Virginia Center for the Book  
Members Meeting  
November 30, 2022

Attending: Bonny Bernstein, Erica Goldfarb, Janet Eden, Addeane Caelleigh, Nancy Kober, Garth Anderson, Josef Beery, Richard Cappuccio, Jenny Mikulski, Lyall Harris, Kevin McFadden, Garrett Queen

Report on the 2022 Auction

Kevin reported that the 2022 Auction was successful, raising $8200 gross. Also, Janet Eden gave the Book Arts Program a matching grant of $5,000; there were $2,500 in contributions to the new Access Fund. The Fund will be used to pay expenses of special instructors and provide scholarships for Book Arts classes.

The “reverse auction” did not work this year, however. The exhibit of Saints Alive! was excellent and impressive, and we need to learn from its success. There were not many members or former members this year. The group and Kevin speculated that it might be a good idea to move the auction back to the Book Center. There was not much time to seek out collectors for the Saints Alive! project, but that will be done now.

Report on Space Renovations

Kevin reported that the schedule for renovations is not yet known, except that they will be done between January and June of 2023. The renovations will not involve moving presses or type cases but will involve moving some other things on short notice.

Information on Membership

Before the covid pandemic, there were 60 members, with 40 of them active; now there are only 30 members and only a few are active. It is urgent to work on increasing membership.

Brainstorming Session

A wide range of ideas were proposed for Book Arts Program activities.

- There is information on the web on Tetra Pak materials, which can be used for intaglio printing.
- Several suggestions involving videos were put forward. Members could make short videos of something they are working on (a project; tips; studio trips). The center has the necessary equipment. Also, short videos clips from the web could be shown at the beginning of
Coordinating Committee meetings. (The meetings are open to all members, and the description of the video could be sent out before each meeting.)

- On the other hand, coordinating committee meetings or special members meeting could have a “show and tell” from members.
- Have a print challenge open to everyone, and especially reach out to printers in the community who are not members.
- Print a “prompt” with a blank space left for participants to add their own art (print; watercolor; ink drawing; for example).
- Team up with local bookstore(s) to present work at a bookstore event.
- Restart “Block Night,” when members and others gather to work on individual projects, discuss tips and suggestions, or visit with other members. Joseph Beery will take the lead, and he and other volunteers will keep the shop open from 5:30-7:30, for example. The first one will be held December 7.
- Bring ideas for group projects that are less complicated than the annual collaborative project and that could be done on shorter timelines.
- Apply to be a studio on next year’s Artisan Studio Tour.

Overall, these suggestions involve community outreach and participation, developing new ideas for joint projects, making videos that could be posted on the center’s website and YouTube, short videos, or short presentations as the opening of Coordinating Committee meetings, reviving Block Night, and holding contests open to everyone.