

# Greenwich Historical Society

Explore our colorful past



news+programs

July | August 2015

## 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 17 world-class museums and historic sites across the state. Discover collections rich in New England history and culture and view artwork from one of the earliest American Impressionist art colonies in America.

## HOURS

### Storehouse Gallery

Open Wednesday through Sunday, 12–4 pm

### Docent-led tours of Bush-Holley House

Wednesday through 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](http://www.greenwichhistory.org) for details.

## Experience Greenwich Voices



GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY A GIFT FROM RUSS AND DEBBIE REYNOLDS

**G**reenwich *Voices* is not your average exhibition. Beginning in October 2014, conceptual artists and guest curators Karina Aguilera Skvirsky and Liselot van der Heijden sought interviews with residents of all ages and walks of life in public and private spaces all over town. The goal was twofold: to record how residents describe life in Greenwich and to ultimately create an oral portrait of the town and its residents at a specific time and place in history.

At an exclusive members' preview, guests were treated to a special interview with curator Liselot van der Heijden, who described the process of creating the exhibition. Guests heard snippets from some of the fascinating interviews and then convened in the Storehouse Gallery to hear longer recordings and to view vintage film clips depicting iconic scenes from our beloved town.

*Greenwich Voices* is a true multimedia departure for the Historical Society. The project is a terrific example of how history is not necessarily always about the "big" events.

Depictions of daily life provide context and have the power to shape the way future generations examine and interpret Greenwich history. All of the recordings, including those not used for the exhibition, will be saved in our Library and Archives. *Greenwich Voices* will serve as a unique gift to future residents when the town celebrates its 400th birthday in 2040.

*Greenwich Voices*, supported by a generous gift from Russ and Debbie Reynolds, may be seen at the Storehouse Gallery, Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 4:00 pm. Admission is always free to members and free to all the first Wednesday of each month. Want to learn more? Attend a special tour.

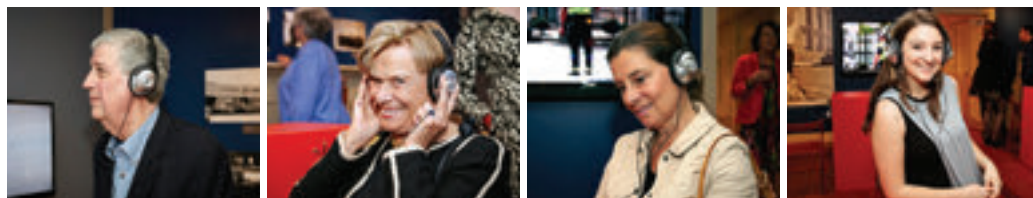
### Coffee with the Curator:

Thursday, July 9, 10:30–11:30 am

### Conversations with the Curator Reception:

Wednesday, July 22. Doors open at 5:30 pm; conversation begins at 6:00 pm

Reserve at 203-869-6899, Ext. 10. Admission is free.



Photos: Chichi Ubina

## Go on Record with *Greenwich Voices*

An oral exhibition sparks the imagination and encourages internal dialogue as well as conversation with others. After a visit, you will no doubt leave wondering just how you might answer some of the same questions the exhibition poses. If you'd like to share your thoughts, please attend recording sessions on Saturday, July 11 or August 8.

## Volunteer Reception

The Greenwich Historical Society held its annual Volunteer Recognition Reception at The Round Hill Club on April 8, 2015, to thank all our fabulous volunteers for a year of service. Social media volunteer Chrissy Heyworth was named Volunteer of the Year for enhancing the Historical Society's social media presence on Facebook. Heyworth has been writing features as well as regular weekly posts since 2012.

Outgoing Antiquarius Boutique co-chair

*Volunteer of the Year Chrissy Heyworth and Greenwich Historical Society Executive Director Debra Mecky*



Holly Cassin, Holiday House Tour co-chairs Sandra Morgan and Laird Morgan Tolan and Holiday House Tour Logistics chairman Rachel Kelley were all acknowledged for their contributions to the Historical Society's most important fundraising event. Volunteer Roxanne Vanderbilt was recognized for her many years as a writer for the Holiday House Tour.

We wish to thank all our dedicated volunteers for the time, energy and creativity they so generously give to this organization. We couldn't do it without you!

