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SPA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Matt Cohen



Growing up in New York City in the early 1970s, a frequent public service commercial made a deep impression on me. First voice: "They should plant more trees in the city." Second voice: "You are they." First voice: "I am they?" Second voice: "You are they." And then the two voices discussed ways in which neighborhoods could get organized to bring about the kinds of changes they wanted to see.

It was indeed a time of neighborhoods working to improve themselves, organizing boiler inspections in large buildings (to improve air quality and save heating costs), neighborhood watch programs, block parties, and yes, planting trees. I remember the block parties most of all. My friends and I did our part, putting up signs around the neighborhood—and what parties they were! You can imagine what happens when you ask the police to close off a New York street for an afternoon; then provide some food, vendors and games, and invite all the residents of the surrounding fifteen-story buildings. Due to its size, New York affords a lot of leverage to those willing to become a "they."

Due to its size, Spokane also affords a lot of leverage to those

willing to become a "they." Spokane is small enough that a determined organization like SPA, 800 members strong and counting, can make its voice heard and bring about noticeable changes. On the other hand, Spokane is also large enough that noticeable changes can affect a lot of people. Who can imagine Spokane today without the Davenport Hotel or the Fox Theater? Whenever places like these are threatened we hear: "They should do something about that!" And of course, we have, and we do.

SPA is the "they" representing the many people in Spokane who value the economic and cultural benefits of historic preservation. Every day SPA quietly carries out its mission to preserve and enhance the historic character of Spokane and Spokane County through advocacy, education and preservation. In addition to advocating for the city's historic resources when needed, each year we distribute \$10,000 in Heritage Grants for preservation projects, and complete several "Doing It" projects to fix up historic places with our own hands. We also throw great parties (our quarterly meetings), which reinforce our own sense of community; and much more.

You are they. You are SPA, and SPA needs more of you. SPA is run by a small, all-volunteer



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE:

▶ **S A T U R D A Y**
D E C E M B E R 1 0
6 - 9 P M

▶ **RUSSELL HOUSE**
2 2 3 1 W F I R S T A V E
A C R O S S F R O M N W M A C

SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 6!

board of directors that is always looking for new, energetic self-starters with ideas to share. Whether you grew up in a big city or a small town, we need your diverse experience and expertise to help lead SPA. Leverage yourself, and consider taking "they" to a new level. Come to one of our board meetings, held every third Tuesday evening of the month, and see if there is a board chair position that interests you. We will train you, and then you can train us.

SPA

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An historic bank in downtown Buffalo, New York. SPA attended the National Preservation Conference there to help promote Spokane, host of next year's conference. Photo by Gary Lauerman.

S P O K A N E A T T E N D S N A T I O N A L P R E S E R V A T I O N C O N F E R E N C E I N B U F F A L O

Several members of Spokane's preservation community attended the annual National Preservation Conference in Buffalo, NY the week of October 17th. The Spokane delegation included SPA Executive Coordinator, Kathryn Burk-Hise; SPA Board members Julie Biggerstaff, Gary Lauerman and Dave Shockley; SPA Advisors, Paul Mann and Kristen Griffin; Spokane Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CVB) Director Cheryl Kilday and Amy Cabe; and Spokane City Manager, Ted Danek.

Throughout the week, Spokane attendees wearing "Ask Me About Spokane" buttons, collaborated to promote Spokane

as the host of next year's conference. Efforts centered around a booth hosted by the CVB that featured banners, brochures, a slide show, video and other materials highlighting Spokane as a heritage destination.

Especially exciting was the Closing Plenary "premiere" of two brand new videos promoting Spokane. One was prepared by the CVB to highlight Spokane as an exciting visitor destination. The other, coordinated by the City/County Historic Preservation Office, produced by Purple Crayon Pictures, and funded by SPA, was prepared especially to promote the conference. Blending still images, new video foot-

age and interviews, the fast paced video highlights Spokane's historic assets and preservation accomplishments. Both films were very well received.

