



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

The Great Estates Consortium is celebrating the Quadricentennial voyage of Henry Hudson on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. The celebration will be held in the [Henry A. Wallace Visitors and Education Center](#) at the [FDR Presidential Library in Hyde Park, New York](#) with an all-day symposium about the past and future of the river that bears Hudson's name. Focusing primarily on ways people have lived on the river from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to today, this symposium will also explore the role the Hudson River will play in the lives of those living on it in the future. The festivi-

ties will last from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and will include a wine and cheese reception, lunch, and free admission to the FDR Presidential Library and the Home of FDR National Historic Site from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There will be four lectures throughout the day preceded by an optional walking tour of the Roosevelt Farm Road leaving at 8:30 a.m. These lectures will cover Native American lifestyles on the Hudson River, the German Palatines, 19<sup>th</sup> century scientific pursuits of Robert R. Livingston, and the transformation of New York City into the current world

-class metropolis. The final activity will be a panel discussion about the future of the Hudson River. Individuals that will take part represent a cross section of modern perspectives on the region including conservationist, public access, recreation and tourism, economic development, and education.

Space is limited, therefore pre-registration is strongly recommended. The registration fee is \$55. For additional information call (845) 889-8851 or view the brochure online at: [http://www.nps.gov/ner/customcf/apps/eventcalendar/events/images/elro-event88711980\\_GESflyer.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/ner/customcf/apps/eventcalendar/events/images/elro-event88711980_GESflyer.pdf).

-Blaze Interligi

## All Aboard for the Central New England Railroad Tour

The 2009 CNE Historical tour will be on Saturday March 28 (rain or shine). We will depart from the parking lot next to the Dutchess Baseball stadium on route 9D in Beacon NY. This is the same

location we used in 2007. We have a lot of ground to cover so we will have coffee and buses will roll at 9:00.

The guide book is almost ready for the printers with a page count of 213. There are

more than 300 photos of the Maybrook Line and the Danbury station and yard. Many of them have not been published before.

Our first stop will be the Hopewell Junction rail yard and depot. *(Continued on Page 3)*

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### Special points of interest:

- *Great Estates Consortium: Saturday, March 28, 2009*
- *Central New England Railroad Tour: Saturday, March 28, 2009*

# Historic Town: Beacon

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The City of Beacon, located in the southwest corner of Dutchess County, has secured a place in Revolutionary and Contemporary American History. The area was one of the first communities in the state of New York, originally known as Matteawan and Fishkill Landing. The two villages, along with a small part of the Hamlet of Glenham in Fishkill, were combined and named Beacon in 1913. "Beacon" comes from the nearby Beacon Mountain, where Revolutionary soldiers lit signal fires to alert the Continental Army of oncoming British troops. In addition to being a fort and signaling point, this small New York city produced war supplies for Continental troops. During the 1800's, Beacon was home to nearly 50 hat factories, claiming the title of "the hat making capital of the US." The factory town suffered a severe economic downfall between 1970 and 1990, resulting in almost 80 percent of the factories and business spaces closing.

Beacon underwent a commercial and artist rebirth in the late 1990s, when the city became home to Dia: Beacon, Riggio Galleries. The Museum occupies the former National Biscuit Carton Making and Printing Plant, which was built in 1927 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Renovated by artist Robert Irwin and OpenOffice Arts, the museum opened its doors the public in May 2003.

Dia: Beacon is a facet of the Dia Art Foundation, an internationally renowned non-

profit institution founded in 1974. Dia's permanent collection of works from the 1960's to the present can be seen at Dia: Beacon, Dia at the Hispanic Society of America in New York City, as well as in the western US, and Bridgehampton, Long Island. The permanent collection includes works by: Bernd and Hilla Becher, Louise Bourgeois, Dan Flavin, Robert Irwin, Blinky Palermo, Richard Serra, Lawrence Weiner, and Andy Warhol.

In addition to its permanent collection, Dia: Beacon presents temporary exhibitions and public programs including monthly Gallery Talks, Merch Cunningham Dance Company Events, Community Free days for neighboring counties, and an education program for students of all levels.

Gallery Talks are held on the last Saturday of every month at 1p.m. and are free with regular admission. Curators, art historians, and/or writers speak for one hour about the work of artists in the museum. This month there are two presentations. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, Kristin Poor will speak about Fred Sandback, and on March 28<sup>th</sup> Nico Israel will discuss the work of Robert Smithson.

Also, on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 2pm, the work of Zoe Leonard will be discussed by Director of the Hispanic Society Mitchell Coddling and Bettina Funcke, Senior Edi-

tor U.S. for Parkett.

For more information about the museum and its programs, visit their website at <http://www.diabeacon.org/>

-Julia D'Angelo



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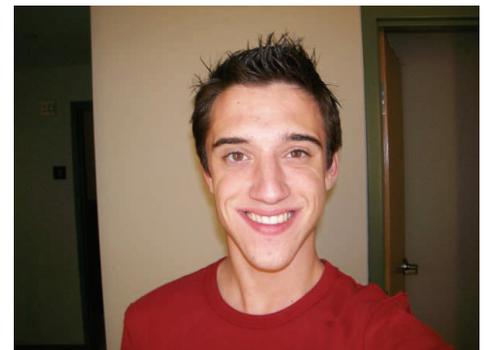
## Meet the Intern: Billy Burke

Billy is a senior at Marist College, studying Communications with a concentration in Public Relations, with a minor in Business. This is his first semester interning with HRVI; he is interested in studying public administration or political communication after graduation.

