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 17 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
$10 for adults
$8 for seniors and students
Admission always free to members.
Free to the public the first Wednesday of every month.

CONTACT US
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Cos Cob, CT 06807
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DIRECTIONS

GREENWICH’S GREAT ESTATES
ON DISPLAY APRIL 9 ~ AUGUST 31, 2014

Enjoying the Country Life Cribbage Game Night
Thursday, April 24, 2014, 7:00–9:00 pm

A cribbage board handmade by Grover Cleveland will be on display as part of the upcoming Great Estates exhibition. Sir John Suckling is credited with the invention of cribbage in the 17th century. It became popular with New England colonists and was quickly adopted by sailors and fishermen as a way to pass the time. Local business mogul E.C. Benedict and President Grover Cleveland were avid cribbage players, often aboard Benedict’s yacht Oneida, and if they forgot a board, they would make one by hand rather than do without their favorite game.

Whether you are a beginner or live for “muggins,” join us (and the ranks of aforementioned titans) for drinks and games on Thursday, April 24, 2014, 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Vanderbilt Education Center
Members: $10; nonmembers: $15 (includes wine, beer and snacks). Ages 21 and over please. ID required.

All images from the Collection of the Greenwich Historical Society
2014 Landmark Program to Feature Peter Pennoyer and Author Anne Walker

In addition to presenting plaques to homeowners of four historic Greenwich homes and to the Round Hill Club, this year’s Landmark Recognition Program will feature a talk by Peter Pennoyer entitled “Narratives of Manners and Style: The Houses of Cross & Cross.” Complementing our Great Estates of Greenwich exhibition, the lecture will focus on country houses and estates designed and built by brothers John Walter and Eliot Cross, whose ambitious portfolio included homes for a renowned list of clients including Electra Havemeyer Webb and Henry Francis du Pont and as iconic structures as the RCA Victor (GE) Building and Tiffany & Co.’s Fifth Avenue flagship building.

Pennoyer, with coauthor Anne Walker, recently completed a new book about Cross & Cross entitled New York Transformed. The book explores the brothers’ significant influence on real estate development as well as the architecture of their time, and will be available for purchase and signing.

Sunday, April 27, 2014, 5:00 – 7:00 pm
The Round Hill Club, 33 Round Hill Club Road, Greenwich, CT
$75 per person; $250 for Patrons level; $500 for Benefactor level
Advance reservations required. Invitations will be mailed or visit www.greenwichhistory.org or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10 for tickets.

We are grateful to Northern Trust and to David Ogilvy & Associates for underwriting this event.

Time Travel On Holiday in Greenwich: The Edgewood Inn

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Greenwich was a popular leisure-time destination that featured a number of architecturally impressive and luxurious hotels. Some were located right on the Sound while others were situated to take advantage of the town’s bucolic countryside. All of them played an important role in the lively social scene enjoyed by wealthy residents and visitors to the area, serving as popular venues for elaborate luncheons, elegant dinners and other festive gatherings.

The Edgewood Inn, which a 1939 article described as “for many years one of the largest and most fashionable summer hotels in this section,” opened its doors in June 1902. It was located near the intersection of today’s Edgewood Place, Edgewood Drive and Valley Drive on land that was once a part of the Colonel Thomas A. Mead farm.

Construction of the Inn was financed by Nathaniel Witherell, a wealthy New York shipping tycoon and leading Greenwich real estate developer and philanthropist. As a partner in the newly formed Edgewood Land Company, Witherell was no doubt eager for its guests to enjoy the Inn’s country setting and, hopefully, be enticed to purchase land in the surrounding subdivision.

While the train had brought visitors to Greenwich for many years, it’s interesting to note the emphasis on automobile travelers in the pages from period marketing brochures. These “automobilists” could revive themselves from their long journeys (on roads which, by today’s standards, were probably challenging on a good day). Refreshed, they could either continue to other sites in New England or choose to enjoy the many amenities right here.
Hands-On History Spring Vacation Workshops

The Historical Society is once again offering fun and imaginative art and history workshops for kids during the upcoming public school vacation week. This time around, projects will be based on themes from our exhibition Enjoying the Country Life: Greenwich’s Great Estates.

Dream House: Greenwich became the ideal place to build during the Gilded Age. It still is. Kids will construct their very own dream houses out of cardboard boxes.

