Unification Theological Seminary

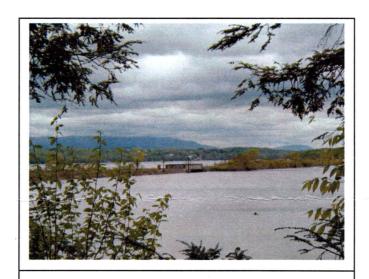
Henry Christopher Community Relations Office 30 Seminary Drive Barrytown, NY 12507

Phone (845)752-3000, ext 200 ◆

Email: enryka@earthlink.net

Fax (845)752-3016





View of Saugerties and Catskills from South Tivoli Bay

Ribbon cutting ceremony at UTS opens Hudson River Greenway Trail to public

Barrytown, New York, May 20, 2006: Welcome to the grand opening of Father's Trail, the latest Greenway Heritage Trail in Dutchess County.

The Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) is proud to offer this section of our trails along the Hudson River and Tivoli Bays to the public today, for the enjoyment of all for many years to come.

It is not only a magnificently beautiful trail through the forest, with wonderful views of the river, bay and Catskill Mountains; with enchanting flora and fauna and many varieties of birds, but it is on a property rich in local culture and history.

There are even legends that Henry Hudson stopped at this quiet spot on the river, when he made his famous exploration of the East coast of America in 1609 in his ship the Half Moon.

Along these paths in former times walked American Indians, who had settlements on the Tivoli Bays. In a later age, this site became one of the Livingston estates, known as Massena, home of John R. Livingston (1755-1851).

In 1868, a 9-year-old Theodore Roosevelt stepped off the boat at the Upper Red Hook Landing, now Barrytown, and spent the summer roaming the fields and forests, collecting bugs, birds and small mammals. His collection eventually found a home in the Museum of Natural History in NYC. From the day he arrived on August 10th, he began a diary which he kept his whole life.

We at UTS want to share this rich history, the wildlife and pristine environment with families, birdwatching and ice boat clubs, school groups and the public at large.

Although she could not be here due to a prior commitment, we want to thank our Red Hook Town Supervisor Marirose Blum Bump for giving us the inspiration that has lead to this Greenway trail opening ceremony today. Almost a year ago, we invited her to the campus to show our trails, and told her we wanted to open them to the local community.

She suggested that we contact Sally Mazzarella, president of the Winnakee Land Trust and work with her on a pedestrian easement agreement that would allow our trail to become part of the greater Hudson River Greenway Trails program.

As a result of her wise guidance, we can proudly hold this ribbon cutting ceremony today.

Along the way, we have worked and made wonderful friendships with local, county and state leaders so that we can also proudly say, as it is printed on our road signs, this trail is a partnership of UTS, Winnakee Land Trust and the Town of Red Hook. But it is also a joint effort of many others who have helped us along the way, including the Parks and Recreation Dept. of Hyde Park, Bard College, the town of Tivoli, and Marist College.

UTS applauds the vision and determination of the New York State Hudson River Greenway agency, which is working to create a trail along this great river that would connect towns, colleges, institutes and people from New York City to Albany. We look forward to the day when Montgomery Place to our north partners with Tivoli, Bard College and UTS so that Dutchess County can boast of a continuous segment of the Greenway Trail from Tivoli to Barrytown.