

# Greenwich Historical Society

Explore our colorful past



news+programs

march | april 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 17 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.

## HOURS

### Storehouse Gallery

Open Wednesday through Sunday,  
12–4 pm

Docent-led tours of Bush-Holley House  
1, 2 and 3 pm

Closed Monday and Tuesday

### 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.

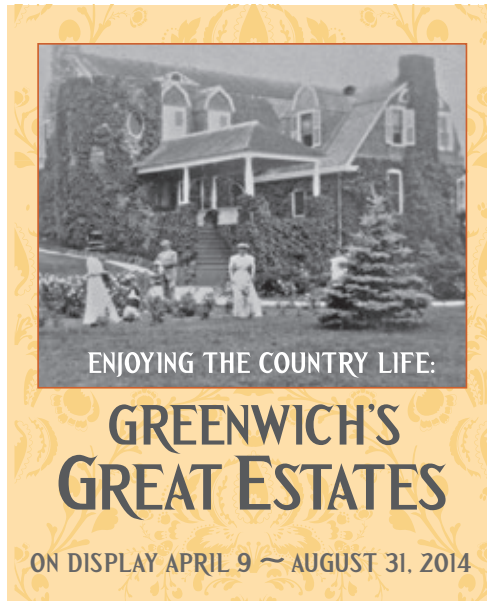
Free to the public the first Wednesday  
of every month.

## 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.



On Christmas Day 1848, the very first train traveling from New Haven to New York City passed through Greenwich, Connecticut. By 1900 E.C. Benedict, H.O. Havemeyer, William Rockefeller and J. Kennedy Tod, among others, had built homes on what had once been

## Enjoying the Country Life Cribbage Game Night

Thursday, April 24, 2014, 7:00–9:00 pm

A cribbage board handmade by Grover Cleveland will be on display as part of the upcoming *Great Estates* exhibition. Sir John Suckling is credited with the invention of cribbage in the 17th century. It became popular with New England colonists and was quickly adopted by sailors and fishermen as a way to pass the time. Local business mogul E.C. Benedict and President Grover Cleveland were avid cribbage players, often aboard Benedict's yacht *Oneida*, and if they forgot a board, they would make one

farmland. And by 1921, Greenwich had the highest per capita income in the country.

What had changed this rural coastal community to aspire to rival Newport, Rhode Island? What had enticed some of the wealthiest families in New York to make Greenwich their summer retreat or even their permanent home?

Our spring exhibition explores the era between 1880 and 1920, a period marked by unbridled spending in Greenwich by America's elite to build estates of staggering proportions, and examines its impact on the people and cultural landscape of our town. How these families lived, what they bought and what they built will be seen through clothing, photographs and objects drawn primarily from the collection of the Greenwich Historical Society.

Members Opening Reception is Thursday, April 10, 2014, 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Save the date!

Generously sponsored by:

GABELLI FUNDS



DOUGLAS VANDERHORN  
ARCHITECTS

GREENWICH  
MAGAZINE  
MOFFLY MEDIA

Exclusive Media Sponsor



Cribbage board from the  
Greenwich Historical Society Collection

by hand rather than do without their favorite game.

Whether you are a beginner or live for "muggins," join us (and the ranks of aforementioned titans) for drinks and games on Thursday, April 24, 2014, 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Vanderbilt Education Center

Members: \$10; nonmembers: \$15 (includes wine, beer and snacks). Ages 21 and over please. ID required.



1897 Railroad  
Commuter Ticket

## Archives Collection Goes Digital: Bringing the Archives to You and the World!

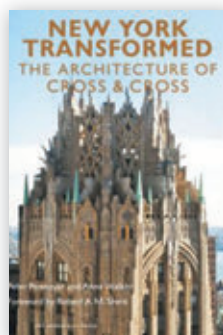
Over the past year, Archivist Christopher Shields has been hard at work shepherding our collection into the 21st century—first by researching “content management” software to fit our needs and later by scanning, carefully referencing and posting each individual document online. Given the scope of collections at the Greenwich Historical Society, this will be an ongoing challenge, but the first exciting posts are up, and we are proud to share this wonderful Greenwich-centric material with you.

Visit our website today and look for “Digital Archives” under the “Library & Archives” menu. You’ll find historic photographs that illustrate the town’s many changes over the years, postcards featuring Greenwich neighborhoods and landmarks, ephemera including advertising, tickets and flyers and a variety of manuscripts. There are also special sections on Bush-Holley House and materials from our WWI collection, the subject of our fall 2014 exhibition. We’ll be adding new materials over the coming months.