East Meets West: Japanese art techniques significantly influenced the work of the Cos Cob art colony. Kids will learn about Sumi-e ink painting and compare the technique to traditional Western watercolors by creating their own works of art in each style.

High Flyers: Enjoy an activity that’s synonymous with spring! Make and fly custom-designed kites.

Garden Arty: Potatoes, lemons, apples and celery are more than just delicious. They’re great for making stamps and creating works of art. Join us for this tasty project and take home one-of-a-kind placemats.

Sessions run from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.
Vanderbilt Education Center
Members: $5 per day/$15 for the week;
nonmembers: $8 per day/$25 for the week.
To register, visit www.greenwichhistory.org or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10.
All ages welcome.

Students Shine at Hamilton Avenue Quilt Partnership Exhibition

An exhibition featuring quilts made by Hamilton Avenue Magnet School third grade classes opened at the Storehouse Gallery on February 6. Quilts featured in the exhibition were created between 2009 and 2013 and serve as a colorful reminder of the many students who have passed through our doors as a result of this special museum-school partnership. Individual panels offer imaginative interpretations of what students saw and learned. Subjects include everything from “aerial view” depictions of the New Nation Rooms to recreations of works of art hung throughout the house. When pieced together, the students’ panels represent a lasting collective memory of a visit to Bush-Holley Historic Site and are vivid examples of the impact we can have on young minds through your support of education programs.

Pictured here on opening night are Hamilton Avenue principal Cynthia Womack, art teacher Nancy Moskowitz (also a member of our Education Committee) and Curator of Education Anna Greco.

Camp Registration Now Open

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 History and Art Camp uses the National Historic Landmark Bush-Holley Historic Site and its staff, collections and archives to offer first- through seventh-graders a highly interactive summer experience with a wide variety of activities.

The first week immerses campers in the life of New England colonists during the American Revolution, while the second week explores the Cos Cob art colony and its relationship to Impressionist artwork that was inspired by the local landscape. Each week also includes a field trip and a family reception to showcase what campers have learned and created. The program is staffed by experienced educators and counselors dedicated to providing an enriching camp experience. Additional activities are led by professional artists and historical reenactors. For a full description of activities, visit www.greenwichhistory.org/camp.php. Members and last year’s campers can register early to guarantee a great time at last year’s tuition rates.

Senior Historians: Grades 4–7
July 7–11, July 14–18

Junior Historians: Grades 1–3
July 21–25, July 28–August 1

Deadline for Priority Registration: March 15
Tuition Rates: $550 for two-week session;
$350 for single week. Available to current Historical Society members’ children and prior season’s campers.

Deadline for Open Registration: June 15
Tuition Rates: $700 for two-week session;
$450 for single week.
Registration forms are available online at www.greenwichhistory.org.
For more information, contact LoriBeth Talbot at 203-869-6899, Ext. 31 or email ltalbot@greenwichhistory.org.
Vanderbilt Education Center:
The Perfect Setting for Your Special Spring or Summer Event

Surrounded by a beautiful garden landscape, our restored mid-19th century barn is the ideal venue for your next meeting, reception or intimate gathering. Amenities include a fully equipped kitchen, state-of-the-art video and sound systems, and inviting furnishings.

Get more information at our website, www.greenwichhistory.org, or contact Michele Couture, Director of Operations and Visitor Services, at 203-869-6899, Ext. 20 to schedule a visit or secure a date.

Save the Dates:

April 9
Volunteer Recognition Event
(invitations to come)

April 10
Enjoying the Country Life:
Greenwich’s Great Estates
Members Opening Reception

April 15
Vacation Workshop:
Dream Houses from Cardboard Boxes

April 16
Vacation Workshop:
East Meets West, Sumi-e Ink Painting and Watercolor Painting

April 17
Vacation Workshop: High Flyers Kite Making

April 18
Vacation Workshop: Garden Arty:
Making Stamps with Fruits and Vegetables

April 24
Cribbage Game Night

April 27
Landmarks Recognition Program
Featuring Lecture by Peter Pennoyer on Cross & Cross

LoriBeth Talbot Assumes New Responsibilities

We are delighted to announce that LoriBeth Talbot has agreed to take on the newly created post of Manager of School and Youth Programs. She will oversee school tour reservations and family programming and will serve as our 2014 Camp Director. LoriBeth is a 2007 graduate of Houghton College in upstate New York and specialized in sculpture and philosophy. She became a docent in 2011 and has assisted in numerous educational programs and events over the last two years.