

Greenwich Historical Society Newsletter

Greenwich
historical society

FALL /
WINTER
2020

Hassam Painting Exhibition

This summer the Greenwich Historical Society made a significant addition to our collection of Cos Cob Art Colony paintings with the landmark acquisition of *The Red Mill, Cos Cob* by American Impressionist painter Childe Hassam.

Utilizing a lively palette and short, punctuated brush strokes, in *The Red Mill, Cos Cob* Hassam captured the rusticated appearance of the Palmer & Duff shipyard, once located



on the small peninsula in the Mianus River opposite the Bush-Holley House. This canvas is among the earliest of Hassam's paintings made in Cos Cob, dating to his first visit to the Holley family's boarding house in the autumn of 1896. Hassam would return to Cos Cob many times between 1896 and 1918, producing dozens of paintings, pastels and prints depicting the Holley House and the

nearby waterfront commercial district known as the Lower Landing.

Special appreciation is due to Lily Downing of Downing Yudain LLC, whose guidance and expertise ensured the success of this important acquisition. A small-focus exhibition, highlighting the newly acquired painting and offering further history on the Palmer & Duff shipyard and the changing landscape of the Cos Cob Lower Landing, is planned for January 2021.

Cover Image: Childe Hassam, *The Red Mill, Cos Cob*, 1896. Oil on canvas.

Museum purchase with funds from Susan G. and James T. Larkin, Sally and Larry Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Peter L. Malkin, Debbie and Russ Reynolds, Reba and Dave Williams and Lily Downing and David Yudain.

Grant Award Will Highlight Archival Collections



Good news came at the end of August when the Historical Society learned that it would receive funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services Museums for America program to increase visibility and access to over 45 collections and 20,000 photographs. This grant will allow us to make many important collections broadly visible and accessible to the public for the first time, providing unprecedented insight into the people and places of Greenwich. There are so many new facts and stories yet to be discovered in these historic materials. We are thrilled at the opportunity to promote these efforts by making these unique materials easier to find and explore.

www.greenwichhistory.org



A Letter from the Director

Debra Mecky



The Bush-Holley House

Big Joy, Small Celebrations: All-Inclusive site rentals available this season



Our charming, historic barn is the perfect location for our new, fully staffed all inclusive package events for up to 25 guests for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, showers, corporate meetings, or any type of small gathering (up to 4 hours). Catering is provided by Food by Design, flowers by McArdle's Florist & Garden Center. Contact Daniel Suozzo, Special Event Manager, dsuozzo@greenwichhistory.org

With the landscape awash in autumn color here in Cos Cob, we are looking forward with anticipation and all the (guarded!) optimism that the approaching holiday season brings. This year Greenwich has welcomed many new families who have left the city in search of more space, fresh air and a vibrant town to call home.

The opportunity to welcome new residents and celebrate local businesses inspired a virtual re-imagining of our annual Antiquarius events. Antiquarius recognizes local businesses the decorative arts, design and architecture with our annual House Tour, Antiques & Design Show and Holiday Boutique. This year we gather for **Antiquarius: Together at Home** with a suite of virtual and in-person experiences dedicated to the fine art of creating spaces for living, celebrating and entertaining during the holiday season.



We're thrilled to host our **annual Festival of Tabletop Trees** in our museum lobby (and online), with an outstanding group of designers, retailers and garden clubs contributing their creative gifts to

designing trees that we auction in support of our educational programming. The **Bush-Holley House**, closed since June, will reopen in December for festive afternoon weekend tours and candlelit evening tours by appointment for groups up to four.

Our friend Charles Hilton, founder of Charles Hilton Architects, is fluent in Greenwich's rich and diverse architectural heritage. His new book, *Classic Greenwich Houses*, now available in our museum store, showcases Hilton's



creativity and ingenuity in designing houses that honor tradition while seamlessly integrating state-of-the-art features and amenities essential for comfortable modern living.

With gratitude, the

Finance Committee, Treasurer and staff **bid farewell to Jingwei Li** this Fall. We offer our sincere appreciation to Jingwei, who will leave the Historical Society after 15 years of dedicated service as Finance Director. We will miss her and wish her well!

As we close out 2020, we also bid farewell to our exhibit, **An Unfinished Revolution: The Woman's Suffrage Centennial** which closes November 1. Upon its opening in February, we could not have anticipated how poignant those voices of dissent, activism and reform would become in 2020. In this historic year, the experience, wisdom and missteps of our forebears have offered fodder for reflection and encouragement to set a new path into the year ahead.

From all of us at the Greenwich Historical Society, we offer our best wishes for good health, perseverance and prosperity this holiday season.

Debra Mecky
Executive Director & CEO

Fourth Annual Harvard Case Study November 10, 2020, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom

Democracy and Women's Rights in America: The Fight over the ERA

Take part in an engaging community conversation, co-sponsored by the Greenwich League of Women Voters, that will have you step into the shoes of women's rights advocates in the early 1980s as they worked for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Why was the ERA proposed? Why was it controversial? We encourage those of all

ages in our community – from students to seniors – to join us and recommit to our democratic process through healthy debate and constructive compromise. All attending will read a short historical case in preparation for discussion. Interested in participating? Please contact Anna Greco at 203-869-6899, ext 31, or agreco@greenwichhistory.org.



Witness Stones Project

We are thrilled to announce an exciting partnership with the Witness Stones Project and three local schools.

