

## And Now It Is Ours...

### Mission

The mission of the Delphi Preservation Society is to support the preservation, protection and restoration of historic structures in the greater Delphi area from the threat of neglect, obsolescence, and the pressures of a modern society.

To achieve this mission, the Delphi Preservation Society will support, encourage, inform, and educate the public as to the architectural significance, history and heritage of the greater Delphi area.

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*The Historic Crosby Hotel*

On February 7, 2011, the Delphi Preservation Society acquired the historic Crosby Hotel located next door the Delphi Opera House building. The two buildings shared history during the era of the Opera House. In October, 1882, theater manager, John Lathrope leased the fourth floor of the then Greenup Building to serve as dressing room and rehearsal space for the Lathrope and Ruffing Opera House.

An opening and ramp connected the Opera House stage to the fourth floor of the building. DPS plans to reconnect the two structures. The historic dressing room will then become a part of tours given of the Opera House. A sample of actor graffiti and playbills from the dressing room can be seen in the photograph to the right. The retail bay of the hotel was a saloon and restaurant for many of its early years. In the early 1940s, Forrest Sprague moved the Federated Stores from the next quarter block to the bays of 109 and 111 S. Washington. The space where the Opera House Gallery is located today was connected through the ground floor wall with the bay next door. The building has been owned in recent decades by John O'Connor who operated a video store on the square for many years. Everything Computer is the current occupant of the historic retail bay at 111 S. Washington Street.



### Two Donations--Two Challenges!

A \$2,000 challenge donation toward the purchase of the hotel building is on the table! Donations matching that amount must be received within the year; \$250 has been received to date. A second challenge has been received for \$2,500 toward the restoration of the Opera House!

If you would like to contribute toward either challenge, or make a challenge of your own, please contact Anita Werling at 765-202-3211 or email [awerling@delhipreservationsociety.org](mailto:awerling@delhipreservationsociety.org).

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# Recent Goings-on with your Southwestern Art Is The February Gallery Theme

Vast landscapes, rugged rock formations, and ruins of past civilizations are among the Southwestern themes found in the paintings, photographs, and drawings by artists Terry Lacy, Alan McConnell, and Don Nelson. One of the purposes of the Opera House Art Gallery is to showcase resident artists celebrating cultural and architectural heritage. Their works of discovery will be displayed during the month of February in the Opera House Gallery of contemporary Art.

The artists held a reception in the Gallery on Saturday, February 19 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at which more than a hundred visitors enjoyed seeing slides from the artists' adventures in the southwest and sampling southwestern-themed refreshments.



## “Honey, who are all of these strange people staring at our house?”

If you hear this from your spouse who is watching a group in front of your house taking notes and pictures, DO NOT WORRY!!! This group is the DPS Education Committee, made up of DPS members and Delphi High School teachers and students. The current project is to inventory local historic homes and prepare “Information Boards” for them. These boards will likely contain construction date, architectural style, original owners, and other notable residents. DPS is currently working on some prototypes and the first boards will hopefully show up this summer. The long term goal is to include homes along the Delphi Downtown Trails along with the addition of neighborhoods on the South Hill. If you are interested in having your home included in the Education Board project or if you have historic information on your home, please contact DPS.

## The Sights Of Rena Brouwer. . .



Guests attend a Sunday brunch catered by Custom Select Meat and Produce prior to the performance of Joe Peters and Rena Brouwer. Indiana artisan Rena Brouwer and Lafayette singer-songwriter team up with videographer Kyler Laird for a sight and sound experience.



# Delphi Preservation Society

## The Opera House Gets A New Roof



The Opera House has a new roof! Work was completed in early February on the reroofing project funded in part through a Historic Preservation Fund grant from the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior and administered through the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The next step is to complete the removal of the unstable plaster and lath ceiling in the Opera House. If you want to lend a hand, join us for our work sessions on the fourth Saturday of the month.

### Tea & Fashion...

The Opera House Gallery and The Grapevine Boutique of Flora teamed up to present "High Tea & High Fashion" on September 25, 2010 to benefit the Opera House Restoration. Susie Dyke, owner of the boutique, described the fashions modeled by Faye Underhill, Kelly Curry, Lindy Hylton, Jane Miller, and Julia Ellis-Bartos.



### ...And The Sounds of Joe Peters

As Joe Peters performed his music, Rena Brouwer's watercolor emerged on the page as the audience followed every stroke captured by Kyler Laird's video camera and projected onto a large screen at the front of the room. The completed watercolor, a beautiful snowscape, was auctioned off. Lynda Grieg made the successful bid. The artists donated their time and talents for the event benefitting the Opera House restoration project. Pictured at right are Laird, Peters, Brouwer, and Grieg.



# From The President's Desk. . .

## “You Ain’t Seen Nothin’ Yet!”

Each of us has probably heard or uttered this saying at sometime in our life, usually just before something bigger and better came to pass. This may become the new motto at the Delphi Preservation Society. Think back five short years ago. DPS owned two-thirds of the “City Hall” building. The third floor of City Hall held the Delphi Opera House, but it was so full of trash one could not see the stage from the entrance, the roof leaked, and the windows were covered with plywood.

Now, five years later, DPS owns the entire City Hall Building (all three parts), the Opera House has been cleaned out, a new roof has just been installed, the windows and front façade have all been repaired, restored, and painted. On the ground floor, we have opened the Opera House Gallery of Contemporary Art and we have attracted two new businesses to the other two retail spots. Just a few weeks ago, DPS purchased the historic Crosby Hotel next door to the Opera House Gallery.

