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# Society for Industrial Archeology

# ROEBLING CHAPTER

# NEWSLETTER

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December 2004

Vol. 13 No. 4

## ROEBLING CHAPTER BUSINESS *Proposed Bylaws Change*

**M**ary Habstritt proposes that Article VI: Duties of the Officers in the RCSIA bylaws be changed as follows (text with strikethrough to be deleted):

The President shall be responsible for the creation and mailing of the chapter newsletter ~~four or more times a year~~, to inform the membership of coming activities, actions taken by the Trustees and officers, and other news.

This change will be voted upon at the upcoming annual meeting.

## Annual Meeting

*Drew University Hall of Sciences*

*Saturday, January 29, 2005 – 2:00 to 5:00 P.M.*

**I**n accordance with our bylaws, which require us to hold a business meeting in January of each year, members are hereby notified that the meeting will take place at the time and location given above. This year we are returning to our usual Saturday but keeping the later starting time and hope that this suits a majority of our members.

The business portion of the meeting will include a annual reports from the President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and election of officers. Plans for the upcoming year will be discussed and proposals are invited.

Four of the five members of the chapter's board are to be elected by the membership. The fifth member is appointed by the elected members. Nominees for 2005 are:

**Mary Habstritt**, President (*incumbent*)

**Lynn Rakos**, Vice President (*incumbent*)

**Aron Eisenpress**, Secretary (*incumbent*)

**Charles Scott**, Treasurer (*incumbent*)

Tradition dictates that we also provide time for show and tell. If you have IA slides, video, artifacts, or the like which you wish to share with other chapter members, please notify Mary Habstritt at 212-769-4946 or [RCSIAprez@aol.com](mailto:RCSIAprez@aol.com) to be placed on the schedule.

Fruit, cookies, coffee and sodas will be available to all members who attend.

### Directions:

**Via Automobile #1** – From Northwest New Jersey and Northeast Pennsylvania via I-80: Take I-80 East to Exit 43, I-287 South. Proceed to Morristown Exit 35, "Madison Avenue/Route 124". At top of exit ramp, turn left. Proceed three miles on Route 124 East to Madison. Drew University is on Route 124 (Madison Avenue) on your right.

**Via Automobile #2** – From West New Jersey and Pennsylvania, via I-78: Take I-78 East to I-287 North. Proceed to first Morristown exit (Exit 35 South Street/Route 124). At end of exit ramp, turn left. Proceed 100 yards ahead and take first right, following signs to Route 124. At the stop sign, turn right (Route 124 East) and proceed three miles on Route 124 East to Madison. Drew University is on Route 124 (Madison Avenue) on your right.

**Via Automobile #3** – From Southern New Jersey via NJ Turnpike: Take NJTP North to Exit 10 and follow I-287 North to first Morristown exit, Exit 35 (South Street, Route 124). At end of exit ramp, turn left. Proceed as above under #2.

**Via Automobile #4** – From New York City (Lincoln and Holland Tunnels): Lincoln Tunnel - Follow the signs to the N.J. Turnpike South. Take exit 14 (Newark Airport). After the toll plaza take I-78 West (either express or local lanes okay) to Exit 48 - Route 24 West. Take exit 7A - Chatham/Route 124 West. Exit 7A/B splits so watch carefully. Follow Route 124 West through Chatham (Main Street) into Madison (Madison Avenue). Drew is located on Route 124 (Madison Avenue), on your left, just past the center of Madison. Continue as above.

**Via Automobile 5#** – From New York City (upper Manhattan/George Washington Bridge): Take I-80 West from bridge to I-287 South (Morristown). Proceed as under #1, above.

**Via Public Transportation** – NJ Transit's Morristown Line train service stops at the station in Madison, approximately one-half mile from the Drew Campus. From the station, proceed to Madison Avenue. Turn left and walk along Madison Avenue until you come

to the Drew campus on your left. For train schedules and other information contact NJ Transit: (800) 722-2222 in NJ and (973) 762-5100 in NY.

## DREW SYMPOSIUM REPORT

The 24th Annual Drew Symposium on Industrial Archeology in the New York - New Jersey Area was held October 24th, 2004 with 140 in attendance. For the first time it was held on a Sunday instead of a Saturday. Some chapter members asked for the change because they work or worship on Saturdays and find Sunday a more convenient day, though others prefer Saturday. The change in day did not have much impact on attendance, which was slightly, but not significantly higher, than in the past. There were more same-day registrations than usual.

