



## GREENWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

is dedicated to promoting Greenwich's unique and colorful past. Our collections actively chronicle the life of our town for future generations, our programs and exhibitions help people of all ages better understand their connection to history, and our preservation efforts safeguard an architectural heritage that includes the National Historic Landmark Bush-Holley House, the site of the Cos Cob art colony.

## BUSH-HOLLEY HISTORIC SITE

is a member of the Connecticut Art Trail, a partnership of 21 world-class museums and historic sites across the state. Discover collections rich in New England history and culture and view artwork from one of the earliest American Impressionist art colonies.

## HOURS

### Docent-led Tours of Bush-Holley House

Wednesday through Sunday at 1, 2 and 3 pm and by appointment

### Group Tours

Arranged upon request.

Contact [agreco@greenwichhistory.org](mailto:agreco@greenwichhistory.org)

## ADMISSION

\$10 for adults

\$8 for seniors and students

Always free to members and children under 18.

Free to all visitors the first Wednesday of each month.

## CONTACT US

Greenwich Historical Society

39 Strickland Road

Cos Cob, CT 06807

203-869-6899

[www.greenwichhistory.org/contact](http://www.greenwichhistory.org/contact)

## DIRECTIONS

Off I-95 at Exit 4.

Details at [www.greenwichhistory.org/visit](http://www.greenwichhistory.org/visit)

# We're on the Move

Dear Members and Friends,

As we prepare for the opening of our new campus this fall, there will be temporary changes in visitor protocols. Please note that as of May 16, we will relocate the Visitor Center from the Storehouse Gallery to a temporary reception desk located in the newly constructed glass lobby of Toby's Tavern. Park in our lot under I-95, then follow the green signs indicating the walkway that will lead to a doorway facing the Storehouse Gallery. If you require ADA assistance, please call us at 203-869-6899, and we will be happy to make arrangements with you to provide access to Bush-Holley House. Around the same time, our staff will decamp to temporary offices while the Storehouse gets a new cedar-shingle roof and undergoes reconstruction of its former historic staircase.

The Library & Archives closed in March in order to accurately notate, pack and move its more than 1,300 linear feet of materials pertaining to all aspects of Greenwich history. We look forward to the opening of our beautiful, new, user-friendly, HVAC-controlled facility in fall 2018. In the meantime, research requests may be made through our Google form found at [greenwichhistory.org/access](http://greenwichhistory.org/access). All efforts to assist in a timely fashion will be made.

We appreciate your patience as we enter the home stretch of construction and can't wait to welcome you to our exciting newly reimagined campus this fall.

Debra Mecky

*Executive Director & CEO*

*Staffers Suzanne Flinn and Anna Greco indicate where the new temporary visitor entrance will be.*



## What to Know if You're Planning a Visit This Summer

**May 14:** Storehouse closed for restoration.

**May 16:** Docent-led tours of Bush-Holley House will continue to be offered Wednesday through Sunday at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 pm and by appointment. Beginning in May, tours will meet at the new reception area (described above).

**Now through October 2, 2018:** Library & Archives closed to the public.

**October 3, 2018 (tentative):** Library & Archives will reopen and once again offer public hours.

## This Place Matters! Submit Your Photos Now



For the second year in a row, the Town of Greenwich has designated May as Greenwich Preservation Month: This Place Matters. Inspired by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Historical Society will once again sponsor a This Place Matters photo contest to highlight and encourage preservation of Greenwich's most cherished spaces.

To enter, simply snap a photo of a place in town that matters to you, include a brief statement on why you consider it worthy of preservation and submit to shealy@greenwichhistory.org by July 6. You may also submit through the photo contest website and via social media. Images must be high resolution, 300 dpi. Full contest details at greenwichhistory.org.



2017 This Place Matters Third-Place Winner "Ada's" by Carrie Wallack

The top three winning photos, as awarded by an independent panel of judges, will be published in *Greenwich Magazine*, Exclusive Magazine Sponsor for This Place Matters, and displayed at the Greenwich Historical Society. Winners will be announced at a special reception at Greenwich Point on Founder's Day, July 18, at 10 am to which all are invited.

**GREENWICH**  
MAGAZINE

*This Place Matters Exclusive Magazine Sponsor*

## Hortulus to Aid in Restoration and Expansion of New Impressionist-Era Gardens

Greenwich Historical Society is pleased to announce a grant from the local garden club Hortulus to enable restoration of the ornamental flower gardens, kitchen gardens and grape arbor as part of the overall master plan for our dramatic campus transformation. The artist-colony era period gardens of National Historic Landmark Bush-Holley House will provide critical interpretive information for visitors, conveying daily routines during the Holley Boarding House era (growing food for the residents) and creating a

*Rendering of the new gardens and renovated grape arbor as seen from the covered porch of our new building, set to open fall 2018*



sense of the setting that provided so many local plein-air subjects for the artists who visited at the turn of the last century.

