

HRVI

Hudson River Valley Institute

YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY



New York Remembers September 11th

As the entire United States embraces the day everyone in our nation's life was changed in one way or another, The Hudson Valley gathers to honor the victims and loved ones, many of whom were native to the region.

The largest ceremonies in the Hudson Valley took place in the lower regions; in counties such as Westchester and Rockland, where the majority of victims outside the greater New York City area resided.

There were dozens of events spread throughout these two counties, with ceremonies spread throughout the day. There is little doubt that despite the geographic separation of the Hudson Valley, the

area is inextricably tied to the tragedy of 9/11, and a full participant in marking 10th anniversary of its passing.

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo gave a speech on behalf of the organization "New York Remembers" outlining the great deal of sacrifice given by the men and women in and around the towers, and those who rushed in to save them.

New York Remembers has a public library located in White Plains New York.

Joseph Delfino, mayor during the 9/11 attacks remembered the day vividly, stating: "It was the most emotional thing in my 12 years as mayor of this city." The former mayor who attended the event this year de-

scribed the 7,000 people strong candle-light vigil held ten short years before. "Race, color, creed meant nothing," he said. "Rich or poor, it was one world and we were going to pull together."

Governor Cuomo gave a heart-felt speech at the event. Among the many meaningful things Cuomo said, one truly memorable quote was in response to those who lost loved ones on the day of the attacks: "I hope after 10 years, you have found a way to comfort yourself with the situation. I hope you have found a way to find peace with the situation. I hope

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Special points of interest:

- *Remembrance of September 11th, 2001*
- *Halloween in the Hudson River Valley*
- *Oktoberfest*
- *234th Anniversary of the Burning of Kingston*

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Hurricane Irene causes widespread damage to Catskills region

Just as Marist students prepared to move back to campus for the fall 2011 semester, Hurricane Irene quickly spread across the Eastern Seaboard, resulting in widespread property damage and numerous areas of flooding. The storm began in the Caribbean and traveled westward up the Eastern coast of the United States. When it hit the East Coast, its path of destruction began in Florida and traveled to North Carolina, slowing to a tropical storm before moving to Virginia, New Jersey, and New York.



The storm caused an extensive amount of damage to roads, railroad tracks, homes, and automobiles. Unfortunately, the storm proved destructive not only to coastal areas, but normally sheltered inland areas as well. This left many homes unprepared for the sheer force of Irene.

The Catskills region in central New York State suffered tremendously from Hurricane Irene. In particular, this region was affected due to the channeling of floodwaters and mud through the passes in the mountains. Certain towns were positioned to take the brunt of this force. Prattsville, NY in the Catskills was one of these towns to suffer the most significant amount of damage. Victorian style homes endured cracked exteriors and front lawns were submerged in flood water.

Local businesses, such as [O'Hara's service station](#), quickly became inundated from the water of the Schoharie Creek. Founded in 1925, the business has been run by consecutive generations of the O'Hara family. The station was swallowed up by the Schoharie Creek, and now O'Hara will need to start from scratch. He has ambitions to re-build



but believes that it will take him a few years to earn enough capital for full reconstruction.

Many other towns lost their Internet connections and their telephone lines as a result of the storm. Some residents were lucky enough to have generators on hand in order to receive power. Those that did not [sacrificed a tremendous amount](#) in this ordeal, and are still returning to their normal lives. Com-

pounding the issue, many residents did not own any type of flood insurance. As a result, many will have a difficult task ahead of them when they try to recover the value of their property.



Residents of the affected areas are encouraged to take rebuilding one day at a time and exercise patience in their attempts to clean up in the aftermath of Irene. It is assured that the effects of the storm will be felt well into the future, and the ultimate fate of many [small towns](#) in the Catskills remains murky.

By Travis Fink

(Photos Courtesy timesunion.com)

Art in the Hudson River Valley: A Concept of Beauty

During the month of October, take some time to discover, or perhaps rediscover, splendor in the Hudson Valley. Local artists have come together to present pieces that challenge our perception of what constitutes “beauty,” straying from traditional ideals, aesthetics, and mediums, to broaden the definition.

The Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art at SUNY New Paltz is presenting [“Hudson Valley Artists 2011: Exercises in Unnecessary Beauty”](#) through November 13. The exhibit centers on how artists in the area develop ideas of beauty, and convey those theories through art in various mediums. Concepts are presented through video installation, painting, photography, sculpture, and other media, providing a broad range of insight into the idea of beauty being

found in a finished product, as well as in the art-making process itself--, shedding light on the influence of the sociopolitical, and other conditions under which artwork is created. These artists have endeavored to achieve and incredible feat: capturing the essence of what is truly beautiful.

