

HRVI

Hudson River Valley Institute

YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

Holiday Events in the Hudson Valley

This holiday season there are many events going on in the Hudson Valley. On December 12 and 13, The Rhinebeck Choral Club will present its 2009 Holiday Concert, which will include a variety of seasonal, sacred, Hanukah, spiritual, and novelty selections, including familiar favorites such as *The Christmas Waltz*, *Light One Candle*, and *Baby Its Cold Outside*. On De-



ember 12 the concert will be held at Rhinebeck High School at 8pm and on December 13 the concert will take place at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Poughkeepsie.

For holiday cheer, be sure to catch the debut performance of *Sugar Plums and Nutcrackers*, a classical ballet and variety performance drawn



from *The Nutcracker*. The presentation features dancers from Dutchess, Ulster and Greene counties, performing a range of dances including ballet, tap, jazz and more. This will take place at The Center for Performing Arts in Rhinebeck on Friday December 11 at 8pm and Sunday December 13 at 3pm.

The Center for Performing Arts in Rhinebeck will host *A Christmas Carol*, A new twist on Charles Dickens' classic tale featuring Scrooge, , Tiny Tim and the Cratchits, some unusual ghosts and your favorite holiday carols. This will be taking on December 18 and 19 at 8pm and Sunday at 3pm.

Guitarist and composer David Temple spins a musical thread through many periods and places by performing his classical guitar. He will debut new compositions and arrangements that

celebrate the season. By drawing upon the influence of the music of Latin America, Spain, and France among others, this is an evening that promises to ring out with warmth and joy. The performance is taking place December 26 and 27 at the Center for Performing Arts in Rhinebeck.

A Consort of Singers will present its annual *Lessons & Carols* services at Holy Cross Monastery on December 20 at 3pm. The Hudson Valley Calendar of Events posted on www.BearSystems.com serves as guide to other Holiday events in the Hudson Valley.

-Joe Ritche

Inside this issue:

Meet the Intern: Maxine	2
Featured Authors	2
Meet the Intern: Steve	3
Historic Holiday Events	3, 4
Contact Us	5
Staff Listing	5

Special points of interest:



Meet the Intern

Meet Maxine

Maxine Presto is wrapping up a productive semester with the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College as a writing intern. Although she has always admired the natural beauty of the Hudson Valley, it was not until her sophomore year when she found true inspiration for its history in words. It was then that she took a class on Hudson Valley poetry with Dr. Saunders and realized how the region has been a rich source for influential poets and intellectuals.

The internship has allowed her to explore and understand the historical

significance of the region through writing biographies of famous authors of the Hudson Valley. Additionally she enjoyed visiting, researching, and writing about the Rockefeller estate, Kykuit. She has also enjoyed her time spent in the office, surrounded by a knowledgeable and interesting staff – engaging in countless conversations about animal rights and veganism.

Maxine Presto is an English-Writing major with minors in Biology and Creative Writing, who recently returned from studying in Melbourne, Australia last semester. Upon returning to Marist for the fall, she found herself happily bound to books and drinking copious amounts of coffee. Maxine also spends her evenings working in the Advancement Office and volunteering time with Fox P.A.W., People for Animal Welfare.

She is currently researching graduate schools, as well as weighing options for volunteer and further travel. Ultimately Maxine is hoping to merge her interests in human evolution and environmentalism, with writing, both creative and scholarly, to form a career.

By Maxine Presto

Featured Author

Exploring NY with Steffen T. Kraehmer

The Hudson River Valley is a destination for people interested in history, adventure and leisure. So whether you like history or hiking, modern art or museums, the Hudson Valley will always keep you busy. Author and photographer Steffen T. Kraehmer helps readers explore this scenic historic region in his new book, *Exploring the Hudson Valley's 100 Great Places... Just North of New York City*.

Steffen T. Kraehmer, born in Queens, New York and raised in the Hudson River Valley, has a passion for enjoying and preserving this National Heritage Area. After attending Florida State University, he returned to the northeast with employment in Westchester County, Connecticut, and Dutchess and Ulster Counties. His extensive experience in communications and marketing include book and newsletter publications, special event organi-

zation, fundraising, community recreation program consulting, and multimedia presentation development. He has appeared on CNN and “America’s Talking,” additionally his works have been cited in numerous publications including “Newsweek” and “Reader’s Digest.”

