

Greenwich Historical Society

Explore our colorful past

news+programs

may | june 2017

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

Curator's Eye Tours

Wednesday and Sunday at 12:15 pm

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

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

DIRECTIONS

Off I-95 at Exit 4.

Details at www.greenwichhistory.org/visit

Landmark Recognition Program, Celebrating 30 Years of Preservation

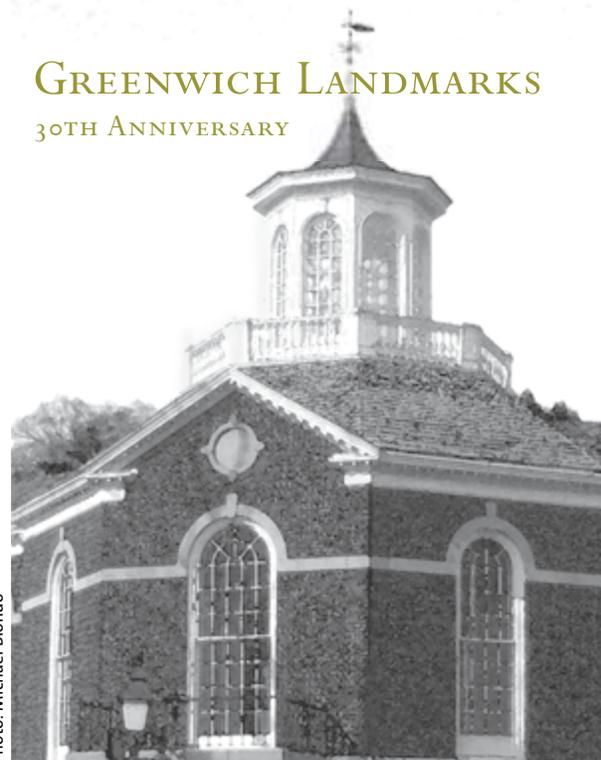
The Greenwich Historical Society has actively sought to recognize homes and other sites for their architectural or historical distinction for the past 30 years. This program, which began in 1987 as Signs of the Times, has presented plaques to over 300 structures and sites. Each property has been professionally researched, with the documents preserved in the Historical Society's Archives. These documents have proven to be popular and useful to homeowners, historians and preservationists, as well as architects, builders and real estate professionals.

Recognition as a local landmark does not restrict a property's future use in any way, but we believe that collecting and making available information about our town's architecture and history promotes pride in ownership of historic properties and encourages their preservation and/or adaptive reuse. Most important, we intend the program to draw public attention to Greenwich's remarkable architectural heritage.

Plaques will be awarded to the Edwin H. Paul House (1959), the first mid-century modern structure to be recognized; Sunridge Farm (1923 and 1929), a back-country estate; Conyers Manor Cold Storage Barn (1909), now the Brant Foundation Art Study Center; and the Perrot Memorial Library (1930). In addition, Preservation Action Awards will be presented to the Greenwich Land Trust in recognition of their restoration and adap-

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GREENWICH LANDMARKS 30TH ANNIVERSARY



tive reuse of the Louise Mueller Preserve and to Greenwich Point Conservancy for restoring the Gateway Garden and Old Barn at Greenwich Point.

David Scott Parker, architect for our newly redesigned campus, will give the keynote lecture, "Escaping the City in Style: The Architecture of 19th-Century Connecticut Innovators."

Sunday, May 7, 2017

Cocktails and Passed Hors d'Oeuvres

Reception begins at 4:00 pm.

Program from 4:45–6:00 pm.

Belle Haven Club, 100 Harbor Drive, Greenwich

Purchase tickets online at www.greenwichhistory.org or call 203-869-6899 no later than April 24, 2017.

