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# Mission Statement

Our Channing-Murray Foundation mission statement (drafted by the Board of Governors in 1993) is as follows:

*The Unitarian-Universalist ministry of the Channing-Murray Foundation provides a liberal religious center at the University of Illinois serving the campus community.*

*The mission of the Channing-Murray Foundation is to provide educational opportunities to explore Unitarian-Universalist spirituality, reflect our concern for social justice, and affirm diversity through outreach to the campus community of Urbana-Champaign.*

*The tradition of Channing-Murray is to provide, not only artistic, social, educational and religious programming, but also to be a haven for those who dream of a better world, who try to make a better world, who need a place to e*x*press and discuss their ideas and to understand the spirituality of Unitarian-Universalism. We continue in that tradition.*

**CHANNING-MURRAY MISSION**

**Here is what we have on our website.**

**Our mission**

The Channing-Murray Foundation is a campus-community center rooted in Unitarian-Universalist values providing educational, spiritual exploration, artistic, and cultural programs designed to be radically inclusive, social justice-centered, and spiritually alive.

**Our vision**

The Channing-Murray Foundation seeks to contribute to a vibrant community life in Champaign-Urbana that values social justice, diversity, and community-building across a diversity of identities and experiences. We are LGBTQ-affirming, interfaith-oriented, and committed to social justice.  As a community center rooted in Unitarian-Universalism, we are guided by the seven principles of Unitarian-Universalism:

* The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
* Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
* Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
* A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
* The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
* The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
* Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

**Our commitment to diversity**

The Channing-Murray Foundation has a strong commitment to diversity, celebrating a multitude of worldviews, histories, and cultural knowledge across a range of social groups including race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, abilities, economic class, religion, and their intersections.

**Our commitment to social justice**

This is at the core of our outreach to the community. Channing-Murray is known throughout east central Illinois for its many social justice events We are proud to collaborate with the Social Action Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church and other progressive organizations to host our monthly **Social Justice Film Series** on such topics as conflict resolution, food and environmental justice, immigration reform, racial justice, LGBTQ concerns and labor and inequality issues. We continue to work with community/ university groups that wish to hold social justice themed events (programs, fundraisers and more) in our space. We also encourage progressive groups to use our space for planning purposes for a modest yearly donation.

**Our commitment to spiritual exploration**

Our lay-led Unitarian Universalist services (circle worship style) are informal, participatory, and nonjudgmental. We draw from the beliefs, traditions and life experiences of all who attend, together exploring the interdependent web of life. All are welcome! We also serve as venue for interfaith ceremonies and events organized by others; also at times we offer classes/groups on yoga, meditation, dances for universal peace and more.

# Current Board and Staff

**Channing-Murray Board Members in 2016-2017**

President Karen Medina  
Vice President Rini Mehta  
Secretary Amanda Owings  
Treasurer Jacqueline Hannah  
Patricia Simpson  
Kasey Umland  
Kristina Khan  
Ben Joselyn  
Amanda Hungerford\*  
Brigitte Pieke\*  
  
\*Resigned before terms was completed  
Amanda Owings is a graduate student  
  
Endowment Committee  
Chuck Cooper  
Ron Szoke  
Carolyn Faucett Knox  
  
Staff  
Claire Szoke Executive Director  
Lisa Haynes Office Manager  
Rohn Koester Facilities Manager  
  
The Red Herring Staff  
Holly Curia Red Herring Restaurant Manager  
Emmett Silver Red Herring Financial Manager

# 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes

CM annual meeting notes 6-26-16

Present: Amanda Hungerford, Don McClure, Stuart Levy, Lan Rickart, Pam Rickart, Jacqueline Hannah, Carolyn Faucett-Knox, Charlie Rogers, Rohn Koester, Rini Mehta, L Charles Cooper, Ron Szoke, Dewey Jones, Doug Jones, Emmet Silver, Holly Curia, Lisa Haynes, Sally Bateman, Brigitte Pieke, Claire Szoke, Kristina Khan , Mikhail Brun.

Started around 6:35ish

Amanda O summarized last annual meeting notes: annual meeting notes from 2015 were approved at the May 1st meeting, so the meeting notes from May 1st- highlights of the year- IRS issue fixed, now covenanting community from the UUA, discussion of bylaws, budget discussion, nominating committee.

Some here who are not members, so if you would like to join, and make a donation.

Annual meeting notes from 2015.

Motion to approve notes Karen, second Brigitte, all in favor, none opposed, none abstaining.

Highlights of the year- Amanda H.- covenanting community recognition. Rohn- new HVAC system. Thanks to the Knoxs for their help getting projects done. Claire- appreciation for new energy. We hosted Haunted By God performance and also Kathy Kelly. Karen- lots of well attended fundraisers, applaud the Red Herring for all their work. And the garden looks nice. Brigitte and Rini working on the floor project, hopefully by next year the project will be completed. Karen- floor is very important to our renters, splinters were a problem, so we’re looking forward to having it done.