Billy is the Executive Vice President within Marist College's Student Government Association. He works closely with college administrators to represent student concerns, and also manages SGA's Executive Board. He previously served as Vice President for Club Affairs for two years, overseeing Marist's seventy chartered clubs, and chartering eight new

clubs during his time in the position.

Billy is also interested in theater and music. He is an active member of Marist Singers and Chamber Singers, its select sub-group. Billy has also appeared on stage in six Marist Theatre and Marist College Council on Theatre Arts productions, including *Angels in America*, *Cabaret* and *Rumors*.



## Featured Museum: The FDR Presidential Library

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The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, New York is currently gearing up for several upcoming events that observe important historical dates, while displaying a current exhibition that correlates to current events.

The Library is current displaying "Action, and Action Now," a special exhibition that profiles President Franklin Roosevelt's first 100 days in office, with specific emphasis on the New Deal and FDR's handling of economic crisis at the onset of his presidency. These first 100 days are memorable because of the urgency with which the president acted to address the financial crisis, and are now widely considered a benchmark for future presidents to match in activating their own administrations.

The relief and hope achieved in this period are characterized in the FDR Library's current main exhibition, against a backdrop of the

faces of the Great Depression, and various supporting artifacts and documents from the Library. The exhibition is within the William J. vanden Heuvel Gallery, funded by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute. Exhibition-only admission is available; call 1-800-FDR-VISIT for more information.

The Library is also preparing for a free public event: the United Nations Film Festival's viewing of *Eleanor Roosevelt and the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. The film will be shown at the Henry Wallace Center on Friday, March 13 and Saturday March 14, presented by the Pare Lorentz Film Center. Eleanor Roosevelt was notably active in human rights causes during her time as first lady.

The FDR Library will also present *400 Years: Life on the Hudson* on Saturday, March 28, from 8:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m. at the Henry Wallace Center. This is the fifth annual sym-

posium of the Great Estates. This symposium requires pre-registration, and will chronicle important developments in the Hudson River Valley since the 1609 voyages of Hudson and de Champlain. It is among many events in the region that are occurring in observance of the Quadricentennial celebration; for more information, visit Dutchess County Tourism online.

-Billy Burke



## All Aboard for the Central New England Railroad Tour (cont.)

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From there we will follow the Maybrook Line to Danbury CT. From Hopewell Junction to Holmes was the "pusher district" for the locomotives based in Hopewell. The CNE did not own that section of the Maybrook Line but they did lease it in October 1912. The CNE operated the line until it all became part of the New Haven RR in 1927.

We will have lunch in the Two Step restaurant in Danbury which is right next to the site of the original rail yard. We are arranging some lively and informative railroad talks at the restaurant. Those of you who wish, could walk a couple blocks and spend time at the Danbury

Railway Museum which is still a stop on MTA Metro-North RR. The museum has a yard full of historic railroad equipment including an operating turntable and a very nice display in the old station building. Be sure to stop in the gift shop.

The cost of this year's tour will again be \$50.00 per person and payment should be made out to: Joseph Mato CNE 2009. Be sure to include your E-Mail address so we can contact you if we need to. If you don't have E-Mail then include your phone number.

Send registration and payment to:  
JOE MATO-CNE 2009  
62 WOOD ROAD  
REDDING, CT. 06896

-Bernie Rudberg



## Meet the Intern: Katie Garrison

My name is Katie Garrison. I am a senior, graduating in May and as a history major joining the Hudson River Valley Institute was one of the best decisions I have made. Although, I am new to HRVI I have already gained vital knowledge and many new experiences. Over the past few weeks I have been able to put my best attributes to good use and improve other skills.

Having been born and raised in the historic Hudson River Valley, going into the field of history seemed like a natural choice. When it came to choosing where to go to college, Marist was the only choice for me and as they say, it was a match made in heaven.

Once I joined HRVI, I am ashamed to say, I realized that I knew very little about the Hudson River Valley. My greatest interest in history being World War II, my knowledge of the Hudson River Valley only reached as far as the Franklin D. Roosevelt

Library and Museum in Hyde Park. I am currently working on a paper about the Delaware and Hudson Canal for the Corridor of Commerce. I am also responsible for researching historical military figures of the Hudson River Valley. Both assignments have provided an incredible opportunity for me to learn more about the Hudson River Valley.

Outside of HRVI there are only two other places you can be certain to find me. The first being the Starbucks across from Campus, as a big coffee drinker I often stop by a few times a day. The second place I can be found is the movies. I go to the movies every week to see anything and everything. You can only imagine how happy I get when I am watching a historical movie while drinking a Starbucks coffee.



