

## BOARD OF FINE ARTS

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

### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 11, 2018

Attendance:

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

### ***Opening Reflection - Poem by Gregory Orr*** *Read by Hawona Sullivan Janzen*

To be alive: not just the carcass  
 But the spark.  
 That's crudely put, but...  
 If we're not supposed to dance,  
 Why all this music?

From *Concerning the Book That Is the Body Of the Beloved* (Copper Canyon Press, 2005).

### ***Actions Taken:***

- Attendance has been challenging this year. John Kulstad will follow up with Amanda and David regards attendance.

### **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. 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 the huge success of the events to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the PCC Literary Witness. A total of \$530 of Literary Witness 20th Anniversary edition books were sold and \$1134 was received in free will offerings. Literary Witness Publicity was included in the Pioneer Press and MNNPOST. We need help breaking into the Star Tribune (a bit strange not to get write-up as Jim Lenfestey worked there for many years as editor and columnist.)

April 8th, Sunday: Very positive response was received to the three poetry readings done as the sermon: by Sam King, Hawona Sullivan Janzen, & James Lenfestey. Noon - Sam King read her poems and shared her personal story to a full chapel. 4pm - "Can Poetry Save Lives?" panel discussion with Gregory Orr, Celebrated Poet and Sam King, Poet, was audio taped and will be posted on Plymouth's website for a month. After that CD copies will be made for the library as well as made available for a \$5 donation. Hawona is looking into ways it may also be posted on the web longer term.

Many appreciative comments were received about the April 9th, Monday 7:00 pm Poetry as Survival - Gregory Orr - *How lyric poetry transforms trauma*. These events brought new people to Plymouth and exposed them to our faith community, as well as having the potential to gain new members.

Next Event: Michael Ondaatje in Conversation with Louise Erdrich, an event held by Birchbark Books and Native Arts Monday, May 21, 7 PM · Plymouth Congregational Church. It will be no a charge/free will offering. This is an incredible opportunity with another nationally known author. Please share the Literary Witness Facebook post.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/207058126722155/>

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

**Gallery/Visual Arts committee** - Liaison and Co-chair, Lynnette Black

- 1) Tom Bloom agreed to be co-chair of the Gallery Committee with Lynnette Black. He will take on the labeling with Doug Freeman, checking for schedule conflicts and other administration tasks, as well as be back up.
- 2) Lynnette Black reported that all of Fall 2018 through Spring/2019 has been booked with artists. Congregation members recommended Maggie Thompson, who is part Native American, to offer her an exhibition. She is a weaver, painter and photographer, trained at the Rhode Island School of Design. She manages the Two Rivers Gallery and is involved with the All My Relations Gallery. Lynnette will reach out to Maggie with an invitation.
- 3) The Gallery Committee turned down the selection of Plymouth to participate in the NCECA (ceramics convention) concurrent exhibitions in March 2019. We already had artists booked for that timeframe and do not want to break out of our contract.
- 4) The Gallery Committee unanimously approved an invitation to Koffi Mbairamadji to exhibit this summer starting June 16th through August 1st. Lynnette will check with Koffi to see if he can attend a reception for his exhibit June 24th (June 17th is Plymouth's Annual Congregation meeting).
- 5) Lynnette met with Seth Patterson exploring programming opportunities with the artists and the Gallery exhibits with the theater, and youth and family programming. Seth now has responsibility for the management of the theater. Seth recommended I invite Koffi M. to do something during PEACE CAMP, Thursday June 28th and PLAY SHOP July 9-13. The play which will be taught during PLAY SHOP has an immigration theme. Koffi's exhibit will be in the theater lobby during this time and the kids can be invited to hear him talk about his paintings or he can present on publishing his children's books, written and illustrated by him, which combine African folktales and Bible stories.

Seth reported he is having the theater space assessed for upgrades by many colleagues from the theater world to better determine its status and potential, as well as develop a strategic plan. His vision is to use it more assertively for social justice and spiritual growth programming, and as an outreach and growth vehicle for Plymouth Church.

Seth is in negotiations with Theater Mu to be a tenant. In addition he has raised the prices for rental and given notice and a grace period to the two current tenants we have.

6) NATURAL SHOCKS, a play on gun violence and domestic abuse by Lauren Gunderson will have a staged reading in Guild Hall, Friday April 20th. This event is being held in conjunction with "Moms Demand Action" national event being held. National staged readings are occurring in 57 cities.

5) Request by John Bennett - Flame Society

Philip reported on the request by John Bennett to create stationery using the permanent art collection for the cover. The card would have a notation in support of the Flame Society, to provide visibility for the initiative. Philip checked with the Plymouth Embroidery Group who sell greeting cards of the Seasonal Embroideries. They have a lot of inventory but do not seem to consider this a threat to their sales.

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.

## **Next Meeting**

May 9, 2018, time 5:30 - 6:30

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

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*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](mailto:dougf@plymouth.org)) upon approval.