

HRVI

## Hudson River Valley Institute

YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

### Former HRVI Intern Speaks on Experience, Dissertation

Lauren Santangelo is a Marist grad (class of '06), a double major - history and political science - and spent several semesters with the Hudson River Valley Institute (HRVI).

Santangelo is also now a PhD candidate at the City University of New York's Graduate Center, as well as an Adjunct Lecturer at Lehman College. I spoke with her to find out more about her upcoming dissertation, her Marist experience, and the Hudson River Valley.

Santangelo's dissertation will investigate "how the urban environment of New York City affected the suffrage movement" from 1870 to 1917 and, more specifically, she will examine "the ways in which suffragists mobilized physical locations and social networks

within the city in their quest for the vote."

Although Santangelo's research focuses on New York City, she could see a connection between her subject and the Hudson River Valley, whether or not New York City is considered part of the Hudson River Valley. If New York City is seen as a part of the Hudson River Valley, then Santangelo is exploring a specific part of Hudson Valley history. However, as Santangelo says,

"Even if we take a more traditional view of the Hudson River Valley and say that New York is not part of it, I think it could still be argued that the Hudson River Valley had a bearing on the movement. More specifically, historians have spent a significant amount of time exploring the relationship between cities and

their "hinterlands," highlighting the give-and-take between urban centers and the suburban/rural areas that surround them. This was indeed the case with the NYC suffrage movement and the Hudson River Valley. These suffragists had the benefit of one of the pioneer woman's colleges, Vassar College, being within 100 miles. In fact, several important leaders in the NYC movement, including Harriot Stanton Blatch (the daughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton) attended Vassar. NYC not only drew individuals in from the HRV. It also sent out individuals to campaign for the vote in the region. If we take this second, narrower definition of the HRV, then my dissertation doesn't deal with the region explicitly. Nevertheless, I think whenever someone talks of the city, she also

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### Special points of interest:

- *Interview with Former Intern Lauren Santangelo*
- *Prominent Women of the Hudson River Valley*
- *St. Patrick's Day in The Hudson River Valley*
- *Meet the Interns*

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## Prominent Women of HRV Featured on Website

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The Hudson River Valley has been home to many notable women throughout its history. From activists to writers, these women are remembered for various achievements. With March being Women's History Month, it is important to celebrate the accomplishments of the women of the region. Several women and related historic sites are featured on the Hudson River Valley Institute website, where further information can be found regarding these significant women.

One of the first women to make a name for herself in the region was [Sybil Ludington](#). Ludington played an important role in the Revolutionary War and is considered to be the female Paul Revere. In 1777 after the fall of Danbury, Ludington rode 40 miles to warn her father so the militia could be mustered to defend Danbury against the British. Ludington was only 16-years-old at the time and this ride would have been considered very strenuous.

Arguably one of the most influential women to be associated with the Hudson River Valley, [Eleanor Roosevelt](#) truly was a woman ahead of her time. Eleanor changed the role of the First Lady, making her a woman more involved in politi-

cal and social causes. The [Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site](#), in partnership with the [Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill](#), is an excellent site to tour and learn more about the life of Eleanor Roosevelt.

Hudson River Valley women have also contributed to the environmental movement of the late 1900s. [Manna Jo Greene](#) and [Franny Reese](#) are environmental activists who have worked primarily within the region. Greene is the Contributing Editor to the Hudson Valley GREEN Times and is involved in several organizations such as Hudson Valley Smart Growth Alliance and Hudson Valley Sustainable Energy Alliance. Reese was the Co-Founder of Scenic Hudson, Inc. and her efforts helped save Storm King Mountain from the development plans of Consolidated Edison. The [Franny Reese State Park](#) opened in 2009 and was named in memory of the woman who had done so much to preserve the natural beauty of the Hudson River Valley.

