

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

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NEWS

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HUDSON RIVER CRAFTSMEN TO HIGHLIGHT THIRD FOLKLORE EVENT AT ALBANY INSTITUTE

ALBANY, NY—On **Sunday, February 7, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm**, the Albany Institute of History & Art and the New York Folklore Society will present *Hudson Handiwork*, the third of a four-part series entitled, **Hudson River Folklore**, tracing the history and traditions of life along the Hudson River. The event will be held at the Albany Institute, 125 Washington Ave.

In *Hudson Handiwork* viewers will be treated to live exhibitions of traditional crafts inspired by the river. Expert craftsmen who will demonstrate their skills include Alf Jacques, an Iroquois lacrosse-stick maker who has been making sticks for more than 45 years; woodcarver Ben Raino, who specializes in sculpting birds using the tools and techniques he developed in his work as a dental technician; and bluestone carver Mark Swanberry, a stone mason who uses native Helderberg bluestone in the carvings he has been creating for more than 20 years. This is the second of Hudson River Folklore's four presentations showcasing regional folklore, including music, dance, crafts, and storytelling. The presentations are free with paid museum admission.

The final presentation in the series will be held on Sunday, February 21:

***Tell Me a Story*—Sunday, February 21, 1:00–4:00 pm**

Tell Me a Story gives voice to the Hudson through various cultural forms of traditional storytelling, including music, dance, and song. Presenters will include a Congolese mbira player, dancers from a Hindu temple, and a Senegalese griot (a storyteller who uses a traditional spiked harp instrument). Also, Native American educator and storyteller Kay Olan will tell stories that provide insight into the beauty of Iroquois culture and tradition.

The **Hudson River Folklore** program is made possible by a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts' Folk Arts Program. The presentation is free with museum admission.

For more information, visit www.albanyinstitute.org or www.nyfolklore.org. **Media inquiries:** Steve Ricci, public relations and marketing manager, at (518) 463-4478, ext. 467, riccis@albanyinstitute.org.

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