The visual standout among the presentations was photographer Dave (the "Bridge Man") Frieder's presentation of a large number of fine views of the region's major bridges. These included structural details, as well as the bridges' contexts, and Dave described the fun he has had (at least before 9/11) in getting to the tops of these structures. His website, [www.davefrieder.com](http://www.davefrieder.com), provides more photos and info on exhibitions.

Other presentations covered the duties of the railroad flagman as demonstrated by Bob Mohowski, and the details of doing a HAER-type recording of a floating dry dock along the Connecticut shore by Bob Stewart. Elizabeth Norris described the past summer's archeology work at the West Point Foundry site (featured in the current SIA [national] Newsletter). Lance Metz covered the history of the railroads converging on Phillipsburg, NJ. Tom Flagg showed a different angle on the region's working waterfront in the 1960s and '70s through his colorful aerial photographs. Rick James gave an update on the efforts to preserve the Jersey City Warehouse District. Conrad Milster presented another installment of his series "Powering Production" on industrial steam power.

"Captain" Bill McKelvey was presented with the second annual John Augustus Roebling Award for Outstanding Contributions to Industrial Archeology for his "dedication to preserving the transportation heritage of New Jersey in all its watered and wheeled forms." Specifically cited were his promotion of canal preservation and tourism and his efforts to establish the New Jersey Transportation Heritage Center in Phillipsburg, NJ. The award included a certificate and a check for \$250. Bill's work and the award were reported in the December 6th edition of the Easton, PA Express-

Times where RCSIA president, Mary Habstritt, was quoted as saying "he's done a really amazing job of collecting artifacts of New Jersey's transportation history." And he has. *Congratulations to Bill.*

Joe Macasek was presented with a special gift from the chapter in recognition of donating his graphic design skills to this newsletter for 12 years. He received a small light panel for viewing transparencies. **Thanks, Joe.**

## OTHER EVENTS

### *The Eighteenth Annual Conference on New England Industrial Archeology*

Higgins Armory - 100 Barber Avenue -  
Worcester, Massachusetts

Saturday, February 19, 2005 - 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

This annual event is sponsored by the Southern and Northern New England Chapters, SIA. The Higgins Armory is a museum housing one of the finest collections of medieval and Renaissance armor and arms in the world. Conference attendees will have ample time to explore the museum after the paper sessions. A small fee will be charged for admissions and lunch. A pre-registration form will be sent to SNEC and NNEC members six weeks in advance of the event. Non-members should contact Bob Stewart as indicated below.

**Call for Papers:** The chapters are inviting members, scholars and independent researchers to submit abstracts of papers or oral presentations for possible inclusion in the program. The goal of the conference is to provide an opportunity for members, the general public, academicians and professionals interested in the field of industrial archeology to meet. The object of the conference is to illuminate current work in studies of the material culture of our industrial past. An additional goal is to encourage field investigation, research and the exchange of information about all aspects of our industrial heritage. While all studies in industrial archeology are invited, work pertaining to the New England area will be preferred.

Examples of past presentations subjects include crib dam construction, railroad power systems, early fire alarm systems, bridge studies, power stations, rope manufacture, mining and the metals industries, archeology of a distillery site, and the timber industry.

**Abstracts must be submitted by January 15th** and should be limited in length to 500 to 750 words. Each

abstract should have a title page and text page(s). Submission of abstracts may be made via e-mail (preferred), fax or mail. There is a limit of two contributions per author.

Short, informal "Show and Tell" presentations on work in progress, local preservation projects, artifacts and topics of general interest to industrial archeologists and members are also invited.

Each submission should include the following information on the title page:

- Title of submission
- Two or three keywords that describe the submission
- Name(s) of the author(s)
- Affiliation or Firm
- Mailing address(es)
- E-mail address(es)
- Phone or fax number(s)
- List of Audio-visual equipment required
- Submission/Contact Address:

Robert Stewart  
2003 NNEC-SNEC Conference  
1230 Copper Hill Rd, West Suffield, CT 06093

– Tel.: (860) 668-2928; Fax: (860) 668-9988;  
E-mail: robert.stewart13@att.net

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *NY State Library Research*

The New York State Library is inviting applications for grants for research in state history, under the Anna K. and Mary E. Cunningham Research Residency Program in New York State History and Culture. Four awards of \$1,000 will be given in 2005. In addition to the cash awards, recipients will be given access to photoduplication and other services of the Library.

