

Greenwich Historical Society

Explore our colorful past



news+programs

january | february 2013

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.

WINTER HOURS

January 7–February 28, 2013

Bush-Holley House Tours

Friday–Sunday, 12–4 pm

Docent tours at 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.

Letter from the Executive Director

DEAR MEMBER:

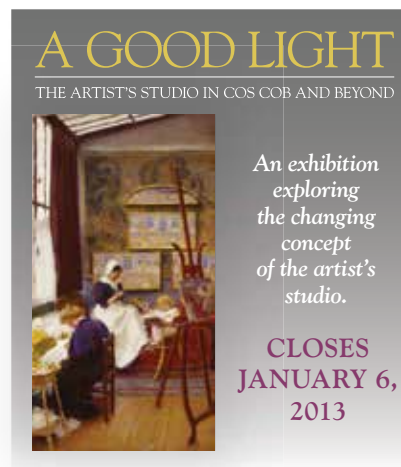
As the new year arrives, your generous gifts to the Historical Society this past year will keep on giving in the form of the many culturally enriching exhibitions and public programs highlighted in this newsletter. Story Barn will expand to include Bonnie Levison's workshops for budding storytellers, and *Songs of the Civil War*, canceled due to Hurricane Sandy, returns on February 3 with another exciting program of songs and narration sure to entertain the whole family.

In January we will partner with the Bruce Museum, Greenwich Tree Conservancy and Greenwich Reform Synagogue for a lecture on the science of history, featuring Neil Pederson of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. Dr. Pederson will talk about how wood samples taken from our own Bush-Holley House helped to date changes to the house over time.



New-York Historical Society and the Florence Griswold Museum. When visiting, you will also want to check out the expanded Studio room in Bush-Holley House. While there, be sure to ask about our new acquisition entitled, *Seated Lady in a Red Dress*. This evocative painting by Elmer MacRae, now on view in the Studio room, was a recent gift of Wendy Nicholson, Alison Kirk and Harold H. Webber in honor and memory of their parents, Harold and Shirley Webber, who purchased it in New York City in 1962. The painting portrays a seated woman in a red dress, leaning on her left arm, wearing a hat with a white veil that has been pulled back, and holding a pair of gloves in her left hand. MacRae gives the most attention to the ring on her left hand. While the woman was identified by Hirschl & Adler Galleries, Inc. in 1990 as MacRae's wife Constant, we cannot identify the sitter. Can you?

Debra Mecky
Executive Director
Greenwich Historical Society



There are only a few more weeks to see and bring your friends to our special exhibition curated by Susan Larkin, *A Good Light: The Artist's Studio in Cos Cob and Beyond*, featuring 26 works of art on loan from 16 lenders, including the National Portrait Gallery, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The

The Science of History: Lecture on Tree Rings and the History They Reveal

From the rise and fall of the Mongol Empire to the construction of buildings and boats, trees are environmental historians that can reveal events long faded from human memory and documents. In celebration of the Jewish New Year for Trees, Tu B'Shevat and to bring the lesson even closer to home, Neil Pedersen, PhD, will discuss how tree ring cores taken from Greenwich's National



Historic Landmark Bush-Holley House have helped to reveal its construction history. The event is co-sponsored by the Greenwich Historical Society, the Greenwich Tree Conservancy, the Bruce Museum and the Greenwich Reform Synagogue.

Dr. Pederson is Research Assistant Professor in the Tree Ring Laboratory at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University. Pederson grew up in snowbound central New York State and spent considerable time in the Adirondack Mountains. Between his BS and MS degrees in forest ecology, he worked in the longleaf pine forests of southern Georgia, the hardwood forests of northern Vermont and the forests of Mongolia and Russia before focusing on eastern United States forests for his dissertation. He taught at Eastern Kentucky University for five years in the Department of Biological Sciences before taking his current position at Columbia. His primary research interest is the interaction between climate and forest dynamics in diverse, temperate forests, and he has initiated research on the broadleaf forests of the eastern United States, Turkey and Bhutan.

Thursday, January 24, 2013
(snow date: January 29)

Doors open at 6:30 pm; lecture begins at 7:00 pm

Greenwich Historical Society, Vanderbilt Education Center, 39 Strickland Road, Cos Cob, CT

Admission is free but reservations are suggested. Please call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10.

