

Greenwich Historical Society

Explore our colorful past



news+programs

january | february 2014

GREENWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

is dedicated to promoting Greenwich's unique and colorful past. Our Archives actively chronicle the life of our town for future generations, our programs and exhibitions help people of all ages better understand their connection to history, and our preservation efforts safeguard an architectural heritage that includes the National Historic Landmark Bush-Holley House, the site of the Cos Cob art colony.

BUSH-HOLLEY HISTORIC SITE

is a member of the Connecticut Art Trail, a partnership of 15 world-class museums and historic sites across the state. Discover collections rich in history and heritage, including European masterpieces, American Impressionism, ancient art and contemporary culture.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY WINTER HOURS

Storehouse Gallery

Open Wednesday through Sunday,
12–4 pm

Docent-led tours of Bush-Holley House

Saturday and Sunday, 1, 2 and 3 pm

Library and Archives

Wednesdays, 10 am–12:30 pm
and 1 pm–4 pm, or by appointment

ADMISSION

\$10 for adults

\$8 for seniors and students

Admission always free to members.

Free to the public the first Wednesday of every month.

CONTACT US

Greenwich Historical Society

39 Strickland Road

Cos Cob, CT 06807

203-869-6899

www.greenwichhistory.org

DIRECTIONS

Off I-95 at exit 4. Visit

www.greenwichhistory.org for details.

Thank You, Antiquarius Volunteers

The scale of Antiquarius, the Greenwich Historical Society's most important yearly fundraiser, demands many, many hands, hearts and minds. We were abundantly blessed in 2013.

In pursuit of meeting this year's financial goals, an ambitious program of events was undertaken that included:

- A fabulous Preview Party attended by over 100 delighted guests
- The newly re-created Greenwich Winter Antiques Show managed by Frank Gaglio, Inc.
- Presentations and book signings by a host of talented designers
- The ever-popular Holiday Boutique with a perfect combination of new vendors and old favorites
- A flawless Holiday House Tour of five stunning homes

We are very grateful to the scores of generous patrons, corporate sponsors and dedicated volunteers who donated their time and financial resources, and we would like to express our deep appreciation to the five homeowners who so generously shared their homes with hundreds of visitors on our behalf.

Finally, we would like to recognize our

Event Chairs

Tiffany Burnette and Don Casturo

Mimi and John Henry Moulton

Anne and Chuck Niemeth

Anne and David Ogilvy

Deborah and Chuck Royce

Leigh Ann and Robert Ryan

Catherine and David Tompkins

Roxanne and Hugh Vanderbilt

Honorary Chair

Mary McDonald

Committee Chairs

Ashley Allan and Holly Cassin

Co-Chairs, *Holiday Boutique*

Sandra Morgan and

Laird Morgan Tolan

Co-Chairs, *Holiday House Tour*

Rachel Kelley

Chair, *Transportation and Logistics*

Barbara H. MacDonald

Chair, *Silent Auction*

Patron Party Hosts

Linda and Richard C. Breeden



Many thanks to Linda and Richard Breeden for hosting a truly elegant Patron Party at their home on November 15. Pictured above (left to right): Executive Director Debra Mecky, Event Co-Chair Deborah Royce, Board Chairman David Strackbein, Linda and Richard Breeden

tireless event chairs and steering committee members. Not only were they incredibly capable, but they also brought a truly joyful and creative spirit to the task. The Greenwich Historical Society is indeed fortunate to be the beneficiary of the efforts of everyone involved in supporting our mission to educate, preserve and promote Greenwich history. Kudos to all!

Kickoff Luncheon Hosts

Deborah and Chuck Royce

Greenwich Winter Antiques Show Producer

Frank Gaglio, Inc.

Antiquarius 2013 was generously sponsored by:

David Ogilvy & Associates/
Christie's International Real Estate

Douglas VanderHorn Architects

Fireman's Fund Insurance Company

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Thank You, Antiquarius Volunteers
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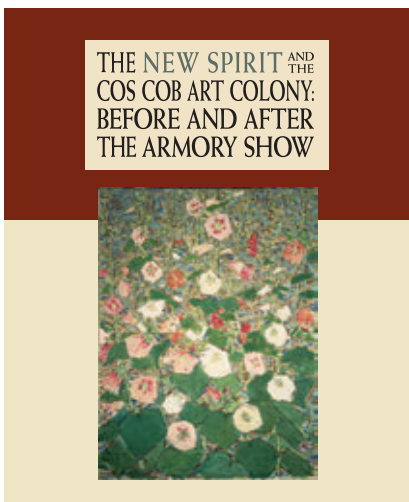
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Horseneck Wine & Liquors
Marcia Selden Catering
Sandra Morgan Interiors
Thornton Designs
Thos. Moser Greenwich Showroom

