

Issue 82

Nov/Dec 2012

HRVI



HRVI November & December Newsletter

*A Very
Hudson
Holiday*

It's the most wonderful time of the year in the Hudson River Valley! The spirit of the holidays is in full effect as the Valley begins its annual transformation into a wonderland of festivals, parades, decorated house tours, and other special events. The season kicks off with *the 19th Annual City of Poughkeepsie Celebration of Lights*. The parade will begin on Main Street & Garden Street at

6:30pm, moving to the first tree lighting on market Street. In addition to the parade and tree lightings will be live entertainment, food & beverages, fireworks, and more! The Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park will be hosting the November member Moonwalk,

allowing Walkway members to view the fireworks display from high over the Hudson; non-members also welcome for a \$5 donation.

When it comes to celebrating the holidays, the great houses and historic sites of the Valley never disappoint. Most of the mansions and estates offer tours of their extravagantly decorated properties, as well as hosting a number of events for all ages.



**Clermont State
Historic Site:**

A Child's Christmas
December, 1 & 2

Continued on page 3

Inside this Issue:

Through the Eyes of the Red Hook Historian	2
Hudson Valley Helps Southern Neighbors Devastated by Sandy	2
An Interview with Dr. Louis C. Zuccarello	3
Meet the Intern	4
Contact Us/ Staff Listing	6



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

Hudson River Valley Institute

*Hudson
River
Valley
Institute*

Through the Eyes of the Red Hook Historian

In an interview recently conducted with Red Hook historian John Winthrop Aldrich, I learned about a passionate professional dedicated to a historic town. As we conversed, the dedication Mr. Aldrich has for the well being of his town became obvious. Luckily his schedule opened up to allow this discussion.

David: Firstly, I would love to hear about your connection to Red Hook and being its historian.

Mr. Aldrich: For me, the commitment to Red Hook is basically in my blood stream. There is farmland that has been in

my family for a while and I have always done a lot as a citizen activist not necessarily related to my position as historian. I have been the town historian since 1973 and I'd say I have a slightly different approach from other people in my job position.

David: What is this approach to the job?

Mr. Aldrich: My major focus is the town's well being and the protection of its heritage. I want to advance the notion that Red Hook's agriculture and farmland, so pivotal to its past, is preserved. Scenic Hudson has helped preserve around



2,500 acres of land. This agriculture is such a valuable part of the town that losing it would alter the culture of Red Hook. With this land preservation my goal is to give the people of Red Hook an opportunity to take pride in their town's history.

David: What other type of interesting projects have you completed

Continued on page 4

Hudson Valley Helps Southern Neighbors Devastated by Sandy

Two days before Halloween, the Northeast was hard hit by a hurricane of epic proportions and her name was Sandy. The blunt of the damage was distributed amongst New Jersey and New York City. Fortunately, the Hudson Valley wasn't as damaged as New Jersey and Staten Island. Sandy hit my home state hard but the people of New Jersey are strong and will come back stronger than ever. They can't recover without the help of the nation. The Hudson Valley is no stranger to lending a helping hand and this natural disaster is no exception. All up and down the Hudson River people are coming out in hordes and giving whatever they can to the victims of the

disaster. The people of the Hudson Valley are giving all that they can from clothes to canned foods to money donations.



Donations aren't the only way the Hudson Valley is giving back. The Hudson Valley Artists held a benefit concert on November 11th to help the victims of Hurricane

Sandy. Local talents from Phelonious Phunk and Phriends, Five Points Band, David Malachowski & the Woodstock All Stars and others lent their time and talent at the Bearsville Theater in Woodstock. Tickets were \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door and all the proceeds went to victims in New Jersey and people in the metropolitan region of New York. Public workers of Newburgh are also doing their part to help the devastated areas. The nine fire companies of Newburgh, the Police department, and the EMS team all came together to put on a massive drive to support the victims. The residents of Newburgh came out in droves to donate all that they could. Originally

Continued on page 5

A Very Hudson Holiday (Cont.)

10am- 12PM \$4/ person
Enjoy the beautifully decorated Clermont Mansion while listening to holiday tales and enjoying tasty treats—for ages 3-10.

