

PROGRAM

- 9:00 AM** **BREAKFAST AND EXHIBIT HALL**
Breakfast generously sponsored by A.M. Art Conservation
- 9:30 AM** **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 10:00 AM** **PRESENTATION OF THE AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE**
- 10:45 AM** **SPEAKER BLOCK 1**
10 minute speaker presentations

Not Your White Founding Fathers

Jane Eliasof, Montclair History Center

The Montclair Historical Society was founded in 1965 to save the 1796 Crane House from demolition. It was restored and interpreted, as appropriate for the times, to tell the stories of Israel Crane, a mover and shaker in early Montclair. The story that had not been told was that of the YWCA for African American women and girls, a segregated organization that owned and occupied the house from 1920 to 1965. In 2014, the house was reinterpreted to include their story as well as the story of the early preservationists who were blazing new territory in a time that preceding the National Historic Preservation Act. This presentation will discuss the obstacles encountered during the interpretation, how the reinterpretation healed wounds dating back 50 years, and how the story of the YWCA women is being used to discuss racial issues in the news today.

Find the Tories: An Erskine Map Escape Room

Sue Gardner, Friends of Hathorn House & Albert Wisner Public Library

This mini “escape room” for classroom or small group use shows participants the conflicting loyalties in the Warwick Valley during the Revolutionary War and the neglected role of the local militia. It uses an interactive section of a Robert Erskine map and props. Extensive research into primary documents revealed the hidden stories behind the places and people noted. The activity introduces the “citizen soldiers” of the war and the dramatic impact of the war in the local landscape.

Serving Their Country: African Americans and America's Wars

Matthew Thorenz, Moffat Library of Washingtonville

From before the Revolutionary War to World War One, African Americans have played a vital role in serving in our nation's armed forces. Bringing the service of those who served under extreme prejudice during these conflicts can help us better understand the complex political, social, and cultural worlds in which they lived, while highlighting a group of individuals who have been marginalized to a degree in public programming. Learn how original research contributed to two thought provoking analysis of African American service members in the Hudson Valley at New Windsor Cantonment, 1782-1783, and on the Western Front of World War One in 1918.

Interpreting Reher's Bakery: Multicultural Rondout Then and Now

Sarah Litvin, Reher Center/Jewish Federation of Ulster County

A new museum and cultural center at historic Reher's Bakery tells the story of a working-class immigrant family-run business and offers programs based on the site's legacy, intended to illuminate and elevate conversations about immigration, community, work, and bread historically and today. Since 2004, the all-volunteer Reher Center Committee has been raising funds to preserve the historic structure that housed Reher's Bakery from 1908 until 1980. By showcasing the site's position as a cultural crossroads for this multi-ethnic working-class neighborhood, Reher's Bakery is not only writing the long immigrant history of the neighborhood back into its narrative, but also building the groundwork for future tours and programs that will attract diverse Kingstonians and make the site into a cultural-crossroads once again.

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11:30 AM FOLLOW THE SPEAKER

Want to learn more about the projects and speakers you just heard? Head downstairs to the Appalachian Ballroom for more in-depth conversation. Each speaker will host a table.

EXHIBIT HALL AND COFFEE BREAK

OFFICE HOURS (ADVANCE SIGN UP REQUIRED)

10 minute appointment slots are first come, first served. **Sign-Up sheets are located at the Check-In Desk.**

Morning coffee break generously sponsored by Rena Zurofsky Consulting

12:05 PM – 1:00 PM LUNCHEON

Luncheon generously sponsored by Humanities NY

12:40 PM OFFICE HOURS (ADVANCE SIGN UP REQUIRED)

10 minute appointment slots are first come, first served. **Sign-Up sheets are located at the Check-In Desk.**

1:00 PM SPEAKER BLOCK 2

10 minute speaker presentations

Considering Native American Stereotypes in the 21st Century

Colette Lemmon, Iroquois Indian Museum

This presentation will focus on the impetus, development, and elements of the Iroquois Museum's current exhibition, "Tonto, Teepees, & Totem Poles: Considering Native American Stereotypes in the 21st Century". The exhibit includes materials from popular culture and the media as well as provocative responses by Indigenous artists around the issue of stereotyping. The presentation will also highlight the participatory activities that were developed to engage our visitors with this topic and their (sometimes surprising) outcomes.

New Voices from Old Schenectady

Michael G. Diana, Schenectady County Historical Society

Built in 1705 and continuously occupied until 2001, the Mabee Farm is uniquely able to provide a broad historical cross-section of the Mohawk River Valley. Until recently, the general tour focused primarily on the architecture of the farm house as well as Jan Mabee, the patriarch who built it. A new narrative is grounded in characters and stories that have long been overlooked. Prominently featured are Mabee women, such as Annetje and Catrina, whose Mohawk and Dutch heritage gave them considerable influence in Schenectady's colonial society. The stories of Jack and Cato, drawn from original documents, tell how two of the enslaved people who lived at the farm exercised their agency in bold and surprising ways. By restoring and restaging the house, Schenectady County Historical Society seeks to tell the story of everyone who lived there and, by extension, the story of so many generations of farmers and travelers who made the Mohawk Valley their home.

