

Greenwich Historical Society Newsletter

Out and About in Greenwich

Look for Greenwich Historical Society at the following town-wide events this season:

SATURDAY MAY 25, 10AM-2PM
Greenwich Town Party,
Roger Sherwin Baldwin Park

SATURDAY JUNE 22, 11AM-2PM
Juneteenth Celebration of Freedom,
Greenwich Historical Society

SUNDAY JUNE 23, 1-4PM
Experience the Sound, Tod's Point

MONDAY AUGUST 19, 10AM-NOON
Marquis de Lafayette Bicentennial,
Greenwich Historical Society with
Alliance Francaise and Horseneck DAR

Join Us!!

Gift with Membership

Get a FREE gift when you join or renew at \$100 +

Music on the Great Lawn concert series begins May 30 - FREE for members

LIFE: Six Women Photographers exhibition on view through July 7

Art & History Camp July 8-26

Stop by our Museum Store + Cafe!



View full Calendar and register for programs and events.
greenwichhistory.org

Celebrating Our Leadership Committees



We are ever grateful for the invaluable contribution of time and talent that keeps our organization and the momentum of our mission going strong in the community. The tireless enthusiasm and commitment of our board and event committee members are pivotal to fueling our fundraising initiatives each year, specifically two major events which take place in spring and fall.

Last year, in the spirit of creative reinvention, we held our inaugural Spring Tour, the successor to our beloved Antiquarius House Tour, celebrating the architecture, landscape design and outdoor living spaces of some of Greenwich's most spectacular properties with honorary chair Aerin Lauder. This year, we are thrilled to continue this 'new tradition' with **Spring Fete**, a celebration of contemporary design, entertaining and lifestyle featuring celebrated interior designer Stephen Sills and Fairfield County's own legendary lifestyle and media icon Martha Stewart. Event committee co-chairs Susannah Heyworth, Alexandra Kittle and Erica Maher Silverman along with vice-chairs Lauren duPont and Catherine Tompkins have combined creative forces to deliver what is certain to be the design event of the season!

“Preserving and telling the story of this special town, and seeing how this community is part of the history of this country is so important for children, their families, our residents and our visitors.”

~ MALLORY MOLENKAMP

profile of Greenwich Avenue and the many businesses that have populated and served our community over the years on the vibrant main artery of town, popularly referred to as the 'Rodeo Drive of the East Coast'.

With a pantheon of past honorees including Indra Nooyi, Ray and Barbara Dalio, and Allan Houston, our annual **History in the Making** award dinner in October will honor fashion retail visionary Scott Mitchell and the Mitchell family for their decades-long philanthropic contributions to the Greenwich community and beyond. Led by committee co-chairs Connie Anne Harris, Chip Emery and Mallory Molenkamp, the event will also celebrate the enduring and evolving

Funds raised from these events support educational programs and resources accessible to all students and teachers in Greenwich schools; stewardship of the National Historic Landmark Bush-Holley House, landscape and gardens; and our award-winning American art and history exhibitions.

Message from the Executive Director & CEO



Dear Friends,

The arrival of spring energizes us with brighter, longer days and the promise of renewal and rebirth. Similarly, an appreciation for the dynamic nature of history fosters a mindset that embraces change and acknowledges that each “season” —metaphorically or literally —contributes to the rich tapestry of human experience. The Greenwich Historical Society serves the community as a vital cultural and historical resource, offering perspective on the evolution of our vibrant and diverse town through robust education programs for both school children and lifelong learners, seasonal art and history exhibitions and extensive archival collections. We welcome all to visit the museum and to enjoy our beautiful campus and gardens over the coming months, and we especially look forward to greeting our enthusiastic Art & History campers, who, like the blooming spring, embody the energy and potential of the future.

Debra Mecky

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO

Front Cover: Elmer Livingston MacRae (1875 - 1953), *Rocky Seashore*, 1912. Oil on canvas. 20 x 24 inches. Greenwich Historical Society. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh B. Vanderbilt.

Recent Acquisitions

The Greenwich Historical Society has recently received a number of recent generous donations of artworks by the multi-talented artist Elmer Livingston MacRae (1875-1953), a key figure of the Cos Cob art colony and permanent resident of the Bush-Holley House after his 1900 marriage to Emma Constant Holley. Elmer MacRae continued his career as a painter, pastellist and wood-carver while living in Cos Cob, where he and Emma Constant Holley MacRae raised twin daughters Constant and Clarissa (born 1904).

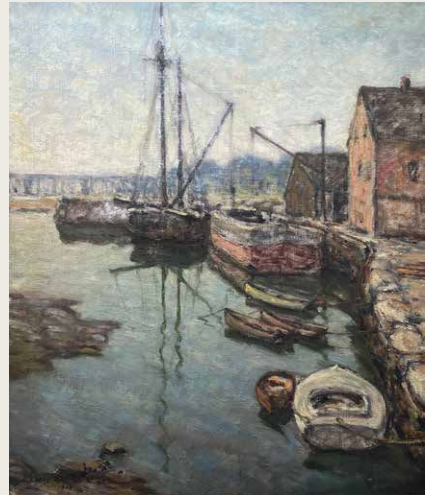
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2



3



1. Elmer Livingston MacRae
Dutch East India – Man “Mercurius”
Carved wood panels with border painted in oils, 25 ½ x 38 inches
Museum Purchase with Funds
Donated from the Strackbein Family Charitable Fund

2. Elmer Livingston MacRae
Blizzard, Bush-Holley House, 1912
Oil on canvas, 26 x 32 inches
Gift of Norma and John Bartol
(Promised Gift)

3. Elmer Livingston MacRae
Cos Cob Inlet, 1908
Oil on canvas, 30 x 25 inches
Gift of Jane and John Seel
(Promised Gift)

Make your Gift Count... Retirement Funds

If you are looking for an easy way to support the Greenwich Historical Society, consider a gift of retirement assets or include us in your estate plans.

