

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



Sharing History to Promote Community

All of us here at the Saratoga County History Center invite you to join our institution through membership. Members make our goal of educating the community and preserving its rich history a reality. Follow the link below to learn more. Membership at \$100 or above brings NARM membership, which gives free admission to almost 1,500 museums locally and around the country. It's the perfect holiday gift for the history lover in your life!

[Register for or Renew Membership Here](#)

Calling All Volunteers!

With the coming of spring, we are excited to invite a new cohort of volunteers to help welcome visitors to Brookside, assist with events and programs, and aid in the preservation of our collections.

We are seeking **Visitor Experience** volunteers to help welcome visitors during our expanded opening hours, Thursdays through Sundays, 12-4. We are looking for enthusiastic and welcoming volunteers with an interest in meeting and speaking with members of the public. All volunteers will undergo a short orientation to learn about our permanent and temporary exhibitions, our building and grounds, and use of the cash register. Volunteers can work 2 or 4 hour shifts, and as individuals or in pairs.

Working Wednesdays will return on selected dates in April and May. Volunteers will work together on special projects in the museum's library and archival collections, and will learn about how to work with these historical items.

Join us, won't you? Email us at info@brooksidemuseum.org or click the link below to get started!

Join Our Team!

Our First One-Room Schoolhouse Oral History Video Is Now Live

We are thrilled to share the very first video from the One-Room Schoolhouse Oral History Project, now available on our YouTube channel. This episode features Lorraine Janack of Charlton, NY, who reflects on her time at Ballston District #6 V Corners School. Her memories offer a heartfelt and insightful look into the daily life of students in a one-room schoolhouse and the community that shaped them. This interview was conducted by Charlene DuBuque, with videography by Dave Waite. Background music: *Ice Cream* by Scott Buckley (CC-BY 4.0).

This project marks the beginning of a growing collection of stories that preserve and celebrate the history of education in our region. We look forward to sharing many more interviews in the months ahead. If you would like to help support or sponsor the One-Room Schoolhouse Oral History Project, please contact Charlene at charlene@brooksidemuseum.org. Your support helps us continue documenting and preserving these important community memories.

Watch Memories of V Corners School with Lorraine Janack

Winter Hours

Brookside Museum is open to the public Saturday and Sunday from the hours of Noon to 4PM during the winter season.

Online Shop Now Open

No time to shop at Brookside Museum, or live too far away? Then check out our online shop. Browse a variety of gifts, publications and movies all available on site at Brookside Museum and now for the first time available online. Online purchases may either be picked up at Brookside, or, for a small fee, shipped through USPS. Follow the link below to start shopping now!

View the Online Shop Here

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Experts Next Door: African American Women and Expatriate Life in Independent Senegal with Julia Woods

Monday, March 23, 7:00PM

Live on Zoom

Sylvia first set foot in Senegal in 1966 thanks to a personal invitation from the country's president, Leopold Sedar Senghor. Originally from Washington D.C. and a graduate from Dunbar High School, Sylvia went to Trinity College for women in 1954 just months after the Brown v. Board of Education decision integrated the college, making Sylvia one of the first four African American women to attend the school. At Trinity, Sylvia's scholarly interests in French and Latin flourished, sending her on a path to becoming a Fulbright scholar in France, a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, and PhD candidate at Fordham University. However, Sylvia's life transformed one night in 1966 when meeting Senegalese President Senghor at a Howard University happy hour. Sylvia impressed President Senghor with her scholarship on his poetry, the subject of her dissertation, and he invited Sylvia to teach in Senegal for one year. One

year became thirty years, and Sylvia Washington became Sylvia Washington Bâ.

This presentation shares Sylvia's story as an African American woman in independent Senegal's cosmopolitan capital city of Dakar. She taught comparative French and African literatures, Black feminism, and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade at the large public university in Dakar before many American universities had such classes. While Sylvia's story is singular in its uniqueness, she fostered a community of numerous other African American female expatriates in Senegal, many of whom did important work to bring both sides of the Atlantic together through professional life, academia, and kinship. Following the questions posed in the first part of this series on female expatriates in Paris: how did race, nationality, and gender morph the experiences of African American women living in Dakar, Senegal since 1960? What epistemologies did these women create that put life as African Americans and colonized Africans into conversations? How did their private lives, marriage to Senegalese men, and blended families transform their expatriate experience?

