



# NPLC NEWS

FALL 2014 Vol.1, No.1

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Four decades of preservation work in Newark, New Jersey.

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### NEWARK PRESERVATION & LANDMARKS COMMITTEE

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**SUNDAY OCTOBER 26TH ~ 2:30 PM**

# 2014 ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

**SAVE THE DATE:** This year's ceremony will be held at a **CASS GILBERT** building, restored by the **Hanini Group**, as a **HOTEL INDIGO**

NPLC will complete its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year with an exciting event in the new Hotel Indigo! Located at 810 Broad Street, the former First National Bank building was built by important architect, Cass Gilbert, as one Newark's first skyscrapers. The Hanini Group will receive the **Donald T. Dust Award** for restoration and adaptive reuse of the structure. *(continued p.3)*



The Newark  
Preservation  
& Landmarks  
Committee

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends;

Welcome to NPLC NEWS!

First, I would like to thank those of you who personally welcomed me as NPLC's new director, and also those of you who took time to fill out the questionnaires. Your feedback was invaluable. Hopefully we will be able to implement some of the excellent suggestions as we continue our discussions about where we go for the next forty years.

With the exception of June, July and August, the Board of Trustees meets monthly, and works on a variety of projects both individually and collectively. The primary purpose for reviving our newsletter is to keep you abreast of some of our behind-the-scenes activities throughout the year, as well as present notable issues in preservation.

In this first edition of NPLC NEWS, we have highlighted some activities we are currently working on, as well as introduce you to the new trustees who joined the Board this year.

You will find that for the first time in NPLC's history, that we have added a student member position to the Board of Trustees. One of my great personal goals is to see NPLC preserve itself while we work on preserving landmarks. For that reason one of our immediate goals is to create a young preservationists group within our organization. Each year we meet students from NJIT and other architectural schools who are interested in designing projects that incorporate and respect preservation. Actively recruiting younger members to NPLC will insure that preservation advocacy continues in the future.

I am so excited about the Awards Ceremony on Sunday, October 26th. I hope you have marked your calendar! Seeing the passion for preservation the Hanini Group has implemented in the practical terms of giving new life to such an important landmark will certainly be exciting to see. Adaptive reuse of existing buildings is such an important issue to the health of the environment. It is our hope that this project inspires more corporations to follow the example of the InterContinental Hotels Group.

Please be sure to stop by the blog and read more about all the topics included in this season's issue.

See you in October!



## NPLC WORKS TO RESTORE SCULPTURE BY GUTZON BORGLUM, TO A PLACE OF PROMINENCE...



Recently several NPLC Trustees learned that the above sculpture "First Landing Party of the Founders of Newark," created to commemorate Newark's 250th anniversary, now lies in a city-owned lot at the Division of Traffic and Signals, between a dumpster and old tangled traffic lights. A sad location for art sculpted by one of America's most important artist. Besides three other Newark sculptures, Gutzon is best known for creating the monumental Presidents' heads at Mount Rushmore. This story however is a prime example of what happens to public art when a city redevelops. NPLC President Liz Del Tufo says many of Newark's 28 monuments are in bad shape and not well maintained. However NPLC is currently working on a plan to place this sculpture to a location on the waterfront. Read more: [http://www.nj.com/esssex/index.ssf/2014/07/famous\\_newark\\_statue\\_is\\_flat\\_on\\_its\\_back\\_and\\_not\\_seen\\_for\\_years.html](http://www.nj.com/esssex/index.ssf/2014/07/famous_newark_statue_is_flat_on_its_back_and_not_seen_for_years.html)

## ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY *(continued from p.1)*

Hotel Indigo is a chain of boutique hotels started in 2004 as part of the InterContinental Hotels Group. It is promoted as being "the industry's first branded boutique hotel experience." Important to NPLC's mission is the fact that each Hotel Indigo property is designed to reflect the culture, character and history of the surrounding neighborhood. Many of their hotels are converted buildings such as the First National Bank structure here in Newark.

**The Hanini Group** has scrupulously restored the terra cotta exterior of the building including the original cornice, which has been incorporated into a rooftop restaurant. The existing marble stairway on the first and second floors have been restored, and the original ground floor safe has been preserved through its conversion into a pizza oven. The adaptive reuse of distinguished but aging structures like the First National State Bank building is a sustainable practice that merges environmental, economic and aesthetic concerns.



### **Cass Gilbert (November 24, 1859 – May 17, 1934)**

This stately office building, one of Newark's earliest skyscrapers, was designed by renowned architect Cass Gilbert and constructed in 1912, shortly before the completion of Gilbert's Woolworth Building in Manhattan. You may read more

about Cass Gilbert and his distinguished work in our blog:

**<http://newarkpreservation.blogspot.com/>**

NPLC is proud to be hosting the awards ceremony in such an important landmark. Tours of portions of the building will be offered during the ceremony. For more information about this event and all other NPLC activities please visit us on social media:

**Website:** <http://www.newarklandmarks.org>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/NPLCommittee>

**Google:** <https://plus.google.com/100907205040688398332/about>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/NPLCommittee>

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/user/NPLCommittee>

## MEET THE NEW TRUSTEES



**Steven Kern:** *Director and CEO of the Newark Museum, Newark, New Jersey.* Mr. Kern previously served as executive director of the Everson Museum of Art and director of the William Benton Museum of Art at the University of Connecticut. He has also held senior-level curatorial positions at the Museum of Fine Arts/George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum in Springfield, Massachusetts; the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute and the San Diego Museum of Art. Kern is passionate about the power of art to excite, enrich and empower and believes that museums are for all and for all time.

