



Winter Presentation

The Esopus People: Indigenous History in New Paltz

The Walkill River Valley was home to Esopus-Munsee people for thousands of years and is still sacred to Native Nations today. Join Zachary Veith from Historic Huguenot Street as he presents the history and culture of this local indigenous group. His presentation will look at the archeological evidence of the Esopus in New Paltz, their way of life through sustainable technology and oral tradition, and their encounters with European colonizers in the 17th century.

Today, the descendants of the Esopus people, many residing in federally recognized Nations in Ontario and in the western United States, remain proud of their heritage. They share their knowledge with Historic Huguenot Street through partnerships aimed at preservation and education about their ancestral land, for which, we are grateful.



Date: Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Time: 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Place: Online via Zoom (See registration information below.)

Presenter Zachary Veith is the Tours & Interpretation Coordinator for Historic Huguenot Street, where he develops and evaluates historic house tours, as well as delivers public programming based on original research. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Greater Hudson Heritage Network, advocating for interpretation, programming, and preservation of objects in institutions statewide. Veith previously served as the Historic Site Assistant at Staatsburgh State Historic Site. His research there on nineteenth-century Black communities appeared in the Hudson River Valley Review, the Poughkeepsie Journal, and the Dutchess County Yearbook. He holds a B.A. in History from SUNY Geneseo and an M.A. in Museum Studies from University College London.

REGISTRATION: Lifespring members and members of the community are invited to attend this free online event. **A link to the registration form will be posted on January 19, 2026, the opening day for registration.** Your Zoom link for the presentation will be emailed to you within 24 hours of submitting the on-line registration form.

Registration closes February 2 at 5pm.