



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

## DIRECTIONS

Off I-95 at Exit 4.

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

## It's Official! Construction Has Begun

If you passed the Historical Society over the past few months, you couldn't help but notice the surprising transformation as our tireless contractors blasted, dug and chipped away to lay the groundwork for our long-awaited campus transformation. On April 9, under an auspicious blue sky, we proudly celebrated a major milestone of the **Reimagine the Campus Campaign** when, with "golden" shovels in hand, we officially launched the construction phase of our new campus. "It's very rewarding to see us come to this moment in time after all the years of planning and research," Historical Society Executive Director Debra Mecky said. "I'm overwhelmed and I'm pinching myself asking if it's really true. We still have a lot of work left to do, but it's a special moment in our town's development."

Architect David Scott Parker, who led tours through the work area, said the project's start has

gone exactly as he had hoped it would. "I couldn't be more pleased, and it's been a collaborative effort from the beginning," Parker said. "In a year and a half this is going to be a reality. This is such a happy day for everyone."

Noting the new galleries, archives, expanded parking, café, museum shop, meeting space and additional handicap accessibility, Board Chairman David Strackbein said the expansion will allow the Historical Society to make "a greater contribution to the cultural life of Greenwich."

Peter Malkin, chairman of the **Reimagine the Campus Campaign**, noted, "We are a year ahead of schedule on the fundraising and our redevelopment. And within that year ahead of schedule, we're now a month ahead of schedule! The digging has been done, not just for the parking area but for the entire foundation, and it's under budget." We now expect to open in fall 2018.

*continued on page 3*

*From left to right: Bruce Dixon, Building Committee; Albert Ashforth, Contractor; Tom Clephane, Reimagine the Campus Committee; Haley Elmlinger, Reimagine the Campus Committee; CT State Representative Livvy Floren; First Selectman Peter Tesei; CT State Senator Scott Frantz; Board Chairman David Strackbein; Reimagine the Campus Chairman Peter Malkin; Executive Director Debra Mecky; U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal; Architect David Scott Parker; John Dixon, Building Committee; Andy Fox, Project Manager*



# PLANS FOR ANTIQUARIUS '17 WELL UNDER WAY

The groundwork has now been laid for this year's holiday fundraiser, Antiquarius, and some exciting new developments are in store. With a group of 40 key volunteers in attendance, the Antiquarius volunteer breakfast, held on May 2, was graciously hosted by board member Jessica Guff and opened with a short history of Antiquarius provided by Board Chairman Davide Strackbein. Antiques Show producer Frank Gaglio talked about how this year's show will include "Fine Art, Jewelry and Antiques" in its subtitle to reflect a greater emphasis on categories that especially appeal to the Greenwich market.

This year's honorary design chair, Richard Keith Langham, will set the scene for the opening night party at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, and at least two homes styled by Langham will be featured

on the Holiday House Tour.

With antiques and design fresh in mind, Warren Lagerloef and Alexia Palmer of returning Antiquarius sponsor Betteridge gave a talk on the perennial relevance of antique and vintage jewelry for wearers and collectors alike. Designer Kevin Isbell continued the program and the sentiment with a talk on the importance of incorporating antiques into contemporary homes for a more personalized look. Stay tuned for Antiquarius announcements in the coming months! There's more exciting news to come.



## ~ 2017 SPONSORS ~

*Betteridge*  
**David Ogilvy & Associates**  
**Douglas VanderHorn Architects**  
**Rago Arts and Auction Center**

