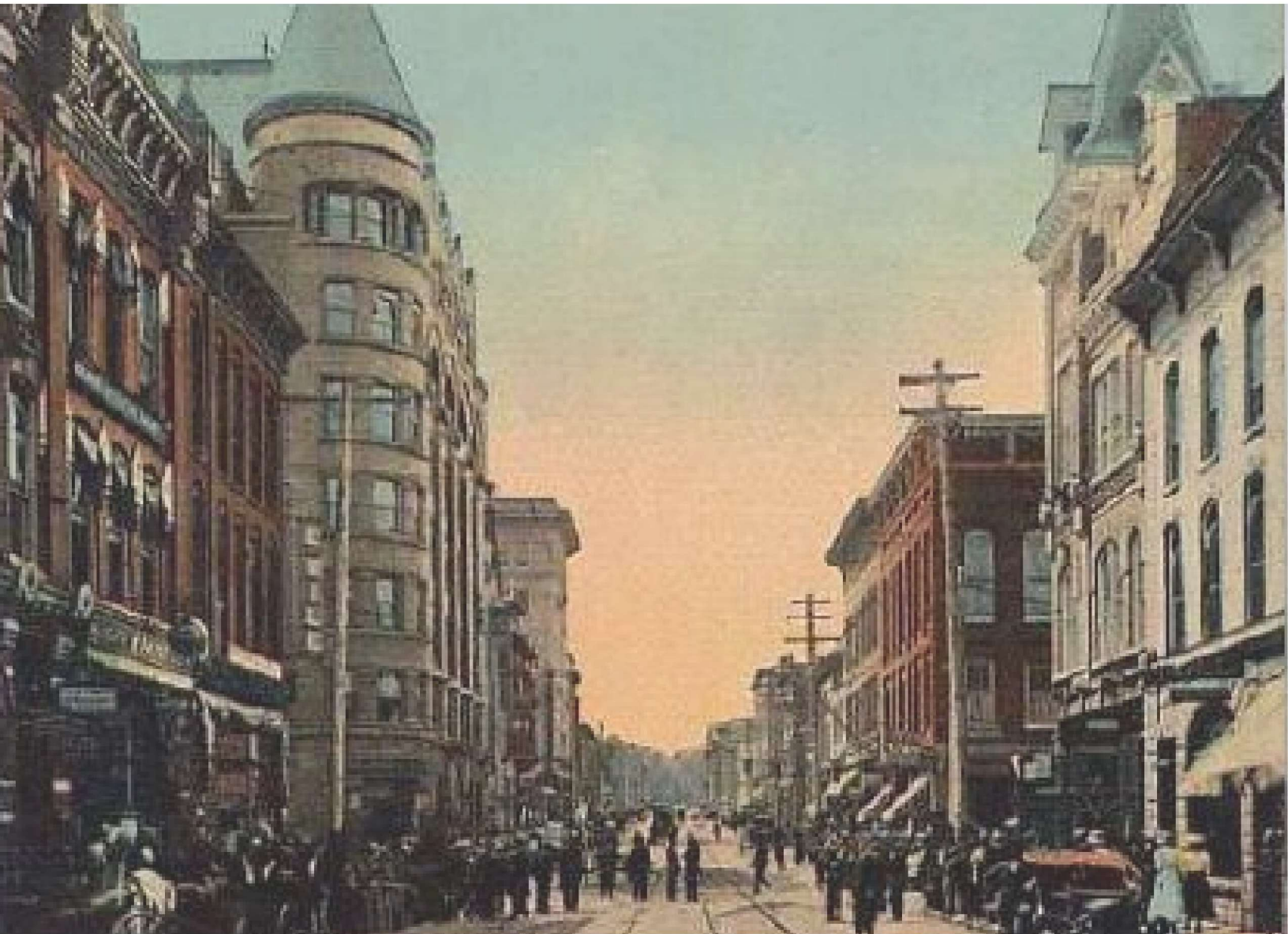


WINTER 2021

FOCUS ON

# PRESERVATION



**ROANOKE VALLEY PRESERVATION FOUNDATION**

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*Please send RVPF Newsletter submissions to  
Whitney Leeson, [wleeson@roanoke.edu](mailto:wleeson@roanoke.edu).*



Photo Credit: Whitney Leeson

## End-of-Year Giving

RVPF is a Wise Steward of **Financial Resources** as well as **Historic, Natural, and Cultural Resources**

**As the end of the year draws near, your help is needed to support the work of the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation:**

- **PROTECT** the sites that helped shape our community
- **PROMOTE** the preservation of the historic, natural, and cultural resources of the Roanoke Valley and surrounding areas
- **PROSPER** economically as our historic assets are preserved for future generations while meeting the needs of the current generation

YOU can help preserve our history for the future TODAY with a donation to the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation. Every dollar helps!

