



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 18 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

Storehouse Gallery

Open Wednesday through Sunday,
12–4 pm

Docent-led tours of Bush-Holley House

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

Library and Archives

Wednesdays, 10 am–12:30 pm
and 1 pm–4 pm, or by appointment

ADMISSION

\$10 for adults

\$8 for seniors and students

Admission always free to members and children under 12.

Free to the public the first Wednesday of every month.

CONTACT US

Greenwich Historical Society
39 Strickland Road
Cos Cob, CT 06807
203-869-6899
www.greenwichhistory.org

DIRECTIONS

Off I-95 at exit 4. Visit
www.greenwichhistory.org for details.

ANTIQUARIUS 2015: AN UNEQUIVOCAL SUCCESS

With a celebratory leap “Back to the Future,” the action-packed Preview Party for the Greenwich Winter Antiques Show marked the commencement of Antiquarius 2015. The newly expanded three-day show offered wares by some of the best in the business, and auction house DOYLE provided appraisal services on the first Friday, with a steady stream of visitors who learned the value and pedigree of their family heirlooms, attic treasures and tag sale finds.

Once again, over 500 visitors toured five spectacular homes at the Holiday House Tour, each with its own unique style and vision—all decked out for the holidays. We are grateful to the five gracious homeowners who shared their wonderful homes. It is a truly generous gift to open your doors to hundreds of visitors in a single day.

Topping off the House Tour, a group of 100-plus admirers had the privilege of attending a champagne reception for renowned style-maker Charlotte Moss, who discussed her newest book, *Garden Inspirations*. Thanks to Charlotte for serving as our honorary chairman and for her elegant presentation at Toast of the Tour, and a very special nod to Alease Fisher-Tallman for graciously

hosting the event at her lovely home.

Business at the Holiday Boutique was brisk for 37 exclusive vendors as the town's most discerning shoppers happily discovered gifts that ran the gamut from functionally chic to frivolously fantastic. Best of all, 15% of the proceeds went to the Greenwich Historical Society.

We are truly grateful to all who made this crucial fundraising event possible. It is no small task to successfully coordinate a fundraiser with so many moving parts, but this year's leaders exhibited style, talent and energy second to none. Your efforts were well worth it.

Thanks go to all of our corporate supporters, especially lead sponsors Betteridge and David Ogilvy & Associates/Christie's International Realty, who have, over the years, continuously demonstrated their commitment to this organization. Thanks also to exclusive media sponsors, *Greenwich Magazine* and *athome* for doing the important job of spreading the word.

Finally, a huge, heartfelt “thank you” to all who supported Antiquarius by volunteering, contributing, attending and especially for recognizing the important role that history and preservation play in our town.

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Preview Party Co-Chairs

Janine Behr Getz, Sabrina Raquet
and M.E. Kjeanested



Preview Party Design Chair
Samantha Knapp and friend



Happy Shoppers at the
Holiday Boutique



Antiquarius 2015 *Continued from page 1*

Congratulations to Antiquarius 2015 Leadership and Volunteers!

- Charlotte Moss
Honorary Chair
- Carol Crapple Barbara MacDonald Anne Ogilvy
Co-Chairs, Patrons
- Jacki Brew Kathryn Stewart
Co-Chairs, Silent Auction
- Jeanine Behr Getz M.E. Kjaernested Sabrina Raquet
Co-Chairs, Preview Party
- Samantha Knapp
Chair, Preview Party Design
- Samantha Mollett Catie Salyer
Co-Chairs, Holiday Boutique
- Courtney Bieger Morgan Melnikoff
Co-Chairs, Holiday House Tour
- Tina Mathias Serena Perlman Liz Prazmark
Co-Chairs, Holiday House Tour Transportation & Logistics
- Elizabeth Lake Catherine Tompkins
Co-Chairs, Toast of the Tour and Holiday House Tour Hospitality
- Meg Nolan van Reesema
Chair, Journal
- Beth Taylor
Chair, Holiday House Tour Luncheon
- Melissa Hawks
Chair, Designer Forum
- Alicia Laing
Media Chair
- Frank Gaglio
Producer, Greenwich Winter Antiques Show
- Davidde Strackbein
Chair, Board of Trustees

Vanderbilt Education Center

The perfect setting for your special spring or summer event



Surrounded by a beautiful garden landscape, our restored mid-19th century barn is the ideal venue for your next meeting, reception

or intimate gathering. Amenities include a fully equipped kitchen, state-of-the-art video and sound systems, and inviting furnishings.

Learn more at our website or contact Michele Couture at 203-869-6899, Ext. 20, to schedule a visit or secure a date.

