

Greenwich Historical Society *Newsletter*

greenwich
historical society

LATE
SUMMER/
FALL
2020

Experience our Historic Site and Landscape

New guided walking tour of our historic campus and its surrounding gardens and grounds offers glimpses and insights into the past of Cos Cob and the Lower Landing.

The Bush-Holley House looks out over the Mianus River, on a site once known as the Lower Landing. Here in the 18th century, merchant David Bush and his son Justus Luke Bush built and operated a tide mill and several warehouses for their mercantile business. Though the mill and its surrounding buildings no longer stand, the Bush-Holley House (1732), Bush Storehouse (1805)—which now houses offices for Historical Society staff—and the nearby Mill Pond are reminders of this once busy waterfront hub.

Today, our newly expanded historic campus features idyllic gardens and grounds centered on the new Museum and Library. This award-winning example of historically sensitive new construction and adaptive reuse incorporates the façade and interior of the historic 1805 Toby's Tavern with new state-of-the-art collections and archival facilities and galleries.

A new guided outdoor walking tour, debuting this summer, will offer visitors an opportunity to learn about the history of the Bush-Holley House and its occupants, gain insight into the recently restored Toby's Tavern and the history of the Cos Cob Lower Landing and explore our romantic American Impressionist flower gardens, tavern garden and heirloom vegetable gardens.

Tours are available weekends at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Reservations for site visits must be made in advance through our website. All visitors must wear masks or face coverings while on the site. Masks are available for purchase in our Museum Store.

Cover Image: Elmer MacRae, *The Village Square*, 1910 (detail)
Greenwich Historical Society, gift of Bush Holley Art Group

www.greenwichhistory.org

Also... we're still celebrating!



Our Great Lawn and historic barn are perfect for events up to 100 guests. As celebrations face restrictions, our space is also perfect for smaller gatherings—tented on the Great Lawn or using our barn, grounds and galleries for corporate retreats, bridal showers, birthday parties, engagements, anniversary parties and small weddings. Our staff has incorporated all state and national guidelines to maintain the highest standards for safety. Please inquire with Events Manager Daniel Suozzo, events@greenwichhistory.org.



A Letter from the Director

Debra Mecky

89th Annual Meeting

September 30th 6:00 p.m., 2020

Save the date for our 89th Annual Meeting, an opportunity to learn about our eventful (and unprecedented!) 2019-20 and share some exciting plans as we launch into our milestone 90th year. This year's meeting will be held virtually, via Zoom.

The Governance Committee presents the following individuals for election as trustees at the 89th Annual Meeting of the Greenwich Historical Society: *Term of 2023*

David Brownwood	David Ormsby
Angela Chambers	Deborah Reynolds
Bea Crumbine	Deborah Schmidt
Susan Larkin	Robinson
Sally Lawrence	Heather Sargent
Susan Lehman	Catherine Tompkins
Heinz Maeusli	

Register at www.greenwichhistory.org

Here in Cos Cob, we have enjoyed welcoming the community back to our site safely and with a promise to continue to fulfill our mission to the town. Looking back on a busy summer and ahead to a full season, we are grateful for the opportunities this community offers us to serve, to learn, to teach and to grow together.

Our exhibit, *An Unfinished Revolution: The Woman's Suffrage Centennial*, and our Permanent Collections Gallery are open to visitors with advance reservations, Wednesday–Sunday from 12:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. **The Library and Archives** have been open by appointment, and research requests will continue to be fulfilled. **The Museum Store** has been open daily, and we launched a new online store offering curbside pickup.

The pandemic has brought renewed attention to our outdoor space. Our heirloom gardens, new grape arbor and historic grounds have remained open for *plein air* painters and local visitors to stroll and enjoy our new docent-led **Landscape and Garden Tour**.

Our annual History & Art Camps were enthusiastically received, and we were happy to have children safely on the campus in the morning while enjoying afternoon workshops from home.

While health guidelines have reduced the size of gatherings, we've found our Great Lawn space, gardens and barn to be a perfect backdrop for private celebrations, as well as our Events on the Great Lawn concert series.

Behind the scenes, our staff has spent these months developing plans that will serve our community responsively and energetically. Despite the uncertainty of the times, there have been moments of



brightness and achievement. We were thrilled to receive word this spring of our **official reaccreditation by the American Alliance of**

Museums, a mark of distinction signifying that our operations, facilities and staff meet the highest standards in the field.



This fall we are ready to support educators, students and lifelong learners alike. Greenwich—the country, the world!—has been through an unprecedented year, and we have been here—and will be here—to listen, to document and to interpret in the months ahead.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Greenwich

Historical Society, and we look forward to welcoming you back soon!

Debra Mecky
Executive Director & CEO

The Case for History... Support the Greenwich Historical Society!

greenwichhistory.org

The Greenwich Historical Society is a community-sustained nonprofit that relies on the generosity of donors and members like you to help us raise funds that directly support critical school programs, new exhibits, archival resources and public events. Join us in investing in meaningful connections with the local community—young and old—through art and history, inspiring lifelong learning, embracing a sense of place in Greenwich, sharing our stories and preserving our history for generations to come. Renew your membership and make your gift today by visiting our website!

People & Places

Ryan Nuckel



Ryan Nuckel joined the Greenwich Historical Society as Director of Development in May. He has more than 10 years of experience fundraising for both small and large nonprofit organizations, including Riverkeeper and the National Audubon Society. He lives in Westchester with his wife and two young sons. When he's not at the Historical Society, he can usually be found in the garden or hiking at one of the Hudson Valley's many parks and trails.

