

2021–22
ANNUAL REPORT
Greenwich Historical Society





Front cover:
John Henry Twachtman, *Waterfall, Blue Brook*, late 1890s (detail).
Oil on canvas. Cincinnati Art Museum, Annual Membership Fund Purchase

Left: John Alden Twachtman and John Henry Twachtman, *Greenwich Garden*, ca. 1895–99 (detail). Oil on canvas. Private Collection

Letter from Board Co-Chairs and Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Over 90 years ago the Greenwich Historical Society was chartered by the State of Connecticut as an educational institution. This year we celebrated this milestone with a series of interactive programs and events, from our “Discover Greenwich” series and town-wide scavenger hunt to our extraordinary 90th anniversary fundraising dinner featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Doris Kearns Goodwin. There are so many to thank for our success, not limited to this past year. Looking back over the last nine decades, we recognized over 420 board members and volunteer leaders who were instrumental in our evolution from a small, one-room historical society to the vibrant historic site and campus we enjoy today. A new strategic plan, adopted by the board in June 2022, renews our commitment to our mission to preserve and interpret Greenwich history with the explicit goals of telling a fuller history of the town to a broader audience and continuing to strive for organizational excellence.

In the fall of 2021, our first David Ogilvy Preservation Award was presented posthumously to David F. Ogilvy, who was for over 40 years an inspirational leader in the preservation of Greenwich’s historic buildings and landscapes. Among the Greenwich landmarks we recognized this past year were those associated with women of distinction—including the late Mary Tyler Moore who cherished her stately fieldstone residence in Greenwich, and the trailblazing community leaders who built a new modernist home for the Greenwich YWCA. Our fun and festive fundraiser, Fall Fête, magically transformed the former great estate of Mel Gibson at Old Mill Farm to raise essential funds.

Throughout the year we were excellent stewards of our National Historic Landmark Bush-Holley House, and we continued our commitment to teach critical thinking skills to the children of our community. In addition to providing education programs to every third-grade student in the Greenwich Public Schools, we expanded our services to Greenwich’s Title I schools to include students at New Lebanon School. Thanks to dedicated endowment gifts and Title I school funds raised through our History in the Making Dinner, honoring Barbara and Ray Dalio, we can now provide educational and cultural experiences to every student from first to fifth grade at Hamilton Avenue and New Lebanon schools. The Historical Society made a significant contribution to the scholarship on John Henry Twachtman through its publication *Life and Art: The Greenwich Paintings of John Henry Twachtman*, written by Lisa N. Peters, Ph.D., funded in part by the Wyeth Foundation for American Art. Due to ongoing recovery efforts following Tropical Storm Ida, we rescheduled the Twachtman exhibition and related programs to take place from October 19, 2022 through January 22, 2023.

In spite of the setbacks from the unprecedented flood, we finished our fiscal year in a good financial position, thanks in part to America Rescue grants and a major bequest from a former member, Hedda Windisch VonGoeben. The fortuitous timing of her gift reminds us all to include the Greenwich Historical Society in our estate planning. This is a wonderful way to continue the investment made during our lifetimes.

Our success would not be possible without the extraordinary contributions of our many members, board and donors, together with the passionate work of our dedicated staff and volunteers. Thank you for sharing our belief in the power of history to connect us with each other and the world around us.

Debra L. Mecky

Executive Director & CEO

Haley Rockwell Emlinger

Co-Chair

Catherine Tompkins

Co-Chair

Our Mission

We preserve and interpret Greenwich history to strengthen the community's connection to our past, to each other and to our future.

Our Vision

As a result of our work, our community will have a stronger sense of place, gain a fuller appreciation of our shared past and be better equipped to embrace opportunities to build a more informed and just society.

Our Strategic Goals

In service of this mission and vision, the Historical Society is framing its work from 2022 through 2026 under the theme of telling a fuller history of Greenwich to a broader audience, with a focus on including, engaging and representing the town's many communities. During the strategic plan period, the Historical Society is pursuing the following goals:



Fuller History

Tell a fuller history of the town and its increasingly diverse population.



Broader Audience

Broaden the audience that the Historical Society serves and represents through more meaningful engagement with the community.



Organizational Excellence

Deepen commitment to organizational excellence by building a more diverse, equitable, accessible and inclusive organization.