Women in the Hudson River Valley have also been involved in the media. First, [Mary Margaret McBride](#) became a well-known radio host starting in the 1930s and continuing throughout her life. At one point, McBride brought in six million listen-

ers, many of whom were women. Reporter and author, McBride's shows focused on advice as well as interviews with distinguished guests. Second, [Carole Radziwill](#) is a bestselling author and famous journalist who has received the Robert F. Kennedy Humanitarian Award, 2 Emmys, and the GLADD award. Radziwill's repertoire ranges from reporting on refugee camps and the Menendez murders, to writing a monthly column for Glamour Magazine as well as producing a memoir.

Many successful women have lived and worked in the Hudson River Valley. Their trials and triumphs have contributed to the rich history of the region. From political and environmental activism to media broadcasting, the women of the Hudson River Valley have made an impact that continues to be built upon today.

By Cathie Wiacek

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## Howland Cultural Center Showcases Women at Work

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The [Howland Cultural Center](#), whose overall mission is to provide the community with a venue to experience culture, hosts an array of culture-rich events like: art exhibits, concerts, recitals, plays, poetry readings, coffeehouses, dance presentations, classes, and fund-raisers. Located at 477 Main Street, Beacon, the HCC put on an art exhibit to celebrate the 24<sup>th</sup> National Women's History Month that lasted from March 5<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. The event was titled [Art Women @ Work](#), and featured all types of art from thirteen different female artists from the Hudson River Valley.

The exhibit's opening reception on Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> was well attended and the artists were available to meet and discuss the art with. From 1 to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday, attendants were able to peruse the gallery, able to view paintings, sculptures, collages, photography, and

mixed-media pieces. The group of artists featured in the exhibit was originally founded by Tilly Strauss and Bibiana Huang Matheis, who began meeting in 2006 out of a desire to build an art community in the area.

A total of 13 different artists displayed their handicraft, the exhibition celebrating all different types of art. From Tilly Strauss' paintings, to Tanya Kukucka's sculptures, and even Bibiana Huang Matheis' artistic photography, there was something for everyone at the *Women @ Work* exhibition.

For viewers who wanted to learn more about each individual artist, an Artists' Book was exhibited that delved into each woman's background and work more extensively. The Howland Culture Center

is open to the public Thursday-Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. For information on the exhibit or other events in the future, visit [information@howlandculturalcenter.org](mailto:information@howlandculturalcenter.org) or call (845)831-4988.

By Gabby Albino



Image courtesy : City of Beacon

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## Hudson River Valley Celebrates St. Patrick's Day

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Once again, the Hudson River Valley was the place to be this St. Patrick's season as the region was host to a slew of parades. Despite falling a couple days after St. Patrick's Day, Pearl River hosted its annual parade on Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup>. The parade, which is billed as the second largest in the state, contains around 2,000 participants in the actual parade, and draws nearly 50,000 spectators.

Among the participants walking in this year's parade included numerous pipe and high school bands, as well as the Rockland Irish-American Cultural Center, The Gaelic Athletic Association, and the Emerald Society of the FDNY and NYPD.

Dutchess County held its St. Patrick's Parade Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> in Wappingers Falls, with the Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade Committee organizing the event. Each year, the parade honors a Dutchess County resident as the parade Grand Marshal. This year's Mar-

shal was Matthew P. Fitzgerald. Mr. Fitzgerald was also recognized in February at the annual Emerald Ball, which traditionally signals the start of parade season.

Beyond the St. Patrick's parades all over the Hudson Valley, there were a number of restaurant festivities for spectators to enjoy. At the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual parade in Peekskill on March 12<sup>th</sup>, parade goers treated themselves to the Birdall House's Irish oriented spirits and food. Mount Kisco parade viewers were able to visit O'Connor's Public

House and enjoy beef stew, shepard's pie and Guinness as well as a performance by the Emerald Society band.

This year's parade in White Plains featured local celebrities such as Miss Westchester and Miss Teen Westchester, as well as Coast Guard Academy's Silver Dolphins Color Guard and Drill team. Patrons who visited the Brazen Fox were able to watch the parade from the bar while indulging in their choice of spirits.

