



HURLEY HERITAGE SOCIETY

Prologue

"The past is prologue"

June 2019

Glenford

Old Hurley Founded 1662

West Hurley

Save the Date!

Hurley Heritage Day

Sunday, Oct. 6 • 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Hurley Heritage Museum
and Hurley Library**

*A benefit celebration of the
Town of Hurley's 357-year history,
its culture and people*

Hosted and organized by the Hurley Heritage Society,
the event includes:

- live music with a performance by nationally acclaimed Jay Ungar & Molly Mason
- history and art exhibits
- auctions and raffles
- local cultural groups and business exhibits and information
- children's activities, including face painting
- walking tours of Old Hurley Main Street
- and food, including the famous Hurley corn chowder!

Entrance to the event is free. It will be hosted on the grounds of the Hurley Museum, located at 52 Main Street, and the Hurley Library on Sunday, October 6, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information visit HurleyHeritageSociety.org.



OCTOBER 6, 2019

Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor Brian and Patricia Findholt and our Gold Sponsors Farm Hub, Hurley Veterinary Hospital, Naccarato Insurance, and Kimlin Energy!

Sponsorships are still available as well as advertising opportunities in the Hurley Heritage Day Event Guide. For more information, contact Raleigh Green, Raleigh@raleighgreeninc.com.



Greetings from Main Street!

The 2019 museum season opened to rave reviews for our new exhibit, *Winslow Homer's Hurley: An Artist's View*. One visitor remarked, "The *New York Times* should come see it and write an article!" It is amazing that a small museum like ours has produced such a beautiful, uplifting display. If you haven't seen it yet, stop by any Saturday or Sunday, 1-4 p.m., and a docent will show you around. Some of Homer's paintings in note and postcard form, as well as original paintings by Cindy Gill Lapp, are for sale in our gift shop.

Please join us for the many activities planned for the coming months: walking tours of Hurley's Main Street, the June lecture focusing on 19th century Hudson Valley artists, Stone House Day Art and Antiques Sale, talks and demos on the back porch. These are all listed in last month's *Prologue* and on our rack card which can be picked up at the museum. Whoever called this season the "lazy days of summer?"

I want to give a "shout out" to our hard-working Board of Trustees for putting these activities together, as well as their behind-the-scenes work for our benefit. Our officers and trustees are: Raleigh Green, Ellen Young, Flo Brandt, Harvey Monder, Nancy Sweeney, Gail Whistance, Pat Findholdt, Mike Rice, Barbara Zell, Judy Howard, Joan Monder, Dale Bohan, Virginia Starke, and Kiersten Tschinkel. Without the Board and you, our members and volunteers, we could not possibly offer the many activities we do and also maintain our museum.

Thanks so much for your support. Enjoy the busy summer ahead, and I hope to see you at the museum and our events!

Joan Castka, President

Opening Day Highlights

On Sunday, May 5, the Museum opened its doors for the season and welcomed the many visitors who had come to see the new exhibit on Winslow Homer's time in Hurley. Both long-time Homer fans and people new to the artist's work learned how he drew inspiration from the local landscape and culture during his summertime visits in the 1870s.

Working their way around the E.C. Myer room, visitors were treated to twenty-seven works by Homer consisting of colorful prints of his paintings in addition to original wood engravings. Some of these Hurley connections were found only within the last three years. Judy Howard, Viola Opdahl, Iris Oseas, and Bruce and Gail Whistance from the exhibit committee were on hand to answer questions. Barbara Sartorius and Chris Beesmer provided their usual thoughtful assistance to all. Thanks to Dale Bohan, the room was warmed by displays of flowers that echoed the flowers in the paintings.

In the museum gift shop, visitors browsed through the new Homer book published in 2017 which has a 44-page chapter on Hurley. Carolyn



One of our many visitors to the Homer exhibit on Opening Day, Frank Brice takes a close look at the vintage easel holding Homer's painting *An Open Window*.

Brancato reported brisk sales of notecards and postcards featuring some of the finest of Homer's Hurley pictures. Most everyone ended their tour in the library where refreshments were served by Flo Brandt and Pat Findholt from a beautifully decorated table. Museum volunteers are looking forward to a busy season as word gets around about the new exhibit.



Viola Opdahl shares information with visitors about the school section of the Winslow Homer exhibit.

REACTIONS TO OPENING DAY:

"Wonderful to see so many paintings by an American icon that reference local landscapes. Kudos to the exhibit committee for very informative captions that were easy to read because of the point-size!"

— *Dr. Ron Knapp, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, SUNY New Paltz*

"As someone who has spent most of his life researching art and antiques from Ulster County and the Mid Hudson region, I can say the Homer exhibit brings to light yet again another major American artist who found inspiration in the area."

