

## Homer Brink Elementary School History Club... Takes a Break at the Courthouse Steps while Exploring Historic Binghamton

PAST introduces a new student-oriented program of walking tours... and it's all about history, education, and *FUN*! This summer, Homer Brink Elementary School History Club paved the way for participation by other local schools starting with the 2018-2019 school year.

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# Student-Oriented Walking Tours

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In June, members of Homer Brink Elementary School History Club (Maine-Endwell CSD), participated in a walking tour of downtown Binghamton. The tour, led by PAST member and 5th grade teacher Taylor Norton, was the culminating activity for the first year club. After three successful quarterly meetings with local historian presenters, the group piloted a new student-centered version of one of several historical walking tours, provided by PAST through the online tour platform known as CLIO (www.theclio.com).

After visiting over a dozen sites, complete with descriptions and fun facts provided through CLIO, the students finished at the Broome County Public Library with a brief presentation on the newest Kilmer exhibit, and a personal tour of the Broome County Historical Society archives. (*Photos by Carly Norton*)



The Peoples Theater – Silent Movie House, built 1912



Old City Hall - built 1905

This walking tour was the first step of a new program by PAST's Education Committee to develop an historic preservation educational package for area schools. More information on this exciting new program will be available soon.

# Annual Meeting and Presentation of Awards

The 2018 annual meeting and presentation of awards took place June 14 at Remlik's Grille and Oyster Bar in Binghamton's historic Kilmer Building.

It was a good opportunity to meet other members, enjoy some great food and find out what PAST has been doing over the last year. New officers were elected: Lorna Steigerwald, President, and Ken Jackson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and two returning board members were welcomed: Robin Alpaugh and Kimberly Leonard.

Historic preservation plaques were awarded to Rob & Beth Fisher for rehabilitation of the Tioga State Bank building on Lake Street, Owego, and Julie Nucci & James Overhiser, for restoration and elevation of their 1840 home on Main Street, Owego.



Historic Preservation Award Restoration and Elevation of 1840 Home, Main Street, Owego

#### PLEASE NOTE: It may be time to renew your PAST membership

Take a look at the mailing label on this newsletter. If it says "Member Through 2018", please consider renewing your membership. It's easy to do... just go to <u>www.pastny.org</u>, or send a check to PAST, 21 N. Depot Street, Binghamton, 13901, with the renewal form on the last page of this newsletter.

# Announcing...

A photography contest showcasing the rural architecture of Broome and Tioga County

The downtown areas of Binghamton and Owego are filled with magnificent architecture, and PAST has been keeping tabs on it since 1976... *But what about the rural areas?* 

This photo contest is meant to encourage exploration of our rural built-environment... barns and silos, stone fences and abandoned homesteads, bridges, country churches, cemeteries and monuments, and any other examples of country construction.

The contest is open to all in three age groups: Adult, Age 14-18, and Age 13 and under. Photo entries are due the week of November 19, framed and ready for hanging. There is an entry fee for each photo submitted: \$10 for adults, \$5 age 18 and under.

All entries will be on exhibit through the month of December in the gallery of the Broome County Arts Council, with an opening ceremony First Friday, December 7.

Prizes will be awarded for each age group for winning photos from each county.

So what are you waiting for... grab a camera or smartphone and head for the country!



and head for the country! Check for updates and download entry forms at www.pastny.org



#### THE BINGHAMTON GREEN MAN - WATCH THE NEW VIDEO

Co-sponsored by

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Ten years ago PAST launched a project to produce full-size concrete replicas of the 1889 terra-cotta Green Man salvaged from the demolished Binghamton Ross Building. 140 Replicas have been produced to date, and now you can watch a short video showing how they are made! Visit <u>www.pastny.org</u> to watch the video, learn more about the Green Man Project, or order one for your garden.

# Advocacy Update

#### Castle on the Hill

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> year since Binghamton's "Castle on the Hill" was closed and abandoned. It was April 22, 1993, and just days earlier, PAST conducted a public tour of the building.

This year PAST has actively monitored the progress of a "Building Study," commissioned by Binghamton University to determine the current condition of the building, identify what needs to be done to stop further deterioration and prepare it for rehabilitation and reuse, and establish associated cost estimates.



Castle on the Hill Building Study

#### According to the original project

timeline, the study was to have been done over a four-month period, with a completion date of October, 2017. Now, one year after the projected date of completion, the final report is in review.

#### Carnegie Library

Exchange Street, Binghamton.

Rehabilitation of the Carnegie Library into a Culinary Arts Center for SUNY Broome is well underway, projected to open in 2020.

#### Masonic Temple

Main Street, Binghamton.

The Masonic Temple was recently purchased by a downstate developer. Plans for future development have not yet been announced.

#### Stone Opera House and Strand Theater

Chenango Street, Binghamton. Both buildings continue to deteriorate and both are listed for sale.