## 2014 Landmark Program to Feature Peter Pennoyer and Author Anne Walker



In addition to presenting plaques to homeowners of four historic Greenwich homes and to the Round Hill Club, this year’s Landmark Recognition Program will feature a talk by Peter Pennoyer entitled “Narratives of Manners and Style: The Houses of Cross & Cross.” Complementing our *Great Estates of Greenwich* exhibition, the lecture will focus on country houses and estates designed and built by brothers John Walter and Eliot Cross, whose ambitious portfolio included homes for a renowned list of clients including Electra Havemeyer Webb and Henry Francis du Pont and as iconic structures as the RCA Victor (GE) Building and Tiffany & Co.’s Fifth Avenue flagship building.



Peter Pennoyer, AD100 and the Chairman of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art, has been called “one of the leading lights among today’s Modern Traditional architects” by Robert A.M. Stern.

Pennoyer, with coauthor Anne Walker, recently completed a new book about Cross & Cross entitled *New York Transformed*. The book explores the brothers’ significant influence on real estate development as well as the architecture of their time, and will be available for purchase and signing.

Sunday, April 27, 2014, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

The Round Hill Club, 33 Round Hill Club Road,  
Greenwich, CT

\$75 per person; \$250 for Patrons level; \$500 for Benefactor level

Advance reservations required. Invitations will be mailed or visit [www.greenwichhistory.org](http://www.greenwichhistory.org) or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10 for tickets.

We are grateful to Northern Trust and to David Ogilvy & Associates for underwriting this event.



Northern Trust

David Ogilvy & Associates  
REALTORS

Exclusive Affiliate of  
Christie’s International Real Estate



Exclusive Media Sponsor

## Time Travel On Holiday in Greenwich: The Edgewood Inn

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Greenwich was a popular leisure-time destination that featured a number of architecturally impressive and luxurious hotels. Some were located right on the Sound while others were situated to take advantage of the town’s bucolic countryside. All of them played an important role in the lively social scene enjoyed by wealthy residents and visitors to the area, serving as popular venues for elaborate luncheons, elegant dinners and other festive gatherings.

The Edgewood Inn, which a 1939 article described as “for many years one of the largest and most fashionable summer hotels in



this section,” opened its doors in June 1902. It was located near the intersection of today’s Edgewood Place, Edgewood Drive and Valley Drive on land that was once a part of the Colonel Thomas A. Mead farm.

Construction of the Inn was financed by Nathaniel Witherell, a wealthy New York shipping tycoon and leading Greenwich real estate developer and philanthropist. As

a partner in the newly formed Edgewood Land Company, Witherell was no doubt eager for its guests to enjoy the Inn’s country setting and, hopefully, be enticed to purchase land in the surrounding subdivision.

While the train had brought visitors to Greenwich for many years, it’s interesting to note the emphasis on automobile travelers in the pages from period marketing brochures. These “automobilists” could revive themselves from their long journeys (on roads which, by today’s standards, were probably challenging on a good day). Refreshed, they could either continue to other sites in New England or choose to enjoy the many amenities right here.





## Hands-On History Spring Vacation Workshops

The Historical Society is once again offering fun and imaginative art and history workshops for kids during the upcoming public school vacation week. This time around, projects will be based on themes from our exhibition *Enjoying the Country Life: Greenwich's Great Estates*.

**Dream House:** Greenwich became the ideal place to build during the Gilded Age. It still is. Kids will construct their very own dream houses out of cardboard boxes.

*Tuesday, April 15*

**East Meets West:** Japanese art techniques significantly influenced the work of the Cos Cob art colony. Kids will learn about Sumi-e ink painting and compare the technique to traditional Western watercolors by creating their own works of art in each style.

*Wednesday, April 16*

**High Flyers:** Enjoy an activity that's synonymous with spring! Make and fly custom-designed kites.

*Thursday, April 17*

**Garden Arty:** Potatoes, lemons, apples and celery are more than just delicious. They're great for making stamps and creating works of art. Join us for this tasty project and take home one-of-a-kind placemats.

