

Sawyer Free Library  
Lyceum Committee  
Minutes Monday December 2, 2019

Present: Cindi Williams, Susan Oleksiw, Mary Weissblum, Marsha Sloane, Christy Park, Saira Austin

Visiting: Linnea Hagberg, director of Community Programs, Senior Care.  
Valerie Nelson, Arts Insight and Community Building, Gloucester Cultural Initiative

Linnea talked about planning for Aging and Dementia Friendly Cape Ann in 2020. Healthy aging was a main topic. Andrew Budson, author of "7 Steps to Managing Your Memory," would be a good speaker. Also considered was Leonora Jackson - Pope of MGH, Brigham, Harvard Medical on issues of aging and memory. Also discussed was the issue of levels of dementia varying according to race and present research. Susan and Cindi will talk to Budson and choose a date, possibly in March. Joe Wallace's exhibition of photographs of those living with dementia might be a good addition to the senior care program.

Valerie Nelson returned to discuss her three-part series focused locally, with programs on February 27, March 26, and April 16. Valerie will come to the January Lyceum meeting. Each program will present an aspect of the role of artists in educating the public and mobilizing action for change. Greg Cook will be the presenter in January. In March, a panel of local artists will talk about climate change, and how to mobilize the community. Arts, Housing and Displacement is the April topic with a panel of local experts and artists.

Cindi discussed a forum that she had attended, which addressed affordable housing, including solutions to unaffordable housing such as changes in zoning and building codes to facilitate housing options. Tiny house construction is one solution to combating loss of community as well as housing costs.

Jackie Linsky's archival program drew 30 people and was well received.

Annie Storr's three sessions on "Exercises for the Quiet Eye" has one confirmed date - February 22, from 2 - 4. Other proposed dates have yet to be confirmed:

3/7

4/25

5/30

Jackie Linsky and John Hayes Hammond (CAM archivist) are planning a collaboration of the Castle, the Museum and the Library.

Susan supports inviting John Nelson to speak about his book on birding.

Cindi suggested that M.L. Buchman make a presentation about how bicycling around the world launched his writing career. The presentation should be about the trip rather than the novels. The book on memoir/sailing was deemed not of interest for our audience.

Marsha will look into an existing series on fishing for the possibility of replicating some of it here in Gloucester.

Saira will contact Peter Berkrot about a presentation of what it means to produce audible books and other issues of interest.

David Moon from Mass Audubon Joppa Flats education center was suggested for a program on climate change but this was tabled.

Mary will contact Stephen Puleo author of "the Voyage of Mercy" about a possible book talk.

A series about local contemporary artists, put forth by Ellyn Kroger, was deemed more appropriate for the Cape Ann Museum than the Lyceum.

Also another proposal about chemicals in the atmosphere needs more clarification before it can be considered for the library; it may be more appropriate for another forum.

The Knitting and Crocheting workshop by Leslie Wind was very successful and will repeat in the spring.