This talk forms part of a two-part Women's History Month series, Women in Migration: Epistemologies and Expatriation from the United States to the Francophone World.

Register for END: African American Women and Expatriate Life in Independent Senegal with Julia Woods

SCHC Reads: The Cause: The American Revolution and its Discontents, 1773-1783

Thursday, March 26, 6:00-7:30PM

Brookside Museum 21 Fairground Ave

Join us for a new History book club at the Saratoga County History Center at Brookside Museum. This year, in honor of America's 250th, we will be reading books that explore the unfolding and impact of the American Revolution.

Each meeting will take place in the historic Long Room at Saratoga County History Center, and tea and coffee will be served. All featured books will be available for sale at Northshire Books. Mention that you are a part of the SCHC book club, and you will receive a 20% discount on your purchase.

Our first meeting will be held on **March 26, 2026 at 6 PM**, where we will be discussing *The Cause: The American Revolution and its Discontents, 1773-1783*, by Joseph J. Ellis.

This event is now sold out. Join the waitlist by emailing info@brooksidemuseum.org

Indie Film Fundraiser: Her Self Inflicted Decapitation

Friday, March 27, 6:00-7:00PM

Brookside Museum 21 Fairground Ave

Meet the filmmakers and stars of a new short film, filmed in the galleries and archives of SCHC! Featuring a Q&A and the first stills from the film. Help support local, independent filmmaking!

In 1842, Sarah Aldridge murdered her Father then removed her own head; a century and a half later, a curious filmmaker digs through Sarah's writings seeking inspiration, but finds her life and Sarah's bound across time and space in mysterious ways.

"Her Self-Inflicted Decapitation" is a ghost story following Sarah W., a struggling screenwriter trapped in a thankless sitcom writers' room. Dreaming of writing stories that resonate with her, she spends a day in the Brookside Museum, studying Sarah Aldridge's journal. As she explores the house and digs deeper

into Sarah's story, she realizes the two share more than a name. And that the horrifying end that Sarah A. met may await Sarah W. as well.

But this is more than a ghost story. It's a story about being controlled by forces outside of us, both those of this world and those not. And how two woman sought to escape their bonds through art. It's a story about storytelling. It's eerie, slowburn psychological horror focused on creeping dread more than explicit violence. The type of quiet horror that makes you wonder if maybe there's something very wrong with this place.

Register for Indie Film Fundraiser: Her Self Inflicted Decapitation

Near The Forest, By The Lake With Angela E. Douglas

Tuesday, April 2, 6:00-7:00PM

Saratoga County History Center: 21 Fairground Ave

Meet Angela E. Douglas, the biologist and author of *Near the Forest, By the Lake*, a collection of essays about the natural world, and the wonders of life in her little corner of Upstate New York.

Near the Forest, By the Lake is a personal exploration of the wonders of the natural world close to home. In this collection of essays, Angela E. Douglas reflects on the lives and habits of the plants, birds, insects, and other creatures inhabiting the landscapes that neighbor her in upstate New York.

Some essays focus on individual species, from the salamanders migrating in early spring and the butterflies of summer, to the yellow goldenrods of the fall and the rafts of ducks on the lake in winter. Others provide insight into some of nature's mysteries, including why certain birds sing in fall and how turtles survive the winter in ice-sealed ponds. The inevitable fingerprint of human activities is interwoven into these explorations of the diversity of the living world.

In *Near the Forest, By the Lake*, Douglas shows us that the natural world is closer than we might think and that our local environment, be it city sidewalk or country meadow, can always offer a glimpse of nature's splendor.

Register for Near The Forest, By The Lake With Angela E. Douglas

Experts Next Door: Iroquoia: Haudenosaunee Life and Culture, 1630-1783 With Kelly Hopkins

Thursday, April 9, 7:00-8:00PM

Live on Zoom

Kelly Hopkins is an Assistant Professor of early American history at the University of Houston. Her book, *Iroquoia: Haudenosaunee Life and Culture, 1630-1783* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2025), highlights the innovative strategies of Haudenosaunee men and women to retain their culture, sovereignty, and control of their homelands through more than seven generations of unprecedented social and environmental change that followed European contact and the settler invasion.

