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March 19, 2015



Historic Elmira, Inc. Presents Four Local Winners with Seventh Annual Preservation Awards

ELMIRA, NY • March 19, 2015 – Historic Elmira presented their Seventh Annual Preservation Awards at an event held in Elmira College’s Hamilton Hall. Advocate Awards were presented to Diane Janowski and Earl P. Robinson. Project Awards were presented to James R. DeLaney and Marc G. Rubin.

“We are continually gratified by the number of people in Elmira who engage actively in historic preservation,” said Kaye Newbury, President of Historic Elmira, Inc. “Our annual awards program continues to ensure that their work is recognized and appreciated.”

The Advocate Award celebrates government officials, community leaders, local business owners, journalists, and private citizens who passionately value and demonstrate their advocacy for our historic and architectural heritage through active involvement in the community. The Advocate Award is also open to groups or organizations currently engaged in promoting historic preservation in the Elmira area.

Diane Janowski received an Advocate Award for raising public awareness and appreciation for historical sites and structures in Elmira through her writing and publishing. From books to magazines to social media to film and even to smart phone applications, Diane has used every tool in her arsenal to help preserve and promote Elmira’s history since the early 1980’s. “By reminding us of these precious bits of our past, Diane is surely playing a large role in promoting Elmira’s historic preservation,” states her nominator.

The second Advocate Award was presented to Earl P. Robinson for his restoration of the 1824 Everett House and his relentless efforts in focusing public attention on the history of Lowman and Chemung. “His interest in and articles written about the Battle of Newtown have led to efforts in upgrading the Newtown Battlefield to national

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status,” explained the nominator, “ and his expertise and dedication to historic matters are an incredible asset to our area.”

The Project Award recognizes historic preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, or adaptive reuse projects in the Elmira area that contribute to the appearance, character, and value of our local neighborhoods and community.

A Project Award was given to the James R. DeLaney for the restoration and reservation of his 1901 prairie-style home at 601 Maple Avenue, Elmira, NY. “Mr. DeLaney bought the home in 1983 and it needed a lot of TLC,” stated the nominator. “The most unusual feature of the home of the original floor to ceiling icebox in the kitchen which is still in use. He did much of the work himself and used local vendors for the rest. The improvement Jim has made on his property has encouraged others in the neighborhood to do the same. He is truly a good example of what Historical Maple Avenue and Elmira is all about.”

The second Project Award was presented to Marc G. Rubin for his responsible stewardship of the well-preserved home at 421 West Church Street, Elmira. Marc Rubin was nominated for this year’s Project Award by two of his neighbors in the Near Westside Historic District. They understand the costs and benefits involved in historic preservation, and appreciate having a neighbor who is committed to maintaining the 19th and early 20th Century character of the historic district, a commitment they also have made.

The mission of Historic Elmira, Inc. is to champion historic preservation in the Elmira region by providing education, advocacy, collaboration, and facilitation in activities supporting preservation and enhancements of buildings and sites of historic significance. More information about Historic Elmira can be found at www.HistoricElmira.org.

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