**Donate online using paypal at:  
[roanokepreservation.org](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https://roanokepreservation.org)**

*"There may have been a time when preservation was about saving an old building here and there, but those days are gone. Preservation is in the business of saving communities and the values they embody.."*

Richard Moe

Led the National Trust for Historic Preservation from 1993-2009



# RVPF Turns Out in Support of The PreServe Luncheon

## Preserving History. Serving Community

RVPF sponsored a table at Restoration Housing's PreServe Luncheon. We gathered to enjoy welcome mocktails, a delicious meal, and great conversation before hearing nationally recognized urban and digital historian, LaDale Winling, speak on the origin of national redlining policies and their impact on communities of color in cities such as Roanoke. Winling is a Virginia Tech professor whose research explores urban and political history in the United States, especially how space, architecture, and geography shape politics, economic life, and daily experience. Lunch was held outside on the veranda at Sunnybrook on Plantation Road.



Photo Credits: Whitney Leeson and Virginia Tech

## Looking for a Holiday Film?

Watch *Christmas Tree Lane*. It's preservation-themed.

Meg is a second-generation proprietor of a music store who takes up preservation when she and her neighbors receive eviction notices to make way for a new office complex in *Christmas Tree Lane* (Hallmark Movies + Mysteries). Newly returned Denverite Nate falls for Meg and her cause, but they're both in for a surprise when they find out who is behind the project. This movie demonstrates a pretty solid grassroots preservation campaign and name drops a bunch of successful preservation projects in Denver, so the writers clearly did their homework. And if you know the Four Point Approach from Main Street America, you may figure out part of the resolution in advance.

Sarah Heffern, National Trust for Historic Preservation

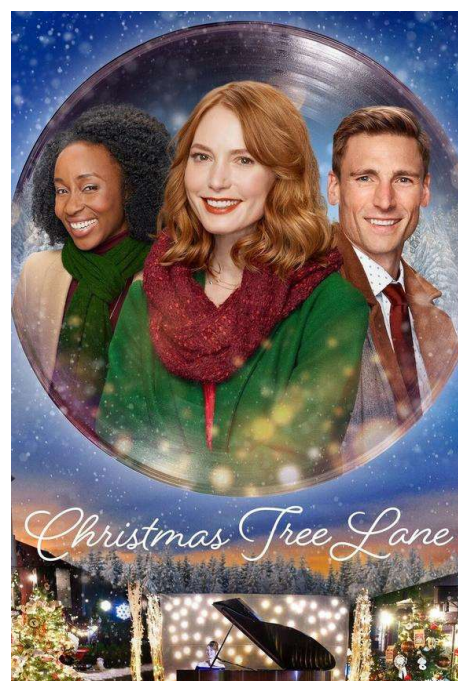


Photo Credit: IMDb.com

# Fire Station No. 7



## *RVPF Unveils New Interpretive Marker for Fire Station No. 7*

Alison Blanton and Anne Beckett were two of the key-note speakers at the grand opening of the fire station on February 24, a warm and sunny day. Starting with the mayor's opening remarks, the historical significance of the original 1922 fire station was the predominate theme of the event. The new fire station emulates the old station in its material, shape, and design, just on a broader, bolder scale. As promised, many historical elements from the original 1922 fire station were re-used in the new station, such as some brick walls, and wood that was made into tables and sliding doors, and into picture frames that enclosed historical photos of the fire station. Much thought was given to its design, site, and layout, and this resulting state-of-the-art facility should make all Roanokers feel safe and proud.

And in case you were wondering, yes, the dog is back!



Anne Beckett

Photo Credit: Whitney Leeson

# Historic Gainsboro Walking Tour

## Learning about "Roanoke's Black Wall Street" with Jordan Bell

On October 23, 2021 Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation cosponsored with Roanoke Public Libraries a walking tour through the historic Gainsboro Neighborhood with local historian Jordan Bell. During the tour, Jordan led a group of 23 participants to sites including the Gainsboro Library, the Claytor Memorial Clinic, the Oliver Hill House, Historic Henry Street and the Wells Avenue History Panels. The tour also included a stop at the new Hunton Life Saving and First Aid Crew marker on Wells Avenue. The volunteer squad, believed to be the first all African-American volunteer rescue squad in the United States, was established in 1941 and responded to medical emergencies for more than 40 years.

The Gainsboro Neighborhood origins date back to 1835, however by the early 1900s Gainsboro was the center of Black culture and business in Roanoke. While Gainsboro still retains historic homes and sites, a large portion of the community was effected by urban renewal programs that led to the loss of neighborhood housing, businesses and churches. Today, residents and community members are actively working towards continual efforts to preserve this community's vibrant history.

Megan Mizak



Photo Credit: Whitney Leeson



Photo Credit: Lynsey Crantz-Allie

## RVPF Volunteers at Restoration Housing's Community Partnership Day

### Landscaping Restoration Housing's Fifth Project at 820 Dale Avenue

At 820 Dale Avenue in Southeast Roanoke stands Restoration Housing's latest project. The house was built in 1899 and was the first residence built in the Belmont area of Southeast Roanoke. When Restoration Housing took ownership of the property about two years ago, long-term vacancy coupled with an unattended roof leak lead to the near-total collapse of the first and second story floors. Along with many other needed repairs that Restoration Housing has taken on, the house is now ready for a new family. Each year, as interior renovations come to a close, Restoration Housing hosts a Community Partnership Day. This day is an opportunity for volunteers to come and help with tasks mainly associated with outdoor clean-up and landscaping on the property.

Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation participates each year in Restoration Housing's volunteer day. On October 23, 2021, Bob Clement and Lynsey Crantz-Allie were stationed in the front and back yard, respectively. The fencing in the back yard was covered in vines and locust trees that had grown into the chain-link that I helped to clear. Lynsey also worked to rake up and dump debris that remained in the yard. Bob got to put gravel along the walkway that leads from the front yard to the back. He also helped lay down sod throughout the front yard.

Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation relishes every opportunity we get to partner with organizations that are working to better our community along with preserving the important history of Roanoke!

Lynsey Crantz-Allie

# Preston Place



Photo Credit: Mike Stevens

## *RVPF Unveils New Interpretive Marker for Preston Place*

Preston Place, the oldest home in Salem, is now the home to one of Salem’s newest businesses, GLOW Healing Arts. Previously known as West Salem Holistic Healing Center, GLOW Healing Arts offers one on-one healing services such as therapeutic massage, reflexology, Reiki, yoga, sound healing, spiritual counseling, and natural pain relief solutions. A ribbon-cutting to officially open the healing center took place on Friday, December 3 at noon. To celebrate the historic significance of the property, the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation dedicated its new Historic Site Interpretive Marker describing Preston Place. The marker, unveiled by Bob Clement and Whitney Leeson, is located on the front lawn adjacent to the parking area. Preston Place was built in 1821 reusing materials from an even older cabin on the site. The Preston Family purchased the property in 1879, giving the home its name. The last Preston descendant to live in the house was Dr. Esther Clark Brown, one of the first female physicians in the Roanoke Valley. In 2014, her heirs donated the house to the Salem Museum & Historical Society, which conducted extensive renovations.

Whitney Leeson



# Walking Tour Brochure



Photo Credit: Whitney Leeson

## *Updating a Classic*

RVPF produced a printed walking tour brochure decades ago featuring historic buildings downtown. Throughout the years, the brochure was updated and reprinted, and a lot has changed since the last revision: Renovations happened, building uses changed, and we need to be more sensitive to everyone's history. Buildings that were still new in the 1980's weren't on the original tour, but some are now historic and significant.

A special projects committee comprised of Alison Blanton, Whitney Feldmann, Whitney Leeson, and Rachel Ruhlen was tasked with updating the brochure. AAF Roanoke CreateAthon assisted with the design and production of the updated brochure.

The new brochure features three routes: Commerce Walk, Community Walk, and N&W Railway Walk. The committee revised the introduction, added significant buildings, updated renovation dates and new uses, and incorporated additional Black history into these routes.

The brochure is headed to Valley Printers after the New Year and will be available to the public at Virginia's Blue Ridge Visitor Information Center by spring. A printed brochure may soon be obsolete, so RVPF is creating digital interactive versions in partnership with RIDE Solutions, a program of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission.

Rachel Ruhlen

# RVPF 2021 Kegley Preservation Awards

For over 20 years, the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation has recognized organizations and individuals who help protect our region's natural, cultural and historic resources. This year was no exception. On Sunday afternoon, November 14, Whitney Feldmann and Judy Harrison handed out awards to eight notable people and projects at RVPF's annual meeting held in the Mill Mountain Discovery Center in recognition of one of the awardees--the recently adopted Mill Mountain Trails Plan. Alison Blanton and Whitney Feldmann co-chair the Awards Committee, which also includes Rob Logan, George Kegley, Judy Harrison, Anne Beckett, Joey Moldenhauer, and Molly Meredith.

## Kegley Preservation Award for Heritage Education & Advocacy

Joe Cobb, Honoring Their Breaths Project

As part of his doctoral program, Joe Cobb chose a topic for his dissertation relating to three or more cemeteries in the Roanoke area that were disrupted in the sixties and seventies to make way for such projects as the Roanoke Civic Center (Berglund Center) and Virginia Western Community College.

Many graves were individually moved to a city-owned cemetery at Coyner Springs. But the individual graves were never marked. In fact, the names of the descendants were often not known. Joe is developing a community-based effort to document the gravesites, to eventually include a virtual map of the gravesites that can be updated by its viewers... friends and families of the descendants. He also plans to write and publish a book on this very worthwhile project.



Rob Logan



Photo Credits: Joe Cobb, Bob Clement, and AAUW Roanoke Valley

## HONORING THEIR BREATHS

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A historical presentation by  
Joe Cobb

This presentation will highlight the  
history of Old Lick, City Farm, and Coyner  
Springs during urban renewal.

