

Issue 84

April/May 2013

# HRVI February Newsletter

## Creating Leaders: West Point's Specialty Since 1902



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

# Hudson River Valley Institute

The United States Military Academy at West Point has been producing our Army's top leaders and officers for over two centuries. There is no secret to the success of these future leaders; they all live by the Honor Code that has been around since the educational institute's establishment in 1802. This code was formally written down in the 1920s by then Superintendent Brigadier General Douglas MacArthur. All cadets at West Point follow a simple rule that is drilled into their heads: "A cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do." For a more in-depth look

at how the institution has succeeded in following this code, HRVI is hosting a lecture from retired Brigadier General Lance Betros on Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Marist College.

Betros is a man who knows the ins and outs of West Point. He is the author of the book *Carved from Granite: West Point Since 1902* and a graduate of the 1977 class. An accomplished historian, Betros received his doctorate from the University of North Carolina and served as a professor and head of the History Department at

West Point from 2005-2012. Before writing his latest book, he served as editor for a collection of essays entitled *West Point: Two Centuries and Beyond* where he cites success from West Point is based on continuity, not change. In between both of his works, Betros did additional research and concluded that for the last century of West Point's existence, the history of its success can actually be best described as change, not continuity.

*Carved from Granite* provides a

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## Hudson Valley Celebrates Spring

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Cherry Blossoms

The spring season has finally arrived. Although the recent weather has not felt quite like spring, the season has changed and the Hudson Valley is celebrating with a variety of events throughout the area. From gardening to galleries filled of bright colored artwork to the arrival and return of local animals, the Hudson Valley looks forward to bringing in many people's favorite time of the year.

New Paltz will be hosting a nutritional gardening event as the warm weather arrives and people begin to head out to their gardens. The event will provide tips and advice for planting fruits, vegetables and other plants. It will take place at the New Paltz Gardens for Nutrition. The event will provide demonstrations and refreshments for both beginner and experienced gardeners.

The Carrie Haddad Gallery in Hudson, New York is displaying an early spring exhibit from March 7<sup>th</sup> through April 14<sup>th</sup>. The exhibit is featuring three artists whose works are in still life, abstract and ceramic. The artists use bright colors to bring in the new

season. The gallery is open Monday through Sunday. For hours, visit their website.

The Olana State Historical Site will celebrate the arrival of the new season with a spring migratory bird walk in the beginning of May. Those who attend are encouraged to wear walking shoes and bring binoculars. The middle of May is an important migration time for several bird species that will be



Robin

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## Older Americans Month

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While not one of the most well-known celebrations in the United States, May is Older Americans Month. During this month, senior citizens are shown appreciation through several inexpensive or free events often organized by non-profit organizations. Many of these organizations can be found in the Hudson River Valley. One is the Elant at Goshen Nursing Care Center, located in Orange County. On Tuesday May 15<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m., the center is offering a Bluegrass musical that is being



Older American Month

performed by Carol Beaugard. It is being funded through the Jeffrey A Weiss Memorial Art Series. On

that Wednesday, they are also sponsoring a Zumba class to enhance fitness. For more information, contact Mark LaBruna 845-360-1244 or visit their website.

Goshen is not the only place on the Hudson River that is celebrating this month. Another town that is honoring their senior citizens is Dobbs Ferry. A smaller town located in Westchester County, Dobbs Ferry is located directly on the Hudson River and is celebrating their 8<sup>th</sup> annual Continued on page 5



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## Creating Leaders, Continued

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meticulous study of the United States Military Academy and an analysis of the school's core programs. For his lecture, Betros will be discussing how the institute has produced such high quality leaders. Betros finds that intellect and moral development are the keys to creating such great leaders. He believes that West Point is most successful when there is a focus on these qualities over other goals. In his assessment, he finds a few current flaws in West Point and how fixing these flaws could help strengthen West Point even further. Betros believes that West

Point's excellent sports program is actually slowly moving away from West Point's main mission of educating, inspiring, and training Cadets. The greater emphasis on intercollegiate athletics has led to more resources going towards sports when it would have been better utilized in other departments. With more of a focus on athletics, the college has accepted a greater amount of lesser-qualified students because of their athletic ability, undermining an emphasis on academics and leadership. This had led to many well-qualified students not being accepted into the

academic institute. For more on this topic, come listen to Betros' lecture, part of HRVI's [Charlotte Cunneen-Hackett Lecture Series](#) in the Kondysar Presentation Room located at Marist College's Hancock Center 2023. Also check out Colonel (Ret.) James Johnson's review of *Carved from Granite: West Point Since 1902* in the Autumn 2012 edition of *The Hudson River Valley Review*.