*Outgoing Antiquarius leaders (left to right), Rachel Kelley, Holly Cassin, Roxanne Vanderbilt, Laird Morgan Tolan, Sandra Morgan*



Photos: Chichi Ubina

## Hamilton Avenue Students Make Bush-Holley House Their Second Home

By the end of this school year, nearly every student at Hamilton Avenue School had visited the Bush-Holley Historic Site as a result of our museum/school partnership. The program, begun six years ago, arranges for working artists and educators to conduct classroom workshops at the school to further explore topics touched upon during site visits. It exposes students to the enjoyment and creation of art, while building a foundation for lifelong learning and appreciation of local history.

On June 9, proud students shared the results of their studies with their families and school officials, exhibiting class quilts and self-portraits and leading tours of Bush-Holley House. The delightful results reflect vivid impressions of Bush-Holley Historic Site in fresh and insightful ways and are a gratifying testament to the value of this program.



*Fifth-grade student docent Sophia Capozza receives certificate of recognition from LoriBeth Talbot, Manager of School and Youth Programs*

### SUPPORT THE HAMILTON AVENUE SCHOOL/MUSEUM PARTNERSHIP

You only understand where you're going if you know where you came from. The Historical Society continues to nurture a close partnership with Hamilton Avenue School, a Title One magnet school in Chickahominy, where more than half of the students are eligible for free or reduced-cost lunches. Many speak English as a second language. Your support of this program allows children in grades one to five to visit the Bush-Holley House each year to study the history of the town they call home. Your donation also pays for classroom enrichment activities to enhance the museum experience. Supporting this initiative is a fantastic opportunity to instill the appreciation of art and history in children who might not normally have the chance to visit a museum or historic site. To support this program, please contact Katrina Dorsey at [kdorsey@greenwichhistory.org](mailto:kdorsey@greenwichhistory.org) or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 15.

## Festa Al Fresco at Greenwich Historical Society



You're invited to our third annual Festa Al Fresco, a community potluck supper that celebrates Greenwich's Italian-American community and the Italian immigrants who settled here in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Guests are asked to bring a favorite dish (enough for six to eight) in one of four categories: antipasti/appetizer, sides/salad, pasta/entrée or dessert.

Musical entertainment will be provided by accordionist Filippo Saglimbeni and by the VoxNova Band (Marco De Lellis on keyboard, with Gianni Gregori and Luciano Siciliano on guitar and vocals). There will be bocce on the lawn and games and crafts for kids. The Storehouse Gallery will also be open so visitors can experience our current exhibition, *Greenwich Voices*.

What could be better than great food and lively company on a beautiful summer day! *Mangiamo!*

*Sunday, July 12, 2015, 4:00 to 7:00 pm*

*Bush-Holley Historic Site*

*Reservations required.*

*Email [sflinn@greenwichhistory.org](mailto:sflinn@greenwichhistory.org) or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10 to let us know what you plan to bring.*

*Members: \$10; nonmembers: \$15 for adults; \$5 for all kids 6 to 12. Kids under 6 are free.*



*Visit us on Facebook to see changing Greenwich history articles and event announcements.*

## Plans for Antiquarius 2015 Under Way

**A**ntiquarius 2015, our most important annual fundraiser and traditional kickoff to Greenwich's holiday festivities, officially came to life on a beautiful May day at a breakfast reception at the lovely home of Cosby George. Anthony Hopenhajm, president of Seaman Schepps, treated volunteers to a "show and tell" presentation on the unusual history of this iconic jewelry company. His program was arranged by this year's lead Antiquarius sponsor, Betteridge. Thanks to



*Left to right: Warren Lagerloef and Randy LaPointe of Betteridge, hostess Cosby George, Anthony Hopenhajm of Seaman Schepps*

Cosby George for her hospitality and to Betteridge for helping to make the morning very special.

We are delighted to announce that Antiquarius 2015 is in very capable hands and that you can look forward to a roster of exciting and unique holiday events.

**BETTERIDGE**  
EST 1897

## Antiquarius 2015 Committee

**Carol Crapple**  
**Barbara MacDonald**  
Co-Chairs, Patrons

**Jacki Brew**  
**Kathryn Stewart**  
Co-Chairs, Silent Auction

**Sabrina Raquet**  
Co-Chair, Preview Party

**Catie Salyer**  
**Samantha Mollett**  
Co-Chairs, Holiday Boutique

**Courtney Bieger**  
**Morgan Melnikoff**  
Co-Chairs, Holiday House Tour

**Serena Perlman**  
**Tina Mathias**  
**Liz Prazmark**  
Co-Chairs, Holiday House Tour Logistics

**Elizabeth Lake**  
**Catherine Tompkins**  
Co-Chairs, Holiday House Tour Hospitality

**Meg Nolan van Reesema**  
Chair, Journal

**Beth Taylor**  
Chair, Holiday Luncheon

**Melissa Hawks**  
Chair, Designer Forum

**Frank Gaglio**  
Producer, Greenwich Winter Antiques Show

**Davidde Strackbein**  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

List in formation



2015 Antiquarius Leadership and Volunteers

Photos: Elaine Ubina

## Greenwich Historical Society Plaques Five Landmark Properties

**T**his year's Landmark Recognition Program, graciously chaired by Robin Kencel, recognized five historic properties for their contribution to the unique architectural landscape of our town.

