

2025

Annual Report

**Greenwich
Historical
Society**

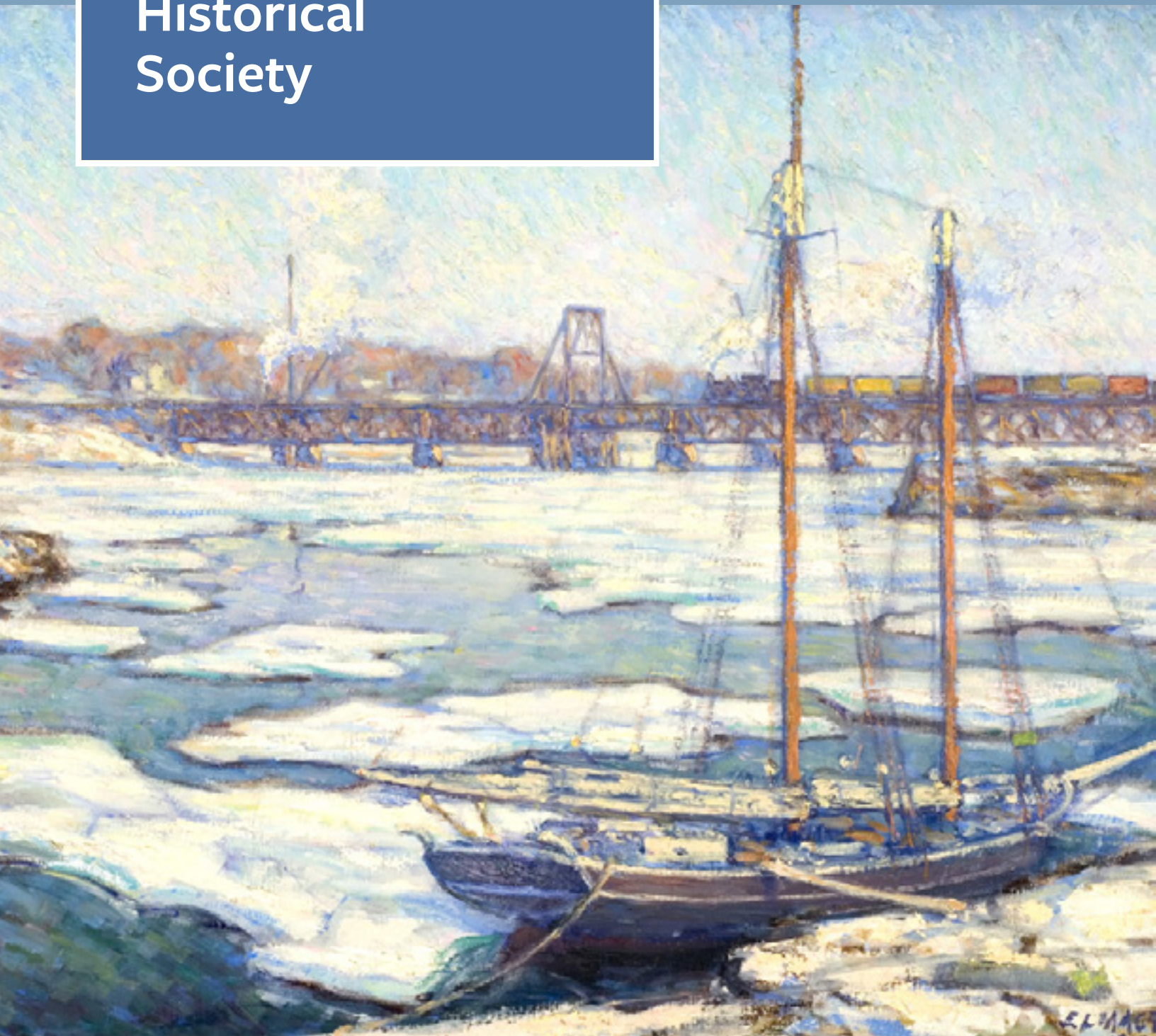


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Front cover: Elmer Livingston MacRae (1875-1953) *Schooner in the Ice*, 1900, Oil on canvas

Inside cover illustrations: Morgan Fackelmayer

letter

from the Executive Director
and Board Co-Chairs



Dear Member and Friend,

The year 2025 was an exciting one for Greenwich Historical Society. We are grateful for this opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments made possible by our remarkable supporters, staff, and volunteers. In addition to providing a financial snapshot of the fiscal year which ended June 30, 2025, this annual report highlights the people, initiatives, and contributions that made the year a success.

