

# FEBRUARY 2025



THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO! New York's Hudson Valley, East of the River



[parks.ny.gov](https://parks.ny.gov)

Rockefeller State Park Preserve  
Photo by Heidi Fuhrman

TACONIC REGION; COLUMBIA, DUTCHESS, PUTNAM AND WESTCHESTER COUNTIES



New York State  
Parks, Recreation and  
Historic Preservation

## COLUMBIA COUNTY

CLERMONT STATE HISTORIC SITE // 518.537.4240

NATURE

ART

FAMILY

HERITAGE



Ongoing: Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Holiday Mondays.

On the hour, 11:00am through 4:00pm

### Mansion Tours

Come take a tour of the historic Clermont Mansion! Explore the legacies of the illustrious Livingston family, who called the river-side mansion home for seven generations, and the untold histories of the enslaved and paid staff whose labor made life at the mansion possible. Dive further into the histories of the people of Clermont with our Visitor Center exhibit, "Spero Meliora: Life in The Land of Livingston." Two special exhibits are on view this season, "Redefining The Family: The Livingstons and the Institution of Slavery" and "The Matriarch of Clermont: Margaret Beekman at 300." After your tour, check out our Poetry in the Parks installation, displayed on the outer wall of the Visitor Center, take

a stroll through our gardens, go on a leisurely hike on our trails, or enjoy the scenic view the river from the warmth of your own vehicle. Photo by Pieter Estersohn.

Please note: Tour tickets for the mansion must be purchased at the Visitor Center. **Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students, and children under 12 are free.**





### Crafty Kids Family Crafting Day: Valentine's Party!

**Saturday, February 8th, 2025**

**11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

**Visitor Center**

Crafty Kids Family Crafting Day returns for 2025 with a bang! Join us for Valentines Day crafts and cookie decorating in our newly renovated Visitors Center. For the kids, we have make-your-own valentines, painted jewelry boxes, and cute heart crafts. For the grownups (or maybe even ambitious big kids) we

have origami and wintertime still life painting! Light instruction is offered, creativity is encouraged.

From internationally recognized Hudson River School painters to dedicated hobbyists who shared their love of the arts with their children, Clermont has always been home to creative people. We continue the tradition with Crafty Kids! We are excited to continue to offer arts programming to children and their grownups throughout the year, drawing inspiration from seasonal events and local history!

*Please note: **The cost of the event is \$5 per person.** Please be prepared to pay at the door. This is a family program; all children must be accompanied by an adult and all adults must be accompanied by a child.*



CLERMONT STATE HISTORIC SITE

### Those Who Served: The Enslaved and Paid Servants of Clermont

**Saturday, February 15, 2025 at 2pm**

**Mansion-Meets at the Visitor Center**

**\$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students, and children under 12 are free.**

Over the course of more than 200 years, hundreds of people worked at

Clermont to keep the Livingston family comfortable. For nearly a century, the mansion was run by a mostly enslaved staff. By the 1830s, this staff was completely replaced by paid labor.

Though many of their stories were lost, recent research has revealed new details about those who worked for the Livingston family. From Old Cole, a black man enslaved by Chancellor Livingston, to Shige Toshio, a Japanese immigrant who served as the Livingston's butler, to Ollie and Christopher Meyer, two young people from different continents who found love in Clermont's kitchen, join us as we uncover some of the stories of those who served. The tour also delves into the realities of enslavement, immigration, and employment across three centuries.

*Please note: This tour begins in our Visitor Center; you must pay for your tour tickets at the ticketing desk.*

*Reservations are not required but appreciated.*



### Curatorial Tour of the Mansion

**Sunday, February 16, 2025 at 2pm**

**Mansion-Meets at the Visitor Center**

**\$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students, and children under 12 are free.**

Join Clermont's Museum Assistant Noa for a special curatorial tour of the Mansion. This tour will include a discussion of some of the most important pieces in the house as well as those hidden gems in the collection.

**In the event of severe weather this tour will be postponed until March 2025.**

*Please note: This tour begins in our Visitor Center; you must pay for your tour tickets at the ticketing desk. Space is extremely limited, please make*

*reservations in advance.*



### Make Your Own Presidential Seal!

**Monday, February 17, 2025**

**12pm-2pm**

**Visitor Center**

**Free!**

Have you ever wanted to become President for a day? At Clermont you can! Clermont is open for tours on Presidents Day, Monday February 17.

Whether you're stopping by for a mansion tour or taking a hike, linger a little longer in the Visitor Center to make your own Presidential Seal! Join Educators Liz and Lila in crafting your own Presidential address and custom stamped Presidential seal.

In this program, we will have preprinted "mad lib" style speeches to have the patrons fill in as well as a variety of hand carved stamps to collage their own personalized "seal" of approval!

*Please note: This is a free event and is intended for families with children. Reservations are not required but appreciated.*



### **Winter Break Microgreens**

**Thursday, February 20, 2025**

**11am**

**Visitor Center**

**Free!**

Tiny but mighty, microgreens are full of flavor and nutrition powerhouses.

Every seed comes with all it needs to germinate and grow a sprout. Harness the power of a seed by growing your own amazing microgreens. Each kit comes with a recycled greenhouse and ingredients to make your own dressing to enjoy with the microgreens. Join us Thursday, February 20th to make your own "Microgreenhouse" using one of our activity kits! Check out some pre-grown "Microgreenhouses," to get a preview of what you'll grow, and taste the greens with the public! Can't make it on Thursday the 20th? No problem! We will have free activity kits ready for pick up in our Visitor Center during regular hours. Stop by the Visitor Center Thursday February 13<sup>th</sup>- Sunday February 16<sup>th</sup> or Thursday February 20<sup>th</sup>- Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup> between 10:30 am and 4 pm. The kits will have everything you need to start your own Microgreenhouse at home.

