

Ten Years Ago

At the first Winter Walk in 1997, we cut the ribbon and opened the door of the first renovated room in the Opera House. Back then, we could barely imagine the level of activity that now goes on from morning until night in the Opera House. The vision of a vibrant cultural and community center has been realized. The various rooms and spaces are filled with workshops, lectures, readings, meetings and exhibits. Young children, teens, adults and seniors all participate in the numerous activities that take place seven days a week.

Ten years ago, the building was cold, unused and seen as an overwhelming project. With incredible community support, Board commitment and an exceptional staff, the building is alive and pulsing with activity. Looking back inspires us for the next 10 years as we continue to expand our programs, restore more of the building and look forward to being upstairs in the second floor auditorium.

Sarah Lipsky
Vice President
Hudson Opera House

My First Winter Walk

My first Winter Walk was a very snowy December evening a few years before we opened Hudson Home. We had just purchased a home in the area and the evening was exactly the kind of experience we hoped for when we decided to come to the Hudson Valley. It was old fashioned, small town, friendly and fun. The air was crisp, snow crunched under our feet and the air was filled with the smell of wood fires.

Winter Walk is still one of my favorite nights of the year. It is a night when barriers disappear; everyone feels welcome to wander and explore all the great shops, places and things that Hudson has to offer.

I look down Warren Street and see crowds shopping, eating, and engaging in this great community. The air is filled with the excitement and energy that has moved our community forward. It is a night when we can all say thank you to our town just by participating. This experience is something that can't be found in a catalog, on the internet, or in a shopping mall. It is something that must be experienced first-hand. So come, take a Winter Walk down Warren Street!

Richard Bodin
Hudson Home

A Long-time Participant

As a lover of the arts and a self-proclaimed organizer I became involved with Winter Walk nearly from the beginning. At first it was as a part of Upstage Productions, Inc. as a participant of our chorus that took stand on the corner of 4th and Warren Streets in front of the *Register Star*. Then I moved on to singing in a strolling Victorian quartet. That evolved to putting together a second quartet, to gathering volunteers to march in the Santa parade, to arranging elves and characters to stroll the streets. In the midst of all of this I was fortunate to make the acquaintance of Ellen Thurston. It is she that contacts me each year to see what I can bring to the walk. This year I will once again lend my assistance; I will put together two professional quartets to sing and stroll the streets and I will gather volunteers from Upstage to perform and to be a part of Hudson's biggest winter celebration. I have compiled some of our young members to portray a variety of storybook characters that will dress in costume, march in the parade, stroll the streets and be on display in one of the storefront windows. Please join us on December 1st from 5:00 to 8:00 PM to welcome the holiday season with Winter Walk 2007.

Christine Abitabile, Upstage Productions, Inc.