

# December 2018

## Hudson Valley Region

[www.parks.ny.gov](http://www.parks.ny.gov)

Rockefeller State Park Preserve

Photo by Susan Cember

*Columbia, Dutchess, Putnam & Westchester Counties in NY's Hudson Valley*



Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation

Scan QR Code to view events



### DUTCHESS COUNTY

STAATSBURGH STATE HISTORIC SITE // 845.889.8851

ARTS

KIDS

HERITAGE



## *A Gilded Age Christmas*

**November 23 – December 31**

*Enjoy lavish turn-of-the-century style holiday decorations  
while touring the mansion.*

*Cost: \$8/Regular, \$6/Seniors & Students, Children 12 & under are free.*

Noon – 4pm on Nov. 23 – Dec. 23, Thursday – Sunday  
& Noon– 4pm on Dec. 26 – 31, Wednesday – Monday  
Closed December 24 and 25

### December 1 – Christmas Cracker Craft Workshop

Usher in the season with a craft workshop! Crackers were popular Christmas dinner favors during the Gilded Age. Learn how to make your own! Suitable for adults and children 10 & up.

**Reservations required.** Cost: \$8/person, or \$20/Family (up to 5 people). **10:30am-12:00pm**

### December 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 – Holiday Whodunit

Children become detectives to solve a history mystery. Costumed interpreters throughout the house provide clues to help kids find whodunit. Come anytime between 1:00pm and 3:00pm and plan for about an hour visit. Cost: \$8 Adults, \$6 Seniors/Students, Children 12 & under are free

**1:00PM-4:00PM**





#### **December 7 – Friends of Mills Mansion Holiday Gala**

Join the Friends for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and musical entertainment in the dining room for an elegant and festive evening at the mansion. **Reservations required.** Call: (845) 889-8851 ext. 346 or visit:

<https://millsmansion.org/friends-events>

**6:00pm-9:00pm**

#### **December 12 – Children's Story Hour & Holiday Craft**

Pre-school age children are invited to gather around the Christmas tree and listen to stories read by Staatsburg Librarian Lisa Prentiss, and then make a holiday craft. **Reservations required.** Cost: Free

**10:00am-12:00pm**

#### **December 14 – Paper Quilling Workshop: Make an Ornament**

Participants can take a brief tour of the decorated mansion before this introductory class on making a paper-quilled ornament. Materials will be supplied and everyone will receive a quilling tool to keep. Refreshments served. A great activity for friends or parents and teens (age 12+). **Reservations required.** Cost: \$15, \$12

Friends of Mills Mansion

**6:00PM-8:00PM**

#### **December 21 – Evening Hours at the Mansion**

Spend a festive evening at the fully decorated mansion with costumed guides, live caroling by the *Singchronicity*, a craft and gift shopping. Cost: \$8 Adults, \$6 Seniors/Students, Children 12 & under are free.

**6:00PM-8:00PM**

#### **December 26, 27 & 28 – Kids Craft Workshop: Make A Mouse House**

Mistletoe Mouse has inhabited the mansion at Christmas time for many years. For these workshops, children ages 6-10 tour the house briefly to see mouse houses on display, then use craft materials to build their own mouse house to take home. An adult must accompany child; **reservations required.** Cost: \$8/child or \$15/family (up to 3 children)

**10:30am - 12:00pm**

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

NATURE

**Lecture: Hidden Treasures of the Hudson Valley**

**December 2 @ 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm**

The Hudson Valley region is rich in history, even in places you may never expected. Join local author and historian Tony Musso on Sunday, December 2 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Interfaith Towers (66 Washington Street, Poughkeepsie) as he discusses his latest book *Hidden Treasures of the Hudson Valley Volume 3*, which features 55 sites from Westchester County to Saugerties and beyond that might not be mainstream tourist destination, but still boast significance in local and national history.

This lecture is complimentary to attend for Walkway members and all seniors residing in assisted living. The general public is welcome to attend for a suggested donation of \$5

**Flag Changing Ceremony**

**December 16 @ 12 – 1 p.m.**

The [American Legion Pleasant Valley-Millbrook Post #739, Pleasant Valley NY](#) and VFW Post 6534 Highland 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.

Contact: Ross Hartlipp with American Legion Post 739 for information and updates.

