



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

Curator's Eye Tours

Wednesday and Sunday at 12:15

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

Always free to members and
children under 18.

Free to all visitors the first Wednesday
of each 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.

Details at www.greenwichhistory.org/visit

How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution:

Lecture by Walter Isaacson to Benefit the Historical Society's Fund for Program Enrichment

We are very pleased to announce that distinguished historian, journalist and best-selling author Walter Isaacson will be with us in April to talk about his highly acclaimed book, *The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution* (Simon & Schuster). While citing the visionaries whose genius and imagination led to the creation of modern computers and the Internet, the book also focuses on the crucial role that collaboration and teamwork played in the rise of the digital age. Isaacson will touch upon the contributions of luminaries such as Bill Gates and Steve Wozniak, but also shed light on lesser-known (but no less important) figures such as Ada Lovelace, English mathematician (and daughter of Lord Byron), and Alan Turing, WWII cryptanalyst, theoretical computer scientist and subject of the historical thriller *The Imitation Game*.

Walter Isaacson is currently president and CEO of the Aspen Institute; he formerly served as chairman and CEO of CNN and was editor of *TIME* magazine. His list of best-selling biographies includes *Steve Jobs*, *Einstein: The Life of a Genius*, *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life* and *Kissinger: A Biography*. Isaacson is chair emeritus of Teach for America and former chair of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (2009–2012) and vice-chair of the Louisiana Recovery Authority (2005–2007). A member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, his current board service includes United Airlines, Tulane University, the Overseers of Harvard University, New Orleans Tri-centennial Commission, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Society of

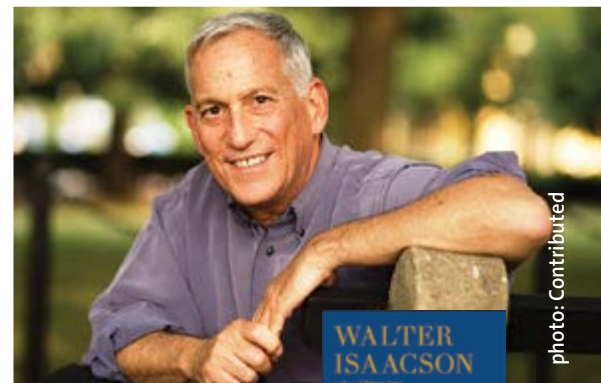


photo: Contributed

American Historians, Carnegie Institution for Science and My Brother's Keeper Alliance.

Individual program tickets are \$375 each and include cocktails, dinner and lecture. Patron level tickets are \$1,000 each and, additionally, include a pre-event meet-and-greet with the author, book signing, preferred seating and a gift bag.

Proceeds will support the Historical Society's Fund for Program Enrichment, which supports and sustains educational initiatives, exhibitions, public programs, digital collections and preservation initiatives. The event has been generously underwritten by The Resource Foundation and is sponsored by Northern Trust. *Serendipity Magazine* is the exclusive media sponsor.

Thursday, April 20, 2017, 6:30 to 9:00 pm
Greenwich Country Club

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



Upcoming Exhibition:

Jim and Jane Henson: Creative Work, Creative Play

Jim
& Jane
Henson: **Creative Work, Creative Play**

April 5
through
October 8
2017



photo: Juliet Newman

Jim and Jane Henson with their children in front of their home on Round Hill Road in Greenwich, 1970. Left to right: Jane, Lisa, Cheryl, Kermit the Frog, Jim, John and Brian. Heather would arrive that December.

We eagerly anticipate the opening of *Jim and Jane Henson: Creative Work, Creative Play* on April 5. The Hensons, creators of the Muppets, lived in Greenwich from 1964 to 1971, an intensely formative and inventive period for both. During that time, they simultaneously raised a growing family and radically transformed the art of puppetry, laying the groundwork for what would become a global entertainment phenomenon.