Songs of the Civil War

Rescheduled for February 3



Stephanie Kies

In an afternoon of song and readings, a complement of local musicians will explore the lyrical history of the Civil War on authentic period instruments. The performance will frame each year of the War Be-

tween the States within a particular context: bravado and marching songs, camp songs, songs of home, spirituals, and songs of victory and defeat. The program was conceived and spearheaded by Stefanie Kies in collaboration with Nick Carter and Tim Schantz.

The program was originally developed by Ms. Kies in collaboration with the

Greenwich Historical Society last February. It is offered once again in co-sponsorship with Greenwich Library as part of the programming of *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, an exhibition developed by the American Library Association. It has been generously underwritten by The Malkin Fund. The performance is designed to appeal to adults as well as middle school, high school and college students.

Sunday, February 3, 2013 (This program was originally scheduled for November 4, 2012, and canceled due to Hurricane Sandy.)

Greenwich Library, Cole Auditorium, 101 West Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT

Admission is free. For reservations, call 203-869-6899.



The Seasonal Baker: John Barricelli Book Talk and Signing

Known for his delicious and gorgeous baked goods, our good friend and baker supreme John Barricelli of the SoNo Baking Company in Norwalk and Westport, has released a new book: *The Seasonal Baker*. In it he brings everyday baking with fruits and vegetables within reach of home cooks, offering 135 sweet and savory recipes for all seasons.

Very much in keeping with the themes of our Green Market programs, this follow-up to his acclaimed *The SoNo Baking Company Cookbook* showcases the diversity of produce throughout the seasons. This rich collection of recipes, great for beginning bakers and pros alike, is enhanced by beautiful color photography and Barricelli family stories. John is a master baker and an all-around great guy. Don't miss this one.

Treats will be served, and copies of *The Seasonal Baker* will be available for purchase and signing.

Wednesday, February 20, 2013
11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Vanderbilt Education Center

Reserve online at www.greenwichhistory.org or call 203-869-6899.

Many Thanks for Making 2012 A Wonderful Year

If you received a copy of our recent annual report, you undoubtedly took note of the success and broad appeal of the wealth of education, history and preservation programs offered in the past year. They were all made possible by you! When you receive our annual appeal in the mail shortly, please remember the Greenwich Historical Society so we can continue to play a vital and active role in our beloved community.

If you live or work in this community, you have a stake in the Greenwich Historical Society.

Second Sunday Family Programs

The Art of Origami

Sunday, January 13, 2013



Vanderbilt Education Center any time before or after their tours and choose from three origami projects: a jumping frog, a colorful box or an origami tower.

Take a family-friendly tour of Bush-Holley House, learn about Japanese artist and illustrator Genjiro Yeto who was often in residence there, and find out how Japanese art influenced Cos Cob art colony artists in many ways. To continue learning about Japanese art and culture, families may drop in at the

Vintage Valentines

Sunday, February 10, 2013



In honor of St. Valentine's Day, take a special family-friendly tour of Bush-Holley House, work on a heart-shaped yarn-stitching project and see vintage cards from the collection of the MacRae family, residents of Bush-Holley House during the home's art colony period. Then visit the Vanderbilt Education Center to create your very own Valentine's Day cards based on vintage designs.

Drop into family programs any time from noon to 4:00 pm.

First tour begins at 12:30 pm, and last tour takes place at 3:30 pm.

Members: \$5.00; nonmembers: \$10.00. All project supplies will be provided.

Bush-Holley House and Vanderbilt Education

Visit www.greenwichhistory.org to purchase tickets in advance.



Coming in March

From Italy to America

A new exhibition that celebrates the rich cultural heritage of the Italian-American community through objects, documents and videos drawn from local Greenwich families, plus a complementary collection of 26 black and white photographs by photographer Anthony Riccio drawn from a show entitled *From Italy to America*, originally organized by the Bellarmine Museum of Art, Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut.

Stay tuned for more details and announcements on program-related events.



Visit us on Facebook to see changing Greenwich History articles and event announcements.

