

**Darwin R. Barker Library and Museum Association**

**May 18, 2022 4:00PM**

**Steele Room**

**Agenda:**

**Review of Minutes emailed:**

**Correspondence:**

**Treasurer Report:** Mark Twichell

**Librarian Report:** Graham Tedesco-Blair

**Curator Report:** Max Walters

**Town Representative:** Christopher Schaeffer

**Village Representative:** Michelle Twichell

**Old Business:** Follow-up on proposed policy drafts for art displays & closing,  
update on picnic (Dave & Linda)

**New Business:** Investment performance / Fundraising plan

**Calendar:**

**Adjourn:**

**Darwin R. Barker Library and Museum Association**

**April 20, 2022 4:00PM**

**Members Present:** Jeff Adams, Graham Tedesco-Blair, Max Walters, Kathy Petersen, Mark Twichell, Jon Weekly, Patrick Stokes, David Dengler, Kitty Crowe, Linda Prechtel (phone)

**Town Representative:** Christopher Schaeffer, absent

**Village Representative:** Michelle Twichell

**Agenda:**

**Review of Minutes:** Dave moves to accept, Mark 2nds, passed

**Treasurer Report:** In addition to printed report, Courier Capital is improving  
Jon moves to accept, Kitty 2nds, passed

**Librarian Report:** In addition to printed report, discussion of security usage of  
new laptops, hours, staff, & spending on new books reduced due to cuts in village  
contribution (from \$121,750 to \$45,000)

**Curator Report:** Printed report plus: new exhibit opening date moved to May 27  
due to painting (thanks to Tom Lafferty & crew). We need to explore the future of  
genealogy equipment (microfiche reader has broken down). Max has applied for  
inclusion in Time Travelers reciprocal museum program.

**Town Rep:** absent

**Village Rep:** Michelle reports that Pomfret Historian Todd Langworthy has been  
offered a historic marker sign from the Lafayette Trail organization  
commemorating Lafayette's visit to Fredonia, to be placed at Barker Museum  
lawn. Jeff will write a letter of acceptance. Jon moves to accept sign, Pat 2nds,  
passed.

**Old Business:** art show & closing policy revisions suggested, Graham will update  
drafts

**New Business:** Jeff hands out Roberts Rules info (motion vs. resolution). Dave nominates Daniel Young as a new board member, Pat 2nds, passed

**Calendar:** next meeting May 18, 4pm, Steele Room

**Adjourn:** 5:15pm

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Petersen, secretary

## **Correspondence**

**From the Opinion Section of the Dunkirk Observer**

# **Not everyone has belief in spiritualism**

May 7, 2022

**JIM GIATAS**

An OBSERVER article headlined, “Strange ‘happening’: Activity spurs probe at museum” on April 24 certainly captured the attention of many believers, skeptics and critics of so-called “paranormal activity.” The article was well written and will, no doubt, greatly contribute to marketing the Darwin R. Barker Museum in a compelling new way.

Chautauqua County is, after all, the home of the center for the religion of Spiritualism at Lily Dale that attracts an estimated 22,000 visitors per year.

From Wikipedia, we read: “Spiritualism is a new religious movement based on the belief that the spirits of the dead exist and have the ability and the necessary means to communicate with the living. The afterlife, or the “spirit world,” is seen by spiritualists, not as a static place, but as one in which spirits continue to evolve. These two beliefs—that contact with spirits is possible, and that spirits are more advanced than humans — lead spiritualists to a third belief: that spirits are capable of providing useful knowledge about moral and ethical issues, as well as about the nature of God. Some spiritualists will speak of a concept which they refer to as ‘spirit guides’ — specific spirits, often contacted, who are relied upon for spiritual guidance.”

As an Orthodox Christian, I am most emphatically not a Spiritualist.

The Holy Bible warns that contact with spirits is forbidden because such activities are quite dangerous.

The same holds true for recreational drug use, such as smoking marijuana, however legalized. Such occult practices open up the unwary individual to demonic forces that destroy lives in this world and suffer many to an eternity in Hell.

Demons are quite clever in their unceasing use of lies and innumerable tricks used to destroy souls. Demons will often appear to be spirits “more advanced than humans and “capable of providing useful knowledge about moral and ethical issues, as well as about the nature of God.” The devil is a liar and a thief and his legions should not be trusted. These evil beings have deceived so many into believing that they are also UFO aliens who travel across the universe and/or multi-dimensionally.