By Andrew Mikolajczyk

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## Recreation in the Hudson Valley

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The Hudson Valley region is filled with many recreation opportunities. One opportunity that the people of the Hudson Valley can enjoy is 5k races and walking events. There are many ways to find out if there are any upcoming races; [The Mid-Hudson Road Runners Club](#) is one such way. The month of April has multiple listings that can be found on the club's website. One race is the [Hand in Hand run/walk 5 mile and 5K](#), with proceeds to



benefit the [Panichi Family Center for Communications and Learning](#) at [Saint Francis Hospital](#). This race will be held on Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 on the [Hudson Valley Rail Trail](#), starting on the Highland side of the walkway bridge. Another race is the [Miles of Hope 5K run/walk](#). The proceeds for this race will benefit the [Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation](#). The Miles of Hope race will be held on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Tymor Park in Lagrangeville, NY. For those who wish to spend more time on the Walkway over the Hudson Bridge, there are several events lined up in April and May. Of course one event is the Hand in Hand walk/run, as stated above, but there is one event that everyone should experience. [I Love My Park Day](#) is a state-wide event organized to improve and enhance state parks and historic sites all across the state. The Hudson Valley will be having their I Love My Park Day on the Walkway over the Hudson State Historic Park on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The day will be filled with fundraising events, including an opportunity to be a part of an attempt at [breaking a world record](#).

If anyone is interested in gathering more information either from the Hudson Valley Road Runners Club or the Walkway over the Hudson Historic Site can access each organizations respective website. The Hudson Valley Road Runners Club [website](#) has a list of upcoming events and many other resources. The Walkway over the Hudson Historic Site [website](#) will have all the information one would need on any upcoming events or other questions.

By Andrew O'Connor

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## Meet the Intern

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Brian Young is a spring 2013 intern for the Hudson River Valley Institute. He is currently a junior here at Marist, pursuing a B.A. in history as well as a minor in business and a paralegal certificate. Brian has been a resident of Dutchess County his whole life. This county's rich history was one of the many reasons he was drawn to the study of history. Brian's love for history solidified during his years in high school. During that time, he spent his free time reading historical documents and volunteering at the FDR Home and Library in Hyde Park, New York. Since then his passion for history has grown, as well as a passion for law. He enjoys studying business because knowledge of business is vital in improving one's self in any future job.

Besides history, law, and business Brian also has several other interests as well. For baseball he is a New York Yankees fan. In football, he is a New York Giants fan. However, Brian's favorite sport is soccer. He regularly watches the MLS NY Red Bulls soccer team every week on TV. He also watches the United States National soccer team whenever he can (especially during the World Cup- maybe the USA will



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## Meet the Intern

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Brent Dukin is currently a senior at Marist College. He is a history major with a concentration in secondary education. He has always had a strong interest in education, and decided he would combine it with a love for history. Brent grew up in a very small town called Wharton, which is located in Northern New Jersey. He became an intern at the Hudson River Valley Institute during the spring semester of 2013. While at HRVI, Brent spends time working on individual research papers about the Hudson Valley and the monthly newsletter.

Brent's hobbies include watching sports, spending time with family and friends and quoting *How I Met Your Mother* whenever it's appropriate. He grew up a sports fan without any team affiliation and became a fan of the much hated Duke Blue Devils men's basketball team. Brent enjoys making trips to Washington, D.C. to visit his older brother and hopes to one day run into the president. Brent's dream is to travel around Europe for a summer, but will be putting this off until he has the resources to make such an adventure.

With graduation from Marist College less than two months away, Brent plans on continuing his path in both history and education and strive to become a high school teacher. He hopes to eventually make his way back to New Jersey to be closer to his family. After a few years of teaching experience, Brent hopes to test the waters of administration and become a principal. In addition, he plans to coach basketball. He one day sees himself coaching at a school such as Duke or Kansas, but will begin his stint at the middle school or high school level.

By Brent Dukin

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## Older Americans Month, Continued

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Senior Week. The event is located at the Embassy Community Center. A wide variety of events are being held, including exercise classes, a local Business and Health Expo, games, entertainment and a catered dinner dance. Free lunches will also be given out to senior citizens throughout the week as well. All of these things will be sponsored by Livable Communities and WJCS. For more information, you can call 914 - 693 - 0024 or 914 - 693 - 7792.