#### **Greyhound Station**

Chenango Street, Binghamton.

Utica Sign, a company in Utica that specializes in renovation of neon signs, has been contracted to repair the art deco neon lighting on the W.S. Arrasmith

"streamline moderne" Greyhound station. After several trips to Binghamton, the repair is nearly done, and the sign should be back to its original neon glory by the end of October.



## Recent Tours Lofts, Gardens, Historic Homes, Religious Structures and More...

#### DOWNTOWN LIVING TOUR



May 12: A walking tour through 14 lofts, renovated into unique living space in downtown Binghamton.

#### 29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR



June 9: It was a perfect day for a tour of 6 magnificent gardens in Johnson City.

#### HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR



September 15: A tour of 5 historic homes in Binghamton and Johnson City, each representing a particular era in local history.

#### SACRED SITES OPEN HOUSE



May 6: Twenty-four houses of worship in Binghamton, Johnson City, Endicott and Endwell opened their doors to the public, showcasing the beauty and diversity of the myriad religious structures of Broome County.

#### Upcoming Tours and Events Coming this Fall and Winter

#### Spirits of Binghamton's PAST October 19, Tours 6:00 to 9:00PM

Meet Rod Serling, Willis Kilmer, Joshua Whitney, Woman Suffragists and more notables from Binghamton's PAST.

#### COUNTRY STYLE Photo Exhibit December 7 – First Friday

A photo contest and exhibit showcasing the rural built environment of the Southern Tier.

#### **Annual Holiday Party**

The date and location for the annual Holiday Party will be announced soon... watch for a Blast from PAST with details, coming soon.

# PAST Members-Only Hard Hat Tour of the Carnegie Library

This is a unique opportunity to tour one of Binghamton's most famous landmarks, and see historic preservation in progress! The tour is still in the planning stages... check the PAST website for updates on this exciting event.

> Visit pastny.org for updates and more information

## Salvage Center New Developments, and Lots of New Stuff

Agreement has been reached with the City of Binghamton allowing the PAST architectural salvage crew access to buildings prior to demolition. As a result, and thanks to ongoing donations of material by customers, the Salvage Center continues to grow with new (old) architectural features, building material and antiques. Visit the center on first and third Saturdays of each month, from 9am to 1pm.



## 1913 Woman Suffrage Re-enactment and a new Historical Marker



On October 6, PAST, in partnership with the Broome-Tioga Suffrage Anniversary Committee, celebrated the historic 1913 Woman Suffrage Convention held at the Centenary Church (now Landmark Church) in Binghamton. The ceremony included a re-enactment of the convention followed by unveiling of a permanent historical marker at the site, obtained by PAST with a grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation.

### Message from the Executive Director

Congratulations to PAST's new president Lorna Steigerwald, and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Ken Jackson, and *Thank You* to outgoing president Marcia Ward for her dedication and involvement over the last three years.

This year we've seen some very exciting programs at PAST – like the rural built environment photo contest, two new historical markers, educational student programs, new walking tours and much more, including plans for "preservation-in-progress" hard hat tours! We are *"moving PAST forward"* in a very big way, and without a doubt, membership makes this all possible. In fact, right now PAST membership is near an all-time high.

With that said, this is the time of year when membership comes due for renewal. If your membership expires at the end this year, please take a minute to renew it, and here's a thought –with the holidays coming up, PAST membership can make a nice gift for friends and family.

To all PAST members... *Thank You* for your ongoing support. It's so good to have you with us as we continue to move historic preservation forward in Broome and Tioga County.

#### Roger Luther email: <u>rluther@nysLandmarks.com</u> cell phone and text message: 607-759-0844

### Message from the President

As we begin our new year, I am reminded how I got involved with PAST. It all started in the early 2000's when we were asked to have our house on the Historic House Tour. We have been members ever since. Our area is a treasure trove of historic houses and buildings and I am proud to be part of an organization that strives to improve our understanding and appreciation of our diverse heritage.

As your new President, I am grateful for the generosity of our supporters and our dedicated board of directors. PAST is also lucky to have Roger Luther as our Executive Director. This year we will have many exciting events and I look forward to serving as your President with much anticipation.

Lorna Steigerwald

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Please Consider Adding Your Organization to the list of Business Members. Sign up online at <u>www.pastny.org</u> or use the form on the back page of this newsletter.

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# **PAST Membership and Green Man Order Form**

Become a member of the Preservation Association of the Southern Tier, or if you are already a member, please pass this on to a non-member friend. Fill out the form, enclose payment and mail to PAST, 21 N. Depot Street, Unit 1E, Binghamton, New York, 13901... or do it all on-line at <u>www.pastny.org</u>. *Thank You!* 



Have you considered adding PAST to your will? Please contact the office for more information, 607-237-0887