

historic

June-July 2015

Keeping our neighborhoods beautiful... & keeping them real

Helping sustain the Bridgeton historic legacy in the 21st century

BHS GRADUATE SARAY SALAZAR WINS \$1000 "OBIE" IN HONOR OF BRIDGETON GENIUS OBERLIN SMITH & FERRACUTE SITE HISTORY

...TWO OTHER CANDIDATES RECEIVE PRIZES TO PURSUE SCIENCE CAREERS

SARAY HERNANDEZ-SALAZAR (right) graduates with high honors from Bridgeton High School this year. In Fall 2015 she will begin her studies toward a degree in medicine at Bloomfield College in Bloomfield, New Jersey. Also pictured far right): Maria Cruz-Perez and Edwin Lesama.



Winning is a family affair! Below, Saray's family gathers in the school cafeteria after the award ceremony to share a moment of joy in their daughter's accomplishments



CHABA's annual 'OBIE' scholarship crowdsourcing campaign received close to \$1500 by mail, internet and personal gifts. When the interview team met our three applicants, it was clear that every one of them was not only happy to learn more about the stellar history of their home city, but would also do Bridgeton proud AND remain proud of Bridgeton in the future. So it was great to know that we could actually honor all three of them!

Saray, Maria & Edwin captured our imaginations (and hearts) with their intelligence, seriousness, charm, and well-expressed passion for their community. Here are some excerpts:

"It is important that we learn about Smith and the history of the city we live in.... Learning this history has made me value Bridgeton more for its major accomplishments.... This site should be cherished by others and preserved.... The Ferracute would be great as a small museum...."



Saray Hernandez-Salazar is our BIG winner. Her intense work ethic and sense of community assured her a 4.0 average in virtually every area of academic study, class Salutatorian and National Honor Society standing, and recognition for her extraordinary community activism.

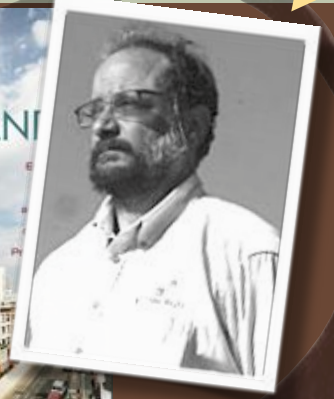
Acceptance to Bloomfield College as pre-med guaranteed her our primary \$1000 Obie.

But it was also clear to us that the science careers of Maria Cruz-Perez and Edwin Lesama at Cumberland County College deserved a kickstart of \$250 each. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!...and to the families that have supported their will to achieve!...and will go on doing so.

SAVE THE DATE

NEW YORK AUTHOR & PRESERVATION ACTIVIST NED KAUFMAN TO ANCHOR CHABACON 2015 ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 10

Ned Kaufman, founder and past co-director of the preservation thinktank Place Matters, former director of historic preservation at New York's Municipal Art Society, and now Adjunct Professor of Historic Preservation at Pratt Institute and Columbia University, has agreed to be our keynote speaker at this year's CHABACON, our annual program for bringing thinkers and doers together in celebration of local preservation action. Kaufman (who attended CHABACON2014 and took our "Green City" tour) will feel right at home here in Bridgeton. He recently joined with Ana Lucía Gonzalez Ibañez to launch a bi-national consulting practice based in New York and Guadalajara. Kaufman, author of the widely-acclaimed **Place, Race, and Story: Essays on the Past and Future of Historic Preservation** (Routledge, 2009), was keynote at last year's Statewide Preservation Conference. He specializes in projects involving innovative interpretation and an emphasis on community character, social equity, and a sense of place.



Kaufman's work has challenged historic preservationists to go beyond a traditional focus on beautiful buildings and become a part of a larger movement for environmental and social justice.

MORE --->

YES! PRESERVATION IS ABOUT MORE THAN BUILDINGS...

BUT IT IS ALSO ABOUT BUILDINGS...

CHABA CREATES BI-LINGUAL VIDEO INTRODUCTIONS TO WHYS & HOWS OF OWNING & MAINTAINING PROPERTIES IN THE BRIDGETON HISTORIC DISTRICT-- LARGEST IN THE STATE...



Thanks to a Neighborhood Initiatives grant from State Farm Insurance, CHABA Architect Maria Cerda-Moreno's PowerPoint slideshows in English and Spanish are being converted into video format with language-appropriate voiceovers. These brief introductions to the Bridgeton Historic District and the reasons and ideal methods for maintaining its character will provide invaluable tools for our introductory workshops. They will also be available on the web and serve to spotlight Bridgeton's pioneering initiatives in preserving vernacular historic culture. They will also promote the value of District preservation to statewide, regional and even national and international audiences.



Cerda-Moreno's translation of the Bridgeton Historic District Guidelines into Spanish received PreservationNJ's prestigious Preservation Education Award for 2015.

Before/after photographs of the David Sheppard House by Sam Feinstein.



Sample slide from "The Bridgeton Historic District"

More coming soon on our workshop plans for 2015!



MORE NEWS & NOTES ON THE BRIDGETON PLACEMAKING BEAT



A MONTH OF SUNDAYS: Every Sunday in July 2015 the Friends of Old Broad Street Church (First Presbyterian) in collaboration with the Broad Street Cemetery Association will be digging up some exciting local and regional history...Check out the program [here](#).



Photo by Robert Spence

LESTER BROWN RETIRES: Shortly after "Bringing Sustainability Home" to his own hometown of Bridgeton last October, world renowned environmentalist Lester Brown announced his retirement and the closure of operations at the Earth Policy Institute--one of many environmental policy thinktanks he has created over his incredibly productive lifetime. We at CHABA are grateful to have enabled his homecoming at CHABACON 2014 and hope we may enjoy his future participation in some of our educational activities. Brown's latest book, The Great Transition, is the ultimate challenge to us all, but especially those of us in South Jersey, to think freshly and forwardly about what it means to have sustainable energy in a sustainable urban community within a richly endowed and historic land and seascape. More about Lester Brown's Bridgeton appearance on the [CHABA website](#), with a link to [his talk on YOUTUBE!](#)



SUNSET LAKE IS BACK. GO HAVE A LOOK.



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IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER: ARCHITECTING OUR OWN FUTURE: THE CHABA BOARD UNDERTAKES LONG-RANGE VISIONING

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Like to be part of this pioneering Bridgeton initiative? Please contact us at centerhabarts@gmail.com