

Greenwich Historical Society *Newsletter*

How do you make local history relevant and engaging?



Find out by participating in *Rediscover Greenwich*, a new initiative developed in partnership with the creative tour company Untapped New York. A series of interactive historic walking tours, art installations and exhibitions will reshape perceptions of local history, the Historical Society campus in Cos Cob and the town of Greenwich in exciting new ways, broadening awareness of our extensive archives, events, special exhibitions and permanent collections.

Launching with *Re-Framing 95*, over the weekend of April 5-6 at Greenwich Historical Society, guided walking tours along the Cos Cob waterfront focus on how the I-95 corridor and transportation infrastructure, has changed the landscape over the years. "We are really excited to take our Untapped New York formula to the Town of Greenwich, which has a unique and vibrant history," said Justin Rivers, Untapped New York's Chief Experience Officer. "An interesting tidbit is that Bush-Holley House was almost demolished when I-95 was initially proposed. It was saved through the work of a dedicated Greenwich community and individuals connected with the Historical Society."

A unique art installation created by Untapped New York's artist-in-residence Aaron Asis around the Greenwich Historical Society campus and in Bush-Holley House will "re-frame" historic elements of the landscape and vistas that some might feel are impeded upon by the presence of the I-95 highway. By challenging visitors to consider the infrastructure as an evolving element in the town's historical tapestry the activation demonstrates that history is always in the making. "When we expand our understanding of the past, we gain a greater appreciation of the present and this is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate both within the particularly relevant context of the stunning Greenwich Historical Society campus," notes Asis.

"Bush-Holley House was almost demolished when I-95 was initially proposed. It was saved through the work of a dedicated Greenwich community and individuals connected with the Historical Society."

In May, *Rediscover Greenwich Avenue* will follow with a creative transformation of parts of Greenwich Avenue in collaboration with the Greenwich Arts Council and Art to the Avenue. Historic buildings will become canvases for large-scale murals created by Asis featuring archival images from the Historical Society's collection. Interactive QR codes and illustrative guided walking tours will share untold histories and views of 'The Ave' and the local businesses that have defined it over time. Asis' installation at the Greenwich Arts Council, *Two Way Street* takes the street mural imagery to the gallery walls, juxtaposing past and present, interior and exterior, process and finished work.

To learn more about *Rediscover Greenwich* programs and to register for the walking tours, visit [greenwichhistory.org](https://www.greenwichhistory.org).

Spring Greetings



This time of the year is always a welcome transition from the bleakness of winter to the vibrant energy and promise that spring awakens, and we are ready this year more than ever for that warmth and encouragement to step outdoors again. We are especially excited to welcome our community and beyond to join us this season for the launch of our new initiative, Rediscover Greenwich, in partnership with Untapped New York. The program is all about engaging the community and creating a stronger sense of place and continuity with the past to inspire a deeper appreciation for the unique history that defines Greenwich.

Our annual Spring Fete event on May 15 featuring Aerin Lauder will raise critical funds for our education programs and support free bussing for Title I school students, Art & History Summer Camp scholarships and Time Travelers KidStudio, making a significant impact on our community.

We hope to see you on campus over the summer months including wonderful opportunities to gather as a community at our Music on the Great Lawn concerts and Juneteenth Celebration of Freedom.

Debra Mecky
Executive Director & CEO



Shop the Museum Store

Check out our colorful spring arrivals - perfect for Easter, Mother's Day and graduation gifts.

Trustees to Co-Chair Greenwich/America 250 Commission: **Greenwich History is American History**



Fred Camillo, Yankee Doodle Doggie, Cynthia Chang and Tom Galvin



Greenwich History is American History

Kudos to Greenwich Historical Society Trustees Cynthia Chang and Tom Galvin for taking on the role of Co-Chairs of the First Selectman's Special Commission to spearhead the Town's participation in the national and state commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

The yearlong series of town-wide initiatives and local partner organization programming launches on July 4, 2025, and will feature historical exhibitions, community gatherings and educational initiatives that highlight our shared history and Greenwich's significant contributions to the birth of our nation. Planning is underway for special signature events culminating in July 2026 that are sure to be memorable and engaging for all members of our great community.