By Sean Vitt



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## The General's Lady comes to Washington's Headquarters Site

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With a long list of events planned for Women's History Month, the Hudson River Valley area is ready to celebrate the contributions of important women in American history. At the end of March, one of these women will be highlighted with a two-hour event at the [Washington Headquarters Historic Site](#). The life and role of Martha Washington, wife and confidant of the most famous of our founding fathers, will be on display at the Headquarters on 26 March, from 1 to 3 p.m.

This year's celebration will focus on how Martha Washington shaped the founding of our nation, as well as giving credit to women who continue to set examples for others to follow. [The Martha Washington Women's History Award](#) is presented annually to a woman who has distinguished herself in the field of Hudson River Valley

history [www.onhudson.com](http://www.onhudson.com).

This year's recipient is [Mara Farrell](#), former member of the Fishkill Historical Society. In 2009, Farrell's work led to the archeological discovery of multiple previously unidentified Revolutionary War era remains near the [Van Wyck Homestead](#). This contribution, in addition to Farrell's other work, such as co-founding the Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot in 2006, makes her a shining example of a woman interested in preserving the history of the Hudson River Valley. The event will take place before Washington's Headquarters officially opens for the season in mid-April. Operating hours in season are Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. There is no fee for admission, although donations are ac-

cepted. The site offers scenic views of the Hudson River, as well as ample picnicking grounds and a stone monument known as the "Tower of Victory," completed in 1890. For further information, the historic site can be reached at (845)-562-1195.

By Brian Rees



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## Lauren Santangelo Interview, cont.

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needs to acknowledge the importance of the HRV to the city's formation (and vice versa)."

Santangelo revealed that her interest in her dissertation topic was nurtured during her time as a student at Marist and as an intern at HRVI.

"I have always been interested in the relationship between women and politics, and, more broadly, gender and citizenship (an interest nurtured at Marist and HRVI). Thus, looking at the suffrage movement seemed an obvious choice for me. When I started looking at suffrage leaders' writings, it became increasingly clear that urbanization and their urban environment had a significant impact on not only their arguments, but also the resources that were available to them and the obstacles that they thought stood in their way."

Santangelo learned a lot from her professors during her time at Marist, who profoundly shaped her thinking and interests.

"Professors at Marist showed me that women and gender are worth studying and that nothing ever seems as simple as

it first appears. They taught me to love to think about and be comfortable with difficult questions, particularly those that don't always have clear answers." Her time spent as an intern at HRVI was also very formative. "HRVI allowed me to apply the concepts I was learning about to concrete research topics. Thus, I did research on the Fishkill Tea Party (a Revolutionary protest by women in Fishkill, New York) at HRVI. My research at HRVI also proved to me that places and spaces mattered. That is, spaces are not simply settings in which people act. Instead, spaces, locations, and regions, play a role in shaping the actions that are possible for people to take. In essence, studying the HRV exposed me to the importance of place as well as provided me with research and writing experience. In terms

of my research interests, I owe a great deal to the professors at Marist and everyone at HRVI."

It is clear that Santangelo was hugely influenced by her time here at Marist, and that influence is manifesting itself in her graduate endeavors.

By Mary Kaltreider



Photo by Katy Silberger (www.flickr.com/photos/katysilbs/3996149420/)

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## Free Admission Day at National Parks

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In honor of National Park Week, there will be [free entrance to all parks during the week](#) of April 16-24. This week will focus on both the connection between human and environmental health, and how National Parks contribute to this relationship. Over the course of the week, there will be several promotional days and events such as Volunteer Day (April 16) and Junior Ranger Day (April 23).

Locally, there are three historic sites which will participate in Free Entrance Day: The Eleanor Roosevelt Historic Site, the [Franklin D. Roosevelt Home](#) and Presidential Library, and the [Vanderbilt Mansion Historical Site](#). Each site offers a glimpse into the grand past of the Hudson River Valley, as well as a look into the lives of the prominent individuals who have lived here.

