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Press Release
For Immediate Release

Arkell Museum Family Discovery Days to Launch

CANAJOHARIE, NY—The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie is pleased to announce the launch of Family Discovery Days with its first event slated for Sunday, October 14 from 12:30 to 4:30pm.

“This is a great example of the Arkell Museum’s commitment to children and families,” said Andy Albertson, Curator of Education & Public Programs. “These days are designed to engage all members of families, regardless of their ages.”

Albertson said Family Discovery Days will be scheduled for the second Sunday of each month at least through the end of 2007 during the museum’s regular open hours.

October’s Family Discovery Day will feature Connecticut-based storyteller, musician and artist Thomas Hooker Hanford who will present *Chimneyside Tales: Stories of Old New England and New York State*. “Chimneyside Tales is a fun way to learn about American history with lots of opportunities for audience participation,” states Hanford. “You’ll meet a cavalcade of characters of the eighteenth- and nineteenth-centuries. Sailors (including female sailors), lumbermen, peddlers, tinkers, farmers and their industrious wives come to life through the folksongs and stories of the past.”

Hanford’s performance of *Chimneyside Tales* will take place at 3:30pm in the museum’s Great Hall. Prior to the performance, Hanford will lead a drop-in mask making workshop from 1pm to 3pm. Hanford is internationally known for his masks and drawings of animals.

Amsterdam art teacher Carol Stuff will lead a concurrent drop-in workshop from 1pm to 3pm in which participants can create fall foliage landscape collages using a variety of natural materials. “This is our opportunity to embrace the autumn Mohawk Valley landscape,” said Albertson. “Any chance we have to highlight the beauty and uniqueness of the valley while engaging our audiences is one we’ll take.”

Participants of the mask-making workshop are encouraged to use their masks in Hanford’s late afternoon *Chimneyside Tales* performance.

November’s Family Discovery Day is slated for the 11th and will feature the acclaimed Catskill Puppet Theater.

Arkell Museum Family Discovery Days are free with museum admission which is \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and senior citizens; children 11 and under are free when accompanied by an adult. **Admission is always free to local library patrons and museum members.**

For more information on Family Discovery Days, please call the museum at (518) 673-2314.