Improvements will include relocation and expansion of the fruit and vegetable garden that supported the Holley Boarding House and creation of new perennial flower beds along the walkway linking our new building to Bush-Holley House and the Vanderbilt Education Center. The current grape arbor will be replaced with a more durable structure to support the existing vines, some of which are 120 years old.

We are collaborating with Greenwich-based landscape architecture firm Conte & Conte, LLC, and the historic preservation architectural firm David Scott Parker Architects. During the plan's creation, Conte & Conte carefully examined primary and secondary sources from our archives, including the *Garden Calendar of Holley House* kept by proprietors Elmer and Constant MacRae (1918–1919) and the *Historic Landscape Report: Bush-Holley House, Storehouse and Brush Properties* (1996). Fairfield House & Garden Company, sister construction company of Conte & Conte, will install the historical landscape features.



*Rendering of new Impressionist-era fruit, vegetable and flower gardens*

Donor Hortulus, founded in 1930 and a member of The Garden Club of America, hosts flower shows, garden trips, workshops and lectures and has a tradition of civic service. Hortulus and the Greenwich Historical Society have a longstanding relationship dating to the Hortulus Conservation Award designed by Bush-Holley House proprietor Elmer MacRae in 1945!

*Our sincere thanks to Hortulus for their generous contribution and to the Green Team, a group of "green thumb" volunteers who help keep our site beautiful.*

*To join the Green Team, please call Michele Couture at 203-869-6899.*

# Art, History and Landscape Lecture

## On the Paths of a Genius: Frederick Law Olmsted in Connecticut

Experience the fascinating story of Frederick Law Olmsted, America's "father of landscape architecture," through verbal and pictorial imagery. Hartford-born in 1822, Olmsted designed major parks in New York (Central and Prospect), Boston and Washington, D.C., as well as outdoor treasures in many other cities. Among his Connecticut designs are Seaside and Beardsley Parks in Bridgeport, Walnut Hill in New Britain and the Institute of Living campus in Hartford. Even closer to home, Olmsted Brothers Landscape Design, in partnership with architect I.N. Phelps Stokes, designed and constructed Greenwich's Khakum Wood. Learn how

the landscape architect's formative years in his native state influenced his brilliantly executed and far-seeing designs, how this master park maker was able to create a sense of nature in the densest urban areas and why his designs endure more than a century later.

David K. Leff is an essayist, a Pushcart Prize-nominated poet and former deputy commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. He is the author of five non-fiction books, three volumes of poetry and a novel in verse. In 2016–2017 the National Park Service appointed him poet-in-residence for the New England National Scenic Trail (NET). His journals, correspondence

and other papers are archived at the University of Massachusetts Libraries in Amherst. More info at [www.davidkleff.com](http://www.davidkleff.com).



Speaker David Leff

*This lecture is presented in memory of David R. Wierdsma.*

Thursday, May 17

Doors open at 6:30 pm for wine and light refreshments; 45-minute program begins at 7:00 pm and is followed by a 15-minute Q&A session.

Vanderbilt Education Center

Members: \$15; nonmembers: \$20

Reservations required.

## A Visit from GHS History Teachers

On March 14, an early-release day for staff development, Greenwich High School history teachers toured *An American Odyssey: The Jewish Experience in Greenwich* and spent time with our collections. Says teacher Michael Galatioto: "You have a fantastic team that really helps to make the story of the town come alive and helps to make it accessible to the community in a really engaging way."



Michael Galatioto (far right) with Greenwich High School colleagues

## Old-Fashioned Fun at French Farm!



Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 10, for an afternoon of family-friendly games and crafts at the only surviving Gentleman's Farm in Greenwich. Co-chairs: Holly Cassin, Lauren Dudley Stephens, Jordan Rhodes. *More information to come.*

## Story Barn: This Is Not a Drill

Story Barn is a popular biannual event that explores various themes through the sharing of personal stories from "the sublime to the ridiculous" and everything in between. Here's the catch: The stories must be true, told without notes and limited to 10 minutes.

This time around, the "double-entendre'd" theme *This Is Not a Drill* was selected based on the construction activity currently taking place on our site. Storytellers may use the given theme as a starting point but need not take it literally. The show is held in a cabaret-style setting and will be emceed by Bonnie Levison. Wine, beer and light snacks are included in the price of admission.

Friday, May 11

Doors open at 7:00 pm; show begins at 7:30 pm

Members: \$15; nonmembers: \$20

Vanderbilt Education Center

Anyone who is interested in participating as a storyteller should contact Anna Greco at [agreco@greenwichhistory.org](mailto:agreco@greenwichhistory.org) or 203-869-6899, ext. 31.



