

Greenwich Historical Society

Explore our colorful past



news+programs

november | december 2015

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

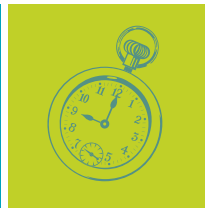
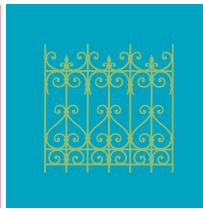
203-869-6899

www.greenwichhistory.org

DIRECTIONS

Off I-95 at exit 4. Visit

www.greenwichhistory.org for details.



MORE IN STORE FOR ANTIQUARIUS 2015

Antiquarius is our annual series of high-style holiday events to raise funds for the Greenwich Historical Society. Whether you love fine antiques, are eager to catch a glimpse of Greenwich's most gorgeous homes or are just ready to start celebrating, Antiquarius is the ticket.

Beginning with the Greenwich Winter Antiques Show, produced by Frank Gaglio, Inc., over 40 vendors will be on hand to display exquisite 18th- to mid-20th-century art, decorative objects, estate jewelry, furniture, prints, vintage accessories and more. Ever wonder what that family heirloom is really worth? New this year, representatives from acclaimed New York auction house Doyle will be available by appointment on Friday, December 4, to assess your treasures.

Eager to shop the Greenwich Winter Antiques Show before it opens to the public? Attend our exclusive "Back to the Future" themed preview party on December 3. The evening not only features early shopping, champagne, cocktails and a delightful buffet supper, but also provides a unique opportunity to confer one on one with some of the best dealers in the business.

Don't fret about your holiday shopping list. Our festive Holiday Boutique featuring over 30 exclusive vendors will take place at Christ Church on the evening of December 8 (with cocktails and passed hors d'oeuvres) and will continue all day on December 9. And finally, the eagerly awaited Holiday House Tour will take place on December 9, featuring five spectacular properties and a cozy club luncheon.

This year, Antiquarius will culminate with a "Toast of the Tour" champagne reception (at an exquisite recognized Greenwich landmark home) to feature renowned interior designer Charlotte Moss with an informal book signing for her latest work, *Garden Inspirations*.

Don't miss this uniquely Greenwich tradition that features design, architecture, antiques, cutting-edge style and fun, all for a great cause—raising essential funds to sustain the Historical Society's Library and Archives, exhibitions, educational programs and beloved Bush-Holley Historic Site.

For more information about Antiquarius and to purchase tickets, please call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10 or visit www.greenwichhistory.com/antiquarius.php.

Want to really show your support? Become a patron or sponsor. Your generosity will be recognized throughout the event as well as at a special Patron Party in early November. To learn more, please contact Katrina Dorsey at 203-869-6899, Ext. 15.

Antiquarius 2015 is generously sponsored by:

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Story Barn: *By Chance or By Choice?* at Greenwich Historical Society

Life leads us down many roads—some by chance and some by choice. Based on that premise, a very talented group of local raconteurs will present short, unscripted stories based on the premise that careful planning, blind luck—and sometimes both—can lead us to completely unexpected destinations as we make life’s journey. In fact, sometimes the most unlikely detours make for the best stories. Sit back, let these tales draw you in, and soon you’ll find yourself pondering whether it was free will or a quirk of fate that landed you where you stand today!

This night of storytelling magic is being held in conjunction with the Greenwich Historical Society’s current exhibition *Greenwich Choices: 50 Objects That Illustrate Our History*, a show that examines objects from the Historical Society’s collection that represent turning points in the town’s history.

Story Barn is hosted by the incomparable Bonnie Levison, comedienne, storytelling coach for themoth.org and cofounder of the Nantucket Comedy Festival. The pro-

gram takes place in a relaxed cabaret-like setting, and wine, beer and light snacks are included in the price of admission.



Denise Ofella Mangen, themoth.org

Emcee Bonnie Levison

If you would like to participate as a storyteller in *By Chance or By Choice?* please contact Anna Greco at agreco@greenwichhistory.org or at 203-869-6899, Ext. 31. Pre-show coaching is available.

Thursday, November 12, 2015

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

\$15 for members; \$20 for nonmembers

Reservations suggested. Space is limited.