America 250, the celebration of the nation's semiquincentennial, has been the theme of the year. We launched our programs last winter with a lecture by Museum of the American Revolution President and CEO Scott Stephenson on George Washington's Revolutionary War sleeping and office tent. Our student programs expanded to include *Rebels and Royalists*. Our exhibition *Greenwich During the Revolutionary War: A Frontier Town on the Front Line* won the Connecticut League of Museums Award of Merit. An engaging presentation from award-winning author and maritime historian Nathaniel Philbrick at our annual History in the Making event brought the Revolutionary War's naval ventures to life.

Honoring our long-held commitment to historic preservation, we embarked on a project in the Bush-Holley House that will moderate temperature and humidity to protect the structure and its collections. While this effort requires temporarily closing the Bush-Holley House, upon its re-opening, the enhanced environmental control will not only improve the preservation of the building and its collections, but it also will provide visitors with a more comfortable experience.

It certainly has been an eventful year, especially as we ushered in a new era of senior leadership following the retirement of Debra Mecky, who served as Executive Director & CEO for three decades and whom we honored at our annual History in the Making event. Dr. Mecky's dedication to this institution has provided a solid foundation for a bright future.

From our outreach to the K-12 school community, to our family programs and adult education, and to the special events that bring us together, our supporters make all possible. Thank you! We look forward to you joining us in 2026 as we continue to celebrate America 250, Greenwich history, the arts and design. Among the 2026 programs are two new lecture series—*Peopling Greenwich* and *Our Founding Documents*—as well as an exhibit showcasing costumes not on view for over thirty years—*Fashioning America: 200 Years of Greenwich Style*. Stay tuned!

For all the latest information, please see www.greenwichhistory.org, and follow us on Facebook or Instagram @greenwichhistory. See you on campus!

Carol Cadou

Executive Director & CEO

Alexandra DalPan Cumiskey

Co-Chair, Board of Trustees

Catherine Tompkins

Co-Chair, Board of Trustees

2025 Highlights



America 250

We kicked-off our celebration of **America 250** with an exhibition and lecture series examining the impact of the Revolutionary War on the people of Greenwich and the region.



Rebels & Royalists

Our New school program *Rebels and Royalists* received rave reviews from teachers for its alignment with curriculum and the benefit for students to experience history “right in our backyard”.

January

February

March

My Story, Our Future

We hosted the 4th annual student-curated exhibit of family oral histories and artifacts for the *My Story, Our Future* project with the India Cultural Center and the Asia and Asian American Studies Institute at UConn.



Collaborative presentation

A **collaborative presentation** with Fairfield Art Museum and the Bruce Museum explored early modern American artists through their groundbreaking portrayals of the Connecticut landscape.



Music on the Great Lawn



A community favorite and summer highlight, the **Music on the Great Lawn** concert series drew record crowds to enjoy local bands and revelry.



Art & History Camp

Children entering grades 2 - 8 learned about the past while exploring the many facets of the Colonial era and the Cos Cob art colony in our collections and around the campus at **Art & History Camp**.

July

August

September

Time Travelers KidStudio

Kids under 12 explored our local history, art and culture through guided interactive crafts and activities in the **Time Travelers KidStudio**.



Greenwich Landmarks

The **Greenwich Landmarks Recognition Program** recognized local houses of architectural and historical distinction, saluting the owners who preserve these historic properties.





Inspiring American Impressionism

The Holley Boarding House: Inspiring American Impressionism opened as the second in an award winning three-part exhibition series that kicked off in fall 2024 to explore the impact of the American Revolution in Greenwich. The third exhibition follows in April 2026.

Story Barn

Taking inspiration from the Holley boarding house exhibition, our **Story Barn with Bonnie Levison** theme was *This Old House*. Storytellers shared personal memories as we explored their significant experiences and the role of old homes in our community.



October

November

December



History in the Making

We celebrated Greenwich's art & maritime history and paid tribute to retired Executive Director & CEO Debra L. Mecky for 30 years of visionary leadership with the **History in the Making** award.



Holiday Tea with the Holleys

After a walking tour of the grounds and a visit to the Holley boarding house exhibition, guests enjoyed a **Holiday Tea Party** inspired by the traditions of the Holley family with live harp music.