Register for Iroquoia: Haudenosaunee Life and Culture, 1630-1783 With Kelly Hopkins

Random Acts of Poetry: Readings by Jay Rogoff, Hajar Hussaini and Barbara Ungar

April 12, 6:00-7:00PM

Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave

Join the Ballston Spa Committee on the Arts and SCHC at Brookside Museum for the Random Acts of Poetry Performance Reading.

Jay Rogoff has published seven books of poetry, most recently *Loving in Truth: New and Selected Poems*, from LSU Press. His essay collection, *Becoming Poetry: Poets and Their Methods*, also from LSU, won the Lewis P. Simpson Award for outstanding literary criticism. His work has appeared in many journals, including *AGNI*, *The Georgia Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The New Republic*, *Salmagundi*, and *The Southern Review*. As Saratoga Springs Poet Laureate for 2026 and 2027, he has organized area readings and workshops for the Laureate Poetry Series and the Poet Laureate Project.

Hajar Hussaini is a poet and translator. She is the author of *Disbound: Poems* (University of Iowa Press, 2022). She has also translated *Death and His Brother: A Novel* by Khosraw Mani (Syracuse University Press, 2027), which won a 2025 PEN/Heim Translation Fund Grant, and *Wounded Vita Nuda: Poems* by Maral Taheri (Deep Vellum, 2027), which won the 2025 Mo Habib Translation Prize. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, she teaches at Skidmore College and lives in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Barbara Ungar is the author of six books and three chapbooks, most recently *After Naming the Animals* (The Word Works, 2024). Honors include the Snyder Publication Prize, Gival Poetry Prize, and being named to Kirkus Reviews Best Indie Books of 2015 and 2019. She has published poems in *Scientific American*, *Rattle*, *Salmagundi*, and many other journals. Her work has been translated into Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and Bulgarian. Professor emerita from the College of Saint Rose, she lives in Saratoga Springs.

Register for Random Acts of Poetry**Experts Next Door: Tree by Tree: Saving North America's Eastern Forests****April 14, 7:00-8:00PM****Live on Zoom**

For decades, the forests of Eastern North America have faced pathogen and insect pests that have functionally removed tree species from the landscape. This talk will discuss the ecological roles that trees play, the biology of the threats faced, and the approaches that may remediate the problems.

Scott Meiners is a Plant Ecologist with a primary research focus on plant community dynamics, particularly in the areas of species invasions and succession. He is a Professor at Eastern Illinois University where he has taught for 25 years, conducting research and training graduate and undergraduate researchers. At home, Scott is a tree collector, growing chestnuts, paw paws and producing maple syrup.

Register for Tree by Tree: Saving North America's Eastern Forests**A Thousand, Thousand Slimy Things, with Dr. Christopher Pastore****Wednesday, April 15, 6:00-7:00PM****Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave**

From sea serpents to seaweed, slimy things have long tended to lurk among the frontiers of natural knowledge, reflecting not only the anxieties of each age but also, in many cases, new possibilities. At once generative and destructive, mysterious and manifest, and masculine but sometimes feminine, slime

flowed through oceanic understanding and welcomed new people to contribute to it, thereby producing natural knowledge both literally and figuratively “from the bottom up.”

Across an expanding Atlantic world Africans, Native Americans, women, and even pirates described the ocean’s currents, creatures, and coastal environments, adding their observations to the growing body of knowledge about the physical and biological makeup of the sea. Indeed, as this presentation posits, close focus on the sea’s slimy things and the curious people drawn them may even provide new ways of imagining the ocean’s present and future.

Christopher L. Pastore is Associate Professor of History at the University at Albany, State University of New York, where he teaches courses in environmental history, early America, and the Atlantic world. He holds a Ph.D. in History and M.S. in teaching from the University of New Hampshire, an M.F.A. in nonfiction creative writing from New School University, and a B.A. in Biology from Bowdoin College. He is the author of *Between Land and Sea: The Atlantic Coast and the Transformation of New England* (Harvard University Press, 2014) and is currently writing an environmental history of the Atlantic world from the ancient period through the nineteenth century.

