

HRVI February Newsletter

Black History Month in the Hudson River Valley



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

Hudson River Valley Institute

All over the United States, towns and cities are organizing events in February in honor of Black History month. The Hudson River Valley is no exception. From the south to the north, various locations are hosting events in their communities. For example, the [Yonkers Public Library](#) is hosting a series of films that are intended to shed light on rarely told African American stories. Different time periods, events, and stories are explained in depth during these series. The library itself is closed on February 12th to honor

Abraham Lincoln's birthday. For more information about when each of these films will be shown, call 914-337-1500 or visit [their website](#) for more details about their filmography for Black History month.

If you're looking for another way to celebrate black history month, [SUNY New Paltz](#) is honoring the great musicians and poets of the [Harlem Renaissance](#) at their McKenna Theatre on Feb. 7, 2013, at 7 p.m. Famous African Americans like Duke Ellington and Langston Hughes will have their work shared and played

for the audience to enjoy. The chamber music theater performance provides a new way to observe these great works of art. Core Ensemble, a group that has received numerous awards across the country for excellence, will be presenting these acts. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Suzanne Grady at 845- 257-3245 or visit and click on the Hudson Valley category.

A third place in the Hudson Valley that is hosting events for

Continued on page 3

Inside this Issue:

Women's History Month	2
A Hudson Valley Treasure	2
An Interview with Reed Sparling	3
Meet the Intern	4
iGadget in the Hudson Valley	5
Meet the Intern	6
Contact Us/ Staff Listing	6



Woman's History Month

The month of March is spent celebrating Women's History Month. There are various events taking place throughout the Hudson Valley area paying tribute to women who have made a difference in history. From the state capital of Albany to Poughkeepsie to Kingston, the Hudson Valley is offering a variety of events for Women's History Month. This year's theme is "Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics."

SUNY Albany's Department of Women's Study will be holding an event honoring Harriet Tubman March 10th

entitled *Harriet Tubman: A Legacy of Resistance Symposium*. It will be the 100th anniversary of the death of the important historical figure. The event will feature artists, scholars and activists speaking about the importance of Tubman's legacy. The tribute coincides with both Black History Month and Women's History month.

The City of Yonkers will be celebrating Women's History Month in its own way. Yonkers' Mayor Mike Spano will be give out "Women of Distinction Award" to a woman in Yonkers who have made positive impacts on individuals in the community and the community itself. The deadline for submission

of an application for the "Women Distinction Award" is February 20th. Mayor Spano will present the award to its winner Monday, March 4th.

The New York State Museum in Albany, New York will be hosting International Women's Day on Friday, March 8th. International Women's Day celebrates the economic, social and political success in the United States and in Europe. The event will take place from 12pm until 2pm on March 8th as a tribute to the women who have made a difference in society. More than 150 men and women came to celebrate the day in 2012 and it is hoped that 2013 will have

Continued on page 4

A Hudson Valley Treasure

The Mid-Hudson Antislavery History Project is a must see in the Hudson River Valley Region. The organization helps further a connection between the historical present Hudson Valley area and the rich anti-slavery movement culture of its past. The non-profit Mid-Hudson Antislavery History Project was founded in 2006 and was created for historians, researchers, students, and all other lovers of history.

The organization's main goals include "conduct and synthesize research on the history of antislavery in the Mid-Hudson Valley, with special emphasis on the Underground Railroad; interpret this history and share these interpretations with a wide array of

residents and visitors in our area, with particular attention to students and youth; and place this local history in the broader contexts of racial slavery in the New World, the African-American experience, and antislavery legacies today, including the impact of this historic grassroots movement on subsequent struggles for racial and social justice" (Mid-Hudson Antislavery History Project). The MHAHP, as they are also called, provide actives for families and lovers of history to become transported to the past through reenactments of antislavery movements. Some examples include: a reenactment of the "Eve of Lincoln Inauguration", having a replica of the slave ship Amistad sail on the Hudson River in

Poughkeepsie, and listening to the great abolitionist melodies sung by their very own "Dutchess Antislavery Singers". The "Dutchess Antislavery Singers" perform locally throughout the Hudson Valley area. Most recently, they performed a concert celebrating the 150th anniversary of the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. You can see them perform at the upcoming 75th anniversary conference of the New York State Council for the Social Studies offering a teacher workshop located in Rye Brook, NY.