## SAVE THE DATES

**Opening Night Party 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, 2017

**Holiday House Tour**  
 December 6, 2017

**Honorary Chairs**  
 Jessica and Drew Guff  
 Anne and David Ogilvy  
 Sue Ann Weinberg

**Honorary Design Chair**  
 Richard Keith Langham

**Board Liaisons**  
 Ashley Allan  
 Barbara MacDonald  
 Anne Ogilvy  
 Alease Fisher Tallman

**Opening Night Party**  
 Mimi Moulton  
 Susan Sleeper  
 Holly Cassin

**Patron Solicitation**  
 Ashley Bruynes  
 Lucy Day  
 Deb Robinson

**Holiday Boutique**  
 Lindsay Dalton  
 Amanda Todd-Lynch

**Holiday House Tour**  
 Susannah Heyworth  
 Catherine Tompkins

**Transportation and Logistics**  
 Laurel Fine  
 Rachel Kelley

**Media**  
 Alicia Laing

**Raffle**  
 Carrie Emery  
 Zoe Khayatt

**Designer Forum**  
 Melissa Hawks

**House Tour Map**  
 Meg Nolan van Reesema

## Historic Trust Event Honors Patrons for Their Generosity

On May 24, the Historical Society honored its leadership donors at a cocktail reception chaired by board members Anne Ogilvy and Robert H. Getz at the beautiful back-country home of board member Lynne Wheat.

Getz recognized attendees for the direct impact their donations make on the Historical Society's ability to sustain preservation, history and art education initiatives as well as stewardship of Bush-Holley Historic Site. He also noted the tremendous progress we have made over the last year in realizing plans for our reimagined new campus.

Guests also enjoyed a fascinating informal talk by David Rago and his wife Suzanne Perrault, who oversee the preeminent auction house that bears Rago's name. Well known as expert appraisers for the hit PBS

series *Antiques Roadshow*, they specialize in decorative ceramics and porcelain. The Rago Arts and Auction Center recently became a sponsor of Antiquarius and will offer appraisal services during the Antiques Show.

*~ The Historical Society thanks Northern Trust for generously underwriting the evening.*

Please consider making a contribution to the Greenwich Historic Trust Leadership Giving Program by June 30 to ensure recognition in this year's annual report.

Your support will ensure that we continue to connect people of all ages with the vibrant history of our community. Contact Katrina Dorsey for more information at 203-869-6899, Ext. 15, or at [kdorsey@greenwichhistory.org](mailto:kdorsey@greenwichhistory.org).



Above, Trust Event Co-chairs Anne Ogilvy and Robert H. Getz.

Below, featured speakers David Rago and Suzanne Perrault.





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The Historical Society was very pleased that U.S. Senator Richard and Cynthia Blumenthal, state Senator L. Scott and Icy Frantz and First Selectman Peter and Jill Tesei, all honorary chairs, were on hand for the Sunday ceremony. “It is a great example for the state and nation of not only preserving history, but really taking advantage and learning from it,” said Blumenthal, who noted that his children relied on the Historical Society’s archives for many school projects over the years.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who is helping to make this dream a reality. If you would like to support the **Reimagine the Campus Campaign** or contribute to the Fund for Program Enrichment, which sustains initiatives in education, exhibitions, public programs, digital collections and preservation, please contact Development Director Katrina Dorsey at [kdorsey@greenwichhistory.org](mailto:kdorsey@greenwichhistory.org), call 203-869-6899, Ext. 15, or visit our website, [greenwichhistory.org](http://greenwichhistory.org), for more information.

## Bea Crumbine Honored as Volunteer of the Year

**O**n April 12, 2017, the Greenwich Historical Society held its annual Volunteer Recognition Event to acknowledge all of its wonderful volunteers at the Round Hill Club. Board member Bea Crumbine was presented with the 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award by First Selectman Peter Tesei and Executive Director Debra Mecky for spearheading the Historical Society’s exhibition *From Italy to America*, which documented the contributions made by Italian immigrants in shaping so many aspects of our town. Bea’s efforts not only drew the spotlight to the Italian community but also resulted in sister city status for Greenwich with both Rose and Morra de Sanctis, Italy, where many of Greenwich’s Italian families originated.



*Honorees Ana Heavey and Bea Crumbine*

Also recognized was youth volunteer Ana Heavey who, throughout her high school years, helped develop programs for the Girl Scouts and served as a junior advisor on the Historical Society’s Education Committee. Three outgoing Antiquarius volunteers were recognized for their leadership roles: Suzanne

Eason Hopson for long-standing service in logistics and transportation; Deb Robinson for the Patron and Preview Party and Carrie Emery for garnering patron support.