Celebrating Jim Henson and the Art of Puppetry: An Evening with Cheryl Henson

On May 2, Cheryl Henson, second-eldest daughter of Jim and Jane Henson, will share personal reflections on the life, work and legacy of her famous father. Ms. Henson's program will offer a unique perspective on a creative family journey

Lisa (left) and Cheryl Henson pose monster puppets for their father Jim's photo shoot in their backyard in Greenwich, 1968. Photo: Jim Henson. Courtesy of the Henson family.



that, 60 years on, has morphed from an ambitious educational experiment to a worldwide enterprise that continues to push the limits of creativity and innovation. From groundbreaking *Sesame Street* to *The Muppet Movie* to *Fraggle Rock*, Jim Henson's imagination and technical genius continually fueled and expanded his characters' relatable humanity—despite the fact that many of his characters were, well, monsters. Cheryl Henson will touch on how Henson's innovations forever transformed and elevated the art of puppetry, why his work continues to delight and why his legacy is so important to the future of contemporary puppet theater.

Cheryl Henson is a member of the Board of Directors of The Jim Henson Company and has been the president of The Jim Henson Foundation since 1992. Her unique perspective on the world of puppet theater was established in childhood, when she and her four siblings served as test audience and inspiration for Jim and Jane Henson's

contributions to the development of *Sesame Street* and other educational programs, projects and experiments. From 1992 – 2000, Cheryl executive-produced the award-winning biennial Henson International Festival of Puppet Theater. The five festivals encompassed 136 different productions from 31 countries in 24 theaters throughout New York City. The festival won both Drama Desk and the OBIE Awards and is widely acknowledged to have changed the perception of contemporary American puppet theater.

Tuesday, May 2, 2017, 7:00–8:00 pm

Doors open at 6:30, and light refreshments will be served. The lecture will begin at 7:00 pm and will last roughly 45 minutes, with a 15-minute Q&A session to follow.

Vanderbilt Education Center

The Storehouse Gallery will be open from 6:00–6:45 pm, and free admission is included in the ticket price.

Members: \$10; nonmembers: \$15

CT Open House Day: Puppets to Perform “Underground”

This year's CT Open House program will feature *The Doubtful Sprout*, a performance by Liz Joyce and A Couple of Puppets. Using multiple puppetry styles, projections and songs, the story unfolds as we tunnel down through the soil with Worm and Sprout to explore the mysterious world beneath our feet and to “get the dirt” on what helps Sprout grow.

An accomplished puppeteer, fine artist and educator, Liz Joyce writes, directs and performs a growing repertoire of works for audiences of children aged 10 months to 10 years that feature her take on traditional fairy tales, folk tales, educational shows and original creations, using old-world techniques and new-world street performer attitude. Her puppet operetta, *Sing a Song of Sixpence*, was awarded a UNIMA Citation, the highest award in American puppetry. *The Doubtful Sprout* was funded in part by a Family Grant

from The Jim Henson Foundation.

CT Open House Day takes place on Saturday, June 10, 2017, noon to 4:00 pm. Admission to the entire site and to all activities is free. *The Doubtful Sprout* performance begins at 1:00 pm. (Space is limited; first-come, first-served.) Visitors will also be able to make their own puppets in the classroom throughout the day. Family-friendly tours of Bush-Holley House are scheduled for 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 pm, and the Storehouse Gallery, featuring *Jim and Jane Henson: Creative Work, Creative Play*, will be open throughout the day.

About CT Open House Day

The Connecticut Office of Tourism sponsors annual Connecticut Open House Days each June. The event is designed to showcase Connecticut's diverse world of history, art and tourism, and is a great way for residents

to discover (or rediscover) and share the wealth of cultural treasures in their own backyards.



Roll It: A Special Screening of Jim Henson's Commercials and Experiments



Jack L. Hiller © 1959

Young Jim and Jane Henson at Work

In this manic mini film fest, curator Craig Shemin will tee up and comment on a mind-blowing series of shorts, crazy commercials, experiments and other rarities from the Henson vault, including an industrial film for Wilson's Meat ("Must be seen to be believed"), excerpts from experimental TV programs *The Cube*

and *Youth 68,* and *Time Piece*, an eight-minute masterpiece that showcases Henson's talent for making music out of everyday sounds. Special attention will be devoted to work done while the Hensons lived in Greenwich, including scenes shot in town.

