



Albany Institute of History & Art

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NEWS

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ALBANY MUSEUM TO HOST FESTIVE, FUN, AND FREE THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

Friday, November 25 from 10am-5pm

Saturday, November 26 from 10am-5pm

Sunday, November 27 from Noon-5pm

ALBANY, NEW YORK- The Albany Institute of History & Art will be decorated and ready to welcome locals and out-of-area guests to the museum for “Home for the Holidays” this Thanksgiving weekend. The museum, which in the past has hosted holiday-themed events such as the beloved Festival of Trees, rekindled that holiday spirit in 2014 with a three-day extravaganza of holiday programs, specialty vendors, and of course, trees. This year, the **free admission** weekend is once again packed with festive activities that will appeal to the entire family.

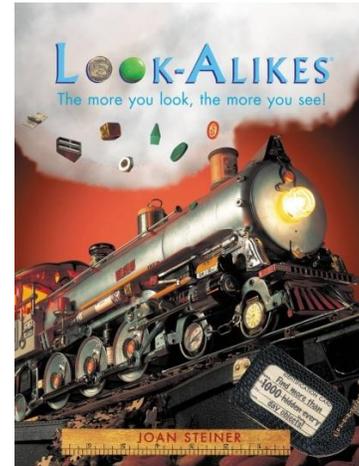
“Home for the Holidays has become a new favorite tradition,” says the museum’s Executive Director Tammis Groft. “It’s a great way to spend time with friends and family. The museum’s decorations offer a wonderful backdrop for family photographs, visitors really enjoy doing crafts together, and shoppers are always curious to see this year’s fantastic selection of gifts in the Museum Shop. Guests will also love the opportunity to enjoy the delicious treats in Crisan Café. Plus, we’re hosting Santa and a reindeer and that is always a draw!”

Groft continues, “Thanksgiving weekend is a time when people want something fun and festive to do and we invite everyone to enjoy the



start of the holiday season at the museum.”

Special this year, the Albany Institute will exhibit the miniature dioramas of **Joan Steiner**, an award-winning illustrator and creator of the **Look-Alikes®** series of books. Steiner’s meticulously crafted scenes were created from everyday objects and edible treats and photographed for her books, *Look-Alikes®*, *Look-Alikes® Jr.*, *Look-Alikes® Christmas*, and *Look-Alikes® Around the World*. Translated into sixteen languages, these four books have sold over a million copies worldwide. Her first book *Look-Alikes®* was named one of Time Magazine’s best children’s books and one of the New York Times Book Review’s Notable Children’s Books of 1998. Steiner created her three-dimensional dioramas in her Hudson, New York studio not far from her home in Claverack. The dioramas will be set up throughout the museum and visitors will have fun finding them and studying their astonishing details.



Special activity schedule (please check www.albanyinstitute.org for updates):

- Visit with a **live reindeer** (12-4pm on Friday and 11am-3pm on Saturday)
- Take your **photograph with Santa** (12-4pm Friday—Sunday)
- Discover **decorated trees** and mantlepieces
- Admire a special exhibition of **miniature dioramas** by Joan Steiner, an award-winning illustrator and creator of the *Look-Alikes®* books
- Make **handmade ornaments**
- Shop for handmade items and one-of-a-kind gifts in our **Museum Shop**
- Savor exquisite treats from **Crisan Cafe**
- Enjoy special opportunities, like a hands-on **family activity** with author Amy Halloran that explores grains and flour and bread (Sunday from 2—4pm)
- Explore our current **exhibitions**, including *The Art of Seating: 200 Years of American Design*, *Spotlight: Alexander Hamilton*, and *Rock & Roll Icons: Photographs by Patrick Harbron*. The museum will also host special programs and lectures that complement the holiday theme.
- Get tickets for great **raffle baskets** and win wonderful items



On **Sunday, November 27 at 2pm**, author Amy Halloran will conduct a family activity: *The New Bread Basket*. Bread comes from flour but where does flour come from? Halloran will explore what happens to grains in the field, at harvest, and at the mill. Guests will have a chance to make flour using a simple hand grinder and take home holiday recipes featuring wholegrain, stoneground, New York State grown flours. **Amy Halloran** is the author of *THE NEW BREAD*

BASKET, How the New Crop of Grain Growers, Plant Breeders, Millers, Maltsters, Bakers, Brewers, and Local Food Activists Are Redefining Our Daily Loaf. She lives in Troy, and teaches cooking and writing, and runs the community meals program at Unity House.

The Albany Institute would like to thank this year's Home for the Holidays **sponsors**, including Elizabeth Sonneborn, Capital Wine, Fenimore Asset Management, Inc., Price Chopper's Golub Foundation, and Woodland Hill Montessori School.

For more information about the Home for the Holidays Free Thanksgiving weekend, please visit the museum's website: www.albanyinstitute.org [Schedule is subject to change.]

The public is invited to return to see the decorations from **November 29—December 4, 2016**. There is no charge for this special viewing or to visit the museum shop or Crisan Café. Regular admission fee applies to visit the galleries.

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The Albany Institute of History & Art is located at 125 Washington Avenue in Albany, New York. Free parking is available in the museum's lot at the corner of Elk and Dove Streets.

The exhibition galleries, Museum Shop, and the new Crisan Café at the Albany Institute are open Wednesday 10am-5pm, Thursday 10am-8pm, Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, and Sunday noon-5pm. In addition, the café and museum shop are open Tuesdays from 10am-5pm. The Research Library is open on Thursdays from 1pm-4:30pm and by appointment.

Current admission rates are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students with ID, \$6 for children aged 6-12, and free for children under 6. Albany Institute members are admitted for free. There is no charge to visit the café or museum shop. The museum offers free admission to the galleries on Thursdays from 5pm-8pm and on the First Fridays of the month from 5pm-8pm. In addition, in 2016 admission will be \$2.25 on Saturdays as part of the museum's 225 anniversary celebration. To learn about other discounts and free admission days, please refer to the Visit section of www.albanyinstitute.org.

For more information, visit 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. Among the museum's best-known and most-loved collections are the 19th century Hudson River School landscape paintings by artists like Thomas Cole and Frederic Church, the 19th 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 and be sure to follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute) and Twitter (@AlbanyInstitute).

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