

Walkway NEWS

BRIDGING PEOPLE, PLACES & GENERATIONS | Issue No. 1, 2018

Ulster Welcome Center Opens with Fanfare

Visitor amenities include covered gathering area and outdoor amphitheater

On June 29, with great ceremony, music and fun family activities, the Walkway Over the Hudson nonprofit organization and New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation celebrated the Grand Opening of the Ulster Welcome Center in Highland, NY, at the west approach to the Walkway. Rose Harvey, NYS Parks Commissioner, welcomed top regional and local elected officials, business leaders, Walkway board members, volunteers and staff, along with members of the public, with opening remarks and a ribbon-cutting.

“The Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park is a jewel in our system and New York State is proud to feature the Ulster Welcome Center here in Highland as a gateway for both the park and the Empire State Trail,” said State Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey. “Thank you Governor Cuomo for your continued passion for our parks, our private donors and the Walkway organization for your cooperative leadership. This is truly a public-private partnership, and we look forward next to completing the Dutchess Welcome Center in Poughkeepsie.”

continued on page 2



Irving Solero

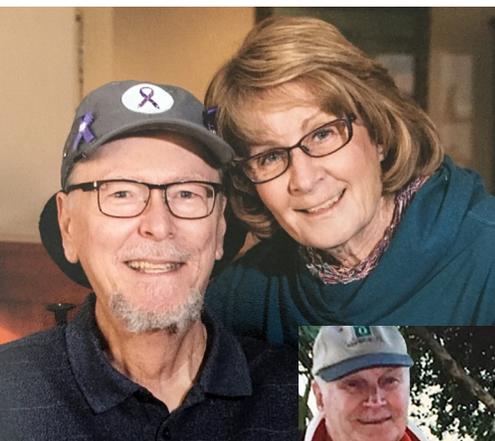
The official ribbon-cutting for the Ulster Welcome Center Grand Opening on June 29, 2018.

Right: Ulster Welcome Center.



WHY WE GIVE: Chris & Bob Krebs

Walkway Stewards Come Home to Highland and the Walkway



Bob and Chris Krebs
Right: Pat and Georgia Lockhart



Patrick and Georgia Lockhart never saw the Walkway completed, but now, thanks to the generosity of their daughter Chris Krebs and her husband Bob, these Highland locals will be remembered forever with a bench plaque and bronze medallion looking north to the Catskills on the Highland side of the Walkway Over the Hudson.

“My parents met in high school in Highland, and the river was a large part of my father’s childhood,” said Chris. “When my parents came to live with us in Maryland in their later years, a cousin from Clintondale gave him a subscription to the local paper. My father was just enthralled by the transition as

the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge became the Walkway and followed the progress every week. He and his siblings and friends spent so much time hanging out under the bridge as kids.”

High school sweethearts, Pat and Georgia graduated from Highland High School in 1941. After Pearl Harbor, Pat enlisted in the navy. He proposed to Georgia at the hairpin turn on Minnewaska Trail (Route 44/55 in New Paltz) before he left for duty. By 1944, Pat was stationed at Key West, and 20-year-old Georgia took the bus from Highland to Key West to be married in the naval chapel. They traveled to Highland for their honeymoon, and then went back to Key West until Pat was deployed on a submarine.

After World War II, Pat returned to the Hudson Valley, where he and Georgia raised their four children, first in Highland and later in Red Hook. In their later years, Pat and Georgia lived in Florida prior to

continued on page 3



View from the Bridge

Dear Friends,

With the opening of the Walkway's new Ulster Welcome Center on the west side of the Hudson and the groundbreaking of the Dutchess Welcome Center on the east side, we have a tangible testament to the power of the Walkway to connect people, places and generations.

A decade ago, a small group of committed volunteers and donors had the vision and the passion to turn the dilapidated Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge into the Walkway Over the Hudson. In 2016, Governor Cuomo announced New York State's funding for visitor facilities on both sides of the Walkway. Today, that dream has become a reality — and we certainly are not done!

In 1889, the railroad bridge was a crucial transportation link, connecting raw materials from the west to industrial centers in the east. A pinnacle of engineering and industrial ingenuity in its design and construction, this iconic structure has now become the longest elevated pedestrian bridge in the world! With nearly 600,000 visitors each year, the Walkway is a crucial economic driver and tourism attraction in the Hudson Valley.

