

Greenwich Historical Society

Explore our colorful past



news+programs

march | april 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.

HOURS

Storehouse Gallery

Open Wednesday through Friday,
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.

FROM ITALY TO AMERICA *Opens March 1*



FROM ITALY TO AMERICA combines an installation celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Italian American community in Greenwich, Connecticut, with a complementary exhibition of 26 black and white photographs from the show, *From Italy to America: The Photographs of Anthony Riccio*, organized by the Bellarmine Museum of Art, Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut. Town Ambassador Bea Crumbine, who has been actively involved in facilitating the Greenwich exhibition since its inception, noted, “We were extremely gratified with the response of the Italian American community and their priceless contributions to this exhibition. It is so important to recognize and capture the stories of those who helped to build our town before those memories disappear.”

From Italy to America also includes historic memorabilia, photos, objects and documents found by the Greenwich Historical Society “discovery team” led by board member Pat Dillon, Bea Crumbine and guest curator Kathleen Motes Bennewitz and aided by the St. Lawrence Society, St. Roch’s Parish, the Greenwich Library and its Oral History Project. In fact, residents of Italian heritage from all over town unearthed material for the exhibition from closets, attics, trunks and family coffers, and also shared recollections of the individuals, institutions, events and traditions that shaped the Italian American community and the town. Over 40 residents were filmed discussing the Italian American immigrant experience in Greenwich. These interviews

were edited into clips, which will be on view in the exhibition and on our website. The interview segments were produced by TimeStories, a video biography production company founded by Emmy Award-winning creative director Peter Savigny. The exhibition will be complemented by a variety of public programs (see inside).

Another happy event related to the exhibition is a ceremony that will take place on opening day, March 1, to designate Rose and Morra De Sanctis as Greenwich’s sister cities. Many Italian American residents of Greenwich emigrated from these two small towns in southern Italy. At the ceremony, First Selectman Peter Tesei will present official documents to the mayors of both towns, who will have traveled to the United States especially for this event. A member reception will follow at the Historical Society. (Members: check your mail for further details on the opening reception.)

Exhibition Hours

March 1 through June 30, 2013
Wednesdays–Sundays, noon to 4 pm

Storehouse Gallery

Members (and children 6 and under): free

Nonmembers: \$10 adults; \$8 seniors and students

Private group tours are available by appointment.

For more information, call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10.

Sponsored by:





From Italy to America Gallery Talk with Photographer Anthony Riccio

Anthony Riccio will discuss the progression of his work and the stories behind his black and white photographs

on view in the complementary exhibit *From Italy to America: The Photographs of Anthony Riccio*, originally organized by the Bellarmine Museum of Art at Fairfield University.

For the past four decades Anthony Riccio has documented the experience of Italian Americans in Boston's North End and his native "Little Italy" in New Haven. Inspired by his grandparents' stories about their origins in Italy, Anthony studied in Italy for his master's degree in Renaissance art history as a Florentine Fellow of Syracuse University and traveled extensively, recording daily life in remote southern villages. His poignant black and white images capture moments in time both here and

abroad that document unforgettable faces, young and old, and a way of life that is fast disappearing.

Riccio has published three books: *Portrait of an Italian-American Neighborhood: The North End of Boston*, *The Italian American Experience in New Haven: Images and Oral Histories* and *Cooking with Chef Silvio: Stories and Authentic Recipes of Campania*.

He is currently writing the unknown story of Italian American women of Connecticut in a book entitled *Farms, Factories and Families: Italian American Women of Connecticut*.

Photographs by Anthony Riccio appearing in this exhibition were originally organized by the Bellarmine Museum of Art, Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut.

