Greenwich Historical Society

Explore our colorful past



news+programs sept

september | october 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

Curator's Eye Tours Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday at 12:15 pm

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 Always free to members and children under 18. Free to all visitors the first Wednesday of each month.

CONTACT US

Greenwich Historical Society 39 Strickland Road Cos Cob, CT 06807 203-869-6899 www.greenwichhistory.org/contact

DIRECTIONS

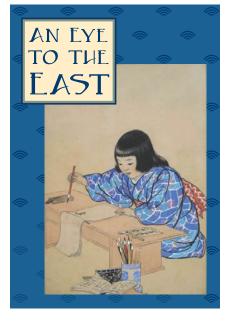
Off I-95 at Exit 4. Details at www.greenwichhistory.org/visit

*An Eye to the East: The Inspiration of Japa*n **To Open in October**

n 1854 Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry established a treaty that opened trade between the United States and Japan, a nation formerly closed to the world. Perry could never have imagined the far-reaching effect that document would have. In less than a year, French artist Félix Bracquemond "discovered" the woodblock prints of Hokusai and circulated them among his Paris art circle. Their influence was immediate, and visiting Cos Cob artists John Henry Twachtman,

J. Alden Weir and Childe Hassam all took note. Japanese art and culture made a splash at

International Exhibitions in London (1862), Paris (1867) and Vienna (1873), and resulted in Europe's captivation with all things Japanese. The American Civil War delayed exposure to Japanese art and culture in this country, but upon its introduction at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia and again at the



1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Americans enthusiastically embraced the "exotic" Japanese aesthetic.

Through paintings, prints, photographs, carvings, ceramics and textiles, *An Eye to the East* looks at the influence of Japanese art and culture in the late 19th and early 20th centuries with a special emphasis on the Cos Cob art colony. The contribution of Genjiro Yeto, who studied under John Henry Twachtman at the Art Students League in New York and spent part

of each year from 1895 to 1901 at the Holley boarding house, is explored in a separate gallery and features a recent donation of his work to the Greenwich Historical Society by his granddaughter.

October 12, 2016 through February 26, 2017 Members Reception: Thursday, October 13,

6:00 to 8:00 pm; RSVP: shealy@greenwichhistory.org or 203-869-6899, Ext. 10.

"Curator's Eye" Tours Launched with New Exhibition

eginning with the opening of An Eye to the East: The Inspiration of Japan, the Historical Society will be offering "The Curator's Eye" tours on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 12:15 pm. These informal, 20- to 30-minute gallery tours, led by our docents, will focus on exhibition highlights, themes and background stories that provide a framework for better

understanding the art and objects on display. Docents will also answer questions and help you zero in on particular points of interest. These value-added tours are included in the price of admission.

Visit soon, bring a friend and take advantage of a truly personalized experience as you explore our town's colorful past. Don't forget, member visits to the gallery are always free!

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

events + programs

85th Annual Meeting and Lecture by Estella Chung: Living Artfully, At Home with Marjorie Merriweather Post



n an illustrated lecture, author and curator Estella Chung will discuss her book Living Artfully: At Home with Marjorie Merriweather Post,

introducing us to Post's life in three magnificent homes. From the opulent

glamour of Mar-A-Lago in Palm Beach, to the rustic whimsy of Camp Topridge in the Adirondacks, to the elegant and formally furnished Hillwood estate and gardens in Washington, D.C. Post was given "The Boulders" in Rock Ridge as a "starter" estate when she wed Edward Bennett Close of Greenwich. She subsequently inherited the

Postum Cereal Company and went on to become a highly successful businesswoman, diplomat and consummate hostess. The personal stories of family, staff, and former guests bring to life the formal dinners, charity events, garden parties, and weekend retreats that made an invitation from Post the most sought after in her time. Ms. Chung will reveal both the splendor of life in these residences and the behindthe-scenes efforts necessary to make it all happen.

Estella Chung is head of oral history, curator of American material culture and histo-

Merriweather Post

rian at Hillwood. She combs photographic archives, documents and the not-so-ordinary artifacts that tell the life story of the museum's founder. As head of Hillwood's oral history program, she conducts interviews with those who worked for and were entertained by Marjorie Post, which she wove into Living Artfully: At Home with Marjorie Merriweather Post,

now in its fifth printing. Chung is trained in American Studies and Museum Studies and holds degrees from the University of Michigan and Brown University. In connection with the Historical Society's exhibition, *An Eye to the East: The Inspiration of Japan*, she will touch upon the Hillwood's current show, *Deco Japan: Shaping Art and Culture, 1920-1945*, which references Post's passion for the decorative arts of that period.