LGBTQ Intergenerational Storytelling

Shiloh Aderhold Holley for Alice Austen House

In June of 2017, the Alice Austen House marked its national designation as a site of LGBTQ history. The museum's listing on the National Register of Historic Places was amended to include LGBTQ history as an area of significance. Integrating Alice Austen and Gertrude Tate's loving relationship story into the museum's core interpretation bridges a gap between the institutional narrative of Austen's story and the truth that the LGBTQ community has long known about her life. With this platform, the Alice Austen

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House aims to provide safe and inclusive programs for contemporary LGBTQ storytelling and identify ways to enhance social and historical responsibilities to the LGBTQ community. This presentation will discuss the latest photographic program working with Staten Island's high school Gender Sexuality Alliance clubs and the senior SAGE group at the Staten Island Pride Center.

Not Your Momma's History

Cheyney McKnight, Not Your Momma's History

Not Your Momma's History consults with and aids museums, historical sites, historical societies, private businesses, etc. in developing specialized programming about slavery and the African experience within 18th and 19th century America. Cheyney McKnight will speak about her efforts to educate and increase visibility of African Americans at sites around America.

1:45 PM FOLLOW THE SPEAKER

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2:20 PM SPEAKER BLOCK 3

10 minute speaker presentations

Bringing Balanced Voices to Controversial Issues

Jeffrey Urbin, Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

Each occupant of the White House has faced controversies that are downplayed or entirely played off. The Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum believes a full, firm and balanced presentation of the facts is the best way for history to truly judge. Our exhibits present voices from both sides of such Roosevelt Controversies as Japanese American Internment, the Roosevelt's role in race relations, FDR's Affair with Lucy Mercer, and other controversial topics. This presentation will examine how the Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum choose to deal with these contentious topics and the lessons we have learned in doing so.

Life Downstairs at Staatsburgh

Maria Reynolds, PhD, Staatsburgh State Historic Site

Staatsburgh State Historic Site is currently in the process of bringing the story of the mansion's servants from the margins to the center. New research has uncovered photos and details previously unknown about the lives of many servants working at Staatsburgh for the Mills family. This research has informed existing programming: tours with a focus on the similarities between the mansion and Downton Abbey and a participation tour that includes a table setting activity and a 'hiring a servant' exercise. The research is also the impetus for a new exhibit with interactive elements, a new tour and other programming - a continued effort to bring these lives to the forefront, both expanding and enriching interpretation at Staatsburgh.

Staging History

Michelle Mavigliano, Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site

In an effort to narrate historical events from the perspective of the enslaved black population living in 18th century Albany, Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site has developed two programs that give voice and agency to men and women usually denied both. This presentation will explore the research and contrivance behind creating "The Accused" and "To Be So Confin'd," two programs that use museum theatre and first-person narration as the interpretive tools to tell these stories.

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Exiles of Shangri-La: Discussing the Dilemma of Tibetan Refugees

John Ansley, PhD, Marist College Archives & Special Collections

In 1959, almost immediately after the Tibetan Uprising, Lowell Thomas established the American Emergency Committee for Tibetan Refugees. Today, the Marist College Archives and Special Collections is using the photos, films, audio recordings, and artifacts from the Lowell Thomas Papers to tell the story of Tibet just before it was invaded by Communist China in 1950 and what happened to the Tibetan refugees immediately after the 1959 Tibetan Uprising. Most recently, the Marist College Archives & Special Collections has been using pop-up exhibits (a folding table, some easels, and a laptop) to tell the undergraduate students about the dilemma of Tibetan Refugees. The goal is to encourage the students to come into the Archives and Special Collections to conduct their own research, and to start thinking about this population and this important issue.

3:00 PM FOLLOW THE SPEAKER

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EXHIBIT HALL AND COFFEE BREAK

OFFICE HOURS (ADVANCE SIGN UP REQUIRED)

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3:35 PM POSTER SESSION: AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS

Come hear more about the programs and projects we honored this year!

EXHIBIT HALL

OFFICE HOURS (ADVANCE SIGN UP REQUIRED)

10 minute appointment slots are first come, first served. **Sign-Up sheets are located at the Check-In Desk.**

4:00 PM EXHIBITOR RAFFLE ANNOUNCEMENT

SEND-OFF

BREAKFAST, WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS, AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE PRESENTATION, SPEAKER BLOCKS, LUNCHEON, POSTER SESSION, and EXHIBITOR RAFFLE ANNOUNCEMENT/SEND OFF will all take place in the Perkins Ballroom (2nd Floor). All FOLLOW THE SPEAKER SESSIONS will take place in the Appalachian Ballroom (1st Floor).

11:30 AM – 3:50 PM OFFICE HOURS

This year, we are again offering office hours that give you the opportunity to speak directly with representatives from the following organizations: ArtsWestchester, Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area/Hudson River Valley Greenway, Humanities NY, New York Landmarks Conservancy, New York State Archives, New York State Museum's Chartering Office, and Preservation League of NYS.

Office hours will be on-going throughout the Conference. Appointments are first come, first served. **Advance sign-up required. Sign-Up sheets are located at the Check-In Desk.**

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