Location: Center Overlook of the Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park

Event Organizer: American Legion Post 739 and VFW Post 6534 Highland

**COLUMBIA COUNTY**

**CLERMONT STATE HISTORIC SITE // 518.537.6622**

ARTS

KIDS

HERITAGE

**A Child's Christmas**

**Saturday & Sunday, December 1 & 2**

**10 AM - 12 PM**

Drop in for stories read under the Christmas tree and treats for children ages 3-10

*Drop In*

*\$4 Per Person*



**CHRISTMAS AT CLERMONT OPEN HOUSE**

**Saturday, December 15**

**11 AM - 4 PM**

A great day for families! Explore the mansion at your leisure enjoying the holiday decorations with docents available to answer questions in each room. Cider and cookies will be available in the visitor's center.

**Admission: FREE**

**Candlelight Tours of Clermont**

**Sunday, December 16**

**3 PM- 6 PM**

Tableaux Vivant of Christmas traditions through the ages, glittering decorations, wassail and traditional holiday goodies served in the historic kitchen.

*Adults \$12, Children under 12 - \$5*

*Tickets Required. Call (518) 537-4240*

**LAKE TAGHKANIC STATE PARK // 518.851.3631**

NATURE

**Fri., Dec. 7: Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association Monthly Star Party, 7:00 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. RSVP is required at least one day beforehand. 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.meetup.com/mhastro>.  
*Registration: Required*





#### **December 1 – Artist on Art Tour Inside Olana**

Artists offer a unique lens with which to “read” an artist’s home & landscape. This season TOP partners with the Institute for Arab and Islamic Art in NYC to bring a dynamic mix of contemporary artists to Olana to layer their perceptions of Middle Eastern influences in Church’s home of American landscape painting. During this series, artists use many disciplines and “poetic license” to talk about Olana and the exhibition *Costumes & Customs* with concepts and connections that are unique to the guide. This is not a traditional house tour! Artist-led tours are accompanied by TOP’s Director of Education and end with a glass of wine and a snack on the piazza near sunset.

**5PM | Location: Visitor Center | Member: \$10, Non-Member: \$15 | Ages 10+**

**For more information and tickets visit [OLANA.org](http://OLANA.org).**

#### **Tuesday, December 4 - The Art of Holiday Greens: Boxwood Tree Making**

Mary Hughes, Olana’s Master Gardener, will teach the art of creating seasonal boxwood trees for tabletop decoration in these hands-on workshops. Please bring a pair of pruning shears. All other supplies and refreshments will be provided.

**6PM | Location: Wagon House Education Center | Member: \$30, Non-Member: \$35 | Ages 8+**

**For more information and tickets visit [OLANA.org](http://OLANA.org).**

#### **December 5 – Gray Matters: Connecting Dementia & Alzheimer’s to Olana**

Join us for Olana’s bimonthly program designed for individuals with early stages Alzheimer’s & Dementia and their family or caregivers. This program invites all participants to take part in conversation and create art around specific Olana-related themes. Once a month the program will be outside in Frederic Church’s artist-designed landscape; participants will be driven on the historic carriage roads in an electric carriage. The other program of each month will take place inside the Persian-style Main House. Participants are welcome to join us at 3:30 for tea and cake in the Visitor Center before the program begins. Please make advanced reservations as this program is limited to 10 people.

**3:30PM for tea and cake, 4-5PM tour Main House | Location: Visitor Center | Free**

**For more information and tickets visit [OLANA.org](http://OLANA.org).**

**Saturday, December 8 – Persian Inspired Glassware**

Local ceramic artist Dawn Dishaw will teach you how to make your very own Persian inspired glassware. Both Dishaw and Frederic Church are artists moved by the designs in Owen Jones' publication *The Grammar of Ornament*. Acquire the basic skills needed to re-create these designs and make a one-of-a-kind gift for the holiday season! Abridged tour of the main house followed by art-making. Refreshments will be served.

**2PM | Location: Wagon House Education Center | Member: \$30, Non-Member: \$35 | Ages 10+**

**For more information and tickets visit [OLANA.org](http://OLANA.org).**

**December 19 – Gray Matters: Connecting Dementia & Alzheimer's to Olana**

Join us for Olana's bimonthly program designed for individuals with early stages Alzheimer's & Dementia and their family or caregivers. This program invites all participants to take part in conversation and create art around specific Olana-related themes. Once a month the program will be outside in Frederic Church's artist-designed landscape; participants will be driven on the historic carriage roads in an electric carriage. The other program of each month will take place inside the Persian-style Main House. Participants are welcome to join us at 3:30 for tea and cake in the Visitor Center before the program begins. Please make advanced reservations as this program is limited to 10 people.

