

Greenwich Historical Society Newsletter

GREENWICH 1931 • 2022 HISTORICAL
90 SOCIETY
WINTER
2023

New Year Greetings from the Greenwich Historical Society

Meet Our Preservation Partners

DIANE FOX
Greenwich Preservation Network

WILL KIES
Friends of Selleck Mill

ELISE GREEN
RUSS REYNOLDS
ANNE YOUNG
Greenwich Historic Properties

New Honorary Trustees

DEBORAH ROYCE
HUGH B. VANDERBILT



Dear Friends,

We greet this New Year with renewed optimism, drawn from the enduring dedication, support and resilience of the Greenwich community. Our 90th milestone celebration from May through December brought us together in new and exciting ways through the many programs and events of Discover Greenwich and culminated in our wonderful anniversary event featuring keynote speaker Doris Kearns Goodwin.

After numerous setbacks and postponements, we launched the monumental exhibition *Life and Art: The Greenwich Paintings of John Henry Twachtman*, on view through January 22. Next up we will present *Sports! More Than Just a Game*, which will explore how people from Greenwich and surrounding communities broke boundaries, tested their limits and found common ground through athletic achievement. A full slate of related programs will offer extensive and informative insights into how sports have enriched and impacted our personal and community histories.

We look forward to seeing you on campus over the upcoming months and through the year as we begin our countdown to 100!

Debra Mecky

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO

Meet Our New Trustees



Lauren Martinez
duPont is
Creative

Consultant at Aerin Lauder's Lifestyle Brand AERIN. She previously held positions in the fashion design industry including Ralph Lauren and *Vogue* Magazine, and is the Founding Chair of Young Fellows of the Frick Ball and a former member of the International Council of MoMA.



Hiram (Chip)
W. Emery III is
the Founder and

CEO of Ridgetop Research and is considered a pioneer in the investment research industry. Born and raised in Greenwich and a graduate of Lake Forest College, he has served on the Board of Trustees of Greenwich Country Day School and is former Chair of the GCDS Alumni Advisory Council.



Connie Anne
Harris currently
serves on the

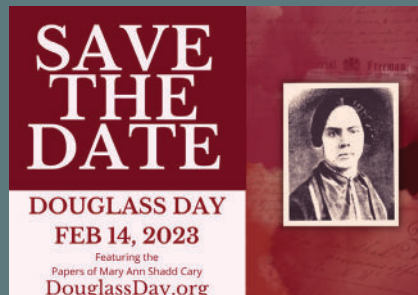
board of Greenwich Emergency Medical Services (GEMS), is co-chair of the American Red Cross 2023 Red and White Ball and is on the Board of Advisors of the Hospital for Special Surgery. She is a past board member of the Greenwich YWCA and former Publisher/Chief Revenue Officer at *Glamour/InStyle* magazines and Managing Director at *Vogue*.



Mimi Moulton
has co-chaired
major Greenwich

Historical Society fundraising events including Antiquarius and Fall Fête, as well as the Boys and Girls Club benefit, and is a former board member of the Round Hill Club. She previously worked as an accessories designer and was Accessories Editor at *Elle* and *Vogue* magazines.

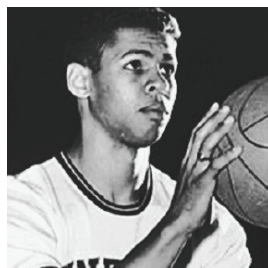
Greenwich Historical Society Participates in Douglass Day Transcribe-a-thon



On February 14, 2023, the Greenwich Historical Society will partner with the Byram Shubert Public Library and Greenwich Academy to host a local transcribe-a-thon as part of a nationwide celebration of Douglass Day, marking the birth of Frederick Douglass. Douglass Day is an annual program organized by The Center for Black Digital Research and Zooniverse in which thousands of people gather to help create new and freely available resources for learning about Black history. A different collection of Black history is featured each year, and the Douglass Day transcribe-a-thon helps create new digital resources for African American history. All materials created are made free and open to all.

Douglass Day 2023 will be dedicated to transcribing and enriching the papers of Mary Ann Shadd Cary (1823–1893), one of the earliest Black women to edit a newspaper, serve as a Civil War recruiter, attend law school and much more. Douglass Day organizers are partnering with the Archives of Ontario, Libraries and Archives Canada and many others to present newly digitized collections from Shadd Cary's long, remarkable life.

Worthy Patterson Film Screening



On Thursday, February 9, the Greenwich Historical Society will host the public premiere of the documentary film *Pushing Boundaries: UConn's First NBA Player*, a stirring account of the life and career of athlete and music executive Worthy Patterson, who passed away in late 2022 at the age of 91.

Patterson, raised in Greenwich and a student at Greenwich High School in the 1940s, credited the Greenwich Boys Club for introducing him to the sport of basketball. He played guard for the UConn Huskies from 1951–54, was the first Black player to captain a sport at UConn and became the first UConn alumnus – as well as among one of the first generation of Black players – to play in an NBA game in 1957 as a member of the St. Louis Hawks.

Pushing Boundaries features interviews with Patterson and his family and charts his upbringing in Greenwich, professional basketball career and subsequent success in the recording industry as a record executive for RCA and Warner Brothers. A Q&A with filmmaker Ronnie Forchheimer will follow the screening.

Worthy Patterson's story, and those of other notable local athletes throughout history, will be featured in the Greenwich Historical Society's upcoming exhibition *Sports! More Than Just a Game*, opening March 8, 2023.