Treasurer’s report- budget- Karen: budget here. IRS issue- we found out from them we weren’t filing all forms, charging penalties and interest. We started payment on taxes, past taxes, and penalties. We wrote letters for abatement $8000 for one $6000 for another set of forms. We were granted abatement on both, we got back some money from the IRS. Other steps to take- changed the office manager’s job description to include finance experience and skills. Hired Lisa, updated our computer and software, now can connect to the IRS- our software was too old. We had a lot of fundraisers, continue to rent out the building and parking. Our main purpose is to reach out to the campus here and social action, and being part of the UU church. For the HVAC- we did borrow extra money from the endowment, 2 members here- Ron and Chuck. Endowment fund lent us other money that we will pay them back the $3000 extra. This is our first priority. We also got an anonymous loan which we are working on an agreement that the board will approve, over 7 years. Questions? Chuck- make sure some of the IRS money refunded to repay the restricted funds. Jane Anderson fund. We will find out how much it was and pay back- next board meeting. Income/expense statement- how should the loans be written? How affect income/expense forms? Karen- has a 5 year sheet if we want to look at it. Recommend to board that we get an accountant to come in. Stewart- how keep account of long term expenses, roof, floor, etc. Karen- we will start depositing money in a future account to set aside for future expense, need to calculate how much to set aside. Chuck- depreciation account- take reasonable amount and set aside. Rohn- Useful life of air conditioner 20-25 yrs. Doug- Roof 24 years ago, it was 25 year life roof. Jacqueline- is the plan to have someone who knows what they’re doing to look at? Karen- yes. Board meeting next year. Chuck- budget for the restaurant? Karen- they have their own budget and money and account. They report to the RH committee. Discussion about the Red Herring. The Red Herring is really important for this building and social justice work. Board responsibility balances the social action and all other stuff.

New people nominated to board have experience and great ideas that will be brought up in the RH committee. Financial reports are in good shape than he’s seen in a while. Jacqueline- first quarter, if add back in late penalties, were profitable. Lots of new things going on like the herb garden. Holly- highlight all that they do in 5-6 days a week, they are running programming, paying the staff, they are paying for the work, basement floods 10 times a year and they clean it up, so they are doing lots of work for CMF. Stewart- May meeting comment, looking at the sources of income- the largest one was the parking lot, this space is the crown jewel, why aren’t we getting more money for it? Effective outreach and programming, not making money. Karen-need to invest money in the building so our renters can have a nice place. Claire- programming upstairs and down quite a bit, we’re getting more for renters. We’re getting more university groups who are paying full values, we’re having weddings and receptions here on a regular basis. Religious groups- first eating at the Red Herring, and then they started a successful program here. We’re hoping to continue this to make it even more successful. Missing from the treasurer’s report- got a bequest from the Vaughn estate to the endowment. Lisa- we got 16 new members. Chuck- would like to see many more members. Endowment committee- Friday $190,472- $6365 loss due to Brexit. Not include $16,000 from the Vaughn account- check in transition. Chuck would like the restricted funds paid first before endowment. Typically Endowment pays ~$6000 to CMF. Hope we have more involvement of the membership. Motion to approve the budget- Doug. Pam 2nds, all in favor, no opposed or abstained.

Nominating committee- Jacqueline- has been a fan of believe the financial thriving is core to isn’t mission, embrace financial stability, want to see this and be a part of it. Rini- we could build stronger bridges between university and here. Are endowments for lecture, why don’t we have the university fund 70% of the lecture? Kristina- learned a lot about Channing Murray from Rohn. Does a lot of work with build programs not jail, etc. Radical reading group will be meeting here in the fall. Pat Simpson is a retired office manager of CMF, brought a lot of skills and is great. She also has fundraising and grant writing skills. Nancy Dietrich suggested Kasey Umland- also have lots of skills and community knowledge, at the YMCA. 4 board members. 5 people of election. One needs to be elected for 1 year term, others need to have 2 year terms. Brigitte- appointed in Feb, so she is up for something. Elected to 1 year fulfillment of term. Next year eligible. Move Amanda H to be elected to 2nd year term- Doug moved, Amanda O. seconded. Proxies? Signed letter 24 hours ahead of time, their vote by a proxy. 3 signed letters come in. Electronic means are okay by IL law? Karen- bylaws say need to be signed letter. Rohn voting for Rachel Storm, Ron for Eva, Stewart voting for Ricardo. Doug vote Don Anderson, and Theresa. Proposal- for this one time, accepting the proxy votes of the two people emailed their proxies, to accept these for now. All in favor, no oppose, Karen Medina has abstained.

Fulfill the remainder of Brigitte’s term, all in favor, no opposed, or abstained. Voting on the paper ballot. 4 people for 2 year terms, one for 1 year term. Rini volunteers to be the one year term person. Doug moves with the modification that Rini would be one year. Stewart- what procedure if more than 5 candidates? Amanda H. are there any other nominations from the floor- none. Doug moves that we approve the slate with Rini. Amanda seconds, all in favor, no opposed no abstaining.

Karen- want to applaud the new board members for joining.

New board meets now or later- can decide.

Pam- ombudsperson committee, Pam not Lan Richart!

GA- Doug sent link. Also in banner parade. Doug- GA quick report- presidential election year, campus ministry spoken about National campus ministry association meeting in fall? August? Working on forming an organization with the UUA, working with UU society of community ministers- he’s on national board.

Amanda O. moves that we end, Kristina Khan seconds, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15

# Director’s Report

To Channing-Murray Members and Friends:

It has been a busy year at Channing-Murray. Programming has gone well – there is literally one or more activities seven days a week – social justice events, a weekly young adult group, writing workshops, musical performances, a vibrant Red Herring Vegetarian Restaurant (a program of CMF) open for breakfast/lunch Monday-Friday and a Wednesday night dinner, lay-led Sunday services, a variety of dance classes and theatrical performances, retreats, fundraisers and planning sessions by progressive campus/community groups, an occasional wedding or memorial service, festivals and celebrations highlighting our commitment to cultural, racial, ethnic and religious diversity. We also welcome students and community members who simply wish to hang out with friends, study, meditate, play the piano or practice a dance routine. In this way, we put into practice our Unitarian Universalist and Channing-Murray principles – radically inclusive, justice centered, spiritually alive.

We continue to make progress in renovations to our historic building.