**FREE TO ALL. ALL ARE WELCOME**  
HOSTED BY AAUW ROANOKE VALLEY  
(AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23 10AM-12PM  
AT THE SALEM MUSEUM  
801 E MAIN ST. SALEM, VA 24153  
MASK MUST BE WORN IN THE MUSEUM

## Kegley Preservation Award for Neighborhood Preservation

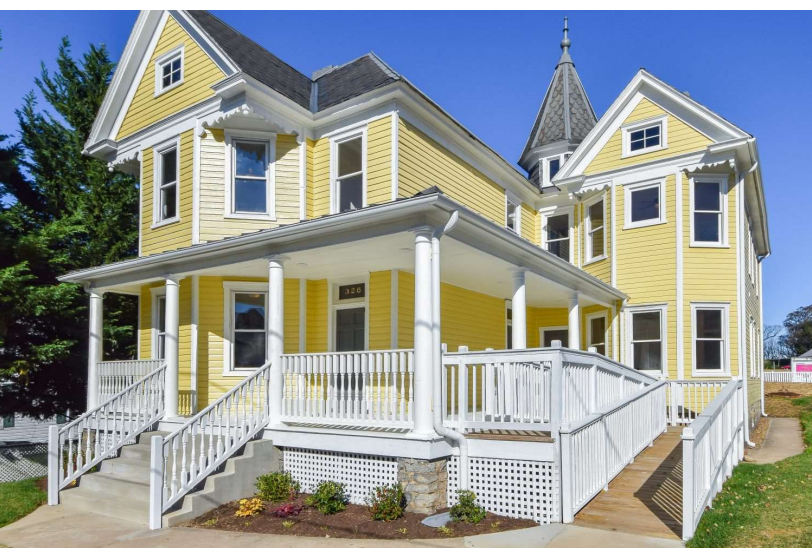
Isabel Thornton, Restoration Housing, LLC



Isabel Thornton created Restoration Housing in 2014 because of her passion for historic preservation and affordable housing. The mission of Restoration Housing is to develop affordable rental properties for the social benefit of low-income communities through the preservation of historic architectural resources. Restoration Housing believes that all people, regardless of circumstance, deserve to live in strong, healthy communities and dignified housing. In 2019 Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation and Preservation Virginia recognized Restoration Housing with awards for their renovation of the ca. 1820 Villa Heights located in NW Roanoke to provide affordable office space to local nonprofits. Since then, they have continued with other projects that define their passion for historic preservation and affordable housing.



Restoration Housing's year-long Architectural Minutes series produced 12 different videos focusing on the organizations' preservation projects that included the history of each neighborhood to help promote an appreciation for the community. Their on-going Affordable Housing Development Projects utilizes historic tax credits to renovate formerly vacant historic houses to provide affordable housing units while preserving the home's historic character. Three houses on Day and Patterson Avenues in SW and Dale Avenue in SE have been completed to date and two more vacant houses in SE's Belmont neighborhood await a new life.



Finally, their Community Impact Development projects, including the annual fund-raising event—Preserve Campaign and Community Volunteer Day, demonstrate how we can all be part of the solution to build stronger, healthier communities with dignified housing. This year's Pre-Serve Campaign focused on the hashtag ##StrengthInNeighbors with a 12-part video series featuring families, neighbors, and communities who have benefitted from their Restoration Housing programs.

Anne Beckett

Photo Credit: Restoration Housing

## Kegley Preservation Award for Historic Restoration

### St. Andrew's Catholic Church

St. Andrew's Catholic Church stands high on a hill as an iconic landmark overlooking downtown Roanoke. The church, built in 1902 to serve the first Catholic congregation in the new city, is a fine example of ecclesiastical Gothic Revival architecture. The tall twin steeples that flank the front of the church have endured as prominent features of the Roanoke skyline for over a century and the impressive sanctuary has housed worshippers from many ethnic backgrounds dating back to Roanoke's origin as an industrial railroad center.

In 2014, the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation recognized St. Andrew's Catholic Church with an award for reconstruction of the iconic steeples in a \$2.5 million project. The church continued their efforts to preserve this important landmark for the next generation by replacing the slate roof with its copper detailing, repairing the exterior masonry walls, and restoring the interior of the sanctuary with its decorative paintings and marble flooring. As a historic tax credit project, all work meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The more than \$4.8 million of work associated with Phases 2 and 3 bring the total project cost to more than \$7 million and represents a huge investment by the parish as its members recognize their responsibility to be good stewards of this iconic local landmark.