Using paintings, objects, puppets, photographs and film, *Jim and Jane Henson: Creative Work, Creative Play* will focus on the overlap of the Hensons' family life and their contributions as artists, performers and parents involved in the establishment of the Mead School. A host of exhibition-related programs designed to focus on the delightful and multifaceted genius of the Hensons will include family events, an evening with daughter Cheryl Henson, film screenings, discussions and Curator's Eye tours.

Members: We look forward to seeing you at the exclusive Members' Preview: Wednesday, April 5, 2017, 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

RSVP: shealy@greenwichhistory.org or 203-869-6899, Ext. 10.

Story Barn: **Imagine That!**

The theme for the next Story Barn stems from our upcoming exhibition, *Jim and Jane Henson: Creative Work, Creative Play*. Best known as creators of the Muppets, the Hensons' visionary puppetry transformed American entertainment and had an

Lucy Van Atta enralls the crowd at Spring '16 Story Barn.

enormous impact on early childhood education. With seemingly limitless imaginations, Jane and Jim Henson worked in tandem to raise five young children in Greenwich (1964–1971) and often blurred the lines between burgeoning careers and family life, gleaned inspiration from both.

Mirroring the Hensons, their revolutionary cast of puppet characters also blurred (and often obliterated) the lines between “the work of learning” and play. Imagine that!

Join us as a group of local storytellers riff on work, play, creativity and the power of imagination. Story Barn is hosted by the incomparable Bonnie Levison, comedienne, storytelling coach for

The Moth and cofounder of the Nantucket Comedy Festival. The program takes place in a relaxed cabaret-like setting; wine, beer and light snacks are included in the price of admission.

Anyone over age 21 is invited to participate but must sign up and pitch their story in advance. If you have a tale to share, contact Anna Greco at agreco@greenwichhistory.org or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 31. One-on-one coaching is offered for those who would like guidance or would like to polish their presentation before the event.

Friday, April 28, 2017

*Doors open at 7:00 pm;
performance begins at 7:30 pm.*

Beer, wine and light refreshments are included in the price of admission.

*Greenwich Historical Society,
Vanderbilt Education Center*

Members: \$15; nonmembers: \$20. Reservations strongly encouraged.



Fast Forward:

Bertha Potter Boeing, From Tod's Point to the Jet Age

In celebration of Women's History Month, lecturer Barbara Hiscock Spaeth will talk about her famous aunt, Bertha Potter Boeing, and the key role she played in American commercial aviation. The story also has a Greenwich connection: Bertha, her widowed mother Alice and two sisters were the very first residents of Innis Arden Cottage. Bertha went on to attend Rosemary Hall in Greenwich and to marry aircraft manufacturing pioneer William Boeing in 1921. Labeled her husband's "true" partner, she was involved with Boeing Aircraft, United Airlines and a number of companies that make up today's United Technologies. Boeing was an active supporter of Seattle's Museum of Flight (the West Coast's version of the Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian) and



Bertha Potter Boeing

founded a waterfront community in Seattle, aptly named "Innis Arden."

Lecturer Barbara Hiscock Spaeth is a Seattle resident and graduate of the University of Washington. She began her career in journalism as the first female on-air television news reporter for KING-TV (NBC

Seattle), went on to win an Emmy at KOMO (ABC Seattle) and became the first female radio news director in the region. Spaeth is the author of several local histories, has been active in Seattle historic preservation and is currently the National Historian for The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America.

This program is presented in partnership with the Greenwich Point Conservancy.

Sunday, March 5, 2017

Doors open at 4:00 pm;

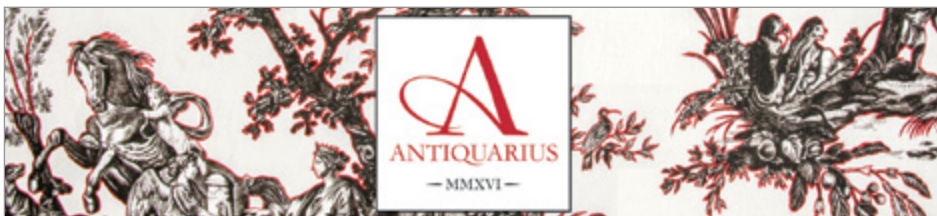
Lecture 4:30–5:30 pm.

