

Greenwich Historical Society

Explore our colorful past



news+programs

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GREENWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

is dedicated to promoting Greenwich's unique and colorful past. Our Archives 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 15 world-class museums and historic sites across the state. Discover collections rich in history and heritage, including European masterpieces, American Impressionism, ancient art and contemporary culture.

HOURS

Storehouse Gallery

Open Wednesday through Sunday, 12–4 pm

Docent-led tours of Bush-Holley House 1, 2 and 3 pm

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Library and Archives

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

ADMISSION TO STOREHOUSE GALLERY

\$10 for adults

\$8 for seniors and students

Free for Historical Society members and children 6 and under

CONTACT US

Greenwich Historical Society
39 Strickland Road
Cos Cob, CT 06807
203-869-6899
www.greenwichhistory.org

DIRECTIONS

Off I-95 at exit 4. Visit
www.greenwichhistory.org
for details.

Historical Society Celebrates 25 Years Preserving Local Architecture

On Sunday, April 28, 2013, nearly 200 guests celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Greenwich Historical Society's Landmark Recognition Program (originally called Signs of the Times) with a reception at the Belle Haven Club chaired by Alease Fisher Tallman and Robert Getz. Since its inception, the program has documented over 283 historic structures in Greenwich.

Landmark Recognition Committee Chairman Jack Morris presented plaques to owners of five homes and provided a short and fascinating history of each, including: the Howe-Willson House (circa 1818), home of Cindy and Bob Holland; the Alfred Bell House (1869), home of M.E. and Gudmundur Kjaernested; the John Lockhart House (1867), owned by David Ogilvy; the August S. Houghton House (1908), home of Chris and Michael Zimmerman; and the Mary C. Morrison House (1912), home of Melissa and Carney Hawks. After a brief film on the history of the Belle Haven Club, produced by Amy Mooney, Historical Society Board Chair David Strackbein recognized the Belle Haven Club (originally built in 1892 as Belle Haven Casino) as a landmark site by presenting a plaque to past commodore Lynne Smith. As a long-time supporter and historic property owner, David Ogilvy also spoke about the importance of recognizing and documenting Greenwich's historic properties.

Architect Samuel White topped off the celebration with a talk on the development of Colonial Revival architecture in America. White, a preservation specialist and great grandson of iconic American architect Stanford White, advised on the restoration of the Belle Haven Club House when it was moved and refurbished about a decade ago.

The Historical Society would like to acknowledge Jack Morris and the entire Landmarks Committee whose hard work ensured the success of a memorable event that laid the groundwork for another 25 years of preservation. ■

To see a video of event highlights, visit It's Relevant.com (http://greenwich.itsrelevant.com/content/14218/Historical_Society_Adds_6_Local_Landmarks_).

Photos of the event may also be seen on FairfieldCountyLook.com.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Ellen Reid and Northern Trust for underwriting the event with a generous contribution and to David Ogilvy & Associates for their continued financial support. We would also like to recognize and thank Horseneck Wines & Liquors and Moffly Media's Greenwich Magazine for helping to promote the event.

(Left to right) Sponsor David Ogilvy receives plaque from Board Chair David Strackbein; Landmarks Committee Chair Jack Morris with Event Chair Alease Fisher Tallman; Speaker Sam White in action.



All images from the Collection of the Greenwich Historical Society



Executive Director Debra Mecky with Volunteer of the Year Helen Dixon (left); Board Member and Event Chair Myrna Haft, Round Hill Partners Sponsor Renee Gallagher and Bea Crumbine (below, left); 2012 Antiquarius Chairs Catherine Tompkins, Killeen Faughnan and Leigh Ann Ryan, Development Director Anne Bradner (below, right).



The Green Team wastes no time getting the arbor in shape.

Kudos to the Green Team

Our dedicated Green Team greeted spring by giving the grape arbor leading to the Archives a much-needed pruning. Perched on ladders and armed with clippers, the group of eight volunteers, led by Nick Mancini, a Master Gardener and organic gardening specialist, completed the project in under three hours. Soon after, the team began work on our period vegetable garden by double digging rows to create raised beds in anticipation of a bumper crop of vegetables, herbs and berries. This year's plan, modeled on notes from former resident artist Elmer MacRae's garden diary, will brim with heirloom varieties of peas, kale, tomatoes, leeks, strawberries, sun chokes, squash, beans, potatoes and more.