What will we be doing next, you may ask? May is National Historic Preservation Month, and DPS will kick off our capital campaign for the Opera House restoration. Our goal: in five more years? Everything will be completed—an Opera House open for community use, a newly restored Crosby Hotel with retail space, restored connection to the backstage of the Opera House, and the second and third floors restored to a small hotel or a bed and breakfast.

Let’s keep the momentum going!

*Greg Norman*, President

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Volunteer Recognition Day**

*Sunday, March 6, 2:00p.m.*

Opera House Gallery

#### **Beyond My Garden Gate Tearoom**

*Friday, April 1—Grand Opening!*

107 S. Washington Street, Delphi

#### **An Evening for the Opera House 2d Annual Rotary Gala**

*Friday, May 6, 7:00-10:00 p.m.*

Opera House Gallery

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*Friday, May 6, 7:00-10:00 p.m.*

Opera House Gallery

#### **Celebrate the Arts 2011**

*Saturday, May 7, 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.*

Juried art show around the Courthouse Square and in the Rotunda  
Sponsored by the Carroll County Arts Council.

#### **Marie Litta Commemorative Recital**

*Sunday, May 15, 3:00 p.m.*

Duncan Hall, Lafayette.

Special recital with Morgan Harrington, soprano, commemorating the Grand Opening of the Delphi Opera House and signaling the launch of the capital campaign for the Opera House Restoration.

#### **Volunteer Workdays ...**

*Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to noon.*

Now working every Saturday as we complete the removal of the ceiling in the Opera House and begin cleaning out the hotel building. Sign in at the Opera House Gallery.

**2011 ISSUE 1**  
**THE DELPHI COLUMNS...**

Delphi Preservation Society, Inc.  
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## Become a Member...

You don't have to live in Delphi, or own a historic home to become a member of the Delphi Preservation Society. All you need is an interest in historic preservation and the architectural and cultural heritage of the greater Delphi area.

### *Benefits of Membership...*

- Informative and educational meetings throughout the year.
- Quarterly newsletter *The Delphi Columns*.
- Special events, including a program at Carroll County Old Settlers Celebration and Architectural Tours.
- Association with others interested in historic preservation.
- Access to historic preservation professionals and tradespersons.
- Members First event notification.
- Member discount on selected items in the Delphi Preservation Society Gift Shop located in the Opera House Gallery of Contemporary Art at 109 S. Washington Street, Delphi.

## Become a Sponsor...

### Annual Membership Categories

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (Under 18)  | \$ 10  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual  | \$ 20  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family  | \$ 35  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business<br>Includes business-card size ad in <i>Delphi Columns</i> | \$ 50  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate<br>Includes above plus listing on DPS web site            | \$ 100 |

### Facade Sponsorship Opportunities

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Windows—Opera House Level (2 remaining) | \$1,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> End Corbels (2 remaining)               | \$1,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Corbels (25 remaining)            | \$ 300  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glass Tile Transom at 105 S. Washington | \$4,000 |

### Other Donation

- Other... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Method of Payment

- Check (Payable to Delphi Preservation Society, Inc.)
- Bill me in 4 quarterly installments (\$100 min. please)

May we recognize your donation in our publications?  Yes  No

Signature for pledges \_\_\_\_\_

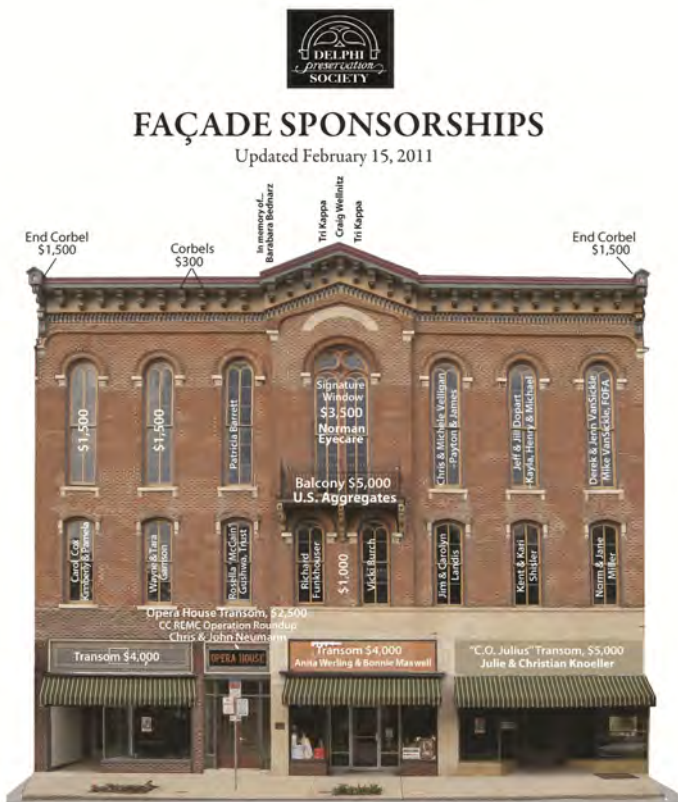
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### *Become a facade sponsor...*

Sponsor a window, corbel, or transom on the facade of the Assion-Ruffing City Hall building. Your donation will support the restoration of the building and Opera House as a performing arts center. Sponsors will be recognized on a permanent plaque in the lobby of the restored Opera House. The facade restoration has been funded in part by a grant from the Historic Preservation Fund of the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service administered through the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Other contributing grants have been provided by the Effroymsen Fund, a CICF Fund; the Carroll County Community Foundation; the City of Delphi through its Facade Improvement Program administered by Delphi Main Street; and the corporate and individual donors listed in the above sponsorships.



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