

the great connector

WALKWAY^{OVER}THE HUDSON

Spring Newsletter 2019

WHY WE GIVE: JOHN O'SHEA



John O'Shea, Elizabeth Waldstein-Hart, Scott Sweeney

FAMILY, FRIENDS MAKE WALKWAY MEMORABLE

Like many people invested in the future of Poughkeepsie and the Hudson Valley at the time, John O'Shea first learned about the Walkway Over the Hudson when Rob Dyson invited him to a meeting in an unconventional location – 212 feet above the Hudson River on the old, rusty, fire-damaged railroad bridge.

"The structure was deteriorating, but when you walked out you could see the views and the river below," O'Shea said. "That's when Rob told me about the plans to turn it into a pedestrian walkway."

The story of how the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge morphed into the Walkway Over the Hudson is well documented. But it wasn't until John's grandson, Scott Sweeney, joined the Walkway's Board of Directors that he fully understood the potential of the world-class attraction.

"I'm a long-time friend of Rob Dyson and Fred Schaeffer and knew of their vision and I saw what a strong asset the Walkway was when it opened. When my grandson got involved, I became fully aware of the passion of the Walkway's supporters," O'Shea said. "That's when we provided financial support to continue to develop the bridge."

In July 2018, John's stewardship was commemorated, and the O'Shea family name was permanently etched in Walkway history, with engraved plaques on a bench bearing his name.

"The Walkway is a tremendous asset to our community," O'Shea said. "It provides an interesting venue for locals to get needed exercise and allows everyone to enjoy the great scenery our area offers."

O'Shea is an accomplished businessman, serving as Chairman of the Board of Marshall & Sterling Insurance and led the company to grow into 24 branches in five states plus the Virgin Islands. He believes by supporting the Walkway, he's not just ensuring his family's legacy, he's also supporting the local economy.

"The Walkway attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors to the area every year and even makes a difference when someone decides to become a resident," O'Shea said. "Since it helps bring people to the area, they're spending money at local businesses, and that builds our economy."

JOHN STORYK
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SCOTT SWEENEY



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Walkway Chairman

HIGHLAND RESIDENT JOHN STORYK, Founding Partner and Director of Design for Walters–Storyk Design Group, has been elected chairman of the Walkway board of directors for 2019.

An internationally-renowned architect and acoustician, Storyk has been responsible for designing over 3,500 world-class audio/video production facilities across the globe, including studios, radio stations, video suites, entertainment clubs, and theaters. As Walkway's longest-tenured board member, Storyk's architectural skill has been vital in shaping the many construction projects and amenities that have transformed the bridge over the past decade. In the boardroom, his deep technical knowledge and keen business sense has propelled the Walkway to become a world-class destination welcoming nearly 600,000 visitors each year.

"I am honored to have been elected chairman of the Walkway organization," said Storyk. "Having been involved with the bridge since its inception, I have seen firsthand how it has transformed the quality of life in Dutchess and Ulster counties. I look forward to continuing to work with my fellow Directors, New York State Parks, and the Walkway team to seek funding to bring new and necessary amenities to our amazing attraction."

"John Storyk is a visionary leader and proven businessman who also loves the Walkway and what it means to our community," said Elizabeth Waldstein–Hart. "His skills, experience, and leadership will be invaluable as we prepare to celebrate our tenth anniversary in 2019."

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From the Executive Director 2019: A YEAR OF WALKWAY ANNIVERSARIES

Can you believe it? October 2019 will mark the 10-year anniversary of the opening of Walkway Over the Hudson. What an incredible decade it has been!



Elizabeth
Waldstein-Hart

To celebrate the occasion, the friends of the Walkway are hard at work planning a celebration calling back to many of the amazing events we've come to love through the years, while also looking forward to the next decade of memories yet to be made. We're finalizing a year-long schedule of events and programs and will share it online soon.

Anniversaries are a great time for reflection, and lately I've been thinking about how far we've come. We've welcomed over five million people from every state and 52 countries. We've built amazing new buildings, brought people together at events, helped raise funds for charity, been the catalyst for people to get fit, served as the backdrop for birthday and engagement celebrations, and become the Hudson Valley's iconic marker of place.

And how was all this possible? Because of you. The Walkway is almost exclusively supported by private donations, corporate support, and our membership. Simply, we go as far as our community will allow us to go. If the Walkway has made a positive difference in your life over the past 10 years, I hope you'll visit walkway.org/donate and pledge your support. Every bit helps us add new amenities, develop more programming, and take on new projects.

Thank you for being part of our community. See you on the Walkway!

Jaclyn Renner Hired DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



Walkway Over the Hudson has hired Jaclyn Renner, a fundraising professional with experience working for regional and national nonprofits, as Director of Development. In her new role, Renner is responsible for individual donor cultivation, Walkway stewardship, the Walkway's membership program, directing the annual Starry Starry Night benefit, as well as leading the Walkway's major gift program and the Walkway 1000.