Alison Blanton

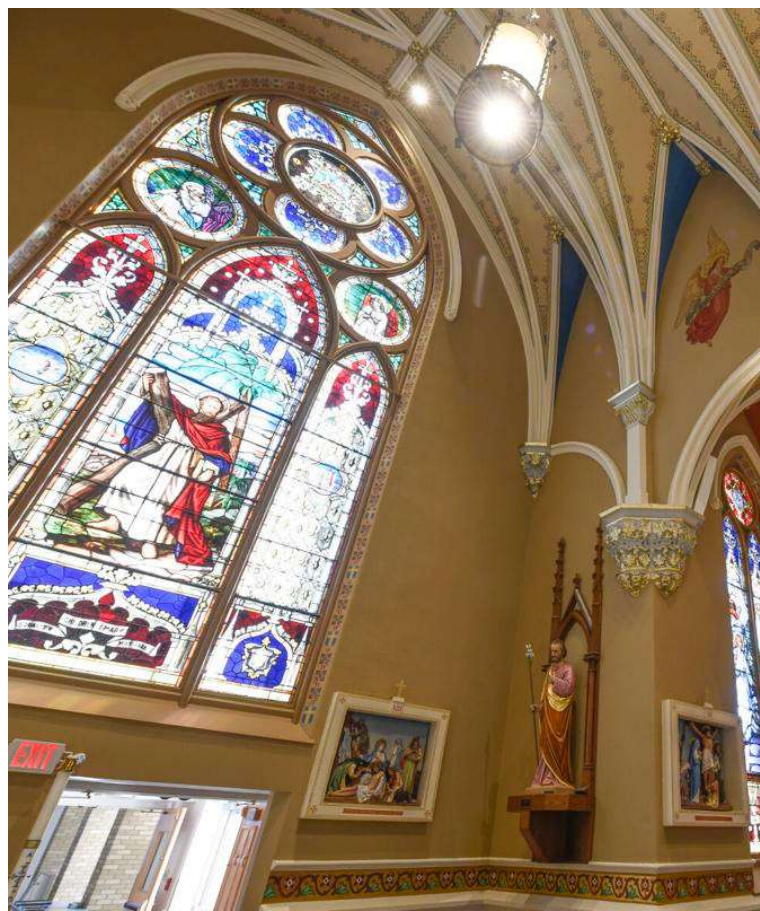


Photo Credits: WDBJ-7 and Roanoke Times

## Kegley Preservation Award for Lifetime Achievement in Heritage Education

Margaret and Alice Roberts

Margaret Roberts and her sister, the late Alice Roberts, have been the pillars of Roanoke's Gainsboro community and leading advocates in many historical heritage projects over the years. They have made a tremendous impact on the cultural awareness and preservation of Roanoke's history.

Major projects they have worked on include: Gainsboro History Wall interpretive panels on Wells Avenue Plaza; Burrell Memorial Hospital interior interpretive panels; Restoration and reuse of the Oliver White Hill Home at 401 Gilmer Avenue; Contributions to National Register Historic District nominations —Gainsboro Historic District, Burrell Memorial Hospital, and Henry Street Historic District; Contributions to Historic Virginia highway markers for Oscar Micheaux and the Oliver White Hill Home; and contributions to the Henry Street interpretive panels at Roanoke Higher Education Center. Their persistent advocacy and involvement ensured that the history of Gainsboro and the African American community of Roanoke would be accurately interpreted in these projects and inform the direction for both public and private investments in the Gainsboro community.

For most of a century, the Roberts lived in their home on Gilmer Avenue built in 1905 and purchased ca. 1915 by their father, Dr. J. H. Roberts, a co-founder of Burrell Memorial Hospital. They both have been involved in the Historical Society of Western Virginia, the Harrison Museum of African American History, and the Oliver White Hill Foundation.

George Kegley and Evie Slone

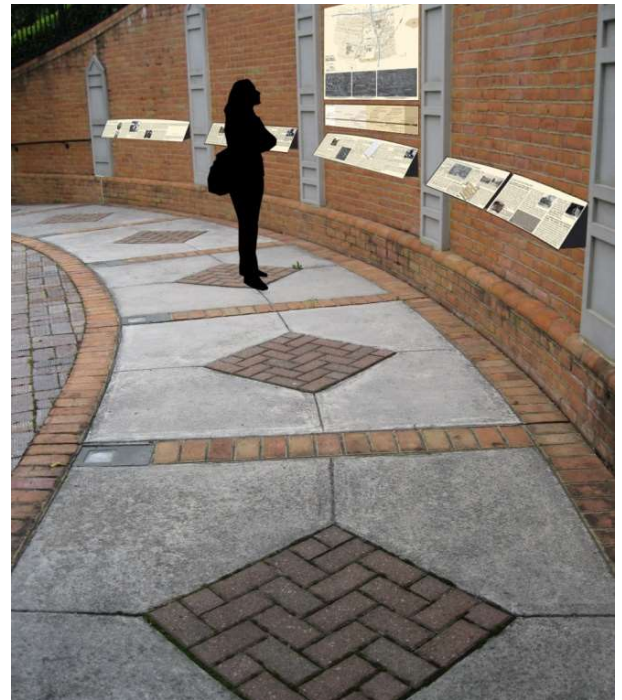


Photo Credits: Hill Studio and Whitney Leeson

## Kegley Preservation Award for Environmental Stewardship

Renee Powers, Mill Mountain Trails Plan

Renee Powers, Trails & Greenway Coordinator for Roanoke City Department of Parks and Recreation, is credited with successfully completing and adopting the Mill Mountain Trails Plan Amendment, which is an amendment to the 2005 Mill Mountain Trails Plan. The Roanoke City Parks & Recreation Department completed the 2005 recommendations and needed to create a plan to meet today's needs. According to the Amendment summary, sound conservation and stewardship are essential elements in Roanoke's philosophy regarding access to its natural landscapes, as evidenced in the conservation easement on Mill Mountain Park and reiterated in this Amendment to the Trails Plan. The 137-page Mill Mountain Trails Plan Amendment was approved unanimously by City Council on May 17, 2021. Michael Clark, Director of Roanoke City Parks and Recreation, credits Renee Powers, Trails and Greenways Coordinator, as deserving individual recognition for the award. She worked tirelessly to research and implement this plan. In her own words, "It is exciting to complete this process and start on a new chapter on Mill Mountain focusing on neighborhood connections to the park and improving loops for all trail users." On National Public Lands Day on Sept. 18, 2021, supervised volunteers began work on implementing improved Mill Mountain trail access to the Garden City neighborhood.