In the past two years, we have:

\*painted the exterior stucco and wood trim

\*painted the interior of the chapel

\*installed a new energy efficient HVAC system (heating/air conditioning)

\*expanded our stage as a step in our chapel restoration project – this was accomplished by a volunteer crew – Durl Kruse, Gary Storm, Roger Epperson, and Dean Carr

\*next on our agenda is refinishing the floor

\*we will soon be getting new matching chairs and updating our audio-visual and sound equipment thanks to a Community Foundation grant

Other accomplishments:

\*Our financial books are now in order thanks to the diligence of our office manager Lisa Haynes; our finance committee chaired by treasurer Jacqueline Hannah provides welcome oversight

\*Parking and Chapel/Red Herring space use donations are going well

\*We have Directors and Officers Insurance

\*We are now a Covenanting Community with the UUA

\*We continue to build up a supportive relationship with the UUCUC especially regarding social justice activities and support of the Red Herring. We appreciate being the November recipient of the church's Shared Offering program and are looking forward to working with the new settled minister, the Rev. Florence Capelow on UU outreach to the campus community.

\*We continue to strengthen networks with other groups in the community especially in the areas of comprehensive immigration reform, environmental justice, racial justice and support of labor.

All this would not be possible without the assistance of our excellent staff-- office manager *Lisa Haynes*, facilities manager *Rohn Koester*, the Red Herring crew led by *Holly Curia* and *Emmett Silver* and a dedicated volunteer Board of Governors. To say nothing of our marvelous donors, volunteers and patrons of our many events! Thanks folks!

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Szoke, Executive Director of Channing Murray Foundation

# Office Manager's Report

Parking

We had the lot full this Spring but only 7 summer parkers (so far- we had 9 last year) and 7 for next fall. Staying on top of the lot is a daily task. We give a warning on the first violation for illegal parkers, and tow on the second- so far (thankfully) nobody has parked illegally twice, though some days our lot has 3 or 4 illegal parkers at a time. Perhaps a clearer, or larger no parking sign would help- or even one that looks more like a university sign! Our first renewals for the Fall semester have been coming in. We’re putting flyers on cars in the area and have an ad on craigslist to try to get the lot more full.

Rentals

We have had our schedule nicely filled the past year with dance, plays, social justice related events, open mics, religious activities, university departmental events and others. We have dance classes 3 nights a week most of the year. Altogether, the various dance classes and dance related events add up to almost half of our rental income. Religious activities are slightly below 10%, and plays are around 11%. Miscellaneous meetings and concerts make up the balance.

Taxes

They’re getting filed and paid on time. We’re starting the process of getting an audit as well.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT **– Claire Szoke, Amanda Owings, Rohn Koester**

The program committee is designed to coordinate and expand programs to include social justice activities, our Sunday services, the young adult group, Red Herring events, the Tagore Festival and our lively arts scene including the Fiction Writers to an increasing number of dance, musical and theatrical groups that are eager to use our space.

Members include Claire Szoke and Amanda Owings (co-chairs), Rohn Koester, Kristina Khan, Patricia Simpson, Karen Medina, Pam and Lan Richart,  Emmett Silver, Holly Curia, and Sally Bateman. The committee is open to all who wish to participate! Rini Mehta serves as CMF liaison to the Tagore Committee.  We welcome any program suggestions via email or personal communication from individuals who cannot come to our planning sessions.

A busy year for programs was highlighted by critical connections to community/campus networks and the UIUC community.  Groups using Channing-Murray for programs, retreats and planning meetings include the Education Justice Project, the CU Immigration Forum, the Women's Resource Center, the Central Illinois Chapter of Jobs with Justice, Build Programs Not Jails, Students for Justice in Palestine, Jewish Voices for Peace, and the Native American House. Labor groups who used our space included the Central Illinois Chapter of Jobs with Justice, AFSME, the Graduate Employees Organization, and the Campus Faculty Association. We also received strong programming from the arts and cultural communities in the form of dances, musical performances, multimedia presentations, and art exhibits.  Campus departments also at times use our space for events.

**Religious Programs**

**Sunday Services**

Fall semester we continued to hold a few lay-led Unitarian-Universalist Sunday Services at 1:30 p.m. in the Chapel (in circle worship style). These are informal, participatory, and non-judgmental. We welcome people from all religious, philosophical, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds who seek to come together in a free search for meaning in their lives. Claire Szoke coordinated these services.    Then in the spring we changed the time and format to a midafternoon series on **Spirituality and the Environment**. To kick off the series we showed a documentary, ***Renewal*,** on interfaith collaboration promote environmental justice. We invited presenters from various faith traditions--pagan (Ashley Price and Arwythur Michels), protestant (Rev, Cindy Shepherd of Faith in Place and the Rev. Michael Crosby of the Mennonites), Unitarian Universalist (Andy Robinson of the Green UUs) and Native American (Beverly Smith of the Native American House).

As part of our mission in support of religious and cultural diversity Channing-Murray was also the scene of two well-attended Hindu programs

* Durga Puja October 7-9, a three-day Indian religious/cultural festival, Members and friends of CMF were invited to attend, especially for the closing ceremony on Sunday. So, Americans in jeans mingled with Indians in saris and a fine time was had by all.
* Saraswati Puja (February 4) This was a more informal one-day event.

**Religious Workers Association**

As executive director of Channing-Murray, **Claire Szoke** continues to be active in the Religious Workers Association, a coalition of personnel from a wide variety of campus/community faith communities. For many years, Channing Murray has been an official member of the RWA as has the UUCUC. Members of the Jewish and Muslim communities also participate.

**Tagore Festival**

Our annual Tagore Festival was held at Channing-Murray **September 10** this year. The theme was The Poetry of Movement: Tagore in Contemporary Indian Cinema.  The festival included a keynote address by Dr. Neepa Majumdar of the University of Pittsburg, a cultural program by local members of the East Central Illinois Bengali Association and a catered Indian dinner.  Dr. Nani Bhowmik is chair of the Tagore committee; Rini Mehta is the group's liaison to the Board.  Claire Szoke and Sally Bateman also serve on the committee as CMF representatives.

