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## Protect Your Heritage!

The Preservation League of New York State's strength lies in the relationships made with preservationists who wish to protect the tremendous architectural and cultural heritage of New York. We welcome all people, organizations and businesses to join us in preserving our state's historic buildings, districts, and landscapes.

**Please indicate membership category:**

\$1,000/+     \$500     \$250     \$100     \$55     \$35     other \_\_\_\_\_

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Preservation Advocate is supported in part by funds provided by the Architecture, Planning, and Design Program of the New York State Council on the Arts.

The Preservation League is a 501(c)(3) organization, and membership contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. For additional program information, please call 518-462-5658. A copy of our latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from the League or from the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, ATTN: FOIL Officer, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.



# PRESERVATION ADVOCATE



NEWS FROM *the* PRESERVATION LEAGUE *of* NEW YORK STATE

## CODE GREEN Workshops Slated for Summer 2011

League, NYSERDA Partner on effort to enhance building code compliance

The Preservation League of New York State is working with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to provide CODE GREEN workshops throughout New York State. The workshops will address code compliance and energy conservation in existing and historic structures and will provide training in the NYS Energy Conservation Construction Code as it applies to historic buildings, both small-scale commercial and residential.

This program is made possible in 2011 through a grant from NYSERDA. At press time, the League is developing a curriculum and selecting faculty for these workshops through a peer-reviewed process with experts in the field. The CODE GREEN workshops will target an audience of contractors, architects and other building professionals. These workshops will focus on energy conservation issues relevant to work on historic buildings, and are designed specifically for the person with little or no experience with historic preservation. For example, a contractor hired to insulate a 1920s Craftsman-style house or an architect who wants to understand the application of air sealants for a Main Street mixed-use building rehabilitation would both benefit from attending.

The participants will learn technical information regarding New York State Energy Conservation Construction Code compliance for historic buildings in both classroom and field presentations. Six locations have been chosen for the workshops which are slated to be held from June through September: Buffalo, Corning, Syracuse, Plattsburgh, the Capital Region, and Long Island.

The League is working closely with regional preservation organizations, community colleges, and municipalities to promote the program and ensure that the workshops reach a wide audience. Visit the League's website at [www.preservenys.org](http://www.preservenys.org) for schedules and other information. 



NYSERDA ENERGY CODES TRAINING

Schenectady County Community College: May 16 + 17  
Onondaga Community College: June 16 + 17  
Clinton Community College: June 23 + 24

The Larkin at Exchange (Buffalo): July 14 + 15  
Sustainability Institute at Molloy College: Aug. 4 + 5  
Corning Community College: Aug. 18 + 19



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## Help for New York State Property Owners

Updates on Rehabilitation Tax Credits

In February, the Preservation League hosted a workshop on the New York State Rehabilitation Tax Credit in Poughkeepsie.



Organized by the League in partnership with the State Historic Preservation Office, The City of Poughkeepsie Historic District and Landmarks Preservation Commission, and the Academy Street Area Partnership, the workshop drew over 30 attendees.

Ken Markunas, pictured, Historic Sites Restoration Coordinator for the New York State Historic Preservation Office, gave a presentation on the New York State Historic Homeownership Credit during a special meeting of the Poughkeepsie Landmarks Preservation Commission.

The Preservation League will present another New York State Rehabilitation Tax Credit workshop on April 14 in Hillsdale, Columbia County. For more information on this and other upcoming programs, please visit the League's website at [www.preservenys.org](http://www.preservenys.org).



Owners of residences like this in Poughkeepsie's Academy Street Historic District may find it more affordable to repair their older homes. The New York State Historic Homeowner Tax Credit Program will cover 20% of qualified rehabilitation costs of owner-occupied historic houses, up to a credit value of \$50,000.

