Thank You, Antiquarius Volunteers

The scale of Antiquarius, the Greenwich Historical Society’s most important yearly fundraiser, demands many, many hands, hearts and minds. We were abundantly blessed in 2013.

In pursuit of meeting this year’s financial goals, an ambitious program of events was undertaken that included:

• A fabulous Preview Party attended by over 100 delighted guests
• The newly re-created Greenwich Winter Antiques Show managed by Frank Gaglio, Inc.
• Presentations and book signings by a host of talented designers
• The ever-popular Holiday Boutique with a perfect combination of new vendors and old favorites
• A flawless Holiday House Tour of five stunning homes

We are very grateful to the scores of generous patrons, corporate sponsors and dedicated volunteers who donated their time and financial resources, and we would like to express our deep appreciation to the five homeowners who so generously shared their homes with hundreds of visitors on our behalf.

Finally, we would like to recognize our tireless event chairs and steering committee members. Not only were they incredibly capable, but they also brought a truly joyful and creative spirit to the task. The Greenwich Historical Society is indeed fortunate to be the beneficiary of the efforts of everyone involved in supporting our mission to educate, preserve and promote Greenwich history. Kudos to all!

Event Chairs
Tiffany Burnette and Don Casturo
Mimi and John Henry Moulton
Anne and Chuck Niemeth
Anne and David Ogilvy
Deborah and Chuck Royce
Leigh Ann and Robert Ryan
Catherine and David Tompkins
Roxanne and Hugh Vanderbilt

Honorary Chair
Mary McDonald

Committee Chairs
Ashley Allan and Holly Cassin
Co-Chairs, Holiday Boutique
Sandra Morgan and Laird Morgan Tolan
Co-Chairs, Holiday House Tour
Rachel Kelley
Chair, Transportation and Logistics
Barbara H. MacDonald
Chair, Silent Auction

Patron Party Hosts
Linda and Richard C. Breeden

Kickoff Luncheon Hosts
Deborah and Chuck Royce

Greenwich Winter Antiques Show Producer
Frank Gaglio, Inc.

Antiquarius 2013 was generously sponsored by:
David Ogilvy & Associates / Christie’s International Real Estate
Douglas VanderHorn Architects
Fireman’s Fund Insurance Company

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Willa Cather Slept Here
A Lecture by Dr. Laura Winters

Quintessentially American author Willa Cather was a frequent guest at the Holley Boarding House, now Bush-Holley Historic Site, home of the Greenwich Historical Society. Cather famously suggested, “The world broke in two in 1922 or thereabouts.” While this radical statement related to the destruction and suffering wrought by WWI as well as to significant changes in Cather’s life, it is also evident that the revolution of Modernist visual art (as exemplified in the 1913 Armory Show) changed Cather’s approach to writing. In conjunction with the Greenwich Historical Society’s exhibition The New Spirit and the Cos Cob Art Colony: Before and After the Armory Show, lecturer Laura Winters will give a one-hour talk on the influence that the period leading up to World War I had on Cather and her fiction.

While Cather’s earlier work harked back to 19th-century writers and artists as well as to her Nebraska roots, for a while after the Armory Show, she was unsure how to incorporate the radical shift in aesthetics into her own writing. Lecturer Laura Winters will explore how the period changed Cather’s themes, process and style as evidenced in the publication of One of Ours in 1922.

Dr. Laura Winters has taught literature, writing and film for over 30 years at the College of Saint Elizabeth in Morristown, New Jersey, and has taught for over 20 years in the graduate school at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. She has published Willa Cather: Landscape and Exile as well as articles about American literature and film, and edits the Willa Cather Series at FDU (Fairleigh Dickinson University) Press.

Thursday, Jan. 9, 2013, 1:00 to 2:00 pm
Vanderbilt Education Center
Admission $10 for members; $15 for nonmembers
For reservations, visit www.greenwichhistory.org or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10.
Upper Porch Circle Gift from Davidde and Ronald Strackbein

The upper porch at Bush-Holley House was a gathering place and a vantage point for artists of the Cos Cob art colony. Many of them painted views of the then-bucolic waterfront village from this perch. The Upper Porch Circle was established in 2005 to further the Historical Society’s collecting objectives with particular emphasis on the acquisition of significant objects or works of art connected to the history of Bush-Holley Historic Site, Greenwich, the Cos Cob art colony or the Historical Society’s mission.