Thursday, March 21, 2013; 7 to 8:30 pm
Storehouse Gallery

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



Celebrate
Women's
History
Month

Anna Caroline Maxwell: American Florence Nightingale

Greenwich Point Conservancy and the Greenwich Historical Society will cosponsor a lecture on the illustrious career of Anna Caroline Maxwell (1851-1929) by Suzanne Law Hawes, President of the Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia University School of Nursing Alumni Association. Maxwell, considered to be the pioneer of the modern nursing movement, was often referred to as the American Florence Nightingale. She was the founding director of the New York Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing (now the Columbia University School of Nursing), having been recruited by John S. Kennedy, the president of the hospital's board of trustees. Mr. Kennedy was the uncle of J. Kennedy Tod, the builder of Innis Arden Cottage at Greenwich Point, and himself a benefactor to the Presbyterian Hospital.

Anna Maxwell organized nurses for the military during the Spanish-American War, and later helped to establish the Army Nurse Corps in World War I. She successfully lobbied for military rank for Army nurses, and, working with the chief surgeon of the Presbyterian Hospital, she organized one of the first of 50 base hospital units for that war.

J. Kennedy Tod and his wife extended the hospitality of their estate to Miss Maxwell and the doctors and nurses of the Presbyterian Hospital for many years, first at Innis Arden Cottage and later at a cluster of buildings erected on the west side of Greenwich Point expressly for that purpose. Yet another chapter in Greenwich's colorful past.

Sunday, March 10, 2013; Doors open at 4:00 pm; lecture begins at 4:30 pm

Innis Arden Cottage, Greenwich Point,
Old Greenwich, CT

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

A Box of Photos Tells No Tales:

A Workshop on Preserving Family History with Peter Savigny of TimeStories



Are your precious family photos socked away in the attic? Do you have miles of 8-millimeter films collecting dust in the back of your closet? Well, it's the stories behind the images that really matter, and there's no time like the present to make certain that your personal family stories endure. Discover the latest trend in organizing and preserving personal histories with five-time Emmy Award-winner Peter Savigny of TimeStories. Mr. Savigny's program will center on how to preserve family memories through "Ken Burns"-styled life story films—a fast, easy and rewarding way to chronicle your family history and connect future generations with their past.

Mr. Savigny produced the video segments for the Greenwich Historical Society's latest exhibition, *From Italy to*

America, and will share examples of these as well as projects documenting the lives of individual clients. He is a graduate of the School of Visual Arts in New York and has spent over 20 years in design as a creative director with a focus on graphics and video. He has worked with an impressive roster of clients including PepsiCo, the Seoul Olympics, NBC, ABC News, CBS Cable and the History, Lifetime, A&E and Discovery channels. His company, TimeStories, also produces corporate video documentaries and historical videos.

Thursday, April 18, 2013;
Doors open at 6:30 pm and refreshments will be served; program begins at 7:00 pm

Vanderbilt Education Center

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

Update on Fall Fundraising:

Casino Royale

Although Sandy put a bit of a damper on Casino Royale, you all came through in spades to support the Greenwich Historical Society. We would like to recognize and express our sincere gratitude to event chairs Rebecca Kirhoffer, Suzanne Frank and Elizabeth Steel for all their hours of careful planning. Thanks to the many friends who turned their tickets into donations when the event had to be canceled due to the hurricane. We came very close to meeting our fundraising goals.

A special thanks to M.E. Kjaernsted who worked tirelessly on the auction, and to all who donated prizes to raise funds on our behalf.

Antiques and Art Avant Garde

Antiques and Art Avant Garde Greenwich brought a beloved Greenwich tradition back to our community with a new twist. Show producer Frank Gaglio organized a wonderful array of dealers; the Bruce Museum was a terrific nonprofit partner; Mofly Media was our media sponsor; and our committee planned an memorable preview party and patron event at the home of Deborah and Chuck Royce. Proceeds from the parties were shared equally between the Historical Society and the Bruce Museum.



Greenwich Reads Together Program

The Future Day of Radiant Peace

Explore the experience of Japanese Americans during WWII through the letters of Mills College students who wrote to college president Aurelia Henry Reinhardt from their internment camps. Despite their unjust imprisonment far from home, the ever-resilient girls strove to make the best of the hand they were dealt while looking forward to a “future day of radiant peace.” Reinhardt (the first female PhD graduate from Yale University) and her staff defied the prejudice and hysteria of the time to support their Nisei students.

