# Greenwich Historical Society

Explore our colorful past



#### news+programs may | june 2016

**GREENWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY** 

is dedicated to promoting Greenwich's unique and colorful past. Our collections 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 18 world-class museums and historic sites across the state. Discover collections rich in New England history and culture and view artwork from one of the earliest American Impressionist art colonies.

#### HOURS

#### Storehouse Gallery

Open Wednesday through Sunday, 12–4 pm

Docent-led tours of Bush-Holley House Wednesday through Sunday, 1, 2 and 3 pm and by appointment.

#### 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 studentsAdmission always free to members and children under 12.Free to the public the first Wednesday of every month.

#### **CONTACT US**

Greenwich Historical Society 39 Strickland Road Cos Cob, CT 06807 203-869-6899

www.greenwichhistory.org/contact

#### DIRECTIONS

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

# Lecture: Coastal Maps and Views from the American Revolutionary Era

elebrated filmmaker Ric Burns called Revolution: Mapping the Road to American Independence, 1755–1783 "a GPS to the American Revolution." On May 3, the book's co-authors, Richard H. Brown and Paul E. Cohen, will be on hand to discuss how the rare and beautiful maps captured in their work serve as remarkable documentation of both the French and Indian War and the American Revolution. In line with the Greenwich Historical Society's current exhibition, Close to the Wind: Our Maritime History, the authors will focus on documents produced by naval powers Britain and France and talk about how surveyors, artists and engravers created a unique record of the conflicts that led ultimately to the founding of the United States.

The program will last roughly 45 minutes and will be followed by a 15-minute Q&A session. *Revolution: Mapping the Road to American Independence* will be available for purchase and signing. Attendees may also visit *Close to the Wind: Our Maritime History* in the Storehouse Gallery one hour before the lecture begins.

Co-author Richard H. Brown is a collector of maps and views of the French and Indian





War and the American Revolution and vice chairman of the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library. Fellow author Paul E. Cohen is a partner in Cohen & Taliaferro LLC, New York City, dealers in rare books and antique maps, and has written about and contributed to works on older as well as contemporary maps.

#### Tuesday, May 3, 2016, 7:00-8:00 pm

Vanderbilt Education Center

Members: \$10; nonmembers: \$15

Reserve at <u>www.greenwichhistory.org/adult</u> or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10.

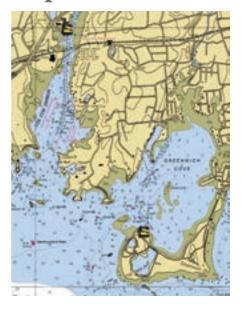


March 30–September 4, 2016

Generously supported by a gift from TransAtlantic Lines

All images from the collections of the Greenwich Historical Society unless otherwise cited

# Experience the Sound 2016: Greenwich History Afloat



his year, as a continuing sponsor of the town's annual Experience the Sound event, the Historical Society will team up with the Greenwich Point Conservancy and Old Greenwich Yacht Club to host a historical boat tour of the waters off Greenwich Point. Taking a new tack in honor of our exhibition *Close to the Wind: Our Maritime History,* we're offering lucky guests a chance to earn their sea legs during a 45-minute cruise.

Each of the two tours (scheduled at 9:00 and 10:00 am) is limited to 11 passengers, so reservations must be made prior to the event and will be confirmed the day before. Participants will meet at the dock