## Excellence in Preservation Awards

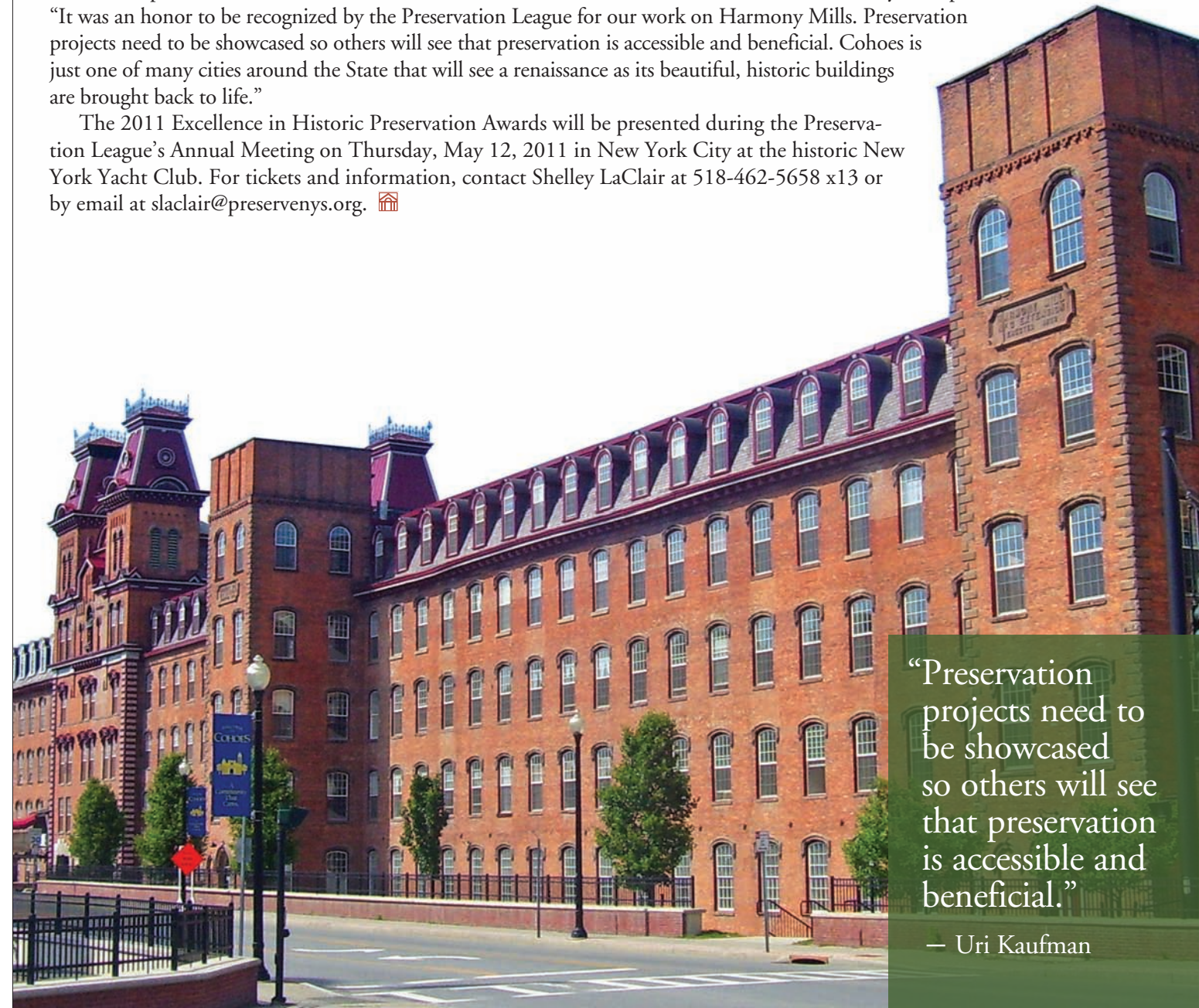
Save the Date: May 12, 2011

Once a vacant relic of upstate New York's proud industrial heritage, Harmony Mills in Cohoes (Albany County) is now a beacon of hope, providing high-quality, desirable rental housing.

The "Spindle City" enjoyed great prosperity in the mid-nineteenth century by employing the waters of the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers to power multiple textile mills. In the twentieth century, its status as a manufacturing powerhouse declined, leaving vacant industrial buildings and a waning residential and business population. The story of Cohoes is similar to that of many upstate cities, but it is not a story of defeat. In recent years, the lights have been coming back on in downtown buildings and in once-vacant structures like Harmony Mills. Historic preservation is bringing this and other cities back to life. And that's what the Preservation League is all about.

