



MAASBESA

MASSACHUSETTS ALBANIAN AMERICAN SOCIETY - BESA

**Massachusetts Albanian American Society/BESA
Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2009**

“To be good you have to have many friends, to be great you need a few enemies”
-- George Allen

Boston Public Library
McKim Conference Room
700 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

People Present:

Mark Kosmo, Albana Orgocka, Filgen Prifti, Arber Muhameti, Bashkim Braho, Myzi Ormenaj, Shqiponja Baci, Ilir Capuni, Arta Capuni, Haki Baci, Katherine Vlladesi

Co-chair Mark Kosmo calls the meeting to Order at 2:28 pm. Everyone present makes a small introduction about themselves.

Events

1. Flag Day Preparations:
 - a. Katherine Vlladesi speaks about Flag Raising. She indicates that there are two options that are available for raising the flag in city hall. The first option is of having it on Friday November 27, 2009 without a cost or on Saturday, November 28, 2009 for a fee of \$300. Everyone discusses these options. People think that November 28th, 2009 is the best at 11:00am. There is a unanimous vote for the flag raising to be held on November 28th, 2009.
 - b. There is also a discussion regarding having a luncheon during the event. Discussion on contacting Albanian business to donate food for the event.

2. Lunch with Mayor Menino
 - a. Discussion regarding having a lunch/dinner with Mayor Menino. Mark Kosmo thinks that the lunch should be held after the first of the year. There are discussions about how many people would attend and how much it would cost – probably 20 people at \$100 per person.
3. Other Events (BU Albanian night, Albanian School Kids Concert, New Years??)
 - a. BU Albanian Night: On November 21, 2009 there is a BU night. Discussion on how much to donate to the event.
 - b. Caprice Boston: Having a club night discussing whether it's a good idea.
 - c. Lido Night Club: Singers coming from Albanian and then getting the band.
 - d. Albanian School Kids Concert: Concert for the School kids. For Flag Day we were going to perform a play (Rozarfa). There is going to be something together with Bashkimi group. People discussed were to have this event. Mark will speak with Eva Millona to see if she has any ideas to help. Also some people will check local colleges to see if we can book a stage for the children.
 - i. Bashkim Braho introduces another idea of having a large scale concert/festival in May. There is a discussion regarding the concert. People believe that there should be a committee formed to start preparing for this event. There are several venues that this event can be held at, but will be discussed at later meetings with the committee.

Activities

1. Financial Issues/Treasurer's Report:
 - a. Assistance Fund: \$19,714. We believe that the Gashi children are going to come several more times. With the money still left in the Assistance Fund the treasurer believes that MAAS Besa will be able to assist the children for several more visits to Boston.
 - b. MASS/BESA: \$1,535
 - c. School: \$2,073
 - d. If we get the \$2,000 from AMC Albania then we will be able to keep the school open for the rest of this semester and then one more month.
2. Albanian School/Report by School Directors :

- a. Albanian School 2009/2010 school year. 2 classes at the church and one class at BU. At BU there is a group for the older children. There is more focus on dialogue than grammar.
 - b. There was a meeting at the beginning at the school with the children's parents to get their idea of what the children should be learning. One of the ideas was to have a video teaching regarding Albania and its culture. After the children view the video they are going to discuss what they saw.
 - c. The teachers want to add additional literature in the teachings for the students so they can learn grammar and dialogue better.
 - d. There are 10 Students in the first group (Abetare), 14 students in the Intermediate group (Learn Albanian 2), and 12 Adult students at BU.
3. Gashi Children Update and other Charitable Endeavors we could/should consider.
- a. Gashi Kids have close to \$20K in their account. They will be able to come several more times and we will be able to facilitate them. At a future date, if we think money will be left over, we will consider assisting others.

Communications

1. Attracting New Members (Dues, Events, etc...)
2. Web-Site, yahoo Group, Facebook Issues
3. Regular Newsletters??
 - a. MAAS/BESA worries about membership and low turnout to the meetings. We need to discuss membership fees. There is a discussion regarding having a family membership fee for \$50. And having individual membership fees for \$25. Also there should be something we offer these people. Offer help to people that might need guidance.
 - b. Discussion regarding opening a bulletin board on our website for people to ask questions, seeking help.

The Future

1. Preparing for Elections of New Officers and Board in January, February 2010
2. Worcester and corporation
3. Cooperating with other Albanian Organizations
 - a. The future of MAAS/Besa will be discussed at the January Meeting. Possibly Mark and Katherine will offer to be co-chairs together

On a motion made by Mr. Kosmo the meeting is adjourned