

# Greenwich Historical Society

Explore our colorful past



news+programs

september | october 2017

## 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 pm

### Library & 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](http://www.greenwichhistory.org/contact)

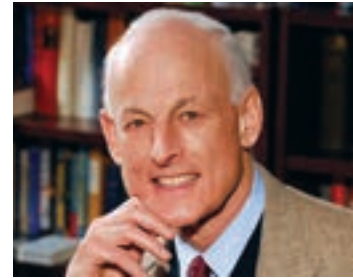
## DIRECTIONS

Off I-95 at Exit 4.

Details at [www.greenwichhistory.org/visit](http://www.greenwichhistory.org/visit)

## 2017 William C. Crooks Distinguished Lecture

# Lewis E. Lehrman on *Churchill, Roosevelt & Company: Studies in Character and Statecraft*



**D**uring World War II a special relationship between the United States and Great Britain cemented the alliance that won the war in the West. But the ultimate victory of that partnership has obscured many of the conflicts behind Franklin Roosevelt's charm and Winston Churchill's victory signs—namely, the clashes of principles and especially personalities between and within the leadership of the two nations.

This year's William C. Crooks Distinguished Lecture will feature award-winning author Lewis E. Lehrman. Lehrman's program will focus on the dynamics at play among allies during WWII based on research for his new book *Churchill, Roosevelt & Company: Studies in Character and Statecraft*, a revealing study in personal diplomacy, character and statecraft at the core of the leadership of the Anglo-American alliance.

Lewis E. Lehrman received the National Humanities Medal at the White House in 2005 for his work in American history. He has written for *The Finest Hour*, *Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *National Review*, *New York Sun* and *Harper's*, has penned numerous works on Abraham Lincoln and is also the author of *Money, Gold and History*.

Lehrman, with Richard Gilder and Professor Gabor Boritt, co-founded the Lincoln & Soldiers Institute at Gettysburg College, which annually awards the Lincoln Prize for

the best work on the Lincoln era. Lehrman and Gilder established the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition at Yale University, which awards the Frederick Douglass Prize. Together they developed the Gilder Lehrman Collection of original historical manuscripts and documents to teach American history from primary sources. The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History has developed a national program for teaching American history in high schools and colleges throughout America ([www.gilderlehrman.org](http://www.gilderlehrman.org)).

Lehrman received a BA from Yale and an MA in history from Harvard. He was a Carnegie Teaching Fellow in History at Yale and a Woodrow Wilson Fellow in History at Harvard. He has been awarded honorary degrees from Babson College, Gettysburg College, Lincoln College, Marymount University and Thomas Aquinas College.

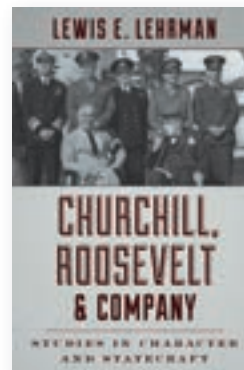
**You will not want to miss this opportunity to meet one of the great historians of our time. Early reservations strongly suggested. Priority reservations for members only through September 30.**

Tuesday, October 24

Vanderbilt Education Center

Doors open at 6:30 pm; program begins at 7:00 pm  
(45 minutes followed by Q&A)

Members: \$10; nonmembers: \$15



## 86th Annual Meeting and Panel Discussion: If Walls Could Talk...



John Henry Twachtman (1852–1904),  
“My House,” Yale University Art Gallery

**O**ur 86th Annual Meeting scheduled for September 13 will feature a panel discussion entitled “Living History: The Green-Twachtman House, 1845 to Today.”

An important witness to Greenwich history, the Green-Twachtman House at 30 Round Hill Road was built in 1845 by Allen Green, a free black man, in a community called Hangroot, populated largely by free blacks. The Impressionist painter John Henry Twachtman, a founding member of the Cos Cob art colony, bought the house in 1890, and 75 years later Jim and Jane Henson (of *Muppets* and *Sesame Street* fame) also made it their home and a hub for creativity. At the annual meeting, four important periods

in the life of the house will be discussed by panelists Teresa Vega, a descendant of the original builder; art historian Susan Larkin; Cheryl Henson, who lived there as a child; and John Nelson, the home’s owner and its prudent steward since 1971.

*Wednesday, September 13*

*6:00 to 8:00 pm;*

*Reception: 6:00 pm; Annual Business Meeting: 6:30 pm; Panel Discussion: 7:00 pm*

*Belle Haven Club, 100 Harbor Drive, Greenwich*

*Members: \$65; nonmembers: \$75*

*Reservations required by September 6, 2017*

*Reserve at [greenwichhistory.org](http://greenwichhistory.org) or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10*

## Fall Festival at Bush-Holley Historic Site Setting the Stage for Family Fun

**T**his year’s site-wide activities will feature a puppet show, games, crafts, touch-a-truck and our perennially popular scarecrow competition. Throughout the event, visitors may enjoy the *Jim and Jane Henson: Creative Work, Creative Play* exhibition in

the Storehouse Gallery and take a family-friendly tour of Bush-Holley House.