How does Buffalo compare to Spokane? As a city, the built infrastructure is much larger than Spokane, but after years of population loss, the population within the city limits today is nearly the same. In spite of this preservation challenge, the city offers a wealth of impressive buildings and signs of revitalization were evident throughout the city core. Highlights include the mammoth Statler Hotel Tower, a beautiful Art Deco City Hall (32 stories tall!), and a stunning new Federal Courthouse next door. Attendees also enjoyed visiting buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, Louis Sullivan and H.H. Richardson; Olmsted parks connected by boulevards; historic schools and churches; and several historic neighborhoods.

In addition to its buildings, the people of Buffalo were very much a part of this very successful conference, showing support for the conference and genuine hospitality to its attendees.

NEWS FROM BUFFALO

This is a newspaper article that was published in Buffalo, NY talking about the Conference held there the week of October 17th, 2011.

Impact from Preservation Conference Resonates Near and Far

10-24-2011

By Chris Caya & Mike Desmond

The head of the organization charged with boosting tourism in the region says last week's National Preservation Conference was "a game changer" for the community. Visit Buffalo Niagara President Dottie Gallagher-Cohen says the multi-year effort put into the conference was not just about its \$4.5 million immediate economic impact. "All these people who come here now go back into their communities and talk about Buffalo in a very different way. That word of mouth and that social networking for us is the kind of advertising we can't buy," said Gallagher-Cohen. Gallagher-Cohen says many of the 2,500 preservationists were "blown away" by what they saw. She predicts the conference will be paying dividends for many years to come.

National Trust for Historic Preservation Chief Marketing Officer Terry Richey says there are about 24 million cultural and heritage travelers who plan their lives around going to historic locations. "Buffalo is in a unique position to bring more of those cultural and heritage travelers. That's good for historic preservation . . . and it's just great for the community," said Richey. Richey says all of the conference attendees who came to Buffalo last week may have also heightened the awareness of local residents to the city's architectural treasures.

Many area preservationists are still trying to catch up on their sleep, now that the National Preservation Conference has concluded and several thousand visitors have headed out of town, leaving behind many dollars and taking away a sense of the history and landmarks of this area. Visitors from Spokane were impressed with the volun-

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An historic streetscape in Buffalo, New York's Allentown neighborhood. Photo by Dave Shockley.



teers who made this event work and they are taking that point back to their Eastern Washington city where the conference will be held next year.

Hotels and restaurateurs noticed the filled hotel rooms and packed restaurants. The visitors saw a mix of almost completed landmarks like the Darwin Martin House and those still under construction like the Statler Hotel where they packed the opening party and the closing plenary session. "(It) was huge for downtown Buffalo and for the community of Western New York," said developer Mark Croce, who has begun to invest the first of what will be many millions of dollars into saving the Statler Towers. Sponsors are still trying to add up how many places were visited by the thousands of preservationists, both in the Buffalo-Niagara Region and in Southern Ontario.

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2012 CONFERENCE IN SPOKANE!

The following text was prepared by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to promote the Spokane National Preservation Conference in 2012 at the Buffalo Conference this year.

Move beyond traditional boundaries at the National Preservation Conference in Spokane, Washington:

October 31 - November 3, 2012.

Come to the Pacific Northwest to discover and explore preservation's role in cities, towns, and rural communities. Engage in vital conversations about how we can expand the role of preservation in revitalizing cities, combating sprawl, creating jobs, saving energy, preserving landscapes, and building community. Discover how we can work with traditional and new partners to in-

crease preservation's relevance in modern communities and become better advocates for the movement in our hometowns.

The National Preservation Conference explores preservation's boundaries like no other conference - we use the host city as a living laboratory in a multi-faceted way with field trips, affinity events, education sessions, and on-your-own activities that inform, teach, and connect you.

Rich in native cultures and a leader in sustainability, Spokane is Eastern Washington's jewel that showcases urban, suburban, and rural preservation challenges and solutions in one city.

Come to Spokane to bridge chasms, break tradition, and explore what going beyond boundaries can do to instill a preservation ethic in Americans of all ages, backgrounds, and outlooks. Watch for more details coming to www.PreservationNation.org/conference.