On behalf of the board and staff of the Greenwich Historical Society, Executive Director Debra Mecky expressed thanks to all the wonderful volunteers for sharing their “time, energy, creativity and support. We wouldn’t be able to do all we do without you.

## Hamilton Avenue Students Inspired by Bush-Holley Historic Site

**B**y the end of this school year, nearly every student at Hamilton Avenue School had visited the Bush-Holley Historic Site as a result of our museum/school partnership. The program, begun seven years ago, arranges for working artists and educators to conduct classroom workshops at the school to further explore topics touched upon during site visits. It exposes students to the enjoyment and creation of art, while building a foundation for lifelong learning and appreciation of local history.

On June 15, proud students shared the results of their studies with their families and school officials, with an exhibition of class quilts and self-portraits and tours of Bush-Holley House. Their delightful impressions offer fresh and insightful reflections on our site and are a gratifying testament to this important educational program.

### Support the Hamilton Avenue School/Museum Partnership

You only understand where you’re going if you know where you came from. The Historical Society continues to nurture a close partnership with Hamilton Avenue School, a Title One magnet school in Chickahominy, where more than half of the students are eligible for free or reduced-cost lunches. Many speak English as a second language. Your support of this program allows children in grades one to five to visit the Bush-Holley House each year to study the history of the town they call home. Your donation also pays for classroom enrichment activities to enhance the museum experience.

Supporting this initiative is a fantastic opportunity to instill the appreciation of art and history in children who might not normally have the chance to visit a museum or historic site. To support this program, please contact Katrina Dorsey at [kdorsey@greenwichhistory.org](mailto:kdorsey@greenwichhistory.org) or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 15.

*Colorful self-portraits painted by Hamilton Avenue fourth graders*



39 Strickland Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807

## Save the Dates:

**July 16**

Greenwich LOOK Polo Event

**December 5, 2017**

Holiday Boutique

**December 1, 2017**

Preview Party for the Greenwich  
Winter Antiques Show

**December 6, 2017**

Holiday House Tour

**December 2 & 3, 2017**

Greenwich Winter Antiques Show

*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

### An elegant afternoon at the Greenwich LOOK VIP Polo Event

**Sunday, July 16**

Ticket includes gourmet lunch by Sonnier & Castle, an open bar and a glamorous afternoon of high-goal polo viewed from your perch in the LOOK VIP Tent.

Best of all, \$50 of each \$200 ticket will benefit the Greenwich Historical Society.

Reserve at [www.lookatgreenwichpolo.com](http://www.lookatgreenwichpolo.com).



### Thank you, Amelia!



**G**reenwich High School senior Amelia Luckey, who hails from Byram, interned with us mid-May to mid-June to gain work experience before heading to the University of Vermont where she will be studying education. Amelia came to us through Greenwich High School's Senior Options program. She assisted with school tours and programs in the Education Department and also took part in staff and planning meetings. "I want to be an elementary school teacher, so the part of the job I enjoy the most is working with the schoolchildren," Luckey said. "I love to see their excitement as they learn what it was like to live in Colonial times."

We wish Amelia the best of luck as she embarks on her college career.

### Don't Let Your Membership Lapse

You may have received a reminder note in the mail recently.

Please don't forget to renew your membership. Your support is crucial.

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



## New Vanderbilt Society Helps Us Plan for the Future

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Vanderbilt Society, our newest initiative and a core part of our **Reimagine the Campus Campaign**.

Since the Greenwich Historical Society was founded in 1931 to collect, preserve and share the history of our exceptional town, several members have included bequest provisions in their wills to support our important mission. An outstanding example of this tradition was provided by the late Claire Vanderbilt, who was instrumental, along with her husband Hugh, in advancing the Historical Society's role in Greenwich for almost 50 years. Among her memorable efforts was a bequest, which, along with material contributions from other generous donors, facilitated the purchase of Toby's Tavern, a critical component of the current expansion of our National Historic Landmark campus.

