

the great connector

WALKWAY OVER THE HUDSON

Fall/Winter 2019 Newsletter

Starry Starry Night Honors Ash, Davidson

Walkway Over the Hudson proudly honors Carol Ash and Joan K. Davidson at Starry Starry Night. Ash, chair of the Carey Institute for Global Good and a past commissioner of New York State Parks, and Davidson, president of Furthermore Grants in Publishing, past commissioner of New York State Parks, and the past chair of the New York State Quadricentennial Commission, have provided visionary leadership and unwavering support to the Walkway for more than a decade. Walkway volunteer ambassador Michele Dalbo is recognized for her ten years of meritorious service (learn more about Michele on page 3).



CAROL ASH



JOAN K. DAVIDSON

On Friday, October 4, honorary chairs Robert R. Dyson and Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky, with event hosts Michael Dupree and Evelyn Panichi, celebrate the Walkway's 10-year anniversary at Starry Starry Night, a starlit evening at the Ulster Welcome Center Plaza featuring delicious food prepared by Chef Edward Kowalski, wine from Millbrook Vineyards, craft beer from Half Time, a silent auction, and a stunning fireworks display.

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities available at walkway.org/starrystarrynight.

Campaign to sustain

Your support of Starry Starry Night and Walkway Over the Hudson will allow us to undertake significant projects to transform the Walkway experience during our next ten years. Become part of our Campaign To Sustain at walkway.org/donate.



EAST GATE PLAZA RENDERING

In Spring 2020, construction is set to begin on the Walkway's new East Gate Plaza (the area just outside of the Poughkeepsie gate atop the Washington Street stairs). This will include an enlarged pathway, new Friends Pavilion with room for shopping, increased seating, and a covered space with audio and video capabilities for use by tour groups and special events.

To improve safety and security, enhance nighttime events, simplify closing procedures, and further showcase the Hudson Valley, Walkway has retained architectural lighting design firm Domingo Gonzalez Associates to leverage state-of-the-art technology to improve lighting both on and under the bridge deck.

Walkway is committed to improving its neighborhoods via the creation of a park on the corner of Washington Street and Parker Avenue in Poughkeepsie. With landscaping, new sidewalks, and seating, this space will create a positive first impression of the bridge and the surrounding community.

We want everyone in the world — regardless of their circumstances and level of ability — to see our sweeping views and experience the magic of the Walkway. As we enter our second decade, we are steadfastly committed to building on our reputation as one of the most accessible and environmentally-friendly parks in New York State.



From The Park Managers' Desk

©IRV SOLERO PHOTOGRAPHY

Visitors to the Walkway often speak lovingly of its spectacular views. Whether it's the rolling hills of the Hudson Valley, the glorious Hudson River, or wispy clouds above, everyone marvels at the breathtaking vistas.

Another eye-catching view you may have noticed is the bright splash of color that greets you at both Welcome Centers. As you enter Walkway State Historic Park, you are greeted with the sight and scents of beautiful native flowers and plants, and we take great pride in maintaining this garden space. In fact, we hope to grow these gardens into a destination tantamount to views the Walkway deck itself has to offer.

The next time you're heading onto the bridge, take a moment to enjoy the colorful landscape helping you further enjoy nature, relaxation and peacefulness. It may make it harder to leave but it will inspire you to return and again enjoy the magnificence of the Walkway.

Eric Hoppe & Jef Litwinowicz

New Stewards



Thank you to the Gude (top) and Kerdman (bottom) families for their stewardship of the Walkway. Walkway stewards help the park achieve its full potential by supporting new amenities, capital improvements, and programs. Learn more at walkway.org/donate.

From the Executive Director MY FAVORITE MILESTONES

As we approach the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Walkway Over the Hudson, I'm filled with immense pride reflecting on all that we have accomplished. We could not have predicted, or be more pleased, that since October 2009, the Walkway has welcomed more than five million people from all 50 states and over 50 countries. A few of my other favorite milestones include:



Elizabeth Waldstein

Connecting the Hudson Valley Rail Trail in Ulster County with the William R. Steinhaus Rail Trail in Dutchess County in 2011, later securing us a spot in the Rail-Trail Hall of Fame.

The fun and camaraderie when 2,569 people came together in 2012 to dance the Hokey Pokey, setting a Guinness World Record for the longest dance line in history.