The recipient of a 2006 Excellence in Preservation Award, Uri Kaufman, CEO of the Harmony Group, said, "It was an honor to be recognized by the Preservation League for our work on Harmony Mills. Preservation projects need to be showcased so others will see that preservation is accessible and beneficial. Cohoes is just one of many cities around the State that will see a renaissance as its beautiful, historic buildings are brought back to life."

The 2011 Excellence in Historic Preservation Awards will be presented during the Preservation League's Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 12, 2011 in New York City at the historic New York Yacht Club. For tickets and information, contact Shelley LaClair at 518-462-5658 x13 or by email at [slaclair@preservenys.org](mailto:slaclair@preservenys.org).



"Preservation projects need to be showcased so others will see that preservation is accessible and beneficial."

— Uri Kaufman

## Not Goodbye, but Farewell!

Anne H. Van Ingen retires from NYSCA

Anne Van Ingen joined the staff of the New York State Council on the Arts in 1984, and retired in September of 2010. In her 26 years at this agency, she has been a true champion of preservation. The League's board of directors adopted a resolution of grateful appreciation at its December meeting, a portion of which is reprinted below.

The Preservation League of New York State wishes to acknowledge Anne H. Van Ingen and express its utmost appreciation and admiration for her work and dedication to historic preservation not only in the State of New York but also throughout the United States.

As a former and now Emeritus Advisor of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Anne distinguished herself as a new breed of historic preservationist, bringing to her profession and position at NYSCA the highest standards of excellence and performance way beyond her years, and was responsible for extending the influence of this agency to all parts of the Empire State.

She embraced the cause of historic preservation at NYSCA's Architecture, Planning and Design program, sought to include all forms of the arts in her efforts, and raised the level of expectation and performance among non-profit arts organizations throughout the State.

Anne served on NYSCA's Capital Program where she supported the restoration of hundreds of culturally important properties across New York State. She served as the Agency's representative on the New York State Commission for Historic Preservation for almost 25 years.

She developed expansive knowledge and unrivaled understanding of the state's historic resources which enabled her to direct funding toward many historic preservation groups including the Preservation League. Her support and confidence in the Preservation League's unique statewide role allowed it to undertake some of its most important initiatives:

- The Preserve New York Grant Program, launched in 1993, has awarded over \$1.5 million to 250 worthy projects in every corner of the state. These funds for historic structure and historic landscape reports, cultural resources surveys and nominations to the National Register of Historic Places have leveraged over \$22 million in cash and over \$600,000 in in-kind dona-



Preservation League Board Chair Arete Swartz Warren with Anne Van Ingen at the League's 2009 Pillar of New York Gala at the Waldorf-Astoria.

tions, and are often the first financial support that grassroots efforts receive. And in Anne's own words, "Preserve New York grants have proven to be an effective catalyst for realizing community preservation goals and saving some of the Empire State's most significant places."

- The Preservation Colleagues Program was established in 1997 as a means by which the League could advise, direct, and strengthen the work of local preservation organizations across the state. The Preservation Colleagues program fosters stronger bonds among these organizations to advance the goals

of individual groups and to promote a statewide preservation agenda collectively.

- The Seven to Save endangered properties program debuted in 1999 with initial support from NYSCA. To date, 77 properties have been designated, and as a result receive enhanced support from the League's technical, legal, grant and media services. The League has acted as a mobilizing force, helping community leaders and decision-makers take action when historic resources are threatened.

Throughout her tenure at NYSCA, Anne nurtured in her peers the capacity to make New York State a better place for all its citizens. The Preservation League of New York State extends to her, an exceptional friend and colleague, its most gracious appreciation for her unparalleled service to historic preservation. 🏠

*Adopted unanimously on Thursday, December 9, 2010 in the City and State of New York. Arete Swartz Warren, Chairman, Board of Trustees.*

## Orange County Modernism: The Legacy of Paul Rudolph

Saturday, April 16 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.



Join the Preservation League in a discussion of the architecture of Paul Rudolph at the Seligmann Homestead, 23 White Oak Drive in Sugar Loaf. This event is presented by the Preservation League of New York State, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Change Orange, and hosted by the Orange County Citizen's Foundation.

Speakers will include Theo Prudon, President of DOCOMOMO-US and Principal of Prudon and Partners, as well as author of the book *Preservation of Modern Architecture*, David Fixler, President of DOCOMOMO-US/New England and Principal, Design and Preservation, EYP Architecture & Engineering P.C., Dr. Richard Hull, Professor of History at New York University and Warwick Municipal Historian, and Sean Khorsandi, Director, Paul Rudolph Foundation.