— *Sanford Levy, Jenkinstown Antiques, New Paltz*

"The exhibit was grand! It was chock full of information about Homer's time spent in Hurley where his famous painting *Snap the Whip* was set. The background material on this was great."

— *Christine Angiel, volunteer docent, Newark Museum, Newark, NJ*

Reflections on the April 25th lecture “Old-Time Radio: A History of AM Broadcasting”

by Bruce Whistance

Certainly, everyone at the well-attended April Hurley Heritage Society lecture would agree that the special guests “Cousin Brucie” and Jodie Morrow made the evening a historic event in itself for Hurley. The arrangements for their participation were made after press time for the April *Prologue*.

To complement the lecture, five tables had been set up with a chronological sequence of radios starting with early primitive “cat’s whisker” crystal radios and continuing through all the decades of the hundred-year history of AM broadcast radio. Several vintage radios were operating during the event, all playing an in-house micro-transmitter rebroadcast of *The War of the Worlds* as was famously originally broadcast on Halloween 1938. A nearly one-hundred-year-old radio with a goose-neck horn speaker was one of the operating radios.

The lecture itself was fast moving and image-rich. I noticed that few if any audience members seemed drowsy or distracted during the nearly one-hour talk. It was great fun to deliver this presentation. I revealed two important connections of radio history to Hurley residents which seemed to be previously unknown to the audience. After the lecture, I received comments from many audience members who ranged from nontechnical folks to radio experts. I was very pleased to hear that everyone enjoyed the lecture and learned something new.

At the conclusion of the lecture, Town of Hurley Supervisor John Perry recognized



Bruce Whistance and special guest “Cousin Brucie” inform and entertain the audience at the first lecture of the 2019 season.
Photo by Paul Brown, Ph.D.

Bruce Morrow for his lifetime of contributions with proclamations from several levels of government. Cousin Brucie then took several questions from the audience. His in-depth answers revealed his extensive experience with the music that many of us grew up with and his heartfelt compassion for the people that comprised his radio audience. There were plenty of photos taken with “Cousin Brucie” and lots of hugs for fans. It was a fine moment for Hurley.



Bruce and Gail Whistance



Flo Brandt, Dale Bohan, and Joan Castka

Memorial Day Parade

Several HHS members walked in the Hurley Memorial Day Parade to honor all those who have served in the Armed Forces and all who have given their life to protect our country and our right to freedom.

They carried a Hurley Heritage Society banner, and some wore blue t-shirts with the Hurley Heritage Day logo and passed out flyers promoting the community event on October 6 to onlookers.

Photos by Patty Cohen



Photo by Barbara Zell

Plant Sale 2019!

by Flo Brandt

The Plant Sale Committee sends out a very grateful thank you to all who took the time to help Pat Findholt and I to insure a successful day. Saunderskill Farms provided us, once again, with beautiful hardy flowers, vegetables and herbs. The weather cooperated and made for a beautiful day. Keep us in mind for next year, and we welcome suggestions to improve this enjoyable event.

Proceeds go toward keeping the museum grounds attractive for all.



Ten Eyck House, Hurley Reformed Church, and Crispell Parsonage

What Makes Our Village Unique

In June, 1985, Carol D. Schull, of the National Register of Historic Places, wrote a letter to the Commissioner of New York's Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Orin Lehman, regarding the boundary of the Hurley Village Landmark designation. The following is a portion of her report, including the statement of significance.

“Along a single street in the sleepy little village of Hurley New York, lies a most unusual concentration of early Hudson Valley Dutch style stone houses. Despite the usual alterations wrought by the years since their construction, these stone houses preserve to an exceptional degree the flavor of an early Dutch street in New York State. Although only a few of the dozen or so houses along the main street have been even minimally researched and documented, one visiting Hurley cannot fail to appreciate the distinctive character of the town's heritage.

“Hurley's Historic District is the most outstanding authentic colonial stone house community. Unlike many reconstructed ‘museum villages,’ Hurley contains not restorations or reproductions but the original homes of Colonial America. Each of the stone houses has some rare feature or an unusual legend connected with its history.

“Hurley was founded in the spring of 1662 by a few Dutch and Huguenot settlers from nearby Kingston. By permission of Director General Peter Stuyvesant, the new town was laid out on the fertile bottom land of Esopus creek. The village was scarcely started when it was burned to the ground in a raid by the Esopus Indians. The Dutch defeated the Indians with little trouble, but in a matter of months, the victors were conquered by the English who seized New Netherland in the name of the Duke of York. The village of Nieuw Dorp was then

renamed Hurley and for the next century and more, Hurley remained a Dutch provincial town in language, customs, and architecture.

