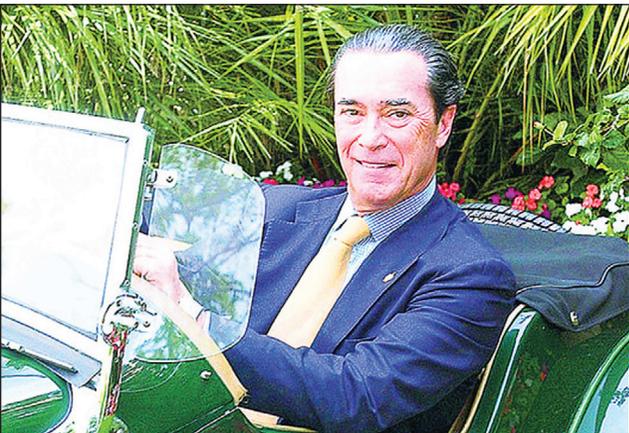


# HUDSON VALLEY NEWS

JULY 1 - 7, 2009

YOUR SOURCE FOR LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS.

PRICE: \$1.00



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**THIS WEEK'S WEATHER:**  
THUNDERSTORMS  
AND CABIN FEVER

## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES



Red Hook Salutatorian Jacob Rabadi.  
Photo by Christopher Lennon.

### 'PURSUE YOUR DREAMS,' RED HOOK GRADS TOLD

BY CHRISTOPHER LENNON

More than 150 Red Hook High School students officially completed their high school careers during an outdoor graduation ceremony on the steps of Linden Avenue Middle School Saturday morning.

Friends and family who couldn't view the event from the reserved seating filled the school lawn, sitting in lawn chairs and standing on their tiptoes trying to snap photos of the graduates.

The excited Class of 2009 – with the young men dressed in red and caps and gowns and the young ladies in white – did their best to concentrate during the ceremony while smacking the half-dozen or so beach balls that started flying back and forth.

After the National Anthem was sung by graduates Katelyn Burns and Christopher Knight, the senior class chorus performed the Alma Mater.

In his speech, Salutatorian Jacob Rabadi told the graduates, "Today is a day to be thankful," particularly

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## ANDERSON CENTER GRADUATES 16

BY JIM LANGAN

The Anderson Center for Autism held its 85th commencement exercises last Thursday.

A color guard from the Staatsburg Fire Department stood at attention as the graduates led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The event got off to an inspiring start as Phyllis Harris, a shift supervisor at Anderson, treated the audience to a rousing rendition of the National Anthem. The graduates then entered the auditorium to thunderous applause.

John Scileppi, a trustee, gave the commencement address. He pointed out the long and storied history of

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A mother's love as she reassures her son during the ceremony. Photo by Jim Langan.

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## HUDSON VALLEY weekend

CELEBRATING LOCAL: MUSIC, THEATER, ART, FILM AND MORE

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

- {P. 9} DUNCAN GETS SHEIK AT POWERHOUSE
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- {P.17} IS TRANSFORMERS REALLY MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE?



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# HVweekend | kid-friendly history

BY TRACI L. SUPPA | HV WEEKEND CONTRIBUTOR

Many of the Hudson Valley's historic sites will be open for tours and special events this summer, offering educational and fun programs designed to incite children's interest in local history.

One such site is Mount Gulian in Beacon, which is open on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays, as well as by appointment for groups. "History becomes more compelling for young people when they visit a historic site," said Elaine Hayes, executive director. "Knowing about local history helps young people know what it is to be an American."



Mount Gulian is the colonial homestead of the prominent Dutch Verplanck family, established around 1730. Used mainly as their summer retreat and a working plantation, Mount Gulian was turned over to the Continental Army during the War for Independence, because of its strategic riverside location across from Washington's Headquarters at Newburgh.

