

30 Crossing Project, Federal Historic Tax Credit, Greater Little Rock Preservation Awards, New Board Members, New QQA Employees



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A S S O C I A T I O N

Quapaw Quarter Chronicle

December 2017, 4th Quarter Issue

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Welcome to the 2017 4th Quarter Quapaw Chronicle

Season's Greetings from the Quapaw Quarter Association! Activity at the QQA continues unabated.

This last quarter of 2017 has been busy with advocacy, education and outreach, and new staff. We are all getting ready for 2018, the QQA's 50th Anniversary year!

I am pleased with all that the QQA has accomplished this year, and am looking forward to another even more eventful and productive 2018. I am humbled by the support and encouragement I have received in this position from my board, my fellow colleagues, and our members. Do not hesitate to reach out to me with your thoughts and concerns.

-- [Patricia Blick](#), Executive Director

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30 Crossing Project

As you may expect, we continue to follow the activity associated with the 30 Crossing Project. The QQA Board submitted a letter to the Federal Highway Administration outlining concerns, suggesting mitigation and requesting signatory authority on any agreement documents associated with the undertaking. The letter is posted on our website and you can access it [here](#). The *Arkansas-Democrat Gazette* followed up with a [piece](#) on it as well, noting the QQA's concerns. Just last week, QQA Executive Director, Patrica Blick stated our concerns with the undertaking at Metroplan's board meeting as [quoted in this piece in last Thursday's Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#).

Federal Historic Tax Credit

In addition to tracking the 30 Crossing project, we are doggedly advocating for the retention of the Federal Historic Tax Credits. With tax reform underway, the program is in jeopardy. In cooperation with our partners, to include the Downtown Little Rock Partnership, Preserve Arkansas, and the development community we are working to educate our elected officials of the numerous benefits of the program. The *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* just published our guest editorial justifying retention and even improving the Historic Tax Credit Program. You can read it [here](#).

Education and Events

Our Education Committee, led by VP Toni Johnson, programmed two Preservation Conversations focusing on the William E. Woodruff House. John Greer, WER Architects, presented his preliminary findings for the rehabilitation feasibility study to a packed Curran Hall at the end of August. This was followed by a hands-on Masonry Repair Demonstration at the Woodruff House by Western Specialty Contractors in October. The participants of the masonry demonstration took advantage of an opportunity to tour the landmark property, watch repointing of the wall, and ask the masons technical questions. See more photos [here](#).



Attendees at the 2017 Preservation Conversations Masonry Workshop.

In addition to the QQA Preservation Conversations we partnered with Save Hillcrest! on a neighborhood meeting promoting the state and federal rehabilitation tax credits. The large crowd was engaged, interested in the preservation incentives and preservation of the National Register listed Hillcrest Historic District. See more photos [here](#).

The Summer Supper series continues to connect our constituents with unique historic properties in greater Little Rock. The dinner at Chris Olsen's Edgemont (Justin Matthews, Jr. House) was incredible. The weather was uncharacteristically mild, so most of the guests were able to dine alfresco. You can see photos [here](#).

Our last Summer Supper for the season, Dinner on the Lawn, was held at the William Woodruff house. It was a beautiful, albeit, warm September night! The event was primarily underwritten by the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* and several other sponsors supported the supper. The memorable evening was kicked off by Mickey Rigby and his beautiful guitar strumming, followed by a first-person interpretation of William E. Woodruff by living legend Bill Worthen. Guests enjoyed a spectacular meal of local fare by Trio's Catering. You can see photos [here](#).

Membership Meeting and Greater Little Rock Preservation Awards

As the late summer and fall programs were ending, the Board and a special award committee got ready for our

annual membership meeting and the selection of the Greater Little Rock Preservation Award Recipients. This year's committee was made up of the following members: Dana Boyster, Matt Foster, John Hedrick, Scott Shepard, and Julie Wiedower.

We held The Annual Membership Meeting in early November at the National Historic Landmark, Little Rock Arsenal, home of the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History. The evening started with a lovely reception then moved into the program, led by our board president Chuck Cliett. Jean Block Chaired this year's nominating committee and presented the new board nominees as well as the board members for renewal to the membership for a vote. New board members, Stacy Hamilton, Scott Mosley, and Martie North were approved, as were returning board members Ashli Ahrens, Toni Johnson, and Ron Maxwell.



Peg Smith Award Winners Callie Williams and Danielle Butler with Chuck Cliett and Patricia Blick and emcee Victoria Price.