**3:30PM for tea and cake, 4-5PM tour Main House | Location: Visitor Center | Free**

**For more information and tickets visit [OLANA.org](http://OLANA.org).**

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY**

**JOHN JAY HOMESTEAD, Katonah, NY 10536 // 914.232.5651**

**KIDS**

**NATURE**

**HERITAGE**

**Thursdays – Saturdays, December 1 – 31 – Holiday Tours**

Celebrate the holiday season at John Jay Homestead with a guided tour of John Jay's historic Bedford House focused on the holiday traditions and decorations of the 1820s. Regular admission fees.

**1:00pm, 2:00pm, 3:00pm | Location: purchase tickets in Glass Porch | \$10 adults; \$7 seniors & students;**

**Free for members and children under 12**

**Saturdays December 1 – 22 – Holiday Shop**

Browse our expanded selection of merchandise, including many gift items featuring images of John Jay's Historic Bedford House, Bedford Farm, and the newly installed historic wallpaper found in John Jay's Office. Books for history lovers; John Jay Homestead Christmas ornaments; 18th & 19th century toys and games; note cards and housewares are also available. \*\*\*Please note that we only take cash or check for payment\*\*\*

**10:00am-2:00pm | Location: Ballroom of the Main House. | \$10 adults; \$7 seniors & students; Free for members and children under 12**

**Thursday, December 20 – Candlelight Tours**

Experience John Jay's historic Bedford House as it takes on the glow of candlelight to celebrate the holiday season. These unique guided tours focus on holiday traditions and decorations of the 1820s. Reservations are required for timed tours as space is strictly limited.

**5:00pm-7:00pm | Location: Enter through the Glass Porch. | \$15 adults; \$12 seniors, students, and members; \$5 children under 12**

**Friday, December 21 –Candlelight Tours**

Experience John Jay's historic Bedford House as it takes on the glow of candlelight to celebrate the holiday season. These unique guided tours focus on holiday traditions and decorations of the 1820s. Reservations are required for timed tours as space is strictly limited.

**5:00pm-7:00pm | Location: Enter through the Glass Porch. | \$15 adults; \$12 seniors, students, and members; \$5 children under 12**

**Saturday, December 22 – Candlelight Tours**

Experience John Jay's historic Bedford House as it takes on the glow of candlelight to celebrate the holiday season. These unique guided tours focus on holiday traditions and decorations of the 1820s. Reservations are required for timed tours as space is strictly limited.

**5:00pm-7:00pm | Location: Enter through the Glass Porch. | \$15 adults; \$12 seniors, students, and members; \$5 children under 12**



JAY HERITAGE CENTER, Rye // 914.698.9275

ARTS

HERITAGE



## The Revolutionary War 1776-1783 in Westchester County Saturday, December 8

### TALES OF THE FAMOUS, THE INFAMOUS & THE UNSUNG

Join us for the launch of Revolutionary Westchester 250 with a full day of family-friendly, outdoor fun & learning with historic re-enactors! Travel back in time to the campsites, homes and "Neutral Grounds." Experience life during the turbulent times of **John Jay, Benedict Arnold, Anne Miller, Aaron Palmer** and **George Washington**. Meet CBS anchor and Yonkers First Lady, **Mary Calvi**, author of *Dear George, Dear Mary: A Novel of George Washington's First Love*, Mary Philipse.

In the afternoon, adults can enjoy an informational panel with diverse topics and noted historians including: **The Quakers in Westchester County during the Revolutionary War** by noted author **Gray Williams**, and New Castle's Town Historian; **America's First Integrated Regiment at Yorktown** with **George Harmon** and **Olney Reynolds** and the story of commemorating the **1<sup>st</sup> Rhode Island Regiment at Pines Bridge**; **Hasting's new Gateway Monument Project: The Battle of Edgars Lane Re-Remembered**; **Tales of Adventure, Espionage and Patriotism at the Center of the Fight for Independence** with historian **Erik Weiselberg**.

This day-long FREE Program has been organized by **Revolutionary Westchester 250** in cooperation with **The Westchester County Historical Society, Jay Heritage Center, Westchester County Tourism, and the African American Advisory Board of Westchester County**

11:30 – 4pm | Location: 1838 Jay Mansion, Jay Meadow & 1907 Van Norden Carriage House | FREE | For further information: [www.jayheritagecenter.org](http://www.jayheritagecenter.org) or [1776RW250@gmail.com](mailto:1776RW250@gmail.com)

OLD CROTON AQUEDUCT // 914.693.5259

NATURE

HERITAGE

**December 1, Saturday at 10 am – Croton Reservoir & Dam Hike** – Easy 2-mile hike north along the Aqueduct and atop the beautiful Croton Dam. Meet near the restrooms at the parking lot at Croton Gorge Park, Rte. 129, Cortlandt, NY 10567. 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 Aqueduct Trail. The Aqueduct was completed in 1842 to supply water to a thirsty New York City. (From Metro-North Hudson Line Croton-Harmon Train Station: 15-minute taxi. Inquiries: Sara Kelsey, [saraakelsey@gmail.com](mailto:saraakelsey@gmail.com) or 646-303-1448.