This program is generously underwritten by Jeanine and Robert Getz.

Wednesday, September 14, 2016; 6:00 to 8:00 pm

\$65 for members; \$75 for nonmembers

Reservations required. Purchase tickets by September 7 online at www.greenwichhistory.org or by phone at 203-869-6698, Ext. 10.

Interested in seeing more Japanese art? The Art Museum at University of Saint. Joseph (Hartford) will be mounting *Hanga Now, Contemporary* Japanese Printmakers, and the Fairfield University Art Museum is featuring *Crafting the Elements: Ceramic Art of Modern Japan.* Both museums are fellow CT Art Trail members.

Buy a CT Art Trail pass for \$25 and receive one free visit to each of 18 CT Art Trail Museums for a year! Available at our museum shop or online at ctarttrail.org.

Benefit Featuring Lesley Stahl to Raise Funds for Program Expansion



WHO WOULDN'T WANT TO SPEND AN EVENING WITH LESLEY STAHL, celebrated television reporter and recent *New York Times* bestselling author of *Becoming*

Grandma: The Joy and Science of the New Grandparenting? Ms. Stahl will share her views on topics ranging from the current political landscape to shifting family dynamics. Proceeds from the event will go to support the Greenwich Historical Society's new Fund for Program Enrichment, which was established to increase our services to the community through program expansion and enrichment.

As one of America's most recognized and experienced broadcast journalists, Lesley Stahl's career has been marked by political scoops, surprising features and award-winning foreign reporting. She has been a "60 Minutes" correspondent since March 1991; the 2016-'17 season marks her 26th on the broadcast. Prior to joining "60 Minutes," she served as CBS News White House correspondent during the Carter and Reagan presidencies and part of the term of George H. W. Bush. Her reports appeared frequently on the "CBS Evening News," with Walter Cronkite and Dan Rather and later on other CBS News broadcasts. During that time, she also served as moderator of "Face the Nation," CBS News' Sunday public affairs broadcast. She has received numerous awards for her journalistic accomplishments including a Lifetime Achievement Emmy in 2003.

Admission is \$250 and includes a copy of Stahl's new book. A limited number of VIP tickets for a pre-event reception and book signing are available for \$1,000. For information and reservations please visit www.greenwichhistory.org. Wednesday, October 5, 2016, 6:00 to 7:30 pm Greenwich County Club, 19 Doubling Road, Greenwich, CT Reservations required.

Event Committee

Jessica Guff, Event Chair Leslie Foley Bonnie Levison Anne Ogilvy Nancy Seaman Alease Fisher Tallman Catherine Tompkins Roxanne Vanderbilt Jieun Wax Davidde Strackbein, Chairman, Board of Trustees



This Year's Greenwich Reads Together Program: **Create a Pop-Up Museum**

f life as you knew it came to an end tomorrow, what single object would you chose to sustain your most cherished memories? Join us in creating a "pop-up" museum at the Byram Shubert Library to explore the idea of love, loss and memory in connection with this



year's Greenwich Reads Together selection, *Station Eleven*, by Emily St. John Mandel. Our pop-up museum will respond to themes that run through *Station Eleven*, a story that follows a small band of performing artists who attempt to keep their art and humanity alive after

civilization is forever altered by a pandemic.

You'll arrive at the library at 3:00, add your object to the pop-up museum and write a short label explaining the reason for your selection. At 3:30 each participant will share the story behind his or her item. Participants will also have the opportunity to engage in conversation about *Station Eleven*.

Saturday, October 29, 2106, 3:00 to 4:00 pm

Byram Schubert Library, 21 Mead Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830

Open to all ages. Admission is free and light refreshments will be served



For more info on Greenwich Reads Together, visit: www.greenwichlibrary.org/ greenwich-reads-together-mandel

For more info on pop-up museums, visit: popupmuseum.org



Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

East Meets West: Duo Yumeno in Concert at The Historical Society

usicologist Ralph Samuelson has described Duo Yumeno as "superb musicians moving along the same path, one which does not distinguish East or West but simply brings two beautiful string instruments of the world together seamlessly." Composing original arrangements and commissioned works, New York-based Duo Yumeno offers a unique fusion of sound that explores both traditional Japanese and Western classical music. Hikaru Tamaki is an accomplished cellist, while Yoko Reikano Kimura sings and plays the koto (a Japanese zither about six feet long, with 13 silk strings) and the shamisen (a three-stringed lute with a square body played with a plectrum). The pair has recently completed a fouryear performance project that included an annually commissioned work by the American composer Marty Regan. They

Fall Festival Turns an Eye to the East

his year's Fall Festival will have a Japanese flavor as we focus on Japanese celebrations in conjunction with our exhibition in the Storehouse Gallery. Activities will include kite making, face painting and demonstrations of traditional Japanese dance and martial arts, along with a special family-friendly, tour of Bush-Holley House. On site will be the five-starrated Hapa Food Truck featuring delicious American Street food with an Asian twist.