*Please note: This program is for ages 8+. All children must be accompanied by an adult. **This event is free of charge.** Reservations are not required but appreciated.*



### **The Livingston's Landscape:**

**Uncover the relationship the Livingstons had with the land and those living on it.**

**Sunday, February 23, 2025 @2pm**

**Meet at the Visitor Center**

**Free!**

Join us at Clermont State Historic Site for a guided landscape tour. On this tour we will look back through generations of the Livingston family and explore how their role as landowners shaped the land and local communities. From the questionable land purchases from Indigenous tribes to enslaved men and tenant farmers tilling the soil, to the Livingston's own gentleman farmers, the relationship with the land and those who worked it changed many times over the past 300 years.

**Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes.**

In the event of severe weather this tour will be postponed until March 2025.

*Please note: **This event is free of charge.** Reservations are not required but appreciated.*

**Poetry**  
in the **Parks**

*Ishion Hutchinson at Clermont State Historic Site.*

Poetry in the Parks is a public art initiative that integrates poems in public parks and historic sites.

Poems and poets reflect the diversity of park visitors and celebrate the beauty of nature found in these public places, encouraging exploration and discovery.

**OLANA STATE HISTORIC SITE // 518.751.0344**

HERITAGE

ARTS

FAMILY

NATURE



**Landscape:** Olana State Historic Site's 250-acre landscape is free and open to all, every day from 8:00 AM to sunset.

**February Tour Hours:** Friday – Sunday, 11:00 AM – 3:15 PM

**Also OPEN MONDAY FEBRUARY 17 for tours.**

Image by: Peter Aaron/ OTTO

**Olana Shop & Frederic Church Center for Art and Landscape Hours:**

Friday-Sunday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Olana Eye Skycam:** Virtual visitors can experience the iconic view from Olana's Studio Tower at any time and from around the world at [OLANA.org/OLANAEYE](https://OLANA.org/OLANAEYE). Use the hashtag #OLANAEYE on social media to share your amazing screen captures. Follow us @OlanaFredericChurch.

**Virtual Tours:** Learn about Frederic Church's Olana and explore the 250-acre landscape from the comfort of your own home. Virtual tours are available on the Olana website at <https://www.olana.org/virtual-olana/>



**Olana State Historic Site**

**Through March 30, 2025**

**Organized by The Olana Partnership**

Frederic Church carefully studied the world around him, incorporating those observations into his paintings, guiding the viewer's eye through his composed landscapes, and encouraging them to take *A Closer Look*. This winter, The

Olana Partnership invites you to discover works of art through close looking, observation, and conversation. Unfolding over four months and featuring a series of four themed artwork installations, participants in *A Closer Look* will be encouraged to slow down, open their minds to discover Frederic Church's art in new ways, and spend time in close dialogue with select artworks from the Olana collection.

*New works of art will be featured each month; no prior knowledge of art is required. Visit [OLANA.org/acloserlook](https://OLANA.org/acloserlook) for the full schedule.*



**K-12 Field Trips and Virtual Tours – Accepting Reservations!**

Explore Frederic Church's masterwork, Olana, through a field trip or virtual tour in any season! During onsite field trips and virtual tours, students learn more about the art, culture, and history of Olana and the Hudson River Valley through place-based learning activities and lessons. For grades PreK-12 and education groups; \$5-\$15 per student | FREE for schools in Columbia and Greene counties.

Learn more by visiting <https://www.olana.org/tour-category/school/>



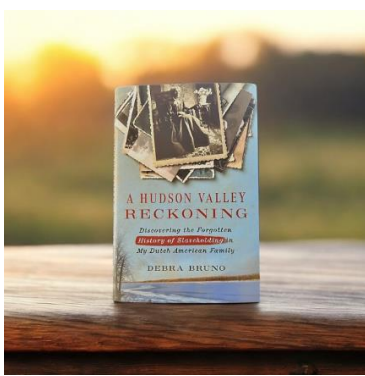
WEBINARS

**Warm Up With an OLANA Webinar**

**Virtual offering – visit [olana.org/webinars](https://olana.org/webinars)**

As winter approaches, get cozy and learn more about Olana and its history from home with our range of over 50 webinars highlighting the diverse stories connected to Frederic Church, his family, and creation, Olana. Topics range from the popularity of coffee in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to presentations on Church's unique artist friends and colleagues like Marianne North and Edmonia Lewis to conversations with contemporary artists like Jean Shin and Mark Igloliorte. Visit [olana.org/webinars](https://olana.org/webinars) to learn more.





### **A Hudson Valley Reckoning:**

#### **A Conversation About the Forgotten History of Slaveholding in New York Tuesday, February 11 | 12:00-1:00 PM**

During this virtual conversation, author Debra Bruno will detail her experience unearthing her own family's connection to an often overlooked and violent part of New York history. When Debra realized that her Dutch ancestors had been some of the most entrenched enslavers during 200 years of slavery in New York, she began the process of telling this story, resulting in a deeply personal and nuanced account of the ways America's complicated history affects us all. During this program, she will be joined in conversation by Leigh Fludd-Smith of the African American Archive of Columbia County.

[Register](#)



### **THIRD THURSDAY – Morning Mindfulness in the Galleries**

**Thursday, February 20 | 9:30-10:30 AM**

Start your day looking mindfully at works of art in Olana State Historic Site's galleries. This hour-long morning session will be led by three local art therapists and will include mindfulness practices to deepen your experience of one to three artworks on view. This program will be led by Shirin Mazdeyasna (MA, ATR-BC, LCAT), an Iranian artist and board certified and registered Licensed Creative Arts Therapist.

