

Date: January 31, 2010

DONNELLY SELECTED PRESIDENT OF AIA NEWARK and SUBURBAN ARCHITECTS

Judith Anne Donnelly, AIA of Independence Township, was installed as President of AIA Newark and Suburban Architects, a Section of the New Jersey Society of Architects (AIA-NJ) this past Saturday evening at the Highlawn Pavilion in West Orange, NJ.

Along with Ms. Donnelly the following others were installed: They are
Yogesh Mistry, AIA of Netcong, as President-Elect
Kevin McCormick, AIA of New Providence, NJ as First Vice President
Louise Addonizio, AIA of Morristown, NJ as Secretary
John A. Cwikla, Associate AIA of Union, NJ as Treasurer
and Christopher Stone, AIA of Atlantic Highlands, NJ as the Immediate Past President and Nomination Chair for the 2011 Officers & Trustees.

Hugh Boyd, FAIA of Montclair, NJ was awarded the Herman C. Litwack, Award for Distinguished Service to the AIA and to the Profession of Architecture. This award honors the memory of Mr. Litwack, who was a nationally recognized Architect, Past President of AIA-NJ and long time Secretary/Executive Directory of the NJ State Board of Architects.

In her remarks to the one hundred plus guests, Ms. Donnelly mentioned that she actually worked on the Steel Framework of the building restoration in 1986. Highlawn Pavillion, built just over a century ago, as a refreshment stand in the Florentine style, is on top of the "first mountain" in the Eagle Rock Reservation. There is a lot of history here; the famed inventor Thomas A. Edison worked in the very rooms of where the banquet was held, he worked on secret inventions on behalf of this country during the First World War.

The Highlawn Pavilion had seen better days before its wonderful renovation in 1986; it was covered by graffiti and suffering from years of structural deterioration, being described as "an eyesore in an otherwise beautiful park." Nine years ago a beautiful memorial to the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on our country was added along the overlook to the City of New York.

Ms. Donnelly is a sole practitioner working out of her home office which she designed and built with her husband Gary Anzalone, a General Contractor, 5 years ago. She is a graduate of the Masters of Architecture Program at the School of Architecture at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, securing a New Jersey license to practice in the profession in 2003.

"Since I first joined AIA-NJ and this local section, I have come to understand the need for a strong professional society for Architects," Donnelly stated. She went on to remark "that as a woman, she is in a profession that not too long ago had very few plying at the trade." However, Ms. Donnelly stated, "that in the years of her involvement in the AIA she has seen many woman gain recognition and is extremely proud of the AIA and the progress it has made in this regard."

Ms. Donnelly quoted Andrea Oppenheimer Dean from an *Architectural Record* article. “Americans don’t care much about architecture; they perceive it merely as a product, a form of shelter, or an indication of status, rather than as art or an expression of culture.” She also stated that “It is our job to educate the public and explain that Architects shape the very existence of the environment, making it more functional, vibrant and livable” She challenged those present to present in their own communities the following about architects and the profession:

“The public should know that architects have from five to eight years of formal education in the art and science of building design. Only Architects are trained as generalists to combine the practical, technical and artistic skills and Architects understand the entire building process. Completion of education is followed by a three year apprenticeship (internship) under the close supervision of a licensed architect. They then have to pass a rigorous state licensing exam, before they can call themselves an Architect.”

AIA Newark and Suburban Architects is a Section of AIA-NJ, which in turn are a Chapter and Region of AIA. Through public education, outreach, community redevelopment, government advocacy and partnerships, AIA-NJ protects the professional interests of its nearly 2,000 member Architects while working to provide a safer and better world for all of us.

Ms. Donnelly welcomes anyone who is interested in attending AIANS events to please contact our Organization at 973-746-1523.