

# Greenwich Historical Society Newsletter



## MAKING GREENWICH HISTORY ACCESSIBLE:

# The Archives Cataloging and Digitization Project



The Greenwich Historical Society's James Stevenson and Josie Merck Stevenson Library and Archives, under the leadership of curator Christopher Shields, makes our Greenwich history collections accessible to and representative of our entire community and its recorded history. As we approach our 90th Anniversary in 2022, it is essential to complete finding aids for the Library & Archives' important collection of original documents relating to architecture and land use, local businesses, schools, local and state government, clubs, organizations and local families. This material encompasses 49 distinct collections.

Since October 2020, Archivist Leslie Albamonte and Digital Project Assistant Kelsie Dalton have made great strides to process several new collections, with collections now accessible. Finding aids for these collections are searchable from our website at [digital.greenwichhistory.org](http://digital.greenwichhistory.org), including over 16,000 images from our real estate and photograph collections. Kelsie and Leslie have created informative and entertaining content featured on our website and social media based on their work with the collections. They have also worked closely with curatorial staff to discover and share items relevant to our exhibitions and educational programs.

The records of the Garden Club of Old Greenwich are documented and described in a new finding aid available through our website. The collection documents the early history of the club and is a vital organizational and visual history of an important Greenwich institution. In addition to processing the collection and writing the finding aid, Leslie has worked closely with Garden Club members in their research for a publication to celebrate the club's upcoming 100th anniversary.

The estate known as "Belora Villa" on Lake Avenue was the home of Baron and Baroness Jan Carel van Eck. Born in the Netherlands in 1880, he had aristocratic roots. He began



work at the Royal Dutch Shell Oil Company and became president of Shell Union Oil Company's U.S. operations. Oil was vital to the success of the Allied war effort, and the Baron traveled extensively in support of the company during World War II. The real estate brochure was digitized as part of the Edson & Edson Real Estate Collection. It is an example of an item that can be used as an architectural reference but also to tell a broader story of a Greenwich resident.

*The Archives Cataloging and Digitization Project is supported by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and a challenge gift from Davide and Ron Strackbein. To support this project and help fulfill the Strackbein Challenge grant, contact Director of Development Ryan Nuckel at (203) 869-6899.*



## Greenwich Historical Society Welcomes New Trustees

Greenwich Historical Society was thrilled to welcome two new board members at our Annual Meeting in September.



Cynthia Chang comes to the Greenwich Historical Society with broad experience

serving Greenwich community. Cynthia and husband Brian Scanlan are longtime Greenwich residents and have raised their children here. Cynthia has been an active board and committee member for a number of local organizations including the YWCA, Mead House and the Chinese Language School of Connecticut. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and remains active as an alumnus.



Chuck Niemeth is a longtime Greenwich resident and friend of the Greenwich

Historical Society as the husband of former board member Anne Niemeth. Chuck continues to work as Senior Counsel, Baker McKenzie, and is a Director and Executive Committee Member at the New York Philharmonic. He received a B.A. from Harvard College and a J.D. from Michigan Law School, where he was Editor of the Michigan Law Review.

## News & Events

### Happy New Year from Greenwich Historical Society!



We are still aglow from a fall season full of happy reunions and good cheer as we finally gathered to celebrate long-awaited events honoring Greenwich residents whose work serves as inspiration to us all. Our Landmarks Recognition program, presented in conjunction with our 90th Annual Meeting, honored David Ogilvy with the inaugural David F. Ogilvy Preservation Leadership Award. October's History in the Making award dinner recognized the philanthropic work of Barbara and Ray Dalio. We fêted the fall with a sparkling evening fundraiser at Foundation House and welcomed the new season with a

festive Winter Market and a Holiday Festival on our campus. The energy and generous support of the Historical Society during this time remind me just how much we have to be thankful for as we begin the new year.

We look ahead to a year of programming and celebrating 90 years of preserving and interpreting Greenwich history. Our dedicated staff, volunteers and trustees are stepping into this next chapter with the optimism and energy that a new year brings, with exciting plans for exhibitions, education programs, events and important preservation efforts that fulfill our mission to the town in important ways. I hope you'll join us for the first year of our "Countdown to 100"!

*Debra Mecky*  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO

### Welcome New Public Programs Manager Stephanie Barnett



Stephanie Barnett joins the Greenwich Historical Society in the position of Public Programs Manager. After receiving her B.A. in History from Harvard University, she began her career in education, teaching sixth and seventh grade social studies in Hartford, CT. Stephanie supported and developed educators in her role as Manager of Teacher Leadership Development for Teach for America Connecticut. As Public Programs Manager, she is looking forward to building new relationships and partnerships within and across the broader Greenwich

community, and to working collaboratively to create engaging and innovative programs that foster community connection and promote historic preservation.

