

GREATER ONEONTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Preserving the Past for Oneonta's Future

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016-2017*

Major Exhibits

- 183 Main Street: 150 Years of History
- Oneonta & Aviation History
- Oneonta's Trolley Line: The Southern New York Railway
- Musical Notes from the City of the Hills: Oneonta Music History
- Oneonta's Neighborhood Stores

Smaller Exhibits and Window Displays

- Winter holiday exhibits & displays - train layouts, Bresee's Santa, dollhouse, nutcrackers, and a special display on Christmas at Bresee's.
- Major League baseball players with Oneonta connections by Chris Vredenberg
- Window display by the Oneonta chapter of the DAR to celebrate Constitution Week
- Oneonta Indians Football in the Empire Football League

Programs and Events

- Public forum on Historic Preservation & Downtown Revitalization
- Frances Rowe & Her Gifts to Oneonta
- Postcard & Ephemera Show & Sale
- Bus trip to Saratoga Springs
- Walking tours of Main Street 1917 and 1967, the Downtown Revitalization Initiative district with Mayor Gary Herzig, and Emmons Farms, hosted by the Emmons Farms Corporation

Awards Presented

- 2016 Hofbauer Outstanding Service Award to Peter Clark Student Rentals for its long-term loan of collections storage space at no cost to GOHS.
- 2016 Albert E. Morris Award to Community Arts Network of Oneonta (CANO) for its historically sensitive work on the exterior of the Wilber Mansion.

Fund Raising Drives & Events

- Hops for History beer & food tasting with Cooperstown Brewing Company & five downtown eateries
- GOHS Benefit Auction raised \$8,000
- The Annual Appeal raised more than \$14,000 to support operating expenses
- GOHS participated in Giving Tuesday/NY Gives Day and raised more than \$1,800
- GOHS 150 campaign raised more than \$14,000 for the endowment fund
- GOHS' part of the Grand & Glorious Garage Sale raised a record \$700.
- Naming opportunities for History Center spaces have resulted in four second floor rooms being named, with interest expressed in other areas.

Building Improvements

- In the past year, much progress was made on the second floor: Maple flooring was installed in all rooms and corridors. All painting was completed, except for the finish coat in the corridors. The collections management office, library, resource room, and collection supply closet were completed. Some lighting

remains to be installed in the four collections storage rooms; plumbing and lighting in the restroom, a sink in the janitorial closet, and cabinetry and plumbing in the exhibition prep room.

- Interior storm windows, blinds, and shades were installed on the second floor, and the furnace and air conditioning are functional. Second floor furnishings have been purchased with foundation grants and private donations. A closet was added in the first floor elevator lobby
- A No Parking sign was posted on the emergency exit to the alley.
- The donation of two of Willard Yager's display cases from his Longhouse Museum are now being utilized on the first floor.

Collaborative Activities

- Kitchen Table Conversations & GOHS co-sponsored oral history sessions on Oneonta aviation history and Oneonta's music history.
- GOHS participated in Destination Oneonta events, including the Gingerbread Contest, Small Business Saturday, each Fabulous Friday and Art Walk Friday, & Sidewalk Sales.
- GOHS was the April 2017 recipient of Hannaford Supermarket's Bag4My Cause campaign to support local non-profits
- Five Cooperstown Graduate Program students prepared a marketing audit for GOHS as part of their Introduction to Marketing class.
- GOHS hosted sessions of Community Conversations and of the working group to save the Oneonta Theatre, as well as a SUNY Oneonta class on Exhibiting Cultures in Museums.
- Students from Hartwick Community Involvement program and SUNY Oneonta's Alpha Phi Omega and Phi Kappa Psi helped with GOHS activities and events.
- Portions of the Oneonta's Trolley Line exhibition was later placed in the display case in the City Hall lobby.
- Two panels from GOHS' 2008 exhibition on Oneonta baseball history are now on display at Damaschke Field.
- Hometown 4th of July/Red Caboose open
- The Oneonta Vets Club hosted a fish fry fund raiser for GOHS.

Collections

- Added to the collections and the library were hundreds of artifacts, archives, and books including a rare set of stereo cards of Oneonta in the 1870s, additional city directories, and artifacts of Oneonta businesses.

Accomplishments

- The gift shop had a record year for sales, thanks in part to the sale of more than 200 Rockefeller Center tree ornaments, produced by Alpine Engraving, which made GOHS the sole venue for on-site sales.
- The History Center is part of the NYS Department of Tourism's I Love NY website and of NYS Path Through History.
- The Board gave final approval to a 2017-2019 Strategic Plan and has been monitoring its progress.
- On September 21 Senator Seward announced that GOHS will receive a state grant of \$250,000 for capital expenditures, administered by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York.
- Along with generous donations from members and friends, GOHS received funding from the Community Foundation of South Central New York, Dewar Foundation, Future for Oneonta Foundation, Jackson H. Fenner Foundation, Lane Foundation, Otsego County events fund, Rotary Community Fund, and anonymous organizations.

*1 October 2016 – 30 September 2017

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

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