

Greenwich Historical Society

Explore our colorful past



news+programs

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GREENWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

is dedicated to promoting Greenwich's unique and colorful past. Our collections 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 18 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.

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 and by appointment.

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 and children under 12.

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/contact

DIRECTIONS

Off I-95 at exit 4. Visit

www.greenwichhistory.org/visit
for details.



With 36 miles of coastline, the sea has always played a significant role in the history of Greenwich. Since the town's founding in 1640, boats plying Long Island Sound were a regular and reliable means of commercial trade and passenger transport. Yet by June 1896, signaling the end of an era, the last market sloop sailed from the Lower Landing in Cos Cob to New York.

With the rise of pleasure yachting, new maritime pursuits appeared on the horizon. Yachting soon became both a sport and a leisure activity associated with the grand lifestyle of the wealthy tycoons who built the great estates. Over time, as boating became more affordable, Greenwich once again witnessed a proliferation of boats of every

Close to the Wind: Our Maritime History

March 30 – September 4, 2016

size and description, result in the establishment of many organizations dedicated to boating.

Enthusiastically endorsing the new show, Exhibition Committee Chairman Jessica Guff noted, "We wanted to honor the unique relationship of Greenwich to both the Long Island Sound and our many local rivers and waterways. Recreation and commerce on the water transcend social and economic distinctions. Our waters are open to everyone and unite us in enjoyment and appreciation."

Through paintings, photographs, maps, charts and instruments, this exhibition will explore the rich history of maritime Greenwich and share the myriad stories that link us to our coastal roots.

Members' Preview: Tuesday, March 29, 6:00–8:00 pm

Yachting on Long Island Sound and Beyond

An Evening with John Rousmaniere

Mark your calendar for what promises to be a fascinating lecture on Greenwich's links to the greater history of American yachting. Drawing from his vast knowledge of the subject, author and historian John Rousmaniere will discuss the rise of yacht racing on Long Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean at our first program held in conjunction with the spring/summer exhibition *Close to the Wind: Our Maritime History*.

Rousmaniere has authored more than 30 books on yacht design, marine photography, classic boats, seamanship and boat safety and is



John Rousmaniere at the helm

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2016 Landmark Recognition Program

Five Greenwich Landmarks to Be Recognized in 2016



Grand Central Terminal Restoration Architect Frank J. Prial, Jr. to Be Keynote Speaker

Keynote speaker Frank J. Prial, Jr. will talk about the rich and vibrant

history, restoration and cultural significance of Grand Central Terminal at this year's Landmark Recognition Program. Prial holds the distinction of having been project architect for the most recent restoration of Grand Central Terminal and is familiar with every nook and cranny of the iconic structure.

Says Robin Kencel, chairman of this year's Landmark Recognition Program, "It's an honor to have one of America's foremost preservation architects share his insights at our annual event. His stewardship and commitment to the preservation of significant historical and cultural landmarks will be an inspiration for maintaining our unique and cherished heritage here in Greenwich."

As an associate of Beyer Blinder Belle,

The Historical Society will recognize five distinguished historic properties at its 2016 Landmark Recognition Program on Sunday, April 17. This year's lineup includes: "The Orchards" on Round Hill Road, commissioned for J. P. Morgan's daughter; a fabulous 1893 Victorian and a charming stone and brick Tudor cottage (both in Riverside); an elegant stone manse in Khakum Wood and The Mill Complex in Glenville, a commercial property with a long and vibrant history.

Led by Landmarks chairman Robin Kencel, a group comprised of architects Ira

a firm recognized for its commitment to preservation and stewardship of significant historic, cultural and civic landmarks, Prial has led many of the firm's most celebrated projects. His portfolio includes the lobby of the Empire State Building, the Morgan Library & Museum, the Baltimore Basilica, the Saint Paul Union Depot and Castle Clinton National Monument. He is currently leading the restoration of Yale University's historic Memorial Hall and Commons buildings.

Prial was a featured speaker in "Grand Central," one of PBS's most frequently aired *American Experience* episodes, and is a regular presenter and visiting critic on architecture, preservation and transportation planning. He has served on the boards of advisors of the Historic Districts Council and the Art Deco Society of New York, and is a trustee of the Vanderbilt Cemetery Association.

from 2010 to 2016.