Year in Review

EXHIBITIONS 2024-2025

Kathy Craughwell-Varda, Senior Curator

In 2025 the Greenwich Historical Society presented a record-breaking four exhibitions, two of which were part of our three-part series commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. When additional opportunities arose, we embraced the chance to mount two more exhibitions: one temporary in conjunction with the *Re-Framing 95* interactive programs and walking tours; and the other in the Permanent Collections gallery honoring Susan G. Larkin and her generous donation of artworks by Cos Cob art colony artists. These exhibitions were made possible through the generous funding provided by our members and donors. Sally Lawrence, supporter of the Capital Campaign Exhibition & Program Fund said, “It has been my honor to chair our Collections Committee for the past three years. Through this work, we gain insight into our collections and exhibitions, which open windows into Greenwich History for our community and beyond. Larry and I are proud to support them.”

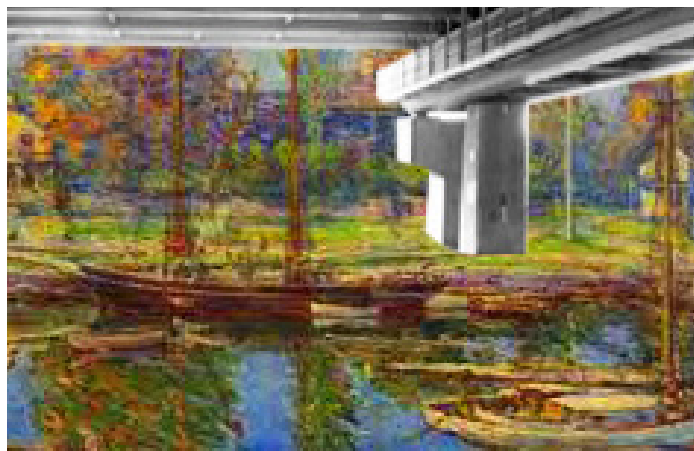


Greenwich During the Revolutionary War: A Frontier Town on the Front Line

October 16, 2024 – June 29, 2025

The first in a three-part series of America 250 exhibitions, *Greenwich During the Revolutionary War* presented a fresh look at the impact of the war on our former frontier town - where residents found their safety and livelihood at risk whether they chose to support American Independence, remain loyal to King George III or claim neutrality.

Made possible by donors to the Greenwich Historic Trust annual fund.



Re-Framing 95

April 17 – August 10, 2025

Inspired by the words of American journalist, Lincoln Steffens, when he encouraged the members of the art colony to embrace the modern changes to the Cos Cob landscape, this exhibition highlighted artworks by members of the Cos Cob art colony who incorporated the railroad bridge in their paintings and etchings. Reproductions of these artworks were manipulated by artist Aaron Asis to show these works might have looked if I-95 existed in the early 20th century.

Made possible by a generous anonymous donor, in partnership with Untapped New York.



Rediscovering the Cos Cob Art Colony: A Tribute to Susan G. Larkin

Opened September 25, 2025

In 2025 the Historical Society received the final artworks that were part of a promised gift from Susan G. Larkin. This long-term exhibition in the Permanent Collections gallery honors Dr. Larkin's lifelong work to rediscover the Cos Cob art colony and bring attention to the Impressionists who gathered at the Holley boarding house. It includes items from her recent donation, as well as artworks and books she donated to the Historical Society over thirty years.

Exhibition and catalogue generously sponsored by Josie Merck.



The Holley Boarding House: Inspiring American Impressionism

October 8, 2025 – March 8, 2026

The second in a three-part series celebrating America 250, this exhibition explores how Josephine Lyon Holley and her daughter Constant Holley MacRae were entrepreneurs who created an environment at the Holley boarding house that attracted the founders of American Impressionism and became the home of the Cos Cob art colony, the first Impressionist community in Connecticut, and among the earliest in the nation.

Major support for this exhibition generously donated by:

Anne Barton and Tom Galvin and Sally and Larry Lawrence, with additional support from the Blavatnik Family Foundation, Isabel and Peter Malkin, Debbie and Russ Reynolds, Lucy and Lawrence Ricciardi, Davidde and Ron Strackbein and Dave Williams.