Nola Taylor



This summer, we celebrated Nola Taylor's 18 years of service to the Historical Society as a Research Assistant in our Library and Archives. Nola's personable nature, natural curiosity and attention to detail contributed to her great success answering innumerable research questions over the years as a vital part of the staff: greeting guests, as a docent, and notably in the Library and Archives. Thank you, Nola!

John Bridge



John Bridge began work as Research Assistant in the Library and Archives in July. John is a lifelong resident of Greenwich with deep roots in town. He has served as a museum docent and has worked on the development of several walking tours with the Education Department. John's love of local history and strong research skills will greatly benefit the many researchers who visit the Archives looking to broaden their understanding of the people and places of Greenwich.

Upcoming Events

Register for all events at greenwichhistory.org

September 22 at 7:00 p.m. Presented via Zoom

Anya Seton, A Writing Life with Author Lucinda MacKethan



Members: FREE, Non-Members: \$10

Join us as we host author Lucinda MacKethan, professor emerita at North Carolina State University, in conversation about her research and new publication on the life and writing of Greenwich native Anya Seton. *Anya Seton: A Writing Life*, traces the personal story of the author of 10 bestselling historical novels, including the masterpieces *Katherine* and *The Winthrop Woman*, which are still widely beloved over 60 years after their publication. Born in 1904, Anya Seton was the daughter of celebrity writer Ernest Thompson Seton and suffragist Grace Gallatin Seton. She wrote "My forte is story, and a peculiarly meticulous (fearful, yes) desire to weave historical fact into story. Make history come alive and as exciting as the past is to me."

October 3rd: Two sessions: 12:00-1:30 p.m., 2:30-4:00 p.m. (Rain Date Oct 4) Fall Festival



Join the outdoor fun at our much anticipated annual Fall Festival.

Enjoy live music performed by popular bluegrass-swing band Too Blue, while families enjoy scarecrow making, storytelling and a scavenger hunt throughout the afternoon. Come for food, drinks and safe outdoor fun for all. **Reservations Required.**

October 22 at 6:00 p.m. Presented via Zoom

An Evening with Adele Logan Alexander



Princess of the Hither Isles:

A Black Suffragist's Story from the Jim Crow South

Members: \$10, Non-Members: \$15

The Greenwich Historical Society is honored to welcome author and historian Adele Logan Alexander for a discussion of her latest book *Princess of the Hither Isles*. In this epic biography, Alexander reconstructs the life of black suffragist Adella Hunt Logan—the author's grandmother—in a gripping manner that blends family lore, historical research and literary imagination. Born during the Civil War into a slaveholding family that included black, white and Cherokee forebears, Adella Hunt Logan dedicated herself to advancing political and educational opportunities for the African American community. Alexander's remarkable research into her grandmother's life bridges the chasms that often frustrate efforts to document the lives of those who traditionally have been silenced.

Music on the Great Lawn

Join us for a casual evening of music on our historic landscape. Bring a picnic or reserve a table.

Register at greenwichhistory.org

Wednesday, August 26: Justine Goggin performs "Thank You for the Music"

Thursday, September 3: Jazz under the Stars with The Vinny Nobile jazz ensemble

Thursday September 17: The Merlin Band

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

September 7 & October 12

OFFICE, MUSEUM STORE AND CAFÉ

Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, noon–4:00 p.m.

MUSEUM GALLERIES

Wednesday–Sunday, noon–4:00 p.m.

by appointment.

BUSH-HOLLEY HOUSE

Temporarily closed

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

By appointment

ADMISSION

\$10 adults, \$8 seniors, \$7 group rate

FREE: Youth under 18, members, active military/
Blue Star and free for all the first Wednesday of
every month.

Visit all 21 museums on the Connecticut Art Trail
for \$25. Buy a passport at the museum lobby desk
or at ctarttrail.org.

An Unfinished Revolution

The Women's Suffrage Centennial



Open through
November 1, 2020

On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment was adopted to the U.S. Constitution, enfranchising 26 million women in the United States. The Greenwich Historical Society's current exhibition *An Unfinished Revolution: The Women's Suffrage Centennial* celebrates the 100th anniversary of this crucial piece of legislation, offering stories of Greenwich women who pushed for voting rights, resorting at times to acts of radical protest to achieve their aims. This timely and poignant exhibition has been

extended to run through November 1. A new digital suffrage exhibition website, offering users the opportunity to examine documents, letters, photographs and artifacts from the exhibit in a virtual space, debuts in late August 2020. This digital initiative has been supported by a grant from CT Humanities.

Join us August 26 as we light up our campus for *Forward into Light*, a national evening of celebration!

Save the Date

August 26

Events on the Great Lawn Series: Justine Goggin Performs "Thank You for the Music" *Forward into Light*: Celebrating 100 years since the signing of the 19th Amendment

September 3

Jazz under the Stars with The Vinny Nobile jazz ensemble

Thursday September 17

The Merlin Band

September 22

Anya Seton, *A Writing Life* Lecture with author Lucinda MacKethan

September 30

89th Annual Meeting

October 3

Fall Festival (Rain date 10/4)

October 22

Princess of the Hither Isles: An Evening with author Adele Logan Alexander

November 1

An Unfinished Revolution: The Woman's Suffrage Centennial exhibit closes

November 17

History in the Making Dinner Honoring Barbara and Ray Dalio

November 19- December 4

Festival of Trees

December 2 - 4

Antiquarius