“While it is well that we should be aware of the awful power of Satan, the believer has no need to be personally afraid, if only he keeps near to the Lord and cleaves to His Word. “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” James 4:7.

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; whom resist, steadfast in the faith” 1 Peter 5:8-9.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand” Ephesians 6:10-13.

“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them [that is, spirits that confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh]; because greater is He that is in you [that is, the Holy Ghost], than he that is in the world [that is, the devil]” 1 John 4:4.”

Jim Giatas is a Fredonia resident.

## **Library Report**

May 18 2022

*Personnel* – John has taken a leave of absence to travel to Cambodia. In the interim, we have brought back D’Arsie Manzella to fill in, and Libbey has taken over some of his hours as well.

*School Visits* – We’ve scheduled a bunch of visits for the school kids, as follows:

Monday, June 6th - 1 kindergarten class at 1pm  
Monday, June 13th - 1 kindergarten class at 1pm  
Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> - 1 kindergarten class at 10am and 1 class at 1pm  
Wednesday, June 15th - 1 kindergarten class at 1pm  
Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> - 1 kindergarten class at 10am and 1 class at 1pm... Also, 3 third grade classes between 11am and 1pm.

We’re looking forward to introducing the students to the library and continuing to deepen our ties with the local schools!

*Logo and Contact Info* -- Door vinyl has been installed. Big thanks to Sir Prints-a-Lot for their prompt service and great design!

*Fredonia Reads @ Barker Commons* – Amanda and D’Arsie had the wonderful idea to do a “read out”, where we get some picnic blankets and lemonade, then get folks reading outside either on our lawn or across the street in the commons. We have checked with the Village, and they think it’s a fantastic idea to do it in the Commons. Sample schedule is as follows:

Tues. June 21<sup>st</sup> 4pm-6pm  
Sat. June 25<sup>th</sup> 12noon-2pm  
Sat. July 30<sup>th</sup> 12noon-2pm  
Thurs. August 11th 4pm-6pm  
Sat. August 20<sup>th</sup> 12noon-2pm

With a possibility of more in July, if we can get someone to cover for Amanda while she is overseas from July 6<sup>th</sup> through July 27<sup>th</sup>.

*Touch Ups* – Wall have been retouched, thanks to D’Arsie for filling in the nail holes and touching up the paint!

*Artist reception* – The reception on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> was a big hit! We want to thank Madeline Keenan for letting us display her work! In other art news, Chad Lindstrom who had a display a few months back, will be exhibiting his work in a show in New York City. We're proud to have helped him launch his career, and we wish him success!

*Murals* – D'Arsie floated the idea of a mural on the back of the library, in the parking lot, and above the circulation desk. Both are large expanses of emptiness, could be interesting attractions to bring folks in, and would further enhance the aesthetic improvements we've been making to the building. She suggested Erin Ruffino as a possible artist for the spaces.

*Village Meeting* -- Advocated for the museum pillars at the town council meeting on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup>. Was assured that the council are looking into funding, either via surplus or via grant, to get the work done.

*Little Free Library* – confirmed with the Friends that they would purchase a Little Free Library for us. Spoke with Mark, who said that installation would be no problem. Should be a wonderful addition to the library and a big hit with folks who use the Commons!

## **DRAFT**

### **Library and Museum closing policy**

The library and museum will close in emergency situations when the health or safety of staff and patrons may be at risk, or for any reason as may be deemed necessary. Examples of situations that would warrant emergency closings include inclement weather or serious problems with building maintenance such as, but not limited to, a lack of heat or a gas leak.

The decision to close will be made by the executive director in cooperation with the board president and curator.

In some circumstances, such as, but not limited to, a pandemic or damage to the building, the library and museum may close to the public, but certain staff may be asked to report for duty to allow for curbside pick-up and/or other tasks. They may also be asked to work remotely if circumstances require.

The executive director will notify staff and local news outlets, and will put notices on social media and the library and museum's websites regarding the closing that morning, before the library and museum would have opened.

The library and museum will follow the Fredonia schools in deciding whether to close for inclement weather.