To this end, Ronald and Davidde Strackbein recently donated the oil painting Pond in Spring, 1890-1900 by Leonard Ochtman (1854-1935). We are deeply grateful to the Strackbeins for their generosity.

Leonard Ochtman was known for his landscape paintings that should, according to him, show the “effect of the day, hour or moment, the mood and not a transcript of the place.” He settled in the Cos Cob area in 1891. While he did not board at Bush-Holley House, he was an active member of the Cos Cob art colony and, along with Elmer MacRae, was one of the founding members of the Greenwich Society of Artists.

Join the Upper Porch Circle

Do you own or intend to purchase a work of art or an object that meets our collection criteria? If so, you can make arrangements with the Historical Society to donate it to our permanent collection through a promised gift agreement. The agreement allows for your donation to come to the Historical Society through a special contract at a specific time designated by you.

Members of the Upper Porch Circle are invited to special receptions from time to time to learn about recent acquisitions or promised gifts, and will be informed of future opportunities to acquire works of art that meet the collecting objectives of the Historical Society. To learn more about this planned giving program, please contact Anne Bradner at 203-869-6899, Ext. 15.

for kids

Hamilton Avenue School Quilt Exhibition at Storehouse Gallery

February 5, 2014, through March 16, 2014

To celebrate the fifth year of our museum-school partnership with Hamilton Avenue Magnet School, we plan to display 13 quilts made by third-grade classes from 2009 (the first year of the partnership) through 2013. Also on display will be a quilt from the Historical Society’s own collection made by Mary C. Adams, entitled Glenville 1756–1976. Adams’ quilt is pieced with panels that reflect the history of Glenville. The show will be curated by Anna Greco, Curator of Education, and Karen Frederick, Curator and Exhibitions Coordinator. There will be an opening reception February 5 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at the Greenwich Historical Society Storehouse Gallery.

February Vacation Workshops

Residents of Bush-Holley House during the early new nation years were required to make many of their everyday household items by hand. Crafting reliable baskets for storage and sewing quilts for winter warmth were crucial skills that we don’t generally learn today, but our predecessors’ survival depended on them. The Historical Society is offering afternoon workshops for kids during the February school vacation that focus on a different colonial craft each session. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about traditional handmade objects and then make them to take home.

Basket Making: Tuesday, February 11, 2014
Quilted Pillows: Wednesday, February 12, 2014
Make Your Own Books and Ink: Friday, February 14, 2014

Sessions run from 1:00 to 3:00 pm
Members: $5 per day/$15 for the week;
nonmembers: $8 per day/$25 for the week
Vanderbilt Education Center
While all ages are welcome, these workshops are best for third grade and higher.
Early this fall, the Greenwich Historical Society assisted our River Road and Mead Avenue neighbors with an application to the National Register of Historic Places, an official roster of buildings, structures, districts, objects and sites that are considered significant to the history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture of Connecticut and the nation. Registration is an honor bestowed on historic properties by both the state and the federal governments that encourages present and future owners to continue to practice thoughtful stewardship of historic properties. Owners of registered properties may donate historic preservation easements (which can reduce real estate taxes), qualify for state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits, receive technical assistance for maintenance and rehabilitation projects, and display plaques that mark the property’s significance.

The River Road/Mead Avenue district is well qualified for the designation. The area features many gracious 19th-century homes sited on larger-than-average lots and offers truly fine examples of distinctive mid-to-late 19th- and early 20th-century architecture in a wide range of styles from Gothic Revival to Italianate, Second Empire, Colonial Revival and late Victorian shingle-style homes.

Executive Director Debra Mecky consulted with area residents to assist in the process, and Historical Society researcher Nils Kerschus prepared the nearly 50-page application, which required architectural surveys, photographs and documentation of the various physical features that distinguish the homes within the district. With the approval of the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Review Board on October 21, 2013, the River Road/Mead Avenue historic district has crossed the first hurdle. This application is now being reviewed by the National Park Service for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. We’ll keep you posted on further developments.

If you would like to learn more about historic designations and historic properties in Greenwich, visit www.greenwichhistory.org and select the “Greenwich History/Preservation” menu.