



## ART

## Edward Hopper's House is Alive and Well

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There will also be an Art Talk by Michelle Donnelly, Curatorial Fellow at the Whitney Museum.

Second Sunday Family Programs allow families to engage in workshops led by artists. The next one on Oct. 9 will have them create tissue paper paintings inspired by 100 years of Hudson River paintings.

Opportunities for artists include annual members' exhibitions and an Annual Juried Small Works Show, now in its 23rd year. The latter draws about 150 entrants. This year's theme is "Small Matters of Great Importance: PAPER+ART," with all works using paper as a primary medium or support. It will be on display from Nov. 19 to Jan. 8, 2017. Opportunities also exist for

interns and docents.

The center created a simple walking tour and publishes an online map of local points of interest related to the artist. The stops along the way include:

The First Baptist Church at Broadway and Fifth Avenue, founded by his grandfather.

"Pretty Penny," at 235 North Broadway, the 1850s Italianate Victorian home of the actress Helen Hayes and her husband, the writer Charles MacArthur. Hopper painted a picture of the house in 1939. Now a private residence, it is difficult to see behind walls and fences.

An unoccupied store at Broadway and School Street, called the "Seven A.M. building" after Hopper's painting of it. The Nyack Library at 59 South Broadway has



Curator Carole Perry with artifacts.

a small exhibit about the building.

Hopper and his wife, Josephine, who died in 1968, are buried in Nyack's Oak Hill Cemetery.

Farther north, on Route 9W in Haverstraw, a three-story Victorian house with a mansard roof sits alongside a railroad track. It is generally acknowledged that this house was the model for his 1925 painting "House by the Railroad." The painting later became Alfred Hitchcock's inspiration for the Norman Bates house in "Psycho."

The Hopper House website (<http://www.edwardhopperhouse.org/>)



The Edward Hopper House

contains links to articles about the house and Hopper, including teacher/student educational resources and one that links his work to that of Hitchcock. A Scholarship for Artistic Curiosity is offered each year.

The organization's \$189,000 annual budget comes from individuals, the New York State Council on the Arts, Rockland County, foundations, corporations, memberships and admissions.

One unique fund-raising event will be the opportunity to spend the night in Hopper's second-floor bedroom. Dr. Jennifer Patton, the executive director, said the room, currently sparsely



The house that inspired the Seven AM painting, located at School Street, off Broadway

furnished, will be reimagined as it might have been in Hopper's time by the Manhattan interior designer Ernest de le Torre. An auction for the right to inhabit it for a night will be conducted by Ellis Sotheby's International Realty, located next door.

Patton said she did not know yet what the opening bid would be, or how much the auction might bring. "It would be great to have several thousands," she said. The money will go toward the house's educational partnership.

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## TRAVEL

## Magical Vienna, the City of Composers and Concerts



By Richard Levy

Music is the most enduring legacy of the magical city of Vienna, Austria, where Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Joseph Haydn, Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Schubert, Johannes Brahms, Gustav Mahler, Arnold Schoenberg and Waltz King, Johann Strauss once lived, composed and performed.

Vienna was home to the Austrian branch of the Habsburg dynasty from 1276-1780. Upon the death of Empress Maria Theresa, her eldest son, Joseph II ascended the throne, representing the Vaudemont branch of the House of Lorraine through his father, Francis Stephen, the Holy Roman Emperor, Francis I. Joseph II's descendants styled themselves the House of Habsburg-Lorraine and ruled up to 1918.

Unless one was fortunate enough to play an instrument or know someone who did, music was initially a luxury enjoyed mostly by the privileged members of the aristocracy, but eventually became an important part of bourgeois life for the growing middle class.

Music is always in the air in Vienna

and visitors can attend a musical performance somewhere in the city every night of the year. The city boasts an estimated 15,000 performances annually. Visit ViennaConcerts.com to find tickets for everything from Operas, including those at the Vienna State Opera, Operettas and Musicals, to varied Classical Concerts, dedicated Mozart programs and Ballets.

Many of the musical events you'll want to experience take place at the Vienna State Opera, one of the leading and most beautiful opera houses in the world.

The Vienna Mozart Orchestra performs at Vienna's most famous concert halls. The Mozart Ensemble Vienna plays in the city's oldest concert hall, Volksper Vienna, Vienna's main stage for opera, operettas, musicals and ballet.

Dine like a true aristocrat and treat yourself to one or more Dinner & Concert packages available at Schönbrunn (a gourmet dinner followed by a concert) or the Salonorchestra Alt-Wien, offering a combination of musical delights and a gala dinner at Kursalon.