Professional Advisory Board Appointed to Help Guide Expansion

The Board of Trustees has recently approved a master plan for expansion of our site and programs. Recognizing that the attainment of this ambitious goal will require expert advice in the fields of art, history, architecture and construction, the board has established a new professional advisory panel to help guide us through the various phases of this exciting project. Recently appointed to a newly created panel were Construction Group Member John Morris Dixon, former Board Chairman and art historian Susan Larkin and Collection Committee Chairman Meriwether Schmid. Each having made significant contributions in their respective fields, we are certain that their guidance will be invaluable.



Advisory Panel Members John Dixon, Susan Larkin and Meriwether Schmid

John Dixon is an architecture graduate of MIT and was chief editor of *Progressive Architecture* from 1972 to 1996, presiding over the annual P/A Awards, which recognize outstanding American architecture. He has been an advocate for preservation since the 1960s, when he helped survey the Park Slope Historic Landmark District in Brooklyn and wrote key parts of the *AIA Guide to New York*. He has chaired the Committee on Design of the American Institute of Architects, served on the Town of Greenwich Architectural Review Committee and is now a member of the Greenwich Historical Society's Buildings and Grounds Committee and a board member of the New York/Tri-State chapter of DOCOMOMO, an organization dedicated to the preservation of modern architecture. He has been instrumental in spearheading our Greenwich Landmarks Recognition Program as well our Preservation Awards.

Susan Larkin is an accomplished author, curator, teacher and lecturer with an M.A. from the City University in London and a Ph.D. in Art History from the Graduate School of the City University of

New York. Susan's impressive exhibitions and catalogs include *The Cos Cob Art Colony: Impressionists on the Connecticut Shore*; *American Impressionism: The Beauty of Work*; *Childe Hassam: Impressions of Cos Cob*; and *American Impressionists Abroad and at Home: Paintings from the Collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art*. Her most recent book is *Top Cats: The Life and Times of the New York Public Library Lions*.

Susan has taught and lectured at prestigious institutions throughout the U.S. She currently serves on our Exhibitions and Collections committees and on the Greenwich Arts Council's Art in Public Places Advisory Panel; she is a former Trustee and Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee of

Notre Dame of Maryland University.

Meriwether Cowgill Schmid has been associated with the Greenwich Historical Society since the early 1980s. As genealogy chair, she led yearly genealogical seminars featuring nationally known speakers both here and at Christ Church from 1988 to 2000. She also volunteered weekly in our library and archives from the late 1980s through 2000 and was recognized as our Volunteer of the Year in 2000.

Meriwether has served in advisory capacities as a trustee (1983–86), as corresponding secretary (1997–99), as vice president (1987–88) and as president (1994–95). In 1996, she made a major gift for the purchase of the land behind Toby's Tavern that is essential to future plans for expansion of our campus. She is a trustee emeritus of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, a fellow of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, New York City, and a trustee and DNA Project administrator of the Meriwether Society.

The Historical Society is delighted that these highly accomplished individuals have agreed to provide support as we embark on our campus improvement project.

Member Appreciation Breakfast Members Make It All Possible...

And we'd like to express our thanks to you, our valued members, with a special appreciation program on Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 9:30–11:00 am. Curator Karen Frederick and Archivist Christopher Shields will share some of their favorite finds from our collection, Curator of Education Anna Greco will preview future programs and Executive Director Debra Mecky will provide an update on the progress of plans to expand the campus. Socialize over a light breakfast and learn more about your Historical Society! RSVP to Suzanne Flinn (sflinn@greenwichhistory.org) or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10.



Film Screening: *Mary Silliman's War*

It is the fourth year of the War for Independence and conflict is raging. Not only are Americans at war with the British, but also at odds amongst themselves. Mary Silliman's town of Fairfield, Connecticut, and her own family are no exception. Her neighbors are bitterly divided between those still loyal to the King of England and those fighting for independence. Mary is at odds with her husband, Selleck, a fierce patriot and prominent state's attorney, for prosecuting old friends and neighbors and harshly applying revolutionary justice. But when Selleck is kidnapped and held for ransom, Mary is required

to set a dangerous plot in motion to win his freedom.*

Join us for a screening of this award-winning film based on a true story and written from original source materials, including Mary's own diary and letters exchanged between the Sillimans during Selleck's imprisonment.

Thursday, January 21, 3:00–5:00 pm

\$10 members; \$15 nonmembers.

Reservations required.

Popcorn and light refreshments will be served.

*Description based on Amazon.com review

Greenwich Choices Objects That Defined Us Over the Centuries

By Christine Heyworth

Have you visited our current exhibition *Greenwich Choices*? Enjoy a free behind-the-scenes tour and "Coffee with the Curator" on February 18, 10:00–11:30 am. No reservation needed.