**Weddings**

Three weddings were held at Channing Murray this year.  We continue to get inquiries.

**UU YOUNG ADULT GROUP** (18-35)

The young adult group meets weekly during the academic year at Channing-Murray on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-7 p.m. for a free mainly vegetarian dinner. and discussion of topics pertaining to issues that we face as people who are not quite adults yet, but no longer children. **Amanda Owings** and **John Milano** facilitate each meeting. It is open to all young adults who wish to attend - UUs and nonUUs.

**The Lively Arts**

C-M continues to be recognized throughout the campus community for its artistic programs.

**Fiction Writers** – Meeting at CMF for 38 years, this workshop is alive and well with some 14 or more participants crowding around the table in the Fireside Room each Tuesday evening – including the summer! Participants in the Fiction Writers weekly meetings receive feedback on their writing, lend a critical ear to the writings of others, and learn how to publish their writing. Writers of all experience levels are welcome--regulars range from novices to published authors. **Elaine Palencia** coordinates this workshop.

Channing-Murray also is the setting for a variety of dance classes offered by community member s. These add to the vitality of our overall programming and are a modest but most helpful source of income for the Foundation. These include **West African Dance, Salsa, and** **CU Tango.** In addition to these classes, the **Dancing Illini**, and the **Urbana Country Dancers** at times hold dances in the chapel. Other groups continue to inquire – it is a matter of scheduling in our rather small building.

**West African Dance**

The West African dance class continues to meet on Sundays at the Channing-Murray Foundation.  **Djibri**l **Camar**a, the group's founder has returned to South Africa but dance enthusiasts continue to meet under the leadership of **Mara Thacker**.

**CU Tango and Milonga**

As an outgrowth of the weekly tango dance classes held at Channing-Murray, a group of Tango enthusiasts (led by **Claire Barker,** a member of Channing-Murray and the UU Church of Urbana-Champaign), have been holding monthly **Milongas**, tango dances open to the public. They also host weekend tango workshops a couple of times a year. More than 100 tango dancers have participated in these events, which include all-day dance workshops and an evening formal tango ball. Tango aficionados travel from Chicago, St. Louis, Indianapolis and other surrounding cities to study and dance with local dancers from the university and the community.

**CUAT Salsa**

**This group has met here at CMF for much of the year and will continue over the summer.  Five=week sessions.  Instructors are Muge Dizen and Yuri Sohn.**

**Theatrical and Sketch Comedy Groups and Other Performances**

Channing-Murray continues to be a popular venue for several student and community theatrical and sketch comedy groups. We welcome their energy and creativity. This year featured performances by the *New Revel Players* and the *Penny Dreadful Players*, Other performance groups continue to inquire - it is just a matter of scheduling.

**Music at Channing Murray**

Support of local music has been a Channing Murray/Red Herring tradition.  Live music (often original) by local musicians is frequent over the lunch hour in the Red Herring.  Also, we experimented this year with Open Mic on Sunday evenings.   Channing Murray this year also was the venue for two popular band/ shows: The *Undercut Collective* and *Mean Lids.*

. **Social Justice Programming**

Channing Murray was the venue this academic year for a wide variety of social justice themed forums, documentaries and fundraisers.  Some were organized by the CMF program committee - others were planned by progressive campus/community organizations and were often co-sponsored by CMF and the social action committee of the UUCUC.  These include:

**Social justice themed programs and documentaries:**  
This Changes Everything on climate change based on book by Naomi Klein - Sierra Club  
The "13th" on the issue of mass incarceration  
Forgiving Dr. Mengele on forgiveness a survivor of medical experiments by the Nazis  
Before the Flood on environmental issues - Sierra Club and SECS

Screening of 1992 Latino Protest at UIUC  followed by a panel discussion- MECHA (Latino Group)  
  
**Forums and Other Programs**  
Kathy Kelly of Voices for Creative Nonviolence  
Inner Voices Social Justice Theater on Women's Issues  
Teach-in on Issue of Sanctuary and Solidarity-Latino groups  
Palestine Cultural Night-Students for Justice in Palestine  
We Are Called to be Stewards: a Multifaith-Intergenerational Exploration of Activism on Campus  
Building a Progressive Politics in the Age of Trump  
Saving the Social Safety Net  
When Journalism Dies" featuring Bob McChesney of Media Matters

UU YOUNG ADULT GROUP**- submitted by Amanda Owings**

**Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m.**

The young adult group meets at Channing Murray on Tuesdays evening and discusses topics pertaining to issues that we face as people who are not quite adults yet, but no longer children. Amanda Owings and John Milano facilitate each meeting. Too old for traditional UU religious education, and too young for some of the adult groups available, we had found it difficult to fit in. This has been the perfect place to meet and share together this journey from what we were to what we will be. We have discussed topics of politics, relationships, mending bridges with family members, big life steps, and so many more! It is also nice to have a place to go to and eat a great dinner! If you are a young adult ages 18-35 please feel free to join us for dinner and deep listening.

# Endowment Committee Report

Channing-Murray Foundation of Urbana, Illinois

Endowment Funds Report of May 2017

Highlights of operations for the calendar year 2016

     & first third of 2017

The purpose of the CMF endowment funds is to support the long-term financial stability of the Channing-Murray Foundation.  Their inception is due primarily to a 1996 bequest of $40,000 from the estate of the late Harlan E. Moore (1885-1979), a Champaign UU philanthropist.  This bequest and the early management of the funds were largely due to the efforts of the late Jane Anderson (1916-2006).

 There is a checking account at the First Federal Savings Bank of Champaign-Urbana that frequently fluctuates in value because it is used to send deposits to and receive redemptions from our investment portfolio at the T. Rowe Price (TRP) mutual fund company of Baltimore, Maryland. The balance in this local checking account as of 5/17/17 was $1,256.

