This year is moving by fast!

Many architects have asked what does the AIA do for ME? On the local level there are meetings and events offered by the ALNNJ. Just look at the events that have already taken place and those yet to come! AIA-NJ acts as our liaison with National, provides COTE, Disaster Response training, assists emerging professionals and tends to Legislative & Government Affairs (LG&A), in addition to various other programs. AIA National advocates for the profession on many levels, including student loan relief – the National Design Services Act HR 4205; a Good Samaritan bill, Small Business tax reform, in addition to providing AIA Contract Documents, national conferences and events, Continuing Education opportunities for professionals and IDP for recent architecture graduates. Check out the websites for additional ways the AIA can assist you.

Paul Bryan, Ralph Rosenberg and I were among a delegation of 23+ from AIA New Jersey who attended AIA Grassroots 2014 in Washington DC. We also attended seminars on how to run a Chapter or Section and what is happening at AIA National. Attendees came from Chapters around the United States, the US Territories and around the world.

The annual ALNNJ/Newark Suburban Trade Show was held on May 8. I hope you had a chance to attend one of the 12 seminars and visit the vendors on the Trade Show floor.

Joe David hosted another spectacular Ted Kessler Walking Tour of Upper Manhattan on Sunday, May 18th; sites included Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, General Grant National Monument and the George Washington Bridge! Thanks to one of our members, we were fortunate to be welcomed inside of the Old Broadway Synagogue for a tour. If you haven’t taken the opportunity to attend one of the Kessler walking tours, you are missing out on a great afternoon of NYC architecture.

At our June meeting we hosted the winners of our Scholarships and their families. The Board would like to thank the dinner sponsors who covered the dinner cost of the Award winners. Also at the June meeting, a very intrepid group of architects who returned from a week-long trip to Cuba, presented photos and discussed their experiences.

‘DO YOU DESIGN WITH PURPOSE?’ The City of Chicago hosted the AIA National Convention in June, a 3-day event packed with Seminars, tours and products.

Our 15th Annual Golf Outing will be at Crystal Springs Golf Resort in Hamburg, NJ on Monday, July 14. Bring a foursome, or come alone, but join us for a great day of golf and fun. Visit our website www.ALNNJ.org to see how you can become a sponsor for the event.

Whew! With so much to offer our members, this year will be exhausting by the time we are thru. Mark your calendars now for upcoming events!

Ruth A. Bussacco, AIA
ALNNJ President 2014
From The editor:

American Institute of Architects – New Jersey Chapter with a delegation of 15 members has just returned from an 8-day tour of Cuba. The purpose of the tour is to observe the urban environment and architecture fabric of the cities and meeting with Cuban architects. The group was able to share and exchange knowledge with Cuban architects to have a better understanding of the socio-economic impact to their cities. The information the group gathered will be shared with AIA-NJ Chapter and all the local Sections.

The group started its tour in Old Havana, meeting with Cuban architect Miguel Coyula, international renowned architect, urban planner and faculty of architecture at Havana University. Old Havana is known for many squares or plazas, surrounded by cathedrals, and institutional buildings reflecting Cuban baroque architecture. Old Havana has been designated as a UNESCO Heritage Site. Many buildings in Havana have deteriorated over time, we met with architect and preservationist Isabel Rigol director of the national Center for Conservation, Restoration and Museology. The surrounding buildings included Capitolilio Nacional, Centro Gallego, Centro Asturano, Manzana de Gomez, Bacardi Building, the restoration work in a neo-renaissance building and experience the promenade of Paseo del Prado.

The post revolution architecture included Instituto Superior de Arte, started from 1961 to 1965. The project was halted until Cuban government re-commission the work in 2001, the restoration work for School of Visual Art was completed in 2009. The Institute was part of the documentary film “Unfinished Space”. We also visited the Housing and Planned Community of Habana del Este, a 1500 unit planned community to address housing needs, it was built from 1959 to 1962.

We were able to meet with Cuban architect Pedro Vasquez to observe various architecture from the Modern period. Pabellon Cuban an exhibit hall built in 1963, Hotel Habana designed by Welton Becket Associates convert to housing and governmental facility. Coppelia built in 1966, Hebrew Community center 1953 and Hotel Riviera in 1957 for Meyer Lansky.

Cuba is evolving, we have seen more restoration work in progress, however many classical buildings have fallen beyond repair. There are more and more privately owned restaurants “pardares” in the cities. There are more boutiques, bars, coffee shop, jazz club and art galleries in the city as well as in the suburbs. We as a group of architects fully aware this is a very unique time to be in Cuba. Our hope is through the understanding from people to people that we will begin to see improvements in people’s lives.

