

Greenwich Historical Society Newsletter

SPORTS!

MORE THAN JUST A GAME

MARCH 8 – SEPTEMBER 3, 2023



On March 8 the Greenwich Historical Society welcomed visitors to our current exhibition, *Sports! More Than Just a Game*, presenting an inclusive and insightful history of athletics, sports culture and celebrated athletes in Greenwich and surrounding communities. The exhibition, supported in part by grants from Connecticut Humanities and First Republic Bank, tells a fuller history of local athletes, teams and competitions with artifacts and memorabilia on view from museum and private collections.

Exhibition curator **Kathleen Craughwell-Varda** reflects on the process of researching and developing the exhibition and the discoveries and relationships made along the way.

One of the benefits of curating this exhibit has been connecting with people from Greenwich whose personal stories are tied to both the community and the sports world.

Major League Baseball pitcher Tom Seaver (1944–2020), who was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1992 for his illustrious career largely spent with the New York Mets, was a native of California but selected Greenwich as home for his young family in 1970. Although Seaver and his wife returned to his home state following their daughter's graduation from Greenwich High School in the late



Tom Seaver (1944–2020)

1990s, their Connecticut hometown still evokes fond memories for the family. Supportive of this exhibition from its inception, Seaver's daughter, Sarah Seaver Zaske, has generously helped facilitate the loan of personal family mementos and major awards that reflect her father's storied career – including one of Seaver's three Cy Young Award plaques and his MLB Rookie of the Year Award, bestowed during his first season with the Mets in 1967. In our conversations we not only discussed Seaver's life and career, but also the people of Greenwich and other resident-athletes who were among the family's circle of friends and part of Sarah's fond memories of living here.

Sherry Young, mother of San Francisco 49ers quarterback, Super Bowl MVP and National Football League Hall of Famer Steve Young, a 1980 graduate of Greenwich High School, has shared stories that give special meaning to each item featured in the exhibition. The artifacts and mementos reflect her son's time playing youth football, his tenure as quarterback for the Greenwich High School football team and his professional football career. Each item is imbued with memories of Greenwich, the families whose sons played football with Steve, and Sherry Young's own realization that her son was destined for greatness.

Perhaps the most rewarding conversations I've had are with the living descendants of some of Greenwich's sports stars from decades past whose legacies have become memories over time. I was especially touched speaking with family members of champion diver and Greenwich resident Helen Meany (1904–1991). Helen Meany became the first American female diver to compete in three Olympic games and won the gold medal in the three-meter springboard competition in 1928. The items her family has preserved from her



Helen Meany (1904–1991)

competition days, including two silver cup trophies and a hand-colored gilded Olympic Certificate awarded at the time of her gold

medal performance in the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics, demonstrate how deeply athletic achievements are tied to our sense of family history and pride.

~Kathleen Craughwell-Varda

Spring Greetings!

Dear Friends,

With the long-awaited arrival of spring and warmer days ahead, we happily shed our coats and spend more time outdoors. For many of us that also means returning to favorite sports or fitness activities, be it as player, spectator or coach. Our current exhibition, *Sports! More Than Just a Game*, reflects the vibrant history of local sporting clubs and leagues and the legacy of prominent athletes making their homes in Greenwich. The related adult and family programs tell an engaging story of sporting culture viewed through a historical lens. Our annual Shining a Light lecture series, dedicated to elevating and amplifying underrepresented voices in local history, will again take place on Zoom, offering access to a broader audience. For more interactive, hands-on experiences, join us for the beloved and ever-popular Story Barn with Bonnie Levison; Create in the Barn workshops; Artful Arrangements floral design workshops; and the return of our Discover Greenwich Scavenger Hunt! The Education Department looks forward to welcoming our younger citizens to campus for a Spring Break Fairy House Workshop and is accepting registrations for Art & History Ccamp. Last but certainly not least, we are excited and honored that the Greenwich League of Women Voters has donated their complete archival records to the Historical Society Archives for posterity. Contributions such as this invigorate our mission to preserve and interpret Greenwich history to strengthen the community's connection to our past, to each other and to our future.

Debra Mecky

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO

League of Women Voters Donates Historical Records to Archives



Debra Mecky with LWV Greenwich Historian Lynn Garelick and President Sandy Waters in the GHS Archives.

The donated trove spans a century, beginning with handwritten meeting minutes from October 1921, shortly after the passage of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote – an especially historic period with significant consequences for society. There are scrapbook albums, photos, videotapes and information on past League presidents, including many larger-than-life personalities who helped secure women's voting rights in our country.

“LWV Greenwich's historical record has been saved and passed down volunteer to volunteer for 100 years,” noted LWV Greenwich President Sandy Waters. “This is a remarkable accomplishment and a testament to the value our leadership places upon our mission. We are pleased that our partnership with the Historical Society will protect our historical past for the public to understand and read for themselves.”

“This donation enables us to continue to showcase and preserve the contributions of the League, which began with our exhibition *An Unfinished Revolution: The Woman's Suffrage Centennial* in 2021,” said Historical Society's Executive Director and CEO Debra Mecky. “Equally important, it helps further our mission of telling a fuller and more inclusive history of Greenwich and working collaboratively to build awareness of its historic assets and their preservation.”