Innis Arden Cottage, Greenwich Point, Tod's Driftway, Old Greenwich CT

Admission is free, but reservations are required. RSVP to 203-869-6899, Ext. 10.

Light refreshments will be served.

ANTIQUARIUS 2016: A SMASHING SUCCESS



The holidays are well behind us, but Antiquarius would not be complete without acknowledging the fabulous volunteers, patrons and corporate supporters who made it possible! Our sincere thanks go...

- To Ashley Allan, Ashley Bruynes, Deb Robinson and Camilla McGraw, who worked with Honorary Design Chair Alessandra Branca to transform the Greenwich Winter Antiques Show Preview Party into a holiday scene right out of the Black Forest
- To Patron Co-chairs Carrie Emery and Zoe Khayatt and to Holly Cassin, Elizabeth Lake and Leigh Ann Ryan for working so hard to engage our patrons
- To Holiday Boutique Co-chairs Samantha

Mollett and Amanda Lynch for record-breaking sales

- To Samantha Knapp and Carrie Wallack for co-chairing a wonderful lecture and booksigning with the delightful Alessandra Branca
- To six generous homeowners and our tireless Holiday House Tour Co-chairs Catherine Tompkins and Courtney Bieger
- To Victoria Frank and Casey Carey and their team of over 100 volunteer hostesses who welcomed 650 guests during the tour
- To Co-chairs Rachel Kelley and Suzanne Eason Hopson, who managed transportation and logistics without a hitch
- To Co-chairs Jacki Brew and Kathryn Stewart for adding a successful raffle to this year's lineup
- To Media Chair Alicia Laing (a 21-year

veteran!) and Journal Chair Meg Nolan van Reesema for lending their expertise to our communications efforts

- To Melissa Hawks for taking corporate partnerships to a new level as chairman of the Designer Forum
- To our board liaisons, Anne Ogilvy, Barbara MacDonald and Alease Fisher Tallman, for wise advice and managerial skills

We are also very grateful for the ongoing and critical support of our generous corporate sponsors: Betteridge, David Ogilvy & Associates, Douglas VanderHorn Architects, A.P. Construction, The Ashforth Company, NEBCO Insurance Services, Inc., DOYLE, Designer Forum members and *Greenwich Magazine*.

Visit our new blog at
greenwichhistory.org/blog
and follow us on:



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Save the Dates:

March 5

Fast Forward:

Bertha Potter Boeing, From Tod's Point to the Jet Age

April 5

Jim and Jane Henson: Creative Work, Creative Play

Opening and Members' Preview

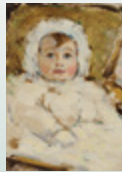
April 20

Walter Isaacson Lecture and Dinner

April 28

Story Barn: *Just Imagine!*

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

Archives Hosts History Teachers

This winter, eight Greenwich High School history teachers and 14 more from Darien High spent professional development days visiting our site. The teachers toured the Storehouse Gallery, Bush-Holley House and the Library & Archives and participated in workshops demonstrating object-based learning and inquiry-centered teaching methods that showcased our collections, led by Archivist Christopher Shields, Curator Karen Frederick and Curator of Education Anna Greco.

The workshops focused on primary-source materials from WWI, the Civil War, the New Deal and the American Revolution. Participants discussed how these original materials might be incorporated into existing curricula to connect our local story with the study of broader world events. All enjoyed seeing our Greenwich collections and learning how the Historical Society creates and interprets exhibitions for the public.

Greenwich history teachers uncover Archives treasures.



