

# HRVI May Newsletter

HRVI



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

## Hudson River Valley Institute

### Bruce Murkoff's *Red Rain* Discussion

In a joint Hudson River Valley Institute, Liberal Arts talk, Bruce Murkoff read a selection from his second historical fiction novel, *Red Rain*. Marist Professors Nick Marshall and Mark Morreale led the discussion, which was overseen by Dr. James Snyder of the Philosophy department. Murkoff's novel tells the tale of ordinary Hudson River Valley citizens gripped by the turmoil of the Civil War. With a cast of colorfully illustrated characters, Murkoff attempts to paint a picture of how the battlefields of the war affected those on the home front. In the informative one-hour session, Murkoff spoke candidly about the process of creating the novel and his motivations therein.

The readings Murkoff selected from his novel gave a glimpse into the attitudes and values of the average citizen of the Valley during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The characters he chose to portray in these readings were Mickey Blessing, a retired shipping captain, and his sister Jane, who has a husband in the Union army. While it was not part of the reading, Murkoff informed us that Jane's husband Frank had already passed away, with news at the time being slow to reach the home front. The imagery used by Murkoff to portray the simple elegance of Jane as she goes about her daily business is striking, and always vivid. The author's experience as a screenwriter clearly has afforded him

some opportunity to expand the level of detail in his stories beyond that of the typical novelist.

Each of the selections chosen by Murkoff highlighted the emotionally charged atmosphere present in the final years of the Civil War. With the battlefield so far removed from the Hudson River Valley, the population waited with bated breath for any news from loved ones. When this wasn't received, these people could only assume the worst.

The question and answer section of the session gave an opportunity for students and professors alike to seek further information

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### Special points of interest:

- *Local Author Gives Talk on Latest Novel*
- *Mother's Day in the Hudson River Valley*
- *Pow-Wow on the Hudson*
- *Meet the Interns*



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## Vassar College Celebrates 150th Anniversary

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Vassar has a history of inviting photographers to its campus: Paul Strand visited to photograph several buildings in 1915, and Albert Eisenstadt photographed campus life for *LIFE* magazine in 1937. To celebrate its 150th anniversary, Vassar's Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center commissioned three photographers: Tina Barney, Tim Davis, and Katherine Newbegin, to capture different aspects of campus life, including the college's people, environment and culture.

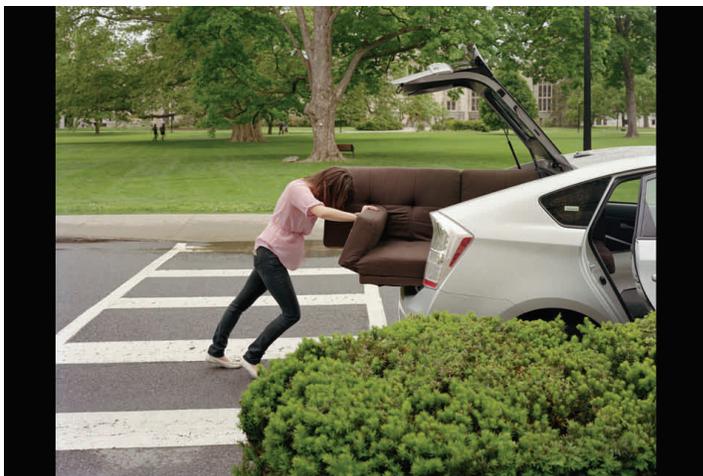
The exhibition, titled *150 Years Later: New Photography* from Tina Barney, Tim Davis, and Katherine Newbegin, reveals aspects of the campus not often seen by regular visitors, a departure from the usual focus on the school's architecture and natural beauty.

The photographers' choices both present a different way of look at Vassar and reveal each photographer's personal style. Tina Barney's photo-

graphs deals with close-up portraits, Katherine Newbegin's with the campus's forgotten corners, and Tim Davis's with the absurdity of everyday life.

