

CHEQUAQUET LOG



The Newsletter of the Centerville Historical Museum

www.centervillehistoricalmuseum.org

SPECIAL EVENTS - SUMMER 2008

EXHIBITS

- Hell-Bent for the White House
- Suffrage Movement 1836-1920
- Marine Painter William Muller
- Dick Warren & Four Seas Ice Cream
- American Folk Art

August

- Aug 8 -- Lecture by Ed Sullivan, *Political Folk Art*, 7PM
- Aug 9 -- 3rd Annual Yard Sale, 9-3PM, and Main Street Walking Tour, 10AM and 11:30AM
- Aug 14 -- Beaded Bracelet Workshop, Karyn Bovino, 1-4PM
- Aug 20 -- Lecture by Ed Sullivan, *Votes for Women*, 7PM
- Aug 22 -- Opening, American Folk Art Exhibit, 5PM
- Aug 23 -- Knitting Side-to-Side with Donna O'Hearn, 1-4PM

September

- Sept 3 -- Lecture by Ed Sullivan, *200 Years of the Presidency*
- Sept 10 -- Luncheon Artist Talk with William Muller, 12PM

October

- Oct 1 -- Annual Golf Tournament
- Oct 17 -- Opening, Artists Inspired by Centerville History, 5PM

A LOT ON HER PLATE

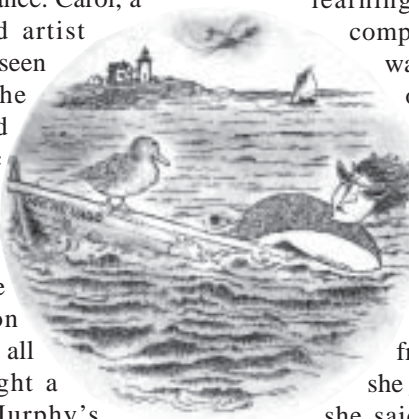
There's nothing more tantalizing than being invited into an artist's secret life. Those of us who attended the luncheon and gallery talk of Carol Lummus on June 18th were given just that chance. Carol, a celebrated Cape Cod artist whose etchings can be seen (and purchased) at the Museum, offered technical and artistic insights, from the methods used to achieve her richly complex effects to the sources of inspiration behind her witty titles, all served up with as light a touch as GeeGee Murphy's delicious lunch.

That Carol loves what she does was clear from the start. "You're either a line or a pattern person," she said, quoting John Updike. "I'm a line person." She certainly is, but her lines become wonderful patterns and textures, blended and overlaid. She embraces experiment. While art school prepared her for other types of media, she taught herself etching and printmaking. Nonetheless, that background is an invaluable asset for everything she does.

We were lead into her world without hesitation, passing around etched copper plates, some cut in odd shapes to accommodate her original concepts, learning about the process, comparing print to plate and watching as she rubbed color onto the plate with her fingers and explained that this guarantees each print is unique. Potential etchers in the audience, and there were several, were encouraged to take a can-do attitude from day one. Asked where she gets the ideas for her titles, she said "each one is unique."

Sometimes they just arrive out of the blue. Other times she plays with a saying or tag line to surprise expectations or undercut a cliché. Many, like *The Duck and Duchess of York Beach* (above) or *The Senior Prom of Life* (a wedding scene), combine irreverence with wit. But if you're seeking her sources, "I just love words," is as close as you'll get. As with so much about Carol, it sounds simple but opens the door to more doors. Like inspiration - an excellent thing in an artist!

Marjorie Wright



The Next Luncheon and Gallery Talk

Wednesday, September 10th by marine artist, William G. Muller, whose work is currently on exhibit in the museum's Maritime Gallery. An advisor to the National Maritime Historical Society, Bill's art work is widely recognized for its scholarship, sensitivity and historical accuracy. From his childhood spent on the Hudson watching majestic old sidewheel steamers ply the river to his youthful summers as a quartermaster-pilot on the Alexander Hamilton, his first hand experience and knowledge informs his art. His detailed scenes of historical vessels includes the transatlantic liners of the great steamship era.

Reservations by September 2nd. \$15 member; \$19 nonmember.



President's Corner

Centerville's Craigville Historic District

Craigville Beach may be almost as famous as Four Seas Ice Cream. After all, in 1921, a New York newspaper named it one of the four best beaches in the world! But tucked into the southeast corner of Centerville is a fascinating area many people don't even know exists — the Craigville Historic District.