# Our Maritime History... The Palmer Engine Company

Contributed by Archivist Christopher Shields

he story of manufacturing in Greenwich may begin with the mills that were powered by its rivers, but the types of products that were assembled here are surprisingly diverse. Many of us are aware of the long production of Electrolux equipment. Not long after, however, brothers Frank and Ray Palmer transitioned to building boats and small marine engines. The focus shifted yet again to larger, more powerful engines for commercial fishermen. A combination of marketing and word of mouth drew attention to the quality of Palmer hardware and their dependable

vacuums in Old Greenwich, but that company was actually preceded by the Schick Repeating Razor company, also in Old Greenwich. In keeping

with the



importance of the shorefront and sailing/ boating to many who call Greenwich home, some may be surprised that marine engines renowned for their design and reliability were manufactured on River Road in Cos Cob by the Palmer Engine Company, just a few doors down from Bush-Holley House. The Palmer Engine Company began in the late 19th century making telephone support. An account by a long-time employee notes that if a replacement part was no longer in stock, Palmer Engine would machine a

customer

new one at the factory to keep a customer's commercial boat up and running.

The Archives at the Greenwich Historical Society are fortunate to have a collection of items related to Palmer Engines, including catalogues of company products and photographs. So while Palmer Engines may no longer be built in Cos Cob, the story of this important local company lives on. at Old Greenwich Yacht Club and are advised to dress appropriately for the weather, to wear boat shoes or other foowear with soft, non-marking soles and to apply sunscreen. Water will be provided.

The Historical Society will also host a booth at Innis Arden Cottage from 1:00– 4:00 pm featuring a fun family craft project involving the design of your very own nautical flag.

#### Sunday, June 26, 2016

Tours from at 9:00-9:45 am and 10:00-10:45 am

Advance reservations required. Call 203-869-6899, Ext.10

Old Greenwich Yacht Club Dock, Greenwich Point

### Great Programs Happen With Your Support

e are grateful to longtime supporter Marie Williams and associate Sally Reagan, for sponsoring a standing-room-only lecture on the Hudson River School by Elizabeth Kornhauser of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Marie, Vice President of Investments, and Sally, Financial Advisor, both with Wells Fargo Wealth and Investment Management, generously supported the first in a series on cultural landscapes created in memory of David R.A. Wierdsma, which will explore the infinitely beautiful possibilities that unfold when art and history meet nature. Thank you, Marie and Sally! If you would like to learn more about underwriting a program, please contact Director of Development Katrina Dorsey, kdorsey@greenwichhistory.org.

Lecturer Elizabeth Kornhauser (center) flanked by sponsors Sally Reagan and Marie Williams



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### Create Art on the Go at Bush-Holley Historic Site

Onsite Instruction with Greenwich Art Society



herever your travels take you from bustling cities to untouched preserves, business trips to more leisurely sojourns with friends and family—you can always create art on the go. With Bush-Holley Historic Site as your classroom and artist Lauretta Jones to lead the way, you'll learn various sketching techniques

Jones

that will help you capture the immediate feel, color and essence of the places you visit. To develop an even more finished work, you'll also explore ways to combine sketches with photographs to add more detail.

Instructor Lauretta Jones moved to New York City after receiving a BFA from Cleveland Institute of Art. She worked as a freelance illustrator and designer and became an early pioneer in computer graphics, while working with distinguished clients such as IBM, Scholastic Inc. and Ziff-Davis. Jones taught for many years at the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan and directed their Department of Computer Art. In addition to painting and maintaining an active teaching and exhibition schedule, she devotes time to the Somers Land Trust, keeping its books and blazing trails.

#### Wednesday, April 27 or May 11; 10:00 am-3:00 pm

Vanderbilt Education Center

Fee: \$195

Reservations may be made directly with the Greenwich Art Society weekdays from 9:30 am-12:30 pm; call 203-629-1533 or email <u>greenwichartsociety@verizon.net</u>.

Please dress for the weather and bring lunch.

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CT Open House Day

# CT Open House Day 2016

e are delighted to once again participate in the Connecticut Office of Tourism's annual Connecticut Open House Day, set for Saturday, June 11. Now in its 12th year, the he oneday statewide event is designed to showcase Connecticut's diverse world of history, art and tourism. It's a wonderful opportunity for all Connecticut residents to discover or rediscover the wealth of treasures in their own backyards and to share their enthusiasm with family and friends.