Another place that is organizing events for Older Americans Month is the Elant at Wappingers Falls. There are many of these not-for-profit organizations in the Hudson Valley that care for the elderly. On Wednesday May 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:15 p.m. there is a presentation called Journey Around the World that features a speaker from Nigeria. That Thursday, a presentation starting at 2 p.m. is being given called *A Musical Journey through the Decades*. Finally, on that Friday at 10 a.m., there is going to be a musical and dance performance by the New Covenant Learning Center. Senior citizens will be able to learn about many different types of cultures and music while getting an opportunity to meet new people. For more information, you can contact Jean Modica at 845-297-3793 or visit their website.



Older Americans Month

By Frank Delbene

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## Meet the Intern, Continued

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even win it for the first time in 2014?) Brian currently has a blue belt in Taekwondo as well. His favorite TV shows include *Arrow*, *The Americans*, and *Vikings*.

Brian enjoys working for HRVI very much. Here, he is taught how to apply historical knowledge into practical papers on various topics. Currently Brian is writing a paper on the history of Beacon, NY. His future goals include becoming a more experienced historian and a practicing New York State attorney after graduating from law school. Brian plans to finish this semester strong and continue to have a great experience working at HRVI.

By Brian Young

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## Spring, Continued

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returning or passing through the area as breeding season arrives. Education coordinator Larry Federman will be leading the walk following a brief presentation of local birds that can be found at Olana. The event is open to all ages for \$5.00 a person, and participants should pre-register by Tuesday, March 19 by 3pm by calling 518-828-1872 or by emailing [shasbrook@olana.org](mailto:shasbrook@olana.org).

By Brent Dukin



Olana



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# Contact Us

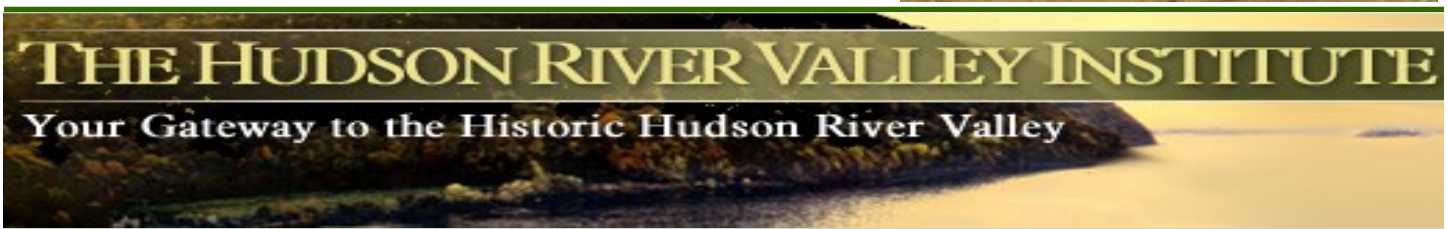
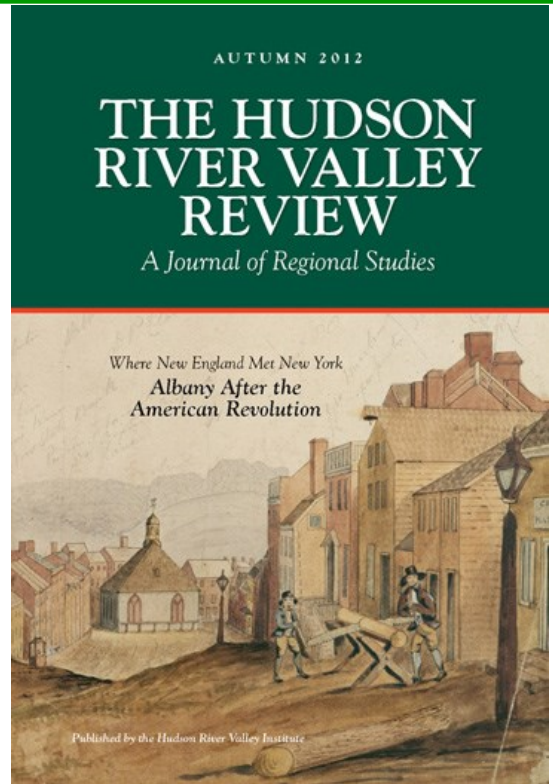
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