The dedicated team includes Master Gardeners Ros Brady and Beth Ryder, along with herbalist and author Rosemary Loudon, and is aided by Carolyn Schaefer Glebeas, who is currently working on her Master Gardening certification. Members gather a few times a week to seed, weed and carefully tend the plants as they grow.

The Green Team deserves a round of applause for their truly "hands-on" volunteer efforts. Their careful stewardship of the grounds brings yet another dimension to the interpretation of the site, which provided both inspiration and fresh produce for visitors during the art colony era at Bush-Holley House—and still does! ■

Helen Dixon Named Volunteer of the Year

The Greenwich Historical Society feted its wonderful volunteers with a beautiful cocktail reception at the Round Hill Club on April 24, 2013, sponsored by Round Hill Partners.

Helen Dixon was named Volunteer of the Year for her invaluable service in helping to manage a number of site improvement projects. In honoring Mrs. Dixon, Executive Director Debra Mecky cited her perseverance, diplomacy and versatility as crucial to maintaining and expanding the Bush-Holley Historic Site in the recent past.

Outgoing Antiquarius Boutique Chair Killeen Faughnan and outgoing Holiday House Tour chairs Wendy Hearn, Leigh Ann Ryan and Catherine Tompkins were honored for their leadership. Bea Crumbine was also recognized for community collaboration in the creation of the Historical Society's current exhibition, *From Italy to America*.

Comedienne Jane Condon entertained the group, wrapping up the evening with a unique and personal take on volunteerism. Over 80 volunteers were in attendance, and all were saluted for the many ways in which they support history, preservation and education in the community. ■

Patrons Acknowledged at 2013 Greenwich Historic Trust Event

This year's Trust Event was held on June 4 at the beautiful Conyers Farm home of Thomas Peterffy who also graciously underwrote the elegant evening. Nearly 70 special patrons of the Historical Society were in attendance and were thanked for their significant contributions in support of the Greenwich Historical Society during the past year.

The Greenwich Historic Trust, an annual giving program, was established in 1998 to ensure the continuity of the dedicated

efforts of Claire Vanderbilt on behalf of the Historical Society. The Trust supports Greenwich history and preservation activities including exhibitions, educational programs, the William B. Finch Jr. Library and Archives, and stewardship and interpretation of the Bush-Holley Historic Site. We are immeasurably grateful for the ongoing support of these loyal contributors who give so generously to ensure that preservation efforts and the study of history thrive in our community. ■





Top of Greenwich Avenue circa 1890.

Communities & Neighborhoods of Greenwich Lectures

Greenwich Library and the Greenwich Historical Society will be examining communities and neighborhoods of Greenwich in a new lecture series presented by local experts. On Saturday, July 13, 2013, at 2:00 pm, our very own board chair and historian Davide Strackbein will talk about the Horseneck neighborhood, explaining how it changed over time from a primarily agricultural community to the central business section of the town. The program will take place at the Greenwich Library Meeting Room, 101 West Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830. For information on future programs, visit www.greenwichlibrary.org. ■

Help Us Build a World War I Exhibition

In the wake of the overwhelming community participation in *From Italy to America*, the Greenwich Historical Society is asking for input from Greenwich residents whose ancestors may have lived in town during the First World War. A "Discovery Day" at the Greenwich Library is planned for Thursday, July 11, 2013, at 7:00 to 9:00 pm to glean stories and examine documents and memorabilia relating to Greenwich residents who fought in World War I or did their part on the home front. The goal is to discover information or artifacts that could become part of a fall 2014 exhibition on Greenwich during the Great War. If you have information or items on the topic, please help us tell the local story.