Rediscover Greenwich: Bringing History to Life

Lauren Ackerley, Assistant Director for Education

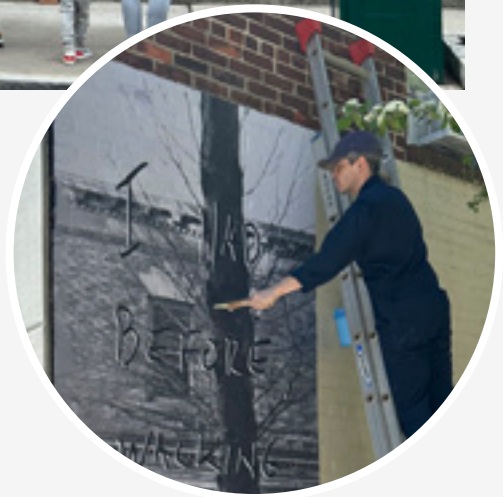


In the spring of 2025, the Greenwich Historical Society launched a creative partnership with Untapped New York to enliven our public programs. In April and May, we produced two special guided tours led by Untapped NY's Chief Experience Officer Justin Rivers complemented by Aaron Asis' art installations. These enriching programs prompted the Greenwich community and beyond to take a fresh look at how the landscape affects the history of their hometown.



The first program, *Re-Framing 95*, offered a guided tour of the lower landing, Bush-Holley House, and the Historical Society's Permanent Collections Gallery. This tour inspired visitors to better understand how infrastructures like the rail bridge influenced the art of Cos Cob Impressionists at the turn of the 19th century. A series of floating empty gold frames strategically placed throughout the campus drew contemporary parallels as to how I-95 might be an artistic inspiration today. A complementary exhibit in the Permanent Collections gallery presented artistic renderings imagining how Cos Cob artists, such as Childe Hassam, might have depicted the current landscape and highway.

The second program, *Rediscover Greenwich Avenue*, journeyed offsite onto bustling Greenwich Avenue. Leading participants from Steamboat Road up the Avenue, the tour shared insight into the street's evolution, highlighting the surrounding buildings as a living townscape. The tour was accentuated with four distinctive murals by artist Aaron Asis that enlarged archival photographs from our collection embellished with historic quotes from Greenwich residents. The tour concluded at the Greenwich Arts Council with an interactive exhibit entitled *Two Way Street*, which encouraged visitors to write their (re)discoveries on reproduced mural panels.



Fulfilling our Mission: Preservation and Stewardship

Melissa Houston, Director of Education



As a core feature of the Greenwich Historical Society's collection, the presentation of the National Historic Landmark Bush-Holley House will be an ongoing focus in the coming months.

Our top priority is addressing the fluctuations in temperature and humidity in the historic house that affect our ability to care for the art and artifacts on view to visitors. Hygroscopic shock, for example, is the result of abrupt swings in relative humidity that cause particular damage to objects made from wood, paper, or paint. These materials tend to absorb and release moisture such that frequent shifts in the humidity can cause the materials to warp, flake or bend. Updating environmental controls is critical to maintaining the irreplaceable works of art on display in the house including "*Clarissa*" by Childe Hassam. Every visitor to the Bush-Holley

House learns about the importance of our work to preserve our local history and cultural heritage.

The lack of air conditioning in the house can also be uncomfortable for summer visitors. The opportunity to update the environmental controls will provide the added benefit of an enhanced visitor experience to better meet the interests and needs of our audiences.



In celebration of America 250, Bush-Holley House will re-open in 2026 with a tour that will recount the the challenging choices faced by the Bush family during the American Revolution.

IMPACT:

Shaping a Future Historian

Olivia Luntz, Manager of Education & Outreach

From her first visit to the Bush-Holley House as a local student to leading field trips as a docent directly out of college, lifelong Greenwich resident Olivia Luntz's reflections are an invaluable resource and a window into how early museum experiences can shape our individual communities, our future audiences, and our future museum leadership.



In 1900, *Harper's Bazaar* published an article by Elizabeth Young about the hidden "Arcadia" in Cos Cob, which had begun to develop a reputation among artists in New York. Young reflects on the rare and cherished community the artists staying there created each summer and how their experience in Cos Cob impacted their artistry and their lives. Reading the article 125 years later, while researching for our current exhibition focusing on the Holley boarding house, I was struck by Young's remark, "once a Cos-Cobber, always a Cos-Cobber."

Having grown up in Cos Cob, her words resonated with me. Just as the lives of the American Impressionists were influenced by their summers spent in the Bush-Holley House, my childhood was shaped by having the Bush-Holley House right in my backyard.