## Celebrate CT Open House Day at the Greenwich Historical Society

Saturday, June 9

Free tours of Bush-Holley House at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 pm

39 Strickland Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807

## Save the Dates:

### May 11

Story Barn:  
*This Is Not a Drill*

### May 17

Art, History and Landscape Lecture:  
*On the Paths of a Genius:  
Frederick Law Olmsted in Connecticut*

### June 9

CT Open House

### June 10

Old-Fashioned Fun at French Farm

### June 24

Experience the Sound

### July 6

Last day to  
submit a photo to  
This Place Matters  
photo contest

### July 9–20

Historic Innovation  
Camp

### September 13

Annual Meeting

### November 30

Antiquarius  
Opening Night

### December 1–2

Winter Antiques  
Show

### December 4–5

Holiday Boutique

### December 5

Holiday House Tour

*Greenwich Historical Society chronicles the past, but the future is in your hands. Please remember us in your estate plan so that future generations may continue to explore the ongoing story of our community. Contact [kdorsey@greenwichhistory.org](mailto:kdorsey@greenwichhistory.org).*



## news

### Carol Levison to Undertake New Youth and Family Duties



**W**e are delighted to announce the appointment of Carol Levison as our new Manager of Youth and Family Programs as of March 2018. Carol has a masters degree in American history and has taught the subject since 2001, primarily in middle schools. No stranger to

the Greenwich Historical Society, Carol has been a Bush-Holley House docent and has served as our assistant camp director, a Sarah Bush interpreter and an Education Department researcher. Carol will be working closely with school groups and overseeing our Historic Innovation Camp in July. Says Carol, “I am very excited to work on a site at which everything I’ve studied and taught actually occurred!”

### Greenwich Chamber of Commerce Donates Centenary Records

**I**n January, the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce presented the Greenwich Historical Society with documentation of activities marking the official end of the Chamber’s centennial year. Signing



official documentation for safekeeping at the Historical Society: Peter Carlson, incoming Chamber board chair; Marcia O’Kane, Chamber president and CEO; Christopher Shields, Greenwich Historical Society curator of library and archives. Congratulations on 100 years of promoting business in Greenwich, and many thanks to the Chamber for sharing important documents that tell the story of our business community.

# Harry Sakamaki Docent and a Donor

**H**arry Sakamaki is a Greenwich Historical Society docent with a mission. He first came to the Historical Society through his keen interest in the work of the 19th and early 20th century painter, illustrator and ceramicist Genjiro Yeto, a salesman-turned-artist from the town of Arita, Japan, notable for its unique porcelain decorative style. To Yeto, Cos Cob and Arita were like sister cities in their landscape, flora and fauna.

Harry, Principal Advisor at TechPar Group (TPG), is a past president and currently Senior Advisor to the Japan Society of Fairfield County. Through personal research, Harry learned more about Yeto's birthplace and the years before the artist attended New York's Art Students League where he met a classmate who was living



*Harry and Hiroko Sakamaki*

(also known as Koizumi Yagumo among the Japanese).” Because Lafcadio had lived in the same remote town in Japan as Yeto, Harry speculates that they were introduced to each other by Yonejiroo Noguchi (father of famous sculptor Isamu Noguchi) who knew both. Harry has been a force in bringing attention to Yeto's presence in Cos Cob, and today the Historical Society has 15 works (watercolors, prints and oil paintings) by this influential Japanese artist in our permanent collection.

Harry has also been an energetic catalyst for connections between the Greenwich Historical Society and other organizations, as well as for community education. “I am a member of the Japan Society and introduced them to Bush-Holley House; I was so interested and eventually found myself very involved,” says Sakamaki. “There is a significant Japanese presence in Greenwich, and I wanted to connect (Japanese) students from the Cos Cob School and The Greenwich Japanese School on Lake Avenue and from elsewhere in town with what the Historical Society does. The children who visit learn so much about Greenwich history through the Historical Society's programs.”

Harry has not only been crucial to raising Yeto's visibility for the Greenwich Historical Society, but his research has led him to even deeper involvement, both as a docent and as a very active contributor to the Greenwich Historical Society community. In addition to his regular presence at exhibitions and programs, Harry attends docent education and training for tour pre-

sentations and special exhibitions at least six times a year and is frequently called upon to give Japanese language tours to visitors of all ages.

But it doesn't stop there. Harry is also a Reimagine the Campus supporter. Observes Executive Director Debra Mecky, “Harry is one of our most valued and committed docents. The fact that he is also a supporter of our Reimagine the Campus Campaign makes him a model member of the Historical Society. I hope all members will be inspired by his story and will make a gift today to support the campus expansion and program enrichment. Every gift makes a difference.”