## Featured Historic Site: Springwood

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR), the 32nd President of the United States, loved his Springwood estate in Hyde Park, New York. This was his literal life-long home because, in addition to residing there, it is both his birthplace and burial place. In 1945, it became a National Historic Site.

The Springwood estate was built around 1800, starting as a large farmhouse. After FDR's father, James Roosevelt, bought the house in 1867, he began to reconstruct it into something more magnificent. Some of the changes made were adding and enlarging rooms, building a large carriage house for horses and carriages, constructing a tower, building large fieldstone wings, replacing the exterior, raising the roof to create a third story, adding a small portico, and much more. Later on, FDR planted various trees throughout the estate, enhancing its beauty even more because, like his father, FDR maintained a fervent love for the outdoors.

Even though FDR's political career caused the family to live in other places for long amounts of times, they returned to their special Springwood haven whenever they could. His heart's desire to escape

back to his true home is expressed in his words, "All that is within me cries out to go back to my home on the Hudson River." He loved Springwood so much that while he was New York's governor and the President of the United States, this was the center of his life and career. Springwood also served as headquarters for his political career where he entertained numerous prominent people.

There are many highlights within FDR's home, including the entrance hall filled with his collection of paintings, artifacts from his boyhood bird collection, and a sculpture of him. The living room and library is where he stored his collections of around 14,000 volumes of literature, 1.2 million stamps, more than 200 ship models, over 2,000 lithographs, prints, and naval paintings, at least 300 bird specimens, and countless medallions, campaign buttons, banknotes, and coins. Since FDR's mother spent time in China, the music room displays numerous porcelain and lacquerware pieces. This was where the formal entertaining of guests occurred. Besides these three rooms, there are many other interesting places to explore within his beloved house and overall estate.

Franklin D. Roosevelt's home can only be viewed through guided tours, which are popular since they sell out during the peak sea-

son and on holiday weekends. Besides taking a guided tour of FDR's home, visitors can enjoy a self-guided tour of the museum and wander through the trails and gardens within the 300 acres of grounds. In the Wallace Center's auditorium, visitors can watch a 22 minute introductory film. The Henrietta Nesbitt Café serves meals within this structure. For more information, visit: <http://www.nps.gov/hoftr/>.  
-  
Julianne Sadowski



## Featured Historian: Bernie Rudberg

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The railroads played a crucial part throughout American history. Though planes have become popular among many, the train still survives. One historian who understands the historical importance of the railroads is Bernie Rudberg. Though retired, he is serving as the president of Hopewell Junction Depot Restoration Inc. Currently, he is in the midst of restoring the depot into a small museum and educational facility.

The Hopewell Junction Depot was first built in 1873 and used remarkably up until the 1980s. However, with its abandonment, neglect and a fire left this once proud depot a figment of what it once was. As such, a group of concerned citizens came together and decided to begin restoring it for future generations. For the past 13 years, these citizens have been hard at work and are currently working to rebuild the roof structure. The Town of East Fishkill

has helped with the funding, but the group relies primarily on the donations of private individuals.

Before his retirement he served a tour in US Navy electronic systems during the Korean War. With this said, he points out that in his four years in the Navy, he never set foot on a ship once. However, his work with the electronic systems opened the doors to a 35 year long career with IBM engineering. With the close of his IBM career and his retirement, he refocused on his lifelong and family interest of railroads.

His interest and love for the railroads are a family tradition dating back to at least three generations. Back in Sweden, his great grandfather started out on the railroads in 1874 and by 1894 he was the stationmaster located in a small town where the tracks cross the Arctic Circle in northern Sweden called Polcirkeln. This love of

railroads can still be seen today, in its earliest stages, in Mr. Rudberg's and his wife's (whom he has been married to for 49 years) three grandchildren playing in the basement

- Joe DeLisle

The Great Estates Consortium  
presents  
**400 Years:**  
Life on the Hudson River

An all-day symposium  
Saturday, March 28, 2009  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

# Contact Us

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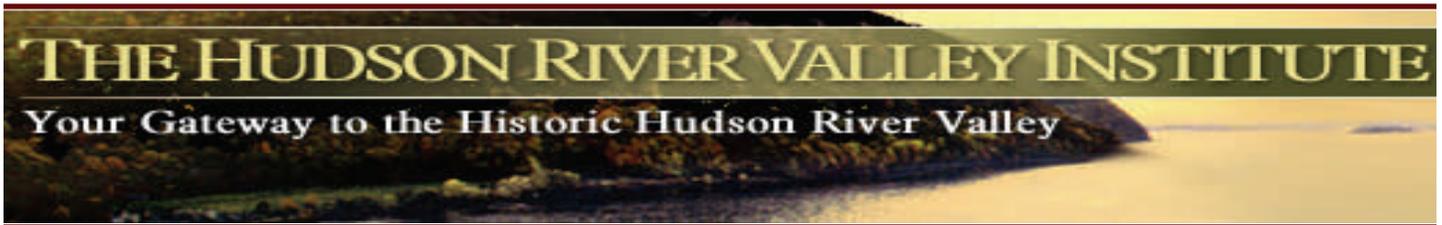
***The Hudson River Valley:  
"The Landscape that Defined America"***

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](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org)



## Staff

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