*Friday, April 18*

*Sessions run from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.*

*Vanderbilt Education Center*

*Members: \$5 per day/\$15 for the week;  
nonmembers: \$8 per day/\$25 for the week.*

*To register, visit [www.greenwichhistory.org](http://www.greenwichhistory.org) or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10.*

*All ages welcome.*



*Pictured here on opening night are Hamilton Avenue principal Cynthia Womack, art teacher Nancy Moskowitz (also a member of our Education Committee) and Curator of Education Anna Greco.*

## Students Shine at Hamilton Avenue Quilt Partnership Exhibition

An exhibition featuring quilts made by Hamilton Avenue Magnet School third grade classes opened at the Storehouse Gallery on February 6. Quilts featured in the exhibition were created between 2009 and 2013 and serve as a colorful reminder of the many students who have passed through our doors as a result of this special museum-school partnership. Individual panels offer imaginative interpretations

of what students saw and learned. Subjects include everything from "aerial view" depictions of the New Nation Rooms to re-creations of works of art hung throughout the house. When pieced together, the students' panels represent a lasting collective memory of a visit to Bush-Holley Historic Site and are vivid examples of the impact we can have on young minds through your support of education programs.

## Camp Registration Now Open



Winter winds may be blowing, but it's not too early to start planning summer fun for your children or visiting grandchildren. The Greenwich Historical Society's History and Art Camp uses the National Historic Landmark Bush-Holley Historic Site and its staff, collections and archives to offer first- through seventh-graders

a highly interactive summer experience with a wide variety of activities.

The first week immerses campers in the life of New England colonists during the American Revolution, while the second week explores the Cos Cob art colony and its relationship to Impressionist artwork that was inspired by the local landscape.

Each week also includes a field trip and a family reception to showcase what campers have learned and created. The program is staffed by experienced educators and counselors dedicated to providing an enriching camp experience. Additional activities are led by professional artists and historical re-enactors. For a full description of activities, visit [www.greenwichhistory.org/camp.php](http://www.greenwichhistory.org/camp.php). Members and last year's campers can register early to guarantee a great time at last year's tuition rates.

**Senior Historians: Grades 4–7  
July 7–11, July 14–18**

**Junior Historians: Grades 1–3  
July 21–25, July 28–August 1**

**Deadline for Priority Registration:  
March 15**

*Tuition Rates: \$550 for two-week session;  
\$350 for single week. Available to current  
Historical Society members' children and prior  
season's campers.*

**Deadline for Open Registration: June 15**  
*Tuition Rates: \$700 for two-week session;  
\$450 for single week.*

*Registration forms are available online at  
[www.greenwichhistory.org](http://www.greenwichhistory.org).*

*For more information, contact LoriBeth Talbot  
at 203-869-6899, Ext. 31 or email [ltalbot@greenwichhistory.org](mailto:ltalbot@greenwichhistory.org).*

## Save the Dates:

**April 9**

Volunteer Recognition Event  
(invitations to come)

**April 10**

*Enjoying the Country Life:  
Greenwich's Great Estates*  
Members Opening Reception

**April 15**

Vacation Workshop:  
*Dream Houses from Cardboard Boxes*

**April 16**

Vacation Workshop:  
*East Meets West, Sumi-e Ink Painting  
and Watercolor Painting*

**April 17**

Vacation Workshop: *High Flyers Kite  
Making*

**April 18**

Vacation Workshop: *Garden Arty:  
Making Stamps with Fruits and  
Vegetables*

**April 24**

Cribbage Game Night

**April 27**

Landmarks Recognition Program  
Featuring Lecture by Peter Pennoyer on  
Cross & Cross

## news

### Vanderbilt Education Center: The Perfect Setting for Your Special Spring or Summer Event

**S**urrounded by a beautiful garden landscape, our restored mid-19th century barn is the ideal venue for your next meeting, reception or intimate gathering. Amenities include a fully equipped kitchen, state-of-the-art video and sound systems, and inviting furnishings.

Get more information at our website, [www.greenwichhistory.org](http://www.greenwichhistory.org), or contact Michele Couture, Director of Operations and Visitor Services, at 203-869-6899, Ext. 20 to schedule a visit or secure a date.



### LoriBeth Talbot Assumes New Responsibilities

**W**e are delighted to announce that LoriBeth Talbot has agreed to take on the newly created post of Manager of School and Youth Programs. She will oversee school tour reservations and family programming and will serve as our 2014 Camp Director. LoriBeth is a 2007 graduate of Houghton College in upstate New York and specialized in sculpture and philosophy. She became a docent in 2011 and has assisted in numerous educational programs and events over the last two years.

