



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

Winter hours: Saturday and Sunday only
1, 2 and 3 pm and by appointment

Gallery and Group Tours

Arranged upon request.

Contact ltalbot@greenwichhistory.org

Library & Archives

Wednesdays, 10 am–12:30 pm
and 1–4 pm, or by appointment

Contact cshields@greenwichhistory.org

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

Cornerstone of New Museum, Library and Archives Building Is Dedicated at Celebratory Open House

The Greenwich Historical Society dedicated the cornerstone of

our new museum, library and archives building and installed a time capsule behind it at an open house for the Greenwich community on November 4, 2017. State Senator Scott Frantz and town officials were present to mark

this important moment in the construction of the new campus, scheduled to open in fall 2018. The afternoon included a presentation by architect David Scott Parker and Historical Society Executive Director Debra Mecky on “A Reimagined Campus: What’s in Store for the Greenwich Community,” and free tours of the construction site and of Bush-Holley House were offered. Peter Malkin, chairman of the Capital Campaign to Reimagine the Campus, gave an update on the campus construction, noting, “This is another significant milestone as we enter the home stretch in the construction of our dynamic new campus. With continued broad participation and support from the community, we’ll be ahead of schedule and under budget when our doors open in fall 2018.”

Another highlight of the festivities was the installation of a time capsule affectionately named “Elizabeth” for town founder Elizabeth Feake. The sealed capsule, which will be opened in 50 years, was filled with hopes, dreams and predictions for the town in 2067, as submitted by Greenwich students. A sample of the submission from Greenwich 14-year-old Fiona Busch: “In 50 years, I wonder if... Greenwich



will still vote Republican? The beach will still be beautiful? Electric cars and renewable resources will be more widespread?”

“The entries from students show a tremendous amount of creativity, optimism and heartfelt concerns spanning educational, environmental and technological topics

for what our town will be like for future generations,” said Debra Mecky. “Their reflections will help Greenwich residents 50 years hence better understand the influences that are shaping our society today.”

Other contents placed in the “Elizabeth” time capsule were proposed by *Greenwich Magazine* readers who competed in a contest to identify items representative of life in Greenwich today. Suggestions included a Greenwich Town Party magnet, menus from town restaurants and a high school varsity uniform.



Peter Malkin, Board Chairman Davidde Strackbein and project architect David Scott Parker prepare to insert the time capsule.

IMLS Grant Will Help Create State-of-the-Art Library & Archives

In conjunction with our move to new facilities later this year, we are very proud to announce that the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS) has awarded the Greenwich Historical Society a \$175,652 Museums for America Collections Stewardship Grant, which will allow us to strengthen the long-term preservation and management of our collections. The IMLS received a total of 558 applications requesting over \$100 million. After careful review of the merit and goals of each proposal, only 132 projects (including ours) received funding from the total pool of nearly \$19.2 million. The project will ensure improved preservation of our collections through consolidation of materials stored both on- and offsite. In addition, our new HVAC-controlled facility will allow for the expanded use and growth of the collections associated with the National Historic Landmark Bush-Holley House, the Cos Cob art colony and the Greenwich community. Grant funds



will support the purchase and installation of specialized stationary and mobile storage equipment, the purchase of archival enclosures, the hiring of a fine arts mover to safely pack and move collections to their new locations and the hiring of a professional project collections manager to work with curator and archivist Christopher Shields to update shelf lists, rehouse collections and move, track and install collections into the new facility. The project began in November 2017 and will continue through April 2019.

Space at our current facility is “maxed out,” and for several years, significant parts

of our collection have been stored offsite. A new shelving system will make it easier for staff, scholars and members of the community to access more of our collection. Improved accessibility will also facilitate exhibition planning and enable access to materials long obscured by inadequate storage and description. In addition, new collection software will make it easier to track and maintain materials.

Most importantly, the grant will help us continue to share in many more ways the countless stories of this unique community and enable us to shine an even greater spotlight on the national importance of the Cos Cob art colony.

The IMLS grant provides 50% of the costs of our new art and history collections storage units. Please contact Archivist Christopher Shields or Director of Development Katrina Dorsey if you would like to consider a pledge or gift to help us meet our match.

