



## NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND OFFICERS

- 2023 Board of Directors—Page 1
- Upcoming Meetings—Page 1
- PTP Project Updates—Page 2
- PTP member, Jane Bond's book -Page 2
- PTP presentation by Alice Christie—Page 3
- Beacon Journal tour -Page 3
- What You May Have Missed—Page 4

At the February Board of Directors meeting, a new executive board was elected by unanimous consent from the recommendations of the Nominating Committee. The President of PTP is Sarah Deitrick, the Vice President is Brett Haverlick, Scott Eller continues as Treasurer, and new to the board is Secretary, Beth Kinney. Also new to the Board of Directors is long-time member, Bob Fischer, and a second-year PTP member, Anthony Boarman.



L-R: Sarah Deitrick, Brett Haverlick, Scott Eller, Beth Kinney, Bob Fischer, Anthony Boarman

Beth Kinney has been married since 1990 to her husband, Duane (PTP's new IT guy). They have six girls, ages 9-31 and 3 grandchildren. Beth has been active in non-profit organizations, managed fundraisers, and held board positions. She has a master's degree from UA and has worked at Summit Co. Children Services for over 20 years, holding several managerial positions. When the Keyser-Swain Farmhouse in Cuyahoga Falls was slated for demolition, Beth collaborated with other volunteers to save and restore the historic structure for future generations.

Bob Fischer is life-long resident of Akron. He attended Copley/Fairlawn schools and is a graduate of Concordia Collegiant Institute in Bronxville, NY. His 53-year career included 30 years with Goodyear, 10 years with IBM, and 13 years with Edward Jones Investments. He values working with people and has served on the boards of Akron Urban League, the YMCA, Camp Y-Noah, Rockynol, Ohio Living Corporation and his special love, the Tuesday Musical Association. He is dedicated to saving Akron's history.

Anthony Boarman has been a Social Studies teacher and coach at St. Vincent-St. Mary since 2007. In 2017, he created a curriculum for his local history course that immerses students in Akron and NE Ohio's rich past and includes walking tours around West Hill, downtown Akron, and a speakers series. He enjoys teaching and developing relationships with his students. He and his wife, Emily, have two daughters, Sadie and Audrey, and a dog (Ava).

## UPCOMING PTP MEETINGS

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Tue., Mar. 21 at 6PM  | Tour of Dr. Bob's Home on Ardmore Ave, co-founder of AA |
| Sat., April 15 at 3PM | National First Ladies Historic Site in Canton, Ohio     |
| Sat., May 20 at 10 AM | Architectural Heritage Award Winners Self-Driving Tour  |

## Keyser-Swain Signage Fundraiser Update



In the January PTP newsletter, the creation of a GoFundMe fundraiser was announced to pay for a sign outside the Keyser-Swain Farmhouse in Cuyahoga Falls. PTP acted as the fundraiser’s fiscal agent. A goal of \$2000 was set for the 36x24 sign to be erected upon completion of the restoration project in 2024.

PTP’s president, Sarah Deitrick, and secretary, Beth Kinney, who were instrumental in saving the 145-year-old building, want to thank everyone who contributed. The total raised was \$2295. Some donations were made via PayPal but most were checks mailed to Preservation House by generous donors.

The historic content for the sign has been written and approved by the city of Cuyahoga Falls. A sign company used by the city is working on the design and will have plans ready for approval in two months.

## Glendale Steps Committee Update



An application for the Glendale Steps was submitted to the National Register on 1/15/23 which will first go through state approval then national. Hopefully, the approval process will be completed this summer. A city official told the committee that Akron will have money to assist with the maintenance and will include the steps in their future planning. No specific dollar amount or time frame was indicated, but they are willing to work with PTP on this preservation project.

Next, a structural engineer needs to do an analysis of the condition of the steps so a proposal can be made to the city on the costs and plan for repairs. A committee member will get this information so the funding can be approved.

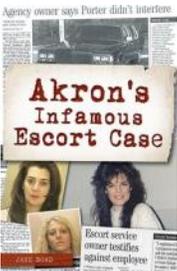
## Akron Beacon Journal Building Update



On February 7th, two members of the PTP Board of Directors attended a hearing of Akron’s Urban Design and Historic Preservation Commission regarding the Beacon Journal building . Although the current owner nominated the structure as a historic landmark, received approval, and is entitled up to 45% of redevelopment costs in federal and state tax credits, he is now seeking a demolition certificate. His plan for the property is to create a parking lot for nearby apartment buildings owned by family members.

It is PTP’s assertion that this is not a compelling reason to destroy a structure of historic importance, especially when there is already a large amount of surface parking in the area. The commission decided to not approve the demolition proposal at this time. PTP plans to set up an online petition for signatures. Our Advocacy Committee will consider lobbying Akron City Council since it is likely this issue will come before them for approval. Right now, the building needs to be kept safe and dry while efforts continue to redevelop it. Like many other structures in our area, once it’s gone part of Akron’s past is lost forever.

