**WESTERN NEW YORK ARCHIVISTS**

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2024, MEETING**

**CATHOLIC CENTER, BUFFALO, NY**

**PRESENT:** S. Claire, Jessica Anderson, Jason Barone, Deacon Mark Bialkowski, Joshua Cehulic, Kathleen DeLaney, Dan DiLandro, Grace DiVirgilio, Dennis Frank, S. Nancy Kaczmarek, Joe Martone, Bill Parke, S. Mary Serbacki, Rachel Schultz, Mary Tepley, S. Jean Thompson, S. Mara Walton, Ellen Winger, Heidi Ziemer

Welcome and Introductions: The meeting opened with a welcome and introductions around the table. There were a number of new attendees, among them several from the staff of the Catholic Center and the Western New York Library Resources Council, as well as a new representative from St. Bonaventure University.

Initial Discussion: S. Jean introduced Joe Martone, Director of Communications for the Diocese of Buffalo. He was seeking suggestions and advice relative to the preparation of materials for when the Catholic Center building is sold. The discussion revolved around a number of newspapers/publications held by the diocese and how to tackle the job of digitizing them. Mr. Martone was looking for some additional advice on firms which could handle the project, perhaps and ideally pro bono.

* Canisius works with HeinOnline and has had good results
* It was noted that some items may be held in more than one place and may have already been digitized or may be available on microfilm
* WNYLRC works with the NY State Historic Newspapers project which is still in operation. The cost is significantly less than commercial vendors
* First determine how many titles there are and then you can track what may have already been done. Then you can find who has the capability to do the work. The consensus seems to be to contact Hein.
* NY State Preservation Grants might be a source for assistance.

Announcements: On Sunday May 5 Sacred Heart Academy alumnae, etc. will be touring Stella Niagara. It was noted that dealing with alumnae often leads to donations of items to the archives.

General Sharing:

* Sometimes “missing” issues (yearbooks, newspapers, etc.) may never have been published in the first place; school issues, civil disturbances, etc. Sometimes they turn up in very unusual places
* Bill said that he has a time capsule located within a plaque in a wall. He is trying to figure out how to open it. Should there be a ceremonious opening? One question was does anyone have a sense of what might have been placed in the capsule.
* Grace spoke about Buffalo General Hospital materials which were found and then removed to the office in the library. There are also materials from the old Deaconess Hospital. At one time there had been some digitization of materials and these many be in the UB History of Medicine Collection.
* Dan said that at Buffalo State they are involved in a project to digitize from the microfilms of the Courier Express.
* Dennis and Rachel shared about a St. Bonaventure digitization class project where they are looking at the website and determining what aspects can be updated. They can take the old content and spruce it up a bit to be more modern and appealing. In the fall Dennis worked on civil war board games based on the civil war collections which have largely been digitized. He has recently received about 40 cubic feet of student records from the registrar’s office.
* Mark is working on rehousing some OLV records including rolled up prints of the mosaics in the basilica. He noted that they are in poor condition and wondered how best to deal with them. It was suggested to try the Art Conservation Department at Buffalo State. Dan suggested sending a list of items to him and he could talk to Patrick at ACD
* Bill talked about the previous Unitarian Universalist Church building which has been taken over by the county. It is now known as the Lincoln Building because Lincoln worshiped there one time when he was a guest of Millard Fillmore. This raises a lot of questions for him.

**NEXT MEETING:** Dan will host the next meeting on May 16, 2024, at Buffalo State.

**REMINDER: CHECK OUT THE WNYA WEBSITE--** <http://www.archives.sbu.edu/wnya>