The grounds of the Historical Society were the backdrop to field trips, visits with my Girl Scout troop, family bonding at the Scarecrow Festival, and summer Art and History camp. As an adult, I feel so fortunate to have had my interest in history nurtured by not only the dedicated teachers at Greenwich Public Schools but also the educators at Greenwich Historical Society, who made history immersive and distinctly connected to the community in which I lived.

This appreciation for history led me to study it at Amherst College, and my love for local history brought me back to Cos Cob after graduation as a docent. Now, in my role as Manager of Education & Outreach, I have the joy and privilege of educating thousands of students and adults on Greenwich's unique history. My most gratifying moment of the past year was when we welcomed Cos Cob School's fifth graders for our new *Rebels & Royalists* field trip, a program that Director of Education, Melissa Houston, and I developed together. When I saw the students' awe walking into the Bush-Holley House and their excitement at the opportunity to become "history detectives" during a hands-on workshop, I was brought back to my own elementary school field trip and felt grateful to have a part in keeping this long-standing tradition alive. Although I no longer live in Cos Cob, I feel proud to still, and always, be a Cos-Cobber.

You can shape a lasting legacy that nurtures a love of community through history.

The Vanderbilt Society was launched in fiscal year 2018 to recognize individuals who included a bequest to the Greenwich Historical Society in their estate planning to ensure the organization's sustainability and future success.



VANDERBILT
SOCIETY

VANDERBILT SOCIETY MEMBERS

Connie and Tom Clephane** Helen and Bruce* Dixon**
Haley and Joseph Elmlinger** Tom M. Galvin
Jeanine and Robert Getz** Betty and E. Pen* James**
Susan G. and James* Larkin** Isabel and Peter Malkin**
Debra and Carl Mecky** Debbie and Russ Reynolds**
Davidde and Ron Strackbein** Valerie Stauffer
Barbara MacDonald**

LEGACY BEQUESTS RECEIVED

Norma Bartol* William E. Finch Jr.*
John Seel* Claire and Hugh Vanderbilt*
Paul van der Strict* Hedda Windisch von Goeben* David R. A. Wierdsma*

*Deceased

** Charter Members

Your support of the Greenwich Historical Society can extend beyond your lifetime by making a legacy gift, which can have a profound and lasting impact, shaping the future of Greenwich for generations to come.

If you have a vision for the future that values our shared past and recognizes the Greenwich Historical Society's impact on our community's future, please include us in your estate planning. Your donation, whether through bequests, trusts, gifts of stock, artwork or other assets, will make a significant difference and leave a lasting legacy to support our mission.

Advisory Council

The Board of Trustees authorized the Advisory Council in 2005 to promote the work of the Historical Society in our community and region in furtherance of our mission to inspire people of all ages to make personal connections with the past. The Advisory Council is composed of distinguished community members who serve as ambassadors in support of the Historical Society's mission.

Susan J. Bevan	Anne Harrison	Louise Puschel
Carol Crapple	Thomas F. Hartch	Russell S. Reynolds Jr.
Roberta Denning	Christopher C. Holbrook	Lawrence R. Ricciardi
John M. Dixon	Kate and Albert Laverge	Deborah and Charles M. Royce
Patti Fast	Bonnie Levison	Susan Shanks
Ellen Funck	Josie Merck	Scott Smith
Regina Pitaro Gabelli	John E. Nelson	Valerie Stauffer
Jessica Guff	David G. Ormsby	John L. Townsend III
Holly Hall		Dave Williams
Gray Hampton III		



“Why I Give” donor spotlight: **Trustee Tom Galvin**

Interviewed by Naomi Long, Development Associate

NL: What drew you to the Greenwich Historical Society?

TG: My children’s history teacher was very enthusiastic about the programs offered at the Historical Society. They know how much I care about history and when they shared their excitement about visiting Bush-Holley House it immediately pulled me into embracing this fine institution.

NL: Why do you care about history?

TG: It must be part of my DNA. I was six when I first went to Colonial Williamsburg. I grew up in Baltimore and frequented Fort McHenry and once was given a flag that had been raised there by my mother and a senator. Later, as a trustee at the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts, I had a lot of exposure to Impressionist art. The Historical Society brings all these aspects together.

NL: Why do you feel it’s important to support the work of the Greenwich Historical Society?

TG: I believe it’s a foundation of our society to understand our history. The past is the key to the future, and the Historical Society is truly the main custodian of all Greenwich history. Some of it is messy, some is amazing. An educated community builds greater strengths within the overall society.

NL: What would you say is your favorite program or service to support?

