

Thanks, OHA, for sharing Hotel Syracuse memories

To the Editor:

Over the past five months, the Onondaga Historical Association has displayed a special exhibit featuring images and artifacts from the former Hotel Syracuse.

Historic images came from the photographic files in the OHA's permanent collection ranging from a 1923 view of construction to the 1948 interior of the famous Rainbow Lounge, along with historic scenes of the Cavalier Room, the Persian Terrace and other locations. The exhibit also featured more recent images taken this past year by professional photographer Bruce Harvey that reveal the hotel's "irreplaceable majesty," as OHA described it.

The exhibit was free and open to the public, and we were humbled to see it extended due to the interest it garnered. It was made possible through the sponsorship of Holmes, King, Kallquist Architects; the Klepper, Hahn & Hyatt engineering firm; Hayner Hoyt Corp.; and IPD Engineering, all of Central New York, and MLG Architects of New York City.

The exhibit closed Oct. 25, but the artifacts are not gone from the public's view. Through an ongoing partnership between the hotel and the OHA, all of the room art will be provided by OHA, including prints of historic local photography and artwork from their collection. We will have OHA's art in our lobby, conference room and other areas throughout the hotel. OHA will also be assisting in our museum room and selling hotel- and city-related items in our gift shop.

All of us involved in the project/renovation are deeply appreciative of the formal collections and displays of memories, such as the exhibit at OHA as well as the stories, photos, artifacts and other memories that the community has shared with us through the HotelSyracuseRestoration.com website.

The OHA has been a tremendously valued partner from the beginning of this historic hotel redevelopment. The association has helped to re-create many components of the original hotel ambiance and experience and will continue to be a close partner as part of the hotel's new life. For that, we are enthusiastic and thankful.

This project and this community are close to my heart. I'm looking forward to giving the OHA another century of new memories to share with future generations.

ED RILEY

*Marriott Syracuse Downtown
(Former Hotel Syracuse)*