The photographers' 40 new works are presented in three adjoining galleries, and a selection of Paul Strand's and Albert Eisenstadt's older works will also be shown in a nearby gallery. The exhibition is curated by Mary-Kay Lombino, The Emily Hargroves Fisher '57, and Richard B. Fisher. The Art Center also has a permanent collection with works dating from antiquity to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and



“Couch in Car” by Tim Davis

Saturday, 10:00am – 5:00pm, Thursday, 10:00am – 9:00pm, and Sunday, 1:00 – 5:00pm. Admission is free. For more information on current and upcoming exhibitions, visit <http://fllac.vassar.edu> or call (845) 437-5632

By Amy Jacaruso

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## Albany Prepares 12th Consecutive History Fair

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Image courtesy : [historiccherryhill.com](http://historiccherryhill.com)

With the month of May almost upon us, Albany is once again preparing for Heritage Weekend and more specifically the Albany History Fair sponsored by Historic Cherry Hill and the Albany Heritage Area Visitors Center. The free event, which is in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, will be held on Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Albany Heritage Area Visitor Center between the hours of noon and 4 p.m. The theme of this year's event is “Making a Living in Albany”,

which according to the events description will specifically focus on Commerce in New York's Capital City: Tracing Albany's Business history. A wide variety of activities and entertainment will be available to attendees of the fair. The names of the speakers have not yet been revealed, but past speakers at the Fair have included Albany politicians as well as local historians. Local vendors will be present at the event as well, although the vendor list has not been revealed either. New to this year's event will be

an interactive Hudson River trading card game for the fair's younger attendees. More information should be made available at [www.Albany.org](http://www.Albany.org) closer to the event.

Also coinciding with the History Fair is Living History Day at the Ten Broeck Mansion in Albany. The focus of this year's free event is on celebrating one's roots, which can pertain to family genealogy or local horticulture. The event will feature re-enactors, demonstrations, vendors, as well as exhibits that focus on researching family trees as well as the history of the regions gardening. The event will run from noon-4pm on the same day. More information can be found at [www.TenBroeckMansion.org](http://www.TenBroeckMansion.org)

By Sean Vittti

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## Health Expo Comes to Kingston

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The [Women's Health Foundation](#) will be holding the 11th Annual Women's Health & Fitness Expo in Kingston, NY, this year on May 7 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Expo will include booths and exhibits with free health screenings, seminars and workshops, exercise and fitness demonstrations, an art gallery, book signings, and spa treatments.

These offerings serve to help women, who "often assume a caretaker role with family and friends," to care for themselves, with the mission being to achieve a "more balanced lifestyle for women of all ages." The [goals of the Expo](#) are to promote the importance of women

having time for themselves, being healthy, as well as education and prevention of health issues. There are dozens of offerings at this year's Expo, from seminars to demonstrations on fitness and cooking. With such a wide variety, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Some of the seminars will be on exercise, natural health methods for women, a diet guide, one woman's take on growing older, and cooking from a [master chef Jehangir Mehta](#). Workshops have topics that range from bellydancing to HIV/AIDS to relationships, and everywhere in between. Fitness demonstrations include tai chi and qi gong, as well as pilates and zumba. The [cooking demonstrations](#) have sections on eating healthy for every meal of

the day and at all stages in life. There will also be medical professionals on hand all day to answer questions, as well as health screenings of all types.

The events are happening throughout the day and do overlap, so be sure to check out the more specific and updated information can be found at the Women's Health & Fitness Expo website at <http://womenshealthexpo.com>.

By Mary Kaltreider



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## Mother's Day in the Hudson River Valley

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Mother's Day is creeping around the corner and what will you do with your Hudson Valley-loving mother this Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>? Treat your beloved mother to something special this year by staying local. Whether mom likes the outdoors or a great breakfast, there is plenty to find in the beautiful Hudson River Valley.

If mom likes a good brunch with a breathtaking view, take her over to the Overlook Lodge at Bear Mountain State Park. Here, Mom can enjoy a mouth-watering meal including waffles, omelets, maple smoked turkey breast, truffled white asparagus soup, and more prepared by Chef Michael Matarazzo. Brunch begins on May 8<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., call The Overlook Lodge at Bear Mountain (845-786-4700) for more details.