In calendar 2016, the total value of the nine TRP mutual funds rose from $199,854 to $223,691, an increase of $23,836 or +11.9%. This includes a $16,000 bequest from the estate of Irene Vaughan.

In accordance with previous practice, 4% of the 1/1/2017 value, or about $9,000,  has been earmarked for prudent use by the governing board in 2017.

Due to recent fluctuations and redemptions, the total value of the TRP funds stood at $232,699 as of 10:00 pm on 5/17/17.

The historic, overall rate of return for all funds in the TRP portfolio, is +7.76%, according to TRP records.

  A detailed accounting of all fund activity can be made available to any CMF member who wishes to examine it.

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For the Endowment Committee

~~ Ron Szoke   5/17/2017

CMF Facilities Report for 2016-17

by Rohn Koester, Facilities Manager

**Chapel Restoration Moves Forward**

The Chapel Restoration initiative took a big leap forward this past year with a new paint job in the interior of the chapel and a new, expanded stage.

The painting project was completed by Booher Construction in August 2016 under the supervision of Board Member Rini Mehta. In addition to painting the white interior of the chapel, the construction crew also made repairs where water damage had degraded the wall.

In May 2017, after a year-long bidding process (facilitated by Rini Mehta) to renovate and expand the stage, the project was completed by friends of Channing-Murray: Dean Carr, Durl Kruse, Gary Storm, and others who stopped by to help. The project design was drawn up by Durl, who also made a careful inventory of the materials and tools they would need to complete the work. The final cost of the project was less than $2,000, far below any of the bids the Board reviewed.

All agreed that the work is first-rate and the stage is now ready for decades of use. The expanded stage creates many new opportunities for programming in the chaple. Great congrations to Dean, Durl, and Gary for stepping forward and donating their labor and considerable expertise.

For 2017-18, the Chapel Restoration initiative will include a repaired and refinished floor, new chairs and chair storage, and improved audio/video capabilities.

**Red Herring Plumbing Repair**

In 2016, the Red Herring kitchen area began experiencing moderate flooding. Further exploration revealed that the drain pipe behind the east wall was severally cracked. Apparently this is an old problem for the restaurant, with various homemade fixes applied over the years.

We contacted a plumbing service to evaluate the problem and make repairs, and they discovered a larger problem: the crack in the pipe extends into the concrete foundation of the building. The plumbing service provided a temporary fix by applying a tourniquet around the affected area, which has completely stopped any leakage.

However, they informed us that a long-term fix would involve replacing the full length of pipe by breaking the concrete around it. This would likely involve costs exceeding $10K. There may be other options involving coating the interior of the pipe with a resin of some kind or using pipe-in-pipe technology to circumvent the problem.

**General Fixes and Improvements**

\*North side window-well cover repaired.

\*Space behind chancel rail cleared and cleaned.

\*Live video conferencing for chapel programming.

\*Leak in office sink repaired.

\*East-side gutters cleaned and repaired – thank you, Ben Joselyn!

\*A/V microphones and cords upgraded.

\*Multiple volunteer work days throughout the year.

\*RHVR bathroom toilets repaired

# Red Herring Fiction Workshop Annual Report May 2017

Despite its name, the workshop considers all prose except scholarly articles. Founded in 1980, we continue to meet each Tuesday evening of the year, except when a major holiday falls on that day.

**Publishing**

Several workshop members have published op ed and travel pieces in *The Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette:* Allen Hartter, John Palen, Emily Klose.

Frank Chadwick’s science fiction novel, *Chain of Command*, was bought by Baen Books. It will be published in October.

Paul Heald’s legal thrillers, *Cotton* and *Courting Death*, were published by Yucca Publishing. *Courting Death* has been nominated for an award by the Southern Independent Booksellers Association.

John Palen’s nature essay, “The Year of the Hawks and the Fox”, appeared in *Field Notes*, the newsletter of the local Master Naturalists chapter.

Bob Switzer’s novel, *The Lady Professor*, soon appear from Bedazzled Ink Publishing, is already listed on amazon.com for pre-publication orders.

Elaine Palencia had poetry published in *Encore*, the anthology of 2016 Prize Poems of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies Contest; *Tipton Poetry Journal*, and *The Heartland Review*; fiction in *Appalachian Heritage*; and a book review in *Appalachian Journal.*

Karen Hilgeman has been self-publishing romantic fiction on amazon.com, using a pseudonym. She tells us that she has earned quite a bit of money.

Mary McCormick Deka self-published a poetry collection, *Away from Shore*.

Our newest member, Zhao Yuechao, published a short story online at a Chinese website that features one story per day.

**Service to the Literary Community**

Paul Heald is serving on the judges’ panel of the Hammett Prize, awarded annually by the International crime Writers Association.

Elaine Palencia served on the judges’ panel of the Weatherford Award in Appalachian Fiction, awarded annually by the Appalachian Writers Association.

Six workshop members read at our annual Boneyard Arts Festival public reading: Steven Welch, Bob Switzer, Paul Heald, Cindy Troiano, Elaine Palencia, and Aaron Dell.

Frank Chadwick runs The Writer’s Café, a writing workshop, for the OLLI Program.

John Palen taught a class, “How to Read a Newspaper,” for the OLLI Program.

And . . . . Aaron Dell has been accepted into the Creative Writing MFA Program at Purdue University. He will begin work there in the fall semester.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Palencia

# Tagore Committee Report

Tagore Festival 2016

The 28th Annual Tagore Festival was held on September 10, 2016.  Channing Murray Foundation continued its collaboration with the University of Illinois and the East Central Illinois Bengali Association to organize a keynote speech, an ensemble cultural program, and a catered dinner.  The keynote was delivered by Professor Neepa Majumdar, Dr. **Neepa Majumdar**, Department of English & Film Studies, University of Pittsburgh. The title of his lecture was ***Chalachchitra*, the “Poetry of Movement”: Tagore in Contemporary Indian Cinema.”** The evening also featured an innovative presentation of Tagore’s dance drama **Chandalika**, by community and campus members of the **East Central Illinois Bengali Association**. Members of the East Central Illinois Bengali Association (ECIBA) presented a cultural program, and organized the dinner.  Announcements regarding renovation of the chapel, and fundraising for that purpose were made.  The program had about 100 attendees.