Other enjoyments sponsored by the MHAHP also consist of antislavery lectures spoken by famous authors and historians. One recent event

Continued on page 5

Black History Month (Cont.)

Black History month is our state capital, Albany. An exhibit, “From Slavery to Citizenship: The African American Experience in New York 1817-1872.” is being opened and will have a primary focus on African American history in the region during the middle of the 19th century. The history of Black New Yorkers before, during, and after the Civil War is explained here and certain individuals, such as Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, are used as prime examples. The [exhibit](#) explains how different laws and the times really effected the positions that African Americans

had in society during this time period. New York Governor Cuomo has high expectations for this event, explaining:

This period was one of the most critical in our nation’s history and Black New Yorkers played a pivotal role during it. New York’s history as a progressive leader really began during this time. The courage of the writers, activists and soldiers, both Black

and white, who confronted racial inequality set a precedent that would inspire the New Yorkers who followed to lead the nation in the struggle against every type of injustice. I’m proud to share their stories at our State Capitol.

For more information about this event, visit [here](#) for more details.

By Frank Delbene

Scenic Hudson at 50: An Interview with Reed Sparling

Reed Sparling is a staff writer for [Scenic Hudson](#). Having spent nearly his entire life next to the subject of his pen, the writer and “unofficial historian” for Scenic Hudson knows it well. Now, as the organization turns 50 this year, Sparling sat down to talk about Scenic Hudson’s past, present and future – and the humble legacies left by those who set out to save Storm King Mountain in 1963.

Q. What is it about the Hudson Valley that has kept you around?

A. The combination of history and beauty. The fact that you can walk into the hills, see a Revolutionary War fort intact, and, at the same time, a fantastic view.

Q. What does Scenic Hudson have planned for its 50th anniversary?

A. We’ve already put up the [50th anniversary website](#) which includes a timeline that encapsulates our history over the past half century in a fun and interactive way. There is also a travelling photo exhibition currently at the Hudson Opera House, coming to Kingston at the end of February through early March, before eventually finishing at Grand Central Terminal. We have events planned as well: two series of hikes at two of our most popular parks, Mt. Beacon and Shaupeneak Ridge. There will be four hikes in each park for each season (Sparling later told me that the “winter” hike in Beacon was scheduled for the weekend of the recent February snowstorm and turned into an impromptu snow shoe expedition). Those are all free. All of our events are free.

Q. How does Scenic Hudson see itself going forward, into the next half-century?

A. The goal is to continue the momentum we’ve carried through the first half-century,

Continued on page 5

Women's History Month

an even greater turnout.

Dutchess Community College has celebrated Women's History Month over the past several years. The month-long celebration includes lectures, exhibits and workshops. The list of events has not been posted yet, but is expected to be in the near future. Check the [events section](#) of the Dutchess Community College website soon for an updated list for the celebration.

The month of March is a time to celebrate the great successes and achievements of women throughout history. The



Hudson Valley will be showing a wide range of events as a tribute to not only women of the past, but also women today who continue to make positive differences in their communities and society as a whole. For more information and resources about women's history month, feel free to visit the [Library of Congress's website](#) and the [Hudson River Valley Heritage website](#).

By Brent Dukin

Meet the Intern



My name is Marygrace Navarra, and I am a writing/editing intern at the Hudson River Valley Institute. I'm a junior at Marist College, and an English major with a concentration in writing. My minors are Creative writing and Woman's Studies. I'm from Long Island, New York.

In addition to taking classes and interning, I'm the managing editor of the Circle and work as a proofreader on campus. My interests include fiction writing, poetry, reading, movies, exercise, and drinking a lot of coffee. After college, I would like to go to graduate school, maybe for creative writing, and travel. I would also like to do research and raise awareness concerning women and gender studies.