Materials are now available to view by appointment by contacting Christopher Shields, Curator of Library and Archives. Once the records are fully processed, they will be accessible through a finding aid on the Greenwich Historical Society website.



Shining a Light LECTURE SERIES

Elevating and amplifying underrepresented voices in local history. Supported by a grant from Connecticut Humanities. All events take place on Zoom from 6:00–7:15 p.m.

Thursday March 30

DIVERSE STORIES FROM WOMEN'S LIVES IN THE ANCIENT BURYING GROUND

with Dr. Katherine Hermes, Ancient Burying Ground Association

Thursday, April 13

INVISIBLE NO MORE: HISTORIC SITES CONNECTED TO LGBTQ NEW YORKERS AND COMMUTERS

with Amanda Davis, NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project

Thursday, May 4

THE MISSING STORIES: SOUTH ASIAN HISTORY FROM THE 1700s TO TODAY

with Samip Mallick, South Asian American Digital Archive

Thursday, May 11

THIRTEEN MOONS: SEASONS AND LIFEWAYS OF THE MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT

with Nakai Northup, Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center

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

Spring/Summer Program Highlights

SPORTS!

MORE THAN JUST A GAME

ON VIEW UNTIL SEPTEMBER 3



True: The Four Seasons of Jackie Robinson
Book Talk with Kostya Kennedy
TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 6:00–7:30 P.M.

Story Barn: Win Some, Lose Some with Bonnie Levison
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 7:00–9:00 P.M.

Tuesday Trivia: Sports Edition
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 7:00–9:00 P.M.

The Art of Croquet: Lecture and Demonstration
with Lee Kennedy, Greenwich Croquet Club
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 5:00–6:30 P.M.

Discover Greenwich Scavenger Hunt: Sports Edition
SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 10:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M.

Movie Night on the Great Lawn: A League of Their Own
THURSDAY, JULY 27, 6:00–9:00 P.M.

Guided Exhibition Spotlight Tours @ 1:00 P.M.
FREE FIRST WEDNESDAYS: APRIL 5, MAY 3, JUNE 7, JULY 5

Curator Deep Dives: In-Depth Exhibition Tours
SATURDAY, APRIL 29 AND THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1:00 P.M.



Create in the Barn Workshops

All programs take place from 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Dumplings 101 with Nit Noi Provisions APRIL 19

Italian Desserts with Federico of Il Pastaficio MAY 25

Candle and Diffuser Making with Abilis JUNE 21

Tavern Garden Markets

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. May 17+31, June 14+28



MUSIC on the Great LaWn



THURSDAYS (Free to members!)

Site opens 5:30 p.m. Concert 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Chasing Romeo..... June 8
Billy & the Showmen..... June 22
Silver Steel Drum Band..... July 6
Suburban Chaos July 20
Margi & the Dapper Dots August 3
Gunsmoke..... August 17
Sun Kings August 31



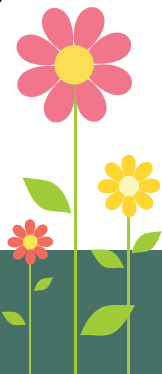
Art & History Camp

July 10–28
9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. M–F



Museum Store

Spring has sprung in the Museum Store! Browse the latest arrivals and enjoy a complimentary beverage in the Artists Café.



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

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Monday, May 30, Memorial Day
Tuesday, July 4, Independence Day

OFFICE, MUSEUM STORE AND CAFÉ

Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, 12:00–4:00 p.m.

MUSEUM GALLERIES

Wednesday–Sunday, 12:00–4:00 p.m.

SITE RENTALS

Email dsuozzo@greenwichhistory.org
for inquiries or event bookings.

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

By appointment

ADMISSION

\$10 adults, \$8 seniors

FREE: Youth under 12, 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.

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connection to our past, to each other and to our future.*



GREENWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SPRING TOUR

A celebration of outdoor entertaining,
landscape and garden design

PATRON PARTY
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

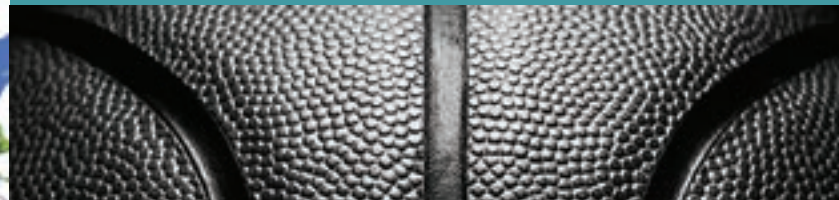
TOUR
THURSDAY, JUNE 1

HONORARY CHAIR
AERIN LAUDER

To purchase patron tickets visit
greenwichhistory.org/springtour

SAVE THE DATE

HISTORY IN THE
MAKING



AWARD DINNER

HONORING
ALLAN HOUSTON

Presented by Barbara and Ray Dalio

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

THE TENNIS HOUSE
at the Greenwich Field Club