And if you're lucky enough to be in Vienna on New Year's Eve, the Vienna Philharmonic has a concert in the Golden Hall of Musikveren. They always conclude their concert with my



Statue of the Plagues

very favorite piece of classical music, "Radetzky March," by Johann Strauss. The audience claps loudly to the music creating a festive musical experience. My girlfriend and I watch the Vienna Philharmonic concert every New Year's Eve on Channel 13. We turn up the volume as they start playing the March

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## TRAVEL

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and clap along with the audience.

After dinner or a concert one evening, take an enchanting horse-drawn carriage (Flaker) through the beautiful ancient inner city. There's a Flaker stand near St. Stephens Cathedral on Graben. Josef Hayden sang here as a choir boy and Mozart married Costanze Weber at St. Stephen's in 1782.

One of the tallest and most impressive Gothic structures in Vienna, St. Stephens has been the center for Catholic worship here for over 700 years. Climb the 343 steps of the tower for a magnificent view of the old city.

Spend a couple of hours strolling down Graben, Vienna's most popular walking street filled with fabulous shops, gallery's, cafes and restaurants. Right in the middle of his famous walking street is the huge Statue of the Plagues dedicated the millions of people who died from the plague during the Middle Ages.

Music lovers must visit the Haus der Musik Museum and Figaro House, where Mozart composed one of his operas.

The magnificent Schönbrunn Palace is one finest examples of baroque architecture in Vienna. Now a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site, it was the summer palace of the Habsburgs and the center of court life during the reign of

Empress Maria Theresa.

Other must see places to experience in Vienna include, Mozarthaus, where Mozart lived for two years: a charming little museum filled with interesting musical items Mozart fans will adore.

Be sure to visit Hofburg, the astoundingly gorgeous palace and home to the ruling Hofburgs. Empress Maria Theresa was born here in 1717 and died at Hofburg in 1780.

The Kunsthistorisches is one of the most unforgettable museums in the world, a spectacular neoclassical palace with one of the finest collections of Old Masters of any museum, since it was assembled by one of the richest ruling families in history.

You'll love strolling down the Naschmarkt, the largest open-air market in Europe filled with countless stalls of meats, fruits, vegetables, spices, wine, cheeses and fabulous food. You'll want to "nosh" endlessly as you stroll (Yiddish word "noshi" must have come from German word "nasch", which is the name of this market.)

If you have time, catch the breathtaking show at The Spanish Riding School where beautiful white Lipizzaner horses perform an equine ballet.

Klimt fans will want to check out the Klimt gallery store filled with everything covered in Klimt



St. Stephen's Cathedral

reproductions to bring home.

For a delicious lunch in Vienna go to my favorite restaurant, Gast Haus Pösche, one block off Graben, on Werburggane 17. Be sure to make reservations a few days before, as this is a popular place for local artists and writers. Order the smoked fillet of Char with trout salad to start and then their famous Wiener Schnitzel, which when served, looks like a huge sizzling violin; one order is enough for two.

Another restaurant I liked a lot was Brezl Gwöld, for traditional Austrian fare. It's hidden down an alley and has lots of atmosphere. For dinner, one night, order, Tafelspitz, a boiled beef casserole served with knudel potato dumplings, a traditional Viennese dish. For dessert, order



Gast Haus Pöschl

warmed up apple strudel with ice cream.

You absolutely must visit the Sacher Café, at the Hotel Sacher, and devour at least one decadently delicious Sachertorte, consisting of two layers of very dense semi-sweet chocolate cake, a thick layer of apricot jam in the middle, covered with dark chocolate icing and a large dollop of fresh whipped cream; expensive, but worth it. The Sachertortes you'll find elsewhere are tasteless imitations.

For breakfast one morning order the local favorite kasierschm, a sweet shredded pancake with plum compote. Vienna has a very sophisticated coffee culture, thanks to the fleeing Turkish armies who left behind their treasured coffee beans in 1683. Vienna opened Europe's first coffee house in 1685 that have become legendary hangouts for famous writers, artists, composers and intellectuals, ever since. My favorite was the famous Tomaselli Café, frequented by Mozart and other musical mavens. A

few packages of "Mozart Balls" (small chocolate balls filled with marzipan and wrapped in foil which Mozart is said to have favored) from one of the chocolate shops are a delightful souvenir to bring home. Another charming souvenir is small violin music box that plays "Mozart's Greatest Hits" it slowly rotates.

Take an astounding ride on the gigantic Prater Ferris Wheel for spectacular vistas of Vienna and hope that it doesn't get stuck when your car is on top!