Ben P. Lee,
AIA-NJ Treasurer
The epic fleet of classic American antiques cruising by, one more brightly colored than the next, made me realize that I wasn’t in Kansas anymore. Our group of fifteen arrived from Miami on a United States approved Special License for educational purposes. Being somewhat accustomed to Caribbean countries with limited resources, my first startling image as we exited the Airport and entered the streets of Cuba were the CARS! One more colorful than the next offering the touristas a ride for a fee, reflect the character of the people: Vibrant, proud, fun-loving, inviting, but suspended in that great period of Cuban history of the 1950’s and facing more than a half century of an embargo while simultaneously welcoming of visiting Americans. The second startling image was the Architecture. I was also unprepared for the abundance of magnificent buildings in extreme disrepair; from the Colonial Fortifications to Baroque Churches, Classical Civic Institutions, Art Deco structures, to its few Modernist buildings. Several structures collapse daily and are in need of immediate repair; some have balconies which have fallen off leaving only exposed rebar, others with significant deterioration from decay, neglect and the constant salt spray, especially along the Malecon – the waterfront boulevard. “Que Casualidad!” – What a Shame! I saw and felt the expression of mutual frustration written on the ruins of one of the “Unfinished Spaces” gold medal buildings of the Universidad de las Artes outside of Havana.

Founded in 1550 by Spanish Conquistadores, the Bay of Havana became the largest port in the region. Havana developed from two basic necessities; first, the growing population’s need for water which led to the development of the aqueduct producing running water; and second, the need for military defense which led to the construction of the Fortress and walled city, the oldest and largest fortress in the Americas. Old Havana, a symphony of Baroque and Neo-classical architecture, is defined by the old city walls. It has maintained the early urban context with its five main plazas, each with its own character: Plaza de Armas, Plaza Vieja, Plaza de San Francisco, Plaza del Cristo and Plaza de la Catedral. The UNESCO World Heritage Site is regulated by a national working staff of 35 professional city planners responsible for the historic center of Old Havana and its fortifications, population 60,000, compared to 55 city planners for the rest of Havana, population 2 Million. They act to set the limits of the historic center and to protect its buildings through the Ministry of Culture managing the restoration.
A railroad was built across Cuba to further the production and sale of their biggest crop, sugar allowed Cuba to enter the 20th century with a bang. After WW I the astronomically high price of sugar funded the rapid development of Havana from the Art Deco buildings of the 1920-30's to the high rise construction of the 1950's. Havana with 1% of the land has 20% of the population, so in addition to overcrowding, and an inadequate transportation system, the housing has an average age of 75 years with little to no routine maintenance. This is because paint and materials are costly and hard to obtain especially given the average salary of twenty ($20) dollars a MONTH. Homelessness is not recognized by the government, so everyone must be provided housing. Nine out of ten families do not pay rent, and 94% own their own home. The government designates a value to the premises based on condition, location, size and age and gives each citizen a home. The homeowner gets the deed to their property when the interest free loan is fully paid. There is no eviction for default. There are subsidies available from the government for home repairs, though none were apparent. The socialistic culture lends itself to a Condo / Co-op form of housing, but the question on Cuban’s mind is “Who owns the building?” Only Cubans can buy property, with the exception of a few joint ventures with the Cuban government as a partner; yet the government maintains ultimate control.

Privatization is illegal; however, every day we were excited by shining beacons of creative Cuban cultural spirit. Expressions through Music, from the street performers to the accompaniment at lunch, through Dance performances on the rooftops and nightclubs, through Art in the museums and in the boulevard parks, all were encouraged and rewarded. Indeed, due to the increasing lack of order in the enforcement of housing regulations, many homes - with beautiful interior courtyards, iron grillwork, marble winding stairways - were converted to restaurants and nightclubs, others to elaborate art houses with a conglomerate of found objects, or colorful mosaics such as the complex by the artist, Furster, in an expression of their individual spirit.

On October 19, 1960 the United States established an Embargo against exports - with the exception of food and medicine - and imports to Cuba, which must be paid in cash as credit is not extended to Cuba. The Embargo is governed by six statutes: the Trading with the Enemy Act of 1917, the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the Cuba Assets Control Regulations of 1963, the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, the Helms–Burton Act of 1996, and the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000. President Obama has set forth the reforms Cuba is encouraged to make to end the Embargo including releasing political prisoners, permitting American telecommunications companies to do business in Cuba, and ending the 10% charge on every dollar from the US.

