

Press Release

Statue Reenactment Society Wins “Best in Parade”

Greenbelt MD, 3 September 2012: The all-volunteer Greenbelt Society for the Preambling Friezes of History as a Foundation for the Future (GSPFHFF) was awarded “Best in Parade” at the 2012 Labor Day Festival. The team reenacted Lenore Thomas’ bas relief Indiana limestone friezes from the Greenbelt Community Center.

“What better way could we honor Greenbelt’s 75th anniversary than to bring some of its most recognizable figures to life?” said Frank DeBernardo, GHI board member and member of the city’s 75th anniversary committee. DeBernardo (“Man in Overalls”) and Greenbelt pioneer descendant Tom Jones (“Man in Hat”) portrayed the “Insure Domestic Tranquility” tableau—a conversation between a farmer and a factory hand—also featured in the New Deal Cafe logo.

The team, dressed in light brown clothes that mimicked the Indiana limestone of the original sculptures, moved from one still-life image to another to display eight themes from the Preamble. Three men, two women and a boy smoothly traded props and places, while a red-white-and-blue hostess (Martha Heil) rolled out a series of title banners.

The team also had to anticipate what Thomas might have sculpted for the Preamble’s two closing phrases.

For “Secure the Blessings of Liberty,” a new scene was created in which Luisa Robles held her hand raised in a solemn ceremony as Alan Duda and Tom Jones stood before her. Another couple watched with a child bearing flowers. “We were glad Lenore left one phrase for the future, and think she would have been proud to see our performance,” said Duda.

“Reenacting ‘Ourselves and Our Posterity’ was easy: the ‘Mother and Child’ sculpture from Roosevelt Center,” said Johanna Goderre Jones, who played the role of “Mother.” Duda’s

For immediate release. Video and photos of the team, as well as an electronic copy of this press release, are available on their website: <http://spril.com/Preamble>

eight year old son Stephen enjoyed his role of "Child" in the "Mother and Child" reenactment. "It was a lot of work, but I'd do it again!"

At the end, a banner suggesting Greenbelt's original signature house stripes also wished the city a happy 75th as the statues came to life and shouted, "Happy birthday, Greenbelt!"

A video of their performance is available at <http://spril.com/Preamble>

The society was formed to march in the parade with a creative theme, but holds no regular meetings. Several team members were part of last year's Greenbelt Recycling and Sustainability Society, 2010's Get My Drift Society, 2009's Greenbelt Sun-Dried Garmenture Society Drill Team and 2008's Greenbelt Reel Lawnmower Society Precision Drill Team.

The Society also thanks Sean Eustis and Joe Wall for musical support, and Karen Wallace for photography.

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