

# ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

## Albany Institute of History & Art

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## NEWS

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART ANNOUNCES ITS EGYPTIAN FOR A DAY FAMILY PROGRAM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2013 from NOON – 5 PM

ALBANY, NY – The Albany Institute of History & Art invites families in the capital region to an upcoming family program: *Egyptian for a Day*. This day full of engaging and exciting activities will take place at the Albany Institute of History & Art on Sunday, October 20, 2013 from Noon-5PM. Participating families will be able to try on ancient Egyptian style clothing and head pieces, learn about ancient musical instruments, experiment with spinning and dyeing fibers, and make jewelry. In addition to the hands-on activities, there will also be Egyptian styled music and refreshments. Zafer Tawil will demonstrate and perform music at 1PM and 3PM. Refreshments have been generously donated by A Better Bite, New York Style Deli.

The Albany Institute's exhibition, GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies, explores the life and culture of ancient Egypt through world of Ankhefenmut, a 21<sup>st</sup> Dynasty mummy in the Institute's collection. On display are various examples of ancient fabric and jewelry. Families are invited to come to the Institute to learn the ancient method of spinning fibers and design their own Egyptian styled jewelry using glass, wooden and plastic beads.

Music will be demonstrated by Zafer Tawil, an accomplished Palestinian musician who has performed with the international rock star Sting and a variety of other well known

musicians. Tawil's compositions have been incorporated into an assortment of film soundtracks, such as *Rachel Getting Married* and the documentary film *Until When*. These musical performances will happen at 1 PM and 3 PM and will run for approximately an hour.

Additionally, this unique family program will offer tastes of Egypt including hummus, pita bread, grape leaves, tahini sauce, bourekas, baklava and more. A Better Bite's owner, Eitan Saati, says "I'm happy to be doing this for the Albany Institute because it is a valuable cause. Events like this draw people to the downtown and give Albany a sense of community. It's important for downtown businesses to work together and collaborate on events." A Better Bite, New York Style Deli is located at 99 Washington Avenue in Albany, New York.

*Egyptian for a Day* is part of a series of monthly programs at the Albany Institute designed to have families collaborate on different projects in fun and challenging ways. The next family program, *Mummy Birthday*, is on Sunday, November 10 from Noon-5PM. The *Mummy Birthday* program will celebrate the 104<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the mummies to the Albany Institute. In addition to face painting and activities relating to pyramids and pharaohs, children are encouraged to bring in a doll or stuffed animal to mummify in the art studio.

This special family program is FREE with museum admission. The Albany Institute of History & Art is located at 125 Washington Avenue in Albany, New York. The Albany Institute is open Wednesday-Saturday 10AM-5PM, Thursday until 8PM, and Sunday Noon-5PM. On Tuesdays, the museum is open to registered groups only. The museum is closed on Mondays and some holidays. Admission is FREE for Albany Institute members; \$10/adults; \$8/seniors and students with ID; \$6/children 6-12; FREE/children under 6. For more information, visit [www.albanyinstitute.org](http://www.albanyinstitute.org) or call (518) 463-4478.

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*GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies* is the largest exhibition on Ancient Egypt ever presented in New York's Capital Region. Art and artifacts from around the world, combined with advanced medical technologies help unravel the mystery of the Albany Mummies. Acquired directly from the Cairo Museum in 1909, the Albany Institute's mummies have kept secrets that only recently have been revealed. Visit the exhibition to discover how new research, new technologies, and a team of experts have helped uncover their hidden stories. Learn about their lives and the ancient practice of mummification, all at the Albany Institute of History & Art.

- **From Cairo to Albany** highlights the 1909 acquisition of the two mummies and their coffins from the Cairo Museum.
- **Preparing for the Afterlife** examines the science of mummification through interactive stations and shows the results of new CT scans and x-rays taken at Albany Medical Center.
- **Ankhefenmut and His World** explores the daily life and culture of ancient Egypt during the 21<sup>st</sup> Dynasty.
- **Egyptomania** will showcase our ongoing fascination with ancient Egypt.

**Interactive stations** include: How to Make a Mummy, Pharaoh for a Day, Learn Hieroglyphs, and more!  
**Family Festivals, Art for All** activities, and an **International Lecture Series** will be offered.  
A special **Museum Shop** will offer Egyptian-themed items.

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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.

For more information, please visit [www.albanyinstitute.org](http://www.albanyinstitute.org) and be sure to follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute](https://www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute)) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/albanyinstitute](https://www.twitter.com/albanyinstitute)).

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