

HRVI



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

Hudson River Valley Institute

A Continuation of The Great Estates Consortium's 400 Year Celebration of Life on the Hudson River



This year's symposium of Great Estates Consortium took place on Saturday, March 28th at the Franklin D. Roosevelt home in Hyde Park. A number of wonderful speakers were chosen for the event, among them G. Peter Jemison, Vernon Benjamin, Kjirsten Gustavson, and Kathleen Eagen Johnson. These speakers presented how different groups throughout the last four-hundred years have lived on the Hudson River.

G. Peter Jemison, a

Seneca Indian faith-keeper, gave an enlightening presentation on the indigenous people who lived in the Hudson River Valley region prior to its discovery, as well as after initial contact was made. He brought two reproduction wampum belts with him, as well as a reproduction beaver-fur hat; the product that spurred the extensive fur trade in the region. This informative show-and-tell and his ability to speak Algonquin set an edifying and a powerful and experience.

Women Poets of the Hudson River Valley

On Thursday, March 26, 2009 the Hudson River Valley Institute (HRVI), the English Department and the Honors Program co-sponsored a Reading of Women Poets of the Hudson Valley for Marist students and the community. The poetry event celebrated five female poets and their array of creative works. Lucia Cherciu, Lea Graham, Raphael Kosek, Judith Saunders, and Jan Schmidt each presented several of their pieces in an open panel format. With each poet coming from a different background and holding a style all their own, those in attendance experienced a wealth of culture and diversity. The works of Lucia Cherciu, a native of Romania, combined her Ro-

manian culture with her experiences in the Hudson Valley. Lea Graham, who was raised in Arkansas, included a vast array of direct references to people and places in and around the Poughkeepsie area. Raphael Kosek, an adjunct professor at Marist and the only Hudson Valley native, presented deep and emotional issues within a Hudson Valley context. The panel leader and full time professor, Judith Saunders read her pieces developed from acute observation of the area, its places and its people. Jan Schmidt, a resident of New York City and professor at SUNY New Paltz, offered both humorous and sorrowful poems derived from living in and around the Hud-

son Valley. Topics ranged from the Hudson and Wallkill Rivers to the streets of Poughkeepsie and Route 9W, beautiful spring-time blossoms to irritating parakeets and seagulls. The Hudson Valley's advantages were displayed right alongside its detriments through rhythmical lines and flowing verses. An open discussion followed the readings where the attendees discovered ways to get past writers block, how to best reach an audience, and the reason behind the poets' choice to write poetry. A cultural and enriching event, a Reading of Women Poets of the Hudson Valley was a successful collaboration among departments and enlightened all who attended.

-Lindsay Moreau

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- *The Early Years of the Birth Control Movement in the Hudson Valley*
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Historic Town: Rosendale



The town of Rosendale is situated in the eastern central section of Ulster County. This seemingly small town has made grand contributions to the iconic symbols of American development. The discovery of natural cement limestone in 1825 marked the beginning of Rosendale's influence on structural development. Natural cement from Rosendale is responsible for the locks holding together the Delaware and Hudson canals, the base of the Statue of Liberty, as well as the Brooklyn Bridge, and parts of the New York State thruway. Although the last cement mine in Rosendale closed in 1970, production of authentic natural cement began again in 2004 specifically for the restoration of historic monuments. Photos and artifacts used in building these monuments can be found at the Cement Industry Museum along with special exhibits on the past leaders of this industry.

Rosendale is also home to Widow Jane Mine, one of the largest and oldest limestone mines found between the limestone seam from High Falls to Kingston. Today it is home to a variety of different events including The Benefit for Caves that will occur on August 8th, 2009. Also, a variety of musical guests will be playing at the Widow Jane Mine with the proceeds going to bat and cave preservation under the guidelines of conservation, preservation, and education.

