



# THE PRESERVATIONIST

September 2007

1518 W. Walnut St.  
Second Floor  
Allentown, PA 18102  
610-437-1989

*The Allentown Preservation League is dedicated to promoting the preservation and restoration of historically and architecturally significant structures and sites throughout the City of Allentown.*

*President: Joshua Fink*

*Vice President: Bill D'Arcy*

*Treasurer: Mike Schware*

*Directors:*

*Ann Bartholomew*

*Patrice Fabozzi*

*Michelle Hartung*

*Nancy Holler*

*Karen Ramsey*

*Jack Siplak*

*L. Gail Stoudt*

*Jim Villaume*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The League's mission statement (on the left) has been the guiding principle of the Allentown Preservation League since its inception in 1991. While 2006 marked the 15th Anniversary of the League, it was also a year of change and transition. Our Salvage Warehouse was moved to its current location on the second floor of the building formerly used as the garage for the Hotel Traylor. In addition, a new set of officers was elected in February, including yours truly as President and Bill D'Arcy as Vice-president. During 2007, Michelle Hartung and L. Gail Stoudt joined our board as directors.

The Board remains committed to running the Salvage Warehouse and organizing the annual Preservation Month celebration in conjunction with the Preservation Month Coalition Subcommittee. However, it takes many minds and hands to attend to the business of the League. We are always looking for volunteers to help in our ongoing efforts. Opportunities exist to assist in the operation of the warehouse and with salvage efforts as they arise. Preservation advocacy and event planning are also areas

of interest that can use more attention. We are always looking for individuals who are interested in the League's purposes and would like to serve on the Board of Directors. There are so many ways that one can help, even if it is just for a few hours a month.

This is my opportunity to thank all the people who have helped to make the League a success in the past months. They include the following: the members of the Board of Directors, both past and present, who come to meetings and put up with my incessant talking; the officers and committee chairpersons who help to further the purposes of the League; those individuals who serve on the various committees of the League; those who staff the warehouse so we can find good homes for recycled materials; those many individuals who are behind the scenes and help with salvage opportunities whenever they arise; those who write articles, assemble, edit and mail out our newsletter and other communications, helping to keep in touch with our membership; and finally our members who partner with us to carry out the League's objectives.

*Joshua A. Fink*

## OLDE HOUSE FAIR

Come visit us at the Old Allentown Preservation Association's "Olde House Fair" in the Salvation Army gym, 8th and Turner, on Saturday, September 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. We will have a booth there to show the kind of salvage items we carry in the warehouse. See page 4 for a list of exhibitors. The 31st OAPA House Tour is on the same day as the Old House Fair. See [www.oldallentown.org](http://www.oldallentown.org) for information on where to purchase tickets for the house tour.

APL congratulates OAPA for its many achievements during the past three decades.



## A Picture (of Summer Fun) from the Past

Several issues ago, I wrote an article in the “Endangered List” series which profiled the old Dorney Park sign on Hamilton Street near its intersection with Cedar Crest Boulevard. This sign, which was still in existence then, was included on the original list because APL members back then were concerned that someday it would be removed. Well, the inevitable did occur and the sign was removed, although we are not certain exactly when. I was unable to find a photo of it. I had even contacted the late Bob Ott, former owner of the park, who could not find one either.

Fortunately, one of our APL members, Barry Scholl of Whitehall, read his newsletter carefully and responded to the call to locate a picture of this sign from the past. He presented me with a photo that he had taken back in 1987 showing Hamilton Street looking east toward Cedar Crest Boulevard. There, on the left of the photo, is the old sign, pointing visitors for summer fun to the old entrance to Dorney Park on Dorney Park Road, as it had done for decades. The sign was just as I remember it, with its neon lights spelling out the words “Dorney Park” and the iconic mini-replica of the musical tower that used to mark the entrance to the parking lot back



near the old Coaster. This neat old sign is now preserved for us in our memories and on photographic paper thanks to Barry Scholl, who had the forethought to photograph the sign and the intersection.

