

HRVI March Newsletter

HRVI



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

Hudson River Valley Institute

Walkway Over the Hudson: Beautiful Scenery and Economic Beauty

In 2008, the Dyson Foundation and Walkway Over the Hudson organization began collecting resources to open the walkway bridge to the public. In October of 2009, the Walkway Over the Hudson River, a State Historic Park, was opened to the public. This bridge is the longest elevated pedestrian bridge in the world. At more than 1.25 miles long, it draws quite a crowd of tourists and locals. Since its

opening thousands of people have been visiting which means thousands of dollars have been injected into the local economy, as well as the state economy. Based on visitation counts and face to face surveys, data has been collected and calculated concerning the economic impact on Dutchess and Ulster Counties as well as the State of New York.

Based on the economic studies and calculations,

County Revenue

Annual Sales: \$24 Million

Jobs Created: 383

County Revenue: \$778,181

Total Sales resulting from Walkway Bridge traffic: **\$15.5 Million**

the impact the walkway has had on the two counties is quite large. It resulted in annual sales of about \$24 million, 383 jobs, \$9.5 million in wages, and \$779,181 in annual county revenue. The information was then broken down to examine those people who were not part of the two counties (outsiders). Based on various calculations it was

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Special points of interest:

- *Eleanor Roosevelt*
- *Sojourner Truth*
- *Walkway Over the Hudson*
- *Meet the Intern*



Eleanor Roosevelt: The Woman Remembered

Where do human rights begin? In small places, close to home, so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world.” – Eleanor Roosevelt

In honor of Women’s’ History Month, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum will be hosting the second of two events in their “We Make Our Own History” forum series. The topic of the forum is “*Eleanor Roosevelt & Civil Rights: What You Might Not Know, But Should!*” The forum will be hosted by Allida Black, Eleanor Roosevelt Historian and the Executive Editor of the FDR4Freedom’s Digital Initiative.

Chief writer of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Eleanor Roosevelt defied the boundaries of traditional “womanhood” set forth by her time, becoming a devoted advocate for equality, civil rights and the rights of women. The “First Lady of the World” supported the endeavors of her husband while securing a distinct identity as a highly influential author, speaker, educator, and politician. Her home at Val-Kill stands as a testament to her desire to establish herself as an individual, and is where most of her most important work was

undertaken. Eleanor Roosevelt serves as a prominent role model for the modern woman. Her influence continues to be felt with each effort directed at the preservation of human rights, both domestic and abroad.

The Autumn 2009 edition of the *Hudson River Valley Review* honors the life and legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt. The *Review* illuminates the impact this incredible woman had at the local, national, and global level, while also shedding light on crucial elements of her personal life.

By Christina Ritter



Eleanor Roosevelt during the 1930’s

Photos courtesy: Library of Congress

The Eleanor Roosevelt **"We Make Our Own** **History" Forums**

Eleanor Roosevelt & Civil Rights: What You Might Not Know, But Should!

With Allida Black

Sunday, March 25, 2012

Location: Henry A. Wallace Center

Time: 2:00 p.m.

For Registration Information:

(845) 486-7745

Val-Kill: The Eleanor Roosevelt

National Historic Site

November-April: Tours available Thursday-Monday at 1:00pm and 3:00pm

May-October: Open 9:00am-5:00pm - Guided tours all day, last tour at 4:00pm

Grounds open daily sunrise-sunset

56 Valkill Park Rd

Hyde Park, NY 12538

Phone: (845)-229-9422



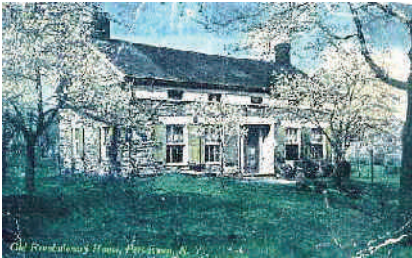
Sojourner Truth Esopus Memorial

During Women's History Month, we take time to remember those influential people who made a difference during a time in which women had few rights. One of these remarkable individuals was Sojourner Truth, a shining beacon for women's rights since the mid-Eighteenth century.