Craig Shemin was a staff writer for the Henson Company for 14 years and is president of The Jim Henson Legacy, a nonprofit organization devoted to preserving Henson's work. Among his credits: the script for the New York Pops concert, *Jim Henson's Musical World* (Carnegie Hall), *The Muppets Kitchen*, *The Muppets Character Encyclopedia*, the Smithsonian's touring exhibition *Jim Henson's Fantastic World*, the Museum of the Moving Image's *World of Jim Henson* series and numerous video compilations for The Jim Henson Legacy and

the Walt Disney Company.

The program will be introduced by Karen Falk, co-curator of *Jim and Jane Henson: Creative Work, Creative Play*. Falk has been archives director and historian for The Jim Henson Company since 1992 and is vice president of The Jim Henson Legacy and author of *Imagination Illustrated: The Jim Henson Journal*. Falk collaborates with numerous cultural institutions on Henson-related projects.

Thursday, June 1, 2017, 7:00–8:30 pm

Admission is free but reservations are required. RSVP to shealy@greenwichhistory.org or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 10.

The Storehouse Gallery will open one hour before the program starts.



E.T. Seton and Youth Programs Lecture by Julie A. Seton, PhD

Ernest Thompson Seton was a co-founder of the Boy Scouts of America, a naturalist, writer, advocate of First Tribes and involved with the establishment of several

organizations that emphasize nature study, camp-craft and character development. In a talk co-sponsored with the Boy Scouts of America's Greenwich Council, his granddaughter, Julie Seton, will touch on the highlights of Seton's life, focusing on his Greenwich estate, Wyndygoul, and its role in shaping these programs.

Seton grew up at Seton Castle, her grandparents' homestead in Santa Fe, NM. In 2013, she established the Seton Family Legacy Initiative to reintroduce their work through lectures on nature, art, cultural history and scouting. In 2015, she republished *Trail of an Artist-Naturalist*, her grandfather's autobiography. She has also transcribed her grandmother's personal diaries and written a compendium to her grandfather's autobiography to include chapters on the founding of the Boy Scouts, the Camp Fire Girls and the Camp Fire Club.

Seton is a communications consultant and holds degrees in communication studies, educational psychology and theater. She is an active volunteer for the Boy Scouts of America. A book signing will follow the lecture.

Sunday, June 11, 2017, 4:00 pm

Optional walking tour of the reservation, 3:00–4:00 pm

Ernest Thompson Seton Reservation

363 Riversville Road

Parking is limited; carpooling suggested.

Admission is free but reservations are required. RSVP: 203-869-6899, Ext. 10.

Alice Cooney Frelinghuysen:

The Landscape and Garden Windows of Louis Comfort Tiffany and the Woman Who Designed Them

Louis Comfort Tiffany's glass creations are renowned for drawing inspiration from nature, yet the large and carefully selected group of artists and craftspeople responsible for selecting and cutting the glass for these famous works is largely unrecognized. Frelinghuysen will talk about the work of one Agnes Northrop, the only truly independent female designer among the "Tiffany Girls," focus on how Northrop became associated with Tiffany and describe how gardens and landscapes influenced her work.

Alice Cooney Frelinghuysen, Anthony W. and Lulu C. Wang Curator of American Decorative Arts at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, has published widely and curated exhibitions on American ceramics and glass, as well as late 19th-century decorative arts. In 2009, she oversaw the curatorial team that reinstalled The American Wing's Charles Engelhard Court. A graduate of Princeton University, she earned her MA at the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture.

This lecture is part of the Art, History and Landscape Lecture Series presented in memory of David R. Wierdsma.

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Doors open at 6:30 pm with light refreshments in the classroom.

Lecture begins at 7:00 pm, will last roughly 45 minutes and be followed by a 15-minute Q&A session.

Members: \$15; nonmembers: \$20

Tickets include admission to the Storehouse Gallery, open from 6:00–6:45 pm.