FREE as part of [OLANA Third Thursday/Tercer Jueves](#) in connection with [A Closer Look](#). Registration available on a first-come, first-served basis. Space is limited. Email [education@olana.org](mailto:education@olana.org) for more information. [Learn More](#)

### **THIRD THURSDAY – Drop-In Drawing with Pastels**

**Thursday, February 20 | 2:00-5:00 PM**

Stop by the Wagon House Education Center for free drop-in drawing led by The Olana Partnership teaching artists and educators. Each session focuses on a different artist-quality art material! Use inspiration from your visit to Olana State Historic Site to create your own works of art.

All materials, refreshments, and drinks will be provided. FREE. [Learn More](#)



*Jervis McEntee, Church's Camp in Maine, c. 1879. Oil on canvas.  
12 ¼ x 17 inches. New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and  
Historic Preservation, Olana State Historic Site, OL.1981.43.A*



### **A Closer Look Family Tours**

**Saturday, February 22 | 1:00-2:00 PM**

Experience learning, looking closely, and conversation as a family during this series of special museum gallery tours at Olana State Historic Site. Each month, The Olana Partnership educators will lead an exploration of two to three works of art on the second floor galleries through family-friendly dialogue and other hands-on activities. After your tour, extend your day at OLANA and head down

to the Wagon House Education Center for a free drop-in program, Art Making in the Afternoon from 1-4 PM. Designed for families with children ages 3 and up. \$15 adults; children under 12 are free. Advanced registration required. Please contact [education@olana.org](mailto:education@olana.org) to learn more. [Register](#)



**Artmaking in the Afternoon**

**Saturday, February 22 | 1:00-4:00 PM**

Inspired by your time at Olana or looking for family-friendly fun? Participate in free, drop-in artmaking in the Wagon House Education Center from 1-4 PM and learn more about Frederic Church’s artist-designed home and studio on the Hudson.

This drop-in artmaking program is open to all ages and skill levels; all materials and warm beverages (coffee, tea, and hot chocolate) provided. FREE. No advanced registration required. Contact [education@olana.org](mailto:education@olana.org) or call [\(518\) 751-6938](tel:5187516938) for more info.

**TACONIC STATE PARK // 518.329.3993**

NATURE

FAMILY



**Saturday, February 8, 2025**

**10:00am start**

**Winter Walk & Talk**

**Copake Falls Location- Day Use Parking Lot**

While many of us head inside when it gets cold out, our wildlife does not. Join our Park Educator on a walk through the Park as we look for animal tracks and signs and learn how some animals cope with the cold. *Open for all ages. Let us know you’re going on our FB page.*

*Please note: This event is outside. Be dressed appropriately with appropriate footwear. This event is free of charge.*



**Saturday, February 15, 2025**

**11am-12pm**

**Twitterpation Education**

**Copake Falls | Park Office**

While we are celebrating love in the air, local wildlife is too. Come chat with our Park Educator about which animals are becoming twitterpated now, and what wildlife changes we will see in the coming months. Learn about their behavior changes, migrations, and some little oddities. Mammals, Birds, Amphibians, Oh My!

*Please note: This is a drop in event open to the public. Small art/craft available for those interested.*

**LAKE TAGHKANIC STATE PARK // 518.851.3631**

NATURE

FAMILY



**Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association Monthly Star Party**

**Fri., February 28 @5:30 PM**

The Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association hosts a monthly stargazing party in the West Beach parking lot. Bring your own telescopes and binoculars or use those provided by our members. You will be asked to provide your license plate number and make/model car, so park management and police have a record of who will be in park after hours.

More info at <https://www.spy-hill.net/myers/astro/ltsp/> *Registration: RSVP is required at least one day beforehand.*

**Lake Taghkanic Luminary Walk on February 15, please see page 15.**



**Poetry  
in the Parks**

*Robert Hass at Lake Taghkanic State Park.*

Poetry in the Parks is a public art initiative that integrates poems in public parks and historic sites. Poems and poets reflect the diversity of park visitors and celebrate the beauty of nature found in these public places, encouraging exploration and discovery.

**DUTCHESS COUNTY**

**STAATSBURGH STATE HISTORIC SITE // 845.889.8851**

**NATURE**

**ARTS**

**FAMILY**

**HERITAGE**



**February 1 – 28 Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays & Presidents’ Day, Mon., Feb. 17  
Mansion Tours**

Mansion tours by advance reservation. See the magnificent Gilded Age home of Ruth Livingston Mills, decorated with its original furnishings.

**Reservations required: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>**

**Cost: \$10/Adults, \$8/Seniors & Students, Children 12 & under are free.**



**February 1: 3pm  
Shadow Play for Groundhog Day**

**A collaborative children’s program with the Staatsburg Library**

Join us indoors at Staatsburgh State Historic Site for some pre-Groundhog Day shadow play. Using our own bodies and puppets from behind a lit screen, we will play with storytelling and learn a little bit about the natural science behind

the groundhog’s weather forecast. Appropriate for children ages 4 to 7. Children must be accompanied by an adult. **Cost: free. Reservations required: <https://bookeo.com/staatsburghshs>**



**February 2: 1pm (Snow date: February 9)**

**TEA & TALK SERIES: enjoy tea and scones in Staatsburgh’s formal dining room while listening to talks on Gilded Age history.**

***Black Staatsburg: The Gilded Age Black Community of Staatsburg***

Staatsburgh's Historic Site Assistant Zachary Veith will explore what the "Gilded Age" meant to the free Black community of the Staatsburg hamlet during the Gilded Age. Long marginalized in the historical narrative, the free Black community of Staatsburg fostered a strong community in the face of constant adversity. Their story reveals the triumphs and struggles of generations of African-Americans in the Hudson Valley. **Cost: \$65**

**Reservations required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gilded-age-tea-talk-series-tickets>**



**February 8: 3pm  
Tiny and Sweet: A Valentine’s Card Making Workshop**

Just in time for Valentine’s Day, join us for a card making workshop for ages teen to adult. Family members affectionately called Staatsburgh’s owners, Ruth and Ogden Mills, “Tiny” and “Sweet.” Using images from the Gilded Age, paired with quotes from literature of the Victorian era, follow your whimsy and heart’s desire to create one-of-a-kind cards for everyone in your life. All materials and inspiration will be supplied, and light refreshments of tea and cookies are included. **Cost: \$10, plus Eventbrite fee.**

**Reservations required: <https://StaatsburghValentine.Eventbrite.com>**



**February 15 & 16: 1pm (Snow dates: February 22 & 23)**

**TEA & TALK SERIES:** enjoy tea and scones in Staatsburgh's formal dining room while listening to talks on Gilded Age history.

