

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 24 from 10am-5pm
Saturday, November 25 from 10am-5pm
Sunday, November 26 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 popular **free admission** weekend is one of the kick-off holiday events in the Capital Region. Once again, it will be packed with festive decorations and fun activities that will appeal to the entire family. Major sponsors for the weekend include Omni Development Corporation, Inc. and M&T Bank.

“Home for the Holidays is a great way to spend time with friends and family,” says the museum’s Executive Director Tammis Groft. “It’s become a favorite tradition. People come dressed up and ready to take their seasonal family photos in front of our decorated mantels and trees and then have fun making crafts together or exploring our exhibitions. Some like to start their holiday shopping with the fabulous selection of gifts in our Museum Shop or indulge in some hot cocoa and cookies in Crisan Cafe. Plus, we’re hosting Santa again this year and he is very popular!”



Photo courtesy of PJ Walker Photography

Groft continues, “We are so excited to offer this opportunity for people to spend time with friends and family.”

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Back by popular demand, the Albany Institute will once again 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.



Photo courtesy of PJ Walker Photography

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

- 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 **crafts**
- Shop for handmade items and one-of-a-kind gifts in our **Museum Shop**
- Savor exquisite treats from **Crisan Cafe**
- Explore our current **exhibitions**, including *Well-Dressed in Victorian Albany: 19th Century Fashion* from the Albany Institute Collection; *The Hudson River School: Landscape Paintings* from the Albany Institute; *Spotlight: Albany & Anti-Suffrage*; *The Fashionable Portait*
- Get tickets for great **raffle baskets** and win wonderful items



Photo courtesy of PJ Walker Photography

The Albany Institute would like to thank this year's Home for the Holidays **sponsors**, including Omni Development Corporation, Inc., M&T Bank, Capital Wine, and The Costumer.

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.]

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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 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.

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. To learn about 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), Twitter (@AlbanyInstitute), and Instagram (albanyinstitute).

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