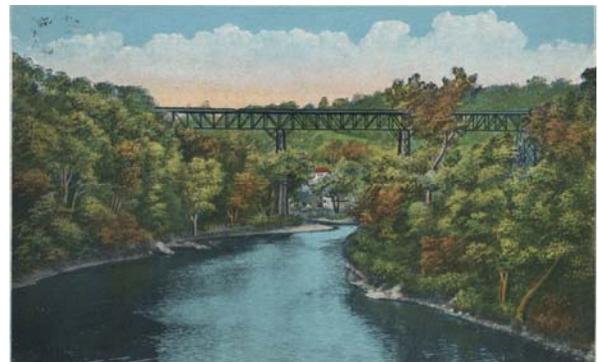
The Snyder Estate is another facet of Rosendale's historical charm. The Snyder Estate Natural Cement Historic District was added to the National Register of Historical Places in 1992. Established in 1755 by Jacob Snyder, the estate is maintained by The Century House Historical Society. It is the venue for the upcoming Rosendale Rocks. Occurring on May 27th, Rosendale Rocks will be showing a sneak preview of Dosage Volume IV with proceeds benefiting the Rosendale Water District. The Estate also houses the Historical Society and cement museum.

Contributing to the quirky and unique nature of Rosendale is the Annual International Pickle Festival

which occurs annually. This festival includes pickle contests, live music and traditional dancing. This festival came about in 1998 with the help of the Rosendale Chamber of Commerce, and has become an event to introduce everyone to the world of pickling.

For more information on Rosendale and the upcoming events, visit Rosendale's town website <http://www.townofrosendale.com/> as well as The Century House Historical Society <http://www.centuryhouse.org/>.

-Rachel Oleaga



Meet the Intern: Blaze Interligi

Blaze Interligi is a senior at Marist College, majoring in History with a concentration in Public History, and a minor in Anthropology. After graduation, he will be attending Binghamton University where he will pursue a Ph. D. in Anthropology, concentrating in Archaeology. He is specifically interested in historic archaeology. His historical interests lie within American history, specifically in such topics as Anthony Comstock and the anti-vice movements throughout American history. After school he hopes to teach Anthropology at the University level.

archaeology lab. He also participated in the University of New Paltz field school, excavating plots on New Paltz's historic Huguenot Street.

Blaze comes from Long Island but is happy he has been able to live and study in the Hudson Valley. He finds the Valley beautiful, with many activities that appeal to his anthropological and historic interests. He highly recommends visiting the New Paltz Historic Huguenot Street. If he could, he would very much like to live in the Hudson River Valley region later in his life.

For HRVI, Blaze is working as the archaeological liaison; compiling information on the Fishkill Supply Depot.



Shelburne Museum in Vermont

Blaze studied abroad in Florence and interned with the University of Florence in an

Featured Museum: Albany Institute of History and Art

Tucked away on the busy streets of Albany is the Albany Institute of History and Art (AIHA). This organization is helping to celebrate an important milestone in Hudson River Valley History. AIHA, is currently showcasing an exhibit that highlights the last 400 years in the Hudson River Valley called, Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Art, and Culture. The exhibit, which is helping to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage up the Hudson River, is currently on display until January 3rd 2010.

The AIHA easily presents, what must be daunting, 400 years of Hudson River Valley history by studying the five major themes of Community and Settlement, Culture and Symbol, Natural History and Environment, Trade, Commerce, and Industry, and Transportation. Also included in the exhibit is an astounding 11 foot map of the entire Hudson River Valley and a separate computer program of the map to learn overviews of certain areas.