ANTIQUARIUS AFTERGLOW

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all involved in helping to make Antiquarius 2017 a smashing success. Over 200 capable volunteers once again gracefully managed everything from assisting Honorary Design Chair Richard Keith Langham in his transformation of the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center into a Chinoiserie holiday-scape, to the logistical whirl of our Holiday

Doug and Elizabeth Lake, Leigh Ann and Bob Byran, Ashley and Mark Allan



Boutique and Holiday House Tour. Special thanks go to the six homeowners who so graciously shared their unique abodes.

We are especially grateful for the incomparable organizational skills of Antiquarius Board Liaisons Ashley Allan, Barbara MacDonald, Anne Ogilvy and Alease Fisher Tallman and to Committee Chairs Ashley Bruynes, Holly Cassin, Lindsay Dalton, Lucy Day, Carrie Emery, Laurel Fine, Melissa Hawks, Susannah Heyworth, Rachel Kelley, Zoe Khayatt, Alicia Laing, Amanda Lynch, Mimi Moulton, Meg Nolan Van Reesema, Deb Robinson, Susan Sleeper and Catherine Tompkins.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge and celebrate our patrons and attendees and our generous corporate sponsors Betteridge, David Ogilvy and Associates, NEBCO Insurance Services, RAGO



Holly Cassin, Mimi Moulton and Susan Sleeper

Arts and Auction Center, Douglas VanderHorn Architects, AP Construction, Ashforth Company and Mofly Media.

All of the proceeds from Antiquarius go to support the Historical Society and will enable us to continue further education and preservation efforts in our special community.

Board Liaison Alease Fisher Tallman and Honorary Design Chair Richard Keith Langham



From Haven to Home: The Jewish People in America

Lecture by Michael Feldberg, Ph.D.



From 1654 to the present, successive waves of Jewish immigrants have come to America seeking a haven from oppression, war and poverty. Protected by the freedoms provided by their new nation, each generation of Jews has made their haven a home. Based on the exhibition *From Haven to Home: 350 Years*

of *American Jewish Life* (created in 2005 for the American Jewish Historical Society), Michael Feldberg will examine the story of the diverse groups of Jewish immigrants who made the United States their home. Using words and images, he will examine “the intertwined themes—and sometimes conflicting aims—of accommodation, assertion, adaptation and acculturation that have characterized the American Jewish experience from its beginnings.”

Michael Feldberg, Ph.D., is executive director of the George Washington Institute for Religious Freedom. From 1991 to 2004, he served as executive director of the American Jewish Historical Society, the nation’s oldest ethnic historical organization, and subsequently served as its director of research from 2004 to 2008.

This program is being held in conjunction with our current exhibition in the Storehouse Gallery, *An American Odyssey: The Jewish Experience in Greenwich*, which will be open to visitors from 6:00 until 6:45 pm before the lecture.

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Doors open at 6:30 pm; lecture begins at 7:00 pm
(45 minutes followed by a 15-minute Q&A)

Vanderbilt Education Center

Members: \$10; nonmembers: \$15. Light refreshments will be served.



Jewish refugee children wave at the Statue of Liberty as the President Harding steams into New York Harbor in 1939.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Anita Willens

Construction Update: Progress Continues Apace

Work on all aspects of our new facility—including its greatly expanded parking area—has steadily progressed over the last several months. The master plan is well under way and, once completed, will effectively address crucial access and functional challenges we have faced in the past, while respecting the spirit, history and scale of the Cos Cob Lower Landing.

The project officially commenced with the restoration of Toby’s Tavern, a distinctive mid-19th-century building immortalized by renowned artist Childe Hassam. The historic structure will feature a café, museum shop, meeting space and storage, and will be linked with the rest of our new facility, nestled into the hillside beyond, via a welcoming glass portal lobby that flows into the expanded and

commodious new archives on the first floor. The second floor will feature two state-of-the-art exhibition galleries, and the entire new facility and grounds will be accessible by elevator.

Construction has advanced at a good clip. Last summer, Toby’s original heavy timber structure and fieldstone foundations were stabilized, and its third-floor framing and Italianesque roofline were reconstructed. The footings and concrete walls of the archival storage and reading room were placed, after which the steel frame of the galleries and the adjacent portal lobby were erected. Stone masonry—much of it quarried from the site—will be applied in the coming weeks.

Glass windows and clapboard siding, as well as wood shingle and zinc roofing, will soon be installed, followed by mechanical and electrical systems. Interior finishes

will complete the construction process during the first half of 2018—just in time for the introduction of new exhibitions and collections installation.