WonderSpark Puppets will perform “Fox Fables,” the story of a fox who loses his tail and seeks a new identity, in the Vanderbilt Education Center at 2:00 pm. WonderSpark was founded in 2009 by husband and wife team Chad Williams and Lindsey “Z” Briggs (also manager of the Jim Henson Foundation). In addition to their regular gigs, they often bring laughter and joy to the patients and staff at Mount Sinai Kravis Children’s Hospital in Manhattan.

The theme of this year’s scarecrow competition will be “friendly monsters” in honor of *Sesame Street* characters Grover and Oscar the Grouch, who appear in our current exhibition. Basic scarecrow building materials (straw, burlap bag and armature/“bones”) are included in the fee, but participants are welcome to bring “accessories” to customize their creations. Prizes will be awarded in various categories.



*Puppeteer Chad Williams and Friend*

*Sunday, October 8, 12:30 to 3:30 pm*

*Bush-Holley Historic Site*

*Admission: Children under 3: free;*

*All other children under 18: \$5;*

*Adults: \$10; Family: \$25*

*Separate fee for the Scarecrow Competition:*

*Members: \$10; nonmembers: \$15*



*Joshua and Sienna Charlton flank their original creation at the 2015 Fall Festival*



## Art, History and Landscape Lecture

### American Arts & Crafts Gardens, 1890–1920: Simplicity, Harmony and Utility



**B**ased on period documentation of historic gardens, publications and designers' records, lecturer Denise Wiles Adams will focus on the decorative gardens popular in America during

the Cos Cob art colony era. Her talk will explore the distinctive garden style of the great estates of the time and highlight plants that were popular.

Adams is an ornamental-plant and garden historian. She received her PhD in horticulture from The Ohio State University and for a decade owned an heirloom-flower and herb nursery. She is a prolific writer and lecturer on topics related to the history of American ornamental gardens and is the author of *Restoring American Gardens: An Encyclopedia of Heirloom Ornamental Plants, 1640–1940* (Timber Press, 2004) and *American Home Landscapes* (Timber Press, 2013). Adams currently resides in Stony Point, New York, where she enjoys researching and creating period-appropriate gardens for her 1914 Arts & Crafts-style home.

Tuesday, October 17

Doors open at 6:30 pm for light refreshments  
Program starts at 7:00 pm with a 45-minute  
talk and a 15-minute Q&A session

Vanderbilt Education Center

Members: \$15; nonmembers: \$20

Visit our new blog at  
[greenwichhistory.org/blog](http://greenwichhistory.org/blog)  
and follow us on:



## Meet Ann Meyerson

### Guest Curator for Our Upcoming Exhibition On Greenwich's Jewish Community



**S**ince the fall of last year, we have been mining the archives and reaching out to the local Jewish community to collect objects, photos and stories to craft our upcoming exhibition, *An American Odyssey: The Jewish Experience in Greenwich*. The project is being ably directed by Ann Meyerson, a professional museum curator and exhibition developer with an extensive background in Jewish history in America. She is currently fine-tuning the selection of materials and writing labels for the exhibition, which will open on November 15.

Meyerson's portfolio most recently includes *The First Jewish Americans: Freedom and Culture in the New World* (October 28, 2016 to February 26, 2017) and *With Firmness in the Right: Lincoln and the Jews* (March 20 to June 7, 2015) at the New-York Historical Society. From 2007 to 2009, she curated the 22,000-square-foot core exhibition at

the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, exploring 350 years of U.S. history through the lens of American Jews.

Meyerson enjoyed an earlier academic career at New York University as Director of the Metropolitan Studies Program and as an assistant professor. She also worked as an urban planner for the New York City Housing and Development Administration. She has curated major exhibitions on the history of New York City for the Brooklyn Historical Society, where she also served as Curator of Exhibitions, and for the Museum of the City of New York.

Meyerson earned a BA in history from the University of Chicago and a PhD in Urban Planning and Certificate in Museum Studies from New York University. We are very pleased to have her on board for this important new project.

## A New System to Streamline Your Library & Archives Search

**I**n response to the burgeoning number of research requests being received, Curator of Archives Christopher Shields has implemented a new online Research Request Form and updated the process for handling remote requests. These changes will ensure that we continue to meet your needs and get back to you in a timely manner as we tackle the challenge of transitioning to our new facility.

*What's new about the system?* All research requests must now be submitted by completing an online Research Request Form. If you plan to visit the Library & Archives in person, kindly submit the form at least a week in advance and indicate the expected date of your visit.

