

# ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

## Albany Institute of History & Art

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## NEWS

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ALBANY INSTITUTE ASKS COMMUNITY TO HELP DECORATE MUSEUM FOR THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

ALBANY, NEW YORK- The Albany Institute of History & Art is asking community members to help the museum get ready, and decorated, for their upcoming free Thanksgiving weekend event they are calling "Home for the Holidays." The museum, which in the past has hosted holiday-themed events such as the beloved Festival of Trees, is rekindling that holiday spirit with this three-day extravaganza of holiday programs, specialty vendors, food, and of course, trees.

"Whenever I'm in the community and talking with people in the area, they speak fondly of the Festival of Trees. They remember coming to the museum with their families and seeing the whole place decorated," says the museum's Executive Director Tammis Groft. "We are looking to bring back that type of event this Thanksgiving and we need people will help us get ready by providing their own handmade ornaments for our community trees and decorating the museum."

The museum will accept ornaments from the community between November 1–November 14 during their regular open hours. All ornaments must be handmade or hand-embellished; no bigger than 5" wide, tall, or deep; and no more than 4oz (no, they won't weigh it, but they will need to hang in on a tree). They can be ornaments that were made specifically for this event or made in the past. Submitted ornaments may be picked up at the museum in December or after the start of the New Year. They will be sure to keep your packaging so that your ornament(s) may be returned safely. Submission information and forms may be found on the museum's website.

“We are really excited to work with the community to decorate these trees!” says Elizabeth Reiss, Director of Development. “Some of the original trees from the Festival of Trees are coming back this Thanksgiving. We have also asked local artists to make ornaments for an artist tree and will display winning squares from our Quilt Wall Hanging Challenge. We’re taking the opportunity to decorate our historic mantles and fireplaces in the Rice House so that families can take holiday photographs in front of them. It’s going to be a great weekend to be at the Albany Institute!”

The museum is also looking for volunteers the days leading up to the event to help get all the decorations in place and the museum ready to welcome the community. If you are interested in helping hang decorations, organize ornaments, and get the museum festive on either Tuesday, November 25 from 10AM-5PM or Wednesday November 26 from 10AM-5PM, please contact Elizabeth Reiss at (518) 463-4478 ext 402 or [reisse@albanyinstitute.org](mailto:reisse@albanyinstitute.org). It’s a great way to get in the holiday spirit!

For more information about the Home for the Holidays Free Thanksgiving weekend, please visit the museum’s website: [www.albanyinstitute.org](http://www.albanyinstitute.org) [Schedule is subject to change.] The event is sponsored by Times Union.

The Albany Institute of History & Art is located at 125 Washington Avenue in Albany, New York. There is limited parking available in the museums lot, located at the corner of Dove and Elk Streets in Albany (just behind the museum). There is also on street parking available. 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. The museum is now offering free admission on Thursdays from 5PM-8PM. For more information, visit [www.albanyinstitute.org](http://www.albanyinstitute.org) or call (518) 463-4478.

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Founded in 1791, the Albany Institute of History & Art is New York’s oldest museum. Its collections document the Hudson Valley as a crossroads of culture, influencing the art and history of the region, the state, and the nation. With more than 35,000 objects and one million documents in the library, it is an important resource for the region, giving our community a sense of the part the Hudson Valley played in the American story, and our own place in history. Permanent and temporary exhibitions are open year-round and create a sense of place, allowing visitors to meet the people who helped shape this region. Over 25,000 people visit the Albany Institute of History & Art every year, enjoying the collections, workshops, school programs, and lectures, helping to build an understanding of the history and culture of our region. Among the museum’s best-known and most-loved collections are the 19<sup>th</sup> century Hudson River School landscape paintings by artists like Thomas Cole and Frederic Church, the 19<sup>th</sup> century sculpture collections, and, of course, the famous Albany Mummies that came to the museum in 1909 and have been on view ever since. 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 (@AlbanyInstitute).

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