TG: Special exhibitions and lecture programs are particularly important to me. I like how we’re also leveraging other institutions such as the *LIFE: Six Women Photographers* exhibition on loan from New York Historical. I think collaboration makes sense in a resource-constrained world, finding opportunities to partner with other historical societies and art institutions. And on a lesser scale, I am a walker, so I thought the walking tour that Untapped New York did on Greenwich Avenue with the murals was phenomenal.

NL: What do you hope to accomplish through your philanthropy?

TG: Mainly, investing in our future. Expanding awareness of local history to inspire school children as it did my own. We really need to embrace the younger demographic, because the sooner they are engaged, the longer they are involved.

NL: If you were to talk to someone else about giving to our organization, what would you tell them?

TG: Start at whatever level you’re comfortable with, because I think once you take part in the array of programs that take place at the Historical Society, you’ll gain deeper insight that will ultimately inspire you to donate more in the future. You’ll realize it’s not only an investment for yourself, but an investment in the community.

NL: And just on that, why Greenwich? How does the story of Greenwich impact the national story?

TG: Greenwich was a major thoroughfare during the American Revolution. Truly, our roots of independence began in this specific community. It’s a phenomenal history. Our town is over 350 years old, and we continue to be great stewards of this history.

NL: Can you share an example of how you feel seeing your work and support being put to work?

TG: I’m incredibly excited about America 250 here in Greenwich, our work to bring the Dutch tall ship *Oostershelde* to Greenwich Harbor on June 27th and 28th and the public celebration of the town. I think this truly will create a much broader awareness of the significant contributions that the Greenwich Historical Society makes to the community on a regular basis. This is a special year and we’re going to party like it’s 1776!

Greenwich Treasures

Gifts to Museum and Archives Collections

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

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 Historic Site 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 and of members of the Cos Cob art colony. **The Archives Collection** preserves our past for future generations. 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. On behalf of current and future students, researchers and scholars, we express our sincere appreciation to all who have contributed to these collections.

GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM COLLECTION

GIFT OF SUSAN G. AND JAMES T. LARKIN



Portrait of Ellen Brown (Mrs. Elijah Brown), Theodore Robinson, 1881, etching

Windy Day, John Henry Twachtman, 1888-89, etching

The Dock, Bridgeport, John Henry Twachtman, 1888-89, etching

The Old Mill, John Henry Twachtman, 1889, etching



GIFT OF JOHN SANNA

Evening gown worn by Bridget Loughlin, c. 1900, silk and velvet



Serving the Guests, Genjiro Yeto, 1905, watercolor

Windswept, Walter Clark, undated, oil on canvas

GIFT OF MR. AND MRS. RUSSELL REYNOLDS

Mommie Napping, Elmer Livingston MacRae, 1908, gouache and ink



Gifts to the Archives

Louisa Stone

Report of the Selectmen's Land Bank Committee, September 4, 1986.

Dianna Greene

Raynal C. Bolling Sr. boot pull, shaving kit, uniform buttons, book titled *Getting Together* by Ian Hay, copy of letter sent to Uncle George (Phillips) 5 days before Raynal Sr. was killed; Raynal C. Bolling Jr. scrapbook and photos related to boat trip.



Ruth Wescott Duncan

Stamp album assembled by Isaac Ferris, ca. 1886, possibly started in 1889.

Rebecca "Becky" Whipple

Rosemary Hall yearbooks "Answer Books" from 1955 and 1956.

William Lauricella

The Green Witch (Greenwich High School literary publication): December 1942, December 1943 (2 copies), May 1943, May 1944 (2 copies), December 1944, May 1945 (2 copies), December 1945, May 1946 (2 copies), December 1946, May 1947 (2 copies); 1912 Sanborn map; 1920 Sanborn map, 1942 Dolph & Stewart Atlas.

Elizabeth Shopovick

Typed genealogy of Sandreuter/Potter and related families. Prepared by Stuart Sandreuter, July 18, 1944.

Sam Romeo

North Mianus scrapbook and motion picture film of North Mianus Community Center ca. 1940.

Alverd Stutson

Willowmere booklet and foldout showing dogs at Willowmere Farm, Sound Beach, Conn.

Marjorie "Mimi" (Stevenson) Turner

World War 2 correspondence from George M. Stevenson to his wife Mary Jane Wason Stevenson and his 4 children; Correspondence related to the home at 218 Milbank Avenue that was built by the donor's great grandfather Rufus Raymond, photographs and other items related to the family.