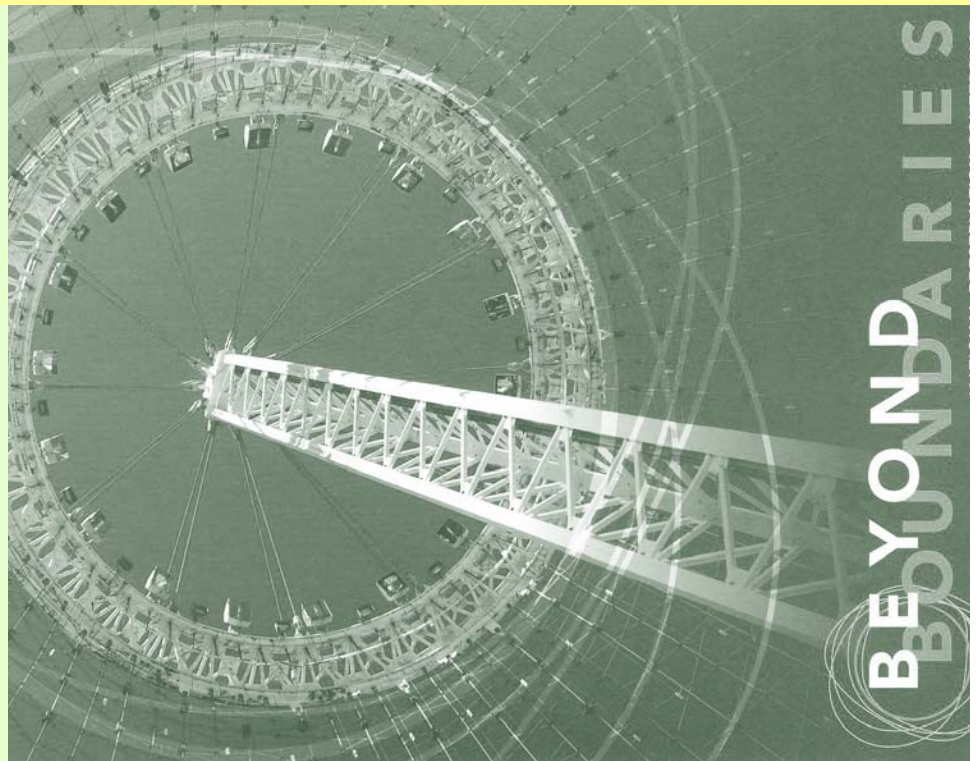
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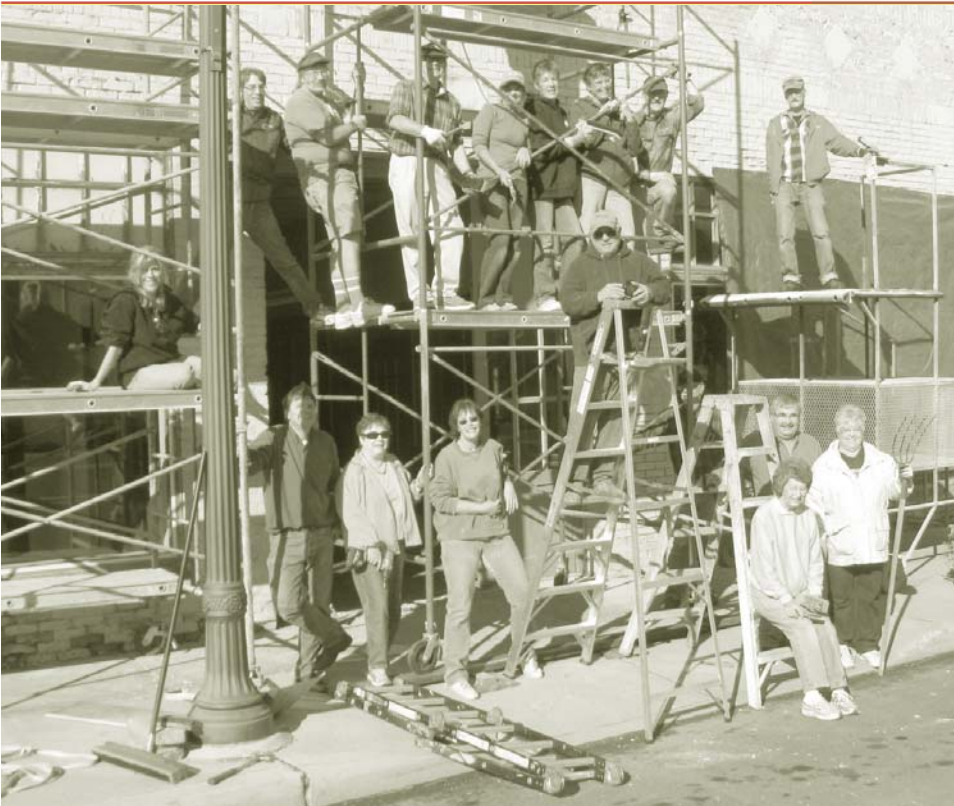
The US Pavilion from the 1974 Expo in Spokane. Photo by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

REMINDER

Award applications available!