For a fun day with the family celebrate mom at the Boscobel House and Gardens in Garrison. On May 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:30 p.m., Mom will be treated to a tour of the luxurious mansion and then enjoy a champagne recep-

tion (lemonade for kids!) in the beautiful Rose Garden. After the reception all can enjoy a fashion show featuring attire from Cold Spring's Art to Wear Too boutique as well as jewelry and accessories from Boscobel's Museum Shop. For more information contact Boscobel. 1601 Rte. 9D, Garrison, 845-265-3638, ext 115 or go to [www.boscobel.org](http://www.boscobel.org).

If your mother is more of a rockstar, head over to the Mother's Day chamber music concert in the Carriage House at the Lyndhurst State Historical site. This fabulous concert featuring musicians from the Summit Music Festival begins on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m., so be prepared for a fun afternoon and evening of great music from the area's best musicians! To make reservations contact the Lyndhurst State Historical Site, 635 South Broadway, Tarrytown. 914-631-4481 or visit [www.lyndhurst.org](http://www.lyndhurst.org).

If Mom is the adventurous type, take her over to Middletown to hang glide over the Hudson River Valley! Offering a fantastic introductory flight, Hang Gliding Over the Hudson Valley Xperience will

take Mom to new heights giving her a "hands-on" chance to pilot the wings and see what flying is all about. Departing from Randall Airport and soaring 2,500 feet above ground, Mom can fly with an instructor and have an airborne adventure she won't soon forget! [Contact Xperience Days](#) at 866-973-7536 for more information.

If Mom is more of a water gal, take her on a stunningly beautiful River Rose Cruise on the Hudson. The Mother's Day Brunch Cruise takes off at 11 a.m. from the Newburgh Landing dock and the Sightseeing Cruise heads out at 2 p.m. These reasonably priced, two hour cruises will give Mom some relaxation time while enjoying the river in all its glory. For reservations call The River Rose Cruises at 845-562-1067.

So no matter what your mom likes, there's something happening for her this year in the Valley! Celebrate your mom in the beautiful Hudson Valley this year by enjoying these local festivities. Happy Mother's Day!

By Christine Jarvis

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## Red Rain Discussion, cont.

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from the author concerning his reasons for writing the book, and the various sources of inspirations he drew from in order to do so. Among other sources, Murkoff chose to use Ulysses S. Grant's personal memoirs. Professor Jim Johnson of the History department pointed out that Grant often spoke of Cold Harbor as one of his greatest failures, and Murkoff responded that this was his primary motivation for setting Frank's death in the midst of that pivotal action.

As the country prepares to celebrate the Civil War's sesquicentennial, novels such as *Red Rain* allow for those interested in 19<sup>th</sup> century history to catch a glimpse of what life was truly like at the time. Murkoff's [vivid details](#) allow ample opportunity to live through his characters, strengthening the narrative while giving room for the story to develop.

Copies of *Red Rain* are [now available wherever hardcover books are sold](#), and Civil War enthusiasts and others are encouraged to seek out and buy a copy today!

