

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALBANY INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES HUDSON RIVER FOLKLORE SERIES

ALBANY, NY—Throughout history, folklore—traditional arts, beliefs, and modes of work, leisure, adornment, and celebration— has provided a cultural means for groups to maintain and pass on shared ways of life. Despite the age, gender, ethnicity, region, occupation, religion, or socioeconomic status of these group members, folklore has bound them together by common interests and purposes that define them as a whole.

In January and February 2010, the Albany Institute of History & Art and the New York Folklore Society will sponsor Hudson River Folklore, four presentations related to the history and traditions of life along the Hudson. The presentations will include a variety of activities, including music, dance, crafts, and storytelling, and are free with museum admission.

Arts on the River — Sunday, January 10, 1:00–4:00 pm

Meet three people whose Hudson River livelihoods have become a lost art form: John Mylod, one of the last remaining shad fishermen on the Hudson; Bob Wills, an ice yachting expert; and tugboat operator John Callahan. Presenters will demonstrate their craft and talk informally about the traditions of working and living on the Hudson River.

Steppin' Along the Hudson — Sunday, January 31, 1:00–4:00 pm

High-energy performances will demonstrate how traditional dance has influenced cultural development in the Hudson Valley. Dance performances will include an African-American step-dancing troupe; Irish step dancing; and Latin American dance groups.

Hudson Handiwork

Sunday, February 7, 1:00–4:00 pm

Take a first-hand look at traditional crafts inspired by the river. Expert craftsmen who will demonstrate their skills include an Iroquois lacrosse-stick maker, a woodcarver who specializes in sculpting birds, and a bluestone carver.

Continued—

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 was made possible by a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts' Folk Arts Program. For more information, visit www.albanyinstitute.org or www.nyfolklore.org.

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