Our volunteer ambassador corps growing to 100 in 2014. I am so grateful for the commitment the ambassadors have made. We could never have accomplished so much in 10 years without their support, energy, and enthusiasm.

Our 21-story glass-enclosed elevator opening in 2014, connecting the Walkway to the Hudson River at Upper Landing Park, creating amazing views of the structure and improved access for everyone.

Constructing Welcome Centers on each approach in 2018 and 2019, featuring indoor restrooms, public seating, and informational signage. These sustainable buildings have transformed the Walkway experience and will continue to build our community.

These are of course just some of our accomplishments. With your support, we will continue to develop the Walkway to reach its full potential.

CURRENT PARTNERS



CURRENT SUPPORTERS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JOHN STORYK
Chair

MICHAEL FLEISCHER
Second Vice Chair

MICHAEL GRAHAM
Treasurer

KATHLEEN SMITH
Secretary

ELIZABETH WALDSTEIN
Executive Director

DANIEL ARONZON
CHRISTINA BARK
PAUL HAERING
ANITA JONES
NATASHA KRUPP
RON LANE
ROBERT LEVINE

MICHAEL OATES
DAVID PING
EMILY V. SALAND
HOWARD SCHWARTZ
MAUREEN SOLERO
SCOTT SWEENEY





Starry Starry Night Honoree Spotlight

Michele Dalbo

How did you first become a Walkway ambassador, and what drew you to becoming one?

In 2009, before there was an official ambassador program, I volunteered with Don Cady and some others. We had a pop-up tent on the west side of the bridge and Don would go to a storage unit before each shift to retrieve items to sell. We had a cigar box for a cash register. When the first official ambassador class was held, my daughter and I signed up and we received our vests. Now, my granddaughters are junior ambassadors. I believe our family is the first with three generations of ambassadors.

What's your favorite part of being a Walkway ambassador?

My favorite part is talking to people from all over the world. You never know who you will meet and the stories they will tell or the questions they will ask.

Do you have any memorable moments on the Walkway, or stories you've heard about the impact of the Walkway?

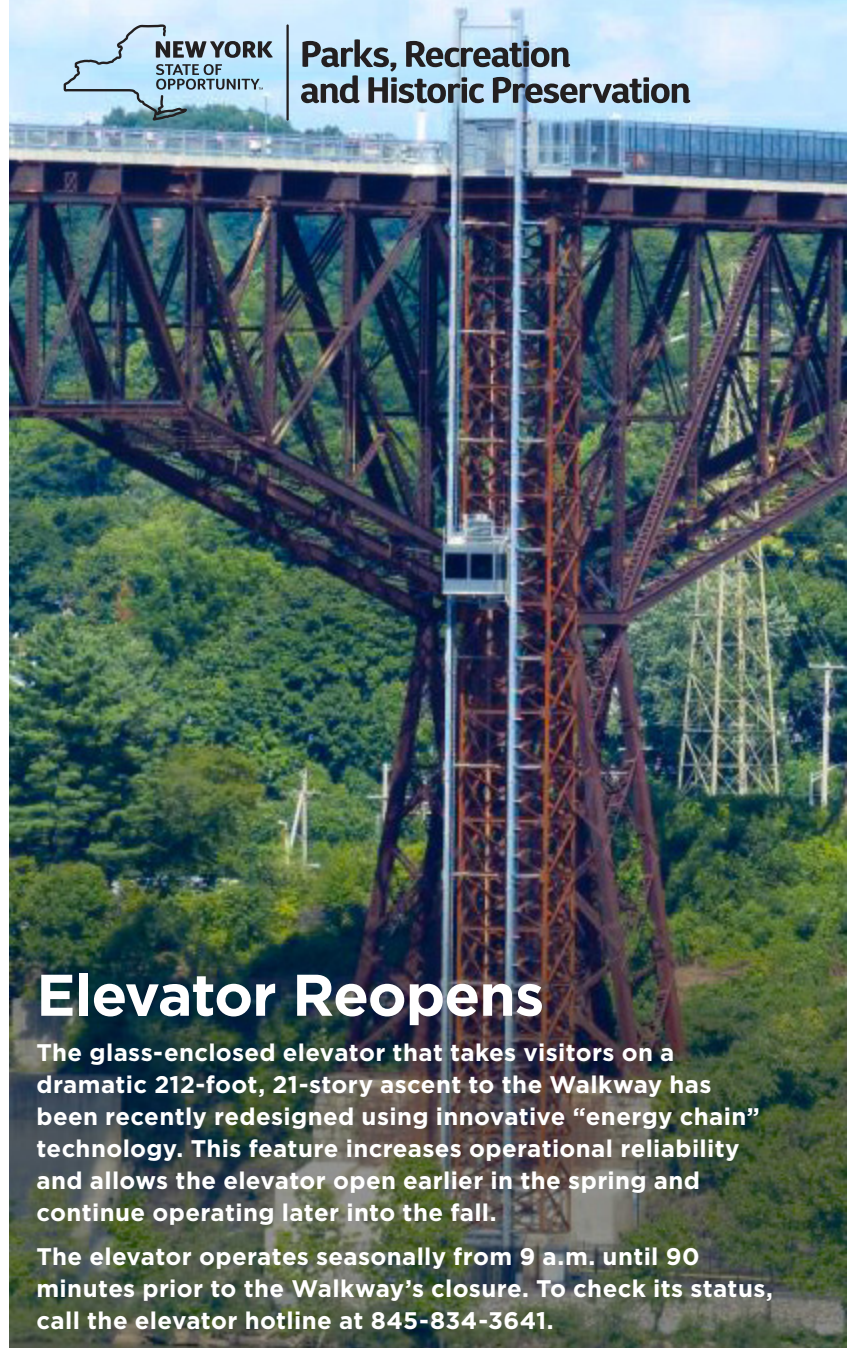
A few years ago, a mother and daughter came to the Walkway and both had disabilities that made it difficult for them to walk. They didn't think they could make it out over the water. With their permission, I was able to grab a wheelchair for the daughter and with the mother walking slowly alongside, I took them out to see the view. To see the joy and thankfulness on their faces, left me nearly in tears and knowing that this is why I love being an ambassador and serving the public.