Whitney Feldmann

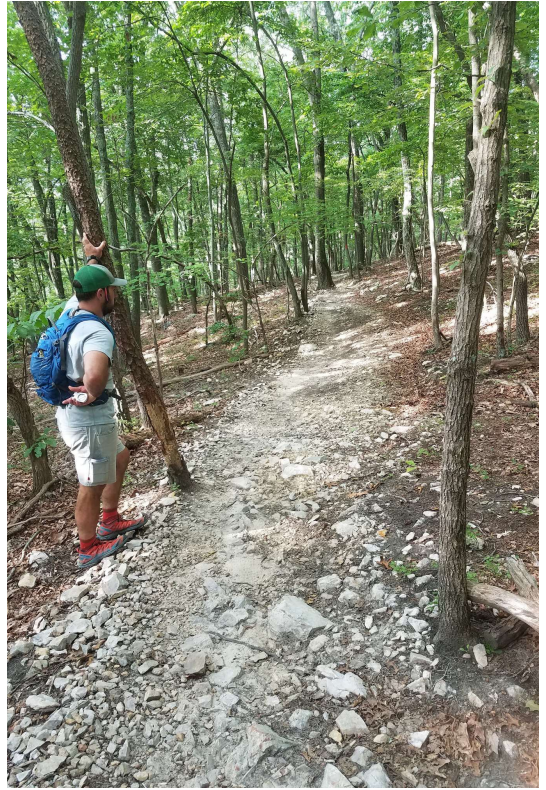


Photo Credit: Roanoke City Parks and Recreation



## Evelyn Bethel Award for Heritage Education

Jordan Bell, Gainsboro History Tours



Jordan Bell is a historian and community activist. He takes pride in his involvement with organizations that support the Gainsboro Neighborhood. Jordan gives his Gainsboro Revisited walking tours throughout the year honoring the rich history of the Gainsboro Neighborhood. On these tours he shares with participants the triumphs of Gainsboro's residents along with the destruction inflicted on the neighborhood through federal urban renewal policies. One of Jordan's most successful tours took place on Juneteenth in 2020 which had over 100 participants.

In addition to serving on the Board of Trustee for the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation, Jordan is a member of several organizations including Gainsborough Southwest Community Organization, Points of Diversity, and the Dumas Legacy Foundation. Jordan has also written numerous articles for Colors Magazine regarding the history of Roanoke's African American community, and he has a passion for collecting the written and oral histories of elders within the Gainsboro community. In his free time, Jordan is working on a documentary and book regarding the history of Gainsboro, in addition to restoring the Barlow House located on Gilmer Avenue. Jordan is an educator with Roanoke City Schools and is the summer camp director for Apple Ridge Farms.

Judy Harrison and Megan Mizak



Photo Credits: Megan Mizak and Whitney Leeson

## Kegley Preservation Award for Historic Preservation

George Kegley, Historic Monterey Smokehouse



Photo credits: George Kegley and Lynsey Crantz Allie

George A. Kegley, for whom these awards are named, continues his lifetime commitment to preserving the Roanoke Valley's built landscape in his latest preservation project—the Monterey Smokehouse. Over many decades, the Smokehouse at Monterey had fallen into serious disrepair. Years of ground erosion and swell caused the failure of the original stone foundation, which in combination with the loss of material integrity due to water damage from a leaking roof left the smokehouse structure in a precarious state of decay from the ground up.

The restoration of the smokehouse at Monterey was a preservation project to save both the structure of the smokehouse and a smaller attached structure believed to have been a chicken coop, with a façade that dated back to at least the 1880's. Care was taken in the disassembly of the smokehouse and coop to save and retain as much original material as possible while returning the structures to their original dimensions. After recreating more appropriate footers and rebuilding its foundation using the original stone, Southwest Restoration filled in the timber framing's material voids using local, similarly dressed timbers, mainly pine and cedar posts, as well as poplar roof sheathing and cedar siding.

For historic integrity, the original rotten wood members were spliced together with scarf joints to recreate the correct and "original" ceiling joists where possible. A storage building of similar age and composition was also dismantled from a nearby farm and its boards were repurposed to match the lost cladding on the coop. The smokehouse construction matches the original in design, including the use of hand-made mortising and tenons, and the reassembly of complex units like the hip joints of the roof. The entrance was amended in height by 6" for clearance of the owner's tractor. The eyelash roof that had failed was recreated. Though it has been refreshed with new cedar, much of the historic details remain like the original meat hooks installed on the joists, and the original coop door.