“Hurley’s significance, however, stems not so much from its historical role as from the preservation of its 18th-century stone houses. Unlike so-called ‘museum towns’ which are self-conscious specimens, Hurley has continued to evolve through daily habitation and use. Thus, houses from the 19th and 20th centuries (including 20th-century stone versions of the 18th-century houses) coexist with the earlier buildings, and the earlier houses exhibit a variety of changes made during the past two centuries. The overall effect is of a 200-year-old residential main street containing a nationally significant collection of Dutch stone houses, frame houses built up to the mid-19th century locally significant as part of the significant architectural evolution of the community and later non-contributing yet compatible residential buildings.”



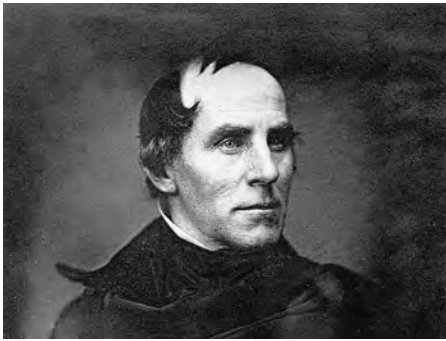
Du Mond House, also known as the Spy or Guard House

We certainly have a village to be proud of. Pick up a “Walking Tour” brochure at the museum or take a guided walking tour on any of the fourth Sundays of the month from now through October to learn more about our heritage!



Polly Crispell Cottage, Ostrander/Elmendorf House and Half Moon Tavern, Van Deusen House (Temporary Capitol of NYS)

Photos by Judy Howard



Thomas Cole



Frederic Church



Winslow Homer

Spacious Skies, Amber Waves of Grain, and Blue Mountains Majesty: The Lure of the Western Hudson Valley for Thomas Cole, Frederic Church, and Winslow Homer

The Hurley Heritage Society will sponsor a lecture by Valerie Balint on the topic of “19th Century Artists: Thomas Cole, Frederick Church, and Winslow Homer” on Thursday, June 27, 7 p.m., at the Hurley Library, 48 Main St., Hurley.

This lecture will place Winslow Homer’s time spent in the Hudson Valley in the context of other 19th-century painter colleagues such as Frederic Church and Thomas Cole and others, all of whom

were equally inspired by the riches of the Hudson River Valley. Attendees will learn about the similarities as well as the differences in approach, subject matter, and inspiration for each artist’s evocative works of the region — many of which continue to inform our ideas of national identity and culture.

Admission is free, and refreshments will be served. For more information, call 845-336-5267.

VALERIE BALINT is the Program Manager for Historic Artist’s Homes and Studios (HAHS), a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which is administered at Chesterwood (a founding member of HAHS). HAHS is a nation-wide consortium of 43-member sites, that were the home and working studios of American artists. Prior to heading HAHS in beginning in spring 2017, Ms. Balint served for seventeen years on the curatorial staff at Frederic Church’s Olana (also a HAHS site), most recently as Interim Director of Collections and Research. She was co-organizer and co-curator of Olana’s annual exhibitions and accompanying publications. She is a frequent lecturer and writer on preserved artists’ spaces, Frederic Church, the

Hudson River School, and American social history of the mid-19th and early 20th century. She is co-author of *Glories of the Hudson: Frederic Church’s Views from Olana* (Cornell Press, 2009). Her previous work also includes curatorial positions at Chesterwood and the Frelinghuysen Morris House & Studio (also a HAHS site). She served as the New York State Coordinator of “Save Outdoor Sculpture,” a program of the Smithsonian American Art Museum to document all public sculpture in the United States. Balint is a longtime advocate for recognizing and valuing the important place artists’ homes and public art hold within the greater context of cultural history in America. For more information, visit www.artistshomes.org.



Dale Bohan

Art and Antiques Sale on Stone House Day

Our annual Art and Antiques Sale will be held on Stone House Day, Saturday, July 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., on the museum lawn, 52 Main St, Hurley.

Browse our unique offerings, and then visit our museum shop for additional art and vintage items.

There will be a raffle of a basket of Hurley-themed gifts at the end of the day. Tickets will be sold at the door: \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

To donate an item to be sold to benefit the museum, call Dale Bohan at 845-331-7228.

Our 2019 exhibit, *Winslow Homer's Hurley: An Artist's View*, will also be open to visitors. Admission is free!

Exploring Our Dutch Heritage

Nita Steketee and Yonah Schurink were born and raised in the Netherlands. They emigrated to the United States as adults and settled in the Mid-Hudson valley. Nita now owns a yoga studio in High Falls, Yoga Yoga, where both she and Yonah, a former dancer, teach classes.



Nita Steketee and Yonah Schurink

They will hold an informal discussion on the museum back porch, 52 Main St., on Sunday, July 21, at 1 p.m., about customs and food the Dutch brought with them to the New World and how many of the things we eat, do and say today are Dutch!