***Gilded Age Love Stories***

Enjoy a Valentine's-themed Tea & Talk! From courtship to love & marriage (with a bit of heartbreak dashed in for good measure), Staatsburgh's Curator Maria Reynolds will share stories about love and relationships in the Gilded Age. Treat yourself (and your friends and loved ones) to the perfect Valentine's experience! **Cost: \$65**

**Reservations required:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gilded-age-tea-talk-series-tickets>

**See Black Staatsburgh: The Gilded Age Black Community of Staatsburgh, Feb. 1 from Staatsburgh SHS on page 15.**



Explore Staatsburgh's beautiful grounds along the Hudson River self-guided walking tour

**BANNERMAN CASTLE TRUST // 845.831.1001**

ARTS

FAMILY

HERITAGE

NATURE



**Book your 2025 Tour to Bannerman Island and Castle in the Hudson River Highlands!**

The Estuary Steward Tour Boat leaves the Beacon Waterfront Dock, directly across from the Beacon Metro-North Train Station at 2 Red Flynn Drive, Beacon, NY May - October 2025. Enjoy a guided, or self-guided tour of the island. Visit the historic Bannerman Castle ruins and gardens and explore the original Bannerman residence, now a museum. For a schedule of events and to purchase tickets or gift certificates,

please visit: <https://bannermancastle.org/tours-events/bannerman-island-tour/>



**BCT February Exhibitions, Bannerman Island Gallery**

**Main Gallery: 150 Main Street, Beacon, NY**

**Bannerman Castle Trust's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition continues**

Historic exhibition featuring artwork, photographs and artifacts from Bannerman Island and the Bannerman Family Collection, as well as works by contemporary artists. Incredible show focusing on the history of Bannerman's Island and the Bannerman Castle Trust's development since 1994.



**West Wall Exhibition – Virginia Donovan (Paintings) and Mary Ann Glass (Photo-Mixed Media).** Ongoing show features Hudson Valley Paintings & Photography. (Art Sale proceeds help support preservation projects on Bannerman's Island. Gallery Hours: Saturdays & Sundays, Noon – 5:00pm, weekdays by chance & appointment. Group tours available. Contact: [bannermangallery150@aol.com](mailto:bannermangallery150@aol.com) or call 845-831-1001. [www.bannermancastle.org](http://www.bannermancastle.org)

**WALKWAY OVER THE HUDSON STATE HISTORIC PARK // 845.834.2867**

NATURE

HERITAGE



**Flag Changing Ceremony**

**Sunday, February 16 – 12-12:30 p.m.**

**Center Overlook, Walkway Over the Hudson**

The American Legion Post 739 organize and present monthly Flag Changing Ceremonies on the Walkway to honor our region's veterans and their service to our country. These events, organized and presented by these local veterans' organizations, are open to all who wish to attend.



## Poetry in the Parks

*Ada Limón, U.S. Poet Laureate, at Walkway Over the Hudson (West)*  
*Patricia Spears Jones, NY Poet Laureate, at Walkway Over the Hudson (East).*

Poetry in the Parks is a public art initiative that integrates poems in public parks and historic sites. Poems and poets reflect the diversity of park visitors and celebrate the beauty of nature found in these public places, encouraging exploration and discovery.

## WESTCHESTER COUNTY

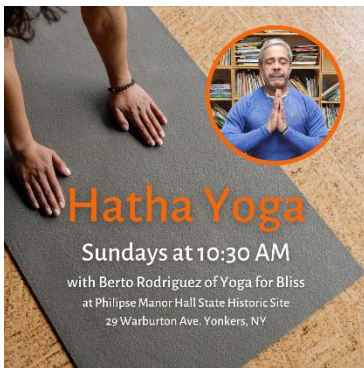
**PHILIPSE MANOR HALL STATE HISTORIC SITE // 914.965.4027**

HERITAGE

FAMILY

ARTS

**Did you know? Philipse Manor Hall is open year-round!** Explore the museum on your own or take a guided tour. Free scavenger hunts for kids! Museum open Wednesday-Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm.



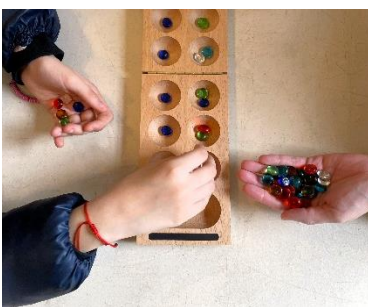
### Morning Hatha Yoga

Every Sunday

**10:30 AM | in-person at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site | \$18/person**

Yoga is back! Ring in a healthier new year with our Morning Hatha Yoga class, Sundays at 10:30 AM. The beautiful sunlit Gothic Chamber is the perfect place for a morning yoga class. This open level class is for everyone - from beginners to long-time practitioners. Within the structure of the class and the instructor's skillful guidelines, you will work at your own pace and level, and modifications will be offered. You will leave having worked your body, calmed your mind and

opened your heart. Fee is \$18/class, registration available at [www.philipsemanorhall.com/programs-and-events](http://www.philipsemanorhall.com/programs-and-events).