Whitney Leeson and Ariel Clark



## Kegley Preservation Award for Heritage Education & Stewardship

Michael C. Maxey



Photo Credit: Roanoke College

As the 11th President of Roanoke College, Michael C. Maxey spearheaded the renovation and restoration of multiple historic properties on campus, supported the creation of a Public History Program at Roanoke College, and welcomed the Western Regional Office of the Department of Historic Resources to Elizabeth Campus in 2010. Notable preservation projects include the former Farmers National Bank building on Main Street, home to Roanoke's History Department and Public History Program; Clay Street House, a mid-19th century, two-room structure known as one of the oldest homes in Salem; Lucas Hall, the college's first LEED-certified building; Monterey, a large, Greek-Revival style house built in 1853 turned college guest house; and a former slave quarters behind Monterey that now houses the college's Center for Studying Structures of Race founded in 2020. The center, which serves as a venue for teaching, research, and community engagement about issues of race and forms of institutional racism at local, national, and international levels, is an outgrowth of President Maxey's forward-thinking commitment to investigating the historical relationship between institutions of higher learning and slavery.

In 2014, Roanoke College partnered with other colleges and universities to fund the Universities Studying Slavery (USS) consortium, hosted a site visit during a USS conference in 2018, and in 2021 unveiled two bronze plaques on the Administration Building to honor the lives of the enslaved skilled laborers who directly built the College, or who generated wealth invested in the College.

As a result of these endeavors, the Council of Independent Colleges named Roanoke College as an Institutional Affiliate in a multiyear project called "Legacies of American Slavery: Reckoning with the Past" funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. President Maxey recently announced Roanoke College's community-centered plan to construct a campus monument to honor enslaved persons. It will be the sixth in the nation erected on a college campus.

President Maxey's decades-long commitment to heritage education in the greater Roanoke Valley also includes his service as a multi-term board member and past president of the Salem Museum and Historical Society.

Whitney Leeson

# 2022 RVPF Board of Trustees

## *People Committed to Preservation*

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Term of Office: January 2020-December 2022

Bob Clement -- Vice-President  
Term of Office January 2020-December 2022

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Anne Stuart Beckett -- Secretary  
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Term of Office: January 2020-December 2022

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Term of Office January 2019-December 2024

Rachel Ruhlen  
Term of Office: January 2019-December 2024

Evelyn Slone (Evie)  
Term of Office: January 2019-December 2024

***RVPF thanks Virginia Mignon Chubb-Hale for her service on the Board of Trustees in 2021. We appreciate the time and talents Mignon shared with us furthering RVPF's mission to preserve the historic, natural, and cultural resources of the Roanoke Valley and surrounding areas.***

## Two Recommended Books from Book Authority

### **Protecting Suburban America: Gentrification, Advocacy and the Historic Imaginary** (2020) by **Denise Lawrence-Zúñiga**

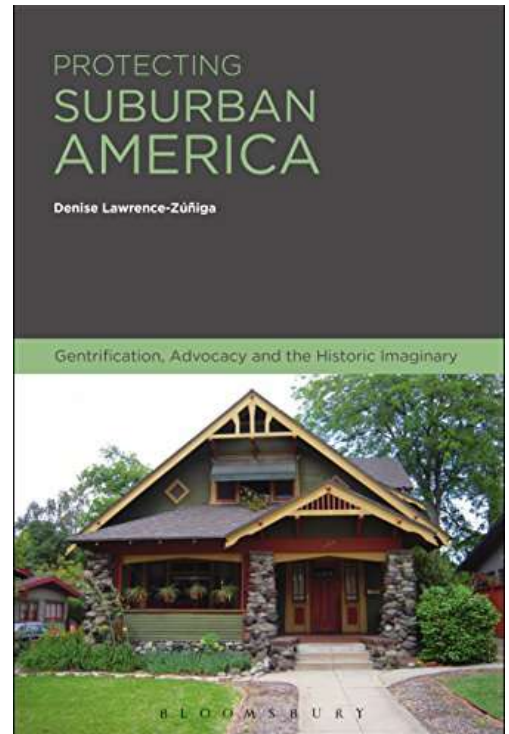
Protecting Suburban America explores the dynamics and conflicts inherent in preserving historic twentieth-century suburban landscapes in America. Bridging architecture, anthropology, planning, and urban studies, its unique approach combines a study of historic preservation with multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork, to shed fascinating light on issues of heritage, preservation, gentrification, class, ethnicity, and contested values in suburbia. These are subjects which reach far beyond the setting of the book's focus in California to touch on topical debates in cities, suburbia, and gentrifying neighborhoods worldwide.

At the heart of the book is a detailed comparative ethnography of preservation practices and the changing landscapes of five suburban cities, where affluent homeowners have begun to restore their early twentieth-century houses in neighborhoods once suffering from decline. Not every neighbor, however, shares the same aesthetic values, and complex dynamics can arise. Themes revealed include homeowner restoration practices, aesthetic contestations, local advocacy, and public policy, alongside an exploration of the social construction of the historic restoration process, and how homeowners construct 'historical' meaning in their homes and neighborhoods.

