



Librarians' Best Web Picks

Newsletter Focusing on websites of interest to Westchester

Westchester Arts and Culture

Winter 2008

With Manhattan so close by, we often overlook some of the rich cultural venues that Westchester County has to offer. Next time you are looking for something special to do for the weekend, why not browse Westchester Library Systems' **Librarians' Best Web Picks: Westchester-Arts and Culture** section for inspiration. Something is sure to pique your interest and if you decide to visit a Westchester cultural destination, the parking will be much easier than in the city!

From the **Librarians' Best Web Picks** page (see back on how to access) click on **Westchester**. Select **Arts and Culture** and explore the six categories of Westchester destinations; **art museums; choral, opera and orchestral groups; cinema; historic restorations and historical societies; nature centers and farms; theatre and acting troupes**. Each website annotation provides the address, hours, fees, and contact information. Here is a sampling of the websites you will find;

Newington Cropsey Foundation Gallery of Art

www.newingtoncropsey.com

(listed under the Art Museums section)

Jasper F. Cropsey, of the Hudson River School of painters, lived in Hastings-On-Hudson. Ever Rest, his home, and the Cropsey Gallery can be visited, but only by appointment. From the website you can view images from the collection, and find instructions on how to request a guided 45-minute tour.

The Chappaqua Orchestra

www.chappaquaorchestra.org

(listed under *Choral, Opera & Orchestral Groups* section)

With Michael Shapiro as conductor, this orchestra is a sophisticated ensemble of professional-level volunteer musicians. Past members of the Chappaqua Orchestra include Vanessa Williams, Andrew Litton and Chee-Yun. To find out about this season's repertoire, click on the web link.

The Jacob Burns Film Center

www.burnsfilmcenter.org

(listed under the Cinema section)

Located in Pleasantville, this center has become such a popular Westchester destination that fans have created a blog group (not affiliated with the Jacob Burns Film Center) called the "Jacob Burns Indie Film Fanatics." The JBFC screens film classics, documentaries, newly released movies and hosts film discussions and special events with major film directors.

John Jay Homestead

www.johnjayhomestead.org

(listed under the *Historical Restorations and Historical Societies* section)

Visitors to the John Jay Homestead in Katonah will tour the home that Founding Father John Jay planned and had built for his retirement years. Six generations of his descendants lived there after him. The main house has been restored to look as it did in 1801. There are also outbuildings, formal gardens and an ice pond. Check the website for background history, photographs, a planned lecture series and very special seasonal events!

Cranberry Lake Preserve

www.westchestergov.com/parks/nautrecenters05/cranberry.htm

(listed under the *Nature Centers and Farms* section)

Located in North White Plains, the Preserve's website offers a downloadable trail map for a two mile hike around the Kensico Dam and Cranberry Lake.

The Emelin Theatre

www.emelin.org

(listed under the *Theatre and Acting Troupes* section)

The Emelin Theatre, located in Mamaroneck, offers debut theatrical productions, cabaret, children's theatre and art films. Explore their calendar of listings or purchase tickets online using this site.

Pam Bernstein

Reference Librarian
Irvington Public Library