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TELEPHONE: 201-656-2240
www.hobokenmuseum.org

Annual Great Hoboken Auction
Sat., April 25, 5:30 p.m.

MUSEUM DATES TO REMEMBER – MARCH & APRIL

Sun., Mar. 1, 2–5 p.m., Opening reception for *Up and Down the River: A History of the Hudson, 1609 – 2009*, and *hob'art's Hoboken* in the Upper Gallery. Free.

Thurs., Mar. 5, 10 a.m., Uptown Storytime at the Museum for children ages 2 to 5 years and their caregivers. \$2 donation; HHM members free.

Sat., Mar. 7, 1 p.m., Hoboken's St. Patrick's Day Parade: March with the Museum! Meet by our banner, at 14th and Washington Sts., at 12:30 p.m. Free.

Sun., Mar. 15, 4 p.m., *Up and Down the River* talk: "Mr. Ocean Liner," Bill Miller, presents "The Gateway To The World—Our Harbor of NY and NJ," a virtual cruise around the harbor's historic high points. At the Museum. \$5, HHM members free.

Thurs., Mar. 19, 10 a.m., Uptown Storytime at the Museum See Mar. 5.

Sun., Mar. 22, 4 p.m., Chapbook Publication Party for *I'd Rather Lose A Clam Than A Customer: Recollections of Michael "Brother" Yaccarino*, an oral history from the owner of Biggie's Clam Bar. At the Museum. Free.

Tues., Mar. 24, 7 p.m., Hoboken Garden Club lecture: John Meeks of Waterford Gardens, "*Cultivating a Water Garden.*" At

the Museum, free for HGC and Museum members; \$5 for nonmembers.

Sun., Mar. 29, 4 p.m., Artists' Talk: *hob'art's Hoboken*, group show participants discuss the meaning and methods of their art. At the Museum. Free.

Thurs., Apr. 2, 10 a.m., Uptown Storytime at the Museum See Mar. 5.

Sun., Apr. 5, 4 p.m., *Up and Down the River* talk: Dr. Alan Blumberg, director of the Center for Maritime Systems at Stevens Institute of Technology, tells the remarkable story of how his team assisted the rescue operations for USAir Flight 1549, with a river-monitoring system also available to the public. At the Museum. \$5, HHM members free.

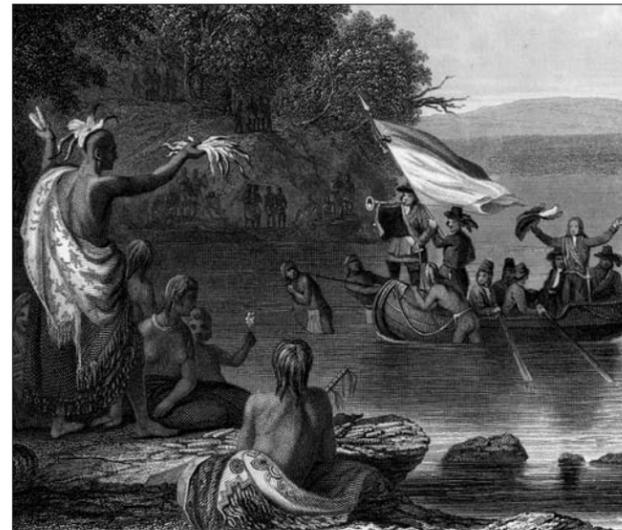
Thurs., Apr. 16, 10 a.m., Uptown Storytime at the Museum See Mar. 5.

Sat., Apr. 18, 3–5 p.m., Opening reception for *Simple Beauty: Views from Hoboken, Works in Cut Paper* by Hiro Takeshita, in the Upper Gallery. Free.

Sat., Apr. 25, 5:30 p.m., Annual Great Hoboken Auction, Shipyard Park, 13th & Shipyard Lane. Live auction starts at 7 p.m. Admission: \$10.

Parking! Littleman Parking-Independence Garage, located at 12th Street and Shipyard Lane, offers three hours of free parking seven days a week for Museum visitors in the indoor garage. Remember to bring your ticket into the Museum for validation.

HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM
NEWSLETTER
Volume 15, Number 2
March/April 2009



This year marks the quadricentennial of Henry Hudson's discovery of the river that bears his name.

***Up and Down the River:
A History of the Hudson, 1609 – 2009***

A hundred years ago this fall, New York City threw a two-weeklong public celebration of a double anniversary: the tricentennial of Henry Hudson's voyage up the river and the centennial (plus two) of Robert Fulton's first successful steamboat crossing in 1807. One of the largest public anniversaries in the country's history, offices and factories closed and the number of commuter trains doubled to handle the crowds for the banquets, parades, historical floats, theatrical performances, lectures, fireworks and an airplane flight by Wilbur Wright around the Statue of Liberty. Authentic recreations of Hudson's ship the *Half Moon* and Fulton's steamboat the *Clermont* participated in a U.S. Naval parade up the Hudson.

Opening **Sunday, March 1, with a free reception from 3–5 p.m.**, the Hoboken Historical Museum's latest exhibition, *Up and Down the River: A History of the Hudson 1609 – 2009*, joins many celebrations along both sides of the river during this historic quadricentennial year. The Museum's exhibit, made possible through a special project grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, will extend through the end of the year with a full agenda of talks and events.

The exhibition and lecture series will trace the important roles the river has played in the life of the Mile Square City:

- Providing food and commerce to the area's first inhabitants, the Lenni Lenape Indians;
- Connecting 19th century New Yorkers to the Hoboken shoreline during its incarnation as "Elysian Fields" and home of the cup-winning yacht *America*;
- Bringing to its piers the grand passenger ships from Europe and later a bustling cargo trade;
- Inspiring groundbreaking maritime research at Stevens Institute of Technology and;
- Providing recreational activities along miles of New Jersey waterfront walkway, thanks to the advocacy of citizen activists.

Though Robert Fulton gets credit for inventing the first steam-driven ferry, Hoboken founder Colonel John Stevens and his son Robert were tinkering at the same time with a steam engine and a screw propeller on a ferryboat. In 1811 Stevens launched the first steam-powered commercial ferry service to cross the Hudson. Fulton's designs and a biography of the inventor and others who were instrumental in helping him develop and refine his steam engine will be covered.

For the exhibition, the Museum has commissioned an original mural of the outline of Hoboken's waterfront along the entire length of the main wall, painted by local artist Ray Guzman. Scale models of vessels from the Hudson River will be on display, including New York Central Tug #18 by John Marinovich, and excerpts from Hudson's first mate's journal describe the first encounters between the Europeans and native inhabitants. A portion of the exhibit features memorabilia from the 1909 Hudson-Fulton celebration. Items on display come from the Museum's own collections, as well as from the private collections of a Hudson County-based model shipmaker, the South Street Seaport Museum, Stevens Institute of Technology and the Bayonne Historical Society.

At the Hoboken Historical Museum

Opening reception, March 1
Up and Down the River: A History of the Hudson, 1609 – 2009

In the Upper Gallery

On view March 1 – April 12
hob'art's Hoboken (group show)

On view April 18 – May 31
Simple Beauty: Views from Hoboken by Hiro Takeshita

“Up and Down the River” Speaker Series Opens with Mr. Ocean Liner, Bill Miller



Bill Miller

The river’s importance in Hoboken’s history will be brought to life through a series of talks by experts in maritime history and science and in other subjects, such as the Indian tribes who once lived here.

Kicking off the speaker series on **Sunday, March 15, at 4 p.m.** is the popular author, speaker, and retired Hoboken teacher, **Bill Miller**, a recognized expert on the history of the great ocean liners. In his

talk, **“The Gateway To The World—Our Harbor of NY and NJ,”** Miller will take visitors on a virtual cruise around New York Harbor and detail Hoboken’s history as a great port, with photos of some of the greatest ocean liners to visit the port and other landmarks.