Register for A Thousand Thousand Slimy Things

John Brown in New York, with Author Nancy Weber

Saturday, April 25, 6:00-7:00PM

Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave

Historian and author Sandra Weber presents a compelling talk about her newest book, *John Brown in New York: The Man, His Family, and the Adirondack Landscape*. Weber offers a fresh and intimate look at the famed abolitionist, focusing on the years of the Brown family’s connection with North Elba, Essex County (1848–1863). The intertwining story of sublime Adirondack scenery, farm life, and racial justice explores John Brown not only as a national figure but as a husband, father, neighbor, and man of moral fiber. Weber’s insightful narrative bridges the myth and the man, revealing the tender and tragic heart of the Brown family story.

Sandra Weber has authored several books about the Adirondack region, including *Breaking Trail: Remarkable Women of the Adirondacks* (co-author, Peggy Lynn), *Mount Marcy, The Finest Square Mile*, and *Adirondack Roots*. Her articles have been published in *Civil War Times*, *NYS Conservationist*, *Adirondack Life*, *Adirondack Explorer*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and *Highlights for Children*. In addition to her writings, Weber is also well-known for her dramatic portrayals of Mary Brown in “Times of Trouble” and of Jeanne Robert Foster, Kate Field, and other women in “Remarkable Women of the Adirondacks.” Weber is a graduate of Clarkson University (Math/CS, ’83) and Temple University (MBA, ’90). She lives in a log cabin near Elizabethtown, NY, and is an Adirondack 46er.

Register for John Brown in New York, with Author Nancy Weber

Experts Next Door: I Ride to Win: Isaac Murphy and Civil War America

Wednesday, April 29, 7:00-8:00PM

Live on Zoom

Isaac Murphy won three Kentucky Derbys and every other major American stakes race of the nineteenth century. He was among the jockeys inducted into the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in its inaugural class. He was also born enslaved in 1861, the son of a Civil War widow, and he lived through

the violent conflicts of Reconstruction to become the first true superstar Black athlete in the United States. This talk examines Murphy's life and career and the light it sheds on his sport and the history of his country.

Katherine Mooney is James P. Jones Professor of U.S. History at Florida State University and the author of *Isaac Murphy: The Rise and Fall of a Black Jockey*

Register for Experts Next Door: I Ride to Win: Isaac Murphy and Civil War America

The Town of Greenfield: A Forgotten Crossroads Film

Thursday, May 7, 7:00-8:00PM

Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave

The Saratoga County History Center is pleased to announce the release of the fourth film in our Forgotten Crossroads series. The Town of Greenfield highlights the history, memories and aspirations of the community as brought to life through engaging conversations with twenty local residents. By focusing on the largest town in Saratoga County the film highlights the diversity of the resident's experiences and expectations which are captured in the Town's motto "Better TOgether."

The Town of Greenfield: A Forgotten Crossroads Film

Suye and Her Nieces: WWII on Mt. McGregor with Jackie Pardon

Saturday, May 16, 7:00-8:00PM

Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave

Japanese-born Suye [SEE-yay] Narita (1901-1984) was the live-in caretaker of Grant Cottage, Wilton, NY, for many decades. During WWII, Narita was declared an "enemy alien" and placed under house arrest at the Cottage. After her sister died in a U.S. internment camp in Arizona, her nieces Frances and Nancy came to join her on Mt. McGregor. Will include a reading of an account of this time written by her niece Frances Ogasawara.

Jackie Pardon has worked in a variety of media since receiving her BFA from Alfred University. She has exhibited photos and videos at venues in the U.S. and abroad. While programming the experimental video series, Video on Video, for the Saratoga Springs Public Library, she curated art and video exhibits in the Adirondack/Saratoga region. Pardon is currently working on a children's book about Suye Narita.

Register for Suye and Her Nieces: WWII on Mt. McGregor

Refashioning Saratoga, with Caitlin Sheldon

Wednesday, May 20, 7:00-8:00PM

For anyone who has ever wondered what it would look like if the dresses in historical photographs came to life, this program explains how one such photograph of Saratoga Springs inspired a months-long recreation project. Covering the design and construction process, and revealing the finished garment and how it's worn, this program on Victorian clothing will appeal to makers, history buffs, and fashion enthusiasts alike.

Caitlin Sheldon is a full time librarian who studies and makes historical clothing in her spare time for both fun and profit. Her costume adventures have taken her from the 14th Century to the 20th, from Los

Angeles to Leicester and beyond, though she makes her home in Saratoga Springs with her partner and their dog. She can be found most places online as The Victorian Archivist.