Along with the Centerville Historic District, focused on Main Street, Craigville is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

This remarkable area includes not only the well-known beach but an extraordinary enclave of late 19th and early 20th century buildings and small cottages, including 26 that are considered historic.

The vision behind the development of this area belonged to Dr. J. Austin Craig, a prominent clergyman. In 1871, Dr. Craig convinced the New England Convention of Christian Churches of the need for a place where "the individual's spirit would be revitalized, mind challenged and body refreshed." The next year, the Christian Camp Meeting Association was formed, and a 10-day camp meeting was held at the new Camp Christian. In 1882, Dr. Craig died, and the area between Centerville and West Hyannisport, including Camp Christian, was named in his honor.

The location chosen for the camp was a 160-acre tract, part of Perry Farm, also known as Strawberry Hill. Situated on a bluff overlooking Nantucket Sound, with the Centerville River to the west and Lake Elizabeth and Red Lilly Pond

on the east, it served as a spectacular spot for a retreat from everyday life. Families were able to buy or lease the 288 small lots, with clergy getting theirs free. They initially erected tents or built small shelters, and as time and means allowed, small cottages were constructed. In 1887, the present

Tabernacle, a somewhat austere structure, was built to replace the tent that had previously served as a place of assembly and worship.

Today, the area is densely developed, with many cottages occupied year round. Until 1998, Craigville had its own post office, and the structure still occupies a prominent position in the center of the community. Alpha House

(left), with its Victorian Gothic embellishments, is comparable to the Gingerbread Cottages of Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard, which also had its origins as a summer campground for religious retreats.

Activities are no longer confined to the summer season. Craigville attracts a variety of visitors, both religious and secular, to its Conference Center throughout the year, one being the Cape Cod Writers' Center's annual workshop. The Conference Center is owned by the Christian Camp Meeting Association and managed by the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ.

To walk through Camp Christian is to visit a unique environment. If you plan

to explore, walking is encouraged. Park at the Covell's Beach parking lot, and stroll up Lake Elizabeth Drive. For more information on Craigville, pick up a copy the interesting book "Images of America: Centerville" available at the museum's Gift Shop.

Ralph Tolbert



Dr. Ed Sullivan Tells All in the Lecture Series: Hell-Bent for the White House



Don't miss two upcoming lectures by Political Americana exhibit curator, Dr. Edmund Sullivan. Retired Professor of American Political History and former curator of the Museum of American Political Life, University of Hartford, CT, Dr. Sullivan says, "the *Political Folk Art* lecture (August 8th at 7pm) will feature sophisticated and generally humorous depictions of presidents by amateur artists in all kinds of media: textiles, pottery, metal, puppets and more." His second lecture *Votes for Women* (August 20th at 7pm) will celebrate some of the extraordinary women who lead the drive for the vote, from 1830 to its acceptance in 1920.

OUR MUSEUM'S WISH LIST

Please consider donating these items or a contribution for the following:

- ~~Digital recorder~~ thank you Christopher Babcock
- ~~Cordless drill~~ thank you Paul & Joyce Caniff
- ~~Jeweler's loop~~ thank you Rita Kane
- ~~Magnifying glass~~ thank you Donna O'Hearn

Flat screen computer monitor

\$275 for an outside Kiosk

\$1500 for a new museum sign

Items needed for our annual Tea Events

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Sturdy card tables | china creamer/sugar bowls |
| 10" china plates | white cloth napkins |
| 4-cup china teapots | white large table cloths |

Museum Workshops

Caterpillar Bracelet Workshop

Thursday, August 14th 1-4 PM
by Karyn Bovino

\$25 members, \$30 nonmembers
\$15 materials fee, paid to the instructor.
(Registration Deadline, Aug 7th)

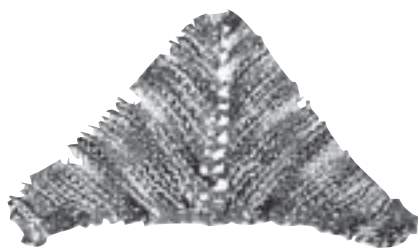


Try your hand at *beading* and complete this simple bracelet in an afternoon! We will make our bracelet using stone chips and seed beads. Several ideas for adapting the design to different seasons and occasions will be presented. (Don't throw away that old costume jewelry yet!) This is an ideal project to do with your "tweenager".