Applicants must conduct original research at the New York State Library in Albany. Grants are available to academic and public historians, graduate students, independent researchers and writers and primary and secondary school teachers. Preference will be given to projects that have a high probability of publication or other public dissemination. Projects for multimedia presentation, exhibits and documentary films are encouraged.

**Applications must be postmarked by January 15, 2005.**  
A panel of scholars and library staff will review proposals. The panel's decisions will be announced by May 1, 2005. Application and further information available on the library's web site at <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/library/researchres.htm> or by calling (518) 402-5437. E-mail inquiries [nyslgrants@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:nyslgrants@mail.nysed.gov)

## NY Archives Residency

The New York State Archives Partnership Trust announces the Larry J. Hackman Research Residency program for 2005. The program makes awards to qualified applicants to conduct research using government records in the New York State Archives in Albany. The Hackman Research Residency program supports advanced work in New York State history, government, public policy, and other topics, by defraying expenses associated with research at the State Archives. Projects for educational purposes are especially welcome. Applications for the 2005 grant awards for the period June 1, 2005-May 31, 2006, **must be postmarked by Jan. 15, 2005.** For further information about the Hackman Research Residency program and a copy of the application form, go to <http://www.nysarchvestrust.org> or contact:

New York State Archives Partnership Trust  
Cultural Education Center Room 9C49  
Albany, NY 12230  
Phone 518-473-7091; fax 518-473-7058  
E-mail [hackmanres@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:hackmanres@mail.nysed.gov)

## ADVOCACY *Water Street Tower*

On behalf of the Roebling Chapter, Mary Habstritt testified before the New York City Council's Zoning & Franchise Subcommittee on Tuesday, September 21st, regarding a proposal by Two Trees Management to build a 178-ft. tall building on Water Street in Brooklyn's Dumbo neighborhood. The plan, which required re-zoning the site, had been previously approved by the City Planning Commission. Habstritt had also spoken against the project before the Planning Commission on July 14th.

RCSIA joined with the Dumbo Neighborhood Association, the Brooklyn Heights Association, the Fulton Ferry Landing Association, and the Historic Districts Council in advocating for protection of one of the city's premier industrial heritage areas and of our great civil engineering landmark, the Brooklyn Bridge.

Public testimony before the sub-committee on this case began at 1:30 and ended at 3:30. With 3 minutes per speaker, it is clear that this application drew a great deal of comment. In the face of opposition from sub-committee Chair Tony Avella and Councilmember David Yassky, Two Trees withdrew its application.

Those who opposed the plan were particularly

gratified that Councilmember Yassky, who represents Dumbo, came out in opposition to the proposal. Yassky expressed concern for the majestic Brooklyn Bridge and felt, even though Two Trees had compromised by narrowing the tower portion of the structure so it would be further than the original 70 feet from the bridge. He said he would oppose anything on the site that would be higher than the bridge's roadway.

In addition to the impact upon the bridge, this building would have towered over the Empire Stores across the street, and would require demolition of the

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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|-----------------|--|
| <b>Jan. 29</b>  | <b>Roebling Chapter Annual Meeting<br/>Madison, NJ</b> |
| Feb. 19         | SNEC-NNEC annual conference,<br>Worcester MA           |
| <b>June 2-5</b> | <b>SIA annual conference<br/>Milwaukee WI.</b>         |

former foundry building at 56-62 Water St., now used by Smack Mellon Gallery, a contributing building to the National Register-designated DUMBO Industrial District.

### Roebling Chapter SIA Officers

President	Mary Habstritt
Vice President	Lynn Rakos
Treasurer	Charles Scott
Secretary	Aron Eisenpress

The Roebling Chapter official telephone number is the residence number of the President: (212) 769-4946. Please leave a brief message on the answering machine.

Membership is \$10.00 per year, payable to RCSIA, c/o Aron Eisenpress, 235 West End Avenue, Apt. 14-C, New York, NY 10023.

A downloadable chapter membership form and general information about the SIA are available at [www.siahq.org](http://www.siahq.org).

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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**