Nita and Yonah are both interesting and wonderful speakers. It will be a very enjoyable conversation. Come, listen to their Dutch accents, sample Dutch food and learn about how the Dutch influence is still here. Admission is free. For more information, call 845-331-4852.

Guided Walking Tours

This summer the Hurley Heritage Society will sponsor three Guided Walking Tours of Main St., Hurley, on Sundays: June 23, July 28 (led by Richard Cattabiani) and August 25. The tour group leaves from the museum grounds, 52 Main St., Hurley, at 2 p.m. rain or shine.

See the exteriors of the ten colonial-era houses, 239-330 years old, within walking distance of the museum, as well as other points of interest on this street designated as a National Historic Landmark.

Admission is \$5 for adults, and children under 12 are admitted free. For more information, call 845-334-0701. There is always something new to learn about Main Street!



There is a change of events for August 18. The Ice Cream Social has been cancelled since so many of the activities we have then will be included in our Hurley Heritage Day on Sunday, October 6. Instead, people have asked to hear stories of her past from Iris Oseas.

Iris, nee Levanthal, was born and raised in Kingston, NY. She settled with her family in the Van Deusen house in Hurley when her husband, Jon, was transferred to IBM Kingston in the late 1960s. Iris is a fascinating, funny storyteller. She has many historical and humorous anecdotes to tell us.

Please come and sit on the museum back porch Sunday, August 18 at 2 p.m. Iced tea will be served while we listen to stories from Iris. You'll want to ask her questions too!

Reminder...

We're so glad you are enjoying reading this *Prologue*. You might not be aware that a portion of your membership dues goes toward the printing and mailing of the *Prologue*.

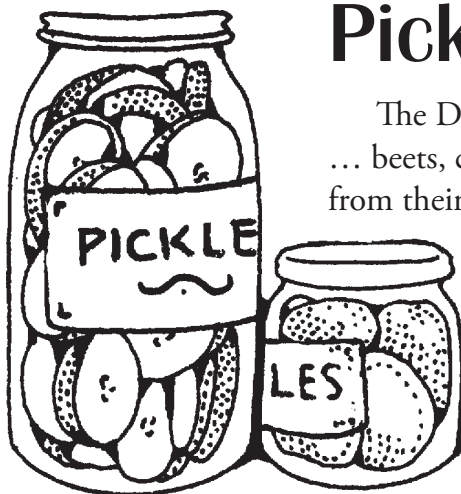
We would like to be able to keep you on our mailing list. Membership mailings went out in January. If you did not get your letter or forgot to mail your membership check, it is not too late. A single membership is \$25, a family is \$30, and a LIFETIME is \$275. Please include your check along with the membership application on the back page of this newsletter.

Thank you for your support!

Pickles 101

The Dutch in Hurley almost certainly pickled many vegetables from their gardens ... beets, cabbage, carrots, beans and cucumbers. It was a way to preserve the produce from their gardens for the winter.

On Sunday, August 4, at 2 p.m. on the museum back porch, Flo Brandt and Joan Castka will give a demonstration of pickle making the easy way! They will bring samples of pickles they've made for you to taste, and you'll come away with recipes to make your own.





Herbal Wreath-making Demo

On Sunday, September 8, there will be an Herbal Wreath-making Demo with Ellen Richards, on the museum porch, 52 Main St., at 2 p.m. Take home a beautiful finished wreath!

Admission for adults is \$5, and that includes all materials. Children under 12 are admitted free. For more information, call 845-336-5267.

Photos by Dale Bohan

Save the Date! Hurley Heritage Day • Oct. 6

Hurley Heritage Society
PO Box 1661
Hurley, NY 12443
Tel. (845) 338-1661

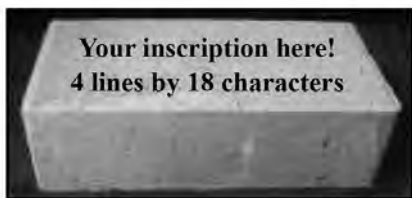
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

HHS Heritage Walk

Make a donation of \$120 to the Society to show your support of the museum by creating a brick in your family's name — or to honor someone close to you. The proceeds will be used for capital repairs to the Museum and your brick will be added to the Heritage Walk.

The inscription may be composed with as many as four lines of eighteen characters. If you are interested, please contact Wally Cook at 845-338-2193 or email to wally.cook@gmail.com.



Hurley Heritage Society Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

State _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single membership | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family membership | \$30.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life membership | \$275.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate (Annual) | \$150.00 |
| Additional donation | \$ _____ |

*Dues and donations are tax deductible.
Contact Harvey Monder at hmonder@gmail.com
for IBM matching fund information.*

Send payment to:
Hurley Heritage Society
PO Box 1661
Hurley, NY 12443