Mr. Kern comes to us with an extensive list of lectures and publication records in scholarly, popular and professional subjects. He is experienced in planning and implementing diverse programs; successful with fundraising, development, membership, and media relations and is multilingual.



## MEET OUR NEW TRUSTEES



### **Dr. Margaret Stevens:**

*Academic scholar, teacher, military service, and community leader, Dr. Stevens is a proud product of New Jersey public educational institutions. She attained her primary and secondary education in the Newark public school system and her higher education at Rutgers College in New Brunswick, and a Phi Beta Kappa graduate in 2001. In 2009 she completed her doctoral work at Brown University in the Department of American Civilization.*

*Dr. Stevens is a veteran of the US Army. Enlisted from 1997 to 2003 as a medic in the National Guard, and provided medical support in the aftermath of the September 11<sup>th</sup> World Trade Center disaster. Currently she is an Associate Professor of History and also the Director of the Urban Issues Institute at Essex County College.*

## **The Plume House Gets A New Plan**

After many discussions and considerations, NPLC Trustees voted to form a separate FRIENDS OF THE PLUME HOUSE to help secure the future of this important pre-Civil War home. This organization has been incorporated with a new goal on the forefront of their agenda: historical continuity to keep the home in its current location, and to have it open as the Newark Visitors Center in time for Newark's 350th anniversary in 2016.

### **THE FRIENDS OF THE PLUME HOUSE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Charlotte Chappel**, *President*

**Tom Ankner**, *Newark Public Library*

**Liz Del Tufo**, *Newark Preservation & Landmarks Committee*

**Douglas Oxenhorn**, *New Jersey Historical Society*

**Zemin Zhang**, *The James Street Commons Historic District*

**Robert J. Del Tufo Esq.**, *legal counsel, (retired)*



## Newark Honors NPLC's President Liz Del Tufo With A Key to the City

On Saturday, May 10, 2014, Mayor Luis A. Quintana, the Newark Municipal Council and the City of Newark honored the achievements of NPLC's President, Elizabeth R. Del Tufo, by presenting her with a Key to the City of Newark.

In her long history of civic activism Ms. Del Tufo has served Newark in many different capacities: as an activist, educator, preservationist and historian. Perhaps most notably, in 1974 Liz and a small group of people who believed in Newark, founded the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee (NPLC). Their goal was to preserve and protect what they saw as one of Newark's greatest assets – its architecture. Since that time the committee has placed over seventy buildings and five historic districts on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places, thereby ensuring that Newark's past serves its future.

Liz's list of accomplishments include work as historic tour guide of the Newark Museum bus tours, Director Emeritus of the Newark Boys Choir School and founding of the Newark Landmarks Commission. To read more about her work visit our blog at;

<http://newarkpreservation.blogspot.com/2014/08/the-city-of-newark-honors-nplcs.html>

## MEET OUR NEW TRUSTEES



### **Nicholas Digman:**

*NPLC is proud to welcome its first student Trustee.*

#### **Education**

New Jersey Institute of Technology;  
Fall 10 - Fall 15/16; Masters of  
Science in Infrastructure Planning

SUNY Stony Brook University;  
Fall 06 - Fall 08; General  
Undergraduate Studies

#### **Selective Curriculum Vitae**

Volunteer with Likir  
Monastery, Jammu & Kashnir,  
India 2005-2006

Volunteer with Branch Brook Park  
Alliance, Summer 2009

Volunteer with Newark 50 Project,  
Spring 2010

Volunteer with Newark Master  
Plan, Summer 2010

Volunteer with Boys and Girls Club's  
Newark Bike Exchange 2010

Volunteer with SAH Archipedia,  
Summer 2012

Contributor to 'Common Ground,  
Newsletter Fall 2012

Worthy Estimator of Alpha Rho  
Chi Domitian, 2012-2013

Beneficiary of Donald Wallace  
Elizabeth Del Tufo Endowed  
Scholarship, Fall 2013

## TRUSTEE'S CORNER



Trustee **ANKER WEST** prepared and completed the nomination to have the Dietze Building (*left*) added to the City register of Historic Places. The Dietze Building, located at 60 Union Street, Newark, NJ 07105, is the City's oldest, continuous design colony since 1975, hosting fine and commercial artist and architects. Anker West, an architecture and ceramic artist is the Manager of the building and can be reached at: 973 466-1182.

Trustee **ZEMIN ZHANG** is working on having the historic Colonnade Apartments (*right*), designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and opened in 1960, designated as a national landmark.



**MARK GORDON** is working complete photo/description file of Newark landmarks for a book and to be added to a pop-up map for our website in time for Newark's 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The **six public school nominations** which the Committee have been working on for the past couple of years are now completed and now in Trenton for approval.

The Trustees have voted on a project to get as many state and national landmarks as possible on the **City Register of Landmarks**.



The Newark  
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& Landmarks  
Committee

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