It's the homestead's military period, as the headquarters for Gen. Fredrich Von Steuben, which holds the greatest fascination for youngsters. The "Drillmaster of the Continental Army," Von Steuben spent several months from 1782-83 stationed there, training local farmers to fight with bayonet-tipped muskets. His notable accomplishments included finding a way to re-load a musket in only 12 steps, giving his troops a timely advantage over the enemy force, which needed 15 steps.

"Youngsters find history fascinating when they can touch it, feel it, smell it and see it – as well as hear about it," adds Hayes. "We aim to get young people excited about it, and emphasize the drama and personal interest of it all."

Programs at Mount Gulian cover a variety of topics, including the Wappinger Native Americans, a soldier's life during the Revolutionary War and a child's life in colonial times. A typical guided tour includes a close look at the original stone hearth, where children learn how meals were cooked over open flame.

There are also glass cases full of Native American artifacts, including arrowheads, moccasins, knives and sheaths, and displays of muskets, pistols and military uniforms.

Formal programs arranged for groups include a look through a soldier's backpack, giving kids the chance to identify what the items are, and what they were used for. A favorite activity of both boys and girls is marching with the wooden muskets, and running drills according to Von Steuben's regulations.

On Oct. 11, Mount Gulian is offering the program "Remembering Henry Hudson and the Native Americans," during which children will be able to ask an actor portraying Henry Hudson questions about his travels. Mount Gulian is located at 145 Sterling Street, Beacon. 845-831-8172. [www.mountgulian.org](http://www.mountgulian.org).

## OTHER SITES

More of this summer's family-friendly, hands-on educational programs and interactive events will take place at these sites:

**MUSEUM VILLAGE IN MONROE** fully engages visitors while touring a 200-year-old log cabin, a one-room schoolhouse, and a 130-year-old general store. Staff demonstrates blacksmithing, printing, candle-making and weaving. On Aug. 8, the



Pictured, clockwise from top left: Elaine Hayes of Mount Gulian greets a scout group. *Photo by Traci Suppa*; "From a Child's Perspective" tour at Sunnyside in Tarrytown. *Photo by Bryan Haefele*; Mount Gulian, Beacon. *Photo by Traci Suppa*.

"Old Fashioned Fun: Alice in Wonderland" event encourages guests to come in costume for a tea party, games, and a mad hat exhibit. 1010 Rte. 17M, Monroe. 845-782-8248. [www.museumvillage.org](http://www.museumvillage.org).

**THE CLERMONT STATE HISTORIC SITE IN GERMANTOWN** is the 500-acre estate inhabited by seven generations of the Livingston family between 1728 and 1962. In addition to two sessions of summer history camp in August, the site regularly offers family events on weekends like "Children's Life and Games" (July 25), "Legends by Candlelight Spook Tours" (Oct. 16, 23 and 24), and "A Child's Christmas" (Dec. 5 and 6). 1 Clermont Ave., Germantown. 518-537-4240. [www.friendsofclermont.org](http://www.friendsofclermont.org).

"Archaeology for Kids" is a popular annual event at the **GOMEZ MILL HOUSE IN MARLBORO**, the oldest standing Jewish dwelling in North America. During the Aug. 16 program, kids ages 5-12 will dig for artifacts while learning about archaeology and the importance of responsible excavation. 11 Mill House Rd., Marlboro. 845-236-3126. [www.gomez.org](http://www.gomez.org).

For groups, the **FORT MONTGOMERY STATE HISTORIC SITE** offers a "Hands-On Archaeology Program" a simulated excavation dig among the ruins of the fort, the site of a 1777 attack on American troops by British and Loyalist forces. Route 9W, Fort Montgomery. 845-446-2134. [www.nysparks.com](http://www.nysparks.com).

Each Thursday this August, **SUNNYSIDE** in Tarrytown will offer "From a Child's Perspective," a special tour of the home of Washington Irving, presented with a child's-eye view of the 19th century. Guests will enjoy tales of Sunnyside's young residents, an interactive scavenger hunt, crafts, and displays of period toys. 89 West Sunnyside Lane, Tarrytown. 914-591-8763. [www.hudsonvalley.org](http://www.hudsonvalley.org).