Accepting were homeowner Carol Burns for the Richard E. Brush House in the newly created River Road-Mead Avenue Historic District; Friends of French Farm president Nate Allen and property manager Jacek Nidzgorski for French Farm, Greenwich's first Designated Local Historic Property; Architect Andre Tchelistcheff for Chateau Paterno (the former Hirshhorn Estate) on behalf of homeowners Tommy and Dee Hilfiger; and State Senator Scott Frantz and Riverside Association president Roseann Benedict for the Riverside Avenue Bridge. Peter Malkin accepted for the restoration of the Historic Greenwich Post Office, now home to Restoration Hardware. Earlier in April, Mr. Malkin also received an Award of Merit from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation for his efforts to save the historic and archi-

tecturally significant post office.

All recipients were presented with plaques and customized books about their properties. The books were written and designed by former Landmark Recognition chairman Jack Morris and committee member Joel Dawson, with photographs by Michael Biondo.

We were especially honored to welcome Stephanie Meeks, president and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, who gave the keynote speech in which she covered research done by the Trust concerning future trends in preservation.

Congratulations to all those who received plaques! Our sincere thanks go to Ms. Meeks and to all of the hardworking and talented jurors and volunteers who made this program possible. Special thanks to corporate sponsors ACE Private Risk Services, Charles Hilton Architects, David Ogilvy & Associates, HUB International Northeast, Northern Trust, Cummings & Lockwood and *Greenwich Look* for their generosity in underwriting the event.



*Chairman Robin Kencel (center), flanked by jury members Michael Biondo, Ira Grandberg, Amanda Martocchio and John Dixon*



*Plaque recipients (left to right): Jacek Nidzgorski, Carol Burns, Andre Tchelistcheff, Peter Malkin and Roseann Benedict*

## Save the Dates:

**Now through August 30**

*Greenwich Voices*

**July 9**

*Greenwich Voices*  
Coffee with the Curator

**July 11**

*Greenwich Voices* Recording Session

**July 12**

Festa Al Fresco

**July 22**

*Greenwich Voices*  
Conversation with the Curator  
Reception

**August 8**

*Greenwich Voices* Recording Session

**September 13**

Frolic at French Farm

*The Greenwich Historical Society chronicles the past, but the future is in your hands. Please remember us in your estate plan so that future generations may continue to explore the ongoing story of our community.*



## news

# Historical Society Welcomes New Docents

**N**ew recruit Sally Bretschger is a Greenwich resident with a passion for local history. A former Regent of the Putnam Hill Chapter of the DAR, she is currently the Connecticut State DAR Community Service Award chairperson, a member of the National Society of Colonial Dames XVII Century and acting vice president of the Deacon Stephen Hart Chapter of Connecticut. Sally runs her own catering business and manufactures hair accessories.

Before starting a family and her entrepreneurial career, she served as a Yeoman 2nd Class assigned to the United States Naval Academy under the Commandant of Midshipmen.

Docent Chad Dimitri Ennis is a recent graduate of the University of Hartford with a degree in psychology and a minor in marketing. As a student, Chad worked at the University's Allen Memorial Library as a desk assistant and played the saxophone in the Colin Walter's Quintet Wedding Band. He

is an active volunteer in Howie's Helpers, assisting incoming freshmen with transitioning to life at the University of Hartford, and he participated in the Hawks Helping Hartford Community Service Program. He was also a member of the National Black MBA Association: Leaders of Tomorrow Program and was the former marketing executive for the University of Hartford's *Hartbeat Magazine*.

We are delighted to have both of these energetic and talented individuals join our team.

## Support the Greenwich Historical Society "Automatically"

Are you an Amazon shopper? If so, next time you shop, please sign up for the Amazon Smile program. Just choose the Historical Society as your designated recipient, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your purchase each time you shop. What could



be easier? For more information, visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).

*Save the Date:*

*Frolic at  
French Farm*

Sunday,  
September 13, 2015