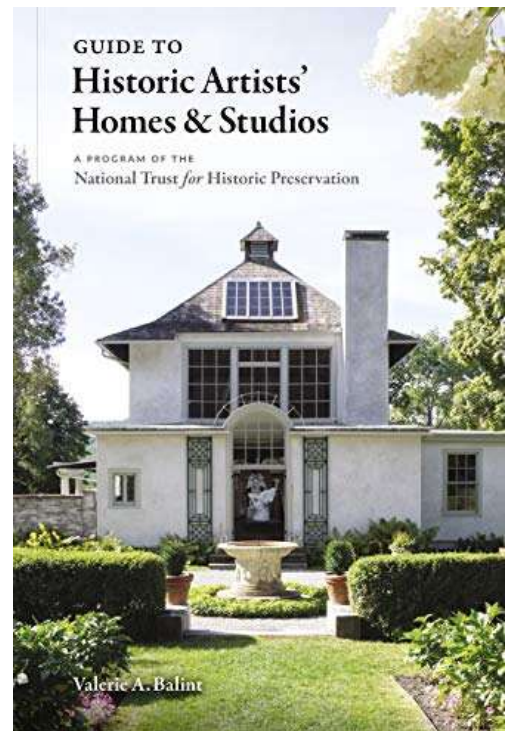
### **Guide to Historic Artists' Homes & Studios** (2020) by **Valerie A. Balint**

From the desert vistas of Georgia O'Keeffe's New Mexico ranch to Jackson Pollock and Lee Krasner's Hamptons cottage, step into the homes and studios of illustrious American artists and witness creativity in the making. Celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Historic Artists' Homes and Studios program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, this is the first guidebook to the forty-four site museums in the network, located across all regions of the United States and all open to the public.

The guide conveys each artist's visual legacy and sets each site in the context of its architecture and landscape, which often were designed by the artists themselves. Through portraits, artwork, and site photos, discover the powerful influence of place on American greats such as Andrew Wyeth, Grant Wood, Winslow Homer, and Donald Judd as well as lesser-known but equally creative figures who made important contributions to cultural history—photographer Alice Austen and muralist Clementine Hunter among them.



<https://bookauthority.org/books/new-historic-preservation-books>



<https://bookauthority.org/books/new-historic-preservation-books>

# Have You Heard About Our Plaque Program?

## ***Bringing "History to the Streets"***

Historic homes and buildings in the Roanoke Valley can now be recognized under a Historic Plaque Program administered by RVPF. The program not only brings 'history to the street' for those passing by your home or building, but also brands them as desirable locations for potential home buyers, tenants, and business owners to live, work, and/or invest in. Installing a plaque on your home or building helps others understand its historical significance in our community. Several sites already have plaques including Fire Station No. 1, the Virginia Museum of Transportation (Norfolk & Western Freight Station), the Municipal Building, owners of historic homes, and most recently, Restoration LLC in commemoration of their recent restoration of historic Villa Heights located in NW Roanoke.

Plaques are 10" x 7" cast bronze ovals with brown pebbled backgrounds forged by Paul W. Zimmerman Foundries (responsible for casting most National Register of Historic Places plaques across the country). The cost per plaque is \$350 and includes research for the text to be used on the plaque (the building's historic name, brief description, and construction date), the plaque's production, shipping, regulatory approvals from the city, and installation.

***For additional information, visit <http://www.roanokepreservation.org/historic-plaque-program/> or email [wleeson@roanoke.edu](mailto:wleeson@roanoke.edu)***

*"It has been said that, at it's best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future."*

William Murtagh

First "keeper" of the National Register of Historic Places



The Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation (RVPF) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization established in 1988 to preserve the historic, natural, and cultural resources of the Roanoke Valley (City of Roanoke, City of Salem, Town of Vinton, Roanoke County, Botetourt County, and Franklin County, Virginia). It was founded as - and continues to be - a grassroots, volunteer-driven organization. Since its inception, the RVPF has been active in a variety of preservation efforts. Consistent involvement and advocacy has resulted in increased public awareness and successful preservation projects. Although the Foundation's focus is on the past, its major accomplishments are the result of planning for the future.

## "THE FUTURE" OF PRESERVATION



We partner with community groups to bring promote local history - Gainsboro History Walk



We advocate for preservation of important buildings - The Claytor Clinic (currently on the Endangered Sites List)



We give tours of Roanoke to share local history and preservation



We partner with RideSolutions for History By Bike Tours - Vinton Tweed Ride



We install plaques on historic buildings - formerly endangered. Villa Heights has been saved and renovated



We create and install community signs to commemorate and celebrate local history - Evans Mill & Crystal Spring



PROTECT • PROMOTE • PROSPER

P.O. Box 1366, Roanoke, VA 24007  
[www.roanokepreservation.org](http://www.roanokepreservation.org)

### **Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation Board of Directors**

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 Kate Kronau, Molly Meredith, Megan Mizak, David Parr, Rachel Ruhlen,  
 Evelyn Slone