

OHA reopens next week

Gala planned to mark completion of renovation and restoration project.

The following was submitted by Lynne Pascale, of the Onondaga Historical Association.

Onondaga Historical Association will have its grand reopening of its historic 1906 building this month, first with a gala and then with regular hours.

The gala reopening will be from 3:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday and the OHA museum and headquarters open for regular hours the following day. The OHA is at 321 Montgomery St., just off Columbus Circle, Syracuse.

The grand re-opening celebrates the completion of a major renovation and restoration project; an exciting step in the OHA's continuing mission to serve Central New York.

In addition to a facade restoration, and infrastructure improvements, the interior of the building has been renovated with a redesign of Onondaga County's only general comprehensive history museum. A ribbon-cutting ceremony kicks things off at 3:30 p.m. in front of the OHA. Those scheduled to be on hand include state Assemblyman William Magnarelli, state Sen. John DeFrancisco, Onondaga County Executive Joanie Mahoney and Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner, along with the organizations, foundations and individuals that provided funding and support for the project.

After the ribbon-cutting, the large, restored street-level windows will be unveiled for the first time, after being hidden for many decades. At 4 p.m., the doors will be opened and the gala, entitled "Windows into the Past," will begin. The cost for the gala is \$45 per person (\$40 for OHA members) and includes entertainment, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, wine and beverages (catering by



David Lassman / The Post-Standard, 2010

LOCAL HISTORICAL treasures — such as these items from Onondaga Pottery Co., which became the world-famous Syracuse China — will be back on exhibit starting July 14 at the renovated Onondaga Historical Association Museum.

Parisa Restaurant). For information or reservations, contact Karen Cooney, at 428-1864, ext. 312.

The evening will include the opening of Syracuse's newest retail store, the OHA Museum Gift Gallery, which features exclusive, unique gifts, jewelry and stationery inspired by OHA's Museum collections, rare Syracuse China items that are excess to the museum collection, antiques, custom clothing accessories and exciting, one-of-a-kind crafts by local artisans, as well as toys, puzzles and T-shirts that highlight the area's great brewing history. The Gift Gallery also is the only bookstore in downtown Syracuse and will emphasize local authors and history-related books.

Almost the entire first floor of the museum has been redesigned so guests will view for the first time the new permanent exhibit on the history of Onondaga County. This "Heart of New York" exhibit covers everything from our Native American beginnings to the development of agriculture, business and industry, transportation, immigration, social reform, communities and neighborhoods, recreation, entertainment, architecture,

clothing, and more. Gathered from the vast OHA collections, containing more than 1 million items will be artifacts that have never before been on display.

Guests also will see that two new changing exhibit galleries have been added to the museum, which will debut with the premiere of two new temporary exhibits. "Our Sporting Life: the Heroes, the Highlights, the History" will showcase our community's great sports history from baseball, to basketball, to football, hockey, lacrosse, bowling and more. The exhibit will feature a new film on the greatest moments in local sports.

Those attending also can examine "Shadows of the Storm: The Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War," which includes a Confederate flag captured by local soldiers at the fall of Savannah, an original Zouave uniform and many other original relics from the war that is marking its sesquicentennial.