*Joshua A. Fink*

## Meet your new board members

**Michele Hartung**, with husband Kenneth Hartung, has lived in their turn-of-the-century Prairie Tudor on South West Street in Allentown. The Hartungs have lovingly restored their home. Michele works for Lehigh University and is presently serving as the President of the West Walnut Street Neighborhood Association. The Hartungs plan to continue renovation work to their home in the future, including embellishment of the library and renovations in the back of the home.

**Jack Siplak** lived in the Historic District for seven years in a 1930s row home, which he restored back to its original splendor with exposed brick walls and arched kitchen alcove. He served on the Old Allentown Preservation Association’s board for several years and owned and operated Olde Allentown Antiques for one year within the historic district. He was forced to close the shop due to declining business but is still dabbling in antiques. He is currently living in the west end in a 1920s bungalow. Jack is in charge of all APL Warehouse activities.

**Gail Stoudt** chose to live in Allentown when leaving the Poconos in 1978. She was on the board of Parks and Recreation in the Pocono Mountains and was impressed with the number of beautiful parks (and Hess’s) in Allentown. Gail is active in local community activities and helps neighborhood children with different school projects. She also does wall hangings and specialty sewing, including banners for various clubs.

**James Villaume** is currently President of the Board of Directors of the Old Allentown Preservation Association and Secretary of the Allentown Planning Commission. He retired from PPL Corp. in 2002, where he spent 26 years as an environmental professional. He holds a B.A. Degree in geology and an M.S. Degree in geochemistry and is a PA Registered Professional Geologist.



# ALLENTOWN PRESERVATION AWARDS 2007

During May, National Historic Preservation Month, the Allentown Preservation Week Coalition presented awards to a number of deserving citizens.

Members of the Coalition are Allentown Preservation League; Old Allentown Preservation Association; Allentown Historical Architectural Review Board/City of Allentown; Lehigh County Historical Society; Liberty Bell Museum/Zion's Reformed Church; West Park Civic Association; and West Walnut Neighborhood Association.

## RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION AWARDS

*Allentown Preservation League honored*

### **The Fegley Family**

for their outstanding work to bring 812-816 Hamilton Street back to glory as the Allentown Brew Works.



*West Park Civic Association and the City of Allentown Historical Architectural Review Board honored*

### **Saleem S. Saab**

for restoration of 116 North 15th Street



*Old Allentown Preservation Association honored*

### **Sonja and Jorge Bonilla**

for restoration of 816 West Liberty Street

*and*

### **Mike Pasco**

of Property Enhancements, LLC  
for restoration of 222 North 9th Street



## OTHER AWARDS

*The Allentown Preservation Month Coalition  
2007 Award was presented to*

### **Eric Weiss**

in recognition of his many years of service to Allentown's Historical Architectural Review Board



*HARB presented an award to*

### **The Alliance for Building Communities**

for restoration of 726 through 734 Chew Street  
and a Certificate of Merit to

### **Eric Weiss**

recently retired from the City of Allentown  
Planning and Zoning Department



*Lehigh County Historical Society's 2007 Award for  
"Volunteer of the Year" was presented to*

### **Dr. Elwood "Woody" Kolb**

in recognition of his many years of  
invaluable service as a volunteer



*Liberty Bell Museum/Zion's Reformed Church  
presented their 2007 Award to*

### **Dr. John McHugh**

in appreciation for his leadership of the Liberty Bell Shrine and his contribution of 1976 Liberty Bell Trek documents, photographs and memorabilia to the Liberty Bell Museum

See photographs of the "Restoration and Rehabilitation" award-winning properties at [www.allentownpreservation.org](http://www.allentownpreservation.org)

This beautiful building, built in a Spanish-Moorish style, still looks substantially as it did when built in 1928 by Aron Potrach.

What is it?