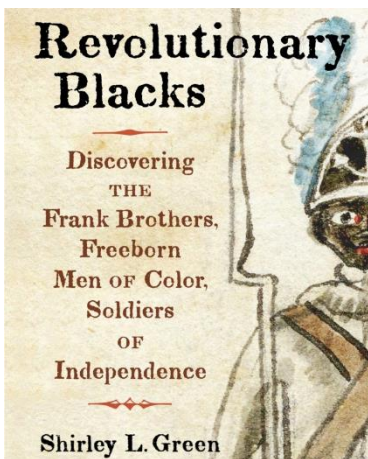
**Saturday, February 4, 2025**

### Story Time & Games

**12:00 PM – 2:00 PM | in-person at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site Free!**

Join us at 12:00 PM for story time with librarians from the Yonkers Public Library! Then stay afterwards for historical games, fun for all ages. Explore how people played in the past with games like mancala, shut the box, skittles, quoits, cup and ball, and more. This program is free and open to the public, sponsored

by the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall. Learn more at [www.philipsemanorhall.com/programs-and-events](http://www.philipsemanorhall.com/programs-and-events).



**Wednesday, February 12, 2025**

### Lecture: Discovering the Frank Brothers

**7:00 PM | online via WebEx | Free!**

Follow the lives of William and Benjamin Frank, men of color who joined the Second Rhode Island Regiment during the American Revolution, as they navigate the challenges of war, ultimately ending up on opposite sides of the conflict. Join Dr. Shirley Green for this fascinating talk based on her book, *Revolutionary Blacks: Discovering the Frank Brothers, Freeborn Men of Color, Soldiers of Independence*. Sponsored by the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall and Tompkins Bank. To register, visit

[https://www.philipsemanorhall.com/programs-and-events/lecture-](https://www.philipsemanorhall.com/programs-and-events/lecture-discovering-the-frank-brothers)

[discovering-the-frank-brothers.](https://www.philipsemanorhall.com/programs-and-events/lecture-discovering-the-frank-brothers)

**Monday, February 17, 2025**

**President's Day Revolutionary Walking Tour**

**10:30 AM | in-person at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site | Free!**

Join us for this special 2.5 mile walking tour of downtown Yonkers in honor of President's Day! Did you know that George Washington and the Continental Army spent time in Yonkers during the American Revolution? And that British Army General Sir Henry Clinton once used Philipse Manor Hall as his headquarters? Explore the troop movements, skirmishes, and people of the American Revolution in Yonkers on this special themed walking tour of the Albany Post Road and the Yonkers waterfront. To reserve your spot, call 914-965-4027 or email [philipsemanorhall@parks.ny.gov](mailto:philipsemanorhall@parks.ny.gov). Museum open special for the holiday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.



**Wednesday, February 19, 2025**

**Winter Break: Scavenger Hunt & Historical Games | Free!**

**12:00 PM – 4:00 PM | in-person at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site**

Looking for something fun to do with the whole family over winter break? Join us for our special winter break activity series! Come to the museum for a special new scavenger hunt through the museum exhibits, then join us upstairs in the Gothic Chamber for historical games all afternoon. Try your hand at games from

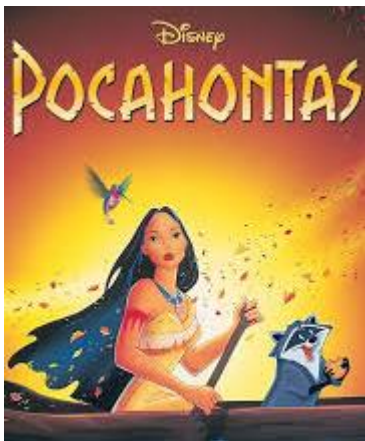
the 18<sup>th</sup> century or even older, including mancala, shut the box, nine man's morris, cup & ball, quoits, skittles, and more. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is encouraged by not required. To register, call 914-965-4027 or email [philipsemanorhall@parks.ny.gov](mailto:philipsemanorhall@parks.ny.gov). For more information, directions, and parking, visit [www.philipsemanorhall.com/programs-and-events](http://www.philipsemanorhall.com/programs-and-events).

**Thursday, February 20, 2025**

**Winter Break: Revolutionary War Game**

**1:00 PM | in-person at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site | Free!**

Can you cross Westchester County safely in the midst of the Revolutionary War? Test our brand new board game about Westchester in the Revolution! Work in teams to go around battles, avoid being captured as spies, and make your way safely across the Westchester Neutral Zone. Along the way you'll meet people and visit places straight from the real Revolution. This is a brand new program created by the educators at Philipse Manor Hall. Game instruction begins at 1:00 PM. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is encouraged by not required. To register, call 914-965-4027 or email [philipsemanorhall@parks.ny.gov](mailto:philipsemanorhall@parks.ny.gov). For more information, directions, and parking, visit [www.philipsemanorhall.com/programs-and-events](http://www.philipsemanorhall.com/programs-and-events).



**Friday, February 21, 2025**

**Winter Break Movie at the Museum: Pocahontas**

**1:00 PM | in-person at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site | Free!**

Enjoy a movie the whole family will love – Disney's Pocahontas, and have fun with a special activity booklet themed around the movie and the real history behind it. Movie starts at 1:00 PM. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is encouraged by not required. To register, call 914-965-4027 or email [philipsemanorhall@parks.ny.gov](mailto:philipsemanorhall@parks.ny.gov). For more information, directions, and parking, visit [www.philipsemanorhall.com/programs-and-events](http://www.philipsemanorhall.com/programs-and-events).

**FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT STATE PARK // 914-245-4434**

FAMILY

NATURE

**Poetry  
in the Parks**

*Andrea Cohen* at FDR State Park.