The Annual Tagore Festival commemorates Tagore’s 1912 lecture at the Foundation, which was then the Unitarian Church of Urbana.  Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) visited Urbana twice, in 1912-13 and in 1916-1917.  He had sent his son Rathindranath to study Agriculture at the University of Illinois.  Rathindranath received his Bachelor's Degree, returned a few years later to pursue graduate studies, but had to go back to India before he could finish the work needed for his Degree.  During his stay in Urbana, Rathindranath found Urbana an expanding center for international scholars.  Driven by the vision to expand the alliance among peers beyond the classroom, he co-founded an international students' organization – the Cosmopolitan Club – that still has a vibrant presence on campus.  When Rabindranath Tagore visited Urbana in 1912 he was received with great warmth and enthusiasm by the University and the local community.  When the poet returned to Urbana for a second visit in 1916, he was much more of a celebrity - a Nobel Laureate (the first non-European/American to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature) and a powerful voice against the 'Great War.' The chapel that hosted Tagore’s first lectures is now a National Historical Building that houses the Channing-Murray Foundation, which has celebrated an Annual Tagore Festival since 1989. The foundation is proud to commemorate the creative, spiritual, and political genius of India’s greatest poet, and his legacy in the current global context.

All the best,

Rini

# Red Herring Kitchen Report: 2016/2017

-New record numbers at lunch and dinner consistently from start to finish of this school year, we started to realize we had built a very large group of regular customers and continued to see new faces every day.  We estimate that we served around 500-700 people every week.

-We received continuous good press throughout the year from local papers and online publications:  voting us best local restaurant; voting us best local soup, chili, and salad; and highlighting other things we do that are special to our mission.

-We continued to build strong and consistent relationships with local farmers and food producers.  This resulted in cross promotion, special deals or rates, and Red Herring making a strong impact on our local food system!

**Recap of Summer:**

-We had a financial loss again during summer, which did set us back, after a break-even 2015/2016 annual.

-We had some squash, tomato, and herb produce that we grew and harvested from our garden.

**Recap of Fall semester:**

-We had new hires and training in the beginning of semester (5 totally new people, 1 veteran returned).

-Half of the staff had been working Red Herring over 1.5 years.

-Staff morale overall was very high, productive, efficient, and enthusiastic [most days].

-We had our best health inspection to date this semester.

-We bought a new freezer.  It's been a big help for storage and overall operations.  Cost was $500 with mileage.

-We had some powerful collaborations with local groups this semester, including a benefit for Standing Rock and other creative and activist events.  Our own fundraiser was a bit of a flop, though.  We decided to regroup on our fundraising efforts, having them less frequently and with more effort put into the ones we do have.

-Food costs were high this semester.  We looked into new ways we could cut these down and made some smart shopping/sourcing choices.

-We brought back our Coffee House Open Mic during the fall semester with the initiative of our staff member, Kevin.  It fluctuated in popularity, sometimes drawing a big crowd, other times rather small. Kevin logged 2 hours per week working the evenings of this project, Sunday night.  The evenings usually brought in under $20 in sales (drinks and desserts, sometimes soups).  We could have done a better job marketing it as a night with food, looking back, and this could help create more revenue on these evenings.  We ended up deciding to cut it mid-way through the Spring semester.

-We collaborated with local “celebrity” chef and local food enthusiast, Mark Hartstein (chef at Watson’s Shack and Rail) for our Japanese Fusion dinner.  The collaboration was fun and educational for our staff, made for good press and community collaboration, and brought in many excited customers.

**Recap of Spring semester:**

-We took measures to cut our food costs and labor in light of low bank account funds, at start of semester. We kept a close eye on our balance, while looking for ways to keep costs low. We succeeded in maintaining a balanced budget throughout the semester, resulting in profits.

-In March, we hired two new staff members, Kenna and Colin..  We retained the rest of our staff throughout the semester, and some of our veterans are starting to step up to take on more responsibilities.

-We raised the prices of about half of our menu options by .50 cents.

-We put up a sign for several weeks, requesting cash payments to help lower our credit card processing fee.  We saw good response, with many customers expressing appreciation for our request.

-We made efforts to focus on creative marketing and collaborations this semester in order to bring in more revenue.

-Great events we hosted this semester: Pandora’s Rag Zine release party (on campus, feminist zine makers), Female Songwriter Showcase, discussions with environmental classes, ACLU matching donation dinner, and more.

-We had to get our refrigerator fan repaired halfway through the semester. It wasn’t too expensive of a fix and things seem to be working well again.

-We had another high scoring health inspection as a result of some upgrades we made to the space. The health department did notify us that we need to repair the ceiling in our office room.

-We finished the semester with buying some upgraded equipment required by public health: an ice machine, immersion blender, and large rice cooker.  These will make a very positive impact on operations.

-We had a bit of bad news, in that our ‘head board’ sign was stolen from our outdoor stairwell.

**Looking ahead:**

-We are expanding our garden efforts, growing space, and inclusiveness on staff participation, to make it more of a part of how we source our food. Staff has offered to make it a volunteer project that we work on together.

-We are entering this summer as conservatively as possible.  We are limiting our menu to the simplest and most cost-effective options, while still satisfying our customer’s desires.  We plan to bring down our labor hours, while still supplying our staff with enough hours, to stay with us.  We value retaining a trained and devoted staff, in order to maintain efficient and long-term workers.