Updated: 5/15/2022



# **DRAFT**

## **Darwin R. Barker Art Display Policy Agreement**

1. The Artist hereby assumes all risks and hazards incidental to any participation in the display of their artwork at the Barker Library.
2. Artwork exhibited must be appropriate for viewing by all ages of the general public. Artwork that is of an overtly sexual, racist, violent, libelous, slanderous, demoralizing, or discriminatory nature is strictly prohibited. The determination will be made at the discretion of the library director.
3. The Artist warrants and represents that they are the sole legal owner of all right, title and interest in all Artwork and has the full right and authority to enter this Agreement and grant the rights granted in this Agreement. The Artist understands that, by displaying their work in public, it is impossible for the Library to prevent it from being photographed.
4. The Artist is responsible for the delivery, pack, transport, return and hanging of the submitted artwork at their own risk and expense.
5. Display space is provided free of charge and is for the purpose of display only. The Artist is allowed to display a monetary value for the artwork and post their personal contact information near the artwork. Any sales the artist makes are a private transaction between the artist and the buyer. The library will not facilitate any transactions, will not handle any cash, and is not a party to any sales made by the artist.
6. The Artist understands that the artwork is submitted to the Barker Library and exhibited at the Artist's own risk and that neither the Barker Library nor any of its officers, agents, and employees shall be responsible for theft, vandalism, fire, or any other damages or losses to the artwork. The Artist understands and agrees that the Barker Library makes no representations or warranties regarding the level of security in the Library or premises. The Artists understands and agrees that Barker Library and its officers, agents, and employees will not be responsible for reimbursement or replacement of lost, stolen, or damaged items and that the Barker Library does not insure items such as the submitted artwork. The Artist understands and agrees that

the Barker Library encourages the owner of the artwork or the owner's agent to obtain an insurance policy for the artwork or to obtain a rider on any existing policy for the duration of the exhibit.

7. Artist shall indemnify, save and hold harmless the Barker Library, its officers, directors, employees, volunteers and agents and the participating artist from any and all claims, demands, causes of action and judgments, losses, costs and expenses, including but not limited to reasonable attorney's fees, arising due to the negligence of Artist, their employees, agents or other personnel hereunder, including but not limited to any representation, warranty, term and/or condition of this Agreement.

8. The Artist agrees that the artwork will be on display for the period \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

I acknowledge that I understand the waiver described in this document. I am aware that this is a release of Liability and I sign it of my own free will.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name (Artist): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State; \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Inventory of works displayed:

## **Darwin R. Barker Library and Museum Association**

### **Board Meeting**

**May 18, 2022**

#### **Curator's Report**

##### **Exhibits**

- LaBella Associates conducted ceiling cuts and preliminary inspection from the structural engineer suggests a loading capacity of 125 lbs/sq ft in Room 201, the second floor storage area. Samples of the wood girders and joists have been sent to a Syracuse University lab for analysis, and further information is expected in a forthcoming structural report.
- Plexiglass guards have been installed around the ceiling cuts to enable visitors to view the 1821 construction materials indefinitely. Plexi frames are removable.
- Photography exhibit, Fredonia in Focus, will open on Saturday, May, 21.
- Manly gallery has been patched and painted by volunteers.
- NCCF grant received for the December exhibit, Mark Twain in Fredonia, in the amount of \$2,250.
- Next steps: finalizing the artifact list for Mark Twain exhibits in preparation for the conservator's visit planned for November.
- Proposal for collaborative exhibition with the Dunkirk Historical Museum has been brought before the DHM's board of trustees. Content will focus on the growth of the fossil fuel and railroad industries which connects the two municipalities. Schedule TBD.

##### **Collections Management**

- 3538/5103 objects cataloged since 2020; last report: 3423/5103.

##### **Programs**

- Preliminary meeting with Kayla Sullivan, Director of Fredonia-Pomfret Recreation Department to explore youth tours of the museum and additional programming during the summer.
- Photography contest to be promulgated and winning images will be displayed in the photography exhibit.
- Photographer Jamie Hoggard will give a lecture and demonstration in the Steele room on June 18 at 1:00.
- Cross stitch demonstration by Abbey Sedlmayer on June 4 will continue our series of interactive programs.
- Participation in the Memorial Day Parade planning in collaboration with Dunkirk Historical Society, Revitalize Dunkirk, and Dunkirk Lighthouse. At the cost of \$50, the Barker will be listed as a sponsor on the parade banners and shirts.