We are so grateful to begin a whole new chapter as the renewed heart, soul and center for Greenwich history, and after years of planning, dreaming and a lot of very hard work by so many, we’re almost there!

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



@GreenwichHistoricalSociety



@GrnHistCT



@greenwichhistory

Reimagine the Campus Campaign Update

Dear Historical Society Members and Friends:

We are delighted to announce that we are in the home stretch. As this newsletter went to print, the Historical Society had raised over \$13 million, including the match from anonymous donors, toward the initial goal to support the campus expansion and program fund, with just about \$550,000 left to raise toward our goal.



The Campaign has achieved several milestones. On September 27, elected officials, town dignitaries, Campaign donors and special guests gathered for a “Topping Out” ceremony for the new building, with officials and community leaders signing the final beam before it was lifted into place. On November 4, community members and state and town legislators, including First Selectman Peter Tesei, Selectmen Drew Marzullo and John Toner, State Senator Scott Frantz and State Representatives Fred Camillo and Livvy Floren, all joined the Historical Society for the installation of the cornerstone and time capsule in the new building (see article on page 1 for further details). And in mid-November we thanked our sponsors of the *American Odyssey* exhibition with a talk by historian Dr. Michael Feldberg, a specialist on the history of Jews in New England.

Moving forward, there will be a number of dinners, cocktail hours and public events throughout the early winter, capped by what will be an extraordinary event on April 18 featuring Douglas Brinkley, recent author of *Rightful Heritage: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Land of America*.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our pioneer donors for bringing us so close to the finish line and for allowing us to focus on our endowment drive within the Campaign. We have thus far raised \$500,000 toward the endowment goal, with \$250,000 going to support our Title I school program. We now look to raise an additional \$4.5 million to support future education and preservation programs.

If you would like to help close our Campaign gap or become a member of our planned giving program, the Vanderbilt Society, please contact Development Director Katrina Dorsey at 203-869-6899, Ext. 15 or kdorsey@greenwichhistory.org. She will provide you with a detailed explanation of how to work with your advisors (including the specific language describing different types of bequests for the Vanderbilt Society) and provide naming opportunities, should you choose to participate in our overall campaign.

Sincerely,

—The Campaign Committee: Peter Malkin, Chairman; Suzanne Frank, Bruce Dixon, Robert Getz, Barbara MacDonald, John L. Townsend, III, Hugh B. Vanderbilt, Jr. and Deborah Royce.

To make a donation in support of the Greenwich Historical Society's **Reimagine the Campus Campaign**, the Endowment Fund or the Vanderbilt Society, please contact kdorsey@greenwichhistory.org.

Debbie Reynolds Joins Our Board

A native Californian, Debbie Reynolds began her enduring commitment to the Greenwich Historical Society as a volunteer in 1961. The connection was natural. Husband Russ Reynolds' aunt and uncle, Herbert and Edna Reynolds Ferris, were instrumental in purchasing Bush-Holley House and guiding it through its early years. Debbie's commitment to community service had always run deep, and it didn't take long to make the jump from various volunteer duties to the Board of Trustees, upon which she served from 1967 to 1971, as Vice President of the Executive Committee, on the Membership Committee (1973–1978), as Vice President of Antiques Show Previews (1978–1980); and as Treasurer (1981–1983), after which time she stepped off the Executive Committee but remained on the Board of Trustees until 1986.

Debbie attended Smith College and

graduated from University of California at Berkeley. Her aim has always been “to be a good role model for my three children and 11 grandchildren,” and she has more than succeeded. Debbie's many leadership roles have included Chairman of the Greenwich Committee for Port Chester Carver Center; Trustee of the Episcopal Church Foundation, Christ Church Dark Harbor, Maine and involvement with Manhattan Christian Academy, which serves children in one of the poorest areas of New York City. Debbie has been active at Stanwich Congregational Church as its Moderator (2004–2006) and as a leader in building the new church building. She was founder and is currently chairman of Greenwich Bible Study (now in its 31st year), she serves on the committee for World Vision Fairfield County and sits on the Advisory Board for RHZ Advisors, a wealth management firm.

We are so pleased that Debbie has chosen to offer her experience and vision as



we enter our new phase. From completion of funding for construction of our first archives building, to ongoing and generous support of our endowment and capital funds, both Debbie and husband Russ have, throughout the years, remained dedicated and actively involved with the Historical Society. As Debbie sums it up, “I look forward to an even closer connection to the Historical Society in its exciting future. For both Russ and me, the Historical Society has always been dearest to our hearts.”