Miller, who has authored more than 70 books on maritime subjects, including the Museum’s own *On the Waterfront*, grew up in Hoboken mesmerized by the glamorous ocean liners and hard-working tugboats alike, as well as the great structures spanning the river and lining its shores. He has taken more than 350 voyages: Atlantic crossings, tropical cruises, coastal runs and trips on cargo ships and exotic banana boats.

Known as Mr. Ocean Liner, Miller has published more than 1,000 articles for newspapers, magazines, nautical journals, and newsletters, and appeared in some three dozen television documentaries, in the U.S., Britain, Europe, and Australia. He has been chairman of the Port of New York Branch of the World Ship Society, serves on the selection committee for the American Maritime Hall of Fame, created the passenger ship database for the Ellis Island Museum, and serves as Curator of 20th Century Maritime History at Manhattan’s South Street Seaport Museum.

Stevens Team Aids in Rescue on the Hudson



Professor Alan Blumberg

Next in the speaker series is **Professor Alan Blumberg**, director of the Center for Maritime Systems at **Stevens Institute of Technology**, on **Sunday, April 5, at 4 p.m.** In a talk titled **“The Urban Ocean Observatory—Observations and Forecasting in the Hudson River,”** Dr. Blumberg will regale visitors with the thrilling tale of his group’s assistance in the rescue and salvage of USAir flight 1549, which landed on the Hudson just north of Hoboken on January 15.

It’s an extreme example of the everyday value of Stevens’ New York Harbor Observing and Prediction System (NYHOPS), which was created by Stevens in 2002 to provide

real-time monitoring of ocean, weather, environmental, and vessel traffic conditions throughout the New York Harbor, Hudson-Raritan Estuary, Long Island Sound and the NY/NJ Atlantic Ocean shoreline regions. Aware of how powerful the river’s currents are, Blumberg and his team were able to guide the rescue operations to a point downstream by the World Financial Center, one of the few calmer spots of the river, where the plane could be safely stowed for a few days. Had the plane landed four hours later, he says, the tidal current would have pulled them north. In the days following the crash, Stevens provided around-the-clock on-call assistance to the various emergency agencies assisting with the salvage operations.

NYHOPS is the most extensive estuary monitoring and forecasting system in the world, providing real-time observations and 48-hour predictions of ocean conditions. The information provided by NYHOPS is designed to address navigation and maritime security, water quality concerns, beach erosion and flooding along the heavily populated New Jersey and Long Island shorelines.

The system is also available to recreational and commercial users of the Hudson, according to Dr. Blumberg. NYHOPS’ website, www.stevens.edu/maritimeforecast/, is consulted by fishermen, kayakers, divers, sailors, and anyone who wants to know which direction and how strongly the currents are moving, how much traffic is plying the surface, and how the shifting mix of salt and freshwater might change the types of fish swimming underneath.

Stevens’ Legacy of Sailing Innovations Continues

Future speakers in the series will cover topics such as the Lenni Lenape Indians, the Stevens family legacy, and Hoboken’s prominent place in the history of American sailing. The latter topic will be addressed by Stevens Institute of Technology professor Dr. Michael Bruno, Dean of the School of Engineering and Science, who will visit the Museum on **Sunday, May 17, at 4 p.m.** His talk, **“A Sailing History of Hoboken”** will cover the Stevens family’s and the school’s contributions to sailing design, beginning with the yacht *America*, which won the British Hundred Guineas Cup in 1851, renaming the competition the America’s Cup; through the school’s cutting-edge research into boat design. Look for more details in the May/June newsletter.

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As a member of the Hoboken Historical Museum you will receive special invitations to members-only openings, our bimonthly newsletter, and discounts on selected Museum merchandise and events.

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While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these records, we encourage our readers to let us know of any errors or omissions by calling 201-656-2240, opt. 8.

*Special thanks to those employers that provided matching gifts to increase support

Membership News

The museum welcomes the following new members and thanks renewing members for their continued support:

Individual: Dana Barrasso, Alice Broquist, Dave Bruce, Gregory Campolo, Shanna Pargellis, Howard Rose, and Frank Sabbarese.

