

***Pathway to the Ballot Box* to feature Talk-Back Luncheon Experiences**



NEW PALTZ, NY (August 17, 2021) – Historic Huguenot Street announces its guest speakers for the Talk-Balk Luncheon Experience with Pathway to the Ballot Box, premiering Saturday, August 21. The luncheon, included in the tour admission, will treat visitors to delicious local catering, provided by Valley Home Dining, and the opportunity to have thoughtful, inspiring conversations with a featured guest. Each luncheon will honor and highlight a different guest host, which will include *Pathway to the Ballot Box* producers, writers, actors, consultants, local historians, women’s rights advocates, and more.

Aug 21 Kate Hymes (Voter Service Coordinator) & Maura O’Meara (Vice President, Mid-Hudson League of Women Voters)

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. The Mid-Hudson Region LWV serves Ulster, Dutchess and Orange Counties.

Aug 22 Bonney Hartley (Tribal Historic Preservation Manager for the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians)

Bonney Hartley is a cultural resources professional who works to preserve, manage, and interpret indigenous cultural heritage. She is a member of the Stockbridge Munsee Mohican Nation and serves as the Tribal Historic Preservation Manager from an extension office in Williamstown, Mass. In this capacity, she protects Mohican and Munsee (Lenape) cultural sites and repatriates cultural items from a variety of institutions. Prior to this role she held posts with

the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and with nonprofit organizations, including Seva Foundation.

Bonney holds a Master of Social Science Degree- International Relations, from the University of Cape Town, South Africa. She was recognized in 2013 by the San Francisco Mayor's Office as an American Indian Local Unsung Hero Awardee. Since 2018, Bonney has served on the Board of Trustees of Historic Huguenot Street.

Aug 28 To be announced

Aug 29 Jasmine Goodspeed (voice actress for Manveht) & Amber Neilson (writer for Mary Jane)

Jasmine Rochelle Goodspeed (the voice of "Pathway to the Ballot Box" Manveht) is a Massachusetts-based actor/singer/songwriter, playwright, and director. She is known for her activism around Native issues and her passion for musical theatre. She has also aided in the creation of the Native Youth Empowerment Foundation in Massachusetts, and the establishment of the Ohketeau Cultural Center. During the pandemic, Jasmine has been engaging in writing new musicals and other works. Most notably, Jasmine has written, produced, and performed in a musical focused on her tribe, the Nipmuc people of Massachusetts. This musical was titled 1675, and told the story of King Philip's War and the Tragedy of Deer Island. You can follow her @Starlenia.

Amber Neilson is a Hudson Valley theatre director, writer, and performer. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts from the State University of New York at New Paltz and worked at Historic Huguenot Street for six years helping to grow the organization's historical interpretations and educational theatre programs. Amber is currently the Entertainment Operations Assistant Manager at LEGOLAND New York Resort, where she continues to create stories and art that inspire people of all ages to build a stronger, more inclusive future for our community.

Sept 4 Kate Douglas (writer for Catherine)

Kate Douglas a theatre artist seeking to challenge audiences about the limits of their world through multidisciplinary experiences that center plants and other nonhumans. Her work has been performed at Ars Nova, Joe's Pub, The McKittrick Hotel, Judson Church, Chen Dance Center, and the INSITU Festival and developed at Rhinebeck Musicals, The National Theater Institute, Art Farm, the Writer's Colony at Goodspeed, Urban Stages, Artemisia Theatre, and HERE Arts Center, as well as Turkey Land Cove and SPACE on Ryder Farm (upcoming). Her immersive experience Middlemist Red, which aims to promote environmental stewardship in young audiences, is currently in development with New Victory LabWorks. As a performer, she has appeared in Punchdrunk's *Sleep No More*, Third Rail's *The Grand Paradise*, *Kansas City Choir Boy* starring Courtney Love and Todd Almond (Premiere and Tour), and Fernando Rubio's *Everything by my side* (U.S. Premiere).

Sept 5 P.J. Griffith (producer)

P.J. is the Artistic Director of ClockJack Productions, which specializes in creating site-specific, immersive theatrical experiences in unexpected places. Recent productions include Fairytale Farm for The Coggeshall Farm Museum in Rhode Island and Nevermore—The Fantastic Terrors

of Edgar Allan Poe, Midwinter Mischief, and Haunted by History—A Phantasmagoria for Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts. P.J. is a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of The Arts.

Learn more and register at huguenotstreet.org/pathway.



Pathway to the Ballot Box is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. This program was funded in part by Humanities New York with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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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