Steffen T. Kraehmer released *Exploring the Hudson Valley's 100 Great Places. . .Just North of New York City*, which offers a plethora of historic and scenic locations for New York and New Jersey residents to visit. The 350 page topical guide is a comprehensive book for those visiting the Hudson Valley region. The book also offers up-to-date descriptions and hundreds of websites for additional information. New York State Senator William J. Larkin stated “the beauty and history of the Hudson Valley is vividly brought to life in Steffen Kraehmer’s book *Exploring The Hudson Valley's 100 Great Places*. He highlights the area’s best sites to

visit, including one dear to my heart—The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor. This book is destined to become the premier visitor’s guide for the Hudson Valley.” Kraehmer also released Volume I of *Exploring The Hudson Valley*, providing visitors and long-time residents an impressive journey through the scenic Hudson Valley. As a computer screensaver or as a travel guide slide show, viewers are presented with 120 spectacular photographs and computer access to regional travel information. Kraehmer provides a photographic passport to experiencing the Hudson Valley’s grandeur and exploring noteworthy estates, forts, museums, and parks.

By Elizabeth Vielkind

Meet the Intern

Meet Steve

I joined the HRVI internship team this fall to round out my final senior semester here at Marist College and it has been a great opportunity.

My studies at Marist directly complement my career in the realm of national historic landmark stewardship and the various disciplines of law, politics, and ethics that crisscross its path. My job description isn't of a line of work I'm studying and training to enter. I already have the job: steward and caretaker of Riverby, the home and library of John Burroughs, and the guardian and protector of his direct descendants, my family. This line of work, although quite specialized, needs training and expertise in areas that Marist is well known for and is excellent in providing: pre-law, political science, and history. During my tenure at Marist my pre-law studies have yielded a paralegal certificate as well as education in history, public opinion, and politics

that has all been applied directly, in real time, to my occupation. The internship here at HRVI has been especially useful for my studies as the Institute is directly involved with the same federally designated national historic landmark region where our family landmark is located. The great friends and acquaintances I have met here this fall will surely not be lost or forgotten.

My college studies began many years ago right after I graduated from Rhinebeck Central High and started my studies in aquatic biology at Cornell, following in my father's footsteps. He ran an aquatic biology research and aquaculture company, Northeastern Biologists Incorporated. During those formative years right before and after high school graduation I and twenty or more other young and inspired local Rhinebeck would-be-future biologists, ecologists, and champions of the natural world had this great opportunity to be part of my father's Hudson River fisheries study. From 1965 to 1968 we were part of a nonstop twenty four hour a day field data sampling project on the Hudson. The study involved rotating shifts by crews of four to five on twenty foot long *Penn Yann's* and a forty-seven foot con-

verted lobster boat research vessel, *The Stormy Petrel*. Specially modified trawls were used from the boats; and other crews conducted sampling along the entire river from both shores using seines and waders. We were gathering samples of baby striped bass and other river life for an environmental study sponsored by Con Ed in its attempt to get a license to turn Storm King Mountain into a hydroelectric pump storage power plant.

A lot has happened since then. Con Ed lost its bid, Storm King won and Environmental law was born in the process. In its Special Collections Archives Library, Marist College has copies of all that raw data that I and my river mates collected in the Hudson River Fisheries Investigation. More importantly the river is much cleaner now thanks to the *Clearwater* and dreamers who wouldn't stop dreaming.

By Steve Grim, '09

Holiday Fun at Historic Sites

Historic Holiday Fun

As the holiday season approaches Hudson Valley's historic sites are hosting events to get visitors into the spirit. In addition to the events mentioned below, most historic sites have been decorated for the holidays and are offering festive tours for interested



guests.

Albany County

Schuyler Mansion- Throughout the month of December the Schuyler Mansion is offering holiday tours of the home decorated for Christmas in the 18th century tradition. A Twelfth Night Celebration will be held on January 2, from 4-7pm. The event will feature 18th century holiday fare, music and re-enactors portraying the family.

Ten Broeck Mansion- On Saturday, De-

ember 19 from 10:30- noon, the mansion will host a children's story hour featuring holiday story readings, traditional parlor games and holiday treats. The mansion will also be hosting an afternoon tour complete with coffee, deserts and Christmas music played by the Madrigal Singing Ensemble. This event will take place on December 19, and run from 3-5pm. On Saturday, January 9 from 5-9pm the holiday festivities conclude with a Twelfth Night dinner in the mansion's decorated formal dining room. Reservations for this event are required.

Continued on pg. 4

Holiday Fun at Historic Sites, Continued...

