

Reporting Meeting of 28 September 2020

Calendar of Events

Last Week: 9/21 Seven Months of SARs-what we know about Covid-19
Dr. Eric Yager

This Week: 9/28 Kristen Holler- Albany Barn -Community Arts Center and Incubator

Next Week: 10/5 Alex Capo, The Charlton School

Coming Up: 10/12 TBD

Note: Regular ZOOM meetings are held Monday Evenings at 6:00 pm.
Check your e-mail for ID# and Password, as well as the phone number you can use to phone in if using your cell phone to participate.

*Please give suggestions for future programs to Dan Stec
Find us at bhlrotary.org and on Facebook*

"Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The meeting opened with "**The Four Way Test**".
- Gregg shared an update about the **Apple Run**. Gregg has asked Jon to put the run on hold because the District is coming up with a platform to help make logistics of fundraising events online. Gregg will be attending a meeting and offered the link to anyone interested.
- **Holiday Party** Dan has emailed members about attending. He would like a response by October 4th. If he does not receive a response, he will assume that the Rotarian will not be attending the holiday party. Gregg shared if we do not have a physical event, we will have a fun, virtual event.
- Greg shared that the **BHBL Education Foundation Taste of Burnt Hills** is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21st. They may be looking for volunteers.
- Gregg and Mary Anderson shared an update about **The Nursing Home Card Project**. Mary shared that the doily we received as a gift at last year's holiday party is available to give to the nursing home residents as a gift. Mary is preparing 45 labels and plans on giving these to the nursing home in Ballston Spa.
- On Saturday, October 17th we will be doing **Town in Bloom Clean Up**. More information to follow. **This Saturday** Mary and others will be at Captain to clean up their planter beginning at 9:00 am.
- Laura Lee asked that **contributions for the clock** in Schenectady should be dropped off at Gil's.

Albany Barn—Community Arts Center & Incubator

Kristen Holler

Kristen Holler the Executive Director of The Albany Barn, a Community Arts Center and Incubator was the presenter for tonight's program. Albany Barn is dedicated to providing a sustainable creative arts incubator and community arts center in Arbor Hill – a place for artists to live, work and inspire. Albany Barn, the Albany Housing Authority and the City of Albany partnered to redevelop the former St. Joseph's Academy, an abandoned school in the heart of Albany's Arbor Hill neighborhood into 22 low-cost live/work residences and a 13,000+ square foot creative arts incubator and program space called The Barn.

In addition to providing a place for artists to live, there is commercial studio workspace and a performing arts center. The Barn staff also provides technical support and assistance to bring artistic products to market and assist the artists. The focus is on incubating the creative economy.

The Albany Barn staff acts as a facilitator and handles all the logistics for artists to do business in the community. The types of artists are broad and have included dancers, singers, magicians, and even a chef. The Barn facilitates programming in the community as well. Typically, they have up to 50 artists in residents.

The Electric City Barn is located in Schenectady and opened two years ago. The Electric City Barn will be under the same umbrella as the Albany Barn. The Electric City Barn is more of a maker space with industrial sewing equipment, a digital media lab, jewelry and metal shop, woodworking studio, and a photography studio. Artists pay a membership fee (on a sliding scale) to access the facilities, tools and equipment to create art.

An example of a project completed by The Barn is the Capital Walls Mural Project in Albany, which has created 14 murals. They are also scheduled to complete three murals in Schenectady as well.

The organization strives to improve community access to the arts by offering programs to showcase the artists. In a typical year, they would offer over 150 events (10 to 20 concerts, 15 live events, children's programming, etc.). They also want to offer apprenticeships and internships. They offer visiting artist series and provide a supportive ecosystem for creative entrepreneurs. The events are accessible and affordable to the wider community. In a "normal" year they have six to seven thousand visitors each year. These visits and many live events were cancelled due to Covid 19.

They do have a waiting list of over 150 for the live, work and create environments.

The website has additional information about The Barn, how to support The Barn and some art products for sale: <https://albanybarn.org>

Reported by Maryellen Symer