Rousmaniere has logged over 40,000 nautical miles in nine Newport-Bermuda Races, two Fastnet races, multiple one-design regattas and overnights. He has shared his experience through participation in countless boating seminars and received numerous distinguished awards.

Rousmaniere is a graduate of Columbia

Grandberg and Amanda Martocchio, architecture historian John Dixon, preservation architect Rose Scott Long-Rothbart and architectural photographer Michael Biondo has carefully vetted and researched the properties. Each owner will receive a Landmark plaque, a full title search, an architectural survey and a customized book about his or her property. The program, originally known as "Signs of the Times" and begun in 1987, now embraces 300 homes, commercial buildings and sites. It encourages appreciation of our rich architectural heritage in addition to documenting and supporting preservation of historic properties.

Architectural preservation is at a critical juncture in Greenwich. Show your support by attending this important event.

Sunday, April 17, 2016

Reception at 4:00 pm; program begins at 4:45 pm
Greenwich Country Club

Tickets: \$75 per person; \$250 for Patron level; \$500 for Benefactor level

Champagne, wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Reservations required.

Reserve at www.greenwichhistory.org/adult or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10.

This event is sponsored by David Ogilvy & Associates/Exclusive Affiliate for Christie's Great Estates, Charles Hilton Architects and Greenwich LOOK, exclusive media sponsor.

University and a member of the Cruising Club of America and the New York City Yacht Club.

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Doors open at 6:30 pm; lecture begins at 7:00 pm with Q&A to follow.

Vanderbilt Education Center

Members: \$10 and nonmembers: \$15

Yachting on Long Island Sound and Beyond: An Evening with John Rousmaniere *Continued from page 1*

the author of (among others) *Fastnet*, *Force 10* and *The Annapolis Book of Seamanship*. He has penned histories of the Bermuda Race and the America's Cup as well as that of Indian Harbor Yacht Club, and he chaired media operations for the Newport-Bermuda Races

Story Barn: *Any Port in a Storm*

Story Barn is a favorite biannual program in which a given theme is explored through personal storytelling. As in life, stories run the gamut, but we guarantee that each and every one will keep you on the edge of your seat. This time we're connecting Story Barn with our exhibition *Close to the Wind: Our Maritime History* with the theme *Any Port in a Storm*. Storytellers are allowed to creatively interpret the topic with just two caveats: stories must be true (okay, a little embellishment is allowed), and stories must last between five and ten minutes (no notes allowed). We are currently looking for those who would like to participate. If you're game but need a little help, a workshop and practice session will be

offered prior to the program.

Bonnie Levison will once again serve as host for this popular program, modeled on a format developed by The Moth, where storytellers offer extraordinary insights into the human condition by sharing experiences in story slams, live performances, radio broadcasts and workshops. Levison is currently a storytelling coach for The Moth and has led Story Barn at the Historical Society since 2009. A former marketing executive at Young & Rubicam and NBC, she co-founded The Nantucket Comedy Festival in 2008 and produces a variety of comedy shows.

Any Port in a Storm will take place in an informal, cabaret-like setting, and wine, beer and light snacks will be served.



Levison introduces storyteller Kit Kittle at the Fall 2015 Story Barn.

Friday, April 1, 2016

Doors to the Storehouse Gallery exhibition and the Vanderbilt Education Center open at 7:30 pm; performance starts at 8:00 pm

\$15 for members; \$20 for nonmembers

Vanderbilt Education Center

If you would like to share a story, please contact Anna Greco at agreco@greenwichhistory.org or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 31.

Exploring the Hudson River School with Elizabeth Kornhauser



In the first half of the 19th century, a group of like-minded painters, poets and writers working in New York developed a distinctive vision of the American landscape that came to be known as the Hudson River School. Employing Thomas Cole's work, landscape scenes from the Hudson River to Yosemite Valley and scenes from the Arctic and South America, Dr. Elizabeth Mankin Kornhauser, Alice Pratt Brown Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, will talk about how these powerful landscape interpretations shaped our national and cultural identity and how they demonstrated an early awareness of the value of preserving natural sites for future generations.