Preservation & Stewardship

Work collaboratively to build public awareness of historic assets in town and in our collections, and advocate for their preservation.



Growth & Sustainability

Achieve a sustainable revenue model that meets and grows with the annual operating budget.

A Year of Celebration



It has been a momentous year for us as we celebrated the milestone 90th anniversary of the chartering of the Greenwich Historical Society as an educational institution on December 8, 1931, and affirmed our enduring commitment to provide impactful service to the Greenwich community.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to our 90th Anniversary Committee, board, members, donors, sponsors and attendees for a memorable and successful celebration event featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Doris Kearns Goodwin.

A Community Campus

Throughout the year, as uncertainties lingered, our reinvented and expanded campus provided a place for members of our community to gather, learn, share, explore and connect.

Our outdoor site and historic gardens offered a verdant space to safely run our most popular community and family programs including Fall Scarecrow Festival, Holiday Festival, Easter Egg Hunt with Greenwich Moms, Music on the Great Lawn, Tavern Garden Markets and Art + History Camp.

During the fall and winter months we offered engaging indoor options such as the Create in the Barn series of workshops inspired by the Cos Cob art colony, sponsored by Karen McKenna



Telling a Fuller History



We hosted our second season of the Shining a Light virtual lecture series, dedicated to elevating and amplifying underrepresented voices in local history to highlight the stories, research and people dedicated to interpreting, restoring and preserving these histories.

We expanded our Bush-Holley House programs with specially themed tours drawn from historical content aligned with Black History Month, Women's History Month and Asian Heritage Month.



Real Estate. Our third Annual Festival of Trees, Museum Store, Holiday Festival and Candlelight Bush-Holley House tours kept our campus merry and bright during the holiday season.

The hard work and adaptability of the Library and Archives staff kept its invaluable resources available to the community during an extended period of unplanned disruption due to Tropical Storm Ida. Even though most collection material was stored off site and staff were relocated to a temporary workspace, careful planning allowed the Library and Archives to continue to function with minimal disruptions for patrons. Most research inquiries could still be answered thanks to prior digitization of key collection material and retention of the most frequently referenced resources. Some researchers continued to have on site access to collection material through prior arrangements.

Stewardship



We remained excellent stewards of our beloved Bush-Holley House, the only building in Greenwich on the National Register of Historic Places. Ongoing structural repairs and upgrades are supported by grants

from CT Humanities and the Town of Greenwich.

We established the David Ogilvy Preservation Award in recognition of the late inspirational real estate and landmark preservation leader, honoring women of distinction including Mary Tyler Moore and the visionary community leaders responsible for the modernist Greenwich YWCA.

Our autumn Fall Fête at the former great estate of Mel Gibson, now home of the cultural nonprofit Foundation House, was a fun and festive fundraising success.

Discover Greenwich

Creating a Sense of Place

At a festive launch party on May 12 attended by nearly 200 members and friends, a proclamation by Greenwich First Selectman Fred Camillo declared the official launch of Discover Greenwich, a series of programs commemorating our 90th milestone year. Guests were invited to post their favorite memories on a Greenwich map and share comments on video. Programs announced included a *plein air painting* workshop with Impressionist painter Dmitri Wright, Artful Arrangements Floral Design workshops inspired by Constant Holley MacRae, Walking Tours through Greenwich neighborhoods, a self-guided tour app and a town-wide scavenger hunt, each designed to create a sense of place and belonging, spark dialogue and inspire meaningful connections across our diverse community.

Explore

Enrich

Engage

Exhibitions

Life and Art: The Greenwich Paintings of John Henry Twachtman, originally scheduled to open at the Greenwich Historical Society in October 2021, was postponed due to water damage sustained from Tropical Storm Ida. Offsetting that disappointment, an illustrated virtual talk by Lisa N. Peters, Ph.D. was held in celebration of the public launch of the *John Henry Twachtman Catalogue Raisonné*, a collaboration between Dr. Peters and the Greenwich Historical Society. The *John Henry Twachtman Catalogue Raisonné* is a free digital resource offering detailed records of Twachtman's oeuvre, life, exhibitions and other material including correspondence and entries for every known artwork by the artist. It is accessible at www.jhtwachtman.org.