Yet the Walkway is so much more than a pedestrian bridge. With our welcoming volunteer corps of red-vested Ambassadors and its unique and fun family programming, the Walkway bridges communities by connecting city neighborhoods with rural areas. It is a central location where people of all ages, sizes, nationalities and walks of life can meet and share a common experience.

Thanks to collaborations with The Arc of Dutchess, Greystone, Anderson Center for Autism, Abilities First and others, we are "thinking differently", and have implemented activities to promote inclusion for all residents. The Walkway, in promoting exercise and healthy living, also hosts dozens of nonprofits for their fundraising activities.

Our Walkway Ambassadors enjoy meeting visitors from around the globe. As we anticipate our ten-year anniversary in October 2019, we look forward to what the next decade will bring. Join us as we continue to dream big, making inclusiveness and collaboration a way of life.

See you on the Walkway!

Elizabeth Waldstein-Hart
Executive Director



Walkway Over the Hudson Board of Directors

Michael Oates

Chair

Christina Bark

Vice Chair

John Storyk

Second Vice Chair

Michael Graham

Treasurer

Jayne McLaughlin

Secretary

Dan Ahouse

Daniel Aronzon, MD

Charles Benfer

Michael Fleischer

Paul Haering

Jean Marie Healy

Natasha Krupp

Robert J. Levine

David Ping

Emily V. Saland

Howie Schwartz

Kathleen Smith

Scott Sweeney

Ulster Welcome Center Opens with Fanfare

continued from page 1

Local firm Meyer Contracting Corporation constructed the Saratoga Associates-designed Ulster Welcome Center. The energy efficient building features a large covered gathering area for visitors, gracious amphitheater-style outdoor seating, indoor comfort facilities for visitors and office space for NYS Parks staff, as well as solar panels and other sustainable design features. Tour groups, seniors and school groups will appreciate the enhanced bus turn-around on Haviland Road. John Storyk, Walkway board member and Amenities Committee chair, was instrumental in leading



Artist's rendering of the planned Dutchess Welcome Center.

the Walkway organization's participation in these projects.

"In 2012, we began planning and securing what resulted in \$2.3 million in public and private funding for these capital projects. It is exciting and gratifying to see the Ulster Welcome Center come to fruition, and we look forward to sharing progress on the Dutchess Welcome Center," said Elizabeth Waldstein-Hart, Executive Director of the Walkway organization. "We are deeply grateful to all of our partners for making this dream and donors' vision a reality."



Walkway Stewards Come Home to Highland

continued from page 1

moving near their daughters, Chris and Shawn, in Westminster, Maryland.

Unfortunately, Patrick and Georgia never saw the Walkway completed. After her parents passed away in 2010, Chris, Bob, their daughter Cait, and Chris' sister Shawn made it a point to visit the Walkway to take her dad and mom across the river in spirit. "The first thing we did when we arrived in Highland was to go out on the Walkway. We walked together across the bridge, reading all the information on the plaques. We marveled at the view north towards Kingston, and south towards West Point. My parents would have loved it."

Chris and her family will return to the Hudson Valley in July for her 50th class reunion. They also will dedicate the bench plaque and medallion on the Walkway named for her parents. "As a kid, you don't appreciate the place you grew up in. Going back as an adult, the Hudson Valley is truly where my heart is. We're looking forward to walking the bridge again - this region is so important to my family, and my dad eagerly watched the transformation of that old train bridge into this beautiful Walkway. I believe that, in some way, he has seen it, and that he will be there with me."

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: Anita & Dan Jones Finding Connection and Community on the Walkway

Dan and Anita Jones came to Poughkeepsie from the suburbs of Philadelphia in the mid-1990s after Dan was offered a leadership role at Poughkeepsie Day School. New to the community, their introduction to the Walkway began when they met one of the original Walkway volunteers, Bill Sepe, at the Stormville Flea Market, where Bill was generating interest in reviving the old Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge.