For questions or additional info, please contact archivist Christopher Shields at cshields@greenwichhistory.org or 203-869-6899, Ext. 23. ■

Storehouse Gallery Summer Exhibition

GREENWICH: THE PERSPECTIVE OF TIME

GREENWICH: THE PERSPECTIVE OF TIME is a collaboration between the Greenwich Historical Society and the Stamford Photography Club. The show, comprised of juried images, is the result of an invitation by the Greenwich Historical Society to members of the Stamford Photography Club to submit photographs that portray aspects of Greenwich history through the eye of the lens. The images will be on display at the Historical Society's Storehouse Gallery from July 17 through September 1, 2013, with an opening reception for members on July 16 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

The varied and fascinating images represent a visual commentary on the ever-changing face of the community and how



aspects of Greenwich as they are today may not survive the next generation.

The Stamford Photography Club (originally the Stamford Camera Club, founded in 1945) provides a meeting ground for photographers of all levels. The organization regularly holds classes and conducts competitions in a variety of categories, and offers support, advice and avenues for display to photographers. ■

July 17 to September 1, 2013

*Open Wednesday through Sunday, noon–4:00 pm
Storehouse Gallery*

Admission is free to members.

*Members Opening Reception: July 16, 2013,
6:00–7:30 pm; to attend the members' opening
reception, please call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10.*

Hamilton Avenue Museum/School Partnership 2012/13

At the end of the school year, virtually every student at Hamilton Avenue had visited the Bush-Holley Historic Site as a result of our museum/school partnership. The program, begun five 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 life-long learning and appreciation of local history. On June 18, proud students shared the results of their studies with their families and school officials, exhibiting class



quilts and self-portraits and leading tours of Bush-Holley House.

Special thanks to the Fairfield County Community Foundation for supporting the program with a grant and to individual donors who supported the 2012–2013 Annual Fund. ■

Greenwich Community Artists: Inheriting the Impressionist Traditions



Maragaret Esmé Simon
Five Pears II, 11" x 14"
oil on canvas board



Perry Robinson
Summer Jardiniere,
11" x 14"
oil on canvas



Maria C. Friscia
Naturewalk,
16" x 20"
oil on canvas

*June 5 through July 31, 2013;
Wednesday through Sunday,
noon–4:00 pm*

Storehouse Gallery Shop

Admission is free.

*All works are for sale with
part of the proceeds
benefiting the Historical
Society.*

39 Strickland Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807

Save the Dates:

- July 11
World War I Discovery Day
- July 17
Greenwich: The Perspective of Time opens
- July 31
Greenwich Community Artists exhibition, Inheriting the Impressionist Tradition, closes

news

Historical Society Welcomes New Board Members



The Historical Society welcomed Gray Hampton III and Catherine Tompkins to its board of trustees in 2013. Mr. Hampton is currently Managing

Director at Bank of America Merrill Lynch and will serve on the Finance Committee. He received a B.S., Phi Beta Kappa, from Davidson College and a J.D. from the University of Michigan. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Northeast Greenwich Association.

Ms. Tompkins served as Antiquarius Holiday House Tour co-chair in 2011 and 2012, spearheaded the Miles Redd designer event in fall 2012 and served as co-chair of the Historical Society's Jeffrey Billhuber designer event in spring 2012. She graduated from Yale, Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude, with B.A.s in Political Science and Spanish. She earned an MBA from Harvard Business School, where she was a Baker Scholar, and has a decade of experience working in finance and investment management. She will continue in her involvement with Antiquarius as a member of the 2013 Steering Committee and will also serve on the Development Committee. ■

Greenwich Native Anna Greco Joins Historical Society Staff

Anna Greco has joined the Greenwich Historical Society as the Curator of Education. She is currently a master's candidate at Harvard University in the Museum Studies Program and received a dual B.A. from Wellesley College in Art History and Classical Civilizations. Her master's thesis entitled "Participatory Design: Community Memories at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History" is based on an original exhibition that Anna designed for that museum. She has worked with institutions in Boston and Santa Cruz to develop educational programs and gallery interpretation and has over seven years of experience as a museum educator. A Greenwich native, Anna is thrilled to return to the town that fostered her love of history and culture. "I remember coming to the Bush-Holley House as a child and being fascinated by how each object had a story to tell about our town. Through our educational programs, I hope to instill this same curiosity in all of our visitors." ■

