

FRIENDS OF THE BERNARDSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, INC.
Annual Meeting
November 18, 2009

President Tom Shea called the Annual Meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Those in attendance were Mark Aronson, Caroline Browne, Karen Brodsky, John Deibert, Georgiana Depew, Doug Doremus, Barbara Duffy, Elizabeth Faulkner, Rick Gallo, Barbara Hyzer, Shellie Iossa, Jos Kadam, Donald Kerdman, Harold Kuskin, Roni Larini, Theo Mulgrum, Janet George Murnick, Kathy Redling, Maureen Robinson, and Rita Stein.

Approval of Minutes- Harold Kuskin asked that Janet George Murnick's name be added under old business as a Museum Pass Program committee member on page 3. Maureen Robinson made a motion to accept the modified minutes of the September 16, 2009 meeting as submitted. Shellie Iossa seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

President's Remarks- President, Tom Shea noted that last year's fundraising campaign, begun in September, 2008 still managed to raise just over \$30,000. He went on to say that the Friends should take special pride in the funding that we continue to be able to provide for special projects including the ongoing Technology Modernization Program.

He recognized the hard work of Karen Brodsky and her wonderful staff who continue to take our gifts and turn them into the excellent programs, collection of books and other materials that we all enjoy. The task has been made more difficult as cuts in the Library staff have increased their workload, but the quality of their work was confirmed by the recent #1 ranking in New Jersey among public libraries with similar town size and budget.

Tom requested that Janet George Murnick and Barbara Hyzer come forward and proceeded to read a letter addressed to Karen Brodsky. The letter recognized and thanked Janet for "spending countless hours assisting family members by marshalling resources to bring, Ron Basista, a volunteer, home from the Philippines after suffering a debilitating stroke." Tom noted Janet's unselfish acts of kindness to many and the associated gift for a Sony Reader and e-book collection that was been donated in her name from Barbara Hyzer and Carolyn Basista.

Looking forward, Tom noted that 2010 promises to be a very challenging financial year, and Friends have purposely reduced the internal goal of the Annual Drive because of the difficult economic environment. At this point we are 80% of the way towards our goal, and we normally receive another spike of contributions just before year-end. The housing price decline is starting to make itself felt on the minimum funding that the Borough is required to provide the Library under State Law, and the initial budget that

the Library is submitting for 2010 is approximately \$50,000 higher than the amount provided for by minimum funding. The initial feedback from the Borough Council Finance Committee is supportive of the Library's request, however, 2010 may very well be a year when the Friends will not only be called upon for their financial support of the Library but to become active advocates for the Library with state and local officials as well as the citizens of Bernardsville.

Tom recognized the hard work and valuable contributions of the Board members whose terms end this evening: Theo Mulgrum, Janet George Murnick and Maureen Robinson who received a warm round of applause.

Treasurer's Report – John Deibert, chairperson of the Finance Committee reported in Jackie Somers's absence. He noted that we have funds in a High Yield Money Market for the short term, have received \$20,000 in contributions to date or 80% of our goal, and will consider revisiting the Budget in January based on year end contributions. Janet George Murnick asked if the matching gifts had all been received, and John noted that \$3000 of the approximately \$20,000 were matching gifts that had not yet been received. Concerns were expressed about some corporations being able to honor these matching gifts.

New Business

Nominating Committee –Theo Mulgrum presented six Nominations to the Friends' Board for the class of 2012 and John Deibert as President of the Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library fir the 2010 year. Theo reviewed other board member classes and made a motion to accept the nominating committee's report and the individuals nominated to serve on the Friends Board for a term of three years beginning on November 18, 2009. Maureen Robinson seconded the motion, and a full board vote followed. The board accepted the nominating committee's report and slate of candidates as board members for the class of 2012..

Finance Committee – John Deibert presented the 2010 Friends' of the Bernardsville Public Library Budget and asked if there were any questions or concerns, but none were voiced. Maureen Robinson made a motion to accept the 2010 Budget and Harold Kuskin seconded the motion. Following a full board vote by Roll Call, the 2010 Budget was approved.

Kathy Redling made the motion to adjourn the Annual Membership meeting and Barbara Hyzer seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Kathy Redling