Is Gardening Your Game?

We are seeking volunteers to join the Green Team, a 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 journals kept by artist Elmer MacRae in the early 1900s when the house was his home and the center of the Cos Cob art colony. MacRae's notes have left us a perfect vehicle for interpretation of our beautiful 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. 21.



Veteran volunteer "Chopper" patrols the garden.



Reimagine the Campus Goes Public

Capital Campaign Update from Chairman Peter Malkin

Dear Friends,

What a difference a year has made. It was just a year ago in January that I wrote to announce the Greenwich Historical Society's *Reimagine the Campus Campaign*. Since that time, there have been many dinners and other quiet events to share that news; our Campaign Committee has reached out to their networks and spread the word about the amazing transformation that the Greenwich Historical Society will undergo; and nearly \$11 million has been committed by more than 80 private supporters.

I am particularly gratified that construction is ahead of schedule and under budget. As you can see from the photographs in this newsletter, we have cleared the new parking lot—which will more than double the number of parking spaces and provide access to the entire campus. We shall break ground for the main building in March and are now projected to open our new campus in September 2018, a year ahead of schedule.

Of course, the journey is never complete until Campaign goals are fully met. We must, with the matching gift, fund \$13.5 million in costs for the campus and the Toby's Tavern restoration, as well as support for our extraordinary exhibitions and Title I education programs. For our Endowment increase to sustain this jewel for the community for a long, long time, we have a \$5 million goal, only \$500,000 having been committed. And being ahead of schedule, expenses are ahead of schedule as well, and so we must also accelerate our public fundraising.

With your help we shall reach our goal. Our *Reimagine the Campus Campaign* has been a testament to the impact private supporters can have, working with our town, state and federal officials, creating a private-public partnership that will enhance our beloved Greenwich community. Since our public launch we have opened up many possibilities for more wide-ranging support. But we have so much further to go, so please help us cross the "finish line" to meet our goals, and give now at whatever level feels comfortable by clicking on this link: www.greenwichhistory.org/donate.

Do join now our remarkable Chairman Davidde Strackbein, the Historical Society's Board of Directors, our Campaign Committee, our Honorary Chairs and our early supporters in this great leap of faith.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter L. Malkin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Peter Malkin
Campaign Chairman

Progress on the expanded parking lot: November 9, 2016 and December 29, 2016.



Toby's Tavern: Glimpses of the Past, Layer by Layer

Since December 2016, architect David Scott Parker and his team have overseen the painstaking, selective removal of modern wall surfaces in Toby's Tavern and, in the process, uncovered fascinating discoveries that benchmark the building's history. Among the finds are original, whitewashed vertical plank walls of the circa 1805 post-and-beam structure, which lie beneath interior wood studs affixed when the building transitioned from residence to Italianate Railroad House hotel and tavern in 1854.

“Look for more to come. As work continues, we eagerly await further glimpses into our past and will keep you up-to-date.”

—Debra Mecky

As work progressed, the team removed later, non-historic (1930s) strip oak flooring to expose original (1805) wide-plank floorboards. Layers continue to be peeled away to reveal more of the structure's historic fabric, including the recent discovery of fragile bits of 19th-century wallpaper typical of the Cos Cob art colony era. Inspired by these early designs, the Historical Society plans to recreate one of the wallpaper patterns for use in the restored building's café, the space in which it was found. Remarkd David Scott Parker about the project, “This is a continuous, iterative research and design process. We are simultaneously discovering, restoring and adapting interior and exterior features of Toby's in ways that evoke a sense of the structure's past, while also imparting it with new vitality and relevance to the Historical Society's ongoing life and mission in the community.”



David Scott Parker and Debra Mecky inspect wallpaper fragment on the second floor of Toby's.



Image of the proposed artists' café showing the wallpaper as it would appear once restored.



Image of late 19th-century wallpaper found on the first floor.