During her life, Truth was important in becoming one of the first black women to successfully sue a white man, and win the case.

After escaping to her freedom in New York State, Truth discovered that her son had been illegally sold in her absence, which Truth protested in the state courts, eventually finding judgment in her favor.

After this action, Truth went on to become a bastion for the anti-slavery movement, travelling around the country and speaking



Schryver's Tavern, where Truth worked as a slave ca. 1808-1809

out against the evil institution. She made several moving



Farmhouse where Truth escaped to during 1826, one year before New York repealed all slavery in the state.

speeches in her lifetime, her words carrying extra sentiment due to her status as a former slave. As a black person, and a woman, Truth had few freedoms that women in our country enjoy today. By making it her life's goal to root out the institution of slavery, Truth showed that women can, and will, make a difference in the future of the country.

It should come as a surprise to many, then, that Sojourner Truth was not born into slavery in the area of the country most famous for it—the South. Truth is actually a native of the Hudson River Valley, more specifically, the town of Swartekill (now Rifton), just outside the Town of Esopus.

It is here in Esopus that the legacy of Truth has come to be remembered, and for good reason. Many of the original buildings important to the story of Truth still stand to this



day, over 150 years after the events occurred. The Town of Esopus Sojourner Truth Memorial Site is dedicated to preserving the memory of Truth through planned additions to the Sojourner Truth Park in Port Ewen, along Route 9W. Chief among these additions is a statue of Truth herself, set to be dedicated in November of this year. Donations for the fund are still being accepted, and further information is available online, at the group's [website](http://www.sojournertruthesopusmemorial.com/).

Photos Credit to

<http://www.sojournertruthesopusmemorial.com/>



St. Patrick's Day in the Hudson River Valley

This year, as it has been in years past, the Hudson Valley will be a busy place for Saint Patrick's Day related festivities. This upcoming weekend is especially busy with parades dedicated to St. Patrick's Day. On Sunday March 11, there will be three separate parades around the Hudson Valley. First at 1pm, Kingston will host its St. Patrick's Day parade, which they boast as the largest parade in the Hudson Valley. The parade lineup this year includes 123 participants. More information can be found at the Ulster Ancient Order of Hibernians [website](#).

A little later that Sunday at 2pm, the Mid Hudson St. Patrick Parade Committee will hold its annual

parade in Goshen. The day's festivities don't start there. At 9:00AM, there will be a mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Middletown, NY. After the mass, the Grand Marshall's Brunch, featuring this year's Grand Marshall [Bill Boss](#), will be held at Kuhl's Highland House in Middletown at 10:30. Tickets are \$20.00 and advance reservation is required.

Also at 2pm, the Northern Westchester and Putnam Counties St. Patrick Day's Parade will take place in Mahopac. Preceding the parade on Friday night is the Grand Marshall Installation Dinner & Ceremony at the Centennial



Golf Club in Carmel, New York. More information can be found at the parade [website](#).

On Sunday March 18th Rockland County will host its 50th St. Patrick's Day Parade in Pearl River at 1:30PM. Recognized as the second largest in the state, the Rockland County Parade festivities will begin, similar to the Mid Hudson parade, with mass at 9:00AM at the Dominican Convent and a breakfast immediately following. More information for the Rockland County Parade can be found [here](#).

By Sean Vitti

Walkway Bridge, cont.

determined that outsiders' spending habits contributed about \$15.5 million of the total sales of \$24 million. The other money came from indirect sales that occurred as a result of visiting the bridge. The revenue was attributable to local tax revenue from direct sales and earnings as well as hotel tax. In addition, the impact on the state has also been beneficial. The state has received about \$22 million in sales, 208 jobs, \$8.5 million in wages, and \$575,479 in annual state revenue. As with the county information, the numbers were then analyzed to see how much was contributed by people who were not residents of New York State. It turns out that about \$10.5 million of the \$22 million in sales was a result of

people outside of New York. It is quite clear that this bridge has been beneficial for both the counties and the state. The state revenue was not quite as high as the county revenue because the state does not collect hotel tax.