**The New Spirit and the
Cos Cob Art Colony
Closes January 12, 2014**



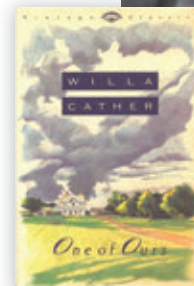
Last chance to view this gorgeous exhibition and learn how the groundbreaking Armory Show changed the face of American art forever. Have you seen the show? Want to learn more? Purchase a catalog that documents the entire exhibition and includes background on each of the artworks, written by guest curator Valerie Ann Leeds. Pick up this keepsake of the exhibition at the Storehouse Gallery Museum Shop (\$20.00) during regular hours or order by phone at 203-869-6899, Ext. 20.

Willa Cather Slept Here
A Lecture by Dr. Laura Winters



Quintessentially American author Willa Cather was a frequent guest at the Holley Boarding House, now Bush-Holley Historic Site, home of the Greenwich Historical Society. Cather famously suggested, “The world broke in two in 1922 or thereabouts.” While this radical statement related to the destruction and suffering wrought by WWI as well as to significant changes in Cather’s life, it is also evident that the revolution of Modernist visual art (as exemplified in the 1913 Armory Show) changed Cather’s approach to writing. In conjunction with the Greenwich Historical Society’s exhibition *The New Spirit and the Cos Cob Art Colony: Before and After the Armory Show*, lecturer Laura Winters will give a one-hour talk on the influence that the period leading up to World War I had on Cather and her fiction.

will explore how the period changed Cather’s themes, process and style as evidenced in the publication of *One of Ours* in 1922.



Dr. Laura Winters has taught literature, writing and film for over 30 years at the College of Saint Elizabeth in Morristown, New Jersey, and has taught for over 20 years in the graduate school at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. She has published *Willa Cather: Landscape and Exile* as well as articles about American literature and film, and edits the Willa Cather Series at FDU (Fairleigh Dickinson University) Press.

Thursday, Jan. 9, 2013, 1:00 to 2:00 pm

Vanderbilt Education Center

Admission \$10 for members;
\$15 for nonmembers

For reservations, visit www.greenwichhistory.org
or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10.

Time Travel

Once upon a time...Greenwich got the silent treatment

Indian Harbor, the magnificent shorefront estate of E. C. Benedict, played a starring role nearly 100 years ago in two popular silent films. The building and grounds served as the prince’s palace in the 1914



movie *Cinderella*, starring actress Mary Pickford (a co-founder of movie studio United Artists) in the title role. Particularly notable is the home’s grand staircase on which Cinderella loses her slipper during her midnight dash. (Archivist Christopher

Shields notes that the film is available for viewing on YouTube.)

Two years later, the estate was a setting in the movie *The Salamander*, in which actress Ruth Findlay played the lead character, described as “a sensitive little creature, neither good nor bad, with every sensation-loving

instinct alert, who is flung against the glittering, seductive luxury of New York.”

Given the long association, it’s not surprising that Greenwich locations continue to be popular with today’s movie stars, both on and off screen.

Upper Porch Circle Gift from Davidde and Ronald Strackbein

The upper porch at Bush-Holley House was a gathering place and a vantage point for artists of the Cos Cob art colony. Many of them painted views of the then-bucolic waterfront village from this perch. The Upper Porch Circle was established in 2005 to further the Historical Society's collecting objectives with particular emphasis on the acquisition of significant objects or works of art connected to the history of Bush-Holley Historic Site, Greenwich, the Cos Cob art colony or the Historical Society's mission.

To this end, Ronald and Davidde Strackbein recently donated the oil painting *Pond in Spring, 1890-1900* by Leonard Ochtman (1854-1935). We are deeply grateful to the Strackbeins for their generosity.



Leonard Ochtman was known for his landscape paintings that should, according to him, show the "effect of the day, hour or moment, the mood and not a transcript of the place." He settled in the Cos Cob area in 1891. While he did not board at Bush-Holley House, he was an active member of the Cos Cob art colony and, along with Elmer MacRae, was one of the founding members of the Greenwich Society of Artists.