Summer Interns Assist with Archaeological Cataloging



Every year our Education Department takes on high school interns through the Greenwich High School Senior Options Program. Offering qualified seniors the opportunity to undertake internships in lieu of attending classes, we provide students with real-world experiences to learn about subjects not normally covered in the curricula. The interns that come to us are interested in working at museums or in closely related fields. During their time with us, they assist with research, transcription, testing crafts and activities, school programs and events.

In June 2022, while digging a trench for a new drainage pipe near the Bush Storehouse, construction workers uncovered dozens of objects that had been buried under the lawn of the Greenwich Historical Society. The objects were gathered from the "bottle pit" and cleaned by members of the staff and our two Greenwich High School interns before being cataloged and researched. Although there are no dates, maker's marks or obvious provenances for the objects found, there are still many things that can be learned about how people on our site were living in the 18th and 19th centuries. To learn more about the specific objects uncovered in the dig, you can read the History from Home blog post by Dean McKenna, IMLS Project Digitization Associate, at www.greenwichhistory.org/finds-from-summer-2022-excavation. Dean will also share his findings in a special presentation at our Member Appreciation Breakfast on January 19.



Pictured: Spring '22 interns, Ellie and Mikaela. Ellie now attends Cambridge University and Mikaela is at Colby-Sawyer College. Both cited helping with the archaeological cleaning as one of their favorite parts of the internship experience.

Calendar of Events

January

- Wed 4 Twachtman exhibition – Guided Tour
Sun 8 Afternoon in the Archives: *Twachtman In His Own Words*
Wed 11 Twachtman exhibition – Guided Tour
Wed 18 Twachtman exhibition – Guided Tour
Thu 19 Member Appreciation Breakfast
Sun 22 **Final day of *Life and Art: The Greenwich Paintings of John Henry Twachtman***

February

- Thu 9 *Pushing Boundaries* documentary film screening
Mon 13 *My Story, Our Future* Student Exhibition (through 2/26)
Tue 14 Douglass Day Transcribe-a-thon

March

- Tue 7 *Sports! More Than Just a Game* – Member Preview Party
Wed 8 *Sports! More Than Just a Game* open to the public
Thu 16 *Indigenous Roots of Lacrosse* – Lecture in the Barn
Sun 19 Afternoon in the Archives: *Sports Stories*



For details and to register for programs and events, visit greenwichhistory.org

MY STORY OUR FUTURE

SOUTH ASIAN AMERICAN YOUTH
VOICES OF CONNECTICUT

FEBRUARY 13-26

Greenwich Historical Society presents a student-curated exhibit highlighting personal family stories and artifacts gathered as part of the *My Story, Our Future* project. A collaborative initiative organized by the India Cultural Center and the Asian and Asian American Studies Institute at UConn, the project aims to collect and contribute stories about South Asian American youth identity in Connecticut in support of the state's mandated K-12 Asian American/Pacific Islander curriculum. Student participants spent the fall of 2022 learning to interview family members on their experiences as immigrants to North America from South Asia. The exhibit will be on view in the Historical Society Museum Lobby from February 13-26.

Indigenous History Online Resource

Visit our new online Resource Guide for Indigenous History, a curated selection of databases, primary sources and educator resources, and information about collections at local institutions in Fairfield County. Featuring a Native Land digital interactive map, book lists, local artifacts and links to Tribal Nation websites, the guide is a valuable starting point for research and further learning about Indigenous history for a broad audience. We hope that everyone from students to teachers to seasoned historians will find these resources useful and informative. Built as a living resource, the site will continue to evolve and change as additional information and perspectives are added. We welcome your input and feedback as part of this ongoing process.



Visit
greenwichhistory.org/digital-archives

SPORTS! MORE THAN JUST A GAME

MARCH 8-SEPTEMBER 3, 2023



A dynamic exhibition on the local history of sporting culture, fandom and celebrity that explores how Greenwich and surrounding communities broke boundaries, tested their limits and found common ground through athletic achievement.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Monday, January 16, Martin Luther King Day

Monday, February 20, President's Day

OFFICE, MUSEUM STORE AND CAFÉ

Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, 12:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

MUSEUM GALLERIES

Wednesday–Sunday, 12:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

BUSH-HOLLEY HOUSE

Wednesday–Sunday, 12:00 p.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Tours last 45 minutes. Call for reservations.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. or by appointment

ADMISSION

\$10 adults, \$8 seniors

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

GROUP TOURS

Available on request.

Visit all 21 museums on the Connecticut Art Trail for \$35. Buy a passport at the museum lobby desk or at ctarttrail.org.

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

2023 Art & History Camp

Early Bird Registration ends APRIL 14.

SAVE \$50 per week!

July 10–28

Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Senior Art and History Camp:	July 10–14
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Junior History Camp:	July 17–21
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Junior Art Camp:	July 24–28
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1 week \$450, 2 weeks \$800.

Sibling discounts may apply.



Annual Winter Sale Museum Store



up to
50%
off

January 16–31

New merchandise arrives weekly!

Don't miss the annual Winter Sale with discounts up to 50% on items throughout the Greenwich Historical Society Museum Store!



COVER IMAGE:

John Henry Twachtman

Snowbound, ca. 1892–93, Oil on canvas

Montclair Art Museum, New Jersey; Museum

purchase, Lang Acquisition Fund