-We want to have a closer relationship with Green St UU Church, especially in light of its new minister.

-We want to continue to train our staff to take on more responsibilities, to assist management.  We will have more staff become sanitation-manager-certified, and we will help create a more stable and responsible management team for the restaurant’s future.

-We want to continue to spread our marketing efforts via collaborations with local groups and individuals, and having a presence in the community in dynamic and meaningful ways.

-We wish to continue to create more Red Herring Cookbook Zines and spread those around town to more outlets that wish to consign them. We currently have 3 finished (Soups, Desserts, and Garden Fresh) and are working on a 4th edition- “Potlucks”.

-We wish to replace our outdoor stairwell sign and take advantage of unused space on our outdoor community board, as well.  We have noticed the outdoor community board (opposite our “wayside pulpit”) falling into increasing disuse.  We have considered an idea to start a serial billboard campaign suggestive of our mission and activities.

-We wish to continue to improve overall visibility and physical appeal of our restaurant.  We want to collaborate more closely with board and staff to maintain and enhance our space.

-We wish to collaborate more with board members.  We would like to have more regular Red Herring committee meetings.

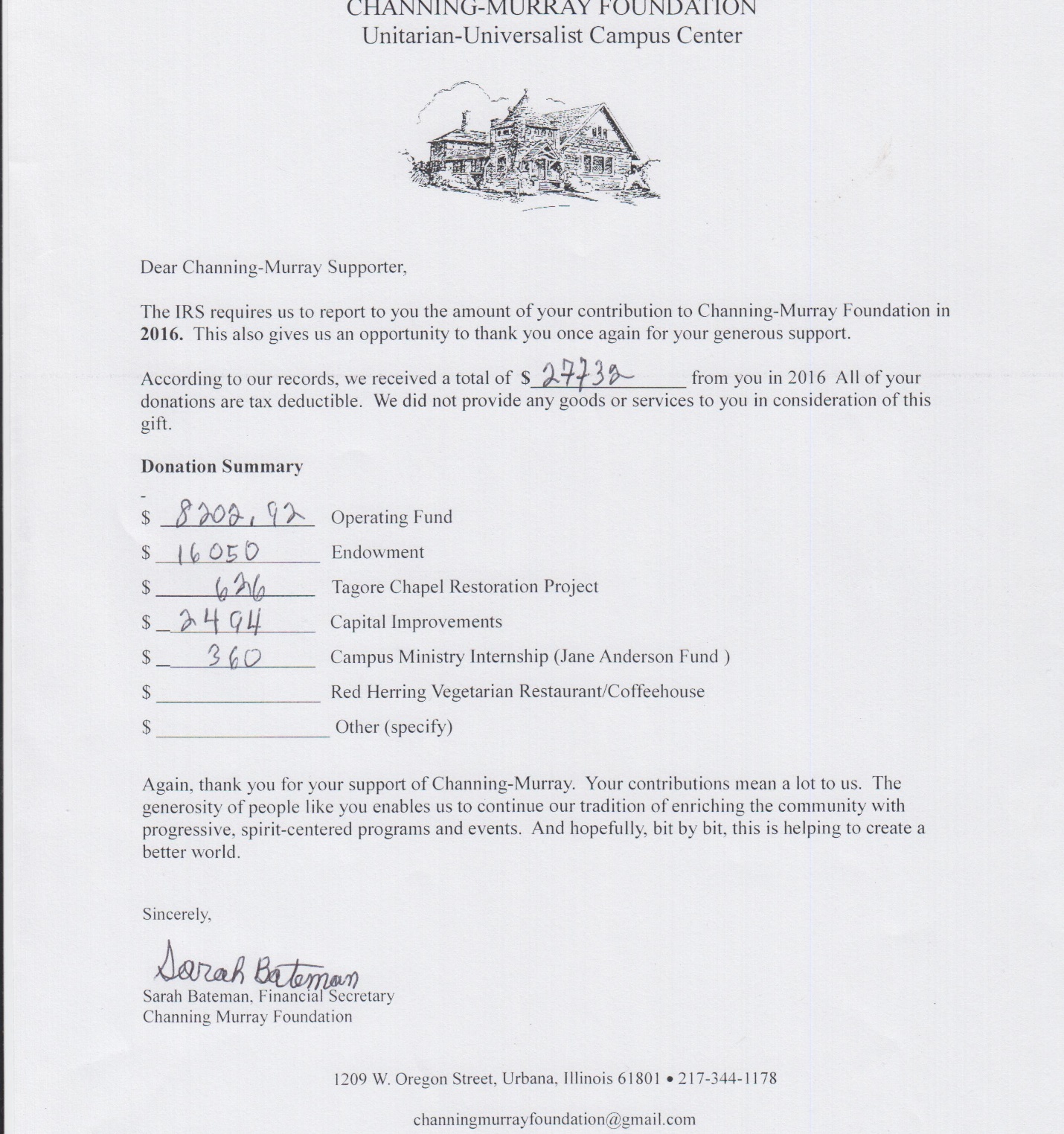
# 2016 Profit and Loss Statement

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | 2016 budget | 2016 actual | difference | % difference |
|  |  | Board giving |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | donations general | 13369 | 10502 | -2867 | -21% |
|  |  | CMF fundraisers | 1000 | 716 | -284 | -28% |
|  |  | Parking | 21000 | 18277 | -2723 | -13% |
|  |  | Grants | 2000 | 0 | -2000 | -100% |
|  |  | Space fees | 11000 | 14287 | 3287 | 30% |
|  |  | RHVR reimbursement | 7000 | 5750 | -1250 | -18% |
|  |  | Tax refund | 4400 | 4404 | 4 | 0% |
|  |  | Endowment | 11000 | 11000 | 0 | 0% |
|  |  | TOTAL | 70769 | 64936 | -5833 | -8% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| EMPLOYEE |  | Payroll | 25000 | 23829 | -1171 | -5% |
|  |  | Work Comp | 2129 | 2129 | 0 | 0% |
|  |  | D&O insurance | 750 | 750 | 0 | 0% |
| GENERAL |  | Social Just Programing | 200 | 280 | 80 | 40% |
|  |  | Spirituality Programming | 800 | 50 | -750 | -94% |
|  |  | UUA Fee | 100 | 100 | 0 | 0% |
|  |  | Licensing and permits | 200 | 431 | 231 | 116% |
| OFFICE |  | Telephone/Internet | 2175 | 2077 | -98 | -5% |
|  |  | Supplies | 1175 | 846 | -329 | -28% |
|  |  | Professional Fees | 300 |  | -300 | -100% |
| PROPERTY |  | Land Trust Fee | 150 | 150 | 0 | 0% |
|  |  | Maintanance and Repairs | 4000 | 4104 | 104 | 3% |
|  |  | Building Supplies | 100 | 101 | 1 | 1% |
|  |  | Parking Lot Maintainence | 650 | 130 | -520 | -80% |
|  |  | Property Insurance | 5430 | 5348 | -82 | -2% |
|  |  | HVAC | 13369 | 13369 | 0 | 0% |
| UTILITIES |  | Electricity/Gas | 7300 | 8488 | 1188 | 16% |
|  |  | Water | 900 | 618 | -282 | -31% |
|  |  | Pest Control | 650 | 721 | 71 | 11% |
|  |  | Alarm | 450 | 252 | -198 | -44% |
|  |  | Sewer | 400 | 463 | 63 | 16% |
| DEBT |  | Loan Repayment | 2420 |  | -2420 | -100% |
|  |  | Interest Expense |  |  | 0 |  |
| **TOTAL** |  |  | **68648** | **64236** | -4412 | -6% |

