contest supported by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission. Generally May or June.

Children's and Teens' Summer Reading Program and Festival supported by the Friends, local businesses, and Old Man Rafferty's.

Adult Summer Reading Program supported for the last two years by a Constellation Energy grant.

Day of the Dead in cooperation last year with Lazos América Unida and Rutgers Center for Latino Arts and Culture. End of October.

Holidays Around the World, last year in cooperation with Esperanza Neighborhood. December.

The major NEH, ALA, and Gilder-Lehrman traveling exhibitions are non-recurring and depend upon availability or opportunity as does our work with Crossroads Theatre, the Rutgers Institute for Research on Women, and the Zacatepec exhibit. Also excluded from the list are MakerSpace Project activities, programs such as the book club at the Health Sciences High School, the Tween programs at the Charter School, the after school activities which change every year, our children's story hours, school and preschool visits, and the book club at the Senior Center.

- 10.2. Active Shooter: Jackie Oshman is also attending the New Jersey State Library's Active Shooter Training on March 3.
- 10.3. Behavior: Belvin reported that on January 27, the occupant of the public restroom was not responding to knocks on the door. Belvin used the spare key to check on the patron and found him comatose with a hypodermic needle on him. Belvin had the police and emergency medical service called. They responded almost immediately and a police officer administered Narcan while awaiting the ambulance team. The patron was removed to the hospital.
- 10.4. Children's: Ms. Alfonso commented that Tamara Richman did an excellent job working with the school librarians on the previous Monday.
- 10.5. Chinese New Year: A Chinese New Year Celebration will be on Sunday, March 1.
- 10.6. Crossroads Theatre: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow Opening Reception and Exhibit: The library and the New Brunswick African American Heritage Committee in collaboration with Crossroads Theatre Company celebrated the history of the theater with a presentation at Crossroads and a reception at the library on February 8. The panel at the theater included Eric Krebs, Marshall Jones, Wayne Otis Johnson, and Louise Gorham and was moderated by Susan Settles. The Crossroads Theatre was made available through the generosity of Johnson & Johnson, Inc., Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission/Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the New Brunswick Cultural Center. Additional support for this program was provided by Johnson & Johnson, Crossroads Theatre Company, and the New Brunswick African American Heritage Committee.
- 10.7. Henry Guest House Shutters: The low bid was \$50,000 for the Henry Guest House shutters.
- 10.8. Latino Americans: Belvin said the library may collaborate with Rutgers to apply for "Latino Americans: 500 Years of History," a public programming initiative. The program is produced and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Recipients will receive a copy of

- Latino Americans, a PBS six-part documentary series, as well as cash grants of \$3,000 to \$10,000 to support a “Latino Americans: 500 Years of History” program series.
- 10.9. MakerSpaces: Michael Simko, who will be opening a new restaurant, the Dillinger Room, in the space that was Makeda, donated 47 heavy-duty tablecloths and 402 large napkins that will be used for MakerSpace activities.
  - 10.10. Poetry: The Poetry contest will be with some of the libraries in the Raritan Valley Federation (Bernardsville, Dunellen, Middlesex, and Raritan). Jackie Oshman is again coordinating it. This year there will not be a theme or a prize so poems on any subject can be entered. Patrons from other towns may participate by submitting their form and poems to any of the participating libraries. The most important restriction is that poems cannot be longer than one page typed single space. Patrons of all ages can submit poems.
  - 10.11. Rotary: Belvin spoke about the library at the New Brunswick Rotary on January 22.
  - 10.12. Rubel: The New Brunswick Historical Society supported by the New Brunswick Free Public Library will present, "Photographer Harry Rubel: Images of Thought and Beauty," this March. Harry Rubel was a local photographer whose career spanned many years. The opening reception will be Saturday, March 7 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The exhibit will feature photos that Mr. Rubel had selected for exhibit. The exhibit is supported by a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission.
  - 10.13. Rutgers 2015-2016 Community-University Research Partnership Grants for New Brunswick: The library has been approached by Angus Kress Gillespie and Elizabeth Reeves Lindh as to applying for this in cooperation with the New Brunswick Historical Society and the New Brunswick African American Heritage Committee to promote local history interest among high school and middle school students. In addition, Andrew Urban has asked the library to partner on his Bridging the Wards: Mapping Place and Memory in New Brunswick application. Dr. Urban wants the George Street Playhouse and Rutgers researchers will conduct, transcribe, archive, and digitally map place-based oral histories from residents of New Brunswick's six wards.
  - 10.14. Staff Training: Linda arranged a staff workshop on Lincoln's Birthday, February 12, entitled Cultural Diversity: Awareness and Action facilitated by Lourdes Tango. Topics included concept of culture as it relates to the library and the community, how cultural orientations influence communication and expectations among other topics, and communication skills that promote sensitivity when communicating with people from various cultures. One of the models of culture was the iceberg model of culture where 90% of the cultural assumptions are not visible either to members of the culture or to members of other cultures. An aspect of culture that Ms. Tango explored was that it also varies by gender, religion, region, profession, and generation Belvin noted that one of the more interesting exercises that showed the difficulty in speaking another language was trying to have a conversation when each verb had to be repeated with a different word. This was sponsored by LibraryLinkNJ which pays 75% of the speaker's fee and expenses.
  - 10.15. Taxes: Volunteers from Beta Alpha Psi, the Accounting and Finance Honors Society at Rutgers, will help taxpayers file online, by appointment only, on Fridays and Saturdays from February 6 to April 11, 2015. This annual service is sponsored by VITA, the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, and is for those of low to moderate income.
  - 10.16. TechFest: Chelsea and Linda have been asked by LibraryLinkNJ to present on our library's experiences with "STE@M & Inter-generational Programming" at TechFest 2015 in March.
  - 10.17. Trees: The City's Parks Department will hold their Arbor Day celebration on the library's lawn on April 22 at 10:00 a.m.
  - 10.18. Tween Activities: Chelsea is running a Tween Short Story Club to allow students to exercise their 'writerly' muscles. At each meeting, students in grades 4-8 read a story aloud together,

and then practice their own writing in that genre. Next month's round of short story clubs will center on the 'Percy Jackson' series, in which students will explore Riordan's work, write their own myths, and design their own pantheons.

- 10.19. WorkForce Development: Belvin met with Nina Rios Rivera of Middlesex County Office of Workforce Development about using the library as a training site. Regrettably, the use by other organizations of the Community Room and Henry Guest House prevented this.
11. Other Matters.
  - 11.1. NJLA Annual Conference will be April 20 to April 22, 2015 at the Ocean Place Resort in Long Branch.
12. Adjournment. Monus (Diaz), unanimous.

**Next Meeting March 25**