Where to stay? I enjoy the exquisite Palais Hansen Kempinski, built in 1873 and located on the Ringstrass. I also liked the lovely Park Hyatt Vienna which is also perfectly located.

Austria Air offers non-stop flights from JFK to Vienna but if you'd like to save money, do what I did, and fly one of my favorite airlines, Norwegian Air to any nearby city and then take a short connecting flight.

Spending a week in Vienna is like going back in a musical time machine to another era where music, art, beautiful architecture and sophistication ruled. As soon as your flight lands and the Captain says "Welcome to Vienna", it will be music to your ears... and you will be sure to experience one of the most memorable musical weeks of your lifetime.

Go to AboutVienna.org and also download Lonely Planet's Vienna app on your mobile phone.

Photos by Richard Levy

## COMMUNITY

## The "Narrowbacks"



By John F. McMullen

On the third Thursday of every month at noon, approximately forty people come together at "The Heritage Bar and Restaurant" in Yonkers (960 McLean Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10704; 914 776-7532 -- [heritagebarandrestaurant.com](http://heritagebarandrestaurant.com)) for the monthly meeting of "The Narrowbacks." A Narrowback is a term, usually associated with Irish-Americans, referring to the second generation of immigrant families; the first generation, the "Broadbacks" were the ones who had to do the "heavy lifting," taking manual, often construction, jobs so that the next generation could receive an education and become Narrowbacks.

The organization—and it is not a formal organization; people just show up — was

started by retired New York City Police officer "Danny" Lynch and is composed of ex-police officers and other civil servants, writers, attorneys, bar owners, union members, stock brokers, academics, ex-military, and, as stated above, people who just show up.

The meeting begins with a bagpipe call to order by piper John Rinciari, retired Yonkers police officer who has been a member of pipe band local and national competitions. The music is followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and then general announcements.

In 2015, the name of the group was changed from "The Narrowbacks" to "The Narrowbacks – PFC Thomas Minogue Chapter" in honor of a Vietnam Army Hero and Distinguished Service Cross recipient (posthumously) who gave his life to protect his platoon leader and indirectly saved his platoon from being overrun and slaughtered. Tommy Minogue was the

brother of member Jack Minogue, the son of an NYPD veteran and friend of Danny Lynch, and a native of the Inwood section where a number of the luncheon attendees are from. There is strong feeling within the group (and with many others, including Congressmen) that Tommy's valor deserves the Congressional Medal of Honor and that, only the fact that a number of others from his battalion had previously received the medal precluded him from receiving it (even though recommendations for the award had reached the Joint Chiefs of Staff) so the initial announcement often is a report on the progress (or lack thereof) in pursuing the award.

The announcements are followed by members getting up to sing, tell stories, or read their poetry (that's where I come in). The songs vary from meeting to meeting but always include attorney and ex-judge Edmund Fitzgerald's rendition of "Long Black Veil" (dubbed "the anthem" of the

group).

Over lunch (a flat fee of \$25), there is usually a presentation of some aspect of New York history, often related to crime and law enforcement — every presentation that I have been there for in the over two years that I have been attending the luncheons has been interesting, in depth, and entertaining.

The organization's tradition has been to hold the August meeting in Long Beach, LI where a number of the members live. In summer 2016, we had two meetings "away from home" — the July meeting was at the Island Park, LI home of writer and ex-New York Post Editorial Page Editor Steve Dunleavy. Steve is a longtime supporter of the group.

The August meeting was held in "The Saloon" in Long Beach and featured a running presentation of "The Greatest Beer Run Ever" ([goo.gl/mp9LEB](http://goo.gl/mp9LEB)), the story of the delivery of six packs of beer by then merchant seaman John Charles "Chick"

Donohue" to friends from "the old neighborhood" (Inwood) serving on the front lines in Vietnam. Chick's story — high school dropout, US Marine, Merchant Seaman, Bar Owner, "Sandhog," Labor Political Activist, Harvard MPA (without the benefit of college), Teamster official, Sandhog once again, and world traveler — is the subject of a soon-to-be released book co-authored by Chick and ex-New York Daily News columnist Joanna Molloy.

The group is now back home at our Heritage location and I hope you'll join us — the food is good and the company is better!

I welcome comments on this piece to [johnmac13@gmail.com](mailto:johnmac13@gmail.com).

John F. McMullen is a writer, poet, college professor and radio host. Links to other writings, Podcasts, & Radio Broadcasts at [www.johnmac13.com](http://www.johnmac13.com) and his books are available on Amazon.

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