Applications for the Joanne Moyer Award for Historic Preservation (The Joanne) are now available. Please contact us at info@spokanepreservation.org or 344-1065 to receive an application. The first award was given to Joanne at last year's Gala and Auction. The award honors individuals or organizations that have demonstrated dedication, perseverance and educational goals regarding historic preservation in our area. This year's award will be presented at our next Gala on April 28, 2012.





The Doing-It volunteers in Harrington pose for a group portrait. Photo by Gary Lauerman.

HARRINGTON DOING-IT PROJECT A SUCCESS

On Saturday, October 15th about twenty volunteers showed up for a Paint Prep project in the small town of Harrington, WA. Peeling paint was scraped and brushed away, readying the building for a new paint job. The building, a former Ford Automobile showroom, will enjoy a new life as a vintage car repair shop and showroom, primarily for classic Studebakers.

Harrington (population 424) has an amazing stock of historic buildings along its main street, Third Avenue. The town was recently designated as the State's smallest CLG (Certified Local Government) in Historic Preservation. The program enables property owners to access tax credits and statewide preservation support as they begin an ambitious program to reclaim

several of their buildings.

After the project volunteers were treated to a delicious barbecue lunch by the buildings' owner, Allen Barth. Then the group toured the town's handsome Victorian-era Opera House, under renovation, and The Hotel Lincoln, also being extensively renovated.

Article by Doing-It Committee Chair, Gary Lauerman.

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SPA ACCEPTED AS LOCAL PARTNER

SPA has been accepted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Statewide and Local Partners network, as a Local Partner! What an honor! This network is a coalition of over 120 high-performing nonprofit preservation organizations from

across the country who come together to share ideas, learn from each other and inspire innovative approaches to saving historic places.

Created in 1993, the National Trust's Statewide and Local Partners program helps emerging and established state and local nonprofit preservation organizations become more effective. The program provides organizational development assistance, grant support, specialized workshops and training, information resources and networking opportunities.

Benefits of being a Partner with the National Trust include:

- Two meetings of Statewide and Local Partners annually in fall and spring
- Annual Big Cities meeting
- Access to "Partners Only" web resources
- Access to Partners-L listserv
- Monthly Partners E-Update

Educational Opportunities

- Executive Director Orientation
- Better Boards and other selected training workshops
- Priority for Preservation Leadership Training
- Access to technical assistance and consultation with NT Staff
- Shared resources and model practices

Access to NT Programs and Resources

- Eligibility for the Richard and Julia Moe Fund Grants
- Eligibility for the Peter H. Brink Leadership Fund grants
- Eligibility for other programs as available. Past programs have included Partners in the Field Challenge Grants, the Statewide Advocacy Pilot Program and conference travel grants
- Grants that support peer mentoring

- Special discounts and promotions for Preservation Books
- Information on new programs and resources through the Partners E-Update
- Advance information on Preservation Funds and other grants
- More opportunities for communication with NT senior management
- Participation and influence in NT governance through the Partners seat on the NT Board of Trustees and other NT committees and task forces
- And so much more!

We know that having access to other preservation organizations will make us stronger and more efficient. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with the National Trust and the Statewide and Local Partners!

Article by Kathryn M. Burk-Hise, SPA Executive Coordinator.

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SAVE THE DATE!

The Sixth Annual SPA Gala & Auction Fundraiser

Saturday, April 28th, 5:30 - 11:00 p.m.

Masonic Center downtown

If you would like to help with the planning of this fun event please contact Linda Milsow at 838-9186 or Sophie Dufrasnes at 385-9964.