One of the foremost experts in American art, Kornhauser oversees the American paintings collection and participated in its 2012 reinstallation at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She co-curated the Met's *Thomas Hart Benton's America Today Mural Rediscovered*, *Sargent: Portraits of Artists*

and Friends and *George Caleb Bingham and the River*. She served as Deputy Director, Chief Curator and Kriebler Curator of American Paintings at the Wadsworth Atheneum.

Dr. Kornhauser received a PhD from Boston University in American Studies and an MA from the Cooperstown Graduate Programs in American Folk Culture. The recipient of numerous grants and awards related to the study of American art, Dr. Kornhauser serves as a member of the advisory board of the Thomas Cole Historic Site and has taught undergraduate and graduate courses at Trinity College in Hartford.

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Doors open at 6:30 pm for light refreshments; lecture begins at 7:00 pm with Q&A to follow.

Members: \$15; nonmembers: \$20

Free for teachers, students and Patron level members

Vanderbilt Education Center

As part of our Cultural Landscape Series, this lecture is made possible with support from the David R.A. Wierdsma Fund.



The Oxbow, Thomas Cole

Your Contributions at Work!

By supporting the Annual Fund you ensure that history stays alive in Greenwich. Every year, thanks to you, we expand our reach into the community and schools. With your help we continue to connect with more people online through our digital collection, while onsite programs draw people of all ages to our campus to explore Greenwich's colorful past. Please consider making an Annual Fund contribution online today at www.greenwichhistory.org/fund_trust.

Thank you!

—*Katrina Dorsey, Director of Development*

39 Strickland Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807

Save the Dates:

March 3

Exploring the Hudson River School
with Elizabeth Kornhauser

March 29

Members' Preview for *Close to the Wind: Our Maritime History*

March 30

Close to the Wind: Our Maritime History Opens to the Public

April 1

Story Barn: *Any Port in a Storm*

April 1

Early Registration Deadline for Camp

April 14

Volunteer Reception (invitations will follow)

April 17

Landmarks Recognition Program

April 19

Yachting on Long Island Sound and Beyond: An Evening with John Rousmaniere

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



*Bruce MacLeish
in Bush-Holley
House*

New Grant Enables Assessment of Agricultural Collection

The Greenwich Historical Society recently received a \$9,998 capacity building grant from CT Humanities. This grant supports a conservation assessment to help the Historical Society develop best-practices stewardship of collections entrusted to its care. Professional consultant Bruce MacLeish reviewed and prioritized our collections for exhibition and digitization with a special focus on our agricultural objects and materials. MacLeish's findings

will allow us to better understand the variety and value of what we own and will help our curators examine these objects from a fresh perspective. As we continue to explore Greenwich's agricultural roots, the study will also help us develop new, humanities-based themes for future exhibitions, educational programs and lectures.

MacLeish is former curator of collections at the New York State Historical Association and Farmers' Museum and an adjunct professor for 19 years at the Cooperstown Graduate Program. He spent three days on site in January closely examining the Historical Society's art, history and archival collections, and developed recommendations for their best use, care and storage. The grant was especially welcome in light of our plans to expand and improve campus facilities so as to more broadly share archival materials and objects with the public.

Our sincere thanks to CT Humanities for their generous support.

Is Gardening Your Game?

We are seeking volunteers to join the

Green Team, a volunteer group that assists with the planting and maintenance of Bush-Holley Historic Site's gardens. The heirloom vegetable garden is planted each



year based on a journal kept by the artist Elmer MacRae during the early 1900s when the house was the center of the Cos Cob art colony. MacRae's notes have left us a perfect vehicle for interpretation of our bucolic historic landscape.

The Green Team provides a wonderful opportunity for beginners, master gardeners, scout troops and garden club members who seek a meaningful, hands-on project. Perks include sharing in the garden's bounty, recognition in our annual report and an invitation to the annual volunteer reception.

For information, contact Michele Couture, Director of Operations and Visitor Services, at mcouture@greenwichhistory.org or 203-869-6899, Ext. 20.