



Historic Huguenot Street Presents Virtual Fundraising Gala Saturday, September 25



NEW PALTZ, NY (September 20, 2021) – Historic Huguenot Street Board and Sponsors present the 6th Annual Fall Harvest Celebration Saturday, September 25, 2021, from 6 to 7 PM. Join Historic Huguenot Street in celebrating the meaningful stories of the Hudson Valley’s past and the people who keep them alive today. Vals Osborne will be honored for her significant contributions to uncovering, preserving, and shining new light on our region’s compelling history.

Guests will receive a link via email on Saturday, September 25 to attend the virtual celebration from the comfort of home. For our local guests, delicious boxed dinners by [Main Course Catering & Marketplace](#) will be available for pick up on the day of the event from 3-5PM in front of Deyo Hall. Reservations for boxed dinners close on Monday, September 20.

Vals Osborne has an extensive background in the arts and education. Following a decade as a fine art dealer in NYC, she served as Director of Education at Young Presidents Organization and founding director of Sotheby’s Institute, where she created the American Arts Course. During the last 30 years in residential real estate, she has maintained her passion for historic preservation and land conservation through active engagement on the boards of Village

Preservation in NYC, and Historic Huguenot Street and the Wallkill Valley Land Trust in New Paltz.

Guests will experience the exclusive premiere of an innovative virtual presentation of the 10th Annual Historic Houses on the Land Tour, *Historic Houses and Landscapes of Western New Paltz*. This celebration, emceed by Grace Angela Henry, includes a delicious boxed dinner and full-color booklet featuring the region's history and historic houses.

This innovative virtual tour explores the legacy of New Paltz's farming communities west of the Wallkill: the Springtown, Butterville, and Libertyville hamlets, and the Guilford Neighborhood in Gardiner. Situated on the rich alluvial floodplains and sweeping plateaus above, interspersed with wetlands and wooded areas, western New Paltz lies between Rosendale and Gardiner, and the Wallkill River and the Shawangunk Mountains. Settled predominantly by Huguenots in the 18th and 19th centuries, in an area long inhabited by the Munsee Leni Lenape, an exception was a small Quaker community that emerged around Butterville at the turn of the 19th-century.

Featured are ten vernacular and stately homesteads nestled in picturesque locations, overlooking the Wallkill River or on high ridges above with commanding views. These homes include the oldest stone houses still standing, Greek Revival and Italianate frame dwellings, striking Federal and Gothic Revival brick homesteads, and a contemporary vision built almost entirely of salvaged wood from Montana—several are on the National Register of Historic Places.

The tour, presented in video format, was produced by professional videographer and local resident Robert Fagan, featuring aerial-view landscapes and intimate close-ups, narrative passages, interviews with homeowners, and interior scenes. Music for the film has been contributed by Jay Unger and Molly Mason. Nancy Beard narrates the story. A link to a detailed booklet accompanies the film and provides a fascinating history of the area and richly detailed research on the houses.

The tenth in a decade of annual historic house tours in southern Ulster, the virtual tour provides new and stunning perspectives on this area and its treasures. First conceived in 2010 under the auspices of the Wallkill Valley Land Trust, the program has evolved over the years into a long-term research project focused on the region's compelling history and cultural heritage, and its natural beauty and rich resources. Stewardship has been a prevailing theme throughout this endeavor—stimulating broader appreciation and engagement in historic preservation and land conservation.

If you would like to stream the video from YouTube to your TV, we suggest using a device such as Roku, Amazon Fire Stick, or Apple TV.

To learn more and register to attend, visit <https://www.huguenotstreet.org/fallharvestcelebration>.

About Historic Huguenot Street

A National Historic Landmark District, Historic Huguenot Street is a 501(c)3 non-profit that encompasses 30 buildings across 10 acres comprising the heart of the original 1678 New Paltz

settlement, including seven stone houses dating to the early eighteenth century. Historic Huguenot Street was founded in 1894 as the Huguenot Patriotic, Historical, and Monumental Society to preserve the nationally acclaimed collection of stone houses. Since then, Historic Huguenot Street has grown into an innovative museum, chartered as an educational corporation by the University of the State of New York Department of Education that is dedicated to preserving a unique Hudson Valley Huguenot settlement and engaging diverse audiences in the exploration of America's multicultural past in order to understand the historical forces that have shaped America.

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