Where is it?

Answers on page 5.



# OLDE HOUSE FAIR EXHIBITORS

## Architectural Products

Architectural Products by Outwater  
24 River Road  
Bogota, NJ 07603  
(201) 498-8750  
www.outwater.com

## Architects

Karen Ramsey, A.I.A.  
R+D  
230 Ferry Street  
Easton, PA 18042  
(610) 253-5220

## Furniture Restoration

Furniture Medic  
P.O. Box 5352  
Bethlehem, PA 18015  
(610) 691-6797

## Hardware, Antique

Blocker's Restoration Hardware  
311 Front Street  
Catasauqua, PA 18032  
(610) 264-3301

## Hardware, Reproduction

Design Elements, Ltd.  
3055 Tilghman Street  
Allentown, PA 18104  
(610) 437-3303  
www.designelementshome.com

House Splendid  
345 Chestnut Street  
Emmaus, PA 18049  
(610) 965-3030

## Home Ownership

NHS of the Lehigh Valley  
239 North 10th Street  
Allentown, PA 18102  
carol@nhslv.org  
www.nhslv.org

## House Health

Allentown Health Bureau  
435 Hamilton Street  
Allentown, PA 18101  
(610) 437-7599

## House History

Past Perspectives  
50 South Church Street  
Macungie, PA 18062  
(610) 967-5808  
info@past-perspectives.com  
www.past-perspectives.com

## Iron Work

Iron Monger  
220 South Reading Avenue  
Boyertown, PA 19512  
(610) 367-0333  
ironmonger@comcast.net  
www.ironmonger.biz

## Kitchens

Kitchens by Wieland  
4210 Tilghman Street  
Allentown, PA 18104  
www.kitchensbywieland.com  
bobby@kitchensbywieland.com

## Landscaping

Tilly's Nursery, Inc.  
111 East Fairmount Street  
Coopersburg, PA 18036  
(610) 282-4784  
www.tilleysinc.com  
info@tilleysinc.com

## Masonry Repair Supplies

Limeworks  
P.O. Box 151  
Milford Square, PA 18935  
www.limeworks.us  
begreen@limeworks.us

## Metal Finishing

Hauck Metal Finishing  
West Mill Street  
Lyons, PA 19536  
(610) 682-6800

## Millwork

Starke Millwork, Inc.  
671 Bangor Road  
Nazareth, PA 18064  
(610) 759-1753  
www.starkemillwork.com

## Molding & Casting Supplies

Polytek Corp.  
55 Hilton Street  
Easton, PA 18042  
(800) 858-5990  
www.polytek.com

## Painters (Interior)

Gary Vosler  
(610) 791-4130  
voslerpainting@verizon.net

## Porcelain Refinishing

Permaglaze  
1147 Linden Street  
Allentown, PA 18102  
(610) 433-5855  
www.permaglaze.com

## Room Redesign

Roomscapes  
(610) 554-1248  
lvroomscapes@aol.com

## Salvage

Allentown Preservation League  
1518-20 West Walnut Street  
Allentown, PA 18102  
(610) 437-1989  
www.allentownpreservation.org

## Shutters

The Philadelphia Shutter Company  
4700 North 5th Street  
Temple, PA 19560  
(866) 875-7426  
www.philadelphishutters.com  
customer\_info@philadelphishutters.com

## Stained Glass

Greenwood Stained Glass  
22 Jefferson Street  
Topton, PA  
(610) 987-6306/610-682-0025  
www.greenwoodstainedglass.com

Neff-Chattoe Company  
931 Jefferson Street  
Allentown, PA 18102  
(610) 434-5485

## Wood Stabilization & Repair Products

PC Products/Protective Coating Co.  
221 South Third Street  
Allentown, PA 18102  
www.pcepoxy.com  
steve@pcepoxy.com

## Other

Home and Planet  
25 East 3rd Street  
Bethlehem, PA 18015  
(610) 866-7370  
www.homeandplanet.com  
homeandplanet@fast.net



## Wood Cornice Restoration

A cornice adds architectural interest to an old building. On many commercial buildings and row houses, the cornice is the only notable detail.

