

BOARD OF FINE ARTS

Mission: To awaken the congregation to art around us and within us.

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday March 14, 2018

Attendance:

Yes	No		Yes	No	
■		Lynnette Black (2020), Recorder	■		Hawona Sullivan Janzen (2018)
■		Philip Brunelle, Staff Liaison	■		John Kulstad (2019), Chair
	■	Randall Davidson (2019)		■	David Myers (2020)
	■	Dick Haines (2018), Treasurer	■		Rachel Walker (2018)
	■	Eric Hugunin (2020)		■	Amanda White (2019)

Opening Reflection - Peace by Dalai Lama. Submitted by Eric Hugunin

"We can never obtain peace in the outer world until we make peace with ourselves."

Actions Taken:

1. Attendance has been challenging this year. Perhaps we should offer a way to call in to our meetings vs an in person attendance requirement to allow flexibility for members travel schedules & other challenges. Philip does that regularly with Vocal Essence meetings. It has worked.
2. Philip Brunelle agreed to follow up with Tom Bloom regards the invitation to him to be co-chair of the Gallery Committee with Lynnette Black. [Note Tom agreed to be co-chair, per Philip].

Committee Liaison Updates

Music - Philip reported that Five events have been being planned during 2018 to celebrate Philip's 50 years as PCC Music Director. Philip has identified 7 female composers & commission one anthem per month, for 7 months, in honor of his wife Carolyn Brunelle for her 50 years in the Plymouth Choir. The composers are both US and international. What a wonderful, exciting way to honor Carolyn & women composers!

The Plymouth July Music Series has been planned featuring weekly free concerts open to the public.

Literary Witness - Hawona Sullivan Janzen, chair of Literary Witness, reported on plans for events to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the PCC Literary Witness.

April 8th, Sunday

- 1) Sunday service April 8th will honor the anniversary by having three poetry readings instead of the sermon: by Sam King, Hawona Sullivan Janzen, & James Lenfestey. Special music will be played by two award winning young pianists: Emma & Jacob Taggart.
- 2) Noon - 1pm Sam King will read from her own work in the chapel
- 3) 4pm - Jackman "Can Poetry Save Lives?" panel discussion with Gregory Orr, Celebrated Poet and Sam King, Poet.

April 9th, Monday

4pm - April 9 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Poetry as Survival - Gregory Orr - *How lyric poetry transforms trauma*

Gregory Orr, author of 11 celebrated poetry collections, will read from his work, as part of the 20th anniversary celebration of Literary Witnesses. Its founder Susan Deborah "Sam" King will introduce Orr. A reception and book signing follow the reading. View http://www.ugapress.org/index.php/books/poetry_as_survival

Hawona asked for volunteers to help as greeters for this event.

Fall Program for Literary Witness - Seeking Transformation. A joint event with Stewardship Committee. Women writers theme. Emily Dickenson writings on Grief.

The **Literary Witness Anthology** will be published (every 10 years) in 2018. The cover features art by Hazel Belvo. The anthology will have 60 pages, 3 poets chosen per year (10 years), one piece per poet to be published. Sherman Alexie, Jr. is included, a Spokane-Coeur d'Alene-American novelist, short story writer, poet, & filmmaker. His writing draws on his experiences as an Indigenous American with ancestry from several tribes (Wikipedia).

Recommendation: Hawona recommended that the Fine Arts Board & Gallery Committee consider making proposals for programming for a new regularly occurring Second Sunday Potluck. This is a new program started & sponsored by the Children, Youth, & Family Board. This offers a wonderful opportunity to do intergenerational activities, encourage outreach, get youth involved in church activities & support the arts. April 22nd will be a potluck on Earth Sunday, with a special Dance performance based on the theme of water.