Orange County boasts two buildings designed by Rudolph, and both are threatened with demolition.

The John W. Chorley Elementary School in Middletown (1964-69), one of the Preservation League's 2010 Seven to Save sites, was designed on a very limited budget with many repeating elements to facilitate economical construction. The internal landscape of open classrooms represents a dialog with the building site conditions and each classroom has direct access to the exterior. Sawtooth skylights introduce natural light to the interior and evoke the many factory buildings along the Hudson River Valley.

The Orange County Government Center pictured above in neighboring Goshen was completed in 1967 and includes office space for municipal officials, meeting rooms, and a Department of Motor Vehicles branch. Its Late Modern design was controversial from the beginning — at the time of its construction it was called "a monstrosity." Opponents of demolition are quick to note Rudolph's stature, and the imaginative interior layout which the architect said was inspired by "Mies van der Rohe's concept of implied space."

Presentations will focus on the architectural significance of Late Modern architecture, Paul Rudolph in particular, challenges and opportunities in preserving Late Modern architecture, and case studies illustrating successful preservation efforts.

This event is free and open to the public, but reservations are required. For more information or to make a reservation, please call Erin Tobin at 518-462-5658 x12 or email [etobin@preservenys.org](mailto:etobin@preservenys.org). 🏠

# Voices of Preservation



Catherine Schweitzer is Executive Director of the Baird Foundation in Buffalo and served as the first board chair of Preservation Buffalo-Niagara. Additionally, as an advisor to the National Trust, she has been involved in planning the 2011 National Preservation Conference to be held in Buffalo, October 19-22, 2011.

An estimated 2,000 preservationists, planners, architects and others from across the country and from Canada are expected to attend. Preservation Buffalo Niagara, a *National Trust Local Partner*, will be the conference's local preservation host and is working with the Buffalo Niagara Convention and Visitors Bureau to ensure that 2011 will be one of the best National Preservation Conferences ever held.

We asked Catherine to tell us about the event, titled "Alternating Currents."

### What is the significance of the theme of the Conference?

"Alternating Currents" refers to the world changing history of hydropower in our region and the important first instance of long-distance transmission of electricity. By association it includes the Niagara River which provides the natural resource that generates all that power—and which we share with Canada as a resource, responsibility, and opportunity.

But the theme is also a reference to the many tensions in the preservation movement, heritage work, protecting viewsheds—when these come up against transportation projects, the need for parking, expansion projects that threaten historic resources, and alternative energy projects among others. The conference will present several issues while identifying multiple viewpoints and tensions.

The color selected is another historic reference. It is a nod to the color theory used at the Pan Am Exposition held in Buffalo in 1901, which matched colors to cultural development in North America. The most highly evolved color—representing the epitome for mankind—was the color of water as it crested over the edge of Niagara Falls.

### What does it mean to have the National Trust come to Buffalo?

Having the National Preservation Conference hosted in Buffalo is a very important measure and reward for decades of work by hundreds of people in our city and region to protect the extraordinarily rich and varied inventory of buildings, landscapes, and special stories in Western New York.

Immediately after the 1966 National Preservation Act became law, the community worked diligently to add our finest buildings to the National Register, with 9 of those elevated to National Historic Landmark status in the city with more in the region. We have an extraordinary collection that would appeal

to even the most discriminating architecture critic.

The historic preservation movement has evolved since the early days of recognizing only the finest structures, and now includes many more places that represent stories important to all of America. Buffalo has so many places that represent national stories and issues, making it the perfect place for the conference.

Today our community can showcase the powerful work within our neighborhoods, the revitalization of commercial areas, the creative new uses for former industrial buildings, the new investment in our urban school buildings, and the sustained stewardship of our greatest buildings carefully restored piece

by piece by the talented crafts people in our region. The power of place as witnessed and experienced in Buffalo could only have been possible because of the hard work and coordinated efforts of a wide assortment of people from all walks of life. Hosting the national conference declares that "This Place Matters" and invites the world to see our community with new eyes and to experience the warm hospitality of the "City of Good Neighbors."