Twelve Days of Christmas at Clermont: The Friends of Clermont's Annual Holiday Candlelight Party!
Saturday, December 8th, 2012
5-7pm, \$10 per person, Friends members Free
For more information, please e-mail dbisson@friendsofclermont.org.

Christmas at Clermont Open House
Saturday, December 15th, 2012
11am-4pm. Free admission for all.

Boscobel:
Holiday House Tours
November 23- December 30; Daily (except Tuesdays)
10:00 am-3:00 pm, \$16.00- members & children under 5 free

A Christmas Carol: A Hudson Valley Shakespeare Production
November 30, December 1, 7, 8, 14, 15

Matinee: \$40; or \$50 with optional tour of the mansion at 2:30 pm. Cookies and hot mulled cider will be served after the performance.

Evenings: \$80 for performance and holiday feast, following the performance.

Knox's Headquarters State Historic Site
Saturday, December 15, 5:00 to 8:00 PM and Sunday, December 16, 2:00 to 6:00 PM
Candlelight tour of the 1754 Ellison mansion, decorated in 18th Century seasonal style, complete with costumes staff.

Olana State Historic Site
Victorian Calling Cards: Rubber Stamping Holiday Cards
Saturday, December 01, 2012
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Learn the techniques of rubber stamping and layering to create a unique holiday card or gift!
Registration required:

Continued on page 5

An Interview with Dr. Louis C. Zuccarello

On November 1, 2012, Doctor Louis C. Zuccarello was awarded the Helen Wilkinson Reynolds Award for his significant contributions to the study of local history. Dr. Louis Zuccarello was born in the Bronx and later moved to Poughkeepsie in 1966 where he began teaching at Marist College. He taught full time for many years and later assumed administrative duties as Academic Vice-President. He continued working at Marist until he retired in 2001. He has continued to work as a part-time teacher of Italian-American courses. He presented a workshop entitled "Ethics and the Part-time Civic Leader" which was published by SUNY in a book called, Teaching Ethics and Values in Public Administration.

Dr. Zuccarello has focused his free time to research on the relationship between religion, ethnicity, and politics. He received an award called the Helen Wilkinson Award. This was a result of his work on the different aspects of the history of Catholic ethnics in the Hudson Valley, with a primary focus on Poughkeepsie, since the mid 1980's.

The Helen Wilkinson Reynolds Award is presented to local historians who "are exemplar of the necessary and accurate search for historical truth that represents the spirit of Helen W. Reynolds." Miss Reynolds was a writer, historian and charter member of the Dutchess Community Historical Society. Thanks to her focus on local history and research, Dutchess' history became well known. She wrote many articles and edited a few books that focused on this area. It was because of this dedication to the area that the award was named after her.

Continued on page 5

Through the Eyes of the Red Hook Historian

during your tenure as town historian?

Mr. Aldrich: In my first few years as town historian I created the [Egbert Benson Red Hook Historical Society](#) which meets at the Elmendorph Inn, the oldest building in Red Hook. We have restored multiple historic buildings such as St. Margaret's home, which I helped raise the grants for. Recently, there have been bicentennial celebrations recognizing the creation of Red Hook in 1812. A barn dance was organized, plays were performed and people were energized. Also, in attempts to maintain family properties, I testify at hearings for land use and preservation of farmland.

David: What do you think is the most significant aspect of Red Hook history?

Mr. Aldrich: This must be the part of town, west of route 9, which sits within the Hudson River National Historic Landmark District. It should be something that all the people in Red Hook are made aware of. The recognition of this area's value and aesthetics is pretty important.

David: Can you give some insights on projects people can look forward to in the future?

Mr. Aldrich: There will be community day projects coming

soon, again giving the public opportunity to take pride in their town. The bicentennial celebrations just ended but there will continue to be projects and demonstrations to connect the people with their history. Also I am looking forward to establishing all day historic house tours. This and the other projects are all paid through fundraising and contributions, with no expense to the taxpayer.