The scope, detail, and interest of the exhibit is astounding. AIHA presents everything from Fredrick Church paintings, to the history behind the story of Rip Van Winkle, to a link from the

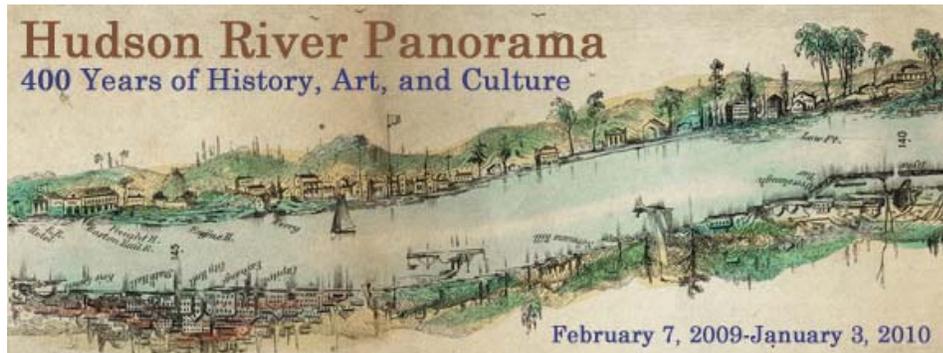
Hudson River Chain used during the American Revolution, and more.

After walking through the museum myself I talked to the Gudmundsen siblings, who had also just been through the exhibit, on what they thought. Sven Gudmundsen, found the displayed iron link from the Hudson River Chain to be the most fascinating saying, "Just the mere size was incredible." Sven's brother Tor Gudmundsen, thought the many paintings included to be interesting, but found how the exhibit was laid out was very helpful in understanding the entire scope of the Hudson River Valley's history. Sven and Tor's sister, Gail Gudmundsen Garrison, a Poughkeepsie resident all her life, was surprised at how much she did and did not know about the

Hudson River Valley, and is inspired to learn more about the area. Gail's husband Neil Garrison, a history buff, found the whole exhibit to be enjoyable, but having recently visited Washington Irving's home Sunnyside felt a strong interest in the Rip Van Winkle display. The fact that Sven, Tor, Gail, and Neil all enjoyed different aspects of the exhibit is testament that the Hudson River Panorama is a must see for all. Or as the Gudmundsen's and Garrison's all agree, "There is something here for everyone!"

For more information on the Albany Institute of History and Art and any of their exhibits please visit their website at <http://www.albanyinstitute.org/>.

-Katie Garrison



Consortium (cont.)

Vernon Benjamin, a Marist College adjunct lecturer, presented upon the history of the German Palatine migration of 1709; one of the largest in early American history. With 30,000 immigrants coming to the Americas, a significant number of which came directly to the Hudson River Valley, the effects were extensive.

Kjirsten Gustavson, curator of Education at Clermont State Historic Site, made an interesting and humorous presentation on the scientific and fiscal pursuits of Chancellor Robert R. Livingston. This influential American resident of the Hudson River Valley not only thrived in his political career but felt compelled to remain inventive and lucrative throughout his life, launching projects such as the American breeding

of Marino sheep and his work on steamships.

The final presenter was Kathleen Eagen Johnson, curator of Collections Historic Hudson Valley, whose thorough presentation on the creation of New York City as a world class Metropolis. Looking through the lens of the 1909 tricentennial celebration of Hudson's discovery a picture of a city and region in the throws of development, searching for its past in an attempt to come to grips with its emerging problems.

Ending the day's festivities was a panel discussion that focused mainly on tourism and the economic future of the Hudson River region. Tackling questions about development of historic cites as well as educational opportunities on the Hudson, this panel had members of the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Business Development Dutchess

County Economic Development Corporation, Scenic Hudson, Inc., and Dutchess County Tourism to answer questions from the audience. The result was a unique symposium that addressed issues of the regions past, present, and future.

-Blaze Interligi

WPA Post Office Murals

From the 1930s and into the 1940s, America was raising itself economically and socially with the help of their innovative president, Hyde Park native, Franklin D. Roosevelt. With the shattered American spirit at his feet due to the Great Depression, Roosevelt promised employment to all types of laborers with the New Deal; an economic planning and stimulus program. A sub-program called the Works Progress Administration/Federal Art Project (WPA/FAP) called for artists to beautify new and old public buildings around the country with their artwork.