By Brian Rees

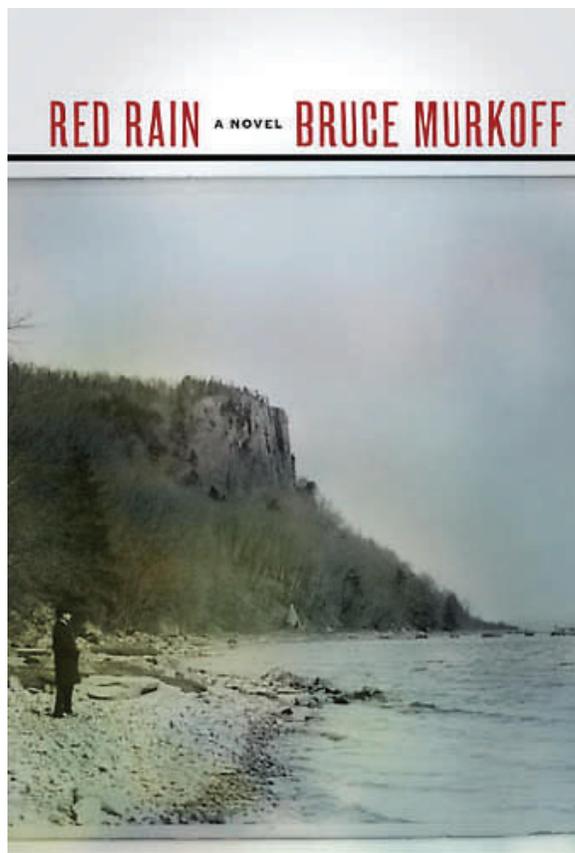


Photo Courtesy Amazon.com

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## Pow-Wow on the Hudson (continued on page 5)

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The [Nimham Mountain Singers](#) will soon be hosting a Pow-Wow to celebrate Native American culture in Wappinger's Falls on May 28.



Photo Courtesy [nimham.com](#)

The group, which formed in 1999, serves to preserve and rediscover the traditions and culture of local Native American tribes. Based in the Hudson River Valley, the group primarily sings songs of the Algonquin speaking people. The Nimham Mountain Singers are named for Daniel Nimham, who was the last chief of the Wappinger tribe and was known as the most prominent Native American of his time in the Hudson River Valley.

The event will also feature [The Aztec Dancers](#) and Joseph [FireCrow](#). The Aztec Dancers,

comprised of the Salinas family, are rooted in Mexico City and travel the world to spread their culture by fire dancing. Joseph FireCrow is a renowned Native American flutist who in 2010 was named the Native American Music Association's Artist of the Year and Flutist of the Year.

Native Americans have a rich history in the Hudson River Valley. Eventually driven out of the region as a result of European settlement, Native Americans once dominated the Hudson River Valley. Today, extant Native American tribes are adamant about preserving and continuing to express their culture. Many groups such as the Nimham Mountain Singers honor their culture and enjoy sharing it with others. The local area still has signs of Native

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## Phi Alpha Theta 2011 Conference

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Marist College had the pleasure of hosting the [Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference](#) on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The History Honor Society Conference featured three panels of two sessions each: "Gender in the Early Modern World"; "Historical Methodologies"; "Perceptions of 20th-Century War"; "Revolution and Response"; "Community and Religion"; and "Gender, Race, and Activism."

Dr. Kristin Bayer, professor of History and one of the faculty advisors of the [Marist chapter of Phi Alpha Theta](#), noted that there was a wide breadth among the papers, in terms of both topic and chronology. "A professor emailed me after to call it a model conference. The Marist Phi Alpha Theta chapter, Mu Zeta, worked hard to make the conference well-organized, a commendable achievement," she added.

Jim Johnson, History professor and Executive Director of the Hudson River Valley Institute contributed recent issues of the Hudson River Valley Review as prizes for participating members of the confer-

ence and chapter advisors.

The entire History department faculty attended [the conference](#). Dr. Nicholas Marshall opened the conference with a keynote on history as a unique research discipline. Dr. Janine Larmon Peterson and Dr. Kristin Bayer, co-sponsors of Phi Alpha Theta at Marist, chaired panels, as did Dr. Michael O'Sullivan.

Three Marist history majors presented papers at the conference.

Kathryn Coursey won a prize for "An 'EPIC' Election: Upton Sinclair's Gubernatorial Race of 1934."

Jillian Coogan presented "Isolationism to Intervention: American Public Opinion and FDR during the Spanish Civil War."

Arthur Keith Miller presented "Lend-Lease With Strings: The Changes to FDR's Policy of Unconditional Aid Throughout World War II."

"The Afflicted and the Accused

of the Salem Witch Trials: A Virtual Network Visualization Project," presented by Cristina Vignone and Francesca Ruvolo from Fordham University, was notable for outlining the use of data visualization in humanities disciplines, using visual representation software to show links between the accusers and the accused in Salem.

Participants included students from SUNY New Paltz, Siena College, Fordham University, Hartwick College, the College of Staten Island, SUNY Plattsburgh, and the University of New Haven.