In anticipation of Women's History Month, I would like to share my project on [Madam Catharyna Brett](#), a seventeenth-century woman of the Hudson Valley whose story is widely unknown and therefore unappreciated. The daughter of Francis Rombout, Catharyna Rombout inherited all of her father's land upon his death, which included the present-day communities of Beacon, Fishkill, East

Fishkill, Wappingers, some of LaGrange and the southern limits of Poughkeepsie. When her husband, Roger Brett, was killed in 1718, Catharyna became the sole supporter of her three young sons and desperately needed income in order to do so. Madam Brett sold her inheritance, which was an uncommon move at the time, and did not seek a second husband to take weight off her shoulders, which was just as uncommon. She took to managing a gristmill and continued to sell her land, essentially becoming a real estate baron and bringing settlers into present-day southern Dutchess. A tactful businesswoman, dutiful mother, and independent person despite all odds, Madame Brett serves as an inspiration and historical marvel. Look for my article on Madam Brett in the Autumn 2013 issue of the Hudson River Valley Review.

Interview (Cont.)

to continue achieving victories in protecting the lands along the Hudson shore. We hope to have even more historic progress than those that defined our founding and really embody our track record of the last 50 years.

Q. What has been the most fascinating thing you've come across in your research commemorating Scenic Hudson at 50?

A. Definitely the most satisfying was finding photos of all six founders. Three were easy; three took several months to locate. Having been lost for so many years, lost from view, to come up with them was very satisfying. In fact, it's a testament to how little they cared [about publicity]. They didn't do it for the personal glory, the photo op wasn't in it for them. They wanted to save the mountain.

By Alex Gobright

More information can be found at scenichudson.org and sh50.org.

How to Make the Most of That iGadget in the Hudson Valley

As time quickly passes by, progress and technological innovation fly along with it. The Hudson Valley is no stranger to technological innovation as displayed with IBM's existence for over 70 years in this area. The Hudson Valley is usually known for its environmental beauty and still is! However, those gadgets that keep ringing in our pocket alerting us of new emails or new Facebook comments have gotten in the way of enjoying the beauty of nature. With that glass and metal cellular

device, everything Hudson Valley is at your fingertips. Starting with Facebook and Twitter we can further explore the Hudson Valley. First off, do you have a Facebook account or Twitter handle? If not, click [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to start off and sign up! For Facebook, all you have to do is click [here](#) and like our page. Now you can get up to the minute Hudson Valley information straight to your News Feed on your smartphone or tablet. With Twitter, follow this [link](#) and then click the follow button and

you will be following HRVI for all the Hudson Valley news your mobile provider's bandwidth can handle.

What else can you do with that phone or tablet to further enjoy the Hudson Valley? One app or application to look into for your phone is Instagram. Instagram ([iPhone/iPad](#) or [Android](#)) is an app that allows you to share pictures with friends and the world with different filters to make pictures

Continued on pg. 6

A Hudson Valley Treasure (Cont.)

included author Fergus Bordewich, who spoke about the Underground Railroad in the Hudson Valley at the [Mid-Hudson Heritage Center](#). Another recent speaker was historian Judith Wellman, who spoke at the [FDR Library](#) located in Hyde Park, NY about the Underground Railroad in New York. Alternative antislavery activities by the MHAHP and other local abolitionist historical sites can be found by purchasing their [guide-book](#).

For more information on the MHAHP and their activities, you can visit their [website](#). It is not only a great resource to find out more information about the MHAHP but also a great tool to explore documents from the era as well (Just follow this [link](#)). The best way to reach the MHAHP is by email at MHAHP.inquiries@gmail.com or Rebecca Edwards at reedwards@vassar.edu. Enjoy your future experiences of exploring the wonders of history at the Mid-Hudson Antislavery History Project.

By Brian Young

Igadget (Cont.)

less bland. This app also links to your Facebook or Twitter account helping you find friends to share with. Once you have the app on your phone you can tap on the explore tab (compass looking button) and search Instagram for all pictures taken with a specific hash tag (#). So for instance, if you were to search #HudsonValley on your phone, you'll get [this](#). Tapping on each picture will display all the amateur photography that has been done around the area, a lot of amateur and impromptu nature shots. Start taking your own pictures and upload them to the world.