I gave a brief Executive Director report on the past year and the upcoming year to include sharing news about the upcoming 54th Spring Tour of Homes. Planning for this upcoming tour is well underway by our volunteer tour chairs, Denise Ennett, Vanessa McKuinn, and Whitney Patterson. We will hold the tour in the Little Rock Central Highschool National Register Historic District and have already secured [six tour houses](#).

Special guest speaker, Jodi Morris, National Park Service Ranger at the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, gave a thought provoking presentation entitled "If these buildings could talk: Places that mattered in the central High Crisis."

The culmination of the evening was presentation of The Greater Little Rock Preservation Awards emceed by Victoria Price, KARK 4 weekend anchor.

We presented seven awards of merit:

- Christopher St. Peter and Doug Zell, founders of Meteor Bike Shop and to artisan Redgie Adams for restoration of the Little Rock Paint and Wallpaper Company neon sign.
- Jim Pfeifer for his outstanding advocacy and outreach efforts on behalf of historic resources throughout Little Rock.
- Missy and Darrell Orvis for their rehabilitation of 1501 S. Summit Avenue.
- Friends of Mosaic Templar; Mosaic Templar Cultural Center Advisory Board; Mosaic Templars Building Preservation Society; and the Department of Arkansas Heritage for outstanding advocacy efforts and purchase of the Mosaic State Temple Building.
- WhoDunItHoldings, LLC for the rehabilitation of the Homard House, on 3rd street.
- John Chandler for the rehabilitation of 314 N. Main Street, Argenta, North Little Rock.
- The Board of the Mount Holly Cemetery Association for several significant projects recently completed.

Peg Smith Award: The Peg Smith Award has been given since 1980 to recognize "a Quapaw Quarter Association member whose volunteer work on QQA projects and programs has been particularly exemplary." This year we had two Peg Smith Award Winners: Danielle Butler and Callie Williams.

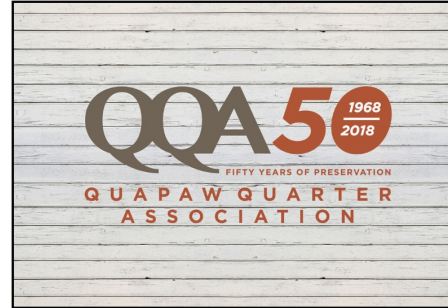
Jimmy Strawn Award: The Jimmy Strawn Award has been presented annually since 1980. It is considered the QQA's most prestigious award because it's given to "someone whose efforts on behalf of the preservation of Greater Little Rock's architectural heritage are an inspiration to the entire community." The QQA was pleased to present the Jimmy Strawn award to Mary Bray Kelley.

[Click here to see photos of attendees and winners.](#)

QQA Board Retreat

The first week in November the QQA Board met at the incredible Arkansas State University offices in the historic 501 Building for their annual retreat to prepare for the upcoming year. This planning retreat gave the board an opportunity to review the past year and set priorities for the upcoming year, which is of particular

importance as we commemorate our 50th Anniversary in 2018.



New QQA Staff

We are so pleased to share that we have added two new staff to our roster. Shelle Stormoe and Jessica Crenshaw joined the staff in November. Needless to say we are very excited to have these two on board!

[Shelle Stormoe](#) is QQA's new Membership & Activities Coordinator. She oversees membership related issues, assists with QQA events, and will work toward developing new mission-related programming. She earned a BA in English from UA Little Rock, a MA in English from Kansas State University, and a MFA in Writing from Colorado State University. She taught Writing at several universities before shifting her career toward public history. Shelle has worked for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program and the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies. She is a board member for Preserve Arkansas, serving as Vice President of Education. When Shelle is not working at QQA, she works as a freelance writer and adjunct instructor.



Jessica Crenshaw (left) and Shelle Stormoe (right).

[Jessica Crenshaw](#) is QQA's new Curran Hall Facility Manager. Jessica grew up in the foothills of the Ozarks, just down the road from the White River Lock Three Dam near Cushman in Independence County. She received her B.A. from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia with a double major in political science and communications. She has worked in Little Rock as a television news producer, publications editor, and freelance writer. Jessica previously served as public information specialist for the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

Spring Fling 2018

From intimate cocktail parties to elaborate weddings, Historic Curran Hall is currently accepting reservations for the 2018 spring social season.



[CLICK HERE](#) or call

501-371-0075 for information.

