

Greenwich Historical Society to Launch *Greenwich Voices*, An Oral Snapshot of Life in Greenwich in the Year of Its 375th Anniversary



Cos Cob, CT, March 12, 2015—Beginning in October 2014, conceptual artists and guest curators for the Greenwich Historical Society Karina Aguilera Skvirsky and Liselot van der Heijden ranged throughout town from Old Greenwich to Byram to interview and record the voices of residents of all ages and walks of life. Conducting interviews in public spaces from Whole Foods to the Greenwich train station to the town’s main shopping streets, the goal was twofold: to record how residents describe life in Greenwich and to ultimately create an oral portrait of the town and its residents at a specific time and place in history. The result is *Greenwich Voices*, a rich, multilayered and sometimes surprising depiction of the community that resonates with larger social issues. Through myriad anonymous voices, the exhibition will serve as an oral time capsule that vividly portrays the character of Greenwich on its 375th birthday as described by its very own citizens.

Visuals for the exhibition will include quotes taken from historic documents and images drawn from the Greenwich Historical Society’s archival collections. These will serve as a counterpoint to the contemporary voices that may be heard at listening stations throughout the gallery. A recording space will also be available to visitors on a regular basis for those who wish to respond to some of the same questions posed by the curators during their original foray into the community.

According to Marketing & Communications director Barbara Bishop, “*Greenwich Voices* is a true multimedia departure for the Historical Society. The project will serve as a terrific example of how history is not necessarily all about the “big” events. The stories of our daily lives provide context and will have the power to shape the way future generations examine and interpret the Greenwich story. All of the recordings (including those not used for the exhibition) will be saved in the Greenwich Historical Society Library and Archives. *Greenwich Voices* will serve as a unique gift to future residents when the town celebrates its 400th birthday in 2040!”

The Historical Society is also planning programs and special events in conjunction with *Greenwich Voices* including a Story Barn live oral history program entitled “Only in Greenwich,” on May 21, 2015. *Greenwich Voices* will run from April 22 through August 31, 2015 at the Greenwich Historical Society’s Storehouse Gallery, 39 Strickland Road, Cos Cob, CT. Hours are Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 4:00. For more information about this exhibition and all other Historical Society programs, visit www.greenwichhistory.org.