In February, the painting *The Red Hill, Cos Cob*, by noted Impressionist Childe Hassam (1859–1935), a recent addition to the Greenwich Historical Society Museum Collection, was installed in the Permanent Collections Gallery alongside several other artistic depictions of the Palmer & Duff Shipyard and the Cos Cob Lower Landing. Painted in September 1896 during the first of many visits made by Hassam to the Holley family's boarding house, the subject was a favorite of many of the artists who boarded with the Holleys during the 1890s, including John Henry Twachtman, Theodore Robinson, Kerr Eby and Elmer MacRae.

Education

We continued to offer both virtual and live programs to accommodate teachers and schools, upholding our commitment to education as a key pillar of our mission, assuring every third grader in Greenwich public schools — and most private schools — explored American history through our Sarah Bush and Her Town program.



John Henry Twachtman, *September Sunshine*, ca. 1892–94.
Oil on canvas. Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art

Title I Schools

We partner with Title I schools to ensure that students claim Greenwich's history as their own, to encourage learning outside of the classroom and to break down entrenched racial and economic barriers to museum-going by providing students and their families special access to the Historical Society's site and collections.

Our History in the Making event, honoring Ray and Barbara Dalio, raised over \$1 million to provide free programs to students at New Lebanon and Hamilton Avenue schools.

In the spring we held our second annual Witness Stones program and placement ceremony, in collaboration with Greenwich Academy and Sacred Heart Greenwich, honoring Jack and Cull, Jr., two enslaved members of the Bush household in the early 19th century.

In 2022 the Greenwich Historical Society, in partnership with the Witness Stones Project, Sacred Heart Greenwich and Greenwich Academy, placed a Witness Stone for Jack, son of Hester. His stone's placement marks the memorialization of a complete family unit. The family, comprised of mother, Candice Bush, and children, Jack and Hester Mead, was enslaved by the Bush household from circa 1790–1828. During the past three years, Historical Society staff and students have strived to uncover original documents pertaining to their lives, put together the pieces and share stories.

Uncovering the story of one enslaved family



Their story begins with Candice Bush. Our earliest record of Candice is from 1790, when she was 10 years old and already enslaved by the Bush family. She continued to work for the Bushes until her emancipation in 1825. During this time, she worked as a domestic servant and had two children, Jack and Hester. Born into slavery, they became free on their 21st birthdays, in line with the laws of the day. Jack left Greenwich, never to return, but Hester bought a home with her mother and started her new life in town.

Mother and daughter were not alone in their new home. The census shows that the pair also lived with Hester's son, William. William married in the early 1850s and started a family of his own. Son and grandson of formerly enslaved women, he joined the Civil War fight for the freedom of enslaved people in the South. He died in Beaufort, South Carolina in 1863, just six months after enlistment.



Hester Mead (1807–1864) *The Jabez Mead House*, ca. 1840
Watercolor on paper. 21.5 x 25.5 inches. Greenwich Historical Society, Museum Purchase, 2006.02.



That same year, Hester died. In her will, we can see that Hester flourished in freedom. She owned dresses, silver and, most impressively, multiple books. She had money to spare. Her possessions and a percentage of her cash are given to her granddaughters, providing them legacy and a strong start in the world. The rest was spent on headstones for her mother Candice, who had passed four years prior, and herself. Theirs are the only known headstones of formerly enslaved people in Greenwich. They stand side by side in Union Cemetery, in a show of strength, achievement and familial love.

Greenwich Treasures

Gifts to the Archives and the Museum Collection

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

To preserve our past for future generations, the Greenwich Historical Society Archives depends on the assistance of people interested in preserving the unique culture of Greenwich. We acquire, preserve and make available to the public, original documents and publications about important aspects of the history of the Town of Greenwich from its founding to the present. These can include original letters, diaries, scrapbooks, minutes, reports and publications such as books, magazines, menus, brochures, flyers and campaign literature. The Museum Collection is comprised of objects that document the material culture of present and former inhabitants of Greenwich and its region. Particular emphasis is given to items connected to the history of the Bush-Holley House or those useful to its interpretation. Objects include, but are not limited to, items associated with Greenwich people, places or events; fine and decorative arts; and maritime, agricultural, industrial and domestic artifacts that reflect the activities of the Bush family during the New Nation and of members of the Cos Cob art colony. On behalf of current and future students, researchers and scholars, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to all who have contributed to these collections.