In honor of Claire and Hugh, we have established the Vanderbilt Society to recognize individuals who include a bequest to the Greenwich Historical Society in their estate planning. Bequests of all sizes, as well as retirement plan rollovers and gifts of art and other property, will ensure optimal use of the newly restored and expanded facilities designed by architect David Scott Parker. Bequests to the Vanderbilt Society will enable us to welcome more members of our community and beyond to learn about and be inspired by the archives, exhibitions and education programs, which are the cornerstones of the Historical Society's vital contributions to the Town of Greenwich.

Our current expansion of the Historical Society's campus on Strickland Road will create a state-of-the-art venue to further expand and enhance these programs, and to that end, we have added a \$5 million endowment goal to the Campaign. Your participation in the Vanderbilt Society would play an important role in ensuring that current and future generations would benefit from these initiatives.

All Vanderbilt Society members will be recognized annually at a reception and personally thanked for their generosity to the Historical Society. Also, with their permission, they will be acknowledged in the Annual Report and other Historical Society publications.

As members of the newly formed Vanderbilt Society, we would like to invite you to also become a member and, in doing so, enable the continued success of this esteemed organization as it continually seeks to reach its highest aspirations.

To join the Vanderbilt Society, contact our Development Director Katrina Dorsey at 203-869-6899 or [kdorsey@greenwichhistory.org](mailto:kdorsey@greenwichhistory.org). She will provide you with a detailed and thoughtful explanation of how to work with your advisors regarding this bequest, complete with the appropriate language specifically describing different types of bequests.

Sincerely yours,



Davidde E. Strackbein  
Chair, Board of Trustees



Debra Mecky  
Executive Director, Greenwich Historical Society





# Jim and Jane Henson: Creativity Begins at Home

By Karen Frederick, Co-curator

When people hear the names Jim and Jane Henson, most immediately think *Sesame Street* and *The Muppets*. Visitors to our current exhibition, *Jim and Jane Henson: Creative Work, Creative Play* will not only have the opportunity to learn about the origins of some of their favorite *Sesame Street* characters, but will also learn how the Hensons' experiences as parents and artists laid the groundwork for important contributions to early childhood education through these beloved puppet personalities.

Jim and Jane Henson met as art students at the University of Maryland in 1954. Having made his first puppets and television debut that summer, Jim recruited Jane to be his production and performing

*Jim and Jane Henson working together in their home workshop in Maryland, 1959.*



Photo: Jack L. Hiller © 1959

partner. They were natural collaborators, sharing a subversive sense of humor and encouraging each other's artistic instincts. In 1959 their partnership turned romantic, and they were married on May 28, initiating what would become a seamless interplay of work and family that would be a constant throughout their lives.



*The Henson family, 1971. Left to right: John, Brian, Jim, Jane and Heather, along with Jim's alter-ego, Kermit, Bert and Ernie. Courtesy of the Henson family.*

They moved into their home on Round Hill Road in 1964. In that first year Jim built a dollhouse modeled on that home for his daughter Cheryl, complete with



stones with interesting shapes to incorporate into her ceramic sculptures.

The Henson family lived in Greenwich from 1964 until 1971, extraordinarily



*The Henson home and Cheryl's dollhouse, now on display at the exhibition.*

dormers and chimney stonework made with cut and painted sandpaper. Over the years, Cheryl and her father added roof shingles, custom-turned balusters, electric lights and handmade furniture. Watching the children play with the dollhouse and observing the antics of the family cats (who were forever finding their way in to sleep) inspired the short *Sesame Street* film *Number Two: Dollhouse*, which may be seen in the gallery. Using Cheryl's dollhouse as a prop, Henson filmed

productive years. This exhibition provides an opportunity to celebrate Jim and Jane Henson's unique family life, its impact on their work and how they continue to inspire, entertain and educate new generations around the world.

P.S. Just before the exhibition opened, Cheryl made a brand-new addition to the dollhouse: a hand-painted grandfather clock, featuring a picture of the Round Hill Road house. Look for it in the living room!