By Gail Goldsmith & Mary Kaltreider



Image Courtesy [phialphatheta.org](http://phialphatheta.org)

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## Pow-Wow on the Hudson (continued)

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American influence as towns, rivers and other areas are named for Native American tribes.

The Pow-Wow on the Hudson "[The River that Flows Both Ways](#)" will be held on Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at Bowdoin Park in Wappingers Falls. The event will feature Native American dancing, singing, craft vendors, food, history and storytelling. All are welcome to come and share in the celebration of Native American culture.

By Cathie Wiacek

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## Meet the Intern: Gabby Albino

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Gabby is a senior graduating magna cum laude in May. Originally from Syracuse, NY, she came to Marist because of the ample opportunities, excellent education, and scenic location. Over the course of her college education, she has completed an English/Writing major and Spanish and Creative Writing minors. She has been published in the school's *Mosaic*, presented originally poetry at the 2010 Sigma Tau Delta National Conference, and is due to be in the Fall 2011 issue of the *Hudson River Valley Review*.

Since being at Marist, Gabby has fully

immersed herself in the student community, participating in events like the LAS Poetry Slams, Sigma Tau Delta, and WMAR. As director of the Marist College improv comedy troupe, the HuMarists, and has spent the last three years performing both within and outside of school. She has also worked at the Marist Office of Advancement as a phonathon associate since her freshmen year, helping to obtain donations for the Marist Fund.

After graduation, Gabby hopes to work in or around New York City, ideally in

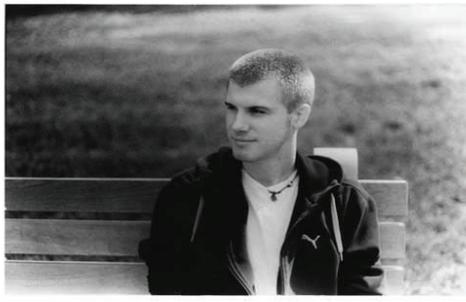
writing, publishing, or marketing and advertising. She also hopes to continue to have the opportunity to perform, and in the future, attend graduate school to receive a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing and poetry.



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## Meet the Intern: Matt O'Brien

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Matt O'Brien is a junior History-Secondary education major also pursuing a concentration in public History and History-Education with a minor in Psychology. He is originally from Florence, Massachusetts

and has been interested in history since his early school years.

Matt is currently in his first semester as an intern at the HRVI and is working on two projects. One is the study of the Civil War through the eyes of local media in The Poughkeepsie Eagle. The other project is on the Great Estates Virtual Tour Project, a cooperative effort by HRVI and local historic societies to create a tour to be accessed online. Through interning, Matt hopes to increase his love for history and his skills as a researcher.

When home in Massachusetts, Matt spends time with his friends playing poker, hiking, or enjoying a fire in the backyard. He also plays baseball, one of his passions, and soccer as well as attending New York Mets' games.

In the summer and fall, Matt will continue his tenure with HRVI to continue the major work started in the spring semester. After Marist, he hopes to earn a Masters in History and decide on a career as a secondary teacher or a position in the field of public history.

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## Meet the Intern: Mary Kaltreider

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Mary Kaltreider is a junior at Marist College with a History major and Women's Studies minor. Her main academic interests are twentieth century American history, women's history and gender studies. While interning for this semester at the Hudson River Valley Institute, she has enjoyed trying to apply these interests to her research topics.

Originally from Dover, Delaware, Mary loves spending time in and learning about the beautiful Hudson River Valley. Living in these two very different places helps her to better appreciate them. In the summer, Mary lives in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, and works at an

amusement park on the boardwalk(Yes, it is as awesome as it sounds.) Mary is very interested in developing her personal style and her photography skills, and spends most of her free time watching movies, yo-yoing, or playing solitaire on her phone. Most or all of these things are often evident when she is seen walking around on campus.

Life after graduation for Mary could mean anything from graduate school, to finding a niche in the world of fashion to simply making ends meet. As such, Mary does not have very specific plans, and likes it that way.



# Contact Us

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



## Staff

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