



CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 1-5-25

CONTACT: Mary Sorensen

PH: (814) 234-4779

EMAIL: [msorensen@centrefurnace.org](mailto:msorensen@centrefurnace.org)

[CentreHistory.org](http://CentreHistory.org)

**37th ANNUAL JOHN H. ZIEGLER HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS  
OF THE CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
RSVP at [CentreHistory.org/awards](http://CentreHistory.org/awards)**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026, 3:00 P.M. at the  
*Pennsylvania Match Factory · 100 Match Factory Place · Bellefonte, PA***

**State College, PA**—Historic preservation and advocacy projects from around the county will be recognized on Sunday, January 18 with the Centre County Historical Society's 37<sup>th</sup> annual John H. Ziegler Historic Preservation Awards.

The awards ceremony will be held at 3:00 p.m. at the Pennsylvania Match Factory in Bellefonte, home of the American Philatelic Society. The presentation will last for about one hour and will be available on [CentreHistory.org](http://CentreHistory.org) and C-Net at a future date. A reception with light refreshments will follow the ceremony.

Since 1988, the Centre County Historical Society has annually recognized individuals and organizations for their outstanding work in preserving and interpreting Centre County history. Join us to celebrate and learn about the work and dedication of the 2025 award recipients.

**Preservation and Restoration  
Gary Brandeis, The Nittany Lion Inn**

For the extensive restoration of the historic Nittany Lion Inn, a National Trust for Historic Preservation–recognized historic hotel, restoring the property to its longstanding role as a cherished tradition for the local community and Penn State alumni.

**History and Heritage  
University Club Heritage Project  
Directed by James Collins and Vicki Fong**

For leading the project to preserve the University Club's historical documents and artifacts that tell the story of the club's unique cultural legacy in the broader community over the past century.

**Education and Advocacy**

**Rick Rishel**

**Centre County Library and Historical Museum**

For the outstanding and long-term commitment to preservation activities in Centre County at the Centre County Library and Historical Museum including countless hours spent cataloging, preparing exhibitions, and scanning to make collections accessible to the public.

**Support and Volunteerism**

**Gerald Hefferan and Zachary Chambers**

For significant contributions to historic preservation in Centre County through their gifts of time, talent, and project leadership working with the Lions David House Heritage Museum in Snow Show, development of the Mountaintop Historical Day event, and for promoting the rich history of the Mountaintop region of Centre County.

**CCHS President's Award**

**Jacqueline R. Esposito**

For exemplary service to the Centre County Historical Society as its Collections Management Chair. Her contribution through her ongoing work with interns and staff, and insights as a professional archivist have exponentially benefited the Historical Society's archives by increasing their public accessibility.

**Jacqueline J. Melander Award**

**Michael Hermann, Purple Lizard Maps**

For his years and countless hours devoted to appreciating Centre County's natural landscape by making it more accessible through his Purple Lizard Maps.

With special thanks to:

C-Net Sponsor: The Centre County Commissioners

Postcard Design: David Lembeck, Venue: American Philatelic Society

John H. Ziegler Historic Preservation Awards Committee

RSVPs are encouraged and registration information is posted at [CentreHistory.org/awards](http://CentreHistory.org/awards) or you can register by calling the Historical Society at 814-234-4779.

For questions or to learn how to submit a future nomination, contact Mary Sorensen at (814) 234-4779 or [msorensen@centrefurnace.org](mailto:msorensen@centrefurnace.org).

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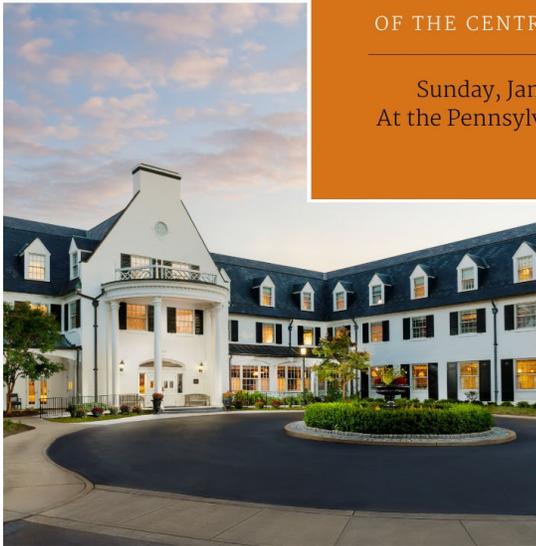
JOHN H. ZIEGLER

*Historic Preservation Awards*

OF THE CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Sunday, January 18, 2025 @ 3:00-5:00 P.M.  
At the Pennsylvania Match Factory, Bellefonte, PA



For high resolution images of award recipients, please contact Mary Sorensen at [msorensen@centrefurnace.org](mailto:msorensen@centrefurnace.org).