Dual/Family: Michael Bruno & Kelly Rankin, Mary Grace Castiello, Susan Chait and Steve & Jared Sternberg, Ben Mayo, Sandra McMillan & David Mangold, Kevin & Amy Porter, and Alison Ziegler & John Fischer.

Questions about membership? New address? E-mail us at membership@hobokenmuseum.org.

The Hoboken Historical Museum received a general operating grant for 2008 – 2009 from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State.



- One-Year Individual Membership: \$40.
- One-Year Dual/Family Membership: \$65. (includes children under 18)
- Lifetime Individual Membership: \$650.
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For corporate membership, sponsorship or in-kind gift opportunities, please call the Museum: 201-656-2240, option 8.



Letter from Museum's New President of the Board of Trustees

Dear Museum Members and Friends,

I love museums. All types of museums, but I am especially passionate about history and art museums. Our world is a more knowledgeable and beautiful place because of museums, their staff, boards, and volunteers.

New Board President Carol Losos brings a long career in Museums to her role.

The Hoboken Historical Museum and its community are unique. Where else would you find a mile-square city with a museum of such high-quality exhibitions, programs, and publications? In other words, I am particularly zealous about our Museum, and as the incoming Board President I hope to share my excitement with each and every Museum member and Hoboken citizen.

As we all know, the immediate future will not be easy. Non-profits are facing a particularly difficult time for fundraising. At the Museum, we have already looked closely at our budget and made cutbacks to hours, frozen salaries, and proposed new sources of income in anticipation of decreased revenues. We will be asking you for help during the months ahead and hope you will include the Museum in your philanthropic donations.

During the winter and spring, the Board and Museum staff will also be planning for the long-range future of the Museum. We have received a grant from the New Jersey Cultural Trust to hire a consultant to help us formulate a new strategic plan. Our five-year plan will be updated as we think about where we want to be as the Museum approaches its 25th anniversary in 2011.

The Board and I welcome to this endeavor our new Trustees: Michael Bruno, Scott Delea, Hank Dobbelaar, Ryn Melberg, and Jennifer O'Callaghan. Thank you for your time and commitment to the Museum and our community.

We also extend our gratitude to our retiring Board members, President Larry Henriques, Vice President Jim Perry, and auction chair Inés Garcia Keim. Collectively they have dedicated hundreds of hours to the vision and mission of the Museum. Their work and enthusiasm has made the Museum a richer place—for that, we thank you.

Thank you to all for your support. I hope to see you at many Museum exhibitions and programs, and on the streets around town. Please share with me your ideas and comments.

Regards,

Carol Losos

President

Board of Trustees

Hoboken Historical Museum



Museum trustees and friends roast outgoing president Larry Henriques at Amanda's.



Michael "Brother" Yaccarino

Rather Lose A Clam Than A Customer: Recollections of Michael "Brother" Yaccarino with a free reception at the Museum, 1301 Hudson St. This booklet traces the story of one of Hoboken's most beloved eateries, Biggie's Clam Bar, from the perspective of its second-generation owner.

Biggie's has been drawing clam lovers to 318 Madison Street for 63 years—ever since "Joe Biggie" Yaccarino traded his pushcart and clam pails for a family restaurant. After about twenty years, one of Biggie's sons, Michael (known as "Brother"), became the Clam Bar's "frontline ambassador." Today, with Michael's retirement, his son-in-law Steven Ranuro is Biggie's third-generation owner-operator. By Brother's reckoning, several million clams have been shucked and served on the half-shell over the years, along with an uncounted multitude of hot dogs, sausages, and sandwiches.

The key to their success? Brother said in his interview that his father "was a great storyteller" who made every customer feel welcome and special. He instilled in Brother (and Brother instilled in Steven) that "every customer is a king and queen. I think that's the key to winning. When you have that going for you, I think, the food speaks for itself."

If you're one of the countless royals who have enjoyed a meal at Biggie's, please stop by the Museum on March 22 to share your memories. Everyone who attends this free event will receive a copy of *I'd Rather Lose A Clam Than A Customer*.

