

Friends of the Lexington Council on Aging Virtual Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2022

Members Present: Peter Holland (chair), Suzanne Caton, Sudhir Jain, Janice Kennedy, Mickey Khazam, Lorain Marquis, Shirley Stolz, Jane Trudeau

Staff Present: Michelle Kelleher, Melissa Interest, Hemali Shah

Old Business:

- Peter Holland presented the meeting calendar for 2022-23.

Staff Reports:

- Melissa Interest presented the Human Services budget request for the coming year.
- Mickey Khazam asked Melissa if there has been any decision about the use of the space in the Community Center previously used by the Window Pane Shop. Melissa noted that no decision has been made yet and suggestions are still being accepted.
- Lorain asked that it be noted in the Sage newsletter that the Senior trips and lunches are subsidized by the FCOA

COA Report:

Sudhir Jain reported that COA board membership will remain the same for the upcoming year.

OWLL Report:

Jane Trudeau noted that Zoom classes have increased OWLL participation.

A reception for the upcoming OWLL classes will be held on September 8. Six Fall classes have been scheduled as well as 3 Winter classes.

An annual report on the OWLL program written by Mary Hamilton and Ruth Rose was presented. See attached.

Lexington LifeTimes:

Suzanne presented an annual report on the Lexington LifeTimes program. See attached.

Peter noted that through the OWLL program, Seniors are receiving information while through the LifeTimes program, Seniors are giving information to others.

Bright Ideas:

Suzanne presented an annual report on the Bright Ideas program. See attached.

Fund Raising:

It was agreed that the usual annual letter should go out in the Fall.

Publicity:

- Janice Kennedy noted that the FCOA contributed \$4200 to the Community Center to subsidize the tent erected behind the Center for the summer and \$1500 to subsidize the Walk program and that these contributions should be added to the FCOA annual report.
- Michelle Kelleher suggested that Peter come to one of the Senior lunches to talk about the FCOA.
- Jane noted that since 2022 is the 50th anniversary of the FCOA, we should promote this fact by writing an article about the FCOA. Peter suggested that he and Bea Mah Holland interview Jane about the start of the FCOA for an article for the Lexington Times (formerly the Colonial Time) magazine.
- Jane noted that LEF is having a fund-raising event in October and the FCOA should participate. Jane, Mickey, and Janice volunteered to man a booth at the fund-raiser. Jane will follow up with LEF.

Treasurer's Report:

- Lorain Marquis discussed the latest P&L statement.
- Shirley Stoltz gave the Treasurer's report.
- Shirley thanked the Human Services staff for their help with OWLL classes.
- The board discussed the issue of using the FCOA endowment and what is allowed by the FCOA by-laws.

ANNUAL MEETING:

- The FCOA annual meeting convened at 10:35 am.
- The proposed slate of officers was elected.
- The actions of the board were approved.
- The FCOA annual report presented by Peter Holland was approved.

The next regular meeting of the FCOA will be on September 15. It was proposed that the meeting be held in person under the Community Center tent.

Respectfully submitted by

Suzanne Caton, Clerk

Bright Ideas Grant Program Annual Report to FCOA June 2022

The Bright Ideas Grant Program resumed in 2022 after being on hold for the previous 2 years due to the COVID pandemic. The program was advertised by billboards in the Community Center and media articles in the Sage newsletter and local newspapers. Information about the program and application forms were available on the FCOA web site.

Three applications were received and were reviewed by the FCOA Bright Ideas sub-committee and other invited representatives of the COA and the Lexington Human Services Department. Two of the applications were given further consideration and their proposers were invited to provide further information at a meeting at the Community Center on May 4.

At the end of the May 4th meeting, the sub-committee and the representatives of the COA and Human Services determined to offer a grant of \$1250 to the Munroe Center for the Arts to support an Intergenerational Arts Program of 4 sessions to be held at the Community Center and at the Munroe Center over the next year.

Submitted by Suzanne Caton
Chair of the Bright Ideas sub-committee

OWLL Report to the FCOA

June 2022

In March of 2020, just as OWLL was about to launch its spring courses, Covid turned life upside down. Massachusetts essentially closed down, and OWLL's spring classes were canceled. Then people began to learn how to use Zoom; by the summer, Jane Trudeau had set up an OWLL account and we offered a free course presented by Bill Gette. It was very successful, proving to us that we had an audience out there.