### What role has the Preservation League played so far?

For more than five years the League has helped Buffalo prepare for the conference. As our preservation community worked to prepare the bid, Tania Werbizky (*Regional Director for Technical and Grant Programs, Western New York*) was a keen participant in the discussions. Her guidance for sites like Graycliff Estate (*designed by Frank Lloyd Wright from 1926-31*) a decade ago encouraged a group of volunteers to employ professional practices. That advice was a most important ingredient in helping the organization prepare for the site




visit that was part of the review process for the bid, strengthening Buffalo's chances.

One of the most important efforts was to combine two existing preservation organizations into a new organization now known as Preservation Buffalo Niagara or PBN. Our local efforts needed wise counsel from the League as we moved through the necessary conversations to create a new organization, while respecting the vital accomplishments of the predecessor organizations. The League's support and encouragement helped the process proceed in a thoughtful and productive manner.

Submitting nominations for *Seven to Save* endangered properties designation and also for *Excellence in Historic Preservation Awards* helped PBN mature quickly in our knowledge and assessments of preservation issues. And of course the recognition from these two League programs has raised the visibility of Buffalo's resources and the work of our preservation organization and other local partners.

With the serious problem of vacant and abandoned properties in our community, the threat of demolition as the easiest solution has been an ever-present concern, especially because the most at-risk areas do not have current information from historic resources surveys. In the last few years, several surveys have been completed with support from the League's *Preserve New York* grant program. These studies catalogued historic homes and commercial properties in frequently-overlooked neighborhoods such as Black Rock, Prospect Hill, Cold Spring-Masten, and Willert Park, increasing awareness of their history as well as boosting local pride.

For our most complicated issues, the Preservation League has provided knowledge, information, public relations and public policy advice. The League has been an invaluable partner and knowledge resource to Buffalo, helping us build capacity and other resources for the future—which of course includes the conference.

Hosting the League's Preservation Colleagues meeting in Buffalo in 2008 was excellent practice and training for the conference, as was hosting the Preservation League's Trustees Meeting and Tour in 2009. These events were important opportunities to ask the attendees to serve as ambassadors for the conference. It has been 30 years since the National Preservation Conference was held in New York State; in 1980 it was held in Manhattan. Buffalo will be recognized for its architecture and increased visitor readiness, but will also have a chance to use the challenges we face to inform a national conversation about cities and rust belt economies in the northeast and Great Lakes basin. Working with like-minded people from around the country and Canada, we must develop the means to invest in places that were "built to last." 

### 2011 National Preservation Conference New York State Scholarship Program

For New York State residents only, and students attending a New York school, one hundred (100) scholarships will be awarded for applicants whose attendance will benefit their home communities and whose commitment to historic preservation will be strengthened by their participation. These scholarships are being made available by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and are being administered by Preservation Buffalo Niagara with the support of the Preservation League of New York State, the New York State Council on the Arts and the State Historic Preservation Office (NYSOPRHP). Updated information will be provided at: <http://www.p-b-n.org/page/conference-scholarships/>. Applications must be received by June 1, 2011 to receive consideration.

# Preserve New York Grants Available

Postmark deadline for applications is May 2

Applications are now available to eligible municipalities and not-for-profit organizations to compete for funds through Preserve New York, a grant program of the Preservation League of New York State and the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA).

The Preservation League and NYSCA have collaborated on this grant program annually since 1993.

A total of \$90,444 is available for historic structure reports, historic landscape reports and cultural resource surveys. Grants are likely to range between \$3,000 and \$10,000 each. Applications must be postmarked or delivered on or before Monday, May 2, 2011 to be considered.

Examples of eligible projects include: historic structure reports for cultural institutions and public buildings; historic landscape reports for municipal parks; and cultural resource surveys of downtowns and residential neighborhoods.

In 2011, the Preservation League especially encourages projects that advance the preservation of neighborhoods and downtowns that qualify for the NYS Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit; preserve architecture and landscapes of the recent past; and continue the use of historic public buildings.

For Preserve New York Grant Program guidelines, visit the League's website at [www.preservenys.org](http://www.preservenys.org). Prospective applicants should contact the Preservation League to discuss their projects and to request an application form.



The Arts Society of Kingston hosted an afternoon forum, "Saving a Building — Building a Community," celebrating the Jewish Federation of Ulster County's Reher Center for Immigrant Culture and History, a 2010 Preserve New York grant recipient, in January.