Poetry in the Parks is a public art initiative that integrates poems in public parks and historic sites. Poems and poets reflect the diversity of park visitors and celebrate the beauty of nature found in these public places, encouraging exploration and discovery.



**OLD CROTON AQUEDUCT // 914.693.5259**

HERITAGE

NATURE



**February 1, Saturday at 10 am**

**Weir Tour.**

Free, easy, 2-hour tour. Meet at the front (upper level/south side) of the Joseph Caputo Center, which is located at 95 Broadway, Ossining, NY 10562, just west of Rte. 9/Highland Ave. at the junction of Croton Ave. (Rte. 133 (from Metro-North Ossining Train Station by taxi or 15-minute uphill walk/parking lots nearby). After a brief walk, descend into the Weir in Ossining and explore the original 1842 brick water tunnel and learn its history. Walk may be rescheduled if weather does not cooperate. Required: pre-registration:

<https://aqueduct.org/event/?id=272>



**February 8, Saturday at 10 am**

**Weir Tour.**

Free, easy, 2-hour tour. Meet at the front (upper level/south side) of the Joseph Caputo Center, which is located at 95 Broadway, Ossining, NY 10562, just west of Rte. 9/Highland Ave. at the junction of Croton Ave. (Rte. 133 (from Metro-North Ossining Train Station by taxi or 15-minute uphill walk/parking lots nearby). After a brief walk, descend into the Weir in Ossining and explore the original 1842

brick water tunnel and learn its history. Walk may be rescheduled if weather does not cooperate. Required: pre-registration: <https://aqueduct.org/event/?id=273>



**February 9, Sunday at 10 am**

**Croton Dam Hike.**

Enjoy a free, easy, 2 miles/2 hours (total) loop hike north along the Aqueduct and atop the beautiful Croton Dam. Meet near the restrooms at the rear (south end) of the parking lot at Croton Gorge Park, Rte. 129, Cortlandt, NY. 10567, GPS Coordinates: 41°13' 20.46" N -73°51'12.59" W. The leader of the hike will discuss the history and construction of the Old Croton Aqueduct and the features of the Croton Dam, the trailhead of the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail. The Aqueduct was completed in 1842 to supply fresh water to a thirsty New York City. (From Metro-North Hudson Line Croton-Harmon Train Station: 15-minute taxi.) Walk may be cancelled if weather does not cooperate. Required: preregistration:

<https://aqueduct.org/event/?id=275>



**February 22, Saturday at 10 am**

**Weir Tour.**

Free, easy, 2-hour tour. Meet at the front (upper level/south side) of the Joseph Caputo Center, which is located at 95 Broadway, Ossining, NY 10562, just west of Rte. 9/Highland Ave. at the junction of Croton Ave. (Rte. 133 (from Metro-North Ossining Train Station by taxi or 15-minute uphill walk/parking lots nearby). After a brief walk, descend into the Weir in Ossining and explore the original 1842 brick water tunnel and learn its history. Walk may be rescheduled if weather does not cooperate. Required: pre-registration:

<https://aqueduct.org/event/?id=276>



**February 23, Sunday at 1 pm**

**Rockwood Hall/Archville Bridge.**

Enjoy an approximately 3 miles/3 hours (total) loop walk, easy-to-moderate, with panoramic views of the Hudson River. We begin at the ruins of Rockwood Hall, built in 1849 and purchased by Wm. Rockefeller, John D. Sr.'s younger brother, in 1886, before John D. began acquiring and building what later

became Kykuit. We cross the Archville bridge, which replaced the earlier stone bridge that carried the Aqueduct over Rt. 9 and served as a carriage trail connecting the two estates. Meet at the Rockwood Hall parking lot behind Phelps Hospital, 41°06'40.6"N 73°51'42.9"W. Walk may be rescheduled if weather does not cooperate. Required: pre-registration: <https://aqueduct.org/event/?id=278>

**ROCKEFELLER STATE PARK PRESERVE // 914.631.1470**

ARTS

NATURE

Rockefeller is a designated State Park Preserve. A Park Preserve is a protected area of importance for flora, fauna, or features of geological or other special interest, which is reserved and managed for conservation purposes. We are recognized as an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society and have a diverse population of animal residents. We are also part of the Old Growth Forest Network and are home to a number of rare and protected plants. We welcome passive recreation such as walking, jogging, photography or wildlife viewing but please leave the picnic and park games at home. Thank you!



### All About Owls

**February 2 from 10:30 am – 12 pm**

Did you know that owls' eyes are fixed in place, so they have to turn their heads to see? Or that a group of owls is called a parliament? Learn more fun facts like these with naturalist, Andrew Michalski of the Greenburgh Nature Center. Get up-close and personal with their ambassador screech owl, check out biofacts such as feathers and bones, and dissect pellets to understand what owls eat and how they process their food. Max: 30 people. Cost: \$4.

*Photo courtesy of Bill Golden. [RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events](https://RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events)*



### Rock Identification Workshop

**February 2 from 1 – 2:30 pm**

Earth's history is written in rocks. Learn how to identify them and how to read their stories with our resident geologist and educator, Kim Fendrich. Find out how rocks are made and modified throughout the rock cycle and hone your observational skills in this hands-on, interactive program. Max: 20 people. Ages 8+. Cost: \$4.

*Photo courtesy of Kim Fendrich. [RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events](https://RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events)*



### Seeing Stars: Astrophotography

**February 3 from 6 – 7 pm**

Explore the cosmos through astrophotography in this virtual presentation with Vinny Coulehan of the Rockland Astronomy Club. Vinny will showcase his work, highlighting photos taken in 2024. Learn about the tools and techniques he uses to collect stunning photographs of galaxies, nebulae, star clusters, eclipses, and more. **Registered participants will receive a link to join.** Cost: FREE.

