

PROGRAM

9:00 AM **Registration & Morning Refreshments**

9:30 AM **Welcome and Introductions**

Priscilla Brendler, GHHN Executive Director

Ward Mintz, GHHN President

Sarah Olson, Superintendent, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites

Host Welcome: The Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home

9:45 AM **GHHN Business Meeting**

Election of Trustees, Classes FY 13-15

10:00 AM **KEYNOTE**

An Anarchists Guide to Historic House Museums

Franklin Vagnone, Executive Director

Historic House Trust of New York City

The Anarchists Guide to Historic House Museums – is a visual & conceptual manifesto derived from decades of experiences relating to historic sites and specifically historic house museums. In this provocative discussion the speaker will present topics from his manuscript: “The Flattening of History.” As both a non-profit Administrator, lecturer, as well as a professor of architecture and design, Franklin teases out the complexities of the visitor experience and makes solid, tangible (and at times – unspeakable!) suggestions for ways in which historic sites can transform themselves from a “typewriter to a computer.”

11:00 AM **CONCURRENT SESSIONS** *choose 1*

A). A New Deal for a New Generation

Lynn Bassanese, Acting Director

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

The Roosevelt Library is currently undergoing the first major renovation of the Roosevelt Library since it opened to the public in 1941. The new work carefully preserves the building's historic appearance, while bringing its archives and museum up to the National Archives' standards for the long-term preservation of historic collections. When the Library's main galleries reopen on June 30, 2013, new state-of-the-art installations on the life and times of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt - designed by renowned museum design firm, Gallagher & Associates - will tell the story of the Roosevelt presidency from the depths of the Great Depression and continuing through the New Deal years and the Second World War. The exhibits will explore their early years and FDR's heroic struggle to regain his strength and political career after polio. Concluding galleries will consider the Roosevelt legacy today and guide visitors through Mrs. Roosevelt's work in the years following the President's death. The exhibit will feature special interactives and immersive audio-visual theaters designed to bring a new deal to a new generation.

B). The Written Word: The Starting Point for Public Programming

Elaine Hayes, Executive Director

Mount Gulian Historic Site

Using material from the archival collection can result in the development of original, distinctive public programs unique to your organization. The presenter will lead a discussion with the audience on how one small museum, with an operating budget of less than \$200,000, received an IMLS grant and used its limited archival resources to develop engaging living history programs.

C). Restoration and Reinterpretation of the Abraham Hasbrouck House

Leslie LeFevre-Stratton, Curator of Collections

P.J. Preuss, Preservation Officer

Historic Huguenot Street

The Abraham Hasbrouck House has received much needed restoration attention to revive it as an important colonial period house, advancing our understanding of life in New Paltz in the mid 18th century. This project, funded by the Hasbrouck Family Association, involved extensive research conducted by a team of preservation specialists and material culture historians, over a period of ten years. The architectural investigation, study, and analysis of the

house and its use guided the application of sensitive and accurate preservation and restoration methods that will continue to inform preservation activities on Huguenot Street - and the region. Information gathered from the restoration of this early building revealed local architectural traditions that can be used to help educate other professionals in the field of historic preservation.

Historic Huguenot Street staff members P.J. Preuss and Leslie LeFevre-Stratton will discuss the various elements of this comprehensive restoration and re-interpretation project including architectural investigation and analysis, building preservation and restoration methodology, and the archaeological record. The talk will also address the decision making processes involved to interpret one particular family and the way they lived in the house including the development of a furnishings plan based on examining local records, household inventories and family genealogy.

12:00 PM LUNCHEON

1:00 PM TOURS *choose 1*

A). The Roosevelts: Public Figures, Private Lives

Tour led by Library Docents Nancy Chando and Bob Sullivan

Enjoy a docent-led tour of largest photography exhibition ever assembled on the lives and public careers of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. The Roosevelt Library's new photography exhibition, "The Roosevelts: Public Figures, Private Lives," is a new and very different kind of exhibit that takes visitors on an immersive photographic and film journey through the lives and times of the Roosevelts. The exhibit features nearly one thousand images.

B). Collections Storage Facility Tour *(tour runs from 12:45 - 1:45)*

Participants will walk to the facility: 5-10 minute walk, or carpool

Tour Led by Collection Manager Michele Ballos

Tour a purpose-built structure completed in 2008 to house the consolidated museum collections for the three Roosevelt and Vanderbilt houses in Hyde Park. The collections not exhibited had long been stored in closets, drawers, and cabinets in the houses themselves, as if the families were still in residence. The new building provides the staff with both opportunities and issues.