Lecturer Alice Frelinghuysen

39 Strickland Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807

Save the Dates:

May 2
An Evening with Cheryl Henson

May 7
Landmark Recognition Program

May 17
Alice Frelinghuysen: *The Landscape and Garden Windows of Louis Comfort Tiffany and the Woman Who Designed Them*

June 1
Roll It

June 10
CT Open House Day

June 11
E.T. Seton and Youth Programs

June 25
Experience the Sound:
History on Wheels

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

Membership

If you have visited or passed our site lately, you've observed that there is significant activity in the backyard! But while we are under construction, there is still a lot to experience at the Historical Society. Take advantage of your membership to attend one of our upcoming programs, visit the Library and Archives, and don't miss our current exhibition, *Jim and Jane Henson: Creative Work, Creative Play*. Bring a friend and spread the word that membership has its benefits! To renew your membership or to give a gift of membership, please contact Suzanne Flinn at sflinn@greenwichhistory.org or call 203-869-6899, Ext. 14.

Visit our new blog at
greenwichhistory.org/blog
and follow us on:



events + programs

History on Wheels

As a partner in the annual Experience the Sound event, the Greenwich Historical Society will once again team up with Greenwich Point Conservancy to provide a historical bike tour of the Point. The tour will stop at four locations with historical significance to the town and the park. Participants will meet at the first parking lot on the right after entering the park. As the group loops around the Point, they will stop to hear stories, take a closer look at some of the ruins of Tod's mansion and see vintage photos from the Historical Society's collection.

Participants must bring their own bike and helmet; a water bottle is recommended.

Participants must be age eight and up,



Innis Arden, home of J. Kennedy Tod, circa 1900

and all children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Sunday, June 25, 1:00–2:15 pm

Greenwich Point, Tod's Driftway, Old Greenwich
No reservations required.

Attending the Town Party on May 27?

Visit our table from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, catch some of our videos and learn more about what's happening at the Greenwich Historical Society.



Capital Campaign Update from Chairman Peter Malkin

Dear Friends,

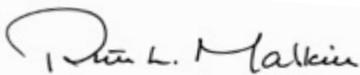
Thank you to all those who joined us at the Reimagine the Campus Campaign Construction Launch on Sunday, April 9. The leaders of our Campaign, our Honorary Chairs and Campaign Committee were well represented, and a large number of our members and the broader community joined us for what was a spirited celebration. It was wonderful to reflect on how far we have come and the growth ahead of us. We have already broken ground for our new parking lot and the main building—still ahead of schedule and under budget!

Just under \$12 million has been committed by nearly 90 private and public supporters, including an extraordinary group of individuals new to the Greenwich Historical Society family. Our \$18.5 million overall Campaign goal now includes a \$5 million endowment, and I am pleased that we have raised \$500,000 so far toward that fund.

We have more exciting news. We are in the process of launching the Vanderbilt Society, which recognizes members who demonstrate their deep commitment to the future of the Historical Society by including the Society in their estate plans and other planned gifts. Through their foresight and commitment, these individuals dedicate themselves to the long-term sustainability of the Historical Society, as well as the immediate goals of our Campaign. Eleven members have already stepped forward, and we hope that you will consider joining them. Bequests of all sizes, as well as retirement plan rollovers and gifts of art and other property, will help to ensure the optimum use of the campus that has been so gracefully designed by David Scott Parker, that our Title I school students will continue to learn about their town and its history, and that we shall welcome more members of our community to learn and be inspired by the remarkable exhibitions that are at the core of our work. To become a member of the Vanderbilt Society, please do call upon Katrina Dorsey (kdorsey@greenwichhistory.org).

We expect to open our new campus in September 2018, a year ahead of schedule. Between now and when we present the beautifully enhanced Greenwich Historical Society to our local and out-of-town visitors, the Historical Society will continue to provide its services and we shall be launching a new Corporate Giving Program for the Campaign, staging an exceptional exhibition on the Greenwich Jewish experience and continuing to raise the funds essential to meeting our goal. We have much to do, and would be delighted should you give now by visiting www.greenwichhistory.org/support.

Sincerely,



Peter Malkin, Campaign Chairman

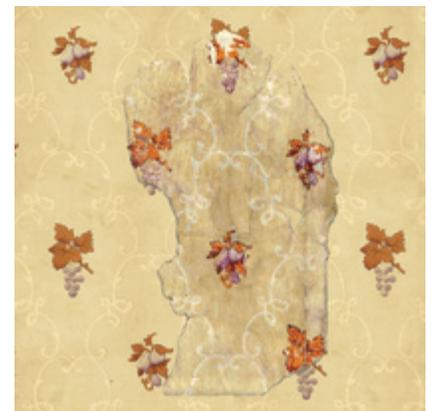


Above: Future conference room showing the reproduction wallpaper and furnishings.

