



## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

**January, 2021 found Bethlehem Neighbors, as well as most everyone else, dealing with the beginnings of a COVID epidemic. Our annual meeting was moved to a virtual format to enable our members to participate on Zoom and remain safely at home. In addition to a power point presentation which reviewed the previous year's activities and accomplishments, the meeting attendees voted to approve new and returning board members. They are listed here:**

- Gail Myers**
- Dee Levy**
- Francine Greenfield**
- Sylvia Wheeless**
- Jenn Baniak-Hollands**
- Virginia Papandrea**
- Monika Schneider**
- Kathy Stoddard**

**During the course of the year, two additional board members were added by the current board. They are Andrea Angerame and Michael Wheeless. This board has continued to meet quarterly to update everyone on activities and plans.**

**Our focus throughout this year has been to remain in touch with our members and friends to offer opportunities for social contacts that are safe and accessible. In the later months, we were also able to return to providing specific**



**services to some of our members as well. Our goal is to provide services to our members by other members especially in situations which do not easily fall within the purviews of other local service providers, such as our town Senior Services.**

**Our “virtual” coffee chats have maintained a small but dedicated group of people who like to socialize from the comfort of home. When the weather allowed, we also spent some time in person at various parks, either to sit and chat in the fresh air or to take a walk together. Additional activities this year have included:**

- Participating in the Delmar Farmers’ Market at the Bethlehem Middle School monthly during the season.**
- Walk and Talk (winter) at Capital Hills Golf Course..**
- Zoom discussion with a nutrition expert about healthy eating and exercise.**
- Zoom genealogy discussion.**
- Zoom happy hour socials.**
- Zoom hygge “beat the winter blues” discussion group.**
- Gardening program: both Zoom and in person visits with Judith Fetterley, a master gardener and member.**
- Visits to other gardens by invitation from our members and friends.**
- Dining out as a group – outside, of course.**
- A late summer picnic for members and friends was held at the Bethlehem Y pavilion. Everyone brought their**



**own dinner of choice and Stewart's Shoppes provided a sundae bar as dessert.**

**Throughout the spring, summer, and fall, our focus was on developing interesting topics for Zoom events which would involve more people. We also heard from members that they missed the human interaction and wanted a way to be together in safe ways. Thanks to our volunteers who identified parks and other areas where we could be together in person and safely distanced, and especially to Harriet who invited everyone to sit in her lovely garden on several occasions. Looking ahead, we will focus on balancing available activities to match the comfort level of our members, since some people are more hesitant than others about in-person events. We'll have something for everyone.**

**The following is a list of other accomplishments during the year:**

- Our membership has continued to grow throughout this year and we are pleased to have added more than 30 new members.**
- We were able to suspend our liability insurance coverage during the period when we are not providing direct services, and re-instated the coverage as we began to provide assistance again.**
- Several fundraising opportunities were implemented quite successfully, including a third Panera dinner (first one in 2019) but take-out this time, a holiday plant and**



wreath sale which featured home delivery, and participation in the Boscov's "Friends helping Friends" charitable event. And, for those of you who shop on Amazon, you can designate Bethlehem Neighbors as your charity of choice on "Amazon Smile" at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/81-1389819>

- Local media sources were approached and were open to providing information about Bethlehem Neighbors. Thanks to both Spotlight and Our Towne for your support.
- We continued implementation of a grant from Albany Guardian Society to develop and expand "best practices" to help reduce social isolation and loneliness among seniors. (Grant period was from October, 2020 to September, 2021.)



## 2021 Budget: (Actual)

| Revenue           |        | Expenses                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|
| Donations/savings | \$230  | Liability Insurance        | \$931  |
| Membership        | \$1305 | Promotions                 | \$1428 |
| Fundraising       | \$794  | P.O. Box Rental            | \$134  |
|                   |        | Run My Village             |        |
|                   |        | Monthly fee                | \$288  |
|                   |        | Domain name                | \$21   |
|                   |        | SSL certificate            | \$45   |
|                   |        | Village to Village Network | \$200  |
|                   |        | Zoom                       | \$150  |
|                   |        | Professional fees          | \$23   |
| AGS grant         | \$2000 | Supplies (copies, postage) | \$441  |
|                   |        | Misc./refreshments         | \$100  |
| Total:            | \$4329 | Total:                     | \$3761 |
| Savings:          | \$5722 |                            |        |