By David Babetski

Meet the Intern

Hi, my name is Taylor Mullaney, and I am a writing intern at the Hudson River Valley Institute. I am a junior at Marist, majoring in English writing and minoring in Business. I am originally from Glastonbury, CT, a town right outside of Hartford.

When I'm not going to class or doing schoolwork, I enjoy doing community service with Campus Ministry, tutoring other students, playing intramural floor hockey or Zumba, going to the gym, and just hanging out with my friends. I am also a member of the Women's crew team, and have developed a fond relationship with the Hudson River.

I first became interested in working at the HRVI after taking a Hudson River Valley literature course last semester. I have learned so much about the region, and can now fully appreciate its historical significance as well as the beauty of its landscape. As a writing intern, I had the opportunity to research and write an article on Harvey Fite's Opus 40, and to assist in editing articles for the Review.

Upon graduating Marist, I hope to attend graduate school to study creative writing and eventually become a professor of English.



A Very Hudson Holiday (Cont.)

United States Military Academy – West Point

A West Point Holiday

December 15 & 16

Multimedia event presented by the West Point Band at the Eisenhower Hall Theater.

Tickets free and downloadable.

There are countless other events and activities in the region during the holiday, for every age and interest.

Interview (Cont.)

This historical society gave Dr. Zuccarello the award on its 98th Annual Awards Dinner. When I asked him what his feelings were when he received this award, he simply said he was humbled yet honored. He believed that this award was not just for him, but for all the teachers doing good work and helping educate the next generation. When I asked him if he was planning on doing any work for the future, he said that he will continue his work on local history and on Catholics ethnics. He is even doing some investigation on the history of Mount Carmel Parish. And in the end, Dr. Zuccarello claimed he will continue to work because there are “always other questions to answer.”

By Joe Palaia

Sandy (Cont.)

asking for donations of winter clothes the residents gave much more than just clothes. In the end, the amount of donations reached by this massive drive was triple of what the organizers expected to receive. Newburgh is sending all their donations to the southern part of Staten Island which was hit hardest by the storm and still hasn't seen any Red Cross relief yet.

Hudson Valley wasn't fully fortunate to miss most of Sandy's wrath. The FDR State Park in Yorktown Heights, NY was suffered from the effects of 70 mile per hour winds. Over 100 down trees and debris were left in the wake of the storm. The park staffers are doing their best to clean up the mess but are asking for the communities help. On November 17th from 9:30 to 3 pm Friends of FDR are asking for volunteers to help rake up debris and move downed branches. Tools will be provided but if you have an extra rake lying around, it's highly encouraged that you bring it. Contact Susan Butterfass at 914-245-4434 x102 for more information or email her at Susan.Butterfass@parks.ny.gov. These are just some of the many efforts to help victims of Hurricane Sandy being done throughout the Hudson Valley. You can help the victims too, no donation is too small! Visit the American Red Cross website to start impacting lives today!

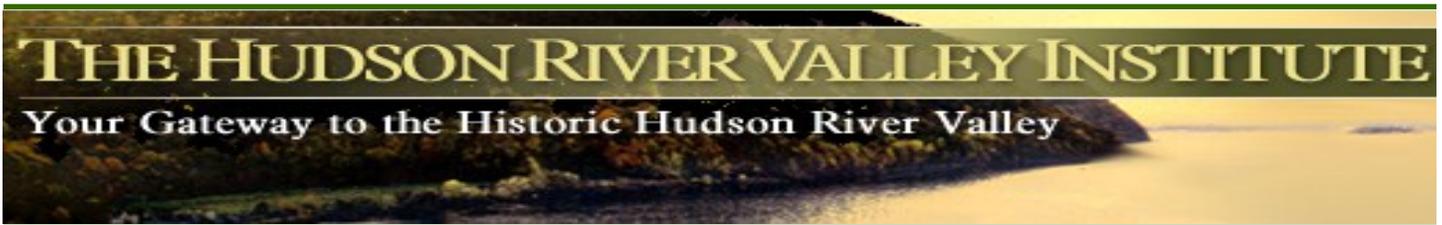
By Andrew Mikolajczyk

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