The Treasury Department's Section of Painting and Sculpture (later known as the Section of Fine Arts) oversaw all WPA/FAP projects. Artists were chosen anonymously through national and regional contests, but some specially qualified artists were asked directly to participate. Although the commissioned art did not always provide relief or income for the artists, these artisans were given the opportunity to do work they loved, and touch the American public during this difficult time. Generating funds from project appropriations the artwork was used to decorate the new federal buildings.



Despite his daunting duty as a post-depression president, Roosevelt took personal charge over the construction and decoration of six post offices around the Hudson River Valley. FDR's fascination with Dutchess County history was based on his ancestral roots in the region. Before his presidency, FDR served on the Dutchess County Historical Society as Hyde Park's vice president, as well as the Hyde Park town historian. Based on his prerequisite in Dutchess County history and interest in architecture, FDR became personally invested in the new Hudson River Valley Post Offices. Designs for the post offices and the murals were reviewed and critiqued by Roosevelt himself. For the murals,

artists would send their work to the busy President, who made sure the pictures were historically accurate, and fit his personal expectations.

Roosevelt strongly believed the art within the post offices should transcend decoration, and work to revitalize a sense of pride within the community it served. He made sure each mural depicted the town's history, to reflect the community's progress throughout the years. The President believed the art would help restore confidence in the American people as they recovered from the blows of the nation's worst economic depression to date.

Now in the midst of a national recession, the murals still stand as a reminder of HRV history and accomplishment. Visit the Hudson River Valley post offices in Rhinebeck, Hyde Park, Poughkeepsie, Wappinger Falls, Beacon, and Ellenville to see the New Deal buildings and murals. If you do not have the means to make the trip (or if you simply don't have anything to mail), stay tuned to the Hudson River Valley Institute website for more information, and art projects based on the murals. (www.hrvi.org)

-Julia D'Angelo

The Early Years of the Birth Control Movement in the Hudson Valley

Dr. Robyn L. Rosen, Associate Professor of History at Marist College, will be speaking on this subject on Wednesday, April 29th at 4:30 pm in Lowell Thomas Room 125. This lecture is free and open to the public. Rosen is the author of *Reproductive Health, Reproductive Rights: Reformers and the Politics of Maternal Welfare 1917-1940* (Ohio State University Press, 2003) and is currently working on a study of Hudson Valley birth control

activism.

This coincides with Planned Parenthood Mid-Hudson Valley's celebration of their 75th Anniversary in the mid-Hudson Valley. In honor of this landmark anniversary, they are gathering their archives for their permanent housing at the New York State Library in Albany. Items from Planned Parenthood's collection will be on display, and Dr. Rosen will be presenting her paper on the birth control movement in the mid-Hudson Valley

during the interwar years.

For additional details or questions, please call (845) 294-9975, extension 112 or e-mail development@ppmhv.org.

-Julianne Sadowski

Meet the Intern: Lindsay Moreau

Lindsay Moreau is currently a senior and will be graduating in May with a degree in Business Management with a Marketing emphasis as well as a minor in Advertising. This is Lindsay's first semester interning at the Institute. She was recruited after receiving an award for an article she wrote on athletes and eating disorders. She wrote an article on the upcoming Quadricentennial celebration to be featured in the Hudson River Valley Review. In addition to the internship and her school work, Lindsay is a member of the Marist Track team where she competes primarily in mid-distance events. Lindsay is also a member of the Marist College Dance Club, an employee in the Undergraduate Admissions Office



and was recently inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, the business honor society. Lindsay enjoys and appreciates the opportunity to intern at the Institute where she has been improving her writing skills and learning about the beautiful and historical Hudson Valley.