At the Franklin Roosevelt Presidential Library, ongoing restoration promises to

bring the building to a modern, newly rebuilt state- as it is the first in which the library has undergone since its initial completion in 1941. The Vanderbilt Mansion offers spacious grounds, and in the [summer months](#), becomes an outstanding concert venue during its "Music in the Parks" event.

The National Parks offer many programs aimed at introducing nature, history, and adventure into families' lives. National Park Week focuses on this as well as how adventures can be both fun and healthy for not just people but for nature as well. By offering many different programs in this week and promotions such as free entrance to parks allows a new world to be opened up to all people of the country.

The National Park Service offers free entrance days throughout the year. Admission costs and commercial tour fees are

included in the free waiver, as well as transportation entry fees. However, camping, tours, reservations and concessions are not included unless otherwise stated by the park.

By Matt O'Brien



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## Meet the Intern: Christine Jarvis

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Christine Jarvis is a senior History major at Marist College. Always having been interested in American history, she is very grateful to have had the opportunity to spend the past four years in the historically rich Hudson River Valley. This is her first year with the Hudson River Valley Institute. Christine is currently researching the Hudson Valley's role in the Civil War. Spanning from military to industry, she is creating a timeline detailing the importance of the Hudson Valley during the war.

Christine also has been a member of the Marist Women's Rugby Club team since her freshman year. The sport and her teammates have been a vital part of Christine's college experience and success. Christine served as the club's president for two semesters and the role was overall very rewarding.

When not at Marist, Christine lives in Windsor Locks, Connecticut where she enjoys spending summers rollerblading, going to the beach, and fol-

lowing her beloved Boston Red Sox and UConn Huskies. She hopes to stay in the Hudson River Valley after graduation and pursue a lucrative career in whatever may come about.



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## Meet the Intern: Amy Jacaruso

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Amy Jacaruso is a junior English and Digital Media double major at Marist College. Although she was born in the Hudson River Valley, she lives in Bolton, Massachusetts when not at Marist.

During her first semester with the Hudson River Valley Institute, Amy has written an article for the HRVI Review on the Mid-Hudson Antislavery History Society, a local non-profit that focuses on the region's involvement in both of slavery and antislavery, and she has also been assisting in copyediting other articles for the review. She is looking forward to learning even more about the culture and history of the Hudson River Valley through this internship.

An avid reader, Amy hopes to one day get to the bottom of the pile of books she has bought. She also hopes to start playing the piano again, after taking six years of lessons before leaving for college.

After graduating from Marist, Amy is consid-

ering pursuing a master's degree in publishing. She hopes to find a job in the publishing industry, in either editing or in book design.



# Contact Us

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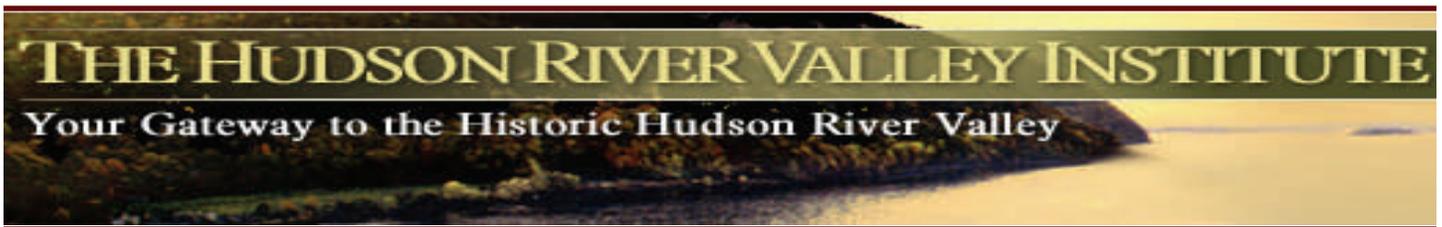
*The Hudson River Valley:  
"The Landscape that Defined America"*

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)



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