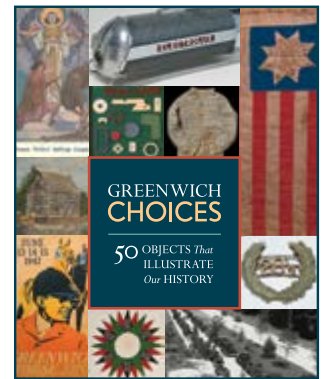
The current exhibit at the Greenwich Historical Society, *Greenwich Choices*, contains some 50 objects from our 375-year history, celebrated town-wide throughout 2015. The objects provide a rich and interesting overview of the town's occupations and preoccupations, the wars in which we became embroiled and the roles townspeople played therein, the industries that developed and the businesses that made their mark during nearly four centuries.

It's hard to overlook a stunning display case from the American Felt Company at one end of the Storehouse Gallery, part of a larger exhibit of the manufacturing endeavors that have been a part of our history. Did you know that in 1947 there were 51 manufacturing plants in Greenwich, employing over 4,000 workers? The American Felt Company was one of those. Acquired in 1899 from the Hawthorne Mills Company, it became the largest manufacturer of felt in the country. Felt was used for piano hammers and in appliances and automobile engines, among other things. The handsome wooden display case, standing over eight feet tall and festooned with colorful sample felt cutouts, is a veritable art form. It made me think of the felt chevrons I applied to my camp sweater when I had mastered a skill in canoeing or swimming, and I bet it will remind you of similar uses to which felt was put in your day!

Another familiar object was the Electrolux vacuum cleaner from around 1945, notable for its sleek, elegant design. Sitting on sleigh runners, with chrome plating, it was their most popular model. A Swedish company in existence since 1919, Electrolux purchased seven acres in 1932 along the railroad tracks in Old Greenwich and built its plant there. In May 1985, that "mother factory" was closed, the last one in Greenwich, but while it lasted, Electrolux became a

pioneer not just in the vacuum cleaner field but also in the production of refrigerators, dishwashers and floor polishers. It continues today after many mergers and acquisitions, selling under a variety of brand names worldwide.

Those are just two of the objects that grabbed me, but go see for yourself the 19th-century pitchforks and oxen yoke from our more agrarian days; a Revolutionary-era work shirt worn by young Obadiah Mead, who was guarding his father's cattle in North Greenwich and was killed by thieves; and casts of engine parts made by our own Palmer Brothers, a leader in the world's gas engine business. The exhibit continues until February 28, 2016, in the Storehouse Gallery and is accompanied by several related programs.



Many Thanks for Making 2015 a Wonderful Year

If you received our recent annual report, you undoubtedly took note of the success and broad appeal of the education, history and preservation programs offered in the past year. They wouldn't have been possible without you! When you receive our annual appeal in the mail shortly, please remember the Greenwich Historical Society so that we may continue to play a vital and active role in our beloved community.

If you live or work in Greenwich, you have a stake in the Greenwich Historical Society.

39 Strickland Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807

Save the Dates:

Now through February 28

Exhibition: *Greenwich Choices: 50 Objects That Illustrate Our History*

January 21

Film Screening: *Mary Silliman's War*

February 24

Membership Appreciation Breakfast

April 1

Early Registration Deadline for Camp

April 17

Greenwich Landmarks Recognition Event

The 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.



for kids

Summer Fun for Kids

Senior Historians: Grades 4–7

July 5–8, July 11–15

Junior Historians: Grades 2–4

July 18–22, July 25–29

Early Bird Rate* until April 1, 2016 (members only):

\$550 for two-week session

\$300 for week of July 5–8

\$350 for all other single-week sessions

*Current Historical Society members' children and prior season's campers

Open Registration Rate after April 1, 2016 (nonmembers and all campers):

\$700 for two-week session

\$400 for week of July 5–8

\$450 for all other single-week sessions

Registration forms are available online at www.greenwichhistory.org/camp.php. For more information, contact LoriBeth Talbot at ltalbot@greenwichhistory.org or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 32.

Winter winds may be blowing, but it's not too early to start planning summer fun for your children or visiting grandchildren. The Greenwich Historical Society's History and Art Camp uses the National Historic Landmark Bush-Holley Historic Site and its staff, collections and archives to offer second- through seventh-graders a highly interactive summer experience with a wide variety of activities.

The first week immerses campers in the life of New England colonists during the American Revolution, while the second week explores the Cos Cob art colony and its relationship to Impressionist artwork that was inspired by the local landscape.

Each week also includes a field trip and a family reception to showcase what campers have learned and created. The program is staffed by experienced educators and counselors dedicated to providing a lively and enriching camp experience. Additional



activities are led by professional artists and historical reenactors.

For a full description of activities, visit www.greenwichhistory.org/camp. Members and last year's campers can register early to guarantee a great time at reduced rates.



Visit us on Facebook to see changing Greenwich history articles and event announcements.