What does being recognized at Starry Starry Night mean to you?

To be recognized at Starry Starry Night is such an unexpected honor. Volunteering is a joy and not something I've ever done for recognition. To be chosen from a group of dedicated volunteers is amazing. I'm extremely thankful and humbled to have been chosen for this honor.



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**



Elevator Reopens

The glass-enclosed elevator that takes visitors on a dramatic 212-foot, 21-story ascent to the Walkway has been recently redesigned using innovative "energy chain" technology. This feature increases operational reliability and allows the elevator open earlier in the spring and continue operating later into the fall.

The elevator operates seasonally from 9 a.m. until 90 minutes prior to the Walkway's closure. To check its status, call the elevator hotline at 845-834-3641.

©DAVID ROCCO



Dutchess Welcome Center

The 1,800-square-foot Dutchess Welcome Center built by Seigrist & Sons Construction, with an entrance on Orchard Place in Poughkeepsie, includes bathrooms, bike racks, tourist information, an outdoor patio with seating, landscaping and a dog-friendly water fountain.

WALKTOBERFEST

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5 & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

12 - 5 P.M.

ULSTER WELCOME CENTER PLAZA

FOOD/DRINK TASTINGS & KIDS ACTIVITIES

In celebration of our ten-year anniversary, we're bringing a specially-curated selection of the Hudson Valley's best distilleries, breweries, wineries, cideries, restaurants, artisans, and products to the Walkway Over the Hudson. Join us for tastings, cooking and cocktail demonstrations, shopping, and more!

walkway.org/walktoberfest



Dutchess ProPrint

Printing | Copying | Design | Mailing

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.



WALKWAY OVER THE HUDSON
PO BOX 889
POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12602
WALKWAY.ORG

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WALKWAY.ORG

RENEW OR JOIN TODAY at JOIN.WALKWAY.ORG

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100

☐ \$75 ☐ \$40

Mastercard/Visa# _____

Exp Date _____ Security Code _____

Name On Card _____

Signature _____

YOUR INFORMATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

E-Mail _____

SAVE RESOURCES AND DONATE ONLINE AT WALKWAY.ORG OR GIVE US A CALL AT 845.454.9649

Walkway Over the Hudson is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law.