PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCAL DOCUMENTARY & DISCUSSION SERIES TO FEATURE AWARD WINNING FILM: “HUDSON LINK FOR HIGHER EDUCATION”

Screening at Ossining Public Library on February 13, 2014 at 6:15pm – Free Admission

February 3, 2013 – Ossining, NY. On Thursday evening, February 13th, the Ossining Documentary & Discussion Series is, once again, offering free admission to its latest documentary screening (award winning film, “Hudson Link for Higher Education”) at the Ossining Public Library’s Budarz Theater.

“Hudson Link for Higher Education” gives a rare glimpse into the “prison world” where opportunities for growth seem dim. Hudson Link is a not-for-profit organization that provides a college education, life skills and re-entry support to incarcerated men and women to help them make a positive impact on their own lives, their families and communities. Do you ever wonder what the inmates in nearby Sing Sing Prison are doing to improve their lives, within those high walls, to prepare for their re-entry into society? Sean Pica, Executive Director of the program states: “These Hudson Link-sponsored men & women have come to appreciate the full impact of their life-altering crimes, on others and themselves. And while it may be years before they see life outside the prison walls, we see them realize the hope for a redemptive, productive life by dedicating themselves to self-transformation through higher education.” The mission of the Series is to bring relevant and informative issues to an engaging forum and with this month’s screening of “Hudson Link” we will take a deeper look at Ossining’s neighboring facility and addresses the importance of education.

Created by the members of the Ossining Community and Green Ossining Committee, the Ossining Documentary & Discussion Series brings the community together to spark discussions about critical social and environmental issues. The evening begins with the film screening (typically 1-1.5 hours), followed by a facilitated discussion with a panel of subject matter experts, ending at 9pm.

Panelists joining us for the screening are:

- **Sean Pica** is the Executive Director of Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison, where his responsibilities include program and operations management, business development, fundraising and implementation of the strategic goals and objectives of Hudson Link. Prior to joining Hudson Link, Sean was the Director of Club Access, a psychosocial clubhouse for adults with mental health disabilities, and a tenant advocate for the James Weldon Housing Projects in East Harlem. (*Sean Pica is available for interview upon request*)
- **Jo Ann Skousen** teaches Literature and Writing at Mercy College, and at Sing Sing Correctional Facility, where she has seen firsthand the power of education to transform lives. As the founding director of the Anthem Libertarian Film Festival, she provides a venue for films that celebrate self-reliance and expose the unintended consequences of government intervention. She speaks frequently at conferences across the country and around the world.
- **Michael Capra** is the Superintendent of Sing Sing Correctional Facility and oversees all aspects of the correctional facility including, administration and facial operations, programs services for offenders, medical, psychiatric services and security services. Capra has over 31 years of experience in the field of Correctional management and Law enforcement. He is known as a seasoned leader, manager and mentor. In addition, Capra evaluates and develops policies and procedures that enhance public safety by insuring that offenders have opportunities to improve their skills and receive individual treatment services based on ability and willingness to participate in established programs in order that offenders can return to society as productive members.

The Ossining Documentary & Discussion Series presents monthly programs, free to the public, at the Ossining Library Budarz Theater. Upcoming screenings are scheduled for Thursday, March 20th (Vegucated) & Thursday, April 17th (TBD).

**About The Ossining Documentary & Discussion Series**

Our mission is to bring our community together to watch, enjoy and engage in conversations about documentaries that collectively open our eyes to issues that are important to our lives and to our circles. We hope that the issues raised in the documentary will encourage questions and action towards making a difference in Ossining, and in the world.

For more information on the series, including updates on screenings, guest speakers and panelists, please visit Ossining Documentary & Discussion website: ossiningdocumentaries.org or Facebook page: facebook.com/ossiningdocumentaries

The series is partnering with a number of organizations including: Green Ossining, the Ossining Arts Council, Transition Ossining, Energize Ossining, Love’Em and Leave ‘Em – NY, and the Chappaqua Friends Meeting.