Cuba’s leading imports include oil from Venezuela, food from all over the world, and motor parts from China. Other industry includes cigar production, a major distillery, oil extraction fields, and a power plant. There are still many problems: electricity shuts off without warning, there is a great concern for availability of fresh water, sufficient food, and other basic necessities. A mother on the street asked me for “jabon” (soap), another if I have a pen for his child for school; luckily, I had an entire bag. It was heartbreaking to see the state of the people, structures, the country.

Currently, the Department of the Interior, is tapping into the local ‘Brain Power’ to broaden their knowledge and develop strategies through a series of lectures by academicians, planners and other intellectuals in hope of advancing their country’s development and further modify their Urban Reform laws. Let’s hope there will be significant changes to improve the human condition and facilitate an exchange with one of the United States’ logistically closest neighbors.

By Joyce Raspa-Gore, AIA, Esq.
Cuba, a remarkable country, an island in the Caribbean only ninety miles south of Florida...yet a world apart from the United States in many ways. What was so striking to me was how “preserved” the country was. Due to the long standing embargo and lack of money, in many ways the culture and architecture have been “preserved.”

A walk down the streets of Old Havana (La Habana Vieja) was so refreshing because it has been unspoiled by development. There are no cars, just walking streets filled with people in the piazzas, plazas and cafes. Sidewalks and streets blur as people traverse them with ease. Shops, bars and buildings open up and spill onto the streets. Old Havana has benefitted greatly from being named a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The architecture reflects the different centuries and styles in which it was designed and equally reflects the warm Caribbean climate and colorful culture. There are arcades on the street level and verandas on the upper stories. The buildings are mostly mixed use – public or semi-public at the street level and residential on the upper stories. Many of the buildings have interior courtyards to allow light and air into the spaces due to the narrow buildings.

The old city as well as much of Havana is a city to be enjoyed by foot. The “preserved” architecture and culture is an incredible asset, from the urban planning of centuries ago, to the low height of buildings, to the many architectural styles of buildings. The lively plazas, the quiet interior spaces, the unmistakably human scale, truly Old Havana is a place to enjoy!
ATTENTION MEMBERS

LeagueLine 4Q 2014

“Architecture Everywhere I Look.”

People are traveling everywhere and taking photos all the time. Architects live, breathe, think, and photograph - architecture. LeagueLine editors are planning our 4Q annual members issue and the theme is “Architecture Everywhere I Look”

Private homes, office buildings, cities, bridges, - door knobs, hinges, windows, etc. etc. Historic - Contemporary, and everything in between. The subject is endless. Select your favorite photographs, and think about a few words to describe your image.

We’ll be sending followup emails with requests for submissions.

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Spring 2014 Kessler Walking Tour
Sunday, May 18, 2014

Our group of twenty-plus started at the Peace Fountain adjacent to the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine. Joe David led everyone thru upper Manhattan where we visited Columbia University where graduation was in progress. We walked past Riverside Church and across Riverside Drive where we had a brief rest stop where we were able to tour the General Grant National Memorial.

We continued down and up along the elevated subway at 125th Street. Who knew the island of Manhattan was so hilly!

Thank you to Malka van Bemmelen for arranging access to the Old Broadway Synagogue. Paul Radensky, the synagogue President, gave us a tour of the facility and also presented a brief history of the Synagogue.

We continued thru the Manhattanville Houses, City College of New York and the Hamilton Heights Historic District before ending at the Riverbank State Park.

Special ‘Thanks’ to Joe David. We look forward to the next tour!
Richard Meier Model Studio
April 10, 2014

Members of the Architects League were invited to Richard Meier’s office for a presentation on the Teacher’s Village project in Newark, NJ. Two members of the staff directly involved in the project presented a comprehensive overview of Meier’s work, presented concepts that were developed for the Teacher’s Village and gave an overview of the phases currently built and the future of the project. The highlight of the tour included viewing the considerable model collection now housed in a recently completed museum for Richard Meier’s architectural models.

ALNNJ/Newark Suburban Trade Show
Thursday, May 8th

The ALNNJ, in conjunction with AIA-Newark and Suburban, hosted our 26th Annual Architects Trade Show at the Marriott at Glenpointe in Teaneck. The afternoon began with an ample offering of informative educational seminars for our members. Following the seminars, the main floor was opened, featuring a full house of vendors – familiar faces, along with many new ones, that have promised to participate again next year! A delicious dinner followed, along with door prizes and raffles to close out this exciting event.