*Where do I find the online Research Request Form?* Go to [greenwichhistory.org](http://greenwichhistory.org). Under the Library & Archives menu, click "Access the Archives." The link will take you to the main Library & Archives page where you'll find the Research Request Form and more



information about our research service process and fees.

Using the new system will ensure that staff is available and that there is sufficient time to prepare so that you receive the full benefit of all our wonderful Greenwich history resources. Many thanks for your cooperation.

*The Library & Archives are currently open to the public on Wednesdays, 10 am–12:30 pm and 1–4 pm, and by appointment.*

39 Strickland Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807

## Save the Dates:

### September 13

86th Annual Meeting

### October 8

Fall Festival

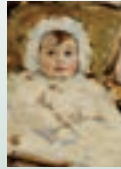
### October 17

Art, History and Landscape  
Lecture: *American Arts & Crafts  
Gardens, 1890–1920: Simplicity,  
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Roosevelt & Company: Studies  
in Character and Statecraft*

*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

### This Place Matters Contest: Everyone's a Winner

In honor of First Selectman Peter's Tesei's proclamation recognizing May as Preservation Month, the Greenwich Historical Society asked folks to snap photos of places that are special to them and unique to the town. Photos were shared on Instagram and Facebook and, like our diverse participants, highlighted the many facets of the place we call home. Five finalists received prizes at the Greenwich Founder's Day event at Tod's Point on July 18.

Congratulations to Joseph Weed who won first place with a photo taken at Tod's Point. Finalists were: Sally Maloney with her photo of "Mason and Teddy Maloney at the September 11 Memorial," Carrie Wallack's "Ada's," Alexandra Bogdanovic's "Byram Clambake Pavilion" and Catherine Tompkins' "Neighbors on Park Avenue."

To see all the winning photos, visit [greenwichhistory.org/blog/](http://greenwichhistory.org/blog/).

The contest was inspired by the National Trust for Historic Preservation's

initiative to encourage preservation. Special thanks to all who entered and to Carrie Wallack, Laura McCormick and Davidde Strackbein for spearheading the effort.



*The Winner: "Tod's Point, Old Greenwich," by Joseph Weed.*



## SAVE THE DATES

Opening Night for the  
Greenwich Winter Antiques Show  
December 1, 2017

Greenwich Winter Antiques Show:  
Fine Art, Jewelry and Antiques  
December 2 & 3, 2017

Holiday Boutique  
December 5 & 6, 2017

Holiday House Tour  
December 6, 2017

Tickets go on sale the first week of October.  
Visit [www.greenwichhistory.org](http://www.greenwichhistory.org) for updates.  
Get involved! It takes almost 200 volunteers to make this crucial annual fundraiser happen.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Holiday House Tour, please contact Victoria at [vbuzzese@greenwichhistory.org](mailto:vbuzzese@greenwichhistory.org).

## Donor Spotlight: Suzanne and Ramsey Frank

**“The Reimagine the Campus Campaign is a priority for us. History is so important and must be preserved.” —Suzanne**

Since launching our Campaign’s quiet phase, Suzanne and Ramsey Frank have been among the philanthropic leaders of the Greenwich Historical Society’s **Reimagine the Campus Campaign**, an \$18.5 million undertaking to transform our campus and expand and enrich our programs and services. The new state-of-the-art campus, which will be completed



in 2018, will double our parking, increase accessibility and provide improved space for new galleries, archives and other physical improvements designed to serve the community.

**“When we first moved to town, I became a docent for one of the houses on the annual Antiquarius Holiday House Tour, and I was hooked. ... When I was asked to be on the Board, I was so honored and humbled. The most brilliant minds and personalities are in this group of people.” —Suzanne**

As avid supporters of the Historical Society for almost 20 years, Suzanne and Ramsey were compelled by the Campaign’s goals to raise much-needed funds for campus improvement as well as for expansion of programmatic initiatives including exhibitions and public programs, youth and family programs, research, collections, digital communications and historic preservation. They also recognized the need to build the Historical Society’s endowment, ensuring that current and future generations would benefit from these initiatives.

Suzanne, who serves on both the Historical Society’s Board and the Reimagine the Campus Campaign Committee, has played an active role since the planning stages by hosting events and providing the leadership required to realize the Historical Society’s vision. As longtime members of the Greenwich community, both Suzanne and Ramsey

recognize the need for an expanded campus that will allow the organization to continue to fulfill its mission to collect and chronicle Greenwich’s vibrant history.

**“I drove by the construction site recently, and it was wonderful to see the draft plans come to life. The new campus will enable generations to come to enjoy the rich and diverse history of Greenwich. We hope the rest of the community will follow our lead and that of others in preserving the legacy of Greenwich.” —Ramsey**



*Active Supporters Suzanne and Ramsey Frank*

Suzanne and Ramsey have been emblematic of the remarkable generosity of the Greenwich community. We hope you will join us in thanking them for their extraordinary support. The entire community is enriched by their contributions, and we hope their leadership will inspire you to join the Campaign.