Have you always loved to draw or paint? How about the Hudson Valley? Have you ever dreamed about getting to attend the [Hudson River School of Painting](#)? Well pick up an iPad and download this fun and useful app. It's called Paper and is only currently available for [iPad](#). Paper works the same way that a piece of paper works but you get to pick tools and different styles to draw on the Paper. Different ink colors, different brushes all with no fuss, just tap the app and you're ready to draw. Bring that iPad on a hike with you in one of the beautiful state parks in the Hudson Valley. Sit down on a rock, observe nature and let your creativity and artistic ability run free like the artists of yesteryear. Finally, the great people at New York State Parks have an app of their own! It's called [Oh, Ranger! NY State Parks](#) and you can download it here for [iPhone/iPad](#). This app allows for you to get maps, facts, and much more about all New York State Parks, by simply searching the city or zip code you are in. Finding yourself bored and in a town you know nothing about? Pop open this app and you'll get all you need to know to begin exploring. Technology is here to help make the most out of everything in the Hudson Valley and is expanding with every breath we take, who knows; maybe one day soon you'll see a copy of the *Hudson River Valley Review* on a Kindle or an iPad!

By Andrew Mikolajczyk

Meet the Intern

Andrew O'Connor is a senior majoring in History with two minors: Political Science and Psychology. He is also working towards a Public History concentration to go along with his history major. A local student, Andrew lives in LaGrange, NY.

While not interning or in class, Andrew enjoys spending most of his time outdoors and staying active. He likes to go hiking, bicycling, and just about anything else that will allow him to enjoy the outdoors. Andrew is a member of the Marist College men's rugby team, who will be playing in the men's division II collegiate national playoffs this year. When not spending time outdoors or playing rugby, Andrew spends his time relaxing at home watching TV. Favorite shows include *The Walking Dead*, *Homeland*, *Dexter*, and *Boardwalk Empire*. When it comes to his interests in history, Andrew enjoys learning about history, especially American military history. The American Civil War and World War II are the primary subjects he studies. Andrew also enjoys traveling to battlefields throughout the region and will be traveling to Gettysburg this summer to celebrate the 150th anniversary.



Continued on pg. 7

Contact Us

Hudson River Valley Institute
Marist College
3399 North Road
Poughkeepsie NY 12601

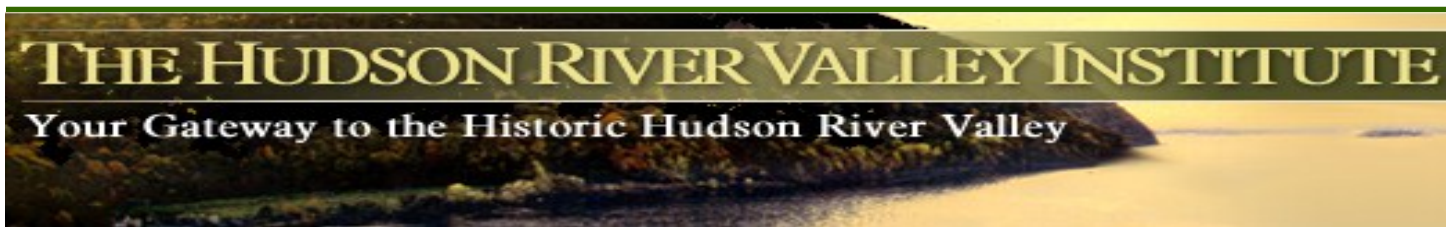
Phone: 845-575-3052
Fax: 845-575-3176
E-mail: hvi@marist.edu

Your Gateway to the Historic Hudson Valley

After graduating this spring Andrew will be looking to find a career with the government at either a state or national level. He would like to work on public policy and provide research and analysis for domestic policy, both topics that could greatly impact the region in which he lives. Holding public office is another option Andrew may consider. He would enjoy returning to Marist in the future to help coach the men's rugby team. With graduation fast approaching, Andrew will put his focus towards finding a career that will allow him to accomplish these goals, yet at the same time, will try to enjoy the remaining time he has as a student at Marist College.

By Andrew O'Connor

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:

Samantha McNerney, Editor/Intern

Brent Dukin, Intern

Andrew Mikolajczyk, Intern

Jason Schaaf, Staff Editor

Brian Young, Intern

Andrew O'Connor, Intern

Marygrace Nevarra, Intern

Frank Belbene, Intern

Alex Gobright, Intern