Our Annual Trade Show is a major fundraiser for both AIA sections. Member attendance at the show and face-time with our exhibitors is what keeps them coming back. Members get information useful to our profession and CEUs, as well as a drink and dinner! We encourage our members to make the effort to be there and meet our vendors and socialize with your colleagues. It is also important that our Member Firms allow staff to get away on that day for a seminar or two and attend the late afternoon show. Hope to see you next year!

Special thanks to Fay Logan and Jim Ramontol for organizing another successful show, and to Steve Lazarus for running the ALNNJ registration table this year.

Downtown Hackensack Redevelopment
April 17, 2014

The April Member Meeting was held at Maggiano’s Little Italy in Hackensack, and featured an enlightening presentation on redevelopment efforts in Downtown Hackensack. Anthony Rottino, City Manager and Francis Reiner PP+LLA at DMR Architects described traffic flow modifications and setback changes along with building height, density and mixed use allowances that are being implemented to spur a transformation of the downtown district. Exciting changes are underway!

Avenues: The World School Tour
May 31, 2014

Members and guest of The Architects League had a private tour of the recently completed Avenues School on Tenth Ave in lower Manhattan. It was a complete gut and renovation project of the 1928 Cass Gilbert warehouse by Perkins Eastman and Bonetti/Kozerski Studio. The design and solution stripped the building down and exposed its substantial poured in place concrete columns and slabs that were then cut away at strategic locations to create open two and three story spaces for a dynamic urban vertical campus. The 215,000 sf building houses students from pre-K to 12th grade.

An important part of the Avenues: World School mission statement, for this first facility and all other international campuses to follow, is that it reflects in its architecture the context of its location. The minimal, white industrial aesthetic that was created very successfully celebrates the history of this building and its important connection to the always impressing High Line.

Ralston Cider Mill Tour
June 7, 2014

The Ralston Cider Mill, located in Mendham, NJ, is the only operational cider mill functioning as a privately operated museum. The mill built in 1848 with stone walls and heavy timber construction continues to be restored. Raymond Nadaskay, AIA, a Past President of the Newark Suburban section of AIANJ, along with his wife Nancy, has been instrumental in the restoration. Ray spear-headed the committee to obtain the mill and continues to help raise funds for the ongoing restoration.

Judy Donnelly of AIA Newark Suburban coordinated a tour of the mill. The 27 people in attendance were given a comprehensive background on the mill and its restoration to date by Ray Nadaskay, along with a guided tour of the three story building. We were able to see the original machinery and structure, painstakingly returned to working order, along with a demonstration of how the machinery worked. The mill, originally built as a grist mill, was converted into the cider mill during the time of prohibition, the mill turned to cider and applejack manufacturing.

Scholarship Awards & Member Meeting
June 19, 2014

The Architects League held our annual scholarship awards in conjunction with our regular member meeting at the Hermitage in Ho-Ho-Kus.

Recipient of the Architects League Scholastic Achievement Award was Michelle Kleva of Wantage who is attending Wentworth College.

The Albert O. Halse Memorial Award was awarded to Alex Bruno of Nutley who is attending NJIT.

Saif Haobsh of Pompton Lakes, also a student at NJIT, received the Clarence Tabor Memorial Scholarship Award.

Dinners for the scholarship winners were graciously sponsored by:

- Designed Concepts Associates — Andrea Volter
- Benjamin Moore Paints – Bob Upton
- JSS Planning – Joseph Bianco

Congratulations to our scholarship recipients and special thanks to our dinner sponsors for their support.

Following the ceremony, ALNNJ members were treated to a presentation on AIA-NJ’s recent Cuba trip. Read all about it in this issue of Leagueline!
Lots of Summer Fun for Architects!

Architecture as a 
Way of Life: Raúl Acuna 
SHAPITTO Architecture 
July 28, 5:30 - 7:00pm 
Center for Architecture 
www.aiany.org

Conceptions of Space 
July 4 - Oct 19 
Museum of Modern Art 
www.moma.org

SUMMER FUN 
Entertainment at Bryant Park 
Bryantpark.org

National Museum of 
American History, Washington DC 
1984 Exhibit for 50th Anniversary 
www.americanhistory.si.edu

SUMMER FUN 
Movie Nights @ Bryant Park 
Bryantpark.org

Sky Studies 
Oil Sketches 
The Morgan Library 
thru Dec 28th

August 2014
1
SUMMER FUN 
Sun NY.C moves from a different perspective – closed to traffic 
Saturdays in August 
www.nyc.gov/html/dot/summerstreets