Right: Wallpaper fragment and reproduction image.

Layer by Layer: More Finds in Toby's Tavern

The exciting discovery of more wallpaper fragments on the second floor of Toby's Tavern will allow the Historical Society's preservation architect, David Scott Parker, to reproduce a distinctive feature for use in the upstairs conference room. Accessed by a staircase from the Artists' Café and available for board and volunteer committee use, the light-filled space will evoke the period when the building served as a railroad hotel (1854–1935) and was part of the village waterfront scene during Cos Cob's art colony era.



What We Learned from Obadiah Mead’s Jacket

By Tyler Rudd Putnam and Karen Frederick, Curator and Exhibitions Coordinator

We often talk about our Library and Archives’ value to real estate professionals, homeowners and genealogists. Likewise, our museum collection serves more advanced scholars as well as local students who experience our collection through visits to Bush-Holley House. Recently, Tyler Rudd Putnam, a PhD candidate in the Department of History at the University of Delaware, met with curator Karen Frederick to study a jacket from our collection owned by Obadiah Mead and dated 1779. Putnam is preparing a dissertation on how Americans understood and communicated about wartime combat between the Revolutionary War and World War I and recognized that the unassuming jacket had an impressive story to tell. During his visit, he not only noted its rarity as an artifact related to wartime violence but also emphasized its importance as an example of Revolutionary War-era common work clothing. Hand-sewn from



Paul Mutino

Man’s Jacket, Collection of the Greenwich Historical Society, Linen with natural and indigo dyed threads Gift of Hervey M. Mead, 1939.05.10

repair patches.

It is rare for clothing of this era to have survived at all, and Mead’s jacket stands as a testament to the fact that Greenwich, sitting as it does on the border between New York and Connecticut, was a very dangerous place to live during the American Revolution. In 1779, its owner, Obadiah Mead (b. 1759), was 20 years old and engaged to Charity Mead. He was the only son of Benjamin and Martha Ferris Mead, whose home was located at the corner of Orchard and Bible streets.

The story of the jacket is recounted in an 1895 newspaper article on the Hyde family reunion written by Arthur P. Stanley Hyde: “During the Revolutionary War, when the ‘Cowboys’ and the ‘Tories,’ who were neighbors for and against the war, had their encounters, and when the British were continually making raids upon the farms from their ships in the Sound, a raid was made upon this [Benjamin Mead’s] homestead. The son, Obadiah, hid himself in a neighbor’s barn, standing just south of the southeast orchard. Some one of the Tory neighbors, knowing the fact, informed the redcoats who surrounded the barn, threatening to set fire to it

and smoke him out. To escape their clutches, he ran from the barn across the orchard to jump down the rocks to Dyspepsia Lane. He was followed, however, by the soldiers. Obadiah, seeing the impossibility of escaping, surrendered. He was then at once shot, the ball passing through his left arm and entering his side, killing him instantly. . . . After killing the only son, the miscreants entered the house, demanding of the mother to know where her husband was hidden, as they wanted to do the same to him. They then cut the hopples from the horse that was grazing near by, killing all the geese, and went off, taking horse and geese with them.”

Obadiah Mead’s jacket was preserved by the family until it was donated to the Greenwich Historical Society in 1939. For Mr. Putnam, the chance to measure and pattern Mead’s jacket was an exceptional opportunity to closely examine a unique piece of American material culture. For the Historical Society, his research underscored the humble jacket’s important place in Greenwich history and its connection to the broader story of America’s war for independence.

Image showing bullet holes on left sleeve and chest.



Tyler Rudd Putnam

Image of the inside single “welt”-style pocket.

striped linen and carefully pieced together to conserve fabric, it is lightweight, suitable for Connecticut summers and features a single “welt”-style pocket on the right side. It was worn enough to necessitate several



Tyler Rudd Putnam