Since the summer of 2020, all OWLL courses have been on Zoom. Some instructors felt that they could not effectively present their material in that medium, so they have been waiting to return to in-person instruction. This May we had our first in-person class, "Composers in Exile", presented by perennial OWLL favorite Dotty Burstein. Her enrollment was surprisingly low (15 attendees), given that her classes have always filled up in the past. Perhaps people are still reluctant to attend classes in person. This spring we had a "first" — a "pop up" intensive class (five meetings over a 9-day period) on Ukraine, suggested and taught on Zoom by Bob Rotberg.

In the fall of 2022, we are moving to a new model: some courses will be in person, and some will be on Zoom. The mode of delivery has been left up to the instructor. Chris Worcester (Memoir Writing), Bruce Ward (astronomy), and Elizabeth Kenney (*The Merchant of Venice*) will be presenting in person at the Community Center; Robert Rotberg (Southern Africa), Tom Daley (the poetry of Gwendolyn Brooks), and Laura Zoll (medieval music) will continue to present on Zoom.

Holding classes on Zoom led, in many cases, to much larger enrollments than we could have handled at the Community Center. Specifically, the course on Duke Ellington had 81 participants, Poetry and the Brain had 80, The Dead Sea Scrolls had 78, and Let's Go to a Musical! had 49. Further, our audience base widened considerably because of Zoom. Although the majority of attendees were still Lexington residents, we had people zooming in from neighboring towns and from out of state. From June 2021 to June 2022, a total of 639 people enrolled in courses.

According to Michelle Kelleher, we are attracting the attention of senior services programs in other towns; they are asking what we are doing that is making us so successful. In a word, Zoom.

Many thanks to the hard-working members of the OWLL program committee:

Chris Worcester, Jane Trudeau, Shirley Stoltz, Ruth Rose, Mary Hamilton, Marion Kilson, Mickey Khazam, Peter Holland, and Bea Mah Holland.

Special thanks to Marion Kilson, our chair, who has guided us through many changes, with great wisdom and efficiency. Shirley Stoltz has taken care of our finances, and Jane Trudeau has been in charge of our Zoom site. Thanks also to Bea Mah Holland and Peter Holland, who have become our public-relations machine, writing wonderful in-depth articles about our instructors for the Lexington (aka Colonial) Times. Michelle Kelleher, who operates as a liaison between OWLL and the Senior Services Department, has been a steady, calming presence. Chris Worcester put in many years coordinating and passing on the information on OWLL courses to the staff of the Senior Center so that publicity could appear in The Sage. She also communicated with our webmaster, and arranged for posters and brochures to be printed up. This year Chris handed this job over to Ruth Rose and Mary Hamilton (it taking two people to do the work she had been doing!).

And, finally, OWLL thrives because of the quality of its instructors. We are lucky to have found some incredible teachers, and we are always on the lookout for more!

Submitted by :
Mary Hamilton
Ruth Rose

Lexington LifeTimes Annual Report to FCOA June 2022

Lexington *LifeTimes*: A Creative Arts Journal was started in 2017 with a grant from the FCOA Bright Ideas program. Since then, the journal has been published twice a year – in 2022, we published Issue 9, the Winter edition, and Issue 10, the Summer edition. A reception for the contributors to both 2022 issues will be held on Tuesday, July 19, at the Community Center.

Issue 9 showcased the creative works of 24 Lexington seniors while Issue 10 included works by 17 Lexington seniors. Approximately 300 hardcopies were printed of each issue and both are available on the FCOA web site, along with all previous editions. Hardcopies are distributed at the Community Center and are included with Meals on Wheels and starting with Issue 10, with book deliveries to seniors by Cary Library. Hardcopies are also given to all the contributors to the journal, to *LifeTimes* patrons, and to the major FCOA contributors (those who give \$100 or more).

The cost of producing the journal is underwritten by contributions from patrons, local advertisers, and the FCOA. With the last two issues, we have seen a drop off of advertisers but an increase in the number of individual patrons. Printing costs are very low since the journal is printed by the Town print center.

Publicity about the journal is primarily by means of social media postings by our Managing Editor, Kerry Brandin, and by other people associated with the journal. Application information and forms are posted on the FCOA web site, and we have already started to receive applications for inclusion in the next edition, Winter 2023.

Submitted by Suzanne Caton,
FCOA Board member and member of the *LifeTimes* Editorial Board