Columbia County

Clermont Sate Historic Site- Clermont will be holding candlelight evening tours on Sunday, December 13 from 3-6pm. The trees will be lit as Christmas carols of the day play throughout the



home. An open fire will be set up to allow for guests to toast marshmallows before and after tours. Additionally, Clermont will host its annual holiday open house on Saturday, December 19. The house will be open from 11am-4pm with no entrance fee.

Olana- Visitors will have the opportunity to tour the decorated home, complete with artifacts like a letter to Santa from one of Frederic Edwin Church's sons. The estate will be open for holiday tours through January third from 11am-4pm.

Dutchess County

Locust Grove Estate- On December 13 & 20, from noon-4pm the estate will host "Twas the Night Before Christmas", a holiday event for children. Families will search the house with book in hand, for scenes from the tale. The estate will also be open for self-guided Christmas tours.

Staatsburgh State Historic Site- Guests are invited to tour the Mills Mansion and experience Christmas in the Gilded Age. Tours run December 16-31 from 12-5pm. The Staatsburgh site will also be host to a 'Holiday Who-dunit' for children. Young guests explore the mansion, interviewing Mrs. Mills; guests (who are dressed in period costume) in search of an article. The mystery unfolds every Sunday from November 29-December 27 from 1-4pm

Orange County

Washington's Headquarters - On December 13 from 3-6pm, the Hasbrouck House will be host to a holiday celebration. Guests will be greeted by people in period costume as they explore the decorated house. The Salmagundi Trio will be on site performing 18th century Christmas music and mulled cider and treats will be served.

Putnam County

Boscobel- The estate will be offering Yuletide Teas on Wednesdays and Sundays throughout the month of December as well as traditional holiday tours. Visitors will be able to learn about holiday traditions and décor of the Federal Period.

Westchester County

Sunnyside- Washington Irving's manor will be host to candlelight holiday tours



on December 12, 19 & 26. Guests will stroll along the property while listening to Irving's Christmas takes. The tours will conclude with the singing of carols and hot cider.

Van Cortlandt Manor- Candlelit tours will be held on December 12, 19 and 26, from 4-8pm. The house is fully decorated for Christmas. Meanwhile, the neighboring Ferry House Tavern will be set for a Twelfth Night celebration, complete with fiddle music, dancing, and refreshments.

By Gina Figler



Rhinebeck, NY.

From the staff of the Hudson

River Valley Institute to all of

our friends Happy Holidays!

Contact Us

The Hudson River Valley Institute
Marist College
3399 North Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-1387

Phone: 845-575-3052
Fax: 845-575-3176
E-mail: hvi@marist.edu

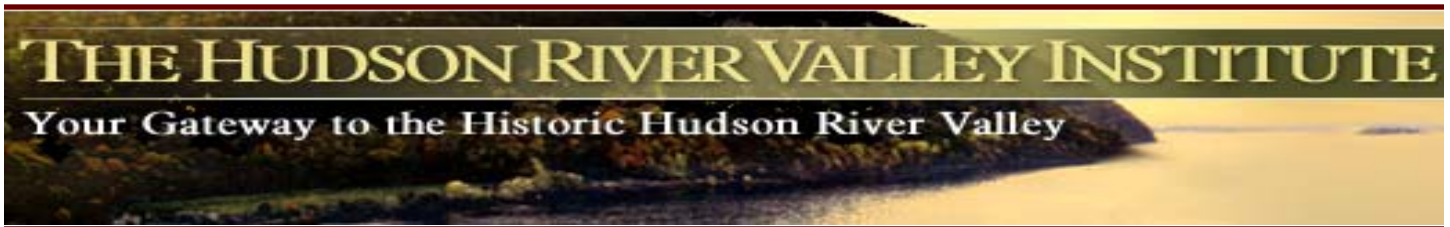
*The Hudson River Valley:
"The Landscape that Defined America"*

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



Staff

Dr. Thomas Wermuth, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty, Director, Hudson River Valley Institute

Dr. Colonel James M. Johnson (U.S. Army, ret.), Executive Director, Hudson River Valley Institute

Christopher Pryslopski, Program Director

Jason Schaaf, Education Supervisor

Andy Villani, Coordinator

Contributors to this issue:

Katie Garrison, Editor-in-Chief
Lindsay Moreau, Staff Writer
Christopher Pryslopski, Staff Writer
Andy Villani, Staff Writer

Hudson River Valley Events

Steve Grim Gina Figler
Maxine Presto Joe Ritchie
Elizabeth Vielkind