-Lindsay Moreau

Quadricentennial Update

New York's Quadricentennial Celebration is on its way! A vast array of fun flows along the Hudson river with this 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage and Samuel de Champlain's discovery. Some of the scheduled events include Hudson River Valley Institute's (HRVI) Quadricentennial Conference, "Walkway Over the Hudson", the Regatta, and many more events that will take place all throughout the Hudson River Valley from March through October of 2009.

HRVI's Quadricentennial Conference, "America's First River: The Hudson", is open to the public on September 25th and 26th. It starts off at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Wallace Center and takes place at Marist the next day. The closing event will be at Longview Park. This is a unique opportunity to celebrate this rare Hudson River Valley commemoration. The conference will feature several of the most renowned scholars in the world, and the focus of their work is this region's unique and rich history. At one point during the conference, panels of speakers

will discuss Henry Hudson's voyage and how it has affected the region's Native Americans. Other regional history topics will be addressed as well as key dimensions of Hudson River Valley culture. Currently, the administration is finding out if the president could potentially take part in this historic event.

"Walkway Over the Hudson" is another special event. This is the Quadricentennial celebration's showcase event. During the walkway dedication, HRVI has planned to put forth an oral history video that is about the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge. This is part of HRVI's Walkway Over the Hudson Historic Preservation Project. Over 40 individual interviews with people associated with the Walkway's development or original bridge occurred in order to create this video.

Several exciting boat races along the beautiful, fall version of the Hudson will occur during the Regatta, which will take place on October 3rd at 9 a. m. (during Marist's family weekend). Many different colleges and uni-

versities will participate in the competitions.

Check out the Quad-related website at www.Dutchess400.com for the latest information on the myriad of other fun, family events occurring all throughout the Hudson River Valley from March through October. Some of these include the Kid's Expo, the Mother's Day High Tea Luncheon, the Henry Hudson Half Moon at Marist College event, Bertolozzi's Bridge Music Concert, the Silver Ribbon Tour: Inside City Homes, and more.

-Julianne Sadowski



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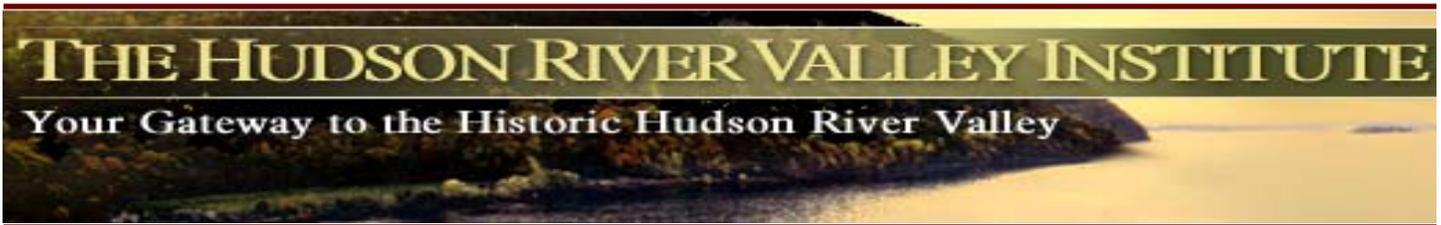
*The Hudson River Valley:
"The Landscape that Defined America"*

The Hudson River Valley is one of only 37 congressionally designated National Heritage Areas in the United States. As one of the most important regions in the United States, it is the fountainhead of a truly American identity. Recognizing the area's national value, Congress formed the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area in 1996 to recognize, preserve, protect, and interpret the nationally-significant history and resources of the valley for the benefit of the nation.

The Hudson River Valley Institute (HRVI) is the academic arm of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. Its mission is to study and promote the Hudson River Valley and to provide educational resources for heritage tourists, scholars, elementary school educators, environmental organizations, the business community, and the general public. Its many projects include the publication of *The Hudson River Valley Review* and the management of a dynamic digital library and leading regional portal site.

As the center for the study of the Hudson River Valley, the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College is the central hub for information about the region that Congress called "the Landscape that defined America."

www.hudsonrivervalley.org



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