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Contact Information:

Barbara Bishop, Marketing & Communications Director

BBishop@greenwichhistory.org

203-869-6899, Ext. 12

Two Gilded Ages: Is History Repeating Itself? Lecture by Dr. Jackson Lears at Greenwich Historical Society

Cos Cob, CT, May 1, 2014--For some years, historians have theorized that we are living in a second Gilded Age, a reprise of the storied era that was aptly named by Mark Twain over a century ago. The decades between the 1980s and the 2010s hold a remarkable similarity to those between the 1880s and the 1910s, both periods characterized by unregulated economic expansion, flagrant corruption on Wall Street, growing class divisions, the concentration of wealth within a conspicuously consuming elite and a series of imperial adventures (and misadventures) abroad.

Dr. Jackson Lears will examine the parallels and differences between the two eras to explain why the growth of inequality 100 years ago provoked widespread demands for reform among the populace (even among the well-to-do), while contemporary comment on the situation is largely absent.

Jackson Lears was educated at the University of Virginia, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Yale University, where he received the Ph.D. in American Studies in 1979. He has taught at Yale University, the University of Missouri, and New York University and is now Board of Governors Professor of History at Rutgers University and editor in chief of the quarterly review *Raritan*. He is the author of *No Place of Grace: Antimodernism and the Transformation of American Culture, 1880-1920* (nominated for a National Book Critics Circle Award in 1981) and *Fables of Abundance: A Cultural History of Advertising in America*, which won the Los Angeles Times Book Award for History in 1995. A question and answer session will follow and refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, June 10, 2014; 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Greenwich Historical Society, Vanderbilt Education Center

39 Strickland Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807

Members \$10; nonmembers \$15

For reservations, visit www.greenwichhistory.org or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10.



Dr. Jackson Lears