If you take distributions from your IRA, you may use your required minimum distribution to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution to the Historical Society. This strategy saves income taxes otherwise due on your distributions.

There are numerous ways to include the Greenwich Historical Society in your estate plans that potentially save estate and income taxes, including specific bequests



or naming the Historical Society as a beneficiary of your IRA, life insurance policy, real estate, or charitable

trust. Those who include a bequest to the Historical Society in their estate plans are invited to join the Vanderbilt Society, named in honor of Legacy Members Claire & Hugh Vanderbilt, This way of giving is simple and could mean a more meaningful gift for both Greenwich Historical Society and your family.

“For me, giving to the Greenwich Historical Society is about showing my appreciation for a community that has given me and my family so much over the years and preserving the 300+ year legacy of the extraordinary men and women who made our community what it is today.”

HALEY ROCKWELL ELMLINGER, CO-CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, VANDERBILT SOCIETY MEMBER.

For more information about these strategies, we encourage you to consult your financial and/or legal advisors or contact, Dina Fleishmann, Director of Development, Dfleishmann@greenwichhistory.org.

Spring Brings School Visits to Campus

Each year the Greenwich Historical Society hosts thousands of students and teachers at Bush-Holley House, the centerpiece of our beautiful historic site on Cos Cob Harbor, as well as at-school and online programs. Our interactive, inquiry-based programs give students the opportunity to creatively explore topics and sharpen their critical thinking skills. Each experience is specially designed to complement classroom teaching while providing students and teachers a memorable

day full of fun and discovery. Our programs cover topics such as Colonial American history, the American Revolution, slavery in the North, the Industrial Age and the development of American Impressionism. All programs meet state curriculum standards for both Connecticut and New York.

We spoke with several teachers and their students during their recent visits to campus this spring about the value and experience of our programs.



PROGRAM: Create Your Own Impression
SCHOOL: New Lebanon School
TEACHER: Colleen Flynn

"The students enjoyed visiting the art center and creating an art piece of their own. They learned a lot about Impressionist art and the history of the artwork displayed in the Bush Holley House."

"It was a great experience, especially learning about the history of the Bush Holley House. The art piece was fun to make and I liked using the different colors to express my feelings."



PROGRAM: Sarah and Her Town
SCHOOL: Parkway School
TEACHERS: Gabrielle Duncan and Gail Griffin

"These programs are such an engaging way for the kids to learn about Colonial times. We love to use Sarah's visit as a kick-off to our entire unit of study. We always look forward to our visit to the Bush-Holley House....seeing the kitchen and the enslaved quarters....trying to carry the water bucket....the very 'fancy' chair that was actually a toilet....every aspect of the house and history relates directly to our curriculum, and there is no better way to make it come alive!"

Cos Cob Art Colony featured on PBS!



Last spring we enjoyed a visit from Leslie Mueller, Greenwich resident and host of the PBS series MUSEUM ACCESS, a delightfully informative program which explores top museums around the world. We were also pleased to host the celebration of the program's 5th season and 50th episode!

Mueller brought her film crew to the neighborhood to film an episode on the Cos Cob School of American Impressionists who were based at the Holley boarding house from the 1890's - 1920's. The segment, which will air on June 5 on PBS as Season 6 / Episode 6, features an in-depth, behind-the-scenes tour of the Bush-Holley House and interview with our Curator of Exhibitions and Collection Maggie Dimock, as well as highlights from the Bruce Museum's collection of American Impressionist art.

A special donor event will be held on campus on June 25 to celebrate the launch of the episode

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Monday, May 27, Memorial Day
Thursday, July 4, Independence Day
Monday, September 2, Labor 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

Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Appointments available during office hours.

ADMISSION

\$10 adults, \$8 seniors

FREE: Youth under 12, members, active
military/Blue Star. FREE admission every Wednesday.

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 ctartrail.org.

SUPPORT OUR MISSION

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

greenwichhistory.org/donate



GREENWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING FETE

A celebration of contemporary design,
entertaining and lifestyle

MAY 15 & 16, 2024

HONORARY CHAIRS



CELEBRATED INTERIOR DESIGNER

Stephen Sills



LEGENDARY LIFESTYLE ICON

Martha Stewart

INTRODUCTION BY TORI MELLOTT, STYLE DIRECTOR,
FREDERIC MAGAZINE



[GREENWICHISTORY.ORG/
SPRING-FETE](http://GREENWICHISTORY.ORG/SPRING-FETE)

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

AWARD DINNER

THURSDAY

OCTOBER 24, 2024

SAVE THE DATE

HONORING

Scott Mitchell
& The Mitchell Family

PRESENTED BY 2023 HONOREE

Allan Houston

BELLE HAVEN CLUB
100 HARBOR DRIVE, GREENWICH, CT