

Onondaga historical association's HISTORY

OHA *highlights*

winter 2004

FIRST QUARTER • VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 3



OHA's COMING EVENTS

Authors, artists, collectors, historians and others will soon be arriving at OHA to talk about the events, people and places that have shaped local and national history! Beginning this spring, OHA will reintroduce its Noon Time Brown Bag Lecture Series that will be open to the public. Each one hour presentation will include a Q&A session. Presenters will be encouraged to make their personal historical artifacts available for public viewing and discussion. We expect that this new lecture series will attract many of the downtown workers who are a short walk from our museum. Lecture visitors are free to bring their brown bag lunches and drinks to enjoy during each presentation. Admission to the lecture series is \$3 per person (\$2 for members) per lecture for both adults and children. A pass to all of our noon lectures will also be made available at a discounted admission price.

In addition, Denise Allen, a nationally known Central New York folk artist and master craftswoman whose work focuses on the Underground Railroad and slavery will be featured in an exhibit and programming beginning in February through July. She is the genuine article. Her work has been showcased in major galleries such as The Hudson River Museum, The Museum of American Folk Art in New York, Seton Hall University and The State Museum in Albany. From her childhood in Brooklyn; to her role as wife and mother of two; to the abolitionist era of Black history, including Harriet Tubman and the trek of slaves on the underground railroad; Denise Allen sews these images seamlessly and brilliantly into her creative endeavors: quilt-making, doll making, folk art and mixed media.

Teachers can register their students to compete in National History Day by calling event organizer Alanda Bolden at OHA at 428-1864.

Denise Allen's "Beans and Cornbread"

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

At the close of a year, it is appropriate to reflect on our accomplishments. "Shock and Awe" has become a popular term in our culture of late. Well, I am truly shocked by the amount of things needing to be done and awed by the progress made by the people of OHA from the Board to the staff to the volunteers to you, our loyal membership. WOW!

Our most stunning achievement of 2003 was, of course, the completion of the fabulous new "Freedom Bound" exhibit and associated "Jerry Rescue" video. It is one of the best exhibits you will ever see, period. The video is guaranteed to move you. We also did a new exhibit on the Mayor's Book, a new Community Wall exhibit on local real estate broker and Red Cross worker Barbara Lewis, a new addition to the Sports exhibit on weight lifter Patrina Denise Thomas, an art exhibit in the Gambrinus Room and a holiday toy train display.

Our educational programs have continued to expand, touching approximately 25,000 children in the past year. Our Drama Troupe presented four productions including the City's Black History Month celebration. We are helping to make a difference in our communities through your children. We are out in the community, not just here on Montgomery Street.

The hugely successful Research Center Retrospective Cataloguing Project makes OHA the institution with the largest number of records on the NYS Excelsior catalogue. Our archives are being recognized worldwide.

And it all wouldn't work without people. OHA, together we make history every day.

Paul H. Pflanz
Paul H. Pflanz



OHA GETS "CAMPY" IN 2004

OHA will again offer our unique children's activity (with adult versions as well), the "Camp". As usual, a camp will be offered in the spring to coincide with school break and it will have a civil rights theme to complement the anniversary of the landmark Brown vs Board of Education that paved the way for school desegregation. Our summer camp schedule will feature the ever-popular architecture camp and adds a new wrinkle, a "State Fair Camp" in August. As you can see from the accompanying shots, the kids have a ball, they produce clever outputs such as last summer's architecture camp tree houses and learn some history in the bargain. These are the "campy-est" places for kids to be in Syracuse.



Top: Camp participants and families enjoy exhibits on graduation day. Above: Education Director Johnson with children during camp. Left: Treehouses built by children at architecture camp

BLACK TIES TOPPED WITH HARD HATS...



Far left: OHA Board Member Sandy Bolden presents commemorative plate by Syracuse China to Crucible President James Beckman. Left: Anthony Bottac, Nancy Bottac, John Cherundolo, Betty Cherundolo, Michael Bottac, Tiffany Bottac, Patty Faddock, Mary Elisabeth Lang, Patti Palotta, David Bottac.



CRUCIBLE OUR GLORIOUS WORK PLACES 2003

Below: County Executive Nick Pirro, Rust Andrews, Linda Henley, Patricia Pirro. Right: Glorious Chairperson Pat Edwards. Bottom: Crucible tour guide explaining the finer points of steelmaking to Pam Reilly.



Top: Long time OHA Board member Ted Tracy, Elizabeth Tracy Hayes (standing) and Cynthia Tracy. Middle: Glorious revelers tour Crucible facility. Above: OHA Board member William Pomenoy, William Edwards, Crucible Executive John Vensel, Fran Vensel.





Young and older watch with rapt attention.

HISTORICAL HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

OHA was a festive place indeed during the holidays. Starting with our participation in the City of Syracuse's Light Up Syracuse celebration and ending with First Night, we were aglow with the holiday spirit. We offered light refreshments (cider and doughnuts), had children's craft activities and showcased the new exhibit "Freedom Bound". Spurred by an electric train display put on by the CNY Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, attendance was brisk and many new people saw OHA for the first time! December 2003 attendance figures were more than twice those of the previous year with a corresponding

increase in donations. OHA intends to make the Light Up Syracuse to First Night with Trains under the Tree an annual holiday tradition.

In addition, the OHA Drama Troupe put on their first paid admission performances of "Kids Games". Co-authored by Lynn Pannell (of Jerry Rescue fame) and our own Vanessa Johnson and directed by Ms. Pannell, the piece was performed at the Southwest Community Center to a standing room only crowd as well as several times at OHA netting us nearly \$500. The production was sponsored by a \$1,600 grant from the Southwest Community Center FACES Program that covered production expenses for this professional quality performance.

History Highlights

Official quarterly newsletter of the Onondaga Historical Association.

Subscription is available as a benefit of membership.

Onondaga Historical Association chartered by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. Its programs are supported, in part, by funds provided by Onondaga County, New York State, the City of Syracuse and our members.

J. Warren Young, President

Paul H. Pflanz, Executive Director

Onondaga Historical Association gratefully acknowledges Anxian Graphics for the printing services and Mark-Paul Serafini.

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This issue of History Highlights is made possible in part by these OHA

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OHA highlights winter 2004

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