THE RUSSELL HOUSE

The historic Wakefield & Lucy Russell House is located on West First Avenue, a celebrated and popular street in Browne's Addition. Home to some of Spokane's most powerful "movers and shakers," the houses on West First Avenue were built in the late 1890s and early 1900s, and owned by well-known Spokane pioneers, including Amasa B. Campbell (Campbell House), John Finch (Finch Mansion), W. J. C. Wakefield (Wakefield House), George Odell (Odell House), and Bernhard Loewenburg and E. W. Roberts (Loewenburg/Roberts Mansion).

Epitomizing the huge successes and fantastic fortunes of local lumber and railroad barons, mining moguls, entrepreneurs, bankers and businessmen, Browne's Addition was one of the first "socially correct" suburbs developed in Spokane, and was designated in 1978 as a National Register Historic District. In the late 1880s and early 1900s, wealthy men and women commissioned professional architects, builders, and home designers to erect multi-storied homes in Browne's Addition. The houses were large and elegant, sometimes ostentatious and grandiose, and the grounds were sweeping and well-groomed, symbolizing the homeowner's wealth and social position in the community. At that time, Wakefield & Lucy Russell arrived in Spokane where Wakefield Russell became president of the Washington Loan & Investment Company, a partner in Russell & Parker Manufacturing (planing mill), and a successful mining investor.

In 1900, the Russells erected the Russell House, a large Tudor Revival-style home complete with front-facing gables, false half-timbering, tall multi-paned windows, a covered front porch, and a porte cochere (car port). The interior of the house retains many well-preserved original features, including an original oak front door, oak inglenook under the stairs, mottled ceramic tiles, and honey-colored oak woodwork-floors-mantel-boxed ceiling beams in the reception hall and library, and formal classic-inspired white-painted Corinthian columns, colonettes, and over-mantel in the living room. Unchanged for decades, the Russell House served as the Russell family's residence for over 50 years until Wakefield's death in 1938, and his wife, Lucy Russell's, death in 1951. Remembered as a kindly man, Wakefield Russell played Santa Claus to his family and neighborhood children on First Avenue. With a high degree of architectural integrity, the Russell House was listed on the Spokane Register of Historic Places in 1998. Today, Connie Wilmot is the owner of the property, and invites you to enjoy the tastes, sounds, and fragrances of the Holiday Season in her historic home on December 10.

The Russell House summary and historic register nomination was written by Linda Yeomans, an architectural historian and preservation consultant in Spokane.

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The Russell House. Photo by Linda Yeomans.



SPA HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

SPA has hosted our Annual Holiday Heritage Home Tour the first week of December for many years. Snowy weather on many occasions has made it quite a challenge for tour goers and home owners. Enter a new idea... SPA's 2011 Annual Autumn Historic Home Tour in October!

Sure, the idea of change was scary, but the pros seemed to outweigh the cons... weather, weather, weather! Spokane is so lovely in the fall, and October 9th did us proud! The Logan/Gonzaga neighborhood and its homeowners were also a delight and a shining example of why Spokane's historic preservation community is so special. Homeowners Karen and Doug Byrd, Colleen and Tom Fuchs, Sarah and Dennis Thompson, Joyce McCowen and Chuck Cleveland along with G.U.'s Mac McCandless were so gracious and totally won our hearts! We had four beautiful homes AND were fortunate enough to add the Bing Crosby House, the Bishop White Seminary and Saint



SPA supporters tour an historic home in the Logan neighborhood. Photo by Linda Yeomans.

Aloysius Church all in celebration of Saint Al's 100 Year Anniversary. And did I mention that Bing and Saint Al's got us on KREM 2 News? Pretty snazzy!

The tour and its change to October did experience some difficulty with less than anticipated turnout probably due to the change in date. The tour committee feels confident that with time and awareness the Autumn Historic Home Tour will be a great success. Our SPA spirit, know-how

and dedication will see to that!

Many thanks go out to our wonderful volunteers, homeowners, committee members and G.U. staff. Without you, we couldn't make this tour happen. We are a pretty amazing group, and the future success of our Autumn Historic Home Tour is in great hands - go tour!

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SPA MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Spokane Preservation Advocates is to preserve and enhance the historic character of Spokane and Spokane County through advocacy, education, and preservation.

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◀ A group of Doing-it volunteers pause for a photo, shot by Doug Pennell.