Vanderbilt Education Center

Book Talk by Dr. John Van Atta

Wolf by the Ears: The Missouri Crisis, 1819–1821

From the early days of the republic, American leaders knew that a ticking time bomb—the question of slavery—lay at the heart of national politics. For a time, an implicit understanding between North and South had helped to keep the issue at bay: Northern states tacitly agreed to respect the property rights of Southern slaveholders and, in return, Southerners essentially promised to view slaveholding as a practical evil to be dealt with farther down the road. By 1819–1820, westward expansion had brought the matter to a head. As Thomas Jefferson noted, a nation dealing with the politically implacable issue of slavery essentially held a “wolf by the ears.” It could neither let go nor hang on without consequences.

Van Atta deftly explains how the Missouri crisis revealed the impact that slavery had on American nation building. He explores the external social, cultural and economic forces that gave the confrontation such urgency and examines the beliefs, assumptions and fears that characterized both sides of the argument. *Wolf by the Ears* provides students in American history with an ideal introduction to the Missouri crisis while offering fresh insights for scholars of the early republic.*

Dr. John Van Atta is the Oaklawn Chair in American History at Brunswick School and a recognized master teacher since 1996. He has published a number of articles on Middle American History (1776–1861) and two earlier books, *Securing the West: Politics, Public Lands and the Fate of the Old Republic, 1785–1850* and *A Place for Boys: Brunswick School and the Building of Young Men*.

A short Q&A session and book signing will follow the lecture, and *Wolf by the Ears* will be available for purchase.

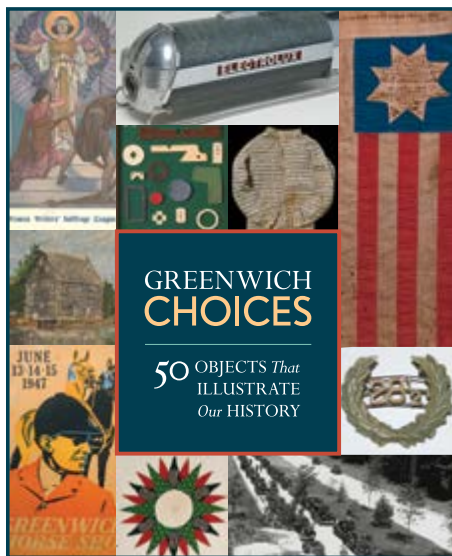
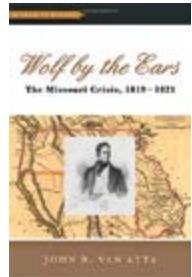
Thursday, November 19, 2015, 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Members: \$10; nonmembers: \$15;

Free to students and teachers

Vanderbilt Education Center

* Book description adapted from Amazon.com



SEPTEMBER 30, 2015
through
FEBRUARY 28, 2016

GREENWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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What do you give the person who has everything?



A MEMBERSHIP TO THE GREENWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY, OF COURSE! Consider sharing your love of the Historical Society with friends and family. It’s the gift that keeps on giving—and it’s easy. Give a membership online or call us today, and we’ll send the gift directly. Visit www.greenwichhistory.org or call Keri Reitman at 203-869-6899, Ext. 13.



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

The Snow Maiden Marionette Performance



The story of the Snow Maiden has been told in Russia for hundreds of years, and its mythical characters are all represented in this original rendition in which a perfect little maiden, sculpted entirely of snow, is brought to life to the delight of a childless couple that

embraces her as their own. But can love sustain this child of winter upon the arrival of spring? Find out in this unique adaptation of a beloved Russian folktale that explores the way in which people of long ago sought to explain natural phenomena through storytelling.

No Strings Marionette Company is a two-puppeteer touring marionette theater that creates performances for family audiences and designs and fashions their own puppet casts. They also teach their craft to a wide range of people through puppet-making workshops and residencies.

Children will have an opportunity to interact with the performers and to examine the puppets after the show. Purchase tickets soon. These performances always sell out!

Saturday, December 12, 2015

Shows at 1:00 and 3:00 pm

Vanderbilt Education Center

\$10 for members; \$15 for nonmembers

Advance purchase required.

Candlelight at Bush-Holley Historic Site



Join us for a festive holiday evening when—only once a year—costumed interpreters lead “candlelight” tours through Bush-Holley House, Greenwich’s only Registered National Historic Landmark. In addition to your family-friendly walk through Bush-Holley House, there will be live music, hot chocolate, seasonal goodies, winter-themed crafts for kids and a special appearance by Santa Claus

from 5:30–6:30 pm.

Tours are roughly 45 minutes long and focus on Christmas traditions as celebrated by the Bush family in the early nation period and later by the Holley family, who were residents in the early 1900s.