Story Barn Workshop and Performance

The art of personal storytelling has experienced an incredible revival

in American culture as evidenced by the sellout crowds at past Story Barns performances. This year, board member and standup comedienne Bonnie Levison will be leading a personal storytelling workshop culminating in a performance on Friday, February 1, 2013. Past Story Barn themes have often tied into exhibitions here at the Historical Society. This time around, we are opening up the field for our debut storytellers with a program entitled "Mixed Bag," honoring the diversity of our performers and the stories they have to tell.

In a three-session workshop, participants will develop and craft their personal tales. The first session will focus on principles of storytelling and individual idea development; the second session will look at developing the arc of the story; the third will consist of fine-tuning the story and developing its presentation. There will be an optional fourth session in preparation for the performance.



Multitalented Levison has been performing standup comedy and storytelling on a wide variety of stages for many years. She is a storytelling instructor for MothSHOP, the community and corporate education program for The Moth, a nonprofit organization based in New York City dedicated to the art and craft of storytelling. She also founded the Nantucket Comedy Festival.

Don't miss this price-less opportunity to learn

more about your friends and neighbors. You're sure to be surprised and entertained.

Workshop dates: January 10, 17, 24 and 31 (optional); 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Workshop fee is \$100 for members and \$125 for nonmembers. Advance registration is required.

To sign up for the workshop or to reserve for the February 1 Story Barn performance, Mixed Bag, visit www.greenwichhistory.org or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10.

Admission to the performance is \$15 for members and \$20 for nonmembers.

ANTIQUARIUS 2012

ANTIQUARIUS 2012 PROVED TO BE A monumental success that included a tour of five incredibly gorgeous homes and a gift boutique that offered over 30 vendors with a dynamic mix of gifts that met the demands of the most discerning shoppers in town. New to the mix this year was an opening celebration, "Paint the Town Redd," featuring a lecture and book signing by design-world wunderkind Miles Redd. A true crowd pleaser, Redd entertained with stories from his *Big Book of Chic*, provided creative advice, signed books and generally charmed the group of 100 lucky ticketholders.

Kudos to Antiquarius House Tour co-chairs Wendy Hearn, Leigh Ann Ryan and Catherine Tompkins and to Holiday Boutique co-chairs Ashley Allan and Killeen Faughnan; to steering committee members Jennifer Moross and Anne Ogilvy; to transportation and logistics chair Rachel Kelley and to media coordinator Alicia Laing. Special thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers for helping to produce this event. It



Miles Redd signs books for Patrons Douglas Graneto and Wear Culvahouse

is no small task to successfully coordinate this multi-faceted fundraiser, but this year's talented group exhibited unequalled style, teamwork and professionalism.

We are deeply grateful to the five gracious homeowners who shared their spectacular homes and for the continued support of long-time sponsor David Ogilvy & Associates and media sponsor *Connecticut Cottages and Gardens*. A huge, heartfelt "thank you" to all who supported the Greenwich Historical Society by organizing, supporting and attending this important fundraising event.

Charles Barber Remembered

Longtime Historical Society member Charles Finch Barber recently passed away on September 30, 2012 at age 95. Only days before, Mr. Barber made a generous contribution of \$25,000 in support of the Historical Society's Library and Archives.

Mr. Barber had a distinguished life and career. He graduated from Northwestern University, Harvard Law School and Oxford University. He was a Rhodes Scholar, served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, was former chairman of ASARCO and past director of the New York Stock Exchange. He was married for 62 years to Lois Helen LaCroix and is survived by four children: Brad Barber, Ann Barber, Robin Barber and Elizabeth Siegler.

The Board of Directors for the Greenwich Historical Society thanks Mr. Barber for his steadfast support of our mission to capture and promote Greenwich's unique and colorful past.

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Save the Dates:

- **Now through January 6**
*A Good Light:
The Artist's Studio in Cos Cob and Beyond*
- **January 10, 17, 24 and 31 (optional)**
Story Barn Workshops
- **January 13**
*Second Sunday Family Program:
The Art of Origami*
- **January 24 (Snow Date: January 29)**
*The Science of History:
Tree Rings and the History They Reveal*
- **February 1**
Story Barn: Mixed Bag
- **February 3**
Songs of the Civil War
- **February 10**
*Second Sunday Family Program:
Vintage Valentines*
- **February 20**
*The Seasonal Baker: Book Talk and Signing
with John Barricelli*