The Witness Stones Project brings students, historic sites and the community together to become investigative historians, restoring the history and honoring the humanity of enslaved persons who helped build our community. The program culminates with a public installation of commemorative Witness Stones, bearing the names of enslaved persons who the students have studied, a sharing of research and a celebration of the lives of the persons they have come to know.



the Bush-Holley House at the turn of the 19th century. Our first two Witness Stones, honoring Cull and Candice, will be installed in the spring of 2021 on the Historic Society campus.

This year we will welcome Greenwich High School and Greenwich Academy students to the Project. Together, we will research the lives of Patience, Cull, Jr. and Hester. Their stones will be placed alongside those of Cull and Candice on our campus.

As champions of local history, it is our responsibility to bear witness to the lives and contributions of all our residents – past and present. We know we cannot tell these stories ourselves. They will come from a rich diversity of experience, voices and objects. Our interpretation will continue to evolve with new research as we strive to authentically re-create for our visitors a realistic understanding of what life was like for all members of the Bush household.

We welcome the Greenwich community to be part of this exciting new project.

Please contact Heather Lodge, hlodge@greenwichhistory.org, for more information or to take part in future Witness Stones programming.

Last fall Green Historical Society partnered with teacher Kelly Bridges and her seventh graders from Sacred Heart Academy to launch the first Witness Stones Project in Greenwich. Students visited the Bush-Holley House and our archives to participate in primary source research on the enslaved residents of the House. Our research focused on Cull and Candice, who both lived at

We Welcome New Board Members



Susan Reynolds Lehman

Susan Lehman is the founder of BigTentUSA, a nonpartisan organization of suburban women of diverse political views that aims to restore decency and good governance to Washington. She is a current board member of YWCA Greenwich, a trustee of Greenwich Academy and a past trustee of the Taft School. She has chaired a number of fundraising initiatives, including the YWCA 100th Birthday Benefit (2019), the Boys & Girls Club of Greenwich's 100th Birthday Benefit (2010) and the Greenwich Hospital Gala (2010). She is a member of the Greenwich Garden Club.



Heinz Maeusli

Heinz Maeusli was the Chief Financial Officer of Advanced Accelerator Applications from 2003 to 2018 when it was acquired by Novartis. He is now a non-executive board member of Lantheus Holdings and Inventiva Pharma. Heinz is a Swiss citizen and lived most of his life in Switzerland. He came to the USA to study at Columbia University in 1993. His fondest memory from that time is having met Kyu. They married in 2018 and now live in Old Greenwich with two children. He has served on the Greenwich Historical Society's Finance Committee since 2019, became its chair in 2020 and he will serve as our treasurer in 2020-2021.



Heather Sargent

Heather Sargent is a licensed real estate broker with Brown, Harris, Stevens in New York City. She is a trustee of Greenwich Academy, a member of the Board of Advisors of the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University and on the board of the New York City chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. She is co-chair of the upcoming Greenwich Landmarks and David Ogilvy Preservation Awards in 2021. Heather and her husband John live in Greenwich with their four children.



Angela Chambers

Angela Chambers is the Director of Talent Acquisition for the Vice Media Group and an award-winning senior news producer. She is a board member of the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra and a member of the Fundraising & Development Committee of Pathways, Inc. She is a former junior board member of Big Brothers/Sisters of New York City and a former fundraising volunteer for Community Centers, Inc. She lives in Greenwich.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

November 26, December 25, January 1

OFFICE, MUSEUM STORE AND CAFÉ

Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, noon–4:00 p.m.

MUSEUM GALLERIES

Wednesday–Sunday, noon–4:00 p.m.
by appointment

BUSH-HOLLEY HOUSE

December weekend tours 12:30 & 2:30 p.m.
or by appointment (*Members Only*)

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

By appointment

ADMISSION

\$10 adults, \$8 seniors, \$7 group rate

FREE: Youth under 18, members, active military/
Blue Star and free for all the first Wednesday of
every month.

Visit all 21 museums on the Connecticut Art Trail
for \$25. Buy a passport at the museum lobby desk
or at ctarttrail.org.

ANTIQUARIUS

DECEMBER 2-4, 2020
TOGETHER AT HOME

*Greenwich Historical Society's premier annual fundraiser celebrating design, decorative arts,
architecture and landscapes, presented in a new content-rich virtual format.*



Events & Activities

Greenwich Winter Antiques & Design Show

DECEMBER 2-6, 2020 (*Patrons early access Dec. 1*)
Presented by InCollect

Entertaining Workshop With Eddie Ross & Susan Scully

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, AT 11 A.M.
Presented by Eddie Ross

Virtual House Tours

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2020
Presented by Quintessence

Designer Panel

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, AT 1 P.M.
Moderated by DJ Carey

Virtual Holiday Boutique

NOVEMBER 27 – DECEMBER 6, 2020

Catered Dinner Party "Together at Home"

DECEMBER 4, 2020

Gingerbread House Kits

PICKUP DECEMBER 2-4, 2020

Festival of Tabletop Trees

NOVEMBER 19 – DECEMBER 6, 2020

Candlelit Evening Tours of the Bush-Holley House

DECEMBER 2-4, 2020 FROM 4-7 P.M.

Daily Inspiration Emails

DECEMBER 2-4

TICKETS ON SALE NOW
greenwichhistory.org/antiquarius