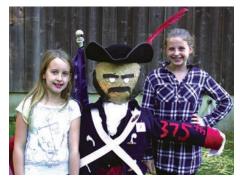
Guests can also compete in the annual scarecrow-making competition. Registration fee for the competition (in addition to the entrance fee) is \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers and includes armature ("the bones"), hay for stuffing, twine and a burlap sack for the head. Bring your own fashion accessories or create your masterpiece with some of ours. Perhaps we'll spot some straw geishas and samurais this year.



have been enthusiastically received in diverse locales from New York and Chicago to Tokyo, Turkey, Trinidad and Tobago.

The award-winning duo received the Janet Latz Professional Fellowship in 2011, a Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Program grant in 2014 and the Aoyama Baroque Saal Award in 2015. Their first CD, "Flowers, Birds, Wind, Moon," was released in May 2015 and will be available for purchase. Performances will take place at 4:00 and 7:00 pm and are being held in conjunction with *An Eye to the East: The Insipiration of Japan*. Gallery admission free of charge one hour before each performance.

Tuesday, October 18, 2016, at 4:00 and 7:00 pm Vanderbilt Education Center Members: \$10; nonmembers \$15



Last year's contest winners, the Hopson Family, created a Revolutionary War soldier in honor of Greenwich's 375th Anniversary

Please enroll in advance for the Scarecrow Competition www.greenwichhistory.org/children

Sunday, October 9, 2016, 12:30 to 3:30 pm

Bush-Holley Historic Site

\$10 for adults; \$5 for children (no charge for children 2 and under); \$25 for family admission

Sponsored by: THE**FIRST BANK**OF **GREENWICH** The Bank that comes to you



39 Strickland Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807

Save the Dates:

September 14 Annual Meeting and Lecture by **Estella Chung:** Living Artfully, At Home with Marjorie Merriweather Post

October 5 Greenwich Makes History: An Evening with Lesley Stahl

October 9 **Fall Festival**

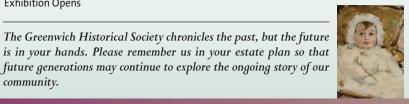
October 12 An Eye to the East: The Inspiration of Japan **Exhibition Opens**

October 13 An Eye to the East: The Inspiration of Japan **Members Reception**

October 18 Duo Yumeno, Two Performances

October 29 Greenwich Reads Together Pop-Up Museum: Lasting Relics

November 3, 2016 Cultural Landscape Lecture: Karesanui: Japanese Gardens Old and New



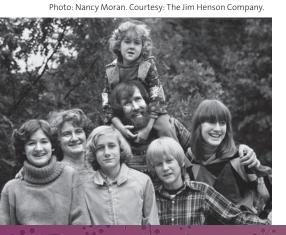
news

community.

Historical Society Receives Planning Grant for Henson Exhibition

n early July, the Greenwich Historical Society received a grant from Connecticut Humanities, which supports humanitiesbased programming across the state through a competitive, merit-based application process. The \$7,007 grant, allocated by the Connecticut General Assembly, will support the planning of a 2017 exhibition and related public programming to feature former town residents Jane and Jim Henson, famous for creating The Muppets and for their contributions to the iconic television series Sesame Street.

The Henson Family, 1977



The exhibition will explore how the Hensons creatively stretched the boundaries of television as an educational medium and the influence of their innovative work on national education policy. Drawing from the rich resources of The Jim Henson Company Archives

and materials from the Henson family, co-curators Karen Frederick (Greenwich Historical Society) and Karen Falk (archivist for The Jim Henson Company), working with daughter Cheryl Henson, will capture the connection between the Hensons' family life and work, emphasizing their years in Greenwich, which coincided with Jim and Jane's involvement in the development of Sesame Street as well as the first years of the Mead School for Human Development. The exhibition is scheduled to run from March 29 through October 8, 2017.

Our deepest thanks to Connecticut Humanities for their support!

Art, History and Landscape: Karesansui: Japanese Stone Gardens Old and New, Lecture by Marc-Paul Keane

Thursday, November 3, 2016 For more info visit www. greenwichhistory.org.

The Greenwich Historical Society is pleased to acknowledge Wells Fargo Advisors Wealth and Investment Management; Sally Reagan, Financial Advisory; and Marie Williams, Vice President, Investments, as corporate sponsors of this program.