Jaclyn's work focuses on development, event planning, and marketing. Throughout her career, she has led dynamic, multi-faced fundraising programs and community events, most recently for The Arthritis Foundation and American Heart Association.

A lifelong Hudson Valley resident, Renner is a graduate of the State University of New York at Albany and an alumna of Alpha Xi Delta Women's Fraternity.

She can be reached at jrenner@walkway.org and 845.454.9649



Shirley Rinaldi (right) with late husband Frank on the Walkway

Shirley Rinaldi

What drew you to become a Walkway ambassador?

Several years ago, my husband Frank and I attended the First Day Hike. It was there that we met a bunch of ambassadors and had a lovely afternoon, so we signed up for the next ambassador training session. We were both retired and loved meeting and talking to new people so for us this was the ideal retirement hobby.

Describe a typical day serving as an ambassador.

The day usually begins with opening the West Pavilion and greeting my fellow ambassadors. I love watching people enjoy their Walkway experience and usually approach as many as possible to ask where they are from, is it their first visit, give some information, take pictures, and answer questions. Many people want a brochure to find a variety of places and others want a souvenir of their visit. After my shift, I like to walk to the flag pole, greeting visitors on the way to visit my husband's remembrance plaque that is on a bench right across from the flag (Shirley's husband Frank passed away in 2018).

What's your favorite Walkway event and why?

Working at the Annual Starry Starry Night Gala is my favorite event. I usually staff the check-in table, and meeting everyone who is attending is awesome! It's amazing how people from all walks of life support the Walkway, and Starry Starry Night is the one event where all these essential people come together to celebrate.

What is your most memorable Walkway moment?

Through my husband, many of our family and friends have a much greater appreciation of the Walkway. Frank loved being an ambassador and was loved by all as he rode across the bridge on his red scooter, chatting, telling stories and meeting everyone. After he died, his children and I decided our grandchildren needed a place to visit their Pop-Pop. As the Walkway was so dear to him, we thought a memorial plaque on a Walkway bench would be perfect. Our loved ones contributed, and this became a reality. Our family now has a beautiful stopping spot on the bridge that brings us comfort and peace. The Walkway will always hold a very special place in our hearts.



Eastside construction nears completion

When complete, the Walkway's East approach will feature indoor restrooms, an information booth, expanded seating areas, an improved pathway, and a new entrance from Orchard Place. The Taconic Region of New York State Parks leads the project with contractor Siegrist Construction and anticipate opening in late spring 2019.

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Dip to donate

Thanks to the generosity of two longtime Walkway supporters, look for our brand new DipJars on the Walkway and at special events, allowing everyone to easily support us using their credit and debit cards.

Events

I Love My Park Day

SATURDAY, MAY 4 • 9AM-1PM

Illuminate The Walkway + Memorial Day Flag Changing

SUNDAY, MAY 26 • 7:30-10:15PM

WALKWAY.ORG/ILLUMINATETHEWALKWAY

Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular

THURSDAY, JULY 4 • 7-10PM

Starry Starry Night

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4 • 6-10PM

See the calendar of events, visit walkway.org

Stay updated:



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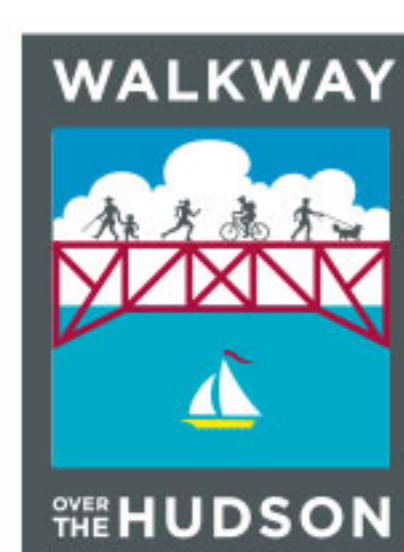
With Walkway Over the Hudson's 10-year anniversary on the horizon, friends of the Walkway have the unique opportunity to become part of the Walkway 1000 – a group of 1,000 donors contributing \$1,000 each year toward the future success and strength of the Walkway.

Members of the Walkway 1000 become part of our vital inner circle of donors who will help lead the Walkway into our second decade and beyond.

Thanks to the generosity of Evelyn Panichi and Royal Carting Service Company, all Walkway 1000 members will be outfitted in a special soft-shell jacket in appreciation of their support.

JOIN NOW at walkway.org/donate

When the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge opened in 1889, it was hailed as America's 'Great Connector', linking the industrial northeast with the midwest. Today, Walkway Over the Hudson continues to uphold that tradition by connecting visitors with unforgettable experiences, unmatched views, and a unique place to gather with friends and family.



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