*Photo courtesy of Vinny Coulehan. [RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events](https://RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events)*





### **Postural Therapy: Living Comfortably**

**February 4 from 9 – 10 am**

Start your day with movement! Get energized in this virtual session with postural therapist, Joey Zimet, and learn exercises to improve posture and function. The class will incorporate unique standing, sitting, and floor exercises that are gentle and easily adapted to fit your needs. These methods are well-studied and based upon neuroscience, biomechanics, the myofascial system, and other variables. Treat yourself to some maintenance and self-care! **Registered participants will receive a link to join.** Cost: FREE. [RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events](https://RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events)



### **Sunset Hike at Rockwood**

**February 6 from 4 – 5:30 pm**

Join Melissa for a 2-mile hike and witness the spectacular view of the sun setting over the Hudson and the Tappan Zee Bridge. Leashed dogs are welcome. Max: 40 people. Cost: FREE, registration required.

*Photo courtesy of Shayla Schott.* [RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events](https://RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events)



### **Seasonal Changes in the Preserve Hike**

**February 8 from 9 am – 12 pm**

Enjoy winter views of both Swan Lake and Pocantico lake and catch a glimpse of the Hudson from Eagle Hill on this 5-mile hike with Mike. Leashed dogs are welcome. Be prepared to move at a steady pace; some hiking experience is recommended.

Max: 20 people. Cost: FREE, registration required. Parking: \$6 per vehicle.

*Photo courtesy of Jessika Creedon.* [RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events](https://RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events)



### **Winter Photo Walk**

**February 9 from 10 am – 12 pm**

Capture the serenity of the Preserve in winter with photographer, Heidi Fuhrman, on a 2-mile walk in search of scenic vistas and natural subjects. Heidi will guide you to some of the best locations to shoot and will advise on framing, perspective, lighting, etc. Any camera is fine, even a cell phone; both beginners and experienced photographers are welcome. Cost: \$4. Parking: \$6 per vehicle. Max: 20 people.

*Photo courtesy of Heidi Fuhrman.* [RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events](https://RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events)



### **Full Moon Hike: "Snow Moon"**

**February 12 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm**

**Tickets available January 21 at 10 am**

Experience the Preserve after dark! Join Shayla, Hailey, and Dave for a 4-mile hike on carriage roads lit by moonlight. We walk at a brisk pace and there will be hills; some hiking experience is recommended. Leashed dogs are welcome. Max: 40 people.

Cost: \$4. *Photo courtesy of Kim Fendrich.*

[RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events](https://RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events)



### Walk with the Light of Your Life

**February 14 from 5 – 7 pm**

This Valentine's Day, celebrate love with the light of your life - whether that's your partner, friend, child, or pet, all are welcome! Take an evening stroll around Swan Lake on carriage roads lit by lanterns and stop by the courtyard for some chocolates on your way. This is not a group hike; you are welcome to begin at any time and walk at your own pace. Please arrive no later than 6:30 pm; **all guests must exit the Preserve by 7 pm**. Access to Brothers Path around Swan Lake ONLY; the Preserve is otherwise closed at night. Cost: FREE, registration recommended. In case of inclement weather, the event may be postponed or canceled; you will receive announcements via email.

[RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events](https://RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events)

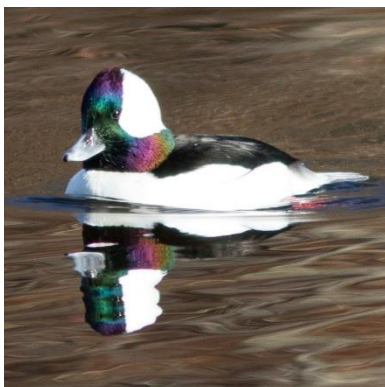


### Backyard Bird Buffet

**February 16 from 2 – 3 pm**

Winter can be a tough time for birds to find food. Help them out by making a birdfeeder and learning how to safely accommodate our feathered friends in our own backyards with educator, Kim Fendrich, and Anne Swaim of the Saw Mill River Audubon Society. Discover the type of birds that would visit this sort of feeder through an interactive bird photo matching game. We'll also observe activity at the birdfeeder in the courtyard, binoculars will be provided. Appropriate for all ages! Max: 20 people.

Cost: \$4. Parking: \$6 per vehicle. [RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events](https://RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events)



### Birdwatching with the Saw Mill River Audubon Society

**February 22 and 24 from 8 – 10 am**

Get to know our feathered residents! Join an expert from the Saw Mill River Audubon Society on a bird walk around the Preserve. Great for all levels of birding experience, beginners welcome! Binocular loans available upon request. Ages 8+. Max: 25 people. Cost: FREE. Parking: \$6 per vehicle. NYS Residents over 62 park for free on weekdays. *Photo courtesy of Bill Golden.*

Please register at: [sawmillriveraudubon.org/register-trips/](https://sawmillriveraudubon.org/register-trips/)



### Mapping the Presence of the Enslaved in NY

**February 26 from 6 – 7 pm**

When we think of slavery, many of us envision rows of tiny cabins behind the big house or Africans and their descendants working in the hot sun on large cotton or sugar plantations. We think of the enslavers as the rich folks on top. These views often prevent us from seeing those that were enslaved and the range of enslavers in New York. When seeking to see and understand the number of people on both sides, looking to the land is one approach. In this virtual presentation, Lavada Nahon, Interpreter of African American History for NYS OPRHP, will use maps as a gateway into the world of enslavement, examine the various agricultural systems used here, and discuss some of the ways the institution of slavery played out in New York. Cost: FREE. **Registered participants will receive a link to join.** [RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events](https://RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events)





### Sound Healing

**TBD from 4 – 5 pm [or] 5:30 – 6:30 pm**

**Tickets available January 21 at 10 am**

Join Dayna Gralla for a therapeutic and restorative sound healing experience. Envelop yourself in the sounds of crystal singing bowls, chimes, and a variety of soothing instruments as you allow your mind to drift from an active state to a relaxed and meditative state. Max: 30 people. Ages 10+. Cost: \$8.