Katey Goodwin

Publicity photos: 1957, January, 1958 and September, 1961; Photo of Sea Rune, 1957; Christmas card from Sea Rune, 1959; Christmas card, 1972; Gospel of St. John, from Grace Seton, 1958; envelope, 1968; newspaper clippings: This Week magazine, July 8, 1956, The American Weekly, February 15, 1959.

Barbara Freeman

Directories of Greenwich Antiques Society/Greenwich Decorative Arts Society: 2000-2001, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023; brochure for Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich trip to Charleston, April 1994; Publication list from Peabody Essex Museum.



Judith Weeks Padgett

Greenwich Hospital School of Nursing and related items from donors mother Sally Olmsted Weeks, R.N. Program for 50th Anniversary of the School of Nursing at Greenwich Hospital (1956); Invitation to graduating exercises (1945); U.S. Cadet Nursing documentation; Name badge (Sally Weeks, R.N.); photographs and newspaper clippings; U.S. Department of Defence Medical Self Help Training Course certificate (1965); Survival in a Nuclear Attack booklet (1960).

Catherine Horn

Pandemic Pondering. A Poetry Collection By Catherine Horn, Lulu Lane Press, 2024.

Kate Laverge (on behalf of Susan Larkin)

Research files/books of scholar and author Susan Larkin related to Cos Cob art colony.

Connie Clephane; Joy Rendahl

2 Knollwood Garden Club photo albums covering period 1964-2004; Promotional posters/cards from 2022.

Andrew Melillo

Original Photos of Bruce Park and Greenwich Harbor from ca. 1935; Oversized photo of the Anchorage from 1977 by photographer Christopher Semmes.

Jacob Maloney

William H. Wallace Mortgage Deed, received for record July 19, 1890 recorded in Greenwich Land Records in Book No. 63 at page 79.

Gail Wang

14 photo albums with Dorothy Hamill articles from 1976-2022; 8 Dorothy Hamill posters; 9 hardcover books (Dorothy Hamill's biography and autobiography; 1 Dorothy Hamill doll from 1977.

Anne Semmes

Greenwich Pioneer Aviators Excerpts from the Life of Marian Engle Cummings (DVD) TRT 11:17; The Life of Marian Engle Cummings 1891-1984, Creative Video Corporation, 9 Mott Avenue, Suite 108, Norwalk, CT 06850 (DVD).

Linnea Stenberg (on behalf of Garden Club of Old Greenwich)

Club material spanning years 1977-2024. Includes yearbooks, flower show records, awards, centennial publicity, annual reports.

Patrick Scalisi

Books by cartoonist Mort Walker: *Backstage At The Strips*; *The Lexicon of Comicana*; *Beetle Bailey Celebration*; *The Best of Beetle Bailey*.

Georgia Weister; Art Mendoza-Ballesteros

Book *Darling, Yours Always, The WWII Letters of Peggy and George Steiner, Italy 1944-1945, Volume III* compiled, edited, and annotated by Art Mendoza-Ballesteros. Copyright 2024, Mind of Mandrake Publishing, collection of letters between Peggy and George Steiner documented in the book.

John Seel

Mianus Review, North Mianus School, Spring, 1968, Vol.18, No. 1; Mianus Review, North Mianus School, Spring, 1969, Vol. 19, No. 1; Ex Multis (Greenwich Country Day School), 1975; Ex Multis (Greenwich Country Day School), 1976.

Anne Malone

Photo of Greenwich Hospital Nursing School Graduation, 1950 featuring Magda Jensen.

Deborah Beers-Jones

Husted, Green, and Willson family ephemera. Includes photographs, correspondence, newspaper clippings, photocopies related to genealogy, a book *Little Frankie And His Cousin* by Mrs. Madeline Leslie circa 1860, child's school workbook.



Michael Gordon

Bolling family photographs and related material.

Will Kies

Postal documentation related to Banksville area, 19th century.



Collection Wishlist

Christopher Shields, *Director of Library & Archives*

The Greenwich Historical Society collects a variety of material that captures the history of the town to ensure it is maintained for future generations. This includes photographs, correspondence, business and organizational records, maps, and ephemeral items like event programs. But this doesn't mean we lock this material away to preserve it; we take steps to protect fragile historical sources while also making them visible and accessible.

Our goal is to help our members and visitors make connections and gain new understanding about the history of their family, their neighborhood, and their home. The joy of exploration and discovery is evident when visitors find new details and answers to their questions in historical sources; it demonstrates the importance of the Historical Society to the community and helps people understand why their support is vital.