Elmer Livingston MacRae (1875-1953)
Floral Painting, ca. 1903
Watercolor on paper, adhered to board
2021.01

GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM COLLECTION: 2021–2022

Gift of Barbara Coleman in memory of Dr. Joseph P. Coleman:

Elmer Livingston MacRae (1875-1953)
Floral Painting, ca. 1903
Watercolor on paper, adhered to board
2021.01

Gift of Susan G. and James T. Larkin:

Leonard Ochtman (1854-1934)
Untitled [*Twilight*], ca. 1894
Oil on canvas
2022.01

Gift of Mary V.T. Cattani:

Elmer Livingston MacRae (1875-1953)
Wooden relief carving with zinnia design
Undated, probably after 1914
Paint on wood
2022.02

Gift of the family of John Duff:

42-Star American Flag, ca. 1890
Hand and machine stitched linen
Inscribed: Miss Susan Lane, Cos Cob
2022.03

Gift of Anonymous Donor:

Elmer Livingston MacRae (1875-1953)
Untitled [*Floral Pattern, Turk's Cap Lily*], ca. 1912
Pastel on paper
2022.04

Gift of Mrs. Frederick W. Toohey

Elmer Livingston MacRae (1875-1953)
Porch Stair, 1896
Oil on canvas
2022.05



Leonard Ochtman (1854-1934)
Untitled [*Twilight*], ca. 1894
Oil on canvas
2022.01



Elmer Livingston MacRae (1875-1953)
Wooden relief carving
with zinnia design
Undated, probably after 1914
Paint on wood
2022.02

DONATIONS TO THE ARCHIVES:

Ginny Theis

Photo of staff at Stevenson's Grocery Store in Old Greenwich;
Two photographs of Theis Bros. Cash Grocer on Strickland
Road in Cos Cob

Patricia and John Klingenstein Family

Photograph of pencil drawing of 8 Fox Run Lane by J. Alden
Twachtman dated 1926

Mark Wallis

Pickwick Inn Postcard; Town of Greenwich Tercentenary coin;
undated black and white photo print of Island Beach; The
Clarion, Vol. 7, 1912-1913 (Greenwich High School yearbook)

Nancy Barker

Photo album for Riverside School, Girl Scout Troop 322,
1987-1991

Douglas W. Monty

Photo of Palmer Engine Company property, circa 1900

Clarissa K. Pintado

Letter dated June 6, 1949, from H.F. du Pont to Elmer
MacRae acknowledging receipt of shell; fragment of
American Painters and Sculptors letterhead; fragment of
Charles MacRae business card; Bush-Holley House; typed
letter from Clarissa MacRae Velasquez to Nell Montgomery
(wife of Robert Montgomery of "Wild Acres") dated
February 23, 1963



Reynolds scrapbook from World War II era



Framed ad for WGCH 1490 AM from
1960s "Greenwich Turns Us On!"

Sally Putnam Chapman

Journals of Dorothy Binney (oldest daughter of Edwin
Binney), David Binney Putnam books, genealogy,
photographs

Lisa Becker Edmundson

Framed ad for WGCH 1490 AM from 1960s "Greenwich
Turns Us On!"

Cormac O'Malley

Spiral hardbound notebook for "Greenwich Garden
Club," owned by Blanche Ferry Hooker; magazine "Our
Town" Sept 1917; Greenwich 350th anniversary 1640-
1699" congregational histories of Greenwich; 1963
edition Greenwich map and facts; Five books by Ernest
Thompson Seton, including the one signed in 1912 to Elon
Huntington Hooker, memorial book on Elon Huntington
Hooker published after his death in 1938 by the Hooker
Electrochemical Company

Missy Wolfe

The Great Ledger, Records of the Town of Greenwich,
Connecticut 1640-1742, Volumes 1 and 2. Missy Wolfe,
Editor and Transcriber, Copyright 2021 Missy Wolfe. Maps
provided by author, digitally created by Jennifer Reynolds.
Flash drive with JPEG images of Commonplace Book 1, 2
and 3, Greenwich Land Record Book 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Steven Frummerman

Bush-Holley House and site photos from visit on April 22,
2001



Elmer Livingston MacRae (1875-1953)
Untitled [*Floral Pattern, Turk's Cap Lily*], ca, 1912
Pastel on paper
2022.04

Sally Nye Parris

Greenwich 359th parade poster in frame; The Green Witch from February 1931; Tomac Avenue to Tod's Point, edited by Eric Knutsen; file related to Binney property (Oaklyn) sale

Valerie Stauffer

John Stauffer's paperwork from when he served on Planning & Zoning Commission in the 1980s, including items related to Xerox. Mystery Club documents from 1980s.