Visit this fascinating exhibition and learn about the Jewish experience in Greenwich.



An American Odyssey:

The Jewish Experience in Greenwich

Now through April 15, 2018

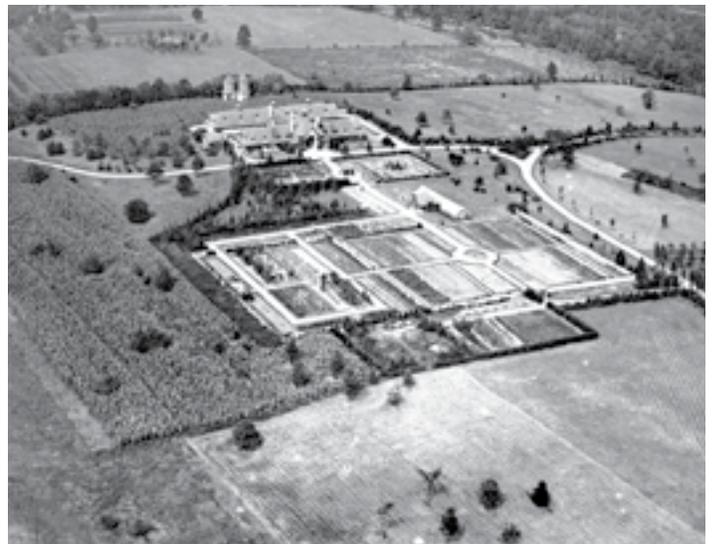
New Addition to the Archives Collection

The Library & Archives recently received a generous donation from Joseph and Claire Morrow of a circa 1920s aerial photograph of Wilshire Farm, the former property of Joseph Wilshire, north of Close Road in the backcountry. The photographer was Captain James Suydam of New York.

Captain Suydam honed his aerial photography skills while serving in the 1st Army Observation Group during World War I. Among other tasks, this group performed strategic reconnaissance, supplying aerial images for use by commanders. For at least a portion of his wartime service, Suydam worked as deputy to Edward Steichen, who went on to become a renowned photographer, curator and visual artist.

Aerial photographs of large estates created by Captain Suydam appear in publications from the 1920s, so it appears he used the expertise developed in the military for projects after the end of the war.

This important image adds to the extensive photograph collection of the Library & Archives and will serve as a valuable resource for researchers for generations to come.



39 Strickland Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807

Save the Dates:

January 1

Camp Registration Opens

January 16

*From Haven to Home:
The Jewish People in America*

February 6

Membership Appreciation Breakfast
Look for your invitation in the mail!

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. Contact Kdorsey@greenwichhistory.org.



children's program

Innovation Is the Key Word for Summer Camp 2018

In honor of our brand-new campus, summer camp will have a brand-new theme.

Winter winds may be blowing, but it's not too early to start planning summer fun for your children or visiting grandchildren. The Greenwich Historical Society's Historic Innovation Camp uses the National Historic Landmark Bush-Holley House and its staff, collections and archives to offer second- through eighth-graders a highly interactive summer experience with a wide variety of activities.

Throughout its history, Greenwich has been home to many creators and inventors, from artists and builders to tech geniuses. This summer we explore some of the globally influential ideas that were hatched here in our hometown. Find out how Colonial farmers used simple mechanics in their everyday lives and how engineers in the 19th century revolutionized transportation.

Campers will also learn about the Cos Cob art colony and Bush-Holley House, where innovators in painting, ceramics, theater production and writing gathered.

As campers discover the work of Greenwich's innovators, they will have the opportunity to try out experiments from the past while developing their own ideas using current technologies.

HISTORIC INNOVATION CAMP

Senior Innovators: Grades 5–8

July 9–13, 2018

Junior Innovators: Grades 2–4

July 16–20, 2018

Are you a member? Early Bird Membership Registration includes a \$50 Family Membership valued at \$65. Family Membership includes free admission and two children under 18 to Bush-Holley House and Exhibition Gallery and membership rates for special events.

Early Bird Rate until April 1, 2018

(Includes \$50 Family Membership): \$400 per week

Open Registration Rate

(Nonmembers and all campers after April 1): \$450 per week

Last day to register is June 15, 2018.

Register online at www.greenwichhistory.org/camp.php, or contact LoriBeth Talbot at Ltalbot@greenwichhistory.org or at 203-869-6899, Ext. 32.