**December 8, Saturday at 10 am -- Distributing Reservoir Stones at New York Public Library** – Meet at the New York Public Library in New York City (short walk from the Metro-North Grand Central Terminal) at the Old Croton Aqueduct Distributing Reservoir's former site. View the original stones from the Reservoir that form part of the foundation of the NYPL. NYPL Curator Thomas Lannon and Friends will show a short film and exhibit archival Aqueduct maps, documents and pictures. Reservations required: Sara Kelsey, [saraakelsey@gmail.com](mailto:saraakelsey@gmail.com) or 646-303-1448. Donation to NYPL: \$10/person; \$7/seniors.

PHILIPSE MANOR HALL STATE HISTORIC SITE // 914.965.4027

HERITAGE

KIDS

ARTS

### Saturday, December 1st: St. Nicholas Day

Join us in a celebration of Dutch holiday traditions as we welcome St. Nicholas to Philipse Manor Hall. Activities include a live performance of music and storytelling about holiday celebrations from around the

world, holiday crafts, scavenger hunts, traditional baked goods and refreshments, PLUS a visit from St. Nicholas! Admission is free for the day! **12:00pm-3:00pm | Location: Yonkers | Free | Ages: All Ages**

**Tuesday-Saturday from Dec. 4 to Dec 29<sup>th</sup>: Holiday Tours. No tour on 12/12**

2pm tour. Come learn about the Dutch traditions that the Philipse family observed during the holidays in the 1700's, and the origins of many different modern holiday traditions while viewing the festive decorations done by Morsemere Garden Club, and learning about the history of the Manor Hall. **2:00pm-3:00pm | Location: Yonkers | \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and students. Free for children 12 and under. | Ages: All Ages**

**Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>: Downtown Yonkers Gallery Hop**

Stop by each of the 4 major downtown galleries: Blue Door Art Center, PC4, Philipse Manor Hall and the Riverfront Library, the first Thursday of each month to view new and exciting exhibits of arts and culture! **5:30PM-7:30pm | Location: Yonkers | Free | Ages: All Ages**

**Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>: Gingerbread Spectacular**

Presented by the Yonkers Downtown BID and the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall, from 2:00-4:00, stop by the Manor to help children create and decorate their own Gingerbread cookie! Local businesses will be submitting their own creations, and it's up to you to vote for the winner! The winning business will be announced at the end of the program. All activities for the day are free but supplies are limited to first come first serve. **2:00pm-4:00pm | Location: Yonkers | Free | Ages: 1-12**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>-Saturday 22<sup>rd</sup>: Candlelight Tours**

Under the cover of darkness, with only candles to light the way, come learn about the Dutch traditions that the Philipse family observed during the holidays in the 1700's, while viewing the festive decorations done by Morsemere Garden Club and learning about the history of the Manor Hall. \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and students. Free for children 12 and under. Reservation not required but please call ahead to confirm availability. **7:00pm-8:00pm | Location: Yonkers | \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and students. Free for children 12 and under. | Ages: All Ages**

**Saturday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 3:00PM: Saturday Family Movie Wall-E**

The fall series of Saturday Family Movie wraps up with a visit from one of the most lovable garbage robots of all time, *WALL-E*! All Saturday Family Movies are rated PG and free to attend. Guests are encouraged to bring a blanket and refreshments. Each movie will take place at 3pm inside the Gothic Chamber of Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site. **3:00pm-5:00pm | Location: Yonkers | Free | Ages: All Ages**



Rockefeller State Park Preserve by Susan Cember

# New York State Parks—Taconic Region Facility Locations and Phone Numbers

Please contact the park/site for information regarding fees and 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)

Staatsburg (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

Staatsburg (845) 889-4071

### James Baird

Pleasant Valley (

## 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

Staatsburg (845) 889-8851

## EDUCATION/NATURE CENTERS

### Taconic Outdoor Education Center

(OPRHP) By Group Reservations Only

Cold Spring (845) 265-3773

### Norrie Point Environmental Center (DEC)

Staatsburg (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) 831-6346

### Clinton House State Historic Site

Poughkeepsie, (845) 471-1630

### Jay Heritage Center

Rye, (914) 698-9275