Leslie Waters

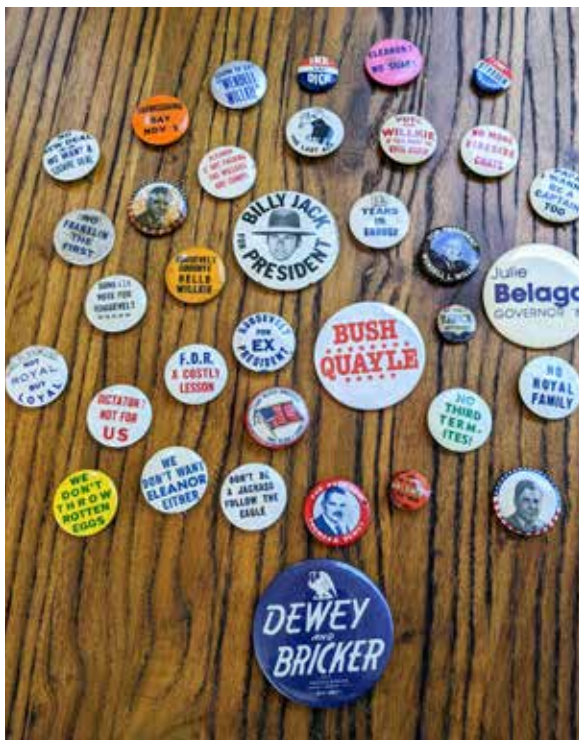
Photographs and documentation related to The Columns, 183 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830

Debbie Reynolds

Reynolds scrapbook from World War II era; campaign buttons

Davidde Strackbein

Archival print of Map of New Netherlands, with a view of New Amsterdam (now New York), A.D. 1656 by Adriaen van der Donck. Content: Printed on border: "Geo. Hayward's Lith. 120 Water St. N.Y."



42-Star American Flag, ca. 1890
Hand and machine stitched linen
Inscribed: Miss Susan Lane, Cos Cob
2022.03



Elmer Livingston MacRae (1875-1953)
Porch Stair, 1896
Oil on canvas
2022.05

Reynolds scrapbook
campaign buttons



2021–2022 Treasurer's Report

Heinz Maeusli, Treasurer

The following provides an overview of the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2022. The audited financial statements and Form 990 will be posted on our website and will be available in hard copy at the Greenwich Historical Society.

We had a very solid FY22. We exceeded our fundraising goals, created new community programs such as Discover Greenwich, and hosted successful special events; “History in the Making” to name just one.

We also continue to significantly improve results from our ancillary activities such as the Museum Store, the facility rental business, the Tavern Garden Markets and our concerts. Despite challenges from Hurricane Ida in September 2021 that resulted in damages to the museum building, we managed to perform significantly better than budgeted.

We realized an operating profit of \$645K compared to a loss of \$363K in FY21. Total revenues and assets released from restrictions for operating purposes amounted to \$2.738 million. Total functional expenses were \$2.093 million. Our non-operating activities show an investment gain of \$178K, depreciation expenses of \$412K and \$97K of assets released from capital.

	Audited Year Ended June 30, 2022	Audited Year Ended June 30, 2021
Unrestricted Operating Activities		
Revenues & Assets Released		
Contributions, Memberships & Grants	1,268,715	599,350
Program Service Fees, Sales & Rental Income	262,360	149,194
Special Events (net)	693,239	124,677
SBA PPP Loan Forgiveness	189,760	189,700
Assets Released from Restrictions for Operating	323,901	472,720
Total Revenues & Assets Released	2,737,975*	1,535,641*
Expenses		
Program Services	1,709,443	1,623,987
Management and General	198,591	103,747
Development	184,498	171,035
Total Functional Expenses	2,092,532	1,898,769
Change in Net Assets from Operations	645,443	(363,128)
Balance Sheet		
	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021
Cash and Equivalents	1,372,908	484,901
Other Current Assets	146,883	141,277
Investments	6,748,018	8,747,022
Property, Equipment & Furnishings—net of depreciation	16,024,444	16,253,367
Liabilities	(450,634)	(755,563)
Net Assets	23,841,619	24,871,004
Fund Balance		
Without Donor Restrictions		
Board Designated	2,006,176	1,623,280
Unrestricted	16,438,045	16,391,390
With Donor Restrictions		
Time or Purpose Restricted	1,009,919	2,468,855
Perpetual Endowment (excluding appreciation)	4,387,479	4,387,479
Total Fund Balance	23,841,619	24,871,004

