

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The New York Folklore Society celebrates occupational folklore at its annual conference

WESTCHESTER, NY—On **Saturday, March 2, 2013**, **The New York Folklore Society**, a statewide non-profit arts organization supporting folklife and traditional arts, will present its **annual conference, “Occupational Folklore”**, with presentations and discussions by folklorists and community-based scholars. The conference is being co-hosted with **ArtsWestchester** and **Long Island Traditions**, and will take place at ArtsWestchester, 31 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains, NY, 10601.

Events will kick off at 11 am, with a members’ meeting. At this meeting, the Folklore Society will be unveiling the re-design of their website, (www.nyfolklore.org), a prime resource for traditional arts in New York State, and will be discussing some of their new initiatives around across the state. **All interested members of the general public are welcome to attend.**

At 1 pm, there will be a co-curators discussion by Tom van Buren of Arts Westchester and Nancy Solomon of Long Island Traditions, speaking about their boat-building exhibition *From Shore to Shore*, currently on display at Arts Westchester until March 19.

Following the co-curators discussion at 2:15 pm will be a presentation “The Teaching of a Traditional Craft”, by Adam Green. Green is founder and Executive Director of Rocking the Boat, a non-profit, community-based Bronx organization that works with youth to use boat-building as a means of community revitalization and developing individual skills.

At 3:15pm, past and present recipients of the Archie Green Fellowship in Occupational Folklife, an award granted by the Library of Congress, will discuss their individual projects. The Archie Green Fellowship is a fellowship award which provides support for research about work and working lives in the United States. Featured panelists include Steve Zeitlin from CityLore in NYC discussing his project, “Erie Canal Stories”; Hannah Harvester from Traditional Arts of Upstate New York (TAUNY) who will talk about the changing relationship of dairy farmers and farm workers in northern New York; and Ellen McHale from the New York Folklore Society in Schenectady, who will discuss her work with the backstretch of thoroughbred racetracks in the United States.

Rounding out the panels for the day will be Robert Baron from the New York State Council for the Arts (NYSCA), leading a public discussion on “The Apprenticeship Model in Professional Development and the Revival of Traditional Trades” at 4:30 pm. Baron will speak about the long-standing and well-received apprenticeship model at NYSCA that has fostered the continuity of the practice and presentation of traditional folklife.

The day will conclude with a public reception at 6 pm, featuring local entertainment and light snacks.

Admission for the day's events is \$15 (members \$10). For more information and to RSVP, please visit the Folklore Society website at www.nyfolklore.org, or call 518-346-7008.

We hope to see you there!

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ArtsWestchester

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