**To make a contribution to the Reimagine the Campus Campaign, go to [greenwichhistory.org/donate](http://greenwichhistory.org/donate) or contact Katrina Dorsey at [kdorsey@greenwichhistory.org](mailto:kdorsey@greenwichhistory.org).**

*Genjiro Yeto (1867–1924). Untitled [White Iris], 1913. Gouache and ink. Gift of Yukiko Tanaka in memory of her grandfather Genjiro Yeto/Kataoka, 2016.04.01*



*Harry Sakamaki leads a tour of Bush-Holley House for a group from The Greenwich Japanese School*

at the Cos Cob art colony. “Yeto lived at the Bush-Holley House—at first during the summer and then through the rest of the seasons” notes Harry. “He was also a prolific illustrator. His work appears in well known books based on Japanese legends and ghost stories by Lafcadio Hearn



# In Memoriam: Jack Moffly

JOHN W. MOFFLY, IV (1926–2018), known as Jack, joined the Greenwich Historical Society's Board of Trustees in 1987 and served until 1993. He was named an Honorary Trustee in 1995 in recognition of his dedication, commitment and support of the Historical Society's mission during his term and beyond. He joined our Advisory Council at its formation in 2008 and remained an active advisor and supporter. Jack moved to Riverside from Cleveland, Ohio, with his wife Donna in 1963, and retired from Time, Inc. in 1986 after a prestigious career in advertising sales and marketing. In 1986, he and Donna founded the *Greenwich Review*, which chronicled the cultural life and history of our town; Jack was the publisher and Donna was the editor. It was a modestly sized black-and-white publication with limited circulation, which, through hard work and perseverance, they transformed into a four-color monthly with a paid circulation of over 10,000. Given their success, in 1991,

the Mofflys combined the magazine with the *Nutmegger* and renamed it *Greenwich Magazine*. With the help of their son Jonathan, Moffly Media added other town magazines to its stable, and the reins of their family enterprise were turned over to Jonathan in 1995. Jack nonetheless continued to write for *Greenwich Magazine* and remained an ambassador-at-large and a board member of a number of other Greenwich nonprofit organizations. He was a special friend, always gracious, understanding, collaborative, smart and thoughtful. He will be dearly missed.



## Member Spotlight: Catherine Ladnier

*We recently caught up with playwright and longtime member Catherine Ladnier. Aside from her enthusiastic support and regular attendance at events and programs, Catherine has personally produced dramatic readings and music programs for the Historical Society. Here she explains why the Historical Society matters so much to her.*

### Why did you first start supporting the Historical Society?

I have been involved with historic preservation for more than 30 years. We moved to Greenwich from Memphis, where I had served on the board of Memphis Heritage for some 10 years. In the '80s downtown Memphis was dead, and no one went to Beale Street. The year we moved to Memphis, the home of the great W.C. Handy burned down, we had to clean out trash from the Orpheum Theatre, and folks wanted to destroy the Lorraine Hotel after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Today, all is different. Folks want to live in and visit places that have character. Beale Street is thriving (as is the downtown) and, like so many places in this country, it tells a story and is a vital lesson in the importance of preservation.

### Why is the Greenwich Historical Society important to you?

Greenwich is a fascinating place, and telling the story of the folks who made the town is important for future generations. I recall with great sadness the destruction of his-

toric places that told a story and, alas, have been replaced with characterless buildings. How do you destroy the home of the first American officer killed in WWI?

### Does your knowledge of local history inform your perspective about national history?

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has a This Place Matters program, and so many places matter—from the grand homes to the little homes on Main Street USA. When I travel, I always search out those places that tell a story. Last week, we were in the Mississippi Delta and visited some places that tell the story of American culture. Just walk the streets of Oxford, Cleveland and Leland, and what do you discover? William Faulkner, the birth of the blues and Kermit the Frog! Soon, I plan to visit Oakland, California. I'll head to Heinold's First and Last Chance Saloon, sit at the bar and pretend that Jack London is there, enjoying a beer!

*For Catherine—and us all—history can and should be found around every corner.*

*Thanks, Catherine, for your support!*



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YOUR  
COPY

### An American Odyssey: The Jewish Experience in Greenwich

The groundbreaking exhibition *An American Odyssey: The Jewish Experience in Greenwich*, which closed April 15, chronicled the previously untold story of Greenwich's Jewish community. An exhibition catalog by Ann Meyerson, PhD, guest curator and author, will be available in limited quantities this spring. The catalog presents the compelling history of the personal stories, successes and challenges of the town's pioneering Jewish immigrants and their profound impact on the cultural and economic vitality of Greenwich. The beautiful full-color, 44-page illustrated catalog may be reserved at [greenwichhistory.org/odyssey](http://greenwichhistory.org/odyssey) or by calling 203-869-6899, Ext. 10 and will also be available in our museum store.

**\$17 for members; \$20 for nonmembers**