



historic
Keeping our neighborhoods beautiful...
& keeping them real.

July 2014

FIRST "OBIE" AWARDEE WILL ATTEND ROWAN UNIVERSITY Congratulations, Maribel Juarez!



Maribel Juarez

The Obie Award is named for distinguished scientist, engineer and inventor, Oberlin Smith (1840-1926) founder of the Bridgeton-based Ferracute Machine Co.

In Memoriam:

Jay Gandy, whose name became synonymous over several decades with Oberlin Smith scholarship and research, died on May 9, 2014, just as this first award scholarship campaign was ending.
*Ave atque vale
Hail and Farewell*

Yes, we're overjoyed at the success of our first crowdsourcing "Rally.org" fundraiser...which took in over \$1K in less than 2 months!

...But the best part of this whole "Obie" storyline had to be meeting the four Bridgeton High student competitors for our \$1000 scholarship--first via their paperwork backstories, then face to face, feeling the breath of their dreams.

Tough choice? Serious understatement. All these young people are on the cusp of strong science careers--all gifted with intellect and discipline. But what struck us was Maribel's quiet, determined self-possession, the maturity and self-knowledge that had guided her choice of a future in medical research, the confidence in family at her back. And we liked her take on Oberlin Smith--the Bridgeton engineering genius the award is named for. Instinctively she saw a role model of toughminded public-spiritedness for Bridgeton youth---for all of us--to be proud to emulate.

Maribel will take her scholarship with her to Rowan University. But we've all been rewarded by this campaign. We had near boundless support, from here, but also from as far off as England and Ireland. The Bridgeton Board of Ed--the guidance staff at Bridgeton High--all paved the way. Several CHABA Boardmembers read and ranked the submissions, and three (Celester, DeMarco, Alaya) took time out to interview and then to attend the June 9 awards ceremony. It was history in the making for us--we had to be there!

So what's the preservation takeaway? Did we give an "Obie Bump" to the Smith/Ferracute legacy as medicine for low urban self-esteem? Well, we haven't polled the people yet, but even the formidable Smith scholar Arthur Cox seemed to take some comfort from the groundswell response. As we joined with Mayor Kelly in celebrating our awardee last week, we got to pass Cox's personally inscribed gift copy of *Ferracute*--a little like a baton--to this wonderful millennial: Maribel Juarez, glowing frontrunner for another Bridgeton generation. ♦

CHABA PRESENTS TO REGIONAL PRESERVATIONISTS AT STATEWIDE CONFERENCE



On JUNE 5, 2014: At the invitation of the New Jersey Historic Trust's Annual Statewide Conference on History and Historic Preservation (Brookdale College, Lincroft, NJ), CHABA members and associates addressed a well-attended special session on the role of our preservationist **HomeFronts** initiative as part of our larger project to help sustain Bridgeton's Historic District in a changing economic, ecological, cultural and language environment. CHABA president Flavia Alaya moderated a panel consisting of (LtoR) migration expert Prof Robyn Rodriguez of UC Davis; architectural student and participant-translator (and Bridgetonian) Jaime Bustos-DeHaro; Father David Rivera of Bridgeton's Immaculate Conception Church; and Bridgeton City Councilmember and Historic District Commissioner Jack Surrency. Rodriguez offered a scholar's big-picture take on the importance of our pro-active community work. The translation project itself was led by architect/boardmember Maria Cerda-Moreno (unable to be present for the session). The appreciative audience joined in exploring CHABA's pioneering outreach to the Spanish-speaking community. ♦

CHABA-CON IS COMING!
SAVE THE DATE
OCTOBER 11-12



BELOW: Pictures from two sequential bilingual workshops on repairing historic windows (and windowed doors) held in May 2014 at the studio of master carpenter and Historic District Commissioner Raul Saez (pictured below, far left). **RIGHT:** CHABA Historic architect Maria Cerda-Moreno conducts an introductory workshop in Spanish in the basement meeting-room of Immaculate Conception Church,

CHABA HOLDS FIRST INTRODUCTORY & HANDS-ON COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS IN SPANISH



Go to www.historicbuildingarts for a schedule of upcoming English and bilingual workshops.

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



CHANGING CITY CHANGING PLANET

Environmentalist
and Bridgeton Native Son...

Lester R. Brown

"One of the world's most influential thinkers."--Washington Post

author of
Outgrowing the Earth,
Plan B 3.0,
and a new autobiography:
Breaking New Ground

founder of
WorldWatch & Earth Policy Institutes

**Brings Sustainability Home
to Bridgeton**

October 11-12, 2014

[draft program \(subject to change\)](#)

[chaba]
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