* Excluded releases for capital expenses

The Historical Society ended FY22 with total net assets of \$23.84 million. We all are looking forward to the coming year and are focused on increasing our revenues by fully leveraging our new programs, exhibits and upgraded museum facilities.



Annual Giving

Thank you to all donors who contributed during the 2021-2022 fiscal year. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please direct any questions or comments to Laura Kelley, Development Associate at 203-869-6899, x14 or lkelly@greenwichhistory.org.

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Major Gifts

The Greenwich Historical Society thanks the following contributors to our Major Gifts program, including the Greenwich Historic Trust, who advance our strategic plans and initiatives. The following generous donors and corporate sponsors support the Historical Society's public programs, preservation and tours of the National Historic Landmark Bush-Holley House, education programs for students and families, biannual exhibitions, research and preservation services, the digital collections portal and the many print and online publications. These donors also enjoy all the privileges of membership in the Greenwich Historical Society.

Leadership Circle \$25,000+

Diana and Terry Betteridge
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History in the Making

Honoring Barbara and Ray Dalio

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FiFi Sheridan
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Charles Hilton Architects
First Republic Bank
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Sarah Blank Design Studio



Harbor Point

These gifts support the Greenwich Historical Society's joint publication with the Harbor Point Association of a history of the Harbor Point Association in Riverside, CT.

Jeffrey Bewkes
Ipashri and Piyush Bharti
Allison and Timothy Coleman
Mary Jane and Peter Depuzzo
William Deutsch
Nancy and Andreas Duus
Adrien Fraise
Marc Johnson
Bernice Lukas
Hilary and Charles Parkhurst
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90th Anniversary Chairs

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Barbara MacDonald
Anne Ogilvy
Heather Sargent

Host Committee (\$90,000+)

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IN MEMORIAM

Hedda Windisch Von Goeben



In December 2021, Greenwich Historical Society received a generous bequest from the estate of Mrs. Hedda Windisch Von Goeben. A lifetime member of the Greenwich Historical Society, Ms. Von Goeben was the niece of former President of the Historical Society and Board Member Frederick C. Windisch (1901–1977). Growing up in the Belle Haven section of Greenwich, Ms. Von Goeben ran her family's Church Hill Farm in Washington, CT, before relocating to Granville, Ohio, to be closer to her extended family, whose roots are in Cincinnati's historic Windisch-Muhlhauser Brewing Company. She was a passionate equestrienne, artist, philanthropist and world traveler. Her bequest provides critical funds to the Greenwich Historical Society, and we are grateful for her generosity and support of our mission. Planned Giving allows donors to create a legacy to help ensure the future of the Greenwich Historical Society, supporting our important work in preserving and interpreting Greenwich history for generations to come.

Jack Morris



Jack Morris (1931–2022) was a dedicated supporter of the Greenwich Historical Society. Upon retirement from a long and successful business career, Jack fervently embraced the role of Chairman of the Greenwich Landmark Recognition Program. Under his vision and leadership, and with the support of a robust committee, the program was formalized and elevated, recognizing several notable local landmark buildings, such as the Belle Haven Club, the Round Hill Club and the Second Congregational Church. Jack also initiated our signature recognition series as a major fundraising event, featuring prominent speakers including the owners of the respective landmarked homes, and collaborated on the publication of a special Landmark book on the history of each home that was presented to the homeowners along with their plaque, with copies sold to support the program. Jack is survived by his wife Lu, who was an Advisory Board member as well as Chair and Coordinator of the Sarah Bush and Her Town docents program, now an integral part of the town's educational curriculum. We are grateful for their respective contributions to the growth and expansion of our organization's reach and impact.



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