Join the Upper Porch Circle

Do you own or intend to purchase a work of art or an object that meets our collection criteria? If so, you can make arrangements with the Historical Society to donate it to our permanent collection through a promised gift agreement. The agreement allows for your donation to come to the Historical Society through a special contract at a specific time designated by you.

Members of the Upper Porch Circle are invited to special receptions from time to time to learn about recent acquisitions or promised gifts, and will be informed of future opportunities to acquire works of art that meet the collecting objectives of the Historical Society. To learn more about this planned giving program, please contact Anne Bradner at 203-869-6899, Ext. 15.

for kids

Hamilton Avenue School Quilt Exhibition at Storehouse Gallery

February 5, 2014, through March 16, 2014

To celebrate the fifth year of our museum-school partnership with Hamilton Avenue Magnet School, we plan to display 13 quilts made by third-grade classes from 2009 (the first year of the partnership) through 2013. Also on display will be a quilt from the Historical Society's own collection made by Mary C. Adams, entitled *Glenville 1756-1976*. Adams' quilt is pieced with panels that reflect the history of Glenville. The show will be curated by Anna Greco, Curator of Education, and Karen Frederick, Curator and Exhibitions Coordinator. There will be an opening reception February 5 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at the Greenwich Historical Society Storehouse Gallery.



February Vacation Workshops

Residents of Bush-Holley House during the early new nation years were required to make many of their everyday household items by hand. Crafting reliable baskets for storage and

sewing quilts for winter warmth were crucial skills that we don't generally learn today, but our predecessors' survival depended on them. The Historical Society is offering afternoon workshops for kids during the February school vacation that focus on a different colonial craft each session. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about traditional handmade objects and then make them to take home.

Basket Making: Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Quilted Pillows: Wednesday, February 12, 2014

Paper Making: Thursday, February 13, 2014

Make Your Own Books and Ink: Friday, February 14, 2014

Sessions run from 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Members: \$5 per day/\$15 for the week;

nonmembers: \$8 per day/\$25 for the week

Vanderbilt Education Center

While all ages are welcome, these workshops are best for third grade and higher.

Save the Dates:

January 9

Willa Cather Slept Here
Lecture by Dr. Laura Winters

January 12

*The New Spirit and the Cos Cob Art Colony:
Before and After the Armory Show* closes

February 5

Hamilton Avenue Magnet School Quilt
Exhibition opens

February 11

Vacation Workshop: Basket Making

February 12

Vacation Workshop: Quilted Pillows

February 13

Vacation Workshop: Paper Making

February 14

Vacation Workshop:
Make Your Own Books and Ink

news

River Road/Mead Avenue Neighborhood Application for National Register of Historic Places Status Moves to Federal Level

Early this fall, the Greenwich Historical Society assisted our River Road and Mead Avenue neighbors with an application to the National Register of Historic Places, an official roster of buildings, structures, districts, objects and sites that are considered significant to the history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture of Connecticut and the nation. Registration is an honor bestowed on historic properties by both the state and the federal governments that encourages present and future owners to continue to practice thoughtful stewardship of historic properties. Owners of registered properties may donate historic preservation easements (which can reduce real estate taxes), qualify for state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits, receive technical assistance for

*14 Mead Avenue with carriage house in rear, 1875 (left) and
60 River Road, 1873 (right)*



maintenance and rehabilitation projects, and display plaques that mark the property's significance.

The River Road/Mead Avenue district is well qualified for the designation. The area features many gracious 19th-century homes sited on larger-than-average lots and offers truly fine examples of distinctive mid-to-late 19th- and early 20th-century architecture in a wide range of styles from Gothic Revival to Italianate, Second Empire, Colonial Revival and late Victorian shingle-style homes.

Executive Director Debra Mecky consulted with area residents to assist in the process, and Historical Society researcher Nils Kerschus prepared the nearly 50-page application, which required architectural surveys, photographs and documentation of the various physical features that distinguish the homes within the district. With the approval of the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Review Board on October 21, 2013, the River Road/Mead Avenue historic district has crossed the first hurdle. This application is now being reviewed by the National Park Service for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. We'll keep you posted on further developments.

If you would like to learn more about historic designations and historic properties in Greenwich, visit www.greenwichhistory.org and select the "Greenwich History/Preservation" menu.