

Brochure Design for Onondaga Historical Association

Volunteering at OHA

Welcome to Syracuse's only comprehensive local history museum, a facility operated by Onondaga Historical Association (OHA), a private organization that has been collectiong, preserving and exhibiting Onondaga County's heritage since 1862.

Goodies for Volunteers
Discount to Museum giftshop, classes and lectures
Invitations to all museum fuctions
Reimbursement for parking

Museum hours: Wed-Fri 12-4:00 Sat-Sun 11-4:00
Call 315-428-1864 for more information

History Behind OHA

New York state chartered Onondaga Historical Association in April 1863 as a private institution. OHA rented exhibition and meeting "rooms" in various locations from 1863 through 1871. Onondaga County celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1894, reviving interest in OHA which took an active role in the celebration. OHA developed an exhibition space in the Syracuse Savings Bank building where displays of collections opened to the public in October 1894.

In 1900, William Kirkpatrick, a 36-year member of OHA, bequeathed sufficient funds for the purchase of a headquarters to house the collections. A five-story, 10,000 squarefoot building in downtown Syracuse, built in 1896, was purchased for OHA in 1906. Today, it still serves as OHA's Research Center and is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. With the stability provided by owning its own building, OHA entered a golden era where its presence in the community was more visible and recognized.

By 1975, virtually any museum display or in-house program functions at the 311 location had ceased due to lack of space. Important archival collections continued to be added. In August 1979 a report prepared by the Onondaga County Spatial Reutilization Commission, with the assistance of the Metropolitan Development Association (MDA), the county made the decision to acquire 321 Montgomery Street for OHA. With five times the space of 311.

OHA has made vast improvements to its exhibition galleries since 1996. Starting with the Franklin Auto Exhibit in 1996, Our Sporting Life in 1998, the Syracuse China exhibit in 2000 and rounding out with Freedom Bound: Syracuse and the Underground Railroad, our newest, state-of-the-art object theater.

OHA now offers an array of local history topics.

Department Vounteer Needs

Paul Pflanz - Administration Department
maintenance and cleaning of the building

Karen Cooney - Administration Department
mailings and answering phones

Vanessa Johnson - Education Department
docents, special events, in-school prewnters

Tom Hunter - Collections Department
digital photography, collection processing,
some research

Dennis Connors - History Department
organizing slide collection

Gary Melchiorre - Development Department
fundraising activities, bus tour research,
membership drives

Phil McCray - Research Center
arrangement and discription of manuscript
collections, organize postcard collection



Jean Murray with History Highlights