# CMF Balance Sheet

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | May 22, 17 |  | May 22, 16 |  | $ Change |  | % Change |
| ASSETS | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Current Assets | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Checking/Savings | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | CMF checking | | | 17,168 |  | 14,834 |  | 2,334 |  | 16% |
|  |  |  | Endowment checking account | | | 9,577 |  | 527 |  | 9,050 |  | 1,717% |
|  |  |  | PayPal | |  | 583 |  | 51 |  | 532 |  | 1,043% |
|  |  |  | Petty cash | | | 43 |  | 55 |  | -12 |  | -22% |
|  |  |  | Petty Cash RHVR | | | 2,196 |  | 2,215 |  | -19 |  | -1% |
|  |  |  | RHVR checking account | | | 3,294 |  | 8,813 |  | -5,519 |  | -63% |
|  |  |  | Tagore checking- Restricted | | | 11,784 |  | 13,559 |  | -1,775 |  | -13% |
|  |  | Total Checking/Savings | | | | 44,645 |  | 40,054 |  | 4,591 |  | 11% |
|  |  | Accounts Receivable | | | | 2,156 |  | 2,532 |  | -376 |  | -15% |
|  |  | Other Current Assets | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | endowment account | | | 233,460 |  | 189,055 |  | 44,405 |  | 23% |
|  |  | Total Other Current Assets | | | | 233,460 |  | 189,055 |  | 44,405 |  | 23% |
|  | Total Current Assets | | | | | 280,261 |  | 231,641 |  | 48,620 |  | 21% |
|  | Other Assets | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | HVAC system | | | | 13,369 |  | 13,369 |  | 0 |  | 0% |
|  | Total Other Assets | | | | | 13,369 |  | 13,369 |  | 0 |  | 0% |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | | | |  | 293,630 |  | 245,010 |  | 48,620 |  | 20% |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Liabilities | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Current Liabilities | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Other Current Liabilities | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Prepaid Parking | | 1,960 |  | 0 |  | 1,960 |  | 100% |
|  |  |  |  | Loans | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | Loan from JAI account | 1,075 |  | 1,075 |  | 0 |  | 0% |
|  |  |  |  |  | Loan from Outreach account | 314 |  | 314 |  | 0 |  | 0% |
|  |  |  |  |  | Loans - Other | 0 |  | 2,500 |  | -2,500 |  | -100% |
|  |  |  |  | Total Loans | | 1,389 |  | 3,889 |  | -2,500 |  | -64% |
|  |  |  |  | Payroll Liabilities | | 1,790 |  | 3,520 |  | -1,730 |  | -49% |
|  |  |  | Total Other Current Liabilities | | | 5,139 |  | 7,409 |  | -2,270 |  | -31% |
|  |  | Total Current Liabilities | | | | 5,139 |  | 7,409 |  | -2,270 |  | -31% |
|  |  | Long Term Liabilities | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Long term loan | | | 11,000 |  | 12,000 |  | -1,000 |  | -8% |
|  |  | Total Long Term Liabilities | | | | 11,000 |  | 12,000 |  | -1,000 |  | -8% |
|  | Total Liabilities | | | |  | 16,139 |  | 19,409 |  | -3,270 |  | -17% |
|  | Equity | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Opening Bal Equity | | | | 158,680 |  | 158,680 |  | 0 |  | 0% |
|  |  | Opening Balance Equity RHVR | | | | 5,683 |  | 5,683 |  | 0 |  | 0% |
|  |  | Retained Earnings | | | | 90,171 |  | 46,185 |  | 43,986 |  | 95% |
|  |  | Net Income | | |  | 22,957 |  | 15,053 |  | 7,904 |  | 53% |
|  | Total Equity | | |  |  | 277,491 |  | 225,601 |  | 51,890 |  | 23% |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | | | | | | 293,630 |  | 245,010 |  | 48,620 |  | 20% |

# Donations Report



# Executive Committee Report