



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Likes Lecture Series Begins June 5**

Pittsfield, IL – The annual Marvin J and Thomas Leo Likes Lecture Series will take place each Tuesday evening in June at 7 PM at Sprague’s Kinderhook Lodge near Barry. These lectures are free and open to the public. No reservations are required.

The lecture series is sponsored by the New Philadelphia Association (NPA) and Liberty Bank, with the cooperation of Sprague's Kinderhook Lodge. The theme for this year is “Freedom’s Journey Forward”. The Lecture Series is being coordinated again this year by NPA board member Marynel Corton. She can be reached by telephone at 217-335-2716 or by email at [jecorton@aol.com](mailto:jecorton@aol.com).

This year’s schedule of speakers includes:

June 5 - Jim Rost is a retired 27 year veteran Quincy Police Detective who will present about the life of William Hall Dallas. William Dallas was a slave who made his way to Quincy. After a time, fearing slave catchers, Dallas moved to Canada. When the Civil War occurred, he served in the union army, and returned to Quincy after a medical discharge. He became Quincy’s first African American police officer and was promoted to detective.

June 12- Faye Dant will present about Mark Twain’s home town, as well as Missouri’s enslaved contributors and their descendents. Faye is a 5<sup>th</sup> generation African American resident of Hannibal, and a descendent of enslaved person James Walker. Faye Dant is the founder of The

Huck Finn Freedom Center – Jim’s Journey in Hannibal, a new museum in Hannibal, MO. Mark Twain’s character “Jim” in the *Adventures of Huck Finn* was based upon the real life person named Daniel Quarles, whom young Samuel Clemens met on his uncle’s farm. Mark Twain was the first author to give an enslaved character an actual name.

June 19- our popular topic from last year returns with a musical program of entertainment and education regarding period music from the time of New Philadelphia. The program will be led by Dr. Sharon Graf. Dr. Graf, a professor at University of Illinois at Springfield, is an ethnomusicologist and champion old-time fiddler. She will be joined again by Erich Schroeder of the Illinois State Museum playing banjo and John Wiseman playing the guitar and doing vocals. New to the group this year will be Mark Mathewson. It will be a fun and lively evening as we learn about the different genres of music that New Philadelphians might have played.

June 26- The last Likes Lecture of 2018 will be a very special discussion and unveiling of the new book, entitled *New Philadelphia*, by Gerald A. McWorter and Kate Williams-McWorter. Gerald McWorter is a great-great-grandson of Frank McWorter and professor emeritus at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Kate Williams-McWorter is an associate professor at the same university. The McWorters will tell about the development of the book and chapter of New Philadelphia’s history, including their journey brought on by the writing of this book.

For additional information about the lecture series, please check the New Philadelphia website at [www.newphiladelphial.org](http://www.newphiladelphial.org). or call Marynel Corton. Sprague's Kinderhook Lodge is at 22168 State Highway 106, Barry, Illinois (telephone 217-432-1090). The lodge is located between the towns of Barry and Kinderhook on Rt. 106. Driving directions are available at <http://www.kinderhooklodge.com>.

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