June 25 – November 13, 2011

Alice and Horace Chandler Gallery
and North Gallery

(845) 257.3844 or

sdma@newpaltz.edu

[The Columbia County Council on the Arts](#) presents *“Wabi-Sabi.”* Local artists have been challenged to portray the Japanese ideal of “Wabi Sabi,” an aesthetic centered around the acceptance and appreciation of imperfection and transience.

The exhibit is focused on finding

beauty in the unconventional, recognizing the emotions or feelings that something evokes within us as a measure of beauty, rather than aesthetic face value.

Scott Thomas Balfe, a noted artist who paints in the tradition of the Hudson River School, will serve as juror for this exhibit, with art featured by numerous artists from throughout the Hudson River Valley.

By Christina Ritter

September 24 – November 5, 2011

209 Warren Street, Hudson, NY
12534

(518) 671-6213 or

nfo@artscolumbia.org

Vassar College Sesquicentennial Celebration

For the past 150 years, Vassar College has been providing undergraduates with a unique liberal arts education right here in the Hudson River Valley. Founded by Mathew Vassar in 1861, his vision was to provide an outstanding liberal arts education to women comparable to that readily available to men. Courses far beyond typical teaching classes, such as art history and sciences, were offered to the first students and have only become more varied over the years. [Vassar become the first](#) of the seven sister colleges to open its doors to men in 1969, and now boasts a vastly unique student body with undergraduates from all different backgrounds.

In order to honor this vibrant history, Vassar College has been holding

a year-long sesquicentennial celebration. [Special events](#) have been and will be held throughout 2011, ranging from operas to seminars, art exhibits, and theatrical performances. The activities are designed to highlight the many passions, viewpoints, customs, and visions that Vassar has held for more than a century.

Upcoming events open to the public include a Vassar College Archives and Special collections exhibition, titled “Discovering Elizabeth Bishop”, running from August 30th to December 15th, 2011, at the Thompson Memorial Library. Also upcoming is a seminar of Elizabeth Bishop on September 24, and “A Day at Vassar”, where the public can participate in special classes, on October 15.

In honor of the occasion, Vassar has [created a special webpage](#) to commemorate their 150th anniversary celebration. Personal stories, a timeline, fantastic photos, and other multimedia are all available to peruse. Viewers of the site are encouraged to add their own “part of the record”, joining with Vassar to remember the past and anticipate the future. Vassar is also accepting contributions from all interested parties, so that they may ring in future celebrations in the years to come.

By Samantha
McNerney



Photo Courtesy of Vassar College

Marist Remembers 9/11, cont.

you have found a way to look back and honor the sacrifice and the contribution that was made that day towards this nation's standing in freedom and liberty."

Marist College, centered in the Mid-Hudson Valley, also paid respect for those who died on the [September 11 attacks](#). Marist set up a memorial made up of thousands of American flags for the victims who died in 9/11 on the front lawn of the Chapel. Each flag was dedicated to the 3,497 victims of the Twin Towers collapse. "Ten years ago, we gathered to support each other during a time of national and personal crisis," said college President Dennis J. Murray. "A decade later, we pause to remember and reflect, offering prayers for those who died and committing ourselves to support our country, our Marist and

home communities, and our families."

The college held events at the chapel focusing on the memory of the College's Alumni who were personally involved in 9/11, six of whom died. Among them were: Thomas G. Crotty '81, Daniel M. Coffey '69, Jacqueline K. Sayegh Dugan '89, Vincent D. Kane '86, Kevin J. Pfeifer '83, and Carmen A. Rivera '02. In addition, several current students and alumni lost parents and other family members in the attacks.

By Marcus Cimino



Photo Courtesy Marcus Cimino

Halloween in the Central Hudson Valley

The distinct chill in the air when the sun goes down can mean only one thing: Autumn is rapidly approaching. For many, this means pumpkin pie, Oktoberfest and a fat Thanksgiving turkey, but for others, it is a time of mischief and trickery. Halloween in the Hudson River Valley has always been a time that balances lighthearted family



celebrations with genuinely terrifying haunted houses and graveyards. Thankfully, this year is no exception, and Halloween 2011 boasts to be just as entertaining as its predecessors.

For a real treat, come to the Van Cortlandt Manor in Croton-on-Hudson to see a display of [over 4,000 hand](#)

[carved jack o' lanterns](#). The event is truly one for all ages, and runs for 21 nights in October. With the carving beginning in June, the amount of work that goes into this event is tremendous. With just \$16 for adults and \$12 for children, one can witness the largest exhibition of hand-carved pumpkins in the region.