Welcome New Staff



STEVE WOLFE

Director of Finance & Operations

Steve brings a strong background in operations, finance, budgeting and payroll functions at his previous positions at Inspirica, the corporate audit department at Pitney Bowes Corporation, Xerox Corporation and KPMG. Steve received a B.S in Accounting and MBA in General Business from the University of Connecticut.

Steve and his brothers are known as the second-generation owners of Wolfe's Cleaners in Stamford. He is an avid cyclist, supporter of local theater arts and can often be found volunteering for local charities. Steve is excited to join the team at Greenwich Historical Society and we are thrilled to have him!



Education Update

with Melissa Houston, Director of Education and Interpretation

Rebels and Royalists: New School Program



Photo courtesy of The Hawthorne School

The stories at Bush-Holley House are shared every year with thousands of local students through our school programs. This year schools and museums were faced with the challenge of adapting to the new Connecticut State Standards for Social Studies. Our long running “Sarah Bush and Her Town” program was no longer a fit for the 3rd grade Colonial unit so we’ve been working diligently with Tara Fogel, Social Studies Curriculum Director from K-5 here in Greenwich, and local teachers to craft a new 5th grade program. “Rebels & Royalists” explores the challenges families in Greenwich faced during the war including the hard decision of what, if any, action to take in support of one side or the other. Students will have a tour of Bush-Holley House, participate in an object-based learning workshop, and explore the “Greenwich During the American Revolution” exhibition. Many of our docents are current or former teachers and bring years of experience engaging with students. Between April and May, over 600 students will visit our campus to experience history and engage with complicated topics such as the Dunmore Proclamation that offered freedom to any enslaved person who escaped to the British army. Dorcus, who was enslaved by Sarah Scudder Isaacs Bush, achieved her freedom this way. Bringing history to life through personal, local stories allows students to make deep connections and appreciate the challenges of the American Revolution.



From the Archives

with Christopher Shields, Director of Library and Archives



Photographs are an invaluable part of the archival collection and it is always a treat when a new image is donated. This image of the Hamilton Avenue baseball team is dated 1934. Research in the local paper reveals that was the year the team won the Greenwich grammar school

baseball championship for the fourth year in a row (defeating the Mason Street school). As a reward for their win, the team was scheduled to attend a Yankees or Giants game in the city (that was when the Giants were a New York team).

ART & HISTORY CAMP

July 14-August 1, 2025
 9:30am-2:30pm
 MEMBERS \$400
 NON-MEMBERS \$450 (per week)

Greenwich
historical society

BUSH-HOLLEY HOUSE
MUSEUM
LIBRARY & ARCHIVES



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

47 STRICKLAND ROAD COS COB, CT 06807
GREENWICHISTORY.ORG



Are You A
Member?



Join or renew at the Dual / Family level or above and receive a limited edition tote bag, plus all the benefits of membership including free admission to our summer concerts and over 100 museums nationwide!



GREENWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING FETE

*A celebration of contemporary design,
entertaining and lifestyle*

WITH AERIN LAUDER



LUNCHEON & PROGRAM

Thursday, May 15 | 11:00 am-2:00 pm
GREENWICH COUNTRY CLUB

Calendar

APRIL - JUNE

Re-Framing 95 Art Installation + Tours

MAY-JULY

**Rediscover Greenwich Avenue
Art Installation + Tours**

MAY 15

Spring Fete at Greenwich Country Club

MAY-SEPTEMBER

Music on the Great Lawn concert series

JUNE 7

The Art Spy: Book Talk

JUNE 21

Juneteenth Celebration of Freedom

JULY

Art + History Camp

For more information and to register for programs and events visit greenwichhistory.org