

CBBAG-OV Meeting

Minutes

March 9, 2016

Theme: Signature swap

Chair

Two new visitors attended our meeting.

We were all very sad to learn that Shlomo Feldberg passed away on February 29. Some people attended his funeral and Shiva. Susan suggested having a tribute to him, in the form of display of some of his works, at the Book Arts Show. The idea will be investigated.

We received a thank you letter from Twice Upon a Time, which Roxanne read out, for donating books to their cause. It has been almost two years since the inception of the group, during which time over 3,000 books have been given away.

Workshops

The rounded box workshop was fun.

Bookbinding I took place, with Mary as principal teacher and some assistance from Spike, who will take over teaching future classes. Spike took lots of notes. The question was raised whether the class could be taught when we have enough students, whether every year.

Paul's workshop on coptic stitched books with wooden boards now has 4 people registered. It will be offered on April 9.

We need ideas for next year's workshops. It was encouraged to use the cbbagottawa@cbbag.ca email link on the website to submit suggestions. Please let us know what you'd like to have!

Exhibits

The exhibit at the Shenkman went very well. Items were returned at the meeting to their owners. We would have liked to claim next February for a show, but it had already been booked. Thus, the next exhibit will take place in November, for 3 weeks [Post-meeting clarification: The space is for November 2017, not 2016; Gayle proposes that another venue be found for our 2016-2017 season]. Summer is not an ideal time, because we don't meet. It would be good if we could have a dedicated month.

The proposed idea for the November 2017 show was 10 years of workshops, showing what people have created at them. It is a way to publicize what we do for the community, and would be of great interest to others. Everyone was in favour of this theme. Gayle will coordinate.

Gayle wrote a 300-word article and also sent 3 pictures to CBBAG Publication.

Events

Roxanne reminded everyone about the event in Manotick, Dickinson Days, which will take place on June 4. Another volunteer is needed to take the lead. There were about 6,000 visitors who attended the event last year.

Madeleine had flyers for Fibre Fling 5, a show of works in fibre and mixed media by members of Out of the Box, to take place on April 8-9, at the Kitchissippi United Church. She also informed us of an exhibition currently being held at the Galerie UQO (l'Université du Québec en Outaouais) of experimental publications by 60 Québec and international publishers, designers and artists. See: <http://galerie.uqo.ca>

Book Arts Show

Twenty-two tables have been booked so far, by Twice Upon a Time, Stu Hill from Toronto, the Calligraphy Society of Ottawa and CBBAG National, among others. Perhaps Rose Newlove will be there. The next monthly meeting will be dedicated to planning the show. Gayle will be doing the food. People are needed to distribute flyers around the city.

The masthead has been designed. Perhaps the GNAC, a Glebe group, could assist with the promotion. The Ottawa Arts Council could spread the word as well, once we send them the information. They send out emails once a month only to their members, but the info would remain on their site. There were comments about how much more space we would have in this venue, compared with the space at the National Library. It was noted that an exhibit would need to be guarded.

10th Anniversary

A Facebook page would help us spread the word in the social networking world. One suggestion, from Holly, was to think of 10 things that are your favourites about the book arts, such as books, artists, materials and workshops. An online questionnaire/submission and profiles of people who are active in the book arts were also mentioned. Gayle said that if we create a 10 question survey and put it on survey monkey, we could reach a wider audience for contribution.

Our 10th anniversary would have an online presence in its own separate page on our website.

Gayle suggested making a cookbook, with members contributing lots of recipes. Steve asked if we could open this up to other chapters across Canada. It was noted that ours is the most active chapter in CBBAG.

A travelling exhibit would be great, however, it would be too expensive as we would have to pay for all the shipping. Other people would be required to find venues for the show. What about an online exhibit? Someone would need to take charge of it. It could be an event on Facebook.

Val related the story that the Pontiac group applied for a grant of \$30,000 from the government for a travelling show, but did not get it, because the show would have benefitted only a small portion of the province.

Using a free open-source online exhibition tool, such Omeka, which also serves as a database was next discussed. Roxanne will explore the option of getting student help via the Community Learning Service at the University of Ottawa (a volunteer system to give students work experience). Perhaps they could be engaged to tackle the cookbook and online exhibit ideas. If we are to have a slideshow (online exhibit) of swaps or exhibits, the photos need to be gathered and then transferred to the website. Another volunteer is needed.

Béatrice offered to be in charge of taking messages on the day of the show. Sheets of paper, measuring 7 x 7 inches will be put out, along with pencils. Visitors could write messages at the welcome table, where Susan will be. Later these could be bound and archived.

Reminders

Three vacancies need to be filled at our annual general meeting: chair, workshop coordinator and programme coordinator. Spike has expressed her interest in being the workshop coordinator.

Swap

Fifteen piles were arranged on a table, for the signatures. Twelve people contributed signatures. One each will be given to Wendy and Maria, with the third going to the archives. Spike volunteered to bind Wendy's copy, and Diane will ask Wendy first if that is okay with her; Béatrice volunteered to bind Maria's, and Josiane will ask Maria first if that is okay with her. Béatrice offered to bind the archives copy.

Show and Tell

Both Val and Gayle had their boxes from Spike's rounded box workshop. Spike had a book with words, bound with marbled paper by John, using secret Belgian binding.

Program

Each participant explained the thoughts and process of his/her signature.

Next meeting: April 13, 2016

Theme: Planning the Book Arts Show

20 in attendance