## Akron’s Infamous Escort Case



Back in the late 1990s, the Akron Vice Squad began Operation Red Light to investigate two escort services. Little did anyone realize the political and legal storm that would follow. Now you can find out the real story behind the scandal, told by presiding Judge Jane Bond who takes you behind the scenes to see justice in action. She is an Akron native and long-time PTP member, who graduated from Ohio University’s Scripps School of Journalism in 1968 and the University of Akron’s School of Law in 1976. In her career, she has been general counsel for the Summit County Executive, and served as a judge on the Akron Municipal Court and the Common Pleas Court. She retired from the bench in 2007.

This is her first book and the focus is on the legal twists and turns that arose from “hookers with telephones.” The 174-page softcover book costs \$23.99 from [History Press](http://History Press). She recently spoke at the Main Library and is slated for another speaking engagement though the Summit Co. Historical Society at 1 PM on March 4th at the John Brown House, 550 Copley Road. Admission is \$10 for nonmembers. Register at [summithistory.org](http://summithistory.org).

# An Evening With Progress Through Preservation



On February 6th, PTP Program Chair, Dr. Alice Christie, spoke to members of the Cuyahoga Falls and Northampton Historical Societies at the Falls Natatorium. She focused on PTP’s advocacy mission and preservation work at the Mustill Store and House at Lock 13, passage of the 1997 Akron Historical Preservation Ordinance, and restoration of the downtown Civic Theater.

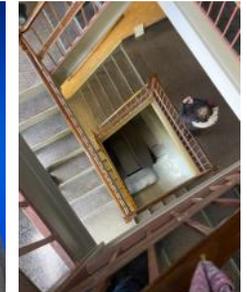


Her power point presentation included our renovated headquarters, Preservation House, the uncertain future of the 1930s Art Deco-designed Akron Beacon Journal building, the recently restored 1883 Bell Tower at Glendale Cemetery, and the Mason Oviatt House in Richfield undergoing a full restoration to become a museum. Alice described the efforts to save the last remaining century home in Cuyahoga Falls, the Keyser-Swain Farmhouse, the Glendale Steps near downtown Akron which was a WPA project, and St. Paul’s Episcopal Church on E. Market Street, especially after the fire damage it suffered in 2018. She also presented an unsuccessful PTP project — the loss of the Gothic-style Werner Publishing building on Perkins Street in Akron, which was once the largest printing company in the world. The structure was razed with no advance notice on the Labor Day weekend in September 2020.

PTP gained two new members after this evening. So, if you know of other groups who would be interested in Alice’s presentation, they can contact her at: [achristie@malone.edu](mailto:achristie@malone.edu).

## A Tour of the Akron Beacon Journal Building

PTP was notified of an opportunity to tour the Akron Beacon Journal building on Saturday, January 14th. The newspaper moved out in 2019 and in 2020, Capstone Real Estate Investments purchased the property with plans to renovate the space and find a buyer or tenant. Many suggested uses have come and gone – condos, apartments, FedEx office space, and the Akron Police Department headquarters. As the update on Page 2 states, the building’s future is in jeopardy. There was no heat or electricity on the wintery morning when 70 intrepid preservationists braved dark spaces and cold temperatures to tour the facility, led by Elizabeth Murphy, a consulting architect, and former editor, Doug Oplinger.



Above: The front entrance  
Below: The warehouse

Above: Guide Elizabeth Murphy  
Below: A hallway

Above: Doug Oplinger giving a tour  
Below left: A wall of honor  
Below right: A caged Chris Blythe

Above left: A beautiful Art Deco doorway  
Above right: The main staircase  
Below: Sarah Deitrick and Dona Cardone huddling for warmth



WE'RE ON THE WEB



Preservation House  
2074 West Market Street  
Akron, OH 44313  
330-374-3787



**OUR MISSION:** Progress Through Preservation of Greater Akron (PTP) actively promotes and encourages the preservation, maintenance, restoration, and adaptive reuse of buildings, sites, and neighborhoods that are of historic or architectural significance in Akron and Summit County.

LIKE US ON [Facebook](#) EMAIL: [info@preservationakron.org](mailto:info@preservationakron.org)

PTP has a NEW Facebook page! We will be posting all of our upcoming events, advocacy efforts, fundraisers, and preservation related news there. We are on Instagram as well @ptpakron. Please follow and like our [FB new page](#) and on [IG](#). [#deserve2preserve](#) [#historicpreservation](#) [#PTP](#) [#akronohio](#) [#summitcounty](#). We also have a second email address: [akronptp@gmail.com](mailto:akronptp@gmail.com).

# What You May Have Missed

On January 23rd, 82 people attended PTP's Annual Board Meeting at the Akron Woman's City Club. After a wonderful dinner, President Dana Noel spoke about the organization, new board members were elected and Alice Christie, PTP Program Chair, did a presentation on The Private Residences of Historic E. Market Street.



On February 21st, 90 people met at HÜG, the Highland Universal Gatheringspot, formerly Temple Israel. Developer and new owner, Tony Troppe, told the building's history and led tours. Guests enjoyed beverages and a dessert buffet. The sanctuary is now a theatre surrounded by rehearsal and studio rooms. The lower level has been converted to an event space which seats 250 people.