Gallery/Visual Arts committee -

1) John Kulstad reported that Kristin Makhholm is interested in joining the Gallery Committee if the committee is willing to go in a new direction. John met with Kristin to discuss her interest and ideas. Her concerns were primarily regards the use & placement of art in the church building, as well as wanting the Gallery Committee to support more edgy art and display the art of immigrants & people of color, instead of displaying their work for them (example textiles display by artist from South America, owned by a church member). Philip recommended John K. speak with Carolyn Brunelle about past acquisitions of art donated to PCC in which Kristin was involved to better understand some of the issues & concerns. Lynnette B agreed to meet with John and Kristin, as co-chair & would also invite Tom Bloom, to explore & better understand her interests & recommendations, as well as her willingness to execute & support her recommendations.

2) Lynnette Black reported the majority of Fall 2018 through Spring/2019 has been booked with artists.

Some time slots still need artists for the vitrines. It was recommended that we have a jeweler in the future. Hawona recommended **Robyne Robinson**, <https://www.facebook.com/robyme.robinson1>. She is Arts and Culture Director at MSP International Airport, Owner / CEO / Designer at Rox Minneapolis jewelry, Emcee, Moderator, Public Speaker and Lecturer at Robyne Robinson, Inc.

Aziz Osman, a Somali artist will be the 1st exhibit September 9th. He is currently exhibiting at the MN Arboretum, was in an exhibit of 3 Somali artists at MIA. Aziz has been commissioned by the MN History Center to complete a mural for an exhibit on the Somali in MN - "**Somalis + Minnesota**" opens June 23, 2018 at the **Minnesota History Center**. Created in partnership with the **Somali Museum** of Minnesota and told through immersive settings, artifacts, photos and first-hand accounts, the **exhibit** tells the story of **Somali** immigrants, their arrival in their newly adopted home.

Aziz Osman & his wife Fatuma Elmi have agreed to make a presentation on Somali culture, and their story, at the September 26th Adult Forum, a joint event with the Gallery Committee & the Immigrant Welcoming Group.

Aziz & Somali artists-

<https://new.artsmia.org/exhibition/i-am-somali-three-visual-artists-from-the-twin-cities/>

More about Fatuma-

Fatuma's humanitarian work was elevated to the national stage when U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton shared Fatuma's journey at the United Nations in December. "Her story is just one of millions that I could share and that you could share, stories of refugees who have found new homes, forged better lives, given back to the communities they've joined."

Said Elmi, "My hope and dream is to be able to see all African women believing in themselves no matter where they are."

<http://refugeecongress.org/fatuma-elmi/>
<http://www.lssmn.org/CL12/Fatuma/>

4) Request by John Bennett - Flame Society

Artwork installation that would highlight the mission of the Flame Society, designating Plymouth Church in members' estate planning. Artwork would encourage & honor Long Term Inheritance Gifts. Another idea would be to create cards with artwork from Plymouth's Permanent collection, such as Hazel Belvo's "Spirit Tree" or Carolyn Brunelle's Vessel to be sold & used as thank you or greeting cards. The card would have a notation in support of the Flame Society, gauging visibility for the vital initiative. Philip recommended we check with the Plymouth Embroidery Group who sell greeting cards using the 4 exquisite Seasonal Embroideries. We would not want to undermine that initiative.

April 29th will be a luncheon for the Flame Society to bring public attention & recognition to it. Philip & Carolyn will be speakers, sharing their reasons for their Flame Society Gift.

Hawona and her husband were also investigating the use of a permanent piece of art to both honor their son's memory as well as be a place for gatherings. Perhaps a Giving Tree image, made of copper or something like that to which you could add additional plaques (leaf shapes) to honor other individuals & gifts in memory. They have a \$3500 base to start with.

Next Meeting

April 11, 2018, time 5:30 - 6:30

May 9, 2018.

June picnic (date TBD) at John Kulstad's home.

*Respectfully submitted,
Lynnette K. Black, secretary*

Minutes Procedure

Minute-taker submits draft to group within 10 days of meeting; members have 7 days to submit revisions (no response is treated as approval).

If any revisions, minute-taker forwards revised draft to group within 3 days for electronic approval; members have 2 days to respond (no response is treated as approval).

Minute-taker submits approved minutes in Microsoft Word format to the Ministry Assistant for Programs (Doug Freeman, dougf@plymouth.org) upon approval.