### Winter Sale

Don't miss the annual Winter Sale with discounts up to 50% on items throughout the Greenwich Historical Society Museum Store!



up to  
**50%**  
off

# Exhibits & Gallery News

## Childe Hassam's *The Red Mill, Cos Cob*

On view in the Permanent Collections Gallery beginning February 16



Painted in September 1896 during the first of many visits made by the artist Childe Hassam (1859–1935) to the Holley family's boarding house, *The Red Mill, Cos Cob* is a depiction of the red-painted buildings of the Palmer & Duff Shipyard, a shipbuilding outfit that once stood across the Cos Cob Harbor from the Bush-Holley House. The shipyard was a favorite subject of many of the artists who boarded with the Holleys during the 1890s, including John Henry Twachtman, Theodore Robinson, Kerr Eby and Elmer MacRae.

*The Red Mill, Cos Cob*, a recent addition to the Greenwich Historical Society Museum Collection, will be on view in the Permanent Collections Gallery alongside several other artistic depictions of the shipyard and the Cos Cob Lower Landing.

## Announcing New Dates for Twachtman Exhibition

October 19, 2022–January 22, 2023



The exhibition *Life and Art: The Greenwich Paintings of John Henry Twachtman*, postponed due to water damage to the Greenwich Historical Society's Museum & Library building caused by Hurricane Ida, has been rescheduled to October 19, 2022–January 22, 2023.

Highlighting artworks created by the American Impressionist artist Twachtman depicting his home in Greenwich and its surroundings, *Life and Art* will be accompanied by a series of public tours and programs, including guided tours of the artist's former property on Round Hill Road.

John Henry Twachtman, *In the Garden*, ca. 1895–99.  
Oil on canvas, 30 × 25 inches. Private collection.

## CURATOR'S GALLERY TALK: *Cos Cob's Lower Landing Through Artist's Eyes*

February 23, 12:00 p.m.

Greenwich Historical Society Curator of Exhibitions and Collections Maggie Dimock will lead a guided tour through the Permanent Collections Gallery, focusing on the once-busy landscape of Cos Cob's Lower Landing as a source of inspiration for artists, including Childe Hassam, Kerr Eby and more.

## Buy the Exhibition Catalogue!



The catalogue for *Life and Art: The Greenwich Paintings of John Henry Twachtman*, beautifully illustrated and

featuring an essay by exhibition curator Lisa N. Peters, Ph.D., is available for purchase from the Greenwich Historical Society Museum Store.

SAVE THE DATE

## Art & History Camp 2022



## Our annual Art & History Camp is back again this year! We're planning a summer of fun!

Monday–Friday 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Senior Art & History Camp, week of July 11 (rising grades 5–8)

Junior History Camp, week of July 18 (rising grades 2–4)

Junior Art Camp, week of July 25 (rising grades 2–4)

1 Week: \$450, 2 Weeks: \$800.

Sibling discounts may apply. Save \$50 per week if you register by April 1!

For more information and registration, find us online at [www.greenwichhistory.org/art-and-history-camp](http://www.greenwichhistory.org/art-and-history-camp).

**HOLIDAY CLOSINGS**

January 1, New Year's Day  
January 17, Martin Luther King Day  
February 21, President's Day

**OFFICE, MUSEUM STORE AND CAFÉ**

Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
Saturday and Sunday, noon–4:00 p.m.

**MUSEUM GALLERIES**

The Museum Galleries are temporarily closed during recovery efforts from Hurricane Ida.

**BUSH-HOLLEY HOUSE**

Wednesday–Sunday, 12:00 p.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. Tours last 45 minutes. Call for reservations.

**LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES**

By appointment

**ADMISSION**

\$10 adults, \$8 seniors, \$7 group rate

**FREE:** Youth under 18, members, active military/ Blue Star. FREE for all the first Wednesday of every month.

Visit all 21 museums on the Connecticut Art Trail for \$25. Buy a passport at the museum lobby desk or at ctarttrail.org.

*We work to preserve and interpret Greenwich history to strengthen the community's connection to our past, to each other and to our future.*

## Planned Giving



In December, Greenwich Historical Society received a generous bequest from the estate of Mrs. Hedda Windisch Von Goeben. A lifetime member of the Greenwich Historical Society, Ms. Von Goeben was the niece of former President of the Historical Society and Board Member Frederick C. Windisch (1901–1977). Growing up in the Belle Haven section of Greenwich, Ms. Von Goeben ran her family's Church Hill Farm in Washington, CT, before relocating to Granville, Ohio, to be closer to her extended family, whose roots are in Cincinnati's historic Windisch–Muhlhauser Brewing Company. Hedda was a passionate equestrienne, artist, philanthropist and world traveler. Her bequest provides critical funds to the Greenwich Historical Society, and we are grateful for her generosity and support of our mission.

Planned Giving allows donors to create a legacy to help ensure the future of the Greenwich Historical Society, supporting our important work in preserving and interpreting Greenwich history for generations to come. For more information on Planned Giving, and recognition as a member of the Vanderbilt Society, please contact Ryan Nickel, Director of Development.

## Bush-Holley House Preservation Continues



Greenwich Historical Society has embarked on several important preservation projects at its ca. 1730 Bush-Holley House, a National Historic Landmark in Cos Cob. Window and siding repairs and refurbishment of the house's iconic 2-story front porches were finished this fall, with additional projects continuing this spring thanks to a generous grant from Connecticut Historic Restoration Fund.

The house is open for public docent-led tours Wednesday–Sunday by advanced reservation.