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Meet the Artists...

Friday, June 19 7-9 pm
Saturday, June 20 12-9 pm
Sunday, June 21 12-5 pm

Nyack and the Hudson River

by Win Perry

Do you ever wonder what the Lenape people in the Nyack area ate for breakfast 3,000 years ago? Why Hook Mountain has large cliffs and level plateaus? What it was like here during the Revolution when British warships cruised the Hudson? Whether a steamboat with two pontoons instead of a hull could beat a railroad train to Manhattan? Whether the Clearwater is really a copy of more than a hundred similar sloops that were built in Nyack? Why we have lots of oyster shells but few oysters? Whether a fish in the river could be as long as a person? Who built and captained steamboats after Robert Fulton? Why the Tappan Zee Bridge was built here instead of somewhere else? What our village looked like in 1909, 1809, or 1709? What the future holds for our community by the Hudson River?

A major new exhibit by the Historical Society of the Nyacks, opening June 13, may not answer all of these questions, but will offer clues and insights in hopes of piquing your interest in the special relationship between Nyack and the Hudson River. The exhibit is part of the Hudson Fulton Champlain Quadracentennial that is being celebrated throughout the Hudson Valley.

Fish & Ships

The Hudson River in the History of the Nyacks is the culmination of years of research and gathering of materials: maps, artifacts, photographs, models and paintings. There will even be beach pebbles, driftwood, shells, and glass—worn smooth for a children's play table.

The section on the fish that live in the Hudson and the people who fish for them will be a special memorial to Robert Gabrielson, the beloved Nyack commercial fisherman and defender of the river, who died last month. In his honor, the Society is printing beautifully colored life-size scientific illustrations of some of the 200 species that call the river home or visit it annually. A large tank, maintained by a licensed professional, will allow visitors to get up close to some of their neighbors in the river. Some of Bob Gabrielson's nets, traps and other gear will also be displayed in his memory.

Another gallery in the exhibit features photographs from the Stockmeyer collection related to Nyack and the Hudson River. Included

will be work by Lewis Stockmeyer himself, Nyacks great 20th-century photographer, as well as prints from negatives by earlier photographers that Stockmeyer collected. Stockmeyer was hired by the American Bridge Company to make daily aerial progress photos of the Tappan Zee Bridge during construction. Rare examples from this series will be shown.

There are ten rooms in the exhibit, arranged to some extent in chronological order, each room focusing on two aspects of Nyack & the Hudson. Besides those mentioned above, subjects include native people, Dutch influence, the Revolution, stone quarrying, steamboats/ ferries, river characters, the Tappan Zee Bridge, African Americans, recreation, visual arts, and boat building.

The historical progression culminates in a reflection by Arthur Gunther on the future promise of the river.

Fish & Ships is located in the former Pavilion Building at 60 Cedar Hill Avenue in Nyack. All are invited to an opening reception from 1 to 5 on Sat, June 13. The exhibit continues from 1 to 5 every Sat & Sun from June 13 through July 12, and from Aug 15 through Sept 13. School groups and other visitors will also be welcome by arrangement at other times. Call the Historical Society message system at (845) 704-7343 or visit its website at www.nyackhistory.org. Admission is free, but contributions are requested.

Win Perry is an architect with the firm of Colgan Perry Lawler Aurell. He is also an amateur historian and serves as President of the Historical Society of the Nyacks, Trustee of the Historical Society of Rockland County, and Upper Nyack Village Historian. His favorite recreation is sailing on the Hudson River. ★



The Raleigh, the last freight steamer to stop at Nyack



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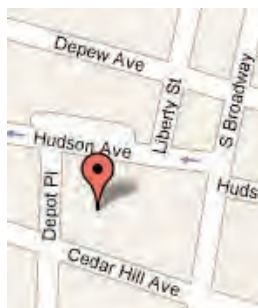


Fish & Ships

To honor of the 400th anniversary of the exploration of the Hudson River by Henry Hudson and that of Lake Champlain by Samuel de Champlain, the Historical Society of the Nyacks presents a major exhibit entitled *Fish & Ships*. Opening Sat, June 13.

This exhibit celebrates the fascinating history of the Nyacks and the role of the Hudson River in the development of the area. From quarrying to ship building to fish and fishermen, the river has always shaped our history, influenced by Native Americans, Dutch and African-Americans, the American Revolution and the building of the Tappan Zee Bridge. Projects done by our local school students will be on display along with archival photographs, prints and postcards.

Fish & Ships opens Sat, June 13, 1 to 5pm at the Pavilion Building, 60 Cedar Hill Ave, Nyack. (See map at right) Thereafter, the exhibit may be seen thru July 12; Also: Aug 15 thru Sept 13, 1 to 5pm. Info: visit nyackhistory.org



site of Fish & Ships show

Friends' Walking Tours

For 35 years, Friends of the Nyacks has presented guided walking tours of our three waterfront villages. Join Kay Levinson, Luke Conroy, Gini Stollendorf or Bob Goldberg on an afternoon walk and enjoy the beauty and charm of our Victorian architectural heritage. Share in over 300 years of fascinating local history.

Info: visit www.friendsofthenyacks.org or call Gini Stollendorf at (845) 358-7910.

- *Tour of South Nyack, Sun, June 7*
Enjoy the four Victorian queens that grace South Broadway and relive the history of old Nyack as we walk by these stately mansions and hear about the famous and interesting Nyackers who inhabited them. Meet 2pm at the NW Corner of South Broadway and Cedar Hill Ave., South Nyack; fee is \$5pp; no reservations needed.

Mostly Music

Nyack's Mostly Music Concert Series, created, produced and presented by Friends of the Nyacks, will be held on Sundays this year, at 5:30pm.

The series starts on Sun, June 28 at 5:30pm with *Youthfest*. In honor of the Quadricentennial, the 400th Anniversary of Henry Hudson's exploration of the Hudson River, children enjoy games of yesteryear, with music provided by Danna Banana and the Nyack Youth Band.

The Mostly Music Series runs through August 16; performers & rain location info can be found online at www.friendsofthenyacks.org

Hudson River Day

Friends of the Nyack's observance of Henry Hudson's Exploration of our majestic Hudson River takes place Sat, June 6 from 1 to 6pm.

Schedule of Events

- 1 to 2:30pm: Children's craft, skits and music (sponsored by Nyack Library)
- On front lawn of Depew House, 50 Piermont Ave (behind the library): children's boat craft, skits and music about the Hudson River and its history by students of Lanti Music Studio; American folksongs performed by Rockland Camerata
- 2:30 to 5:30 and continuing through the afternoon: children's crafts, music & dance performances for young people at the gazebo in Memorial Park, (lower field).
- 5:30 or thereabouts: Parade of Children
- Late afternoon: Arrival of the Quadricentennial

Hudson River Day June 6 1-6pm

Enjoy an afternoon with friends and neighbors
Children's crafts

Entertainment—music begins at 2pm

Quadricentennial Flotilla

for detailed information: www.friendsofthenyacks.org

Sponsored by *Friends of the Nyacks*

