



## ED LENTZ AND BECKY WEST COLUMBUS LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

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Ed Lentz and Becky West from the Columbus Landmarks Foundation presented our program today.

Ed Lentz is a local historian and author who currently works as Director Emeritus of the Columbus Landmarks Foundation. He has served with several state and local regional organizations such as the Columbus Historical Society. He has History degrees from Princeton University and Ohio State. He has written a weekly column about Columbus history for This Week community newspapers since 1992.

Becky West is currently Director of the Columbus Landmarks Foundation and a leading advocate for building and landmark preservation in Columbus.

Becky led off the presentation with comments and a slide presentation highlighting the most endangered historic buildings in Columbus. She noted

that the Landmarks Foundation was started in 1977 following the overnight demolition of the 1897 Union Station. The new organization spearheaded the preservation of the Union Station Arch which stands today

The Foundation plays an active role in educating the community, encouraging responsible public and private sector enhancement of historic areas and structures and promoting the highest standards in the design and construction of new buildings. Landmarks Foundation membership includes individuals and corporations interested in the mission of the Foundation. Preservation has proved to be a vital economic development tool.

There is no getting around the fact that preservation projects are expensive. Fortunately, the use of state and Federal tax credits can provide up to 45% of preservation costs for historic income producing buildings. She cited the Leveque Tower as an example of a project that used such state and Federal tools.

In greater Columbus we have just 25% of pre 1945 building stock available to work with.

Five years ago the Foundation began publishing a list of the most endangered buildings. Thanks to support from



## GREETERS

**July 24**  
Joe Valentino  
Matt McClellan

**July 31**  
Bill Hosket  
Kevin Aschliman

**August 7**  
Bob Bracco  
Matt McClellan

## REGISTRATION DESK

**July 24**  
Dick Stone  
Janine Hummer

**July 31**  
Jon Hellstedt  
Bill Mielke

**August 7**  
Jim Hamilton  
Rich Simpson

## CALENDAR

**July 24 | Scioto CC**  
**Rotary Weekly Meeting –  
Central Ohio Upcoming  
Commercial Developments**  
Hosted by: Brad DeHays

**July 31 | Scioto CC**  
**Stori Rex and Julie Nolan  
Windermere and Livingston  
Elementary Program**  
Hosted by: Bill Cloyd

**August 7 | Scioto CC**  
TBD

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity to [herb@herbgillen.com](mailto:herb@herbgillen.com) for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

Please submit your social event reminder to [herb@herbgillen.com](mailto:herb@herbgillen.com) for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

## OUR NEXT MEETING

**July 24th**  
**Scioto CC**

Upper Arlington  
**Rotary**  
Club



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the Columbus Foundation and to the resident expertise on the Landmarks board Becky says the organization is resource rich.

She went through the list of endangered buildings – with an accompanying slide for each property. The list includes, among others the Grand Oak Apartments downtown, the Greater Columbus Antique Mall on South High Street, Rock of Faith Baptist Church on Main Street on the east side (formerly the Holy Rosary campus), the Macon Hotel building from 1888 (best known as lodging for African American jazz artists when they visited Columbus in the early 20th century), the Maennerchor Building on South High Street, the Marble Cliffs Gateway Mansion on West Fifth Avenue, the former Salesian Boys and Girls Club building on S. Sixth Street. (This building is one of the Foundation’s greatest concerns. It is currently available for sale).

The advocates associated with the Landmarks available are available to consult with entities which may have surplus buildings in their inventory.

The ultimate pleasure is celebrating a “save”. Last year, for example, the Foundation celebrated the planned redevelopment of the old Columbus Municipal Light Plant. The building had been on the most endangered list in 2014.

Ed Lentz noted that we’re all story tellers in a way. The buildings being discussed are all piles of bricks but bringing them and the history they contain back is the goal. He noted that many of the buildings just reviewed by Becky were built when Columbus was a small town.

He talked about the west side and some of its important history to what is now Columbus. Lucas Sullivant owned 6,000 acres in what is now the city’s west side. Upon his death the property passed to his three sons. One son built a house on what was then known as Sullivant’s Hill and that planted the seeds of development for the area. An early development was the establishment of two mental institutions - which drew many workers to the area. The army’s Civil War Camp Chase also

added to the development of the area. A Confederate cemetery - established when Camp Chase served as a prisoner-of-war camp during the Civil War – is still found at the corner of Hague Avenue and Sullivant Avenue.

The Landmarks Foundation has worked a great deal in the area in an effort to reinforce to people that the west side has a very important place in the history of the greater Columbus area.

Among the buildings discussed during the Q&A session were the Greenlawn Abbey, the Columbus Buggy Works building and the Kelley House.

The Kelley House is referred to as the house that saved Ohio. It was built in 1839 and owned by Alfred Kelley. The house was used as collateral by him to assure that the State of Ohio could cover its bond payments for its share of the Ohio-Erie Canal. It was built in 1839 by Edward Kelley. One of the great preservation fights of the 1960’s was the fight to save this house. The original preservation plan was to raise money to move the house to Franklin Park. That plan failed to materialize so the house was taken apart stone by numbered stone. The stones were first taken to Franklin Park, then to the Ohio State Fairgrounds near what is now the Ohio History Connection. In 1975 the stones were moved to northern Ohio to the Hale Farm complex which is administered by the Western Reserve Historical Society near Cleveland - Alfred Kelley was the first mayor of Cleveland. Ultimately Ed hopes the stones can be returned to Columbus and be re-assembled in Franklin Park.



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# The Meeting

**Brad DeHays** called the meeting to order. There were no visiting Rotarians or guests at today's meeting.

The annual effort to update the club directory is underway. Brad encouraged everyone with an out of date picture to see **Tanya Westerviller** after the meeting. She'll take a new photo. Rosters with personal information were also available for review. Provide your latest information such as new email addresses, phone numbers, etc.

The Rotaryview Committee is in need of a few more members. Let **Jerry Woessner** or Brad know if you'd like to help out.



Brad showed us photos from the recent Night of Zacapa party hosted by **Steve Sandbo**. Good fellowship and a good time were enjoyed by all. Steve reported that he received an email from the family that owns the Zacapa distillery thanking the club for using their product. District Governor **Craig Maxey** was in attendance. **Don Leach** photo-bombed the last picture we saw. Thanks to Steve for opening up his home and to **Dave Dewey** and **Milt Lustnauer** for grilling up a great meal.

## Homeless Families Foundation Painting Party

Thursday, July 26 5:30-7:30 PM, 33 N. Grubb St. 43215

We are looking for volunteers to do painting at the Homeless Families Foundation facility at 33 North Grubb Street on the evening of July 26 (next Thursday) starting at 5:30 and going until about 7:30 or 8:00. They will supply the paint and while they do have some brushes and rollers it would be appreciated if volunteers could bring brushes, rollers and drop cloths with them as well. If you have family members who can come with you that is more than acceptable. If you can join the group next Thursday please contact either **Tom Davis**, or **Chip Knoop** or **Herb Gillen**.

# Notes and Announcements

**Barri Jones** asked for volunteers for upcoming Meals on Wheels dates. Folks can email Barri directly at [Barri@ASquaredFinancial.com](mailto:Barri@ASquaredFinancial.com) if they are able to commit to the six-stop route. It takes about 2 hours.

Available dates are: 2/9/2019, 3/9/2019, 4/13/2019, 5/11/2019, 6/8/2019, 7/13/2019

**Steve Lichtblau** announced that **Bill Mielke** was hospitalized at Riverside Hospital several days ago. Messages of support would certainly be appreciated.