In a program sponsored by the Greenwich Historical Society, Catherine Ladnier, a Mills College graduate, will recount her personal journey with her fellow alumnae. A Greenwich resident, Catherine is a playwright who uses original letters to tell the story of the Greatest Generation. For more info about Ladnier, visit www.deareva.org.

Tuesday, April 30, 2013; 7:00 pm

Vanderbilt Education Center

Admission is free but reservations are strongly suggested.

Call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10.



Second Sunday Family Programs

Famiglia Italia!



In conjunction with the Greenwich Historical Society exhibition *From Italy to America*, families can drop in throughout the afternoon to tour Bush-Holley House and view the exhibition, make homemade pasta in the Vanderbilt Education Center kitchen, and listen as storyteller par excellence Bea Crumbine tells the beloved Italian children’s tale *Strega Nona* (the Grandmother Witch).

Sunday, March 10, 2013;
Drop in any time between noon and 4 pm

Greenwich Historical Society, 39 Strickland Road, Cos Cob, CT

Members: \$10; nonmembers: \$15

To reserve space, visit www.greenwichhistory.org or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10.

Family Portraits with Artist C. J. Guerin

A special program where the entire family comes together to create a unique collaborative work of art. First take a family-friendly tour of Bush-Holley House to look at the various styles of portraiture that grace the walls of Greenwich’s only National Historic Landmark; then take a lesson in creating a self-portrait—from first sketch to the addition of final color.

Once finished, each family member will cut out and combine his or her creation with other family members’ works to fashion a unique collage. No previous art experience is required; all supplies will be included.

Two sessions: Sunday, April 14, 2013;
Noon to 2:00 pm and 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Members: \$10; nonmembers: \$15

Vanderbilt Education Center

To reserve space, visit www.greenwichhistory.org or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10.



Education Alive and Well at Greenwich Historical Society

Nearly 3,600 students pass through our doors each year. Since 1989, third graders throughout the entire Greenwich public school system have visited Bush-Holley House each year to learn about their town's history. But the Historical Society goes beyond simple tours, immersing visitors in the past and offering



a host of educational programs for grades K through 8 and badge programs for Scouts of all ranks. The popular *Patriots versus Loyalists* program casts middle school students in a debate about the issues that led up to the American Revolution. They tour the Bush

rooms and then participate in meetings using primary-source documents to support their positions. The program concludes with a lively full-class debate. *Life in New England: Then and Now* (grades K through 2) features an interactive tour of Bush-Holley House followed by a hands-on session on how early New Englanders lived and worked.

Children of all ages can also participate in *Meeting People in Portraits* to study and discuss the portraits in Bush-Holley House and identify "hints" within the works that provide information about the sitters. Also for all age groups, *Create Your Own Impression* involves finding visual clues from our art collection to learn about life during the Cos Cob art colony era. Following a tour of the art colony rooms, students create their own Impressionist paintings.

We strongly believe in lifelong learning and welcome group tours of all ages. If your group is interested in visiting the Bush-Holley Historic Site, let us help you see the "Old House" through new eyes.

Join us online:

Hop online and take a virtual tour of the new *Greenwich Historic Neighborhoods* section that maps out neighborhoods all over town. See vintage images from the Archives and get a brief history of each area. If this whets your appetite, visit the Library and Archives to learn more. We may even have a historic photo of your home!

Read Susan Nova's monthly "Greenwich Landmarks" blogs that focus on our town's architectural heritage. Check out archivist Christopher Shields' "Did You Know" features on little-known aspects of Greenwich history.

Visit us on Facebook and learn what it was like in the good old days with "This Week in Greenwich." Volunteer Chrissy Heyworth covers Greenwich history about everything from the Knapp Tavern to beloved Manero's Steakhouse! Great writers, fun reading!

Antiquarius Drawing Winner Announced!

Roberta Warburton won a beautiful Windsor chair donated by Thos. Moser. Roberta is an admirer of the store and was thrilled to have won! If you love fine handcrafted furniture, then pay Thos. Moser a call.

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Save the Dates:

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From Italy to America
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