As Dan tells it, "My first view of Walkway happened when Fred Schaeffer was giving tours of the bridge from the west side. I didn't know Fred but had kept in



Shirley Rinaldi

Dan and Anita Jones
Left: Pete Seeger and friends at the 2009 opening of the Walkway.



Dan Jones

touch with Bill. They had laid steel grates over the railroad ties, there were tracks but no hand rails. Once we got over the water, you could see through the grates and into the river. It was like walking on air!"

Dutchess Welcome Center Groundbreaking



Irving Solero

In May, the Walkway board and staff, New York State Parks staff and construction leaders from Siegrist Construction, participated in a ceremonial groundbreaking to commemorate the construction of **Dutchess Welcome Center** at the Walkway's Poughkeepsie entrance. Visitor amenities in the new Dutchess Welcome Center include an outdoor seating and gathering space, an information station, indoor comfort facilities and an enhanced transition to the 13.5 mile Dutchess Rail Trail, with improved accessibility for persons with disabilities, seniors and bus tour groups.

L-R: Howie Schwartz and Emily Saland, Walkway Board members; Tom Watt, Assistant Regional Director, NYS Parks Taconic Region; Garrett Jobson, NYS Parks Capital Facilities Regional Manager; Eric Hoppe, Walkway State Historic Park Manager; Elizabeth Waldstein-Hart, Walkway organization Executive Director; George Siegrist and Bruce Bower, Siegrist Construction; Patrick Kozakiewicz, NYS Parks Sr. Architect, Taconic Region; Linda Cooper, Regional Director, NYS Parks Taconic Region; Jeff Litwinowicz, Walkway State Historic Park Assistant Park Manager.

Fast-forward to 2009, with preparations for the Walkway's opening weekend underway, Anita explained, "I read in the paper they were painting puppets for the Walkway opening, and so we went to help. We were there every day for the last few weeks, painted all the steamboats and had a ball! Later, Dan and I went to the opening ceremony and were part of the group that escorted the rope out for the ceremonial rope tying. We saw all races, ages, shapes and sizes when the gates were opened, and thought 'This Walkway will have a bigger impact than people think.'"

Dan and Anita became Walkway Ambassadors and now can be found a few days each month volunteering at the Pavilions. Anita explained, "We feel strongly about adding to the ethnic diversity of the organization and representing the Walkway wherever we go. We are always happy to answer visitor questions. I enjoy talking to people, and Dan is a history teacher in his soul and chair of the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club, and so he has both bridge history and rail and hiking trail knowledge. We have talked to some of the most interesting people from around the world. The Walkway is an absolute magnet for the area and it's an honor to be an Ambassador."

Upcoming Events

JULY

- 14 **Movies Under the Walkway: Jumanji** 7 pm
- 15 **Flag Changing Ceremony** 12 - 1 pm
- 15 **STARWALK**
When the Moon Meets Venus 8:30 pm
- 21 **Movies Under the Walkway: The Last Jedi** 7 pm
- 27 **MOONWALK** 8 pm

AUGUST

- 4 **Movies Under the Walkway: Coco** 7 pm
- 12 **STARWALK**
Shooting Stars and Big Planets 8 pm
- 18 **Movies Under the Walkway: Black Panther** 7 pm
- 19 **Flag Changing Ceremony** 12 - 1 pm
- 24 **MOONWALK** 7:30 pm

SEPTEMBER

- 7 **STARWALK**
Distant Realms: Neptune and Andromeda 7:30 pm
- 16 **Flag Changing Ceremony** 12 - 1 pm
- 21 **MOONWALK** 7 pm
- 23 **Sunrise Stroll** 6:30 - 7:30 am

OCTOBER

- 5 **Starry Starry Night** 6 - 10 pm



INSIDE: Ulster Welcome Center Opens with Fanfare

WALKWAY
OVER THE HUDSON

PO Box 889
Poughkeepsie, NY 12602



STARRY STARRY NIGHT

Friday, October 5, 2018
6 - 10 pm

SAVE the DATE!

Honoring Our 2018 Great Connectors
Don Cady
Michael Dupree & Michael Fleischer
John Storyk

Honorary Chairs
Robert R. Dyson
Lucy R. Waletzky

Riverfront location at Upper Landing Park

Sponsorships and tickets available online at
walkway.org/starry-starry-night