**“The Greenwich Historical Society receives no funding from the Town of Greenwich and relies on its citizens’ generosity to survive. ... We must expand and reimagine the campus, and we consider it a privilege to help.” —Suzanne**

To make a donation to the **Reimagine the Campus Campaign**, please visit our website. Through the support of anonymous donors, your contribution will be matched dollar for dollar, doubling its impact.





## Preservation Begins at Home

**W**e all too frequently read about losing yet another historic Greenwich home to the wrecking ball. If you want to ensure that your historic house never meets that fate, we encourage you to take steps now to seek Local Historic Property Designation for your property. A Local Historic Property (LHP) is defined as “any individual building, structure, object or site that is significant in the history, architecture, archaeology and culture of the state...” The LHP designation is appropriate for individual historic, architectural or archaeological sites, whose preservation and appearance are important to the sense of the community’s heritage. Local Historic Designation

offers the most protection for significant buildings and sites in Connecticut and is intended to ensure that a home cannot be demolished and that any future alterations and additions are in keeping with the character of the district or building in question. Only *exterior* changes are subject to review by the Greenwich Historic District Commission when alterations or additions are desired.

See a brief rundown of the process developed by the Greenwich Preservation Trust in the sidebar.

For more information, please visit [www.greenwichhistory.org/pres\\_historicDesignations](http://www.greenwichhistory.org/pres_historicDesignations) or the CT Trust for Historic Preservation at [cttrust.org](http://cttrust.org).

### Obtaining Local Historic Designation

1. Contact the chairman of Greenwich’s Historic District Commission (HDC): Stephen Bishop, 203-325-4477.
2. The HDC will form and appoint a Study Committee to prepare a report that evaluates the historical and architectural significance of your property.
3. Once complete, the Study Committee will submit a report and recommendations to the Planning & Zoning Commission and to the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism (CCT). They have 65 days to submit comments to the HDC.
4. After written notice is sent to you and two legal notices are posted in a local newspaper, the Study Committee will hold an open hearing on the proposed Local Historic Property.
5. The Study Committee will submit a final report and recommendations to the Representative Town Meeting (RTM) and the municipal clerk within 65 days of the public hearing.
6. The RTM, at their meeting, will vote on accepting the report and enacting the ordinance.

## Pride of Place: New Markers for Greenwich’s Historic Communities

**T**he Greenwich Historical Society and the Greenwich Preservation Network were pleased to dedicate two new historic district markers over the summer. On June 23, with a host of local officials and residents in attendance, a marker was erected near the Glenville Volunteer Fire House. Siegrun Pottgen, who serves as town constable, noted, “It’s about time!” After all, the area’s distinction dates back to 1717, when the Byram River provided water power to the earliest mills in the area.

“Glenville is unique,” Executive Director Debra Mecky said during the unveiling. “There’s nothing else like it in Fairfield County.” The new marker cites Glenville as a “primary example of a 19th-century mill town in Fairfield County.” Said Mecky, “Glenville is a great survivor. When the mill stopped working in 1978, it could have been the death knell of this area, but instead it became an example of preservation at its best, repurposing the factory buildings to support a successful mix of restaurant, retail and office space.”

The Glenville marker was designed



*Celebrating the installation of Glenville’s Historic Marker*

pro bono by Charles Hilton Architects and installed pro bono by Cornerstone Contracting. Construction of the sign was underwritten by Sound View Engineers and Land Surveyors, based in Glenville.

On July 12, elected officials, historic preservationists, Greenwich residents and others again gathered to dedicate a permanent marker located on the sidewalk in front of the Tomes-Higgins House, 216 East Putnam Avenue. The marker is sponsored by “The Townies,” a small group of Greenwich citizens bonded by their love of Greenwich. Charles Hilton Architects donated the design and Cornerstone Contracting donated its

services to install the marker.

The district, once the center of town, is named for General Israel Putnam, a Revolutionary War hero who in 1779 evaded British soldiers by riding from Knapp’s Tavern down the steep hill to Stamford where he alerted the militia. His famous ride is depicted on the Greenwich town seal. The district includes the Second Congregational Church (1856), Calvert Vaux’s 1861 Tomes-Higgins House (later Christ Church parsonage) and the 1909 Christ Church Greenwich.

Additional markers are located on Greenwich Avenue, River Road in Cos Cob and the historic Fourth Ward in central Greenwich near Greenwich Hospital. Stop to read a marker the next time you pass by, or take a mini field trip and catch them all!

*Our sincere thanks to the individuals and firms who contributed to the projects and to the volunteers of the Greenwich Preservation Network, whose mission is to educate and provide information to the community regarding the value of preserving our significant architectural and historic structures and streetscapes.*