A good restoration might involve design modifications as well as flashing, woodwork repairs, and a paint job.

The internal framework of a cornice varies considerably with the size and complexity of the cornice. A small, simply designed cornice may have no enclosed interior spaces. I have seen some that you can actually crawl through.

Most cornices were built in place, so their structural supports do not allow them to be removed from the building. It is usually easier to repair in place. A cornice that is in really bad shape structurally will more than likely have to be dissected piece by piece to reveal the condition of its internal support. Make sure the cornice is temporarily supported before getting into it.

The majority of the time deterioration will be moisture related. You need to trace back leaks to their source and look for weakened and water damaged structural members. Use an awl or a screwdriver to probe the wood looking for soft spots.

Paint failure and decay start at joints. Some problem areas are:

Horizontal molding;

Exposed end grain;

Areas where flashing was ineffective;

Laminations such as protruding brackets.

All joints and fastener holes should be overlapped from above to shed water. Anything not visible from the street such as the flat horizontal projections should be flashed. Make sure you provide an exit for water. For larger enclosed cornices you need to allow for proper ventilation. Moisture buildup causes peeling paint and wood decay.

The other condition that you need to be aware of is the condition of the parapet wall, which is often overlooked. I have seen a lot of this kind of damage on row homes throughout the Lehigh Valley. Most well-built cornices mounted on masonry parapet walls have some form of coping, or flashing to protect the back of the wall from weather. Missing or corroded coping and flashing can cause extensive damage to the back of the wall and also to the roof. The old sand-lime mortar mixes exposed to the weather will sometimes expand, which will cause the wall to arc toward the cornice which creates a structurally unsound situation. In a case such as this, the wall may have to be re-pointed or dismantled and relaid.

Wood-framed parapet walls can be strengthened by removing the sheathing, and bolting new structural timbers to the existing timbers. In any of these cases, do not try to secure a loose cornice unless you are completely sure you know what you are doing. If not, consult a structural engineer.

*Bill D'Arcy*

## Warehouse

The warehouse needs volunteers to work on Saturday mornings. We are scheduled to be open every Saturday now that the heat of the summer is over. So if you are interested, contact me to schedule a time when you can work. I will provide all the training necessary.

We brought many great new items into the warehouse this summer (thank-you to the volunteers who helped!), and are always looking for possible salvage op-

portunities. If anyone sees a house or building being torn down (anywhere, not necessarily in Allentown) that looks like it may have some interesting or valuable architectural items for the warehouse, please contact me and I will follow up.

*Jack Siplak*

bikerider@rcn.com or 484-695-4205

*(Answer to "What Is It?" on page 3 — The Livingston Apartments, 1411 Hamilton Street.)*





The Allentown Preservation League is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, volunteer community organization dedicated to the restoration, preservation, and enjoyment of historic structures and neighborhoods. APL is funded by voluntary contributions from members, friends and businesses.

*info@allentownpreservation.org*

If you are a member of APL, you have not received a membership renewal request this year. Please take advantage of the form on the right, and send in your dues in the category you prefer.

## Allentown Preservation League

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

### ✓ Check all that Apply

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Membership                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Renewal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$35                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$100      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$50                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$500       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor \$75                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Senior \$20 (62 and over) |   |

I would like to volunteer. I am interested in active participation in:

- |   |  |                                       |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Activities/Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity         | <input type="checkbox"/> Salvage      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Work          | <input type="checkbox"/> Research/Archives | <input type="checkbox"/> Warehouse    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance/Grant Writing  | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership        | <input type="checkbox"/> Publications |

Please fill out the form, make checks payable to Allentown Preservation League, and mail it to the APL address. All memberships are renewable annually. Membership contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