Register for Refashioning Saratoga, with Caitlin Sheldon

The Town of Greenfield: A Forgotten Crossroads Film

Thursday, May 20, 7:00-8:00PM

Greenfield No. 1 Firehouse, 13 S Greenfield Rd, Greenfield Center, NY 12833

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The Town of Greenfield: A Forgotten Crossroads Film

Don't forget to check our website for the latest updates on our event schedule!

Other Upcoming Saratoga County History Events:

Saratoga 250 Reflections

The latest in a series of historical articles focusing on the beginnings of the American Revolution in Albany County in 1776 has been released. Written by local historian Jim Richmond. The first installment of this new series, focusing on The First Year of Independence, is now available on the America's Turning Point Saratoga 250 website.

Read the latest Saratoga 250 Reflections

Public Screening: Henry Knox: Resolve Forged By Revolution

March 25, 6:30 PM

James A. Bold Meeting Room, Halfmoon Town Hall, Halfmoon, NY

Includes introduction, film screening, commentary, and preview of Saratoga250 programming. All ages welcome. For details, visit saratoga250.com.

Click Here to Learn More

Daggett's Farm: Eaten by the Railroad

March 25, 7:00 PM

Grooms Tavern, Rexford, NY

Archaeologist, Matt Lesniak, of Hartgen Associates will give a talk at Grooms Tavern on Wednesday March 25th at 7PM.

The S.A. Daggett farm was a previously unknown archeological site, the remains of a 19th-century

farmhouse in the western edge of Clifton Park. It was discovered as a cellar hole depression and as a small assemblage of artifacts, during compliance archeological work sponsored by the Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) Project. The farmhouse was placed close to the Alplaus Kill; in the 1830s, the Saratoga and Schenectady Railroad was built between the farmhouse and the Alplaus Kill. In the ensuing decades, as railroad traffic grew and locomotives increased in size, the railroad detracted from farming and herding at the farmhouse. S. A. Daggett's siblings continued to farm on the portions of their properties on the roads (Blue Barns Road and Bradt Road), and they set up the patriarch of their family, the aging Mayhew Daggett, to live in the farmhouse. S.A. Daggett was a lawyer in Schenectady and a specialist in land deeds - historic research indicates that S.A. Daggett exercised some influence over the local railroad, while Mayhew Daggett, living next to the tracks, could keep his eyes on the railroad and report to his lawyer son.

The S.A. Daggett farm illustrates a few important trends in 19th century history: the conflict/ accommodation of technology versus agriculture; of landowners versus railroads; and the general allure of locales to the west for settlement.

Sign of the Golden Scissors Workshop - Women's Attire

April 24-26, 2026

Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave, Ballston Spa

A public program & workshop by Emily Stringham of At the Sign of the Golden Scissors, brought to you by Saratoga 250.

More Information on Sign of the Golden Scissors Workshop – Women’s Attire

5th Annual Turning Point & Women in War Symposium

May 2, 8:15 AM-3:30 PM

Old Saratoga American Legion Post Schuylerville, New York

Immerse yourself in a full day of education and discovery featuring renowned authors and historians sharing insights into one of the most pivotal moments in American history. *Presented thanks to the generous support of the Dash Family*

Register for Women in War

Guided Bus Tour: “War on the Middleline: The 1780 Raid on Ballston”

May 3, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Join us May 3rd for our popular spring guided bus tour. Led by Author of the book with the same title, historian James Richmond. Extend your experience with an immersive Sunday field exploration that traces the actual route of the 1780 Ballston Raid. We invite you to join our popular guided tour through the historic Kayaderosseras Patent, where we will walk the ground where local history and the Revolution collided. By placing history directly on the landscape, this tour offers deeper insight into the region’s revolutionary past and its impact across Saratoga County on more communities affected by America’s War for Independence.

More Information on Guided Bus Tour: War on the Middleline

Programs are free unless otherwise indicated. Submit events to press@brooksidemuseum.org. SCHC

Events and News is a collaborative effort. We count on the contributions of the historic community of Saratoga County and others for the entire content of this page. The SCHC Events and News are available on our [website](#).

Saratoga County History Center

21 Fairground Avenue

Ballston Spa, NY 12020

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