

GREATER ONEONTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Preserving the Past for Oneonta's Future
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018-2019*

Exhibitions

- Oneonta's Own: The State Militia & the National Guard in Oneonta, 1812-2003
- Oneonta Photographers, 1850 – 1939
- 100 Years of Oneonta Advertising
- The Oneonta Theatre: Reflecting Popular Culture Since 1897
- The Oneonta '49ers
- GOHS updated the twelve panels used for exhibitions, thanks to a grant from an anonymous source.

Displays

- Life of Carl Delberta, Sr., with items on loan from the Oneonta Boys & Girls Club
- Parts of the first two exhibitions above were later on display in the lobby of City Hall.
- Winter holiday displays - train layouts, Christmas at Bresee's, dollhouse, local artists' greeting cards, etc.

Programs and Events

- Bus trips to Olana & Rhinebeck and to Mohonk Mountain House
- Early photography, NYS Path Through History, player piano sing-along, Ethel Scatchard, GOHS' Edison phonograph, Oneonta advertising, and a children's program related to the Oneonta '49ers exhibition
- Unveiling of the Wilber Bank mural, the final of the five murals depicting the major occupants of 183 Main
- Postcard, book, & ephemera show & sale
- Annual dinner at Toscana Northern Italian Grill
- Tours of downtown Main Street, Broadway Revealed show, River Street, Emmons Farms, and Homer Folks Hospital campus
- The annual appreciation event was held for volunteers

Awards Presented

- 2018 Eduard Hofbauer Outstanding Service Award to Liz Morley
- 2018 Albert E. Morris Award to Bob Brzozowski

Fund Raising Drives & Events

- GOHS' 3rd annual Hops for History featured food pairings at five downtown eateries with Cooperstown Brewing Company beers.
- GOHS Benefit Auction raised more than \$12,000, another record amount.
- GOHS participated in Giving Tuesday/NY Gives Day
- The Annual Appeal raised more than \$13,000
- GOHS' raised \$700+ at the Grand & Glorious Garage Sale

- Fundraiser trip to San Antonio in April with Collette Tours. Another trip, this one to Canyon Country is in the works for May 2020.
- Along with generous donations from members and friends, GOHS received funding from the Bertuzzi Family Foundation, Dewar Foundation, Future for Oneonta Foundation, Jackson H. Fenner Foundation, and anonymous organizations.

Building

- The city announced in March that GOHS is to receive \$8000 in Downtown Improvements Funds for façade restoration (primarily for west door restoration) and blade signage. GOHS and the other awardees await the city’s publication of bid documents for the projects.
- Regarding the \$250,000 legislative grant via Senator Seward, GOHS submitted the Grants Gateway application in June. The Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) is administering pre-qualifications for the grant, as well as handling follow-up regarding the Gateway.

Collaborative Activities

- Hosted SUNY Oneonta classes in urban development, sustainability, and anthropology, and a Hartwick College class in collectors and collecting, as well as a group of first-semester international students.
- GOHS and the Oneonta Job Corps Academy cooperated on a program about Homer Folks Tuberculosis Hospital for a Hartwick College rural health class.
- Participated in Destination Oneonta’s downtown activities, including Halloween trick or treat, gingerbread contest, Small Business Saturday, Fabulous Fridays, and Hometown 4th of July.
- Kitchen Table Conversations interviewed Bob Brzozowski for its series of oral histories and held an oral history session at the History Center on the Oneonta Theatre
- GOHS, along with Otsego 2000, brought the Preservation League of New York to Oneonta for a free presentation on Preserve New York and Technical Assistance Grants (TAG), grant programs of NYSCA and the League.
- Worked with Hartwick College to bring Stephen Joseph’s Broadway Revealed photographs to the Anderson Center for the Arts at Hartwick in Summer 2019.
- Co-sponsored “Glimmerglass in the Park”, a performance by the Glimmerglass Festival Young Artists, with Huntington Memorial Library

Historic Preservation

- GOHS members played a significant role in developing the city’s Design Guidelines for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative. The Guidelines place special emphasis on preservation.
- Wrote a letter of support for efforts to restore the Oneonta Sales Building in the Downtown Historic District.
- Brought to public attention the threatened Wright house at 31River Street, where Willard Huntington Wright/S.S. Van Dine wrote some of his works.

Oneonta Theatre

- GOHS, in collaboration with the Friends of the Oneonta Theatre and other community supporters, continued work to save the historic Oneonta Theatre. The final feasibility study and business plan of Webb Management Services (WMS) of New York was completed in February. Webb’s feasibility study and business plan, as well as [a conditions report and renovation plan](#) from the New York architectural firm Holzman Moss Bottino, can be found at GOHS’ website.

Media

- A 3D tour of the Oneonta Theatre exhibition was filmed by Sweet Home Productions for GOHS' website.

Capacity Building

- With the support of the New York Council of Non-Profits, the Board of Trustees and staff have embarked on developing a new Strategic Plan.

*1 October 2018 – 30 September 2019

Be up-to-date at www.OneontaHistory.org and www.facebook.com/OneontaHistory

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10/29/2019