



Rust Belt Brunch Cruise with Author Paul Hertneky

A Literary, Culinary & Heritage Event on the *Explorer* Riverboat

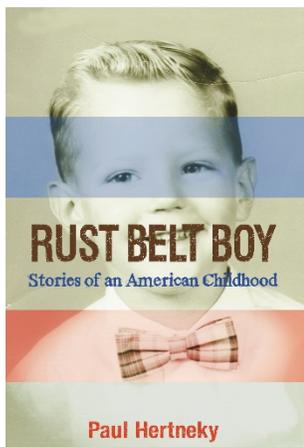
Saturday, March 31, 2018, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm

Rivers of Steel invites you to join author Paul Hertneky for a special author reading aboard the *Explorer* riverboat as he shares excerpts from his critically-acclaimed memoir, *Rust Belt Boy: Stories of an American Childhood*. His recollections bring the Ambridge of his youth to life, offering keen observations of a childhood spent growing up in a small town that was shaped by the industry that defined it and the immigrants that sustained it.

During this three-hour excursion on the Monongahela River, guests will dine with the author, celebrating the rich, ethnic culinary traditions of the region by indulging in an Easter weekend brunch, catered by Prohibition Pastries. You will also be treated to an exclusive tour of “the hardest working river in the world,” by Rivers of Steel historians, as you travel upriver to view the Edgar Thompson Works and the Carrie Blast Furnaces with a vantage point from the water. Each guest will receive a copy of *Rust Belt Boy: Stories of an American Childhood*, and have the opportunity to have it signed by the author.

Tickets are \$65 per person. Seating is very limited. Advance purchase required.

Tickets are [available here](https://www.showclix.com/event/rust-belt-brunch-cruise-with-author-paul-hertneky). (Direct URL: <https://www.showclix.com/event/rust-belt-brunch-cruise-with-author-paul-hertneky>)



MORE ABOUT *RUST BELT BOY*

When author Paul Hertneky released his memoir *Rust Belt Boy: Stories of an American Childhood* in 2016, it was praised from distinguished literary sources coast-to-coast. *The Los Angeles Review* declared “Particularly evocative writing... with beauty and clarity,” and *Publisher’s Weekly* found the writing to be “...honest, insightful, and empathetic.” Sy Montgomery, a National Book Award Finalist, said “*Rust Belt Boy* brings to life in loving, lyric detail an essential but overlooked portrait of America’s blue collar heart. It deserves to become a classic.”

Through vivid storytelling, Hertneky’s essay collection weaves through time and the smokestacks of Ambridge, Pa., inviting readers to share childhood experiences that will seem familiar to many locals – the sights and sounds of family gatherings, grandma’s kitchen, grandpa’s garden, the surrounding woods and the delight of freshly-made *pirohis*.

The excerpts Hertneky will be reading will highlight themes around family and community traditions, life for a youngster in a company town, and a glimpse of characters that inhabited the author’s world as a millworker.

**RIVERS
OF STEEL**

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MORE AUTHOR PAUL HERTNEKY

Over twenty-five years, Paul Hertneky has written stories, essays, and scripts for the *Boston Globe*, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, NBC News, The Comedy Channel, *Gourmet*, *Eating Well*, *Traveler's Tales*, *The Exquisite Corpse*, National Public Radio, Public Radio International, *Adbusters*, and many more. He has won a Solas Award for travel writing and two James Beard Award nominations. A graduate of the Bennington Writing Seminars, he serves on the faculty of Chatham University and lives with his wife, Robbie, in Hancock, New Hampshire.



MORE ABOUT THE BRUNCH FROM PROHIBITION PASTRIES

A bakery, café, and caterer located in Point Breeze, Prohibition Pastries is the creation of Eliza Jane Bowman. Her food is inspired by “tradition, family, the joy of making something delicious and sharing it with people you love.” She cherishes “the amazing scents, fabulous flavors, and that particular satisfaction that arises from creating food that will linger in your memory forever.”

The name Prohibition Pastries takes its inspiration of the blending of Bowman’s passions – the idea that her delicacies could be infused with the flavors developed through local craft beverages.

The menu created for this program includes:

- Spinach salad with blue cheese, cranberries and candied walnuts
- Signature “Boilermaker” fruit tartlets with Apricot beer glaze and whiskey cream
- Cheddar and chive quiche with a baked pierogie turnover
- Kielbasa with sauerkraut, sautéed onions and apples with sour cream on the side

The buffet-style service will also include a selection of cheeses, nut & poppyseed rolls, along with pretzel chips, soft pretzel rolls, fresh rolls and a potato dish.



MORE ABOUT THE EXPLORER RIVERBOAT

Pittsburgh’s premier green riverboat, the 94-foot *Explorer* is offers sightseeing tours, public and student programs, private charters and corporate excursions through Rivers of Steel. Interestingly, *Explorer* is the world’s first vessel to have LEED standards applied to its entire engineering and construction process and was designed to host the award-winning environmental education programs offered to K-12 students.



The *Explorer* riverboat docks on Pittsburgh's North Shore, near the headwaters of the Ohio River and adjacent to the Carnegie Science Center. Participants are encouraged to park at the science center's lot and to use the entrance off of Casino Drive (towards the river). The walkway to the Rivers of Steel dock is clearly visible from this entrance. Parking fees are not included in ticket prices. The vessel is temperature controlled, as well as handicapped accessible.

This event will be held rain or shine. In the unlikely event that weather conditions limit the ship's ability to sail, the program will be held at dock.

Questions? Email info@riversofsteel.com.