If you profess to be a more daring individual, Knox's Headquarters in Vail's Gate is offering a nighttime tour of their grounds on October 29, from 8-9 p.m. They promise a "[frightening good time](#)," and is indeed a rare opportunity to see the grounds of the Headquarters after dark, as the state park usually closes at dusk.

Finally, for the truly brave, there is the [Horseman's Hollow](#), located at Philipsburg Manor in Sleepy Hollow, NY. For just \$20 per person, one can walk through a seemingly deserted town.

Appearances are not how they seem, however, and one can be certain of running into all sorts of creatures, including but not limited to: Vampires, skeletons, werewolves, Headless Horsemen, and the occasional zombie. One truly gets their money's worth at the Horseman's Hollow, but beware, the event is not for the faint hearted.

Whether your pleasure is an exquisitely decorated pumpkin, or the feeling of adrenaline pumping through your veins, this Halloween in the Hudson Valley is not one to be missed, with activities suitable for all ages and interests. Just remember, autumn is not just for football and overeating: It's about a spooky good time too!

By Brian Rees

Oktoberfest: Choose Your Own Festival!

Some would argue that the best beer comes from Germany, and the best time to drink it is during Oktoberfest. But making your way over to Munich isn't always an option for those of us who enjoy good beer.

Luckily for Hudson Valley beer connoisseurs and laymen alike, The [Palisades Park Conservancy](#) is hosting their own version of Oktoberfest at the [Bear Mountain State Park](#) grounds. Much like the authentic Bavarian festival, there will be a wide variety of German food and beer, entertainment and craft vendors.

Bear Mountain will also have their traditional autumn attractions open such as a Hessian Lake boat ride and the Merry-Go-Round. Celebrations take place on the weekends starting

September 17 and running through October 30 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. For a list of entertainers and more info, read their [e-flyer](#).

Hunter Mountain will also be hosting its own take on Oktoberfest. The festivities will take place on October 1-2 and the following weekend, October 8-9. Admission is free and open to all ages. Live bands will play the duration of the festival from 11:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.

As you fill your ears with authentic Bavarian-style music, you can fill your bellies with golden Heffenweiser and brats. Hunter's Oktoberfest will also host a farmers' market, a variety of vendors, and children's activities such as pumpkin painting. For a full

list of entertainment, dates, and vendors, you can visit [Hunter Mountain's website](#). You can also find it on Facebook to see if any of your friends already plan on attending. Hunter Mountain, known for their challenging trails, remains a spectacular sight during the autumn months.

So, bring your camera, bring your appetite, and be ready to have an awesome time at the Hudson Valley's very own

Oktoberfest celebrations!

By Peter Rottenbacher



The Burning of Kingston 2011

This year Kingston, New York in association with First Ulster County Militia, the Queen's 16th Light Dragoons and the City of Kingston will once again commemorate the Burning of Kingston with its [biannual reenactment of the battle](#), which occurred in 1777 during the Revolutionary War.



Photo Courtesy 1st Ulster Militia

This year marks the 234rd anniversary of the famed event and looks to recreate much of the allure and authenticity that past years' events have produced. Past events have drawn anywhere from 300 to 500 reenactors as well as over 10,000 spectators.

In 2007, according to the [First Ulster County Militia website](#), the event drew the largest collection of 18th century style wooden boats ever. The actual battle occurred on October 17, 1777 and saw a British support fleet under the command of Major General John Vaughn burn all but one house in Kingston during their trek through the city.

The event, which will take place October 14-16, will feature authentic period uniforms, weaponry, and military tactics. [The reenactment](#)

will follow the entire course of the battle starting with a beachhead assault from the British troops at Kingston Point Beach. There they will engage local Kingston and Ulster militia. At the same time a naval battle between the Lady Washington and a

fleet of British ships will be occurring.

The rest of the day will see a surprise attack launch by the Kingston Militia on the British encampment and will conclude with an authentic grand ball to honor Major General John Vaughn of the British Army. Sunday's grand finale will feature, as per their event invitation a "street battle in the Uptown Stockade district where opposing forces will fight in the actual streets and among the actual houses the British army burned in 1777."

For fans of living history and participants alike, the reenactment of the Burning of Kingston is the perfect opportunity to head back in time to the Colonial age, and the war from which our great nation emerged.

By Sean Vitti

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 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



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, Educational Supervisor
Andy Villani, Coordinator

Contributors to the Issue:

Brian Rees, Editor/Intern

Sean Vitti, Intern

Travis Fink, Intern

Jason Schaaf, Staff Editor

Marcus Cimino, Intern

Christina Ritter, Intern

Christopher Pryslopski, Staff

Samantha McNerney, Intern

Peter Rottenbacher, Intern

Andy Villani, Staff