



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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ORGANIZATION
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WALKWAY DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DEC 18 | MONTHLY FLAG CHANGING CEREMONY | 12 PM

SUNDAY, JAN 1 | FIRST DAY HIKE | 2 PM

HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY HOLIDAY
FROM THE WALKWAY

walkway.org

PHOTO BY BILL RYAN, HIGHLAND, NEW YORK

Light the Path Forward

The Friends of the Walkway have been awarded grant funding to complete a transformative installation of color-changing LED lights to our three overlooks - the natural next step after mounting more than 450 solar powered lights to our northern railing last year - but we need your help raising grant matching dollars so that we can have the new, colored lights in place and ready to turn on as soon as possible. I hope you'll join our campaign to make this possible.

These lights will make parts of the iconic Walkway structure visible even when the sun goes down, supporting not only nighttime activities on the bridge, but waterfront redevelopment in Poughkeepsie and Highland. One of my favorite things about the Walkway is that it's been the host venue that's helped local charities raise more than \$10 million over the last decade. These state-of-the-art lights will not only look beautiful, improve park safety and security, and

make fun events even better, they'll also help the Walkway continue to raise awareness for programs and services that make a real difference in the community. Imagine the park's overlooks (the wider sections of the bridge by the elevator, flagpole, and western shoreline) lit in pink or blue for all to see?

Help us make this dream a reality.

Please visit walkway.org/forward to give online. 100 percent of your contribution is tax deductible. If you have questions or would like to speak to me about this project, don't hesitate to call 845-454-9649. Thank you for lighting the path forward and supporting Walkway Over the Hudson. "We want it to continue to grow and be there for people to enjoy."

Diane Haight

Interim Executive
Director

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW YOUR SUPPORT ENHANCES THE WALKWAY EXPERIENCE, VISIT [WALKWAY.ORG/DONATE](https://walkway.org/donate)

Medallion Honors Determined Sister



Following a stage four colon cancer diagnosis in November 2018, 54-year-old **Sharon Koblenz Feldman** started walking, tenaciously believing salvation was only a stride away. While finding strength and inspiration in the views surrounding Walkway Over the Hudson, she was determined to live a long and meaningful life through each step. Nearly every day for the next three and a half years, Sharon got out of bed, put on her make-up (she never went anywhere without it), laced up her sneakers, drove from Somers to Poughkeepsie, and walked along the Walkway accumulating as many as 20,000 steps per visit. Sometimes joined by family, often chatting with passersby, she approached each trip with a zest for life and always remembered to count her blessings.

“Getting to her next walk is what helped her fight through 58 rounds of chemotherapy,” said Naava Koblenz, Sharon’s sister-in-law “No matter the weather, if she could get out of bed, she was walking.”

Nearing the end of her fight, Sharon’s family chose to celebrate her life and legacy by installing a bronze medallion along the Walkway’s north railing. In July 2022, surrounded by loved ones, Sharon was there for the unveiling ceremony to see that her name – and the traits of strength, courage, and passion for life that she inspirationally embodied – would be forever attached to the park she loved so much. Sharon Koblenz Feldman passed away three weeks later, at the age of 58.

“The bridge was her bridge, but it’s everyone’s bridge,” Naava said. “Seeing the medallion gives our family & friends peace and a place to remember Sharon. We hope that it can help others too.” Since Sharon’s passing, members of the Koblenz and Feldman families continue to travel to the Hudson Valley from near and far to walk the Walkway and stop at the medallion, sharing Sharon’s story. Donations in Sharon’s name have exceeded \$1,000, in recognition of what the park means to so many. From our perspective, the Walkway is a great place for everyone,” Naava said. “We want it to continue to grow and be there for people to enjoy.”

To learn more about dedicating a medallion or bench to memorialize or honor a loved one, contact Diane Haight at 845-454-9649 or dhaight@walkway.org.

Your Child Can Be A WALKWAY EXPLORER

The Walkway Explorer program is geared to children ages 5 – 8 (Junior Explorers) and ages 9 and up (Explorers). It was designed to provide activities that are both fun and educational that will enhance the Walkway experience for our younger visitors. This program is like the Ranger programs that some National Parks offer.

There are two booklets that contain age-appropriate scavenger hunts, quizzes, puzzles, and other activities that will help the children earn a patch when the specified number of activities are completed. Potential Explorers can find the answers to all the questions at the east and west approaches and on signs along the Walkway.

Booklets cost \$3 and are available at the East Gate Plaza Friend’s Pavilion in Poughkeepsie and the Ulster Friend’s Pavilion in Highland adjacent to the Walkway’s gates. Pavilions are in operation seasonally from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, weather permitting.

For more information about the Walkway Explorers program, email walkway@walkway.org



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Partners and supporters have a transformative impact on the Walkway and Hudson Valley. To learn more, visit walkway.org.

WALKWAY Remembers Don Cady

The Friends of the Walkway mourn the loss of Don Cady, a decorated Korean War veteran, longtime Hudson Valley resident, and member of the inaugural class of Walkway Ambassadors. If there was a job to be done on the Walkway, Don did it. From greeting tens of thousands of guests during his decade of service to giving tours, answering questions, assisting in emergencies, being among the first to ride the glass-enclosed elevator (and encouraging others to do the same) and even donning a Santa suit every winter to make children smile, no one embodied the spirit of the Walkway or helped create The Walkway Experience quite like Don.

To honor Don’s legacy, Walkway Ambassadors have created the **Don Cady Memorial Award**, which will be presented each year to the volunteer that best embodies Don’s dedication, can-do attitude, and love of the Walkway. “Don was an Ambassador for 12 years, and there is no finer way to preserve his memory than with this award,” said Michele Dalbo, a fellow Ambassador. “Don’s sense of humor, knowledge of Walkway history, and contagious spirit are worthy of being emulated by all.” The inaugural Don Cady Memorial Award will be presented in December at the Friends of the Walkway’s Annual Meeting.



Our Gift to You!

Join or renew your membership through December 31 at the level of Enhanced Individual/Family and receive two Walkway banadanas.

This special edition Marist X Walkway design draws on the beauty of the Walkway, its as a railroad bridge, the glory of the Hudson River, environmental sustainability, and the connection between the Walkway Over the Hudson and Marist’s Poughkeepsie campus.



Looking for a Great Walkway Holiday Gift?

If you’re looking for gift ideas that will be fun for your loved ones **AND** make a positive impact on the community, the **Walkway Over the Hudson** has you covered. Our locally-designed gifts are unique and help support our programs.

Or you can give the gift of a **WALKWAY OVER THE HUDSON** membership (details on left).

SHOP online to find the perfect gifts for **ALL** ages!



walkway.org/shop

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