*Photo courtesy of Kim Fendrich. [RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events](https://RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events)*

#### THIS JUST IN FROM COLUMBIA COUNTY:

 **LAKE TAGHKANIC STATE PARK // 518.851.3631**

FAMILY

NATURE



### Winter Luminary Walk at Lake Taghkanic

**Saturday, February 15 @ 6pm**

**Campground parking area: 1528 State Route 82, Ancram, NY 12502**

Come join us Valentine's Day Weekend for a candlelit loop walk through our campground and trails! Take a stop by our warming bonfire for free s'mores and hot chocolate. Park at East Beach parking lot. Event is free and open to all ages. Well behaved, leashed dogs welcome!

#### THIS JUST IN FROM DUTCHESS COUNTY:

 **STAATSBURGH STATE HISTORIC SITE // 845.889.8851**

NATURE

ARTS

FAMILY

HERITAGE

**February 1: 3pm**

### ***Black Staatsburg: The Gilded Age Black Community of Staatsburg***

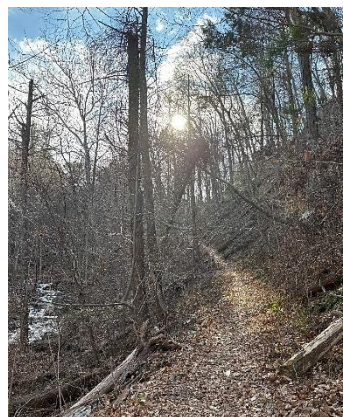
What did the "Gilded Age" mean to the free, Black community of the Staatsburg village? Join site staff for a one-hour conversation exploring that question through census records, historic maps, and the larger context of race relations during the Gilded Age.

Often pushed to the outskirts of society by White Americans, Black men and women were nonetheless able to foster a strong community in the face of constant adversity. Long marginalized in the historical narrative, the free Black community of the Staatsburg village reveals the triumphs and struggles of generations of African Americans in the Hudson Valley.

**Reservations required: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>**

**Cost: free**

## Featured Trail of the Month



### HUDSON HIGHLANDS STATE PARK PRESERVE: NORTH REDOUBT TRAIL

Snake Hill Road, Garrison NY 10524

Trail Map: [HudsonHighlandsTrailMapSouth.pdf](#)

Distance: 0.59 miles

Difficulty Rating: Moderate

Located just ten minutes south of Cold Spring, the North Redoubt trail is perfect for a quick afternoon hike. This trail is located on Snake Hill Road, in Garrison NY. The parking lot can be found on the Northern side of the Hudson Highland Land Trust property, at the bottom of the hill. North Redoubt is considered a moderate trail due to its steady climb and narrow footpath. This is an out and back trail for a total of 1.18 miles. At its peak, there is a gorgeous view of the Hudson River. Winter can be an excellent time of year for this hike since the view is restricted by the canopy cover in the warmer seasons. This trail is ideal for a short hike in the woods, that'll still get your heartrate up. Come hike North Redoubt and take in the beautiful wintery views of the Hudson Valley!

## NEW YORK STATE PARKS—TACONIC REGION FACILITY LOCATIONS & PHONE NUMBERS

*Please contact the park/site for information regarding fees & availability*



#### STATE PARKS

##### Clarence Fahnestock Memorial

Carmel (845) 225-7207

##### Fahnestock Winter Park

Administration (845) 225-7207

Snow conditions (845) 225-3998

##### Franklin D. Roosevelt

Yorktown Heights (914) 245-4434

##### Hudson Highlands

Peekskill to Beacon (845) 225-7207

##### James Baird

Pleasant Valley (845) 452-1489

##### Lake Taghkanic

Ancram (518) 851-3631

##### Margaret Lewis Norrie/

Ogden Mills & Ruth Livingston Mills (Mills-Norrie)

Staatsburgh (845) 889-4646

##### Rockefeller Preserve

Pleasantville (914) 631-1470

##### Taconic/Copake Falls

Copake Falls (518) 329-3993

##### Taconic/Rudd Pond

Millerton (518) 789-3059

##### Wonder Lake

Kent/Patterson (845) 225-7207

#### STATE GOLF COURSES

##### Dinsmore

Staatsburgh (845) 889-4071

##### James Baird

Pleasant Valley (845) 452-1489

#### STATE HISTORIC SITES

##### Clermont

Germantown (518) 537-4240

##### John Jay Homestead

Katonah (914) 232-5651

##### Olana

Hudson (518) 828-0135

##### Philipse Manor Hall

Yonkers (914) 965-4027

##### Staatsburgh

Staatsburgh (845) 889-8851

#### EDUCATION/NATURE CENTERS

##### Taconic Outdoor Education Center (TOEC)

By Group Reservations Only

Cold Spring (845) 265-3773

##### Norrie Point Environmental Center (DEC)

Staatsburgh (845) 889-4745

#### STATE HISTORIC PARKS

##### Old Croton Aqueduct

Dobbs Ferry (Park Office) (914) 693-5259

##### Walkway Over the Hudson

Highland/Poughkeepsie (845) 834-2867

#### PROPERTIES OWNED BY NYSOPRHP AND MANAGED BY NON-PROFITS

##### Bannerman Island

Beacon, (845) 831-1001

##### Jay Heritage Center

Rye, (914) 698-9275

##### Quiet Cove Riverfront Park

Poughkeepsie (845) 298-4600