Sunday, December 13, 2015, 5:00 to 7:00 pm

Admission is free to all. No reservations required.

Tours begin at the Vanderbilt Education Center

Historical Society Receives Generous Gift from Davidde and Ron Strackbein

We are extremely pleased and grateful to announce the receipt of a \$100,000 gift from Davidde and Ron Strackbein. The gift was given for the purpose of furthering the programmatic objectives of the expansion of the Archives of the Greenwich Historical Society and will be known as the Strackbein Archives Fund. It will be utilized for the purchase of new archival materials and for payment of stipends for interns employing archival techniques and processes in the Archives.



Davidde and Ron Strackbein

Commenting on the compelling reason for their donation, the Strackbeins noted, “We have supported the Greenwich Historical Society Archives since it was founded in 1987 in order to undertake the unique and vital role of collecting the documents, photographs and records that are such a critical part of our Greenwich heritage. The Archives are the heart and soul of the organization and its mission to collect, preserve and celebrate the 375-year history of this extraordinary community.”

Sincere thanks to the Strackbeins for their generous and long-time support of the Archives and for their keen recognition of the importance of maintaining and expanding our collection for generations to come.

Your Annual Support Is Crucial

When considering your year-end contributions, please remember the Historical Society. Your gift goes a long way, from helping to preserve Bush-Holley Historic Site to the creation of unique exhibitions, fascinating lectures, inspiring education programs and fun family activities. There’s something for everyone at the Greenwich Historical Society, and your annual support makes it all possible!

39 Strickland Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807

Save the Dates:

Thursday, November 12

Story Barn: *By Chance or By Choice?*

Thursday, November 19

Wolf by the Ears Book Talk by Dr. John Van Atta

Thursday, December 3

Greenwich Winter Antiques Show Preview Party

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 4, 5, 6

Greenwich Winter Antiques Show

Tuesday and Wednesday, December 8 and 9

Holiday Boutique

Wednesday, December 9

Holiday House Tour
Toast of the Tour

Saturday, December 12

The Snow Maiden Marionette Performance

Sunday, December 13

Candlelight at Bush-Holley House

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.



news

Historical Society Appoints Four New Board Members

Four new trustees—all rooted and active in the community—were appointed to our board of directors, class of 2018, at the 84th annual meeting on September 17, 2015.

New trustee **Ashley Allan** studied 18th-century decorative arts at Trinity College and subsequently worked in Sotheby's French and Continental Furniture Department. She also held special events director positions at *House & Garden* magazine and the Central Park Conservancy. Ashley has served in various volunteer capacities with the Family Center, the Greenwich Land Trust, Greenwich Tree Conservancy and *Serendipity* magazine. Ashley chaired last year's Antiquarius Holiday Luncheon and was co-chair of our Holiday Boutique in 2012 and 2013.



Leigh Ann Ryan is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Southern Methodist University, who majored in finance and psychology. She is a former chartered financial analyst and former principal of Riverstone Holding LLC, where she served on the boards of CDM GP, LLC; International Logging LLC; Morena Group Holdings, LLC and Phoenix Exploration Company. Her volunteer activities include chairmanship of the 2010 Junior League Enchanted Forest, the 2015 Greenwich Academy Spring Benefit and the co-chairmanship of two highly successful Antiquarius Holiday House Tours in 2011 and 2012.

Beth Taylor studied art history and human development at Vanderbilt University. She has held positions at the National Gallery of Art, Tiffany & Co. and the Southfield School, currently serves on the boards of the Greenwich Land Trust and the Greenwich Garden Club and volunteers at the New York Botanical Garden and Grace Church of Greenwich. She has chaired the Land Trust's Go Wild! and the Boys and Girls Club Annual Gala. Beth was a co-chair of last year's Greenwich Winter Antiques Show Preview Party.



Carrie Wallack, a graduate of Rollins College, began her involvement with the Historical Society when her home was featured on the 2011 Holiday House Tour. She subsequently co-chaired the Jeffrey Billhuber Designer Luncheon in 2012 and last year's Greenwich Winter Antiques Show Preview Party. She was co-chair of the Resurrection Episcopal Day School Silent Auction Committee in 2009 and the Wall Street Challenge Silent Auction Committee in 2013. She has volunteered at Greenwich Country Day School since 2009.

We are delighted to welcome these talented and energetic individuals in their new leadership roles.