

**GREATER ONEONTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
*Preserving the Past for Oneonta's Future*  
**HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017-2018\***

**Major Exhibitions**

- Oneonta's Neighborhood Markets (parts of which were later on display in the lobby at City Hall)
- Oneonta & Urban Redevelopment
- Oneonta's Own: The State Militia & the National Guard in Oneonta, 1812-2003

**Smaller Exhibits and Displays**

- Oneonta Indians of the Empire Football League
- Winter holiday exhibits & displays - train layouts, Christmas at Bresee's, dollhouse, local artists' greeting cards, etc.
- A display of recent donations to the GOHS collections
- Window display by the Oneonta chapter of the DAR to celebrate Constitution Week
- Life of Carl Delberta, Sr., with items on loan from the Oneonta Boys & Girls Club

**Programs and Events**

- Bus trips to Seneca Falls, NY; Hammondsport & Corning, NY, and Stockbridge, MA
- Unveiling of Jo-Ann Dress Shop mural
- Panel discussion on urban renewal, past and present; talks and book signings with Chuck D'Imperio on *Upstate Uncovered* and *Graves of Upstate New York*; Vintage Valentines talk & book signing with Bob Rightmire; Edison phonograph presentation by Charles King
- Postcard & ephemera show & sale
- Annual dinner at Toscana Northern Italian Grill
- Tours of the Oneonta Armory, downtown revitalization, Emmons Farms, Fairchild Mansion, & Belmont Circle/Oneonta Fair neighborhood
- Appreciation events were held for volunteers and major donors

**Awards Presented**

- 2017 Eduard Hofbauer Outstanding Service Award to Art Torrey for his many hours of volunteering
- 2017 Albert E. Morris Award to Kitchen Table Conversations for its oral history programs

**Fund Raising Drives & Events**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Hops for History beer & food tasting with Cooperstown Brewing Company & seven downtown eateries raised about \$1500.
- GOHS Benefit Auction raised a record \$10,500.
- GOHS participated in Giving Tuesday/NY Gives Day and raised about \$1300.
- The Annual Appeal raised \$15,000
- Back to the 80s dance party in July raised almost \$3000.
- GOHS' part of the Grand & Glorious Garage Sale raised a record \$750.
- Naming opportunities for History Center spaces resulted in the resource room in the Sally Mullen Memorial Suite being named, with interest expressed in other areas.

- Elks Lodge 1312 donated \$7500 to GOHS to support children's programming.
- Along with generous donations from members and friends, GOHS received funding from the Bertuzzi Family Foundation, Community Foundation of South Central New York, Dewar Foundation, Future for Oneonta Foundation, Jackson H. Fenner Foundation, Lane Foundation, and anonymous organizations.

\*1 October 2017 – 30 September 2018

### **Building Improvements**

- On the second floor, the exhibit prep room, restroom, custodial room, corridors, and the front stairwell were completed.
- GOHS submitted a Downtown Improvement Fund application in August for blade signage, awning valence replacement, and west door restoration.
- Work continues on meeting the pre-qualifications for the \$250,000 legislative grant, announced by Sen. Seward. GOHS will need to complete the requirements of DASNY, the grant administrators, and of the NYS Grants Gateway before the building project covered by the grant begins.
- In February two anonymous donors offered to match up to \$30,000 donated to the Building Fund between 1 January and 31 August. GOHS members and friends responded with donations totaling almost \$59,000. With the additional \$30,000 match, GOHS met the goal of the private funds estimated to be needed to complete the building project.

### **Collaborative Activities**

- Collaborative program on economic development history with the Cooperstown Graduate Program and Hanford Mills Museum
- Kitchen Table Conversations & GOHS co-sponsored oral history sessions on neighborhood markets and urban renewal
- Participation in Destination Oneonta's activities including downtown trick or treating, gingerbread contest, Small Business Saturday, Fabulous Fridays, Hometown 4<sup>th</sup> of July, & Creative Spaces
- The Oneonta Vets Club hosted another fish fry fund raiser for GOHS.

### **Collections**

- Hundreds of archives, arts, and artifacts were added to the collections in the past year. Especially noteworthy are the papers of Dr. Meigs Case (1836 - 1909). Thanks to his great-granddaughter Elisabeth Ingoldsby, the Case collection has also been digitized

### **Media**

- A video tour of the three stories of the History Center was filmed by Nate Brzozowski and posted online.
- Booklets on the Oneonta music history and neighborhood stores exhibitions were completed by Peg Twasutyn.
- 3D tours of the urban redevelopment and Armory exhibitions were filmed by Sweet Home Productions and posted at [www.GOHSTours.com](http://www.GOHSTours.com)

### **Accomplishments**

- The Oneonta Theatre working group hosted monthly meetings during the past year. GOHS was the lead agency in successfully applying for a technical assistance grant as part of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative. Webb Management Services of NYC came to Oneonta in July and

interviewed stakeholders at the History Center in the first stage of the feasibility and operations study of the Theatre. The Webb team also made site visits to the Theatre and other performance venues at Foothills, Glimmerglass Opera, Hartwick College, Ommegang, and SUNY Oneonta. A final report is expected in November.

- The regular schedule of the History Center was expanded to six days a week in mid-March, made possible by the placement of J. Bhala Jones through the federal A4TD program, at no cost to GOHS
- Many of the objects that were once on display at the Oneonta Armory are back in Oneonta, thanks to Oneonta's Own exhibition curator and Oneonta native Courtney Burns, NYS Director of Military History. The City has indicated a willingness to have parts of the exhibition and even some of the artifacts on display at City Hall and/or the Armory in the future.

*Be up-to-date at [www.OneontaHistory.org](http://www.OneontaHistory.org) and [www.facebook.com/OneontaHistory](https://www.facebook.com/OneontaHistory)*

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10/3/2018