Our chapbooks are part of an ongoing oral history project sponsored by the Hoboken Historical Museum and the Friends of the Hoboken Public Library. The interview was conducted by Bob Foster and edited by Holly Metz. *I'd Rather Lose A Clam Than A Customer* was designed by Ann Marie Manca and printed with support

from John Wiley & Sons.



Oral History Chapbook: Biggie's Clam Bar "I'd Rather Lose A Clam Than A Customer"

The HHM is pleased to announce the publication of a new oral history chapbook. On **Sunday, March 22, at 4 p.m.**, we will release *I'd*

Group Show, *hob'art's Hoboken: Eight Personal Views of the City*

In 2002, a group of artists came together to form a cooperative gallery to provide a showcase for local artists. Their common cause is mutual support, but their visions and styles are as individual as the artists themselves. The gallery itself has been a moving exhibition until a permanent home can be found.

Roslyn Rose, a resident since 1985, rallied seven other members of the group to create or select works that focus on Hoboken and reflect a personal view of the city for the Upper Gallery exhibit, "*hob'art's Hoboken,*" which opens **Sunday, March 1, with a reception from 2 – 5 p.m.** Admission is free. The public is invited to meet the artists and see their interpretations of Hoboken in photographs, giclée reproductions of paintings, ink on paper, and painting on silk, on display through April 12.

The artists will return for a **panel discussion** about their works on **Sunday, March 29, at 4 p.m.**, titled "**Art in a New Era.**" The group's president, Elizabeth Cohen, will lead off with a brief statement about hob'art's mission and aims for the immediate future, then each panelist will explain how he or she individually used both traditional and modern technology to capture an individual view of our much-loved city of Hoboken.

Rose's own works are collages of photographs, combining contemporary with early 20th century portraits, which are transferred to watercolor paper. One is an homage to Sinatra, the other to Hoboken as a gateway for immigrants to the New World. Andrea Milo photographed scenes that are not typically representative of Hoboken, but are common to the experience of its inhabitants. Virginia Parrott chose photos of objects in the local landscape that are easily overlooked, but beautiful to the artist's perceptive eye. Elizabeth Cohen has chosen photographs of a hand-made doll placed as a focal point in various locations around Hoboken. Tom Egan's photos of the old piers are meant to evoke the transition Hoboken underwent from blue-collar shipping center to residential community. As a non-resident, Leona Seufert was motivated to create digital collages of various architectural aspects of the city's transit hub. Femi Ford is showing a giclée print of an acrylic painting of the view north from the Tea Building. Sissi Siska, an artist who paints on silk, offers a work that evokes the experience of 9/11.

"Our dream is to have a permanent gallery in Hoboken, as



Eight artists share their views of Hoboken

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...*hob'art's Hoboken...* (continued from page 3)

the group's goal is to exhibit artwork publicly," Rose says. "So we work hard at finding new venues.

"Now we've gotten quite busy," says Rose. "We had to turn down an invitation from Fairleigh Dickenson because we're too busy." Hob'art opened a show in January in Maplewood, on the heels of a holiday group show at the Sovereign Bank on River Street, that ran through mid-February.



Uptown Storytime

Uptown Storytime continues its twice monthly schedule into the spring with popular storyteller Penny Metsch, who is a local librarian. Preschoolers and toddlers accompanied by family members or caregivers are invited to join us at **10 a.m. on the first and third Thursdays, March 5 and 19, April 2 and 16**, for listening to stories, singing songs, and general fun. Uptown Storytime takes place at the Museum and is geared to children ages 2 to 5 years old. Free for members, \$2 for nonmembers. For more info, contact the Museum at 201-656-2240, opt. 5.

Calling All Marchers

You don't have to be Irish to march behind the HHM banner at the 2009 Saint Patrick's Day Parade. On **Saturday, March 7**, friends of the Museum who wish to participate in Hoboken's annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade should gather at 12:30 at Washington and 14th Street, where the parade route begins at 1 p.m. For details, call the Museum at 201-656-2240.