State Revenue

Annual Sales: \$22 Million

Jobs Created: 208

State Revenue: \$575,479

Total Sales resulting from Walkway Bridge traffic: **\$10.5 Million**

Their only source of revenue comes from taxes on direct sales and earnings.

In 2008 and 2009, the Hudson River Valley Institute also took part in the opening of this scenic bridge.

The HRVI focused on the history of the bridge and has created an oral history of the bridge through interviews of those involved with the re-opening of the bridge as well as historians, scientists, engineers, and residents from the area. To view this oral history, visit [HRVI's website](#). For more information about the bridge and events check out [walkway.org](#).



Meet the Intern: Andrew Mikolajczyk

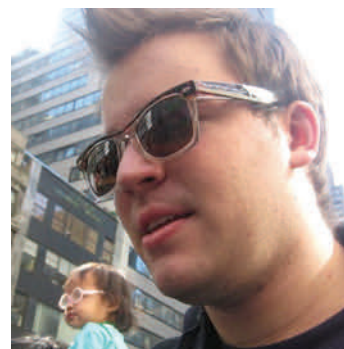
Hi! Thanks for reading about me, my name is Andrew Mikolajczyk and I am currently a junior at Marist College. I hail from Mahwah, a pretty large town located in New Jersey on the border of New York State. My focus of studies here at Marist is history. When I graduate from Marist I believe I am going to go into law school with my ultimate aspirations of being a District Attorney. My dream is to be a writer for Rolling Stone magazine.

I didn't originally attend Marist or study history for that matter. When I was a young lad I had a childhood dream of being a video game designer. I attended Rochester Institute of Technology for two years and studied New Media Interactive Development,

which focused on web based design and programming as well as mobile application development. I found out that a life in front of a computer monitor was not my thing. I pulled a 180 and went from a science and math background to a liberal arts background and I've been happy ever since. I love watching and playing soccer (Go Manchester City!) and I was a radio DJ for both RIT's radio station WITR and Marist's radio station WMAR.

My responsibilities at HRVI are mainly creating new pages in our guidebooks section. I've dubbed myself "guide guy" because I write so many guidebook entries. Guidebooks aren't my only forte, when I am not writing about local

historical hotspots in the Hudson Valley; I am reading previous interns essays and creating awesome PowerPoint presentations to accompany them as a resource for teachers to use in the classroom. I am currently researching and writing a paper on our local business goliath, IBM, and how they have helped the Hudson Valley economically.



Meet the Intern: Mary Kaltreider

My primary identifier at college has been "history major," but I am more likely to be described by others as "the girl that wears those crazy clothes" or "super feminist." Both are applicable, but the latter translates into my more legitimate secondary identifier: "women's studies minor."

Even though it is merely a minor and I have only taken six classes technically bracketed into the program, it has affected just about every class I have taken. The field of history is one of the most friendly to a feminist lens of analysis, so bringing that aspect of my thinking to classes for my major was easy and encouraged

by my professors. It is also behavior that I am notorious for amongst my classmates. I have also tried to bring a feminist flavor to my time interning with the Hudson River Valley Institute. Last spring, I researched women's industrial involvement and wrote newsletter articles on local subjects related to women. This semester, my paper is on Sojourner Truth, an amazing historical (and feminist) figure, and one of my longstanding assignments is Hall of Fame entries of famous women from the Hudson River Valley. The latter assignment is interesting because it is significant to high-light the accomplishments of women from the area, but singling them out as

"famous as women" rather than "famous as people" stems from the liberal "add women and stir" method to correcting for academic gender bias. However, easing up on the fem crit, I think this is a fault that stems from the historical subjugation of women to the background; it was very atypical for a woman to be famous in her own right or as a person, and so that is how they continue to be seen. But identifying them at all is a start.



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

The Hudson River Valley is one of only 49 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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