

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

Albany Institute of History & Art

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NEWS

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AIHA ANNOUNCES IT WILL HOST GIFT FAIR & FAMILY FESTIVAL AGAIN

ALBANY, NY— The Albany Institute of History & Art is happy to announce that it will host once again host the Gift Fair & Family Festival, an event attended by more than 3,000 visitors last year. The museum will offer **FREE admission over the three day weekend**, Friday through Sunday, November 25, 26, and 27, during regular museum hours. The day will include great shopping, LEGO®-themed family activities, and a chance to see the Institute's new exhibitions.

Gift Fair

The work of more than 35 vendors will be on display throughout the museum, showcasing beautiful and distinctive gifts by local jewelers, craftspeople, and artists. From jewelry and pottery, to quilts and woodwork, visitors are sure to find the perfect gifts for everyone on their gift list. There will be book signings throughout the weekend and ice cream from Ben & Jerry's.

LEGO® Family Festival

In association with the new exhibition, *Kid Stuff: Great Toys from Our Childhood*, visitors can take part in the LEGO® Building Challenge. The event is open to individuals, partners, and teams of all ages (up to four people per team). Basic LEGO®s will be provided, or participants can bring their own. Spaces are limited so reservations are recommended. For more information contact Barbara Collins, Education Coordinator, at collinsb@albanyinstitute.org. For those who would prefer to watch, expert LEGO® builder William Leue will be recreating Albany's Trinity Church completely in LEGO®s over the three days.

Visitors can take full advantage of the **FREE admission all weekend** by visiting the Albany Institute's fall exhibitions: *Kid Stuff: Great Toys from Our Childhood*, *First in the Hearts of His Countrymen: George Washington*, and *Albany and the Civil War: Medicine on the Home and Battle Fronts*.

For more information about this event, visit albanyinstitute.org/2011gfff.htm. Sponsorship for this event has been generously provided by M&T Bank.

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The Albany Institute's distinguished collections and acclaimed exhibitions comprise the definitive expression of the cultural, historical, and artistic heritage of Albany and the upper Hudson Valley. From its world-renowned Hudson River School collection, to the famous Albany Mummies, to the wide range of performances, lectures, and festivals, to its outstanding educational and family programming, this distinctive and engaging institution provides visitors of all ages and interests with a splendid museum experience. One of America's oldest museums, the Albany Institute of History & Art was founded in 1791, during the presidency of George Washington, making it older than the Louvre, the Smithsonian, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Visit www.albanyinstitute.org for more information, and be sure to follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/albanyinstitute).

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