C). Vanderbilt Mansion Tour *(tour runs from 12:45- 1:45)*

*Participants will drive themselves to the site; directions will be provided.
Tour Led by Curator Frank Futral*

Join us for a walk-through of the Vanderbilt Mansion focusing on work just finished, work in progress, and anticipated projects. All address preservation of the furnishings or interior decor, or improvements in the accuracy of the exhibited rooms. These include new textile reproductions, stabilization of a coffered ceiling, and the cleaning of original light fixtures (brackets).

2:00 PM **CONCURRENT SESSIONS II** *choose 1*

A). Hidden Heritage: The Story of the Reverend James Murphy

*Susan Stessin-Cohn, Education Director
Historic Huguenot Street*

Based largely on documents found the Archives at Historic Huguenot Street, Archives Specialist Susan Stessin-Cohn has brought to life an important chapter of the area's local history in their online exhibit, "The Missing Chapter: Untold Stories of the African-American Presence in the Mid-Hudson Valley." Stessin-Cohn will focus on the story of Reverend James Murphy and his struggle to maintain secrecy from members of his congregation about his heritage: birth into slavery as an illegitimate child of a bi-racial slave.

B). New Stories for Hyde Park Visitors

*Scott Rector, Chief of Interpretation
Kevin Oldenburg, Interpretive Park Ranger
National Park Service: Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites*

The National Park Service manages large portions of the original Roosevelt and Vanderbilt estates in Hyde Park, including the estate houses and surviving outbuildings, managed landscapes, tree plantations, forests, farm roads, and gardens. These properties and their associated collections provide rich opportunities to interpret the lives of the individuals who originally treasured them.

The presentation will outline several newly available public programs at the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, which are designed to provide new perspectives on the families and their stories. Included in the discussion will be the park's participation in the "Sound and Story Project of the Hudson Valley." The park is one of several institutions digitizing oral histories and making them widely available online and through social media. The

Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites have selected recordings of estate employees preserved since the 1950s.

The presentation will describe several on-site programs that use these interviews, including a first person presentation at the Home of FDR through the eyes of household staff entitled "History Speaks," and a below stairs program at Vanderbilt entitled "At Your Service." "Cottage Conversations," another new series of presentations by park staff at Eleanor Roosevelt's home Val-Kill, will also be described. The "Cottage Conversations" cover Mrs. Roosevelt's broad spectrum of interests, and nurtures an intimate discussion resembling those of cottage visitors during the First Lady's days.

C). Have you Heard? Bringing New Technology to Old Stories

Eileen McAdam, Director

Sound and Story Project

Oral histories contain the stories that make up the unique history of your town. Too often they remain unheard except by researchers or the most dedicated history buff. Now it is easier than ever to share these stories with new audiences. This workshop will show how to create compelling audio clips from you oral history interviews and share these clips easily on the web, with mobile apps, in live events and on the radio using free tools. You will leave the workshop ready to bring new life and new listeners to your collections.

3:00 pm THEATRICAL PRESENTATION

"On the Side of the Angels," an original living history presentation, focuses on the intertwined lives of young Robert Newlin Verplanck, and James F. Brown, an escaped slave and long-time Verplanck employee. The time of the scenario is June 30, 1863, as Robert makes a fateful decision to go to war, on the eve of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Mount Gulian has for twenty years provided entertaining and educational programs for the general public and school children, including living history performances where the actors remain in character and interact with the audience. The current offering was developed by playwright and director Joanne Zipay, who relied heavily on original source material including James F. Brown's unique forty year diary written at Mount Gulian, and Robert Newlin Verplanck's fifty letters written home to his family from Civil War encampments and battlefields.

"On the Side of the Angels" explores the universal themes of friendship and personal integrity, as told through the lives of people who actually lived at Mount Gulian. The virtue of good character, a critical personal attribute in the nineteenth century, is exemplified by James F. Brown and Robert Newlin

Verplanck. Brown bought his wife's freedom before escaping north to freedom in New York, and afterwards, he led an exemplary life as a voting citizen in Dutchess County. Robert put his life on the line by volunteering as a white officer with the United States Colored Troops in the Civil War.

The performance explores issues critical to the time period, including race relations, the lack of progress in the war, and the newly instituted army draft. The program also includes lighter moments as well, such as a brief discussion of Robert's infractions while a student at Harvard.

4:00 pm *Awards for Excellence* followed by networking reception



The 2012 Annual Meeting & *Awards for Excellence* are hosted by the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center in Hyde Park.

Thank you to our generous hosts and all of our Annual Meeting Supporters:

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