The archival collection at the Greenwich Historical Society has been

developed over the past 94 years primarily through the generous donations of community members who recognized the importance of their family, business, or organizational documentation. They realized that these materials had significance beyond their immediate families or institutions and that the Historical Society was the appropriate permanent repository.

It is very important that this trend continues. History is being made every day. Most of us have a variety of items that can help capture details about recent events that will be valuable for researchers in the future. In particular, the Historical Society is interested in documentation of people, businesses, local organizations and events from the second half of the 20th century (roughly the period after World War II). This time period is not as well represented in the collection as it should be and we look forward to partnering with the community to fill in the gaps.



Pictured above are some fine examples of recent 20th century acquisitions. The Eisenhower and Nixon campaign pins harken back to a time when such tangible objects played a greater role in fostering name awareness with potential voters.



The "smile pins" were distributed at the Keleshian family's Carnival Card Stop on Greenwich Avenue ca. 1970s. They were a fun, creative way to spread good cheer and foster an enduring connection to a popular local business.



2024–2025 Treasurer's Report

Heinz Maeusli, Treasurer

Please see here highlights of our financial year closed on June 30, 2025. The financial statements and Form 990 are available on our website and in hard copy at the Greenwich Historical Society.

Financial Year (FY)25 shows mixed results. We began the quiet phase of a capital campaign to introduce new educational programming while at the same time preserving our historic campus and crown jewel, the Bush-Holley House. Fundraising for these initiatives began just prior to the end of our FY and was off to a promising start. Contributions accounted for in FY25 were \$1M. Our balance sheet shows total assets of \$25M compared to \$23.54M in FY24.

Total revenues including assets released from restrictions amounted to \$1.94M compared to \$1.88M in FY24, an increase of \$65K. As in past years, we had our very successful signature fundraising events, the History in the Making award dinner honoring Scott Mitchell and the Mitchell Family, and the Spring Fete designer luncheon featuring Aerin Lauder.

Total expenses of \$2.59M were \$272K higher than in FY24. The main reasons for this increase were the use of consultants for our capital campaign and executive director search, expenses for outsourced staff, and increased maintenance costs for buildings, grounds, and equipment.

The resulting change in net assets from operations was a loss of \$651K compared to a loss of \$445K in FY24.

The result from non-operating activities was \$271K which is \$297K better than in FY24. Very strong investment returns and a normal depreciation total, unlike in FY24 when we had an exceptional depreciation charge of \$169K due to asset disposals, explain this improvement.

The change in net assets with donor restrictions was \$1.77M compared to \$228K. Overall change in net assets was \$1.39M compared to a loss of \$243K in FY24.

	Year Ended June 30, 2025 (Audited)	Year Ended June 30, 2024 (Audited)
Operating Activities		
Revenues & Assets Released		
Contributions, Memberships & Grants	671,842	622,147
Fees, Tuition and Admission	78,273	142,728
Special Events (net)	476,638	545,750
Store Sales, Rental & Other Income	238,568	244,708
Assets Released from Restrictions	475,929	320,764
TOTAL REVENUES & ASSETS RELEASED	1,941,250	1,876,097
Functional Expenses		
Program Services	1,991,132	1,895,835
Management and General	245,910	145,945
Development	355,307	278,946
TOTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES	2,592,349	2,320,726
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS	(651,098)	(444,629)
Non-operating Activities		
Investment Returns	676,623	546,912
Depreciation**	(405, 843)	(593,615)
Satisfaction of Capital Restrictions	-	20,246
Result from Non-operating Activities	270,780	(26,457)
Change in Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	1,770,462	228,060
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	1,390,144	(243,026)
Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	278,441	74,390
Other Current Assets	499,097	116,095
Investments	9,141,034	8,081,806
Property, Equipment & Furnishings—net of depreciation	15,108,007	15,270,397
TOTAL ASSETS	25,026,579	23,542,688
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Total Liabilities	169,595	75,848
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions		
Board Designated	1,762,048	1,993,260
Unrestricted	15,936,974	16,086,080
With Donor Restrictions		
Time or Purpose Restricted	2,170,483	1,000,021
Perpetual Endowment (excluding appreciation)	4,987,479	4,387,479
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	25,026,579	23,542,688

**FY24 Includes \$169,000 of depreciation due to disposal of assets

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