There will be free admission to our current exhibition, *Close to the Wind: Our* 

*Maritime History*, and we're offering familyfriendly tours of Bush-Holley House at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 pm. Children can enjoy two crafts projects: creating their own signal flags from felt or learning to make and race paper boats.

Plan to visit Bush-Holley Historic Site on CT Open House Day, bring guests and become an ambassador for your Historical Society!

Saturday, June 11, 2016; Noon–4:00 pm Bush-Holley Historic Site No reservations needed.

## **The Historical Society Wants You!** Volunteer Researcher Needed for Archives

o you have a passion for local history? Would you enjoy learning how to use the diverse archival collections at the Greenwich Historical Society to answer questions about town history, locations, houses and genealogy? There are exciting volunteer

opportunities available for those willing

to making an extended commitment to

this important and ongoing work. You will work closely with the Curator of

Archives to become familiar with the

archival collections and other available

new understanding to answer research

questions submitted to the Archives via

learn about the long history of the Town

This is a wonderful opportunity to

of Greenwich using primary and secondary

sources while assisting researchers of all ages

telephone and e-mail.

information resources. You will use your



Discoveries await a new research volunteer at the William E. Finch Jr. Archives

and interests. You will also assist the Historical Society in its efforts to make its collections more useful and accessible to the local community and beyond.

Candidates should enjoy working with the public; have the patience, desire and natural curiosity

necessary to do research; and have good writing skills. The job entails a three-tofour-hour weekly commitment. It may take four to six months for archival research associates to acquire enough familiarity with the collections to begin fielding research questions on a semiautonomous basis. For this reason, we are seeking interested candidates able to volunteer in this role for more than a year.

To learn more about this opportunity, please send a letter of interest and your resume to Christopher Shields, Curator of Archives, at <u>cshields@greenwichhistory.org</u>.

Call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10 for reservations & information about all programs | news+programs | may | june | 2016 | Greenwich Historical Society 3



39 Strickland Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807

### Save the Dates:

#### May 3

Coastal Maps and Views from the American Revolutionary Era

June 11 CT Open House Day

June 17 Farm-to-Table Dinner at French Farm

June 26 History Afloat

The Greenwich Historical Society chronicles the past, but the future is in your hands. Please remember us in your estate plan so that future generations may continue to explore the ongoing story of our community.



#### news

### **New Faces at Greenwich Historical Society**

Victoria Boffoli

Stasha Healy

e are pleased to welcome Special Events Manager Victoria Boffoli and Communications Associates Stasha Healy to the fold.

In her role as special events manager, Victoria will liaise with vendors and volunteers alike as she manages the myriad details of Antiquarius and our other numerous special programs throughout the year. Before working at the Historical Society, Victoria was a print production manager with Ann Inc. and started a small dessert catering and event planning business called

Sugar Kisses by Victoria. She is a graduate of Iona College in New Rochelle with a degree in business and a minor in communications. She currently resides in Westchester County, NY, and is getting married in September. Says Victoria, "I am so thrilled to have the opportunity to be a part of such an amazing organization, and excited to get started!"

**Communications Associate** Stasha Healy grew up in Greenwich and actually lived across the street from the Historical Society in the 1980s. "I feel like I'm coming home every day when I step into the office," says Stasha. A former student of literature at Tulane University and the University of Edinburgh, Stasha has written for and edited major national publications. She co-chairs the Letters arm of the Greenwich Pen Women and edits the weekly newsletter for the International School at

Dundee. An avid traveler, Stasha has been to 41 countries and is proud to have visited all 50 of the United States. In addition to assisting Marketing and Communications Director Barbara Bishop with the expansion of our social media efforts, Stasha will also man the front desk and manage program reservations.



Painting of the barn at French Farm, painted by Hazel Jarvis, August 2013

## Save the Date: Farm-to-Table **Dinner at French** Farm

Friday June 17, 2016; 7:00 pm

More to come...