2
Tour New York City’s Civic Center 
Saturday Aug 23, 
10:30am - 12:30pm 
Center for Architecture 
www.cfa.org

3
No Meeting 
ALNNJ

4
ALNNJ 
No Meeting 
ALNNJ

5
SUMMER FUN 
Summer walks on the Highline 
open every day 
www.thehighline.org

6
The Morgan Library 
June 12 - Sept 6 
Elevating the Public Realm 
Open to the Public

7
Christopher Williams 
Production Line of Happiness 
July 27 - Nov 2 
Museum of Modern Art 
www.moma.org

8
Tour New York City’s Civic Center 
Saturday Aug 23, 
10:30am - 12:30pm 
Center for Architecture 
www.cfa.org

9
No Meeting 
ALNNJ

10
ALNNJ 
No Meeting 
ALNNJ

11
SUMMER FUN 
From NYC Hudson River Jazz, Blues, and Rock 
Bryant Park, New York City 
Bryantpark.org

12
Charles James: Beyond Fashion 
Metropolitan Museum of Art 
www.metmuseum.org

13
Jeff Koons 
June 17 - October 19 
Whitney Museum of American Art 
www.whitney.org

14
SHATOTTO Architecture 
Way of Life - Rafiq Azam 
Architecture as a 
Way of Life 
July 28, 5:30 - 7:00pm 
Center for Architecture 
www.cfa.org

15
No Meeting 
ALNNJ

16
ALNNJ 
No Meeting 
ALNNJ

17
No Meeting 
ALNNJ

18
SUMMER FUN 
Modern Movement: 
MoMA Sculpture Court 
ongoing 
www.moma.org

19
SUMMER FUN 
Movie Nights @ Bryant Park 
Bryantpark.org

20
No Meeting 
ALNNJ

21
SUMMER FUN 
Modern Movement: 
MoMA Sculpture Court 
ongoing 
www.moma.org

22
No Meeting 
ALNNJ

23
No Meeting 
ALNNJ

24
No Meeting 
ALNNJ

25
ALNNJ Member Meeting 
LEED Update 
Jason Klusinski

26
SUMMER FUN 
Summer walks on the Highline 
open every day 
www.thehighline.org

27
SUMMER FUN 
Sun NY.C moves from a different perspective – closed to traffic 
Saturdays in August 
www.nyc.gov/html/dot/summerstreets

28
No Meeting 
ALNNJ

29
No Meeting 
ALNNJ

30
No Meeting 
ALNNJ

Looking ahead...

ALNNJ Member Meeting 
LEED Update 
Jason Klusinski

October 16th 
AIA NJ Design & 
Advocacy Day 
War Memorial, Trenton, NJ

November 20th 
Sponsors’ Night - 
Arthur Drexler Lecture 
featuring Alexander Garlin

Another great summer evening...

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival 
at beautiful Bardavel, June thru August 
www hvshakespeare.org

In Memoriam

Concezio Petrella 
age 92, of Leonia, Architect and ALNNJ Member, passed away in December 2013 after a long battle with cancer. A lover of learning, he was able to acquire an education during extremely dire conditions. In 1955 he and his brothers emigrated from Italy to Venezuela where they built a successful construction business. In 1953 he was able to enter the United States where he became an architect and worked in that field successfully for the rest of his life.

Carl F. Saalbach 
age 95, of Emerson, passed away January 28 after a short illness. Born in New York City, Carl worked as an architect and engineer, first at shipyards in the New York area and Florida. He later had a long career as a self-employed designer of many houses and commercial buildings in Northern New Jersey. Carl’s plans are housed in the New Jersey Historical Society. A member of the Architects League, he was also active in local government and the Lions Club.

New Members

The League is pleased to announce the New Members:

Christian Bell, Assoc. AIA
Cecilia Cerio, Assoc. AIA
Rams A. Galiano, AIA
Loudes B. Melardi, AIA
James G. Meeser, Assoc. AIA
Niranjan Prabhu, Assoc. AIA
Sandra Rivas, Assoc. AIA
Milagros Riccella, Assoc. AIA
Daniele Sack, Assoc. AIA
Carine Sallem, Assoc. AIA
Christopher M Wolverton, AIA
Eusung Won, Assoc. AIA

The League welcomes you and looks forward to your involvement and participation. Please make a point of introducing yourself at the next dinner meeting or event.

Visit Hildane, the Lincoln family home in Manchester, Vermont www.hildane.org

A great summer trip.

Visit the beautiful Winterthur Museum and Gardens in Winterthur, Delaware Downton Abbey Costumes thru January 2015 www.winterthur.org
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Architects League of Northern New Jersey
15th Annual Golf Outing
Monday, July 14, 2014
Crystal Springs Resort, Hamburg, New Jersey

Join us!

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JOIN US!