Garden Club Lecture: Water Gardens

The Hoboken Garden Club continues its lecture series this spring with horticultural talks presented at the Museum. Admission is free for members of the Garden Club or the Museum, and \$5 for non-members. On **Tuesday, March 24, at 7 p.m.**, John Meeks of Waterford Gardens will present a program on "Plants for Water Gardens." More details at the HGC's web site, www.hobokengardenclub.com.

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Deceptively "Simple Beauty": Works in Cut Paper by Hiro Takeshita

At first glance, the dozen or so images that Hoboken artist Hiro Takeshita will display next month in the Hoboken Historical Museum's Upper Gallery appear to be beautiful, graceful paintings of the local cityscape in saturated colors and delicate lines. The lights of New York City twinkle across the Hudson, a fine rain sweeps across the foreground, tree branches twist in the wind. But step up to the pictures and look closely at the junction of two colors, and you just might be able to detect the true medium: layers of cut paper in different colors.

The art form is known as *kirigami*, or *kiri-e*, in his native Japan, and though Takeshita studied art and print-making in Tokyo in the 1970s, he came to the cut-paper medium only about 20 years ago, influenced strongly by his admiration for the French modern master Henri Matisse, who experimented with the technique late in his career. Similarly, Takeshita spent most of his art career working in oil paints, pastels, watercolors, and print-making.

"Recently, I am committed to my papercut work," he says. "I love the use of colored paper as a puzzle; the parts communicate with each other to create harmony. The sharpness of the lines and the shapes create a beauty that I want to share. The unexpected color that emerges under the cut lines is magical."

Meet the artist and learn more about *kirigami* at the opening reception on **Saturday, April 18, from 3 – 5 p.m.**, for **Simple Beauty: Views from Hoboken, Works in Cut Paper**, in the Upper Gallery. The event is free.

Takeshita was born in Nagasaki, Japan, and from an early age was interested in art and American culture. While living in Tokyo, he saw an exhibit of 1960s American Pop artists and felt drawn to their work. He moved to Los Angeles in 1977, participated in his first group show in Cape Canaveral, Florida the following year and soon after moved to the New York area.

In 2006, Takeshita brought his work home to Japan with an exhibit entitled "Nagasaki: Beautiful City, Lovely People," in which his papercut work also appeared on streetcars. Samuel Sachs II, Director Emeritus of The Frick Collection, said of the exhibit: "Nagasaki native Hiro Takeshita...has created a handsome body of cut-paper work and drawn inspiration from many artists to create his own, unique blend of a keen Japanese sensibility with a visual acuity drawn from a life in the West. His artist's eye sees an ever-hopeful view of a color-filled world where line and space create a multi-dimensional reality."



The Great Hoboken Auction



Auctioneer Eugene Flinn takes bids for fun and unique items.

The hottest ticket this spring is the annual Great Hoboken Auction to benefit the Hoboken Historical Museum, **Saturday, April 25. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.** in the big tent in Shipyard Park (just east of the Museum at 13th Street). The entire community is invited for an evening of affordable fun, food, and unique shopping. Bidding opens immediately for an eclectic selection of items in the Silent Auction, including antiques, collectibles, iconic photos, illustrations, gift certificates, and merchandise to suit every taste. Delicious gourmet sandwiches, sodas, wine, and beer will be available for purchase. Admission is \$10.

The pace quickens at 7 p.m. when auctioneer Eugene Flinn, of Amanda's and the Elysian Café, opens the Live Auction. Items include a private tour of the Macy's Parade design studio; paintings and prints from Frank Hanavan and other local artists; a year's indoor parking space; sports events ticket packages; exciting collectibles and antiques, and much more.

We welcome additional donations of antique furniture, collectibles, and, of course, products and services from local businesses. The Great Hoboken Auction is a major fundraising event, and it helps support the Museum's exhibits, programs and publications. Because the HHM is a nonprofit organization, your donations are tax-deductible. You can also help as a volunteer. For more information, call 201-656-2240.

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