Side-to-Side Knitted Shawl

Saturday, August 23 1-4PM
by Donna O'Hearn

\$25 members, \$30 nonmembers
\$20 materials fee, paid to the instructor.
(Registration Deadline, Aug 12th)



Knit a simple unusual shawl from side to side (point to point). With easy increases, decreases, and "short rows," this versatile pattern can be utilized with any multicolor yarns to produce a beautiful diagonal, reverse V-shaped pattern. In class you will knit a small 'doll sized' version to familiarize you with the technique, then create a life-size shawl for yourself or as a gift.

Call 508-775-0331 for registration form

The Gardner Museum and Dodge McKnight

What in the world could the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston have in common with the Centerville Historical Museum?

The Gardner Museum was established by Mrs. Jack Gardner, a wealthy and audacious patron of the arts, specifically to house the works she and her advisor, Bernard Berenson, had assembled from around the world. Her determination to possess the best is obvious in the art she acquired and in the magnificent building she built in the new Fenway area to house her collection. The Gardner Museum was meant to impress, even dazzle, its visitors.

The Centerville Historical Museum was cobbled together from a modest mid-19th century Greek Revival house on Main Street and additions from the 1960s and 1970s. Its founders were village residents, both year-round and summer folks. They felt that the past, whether artistic and grand or ordinary and every-day, should be passed down and preserved.

Much of the CHM collection arrived when the executors of Charles Lincoln Ayling's estate determined that the Cape Cod Museum of History and Art that he envisioned in his will for his South Main Street mansion was not feasible. Ayling's collection was given to the CHM, along with funds to construct the Ayling Wing of the museum.

So, the origins of the two museums could not have been more different. What could they have in common? One thing, for certain: Dodge McKnight.

McKnight (1860-1950), a Providence-born artist who specialized in watercolors and pastels, is in the collection of both museums. McKnight painted primarily in Boston, and his work was avidly collected by early 20th century patrons.

At the Gardner, the only gallery named for an individual artist is the McKnight Room, which contains several of Dodge McKnight's watercolors, along with paintings of John Singer Sargent, James McNeil Whistler and others.

At the CHM, we have a total of 16 paintings by Dodge McKnight, all of which are from the collection of Charles Lincoln Ayling.

Is it coincidence that paintings of Dodge McKnight figure prominently in the collections of both Isabella Stewart Gardner and Charles Lincoln Ayling?

Although Mr. Ayling was a Centerville native and lived his retirement years here, he spent much of his career in Boston, where he was a highly successful businessman, including 45 years as director of the John Hancock Life Insurance Company. It's likely that Mr. Ayling (1875-1970) and Ms. Gardner (1840-1924) were acquainted. It's possible that Mr. Ayling became familiar with McKnight's work through Ms. Gardner and thereafter began collecting McKnight's work. Or, it's possible that in the social world of Boston, in which artists in fashion mingled with wealthy patrons, both Ms. Gardner and Mr. Ayling were attracted to McKnight and his bold, vigorous creations.

On May 21, the Centerville Museum sponsored a bus trip to the Gardner Museum in Boston. Over 50 art lovers partook of this opportunity to visit one of Boston's truly special places.

Ralph Tolbert



Volunteers: Our Greatest Resource

Meet Marjorie Wright, a relatively new member of Team-CHM, who has taken on the responsibility of publicity. Last year she started this challenging job and came back again this year with even greater energy and gusto. Thank you, Marjorie. She is one of the *many great resources* that make this a thriving museum.



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YARD SALE... YARD SALE... YARD SALE
Saturday, August 9, 9AM to 3PM

It is time once again to donate your oldies but goodies. We will turn these into cold, hard cash to help pay our electric bills. You provide the goodies, people buy them, the museum keeps the money. Win-win for everyone. Your past donations have been greatly appreciated, but once again please look for items in the attic, the basement, the garage, and the drawers.

Suggestions: Christmas and other season decorations that you will no longer use; video tapes, old music tapes, and CDs; paintings and art hiding behind doors; unused garden and workshop tools; jewelry and linens.

Ask your friends and neighbors to helpout; and if you have a transportation problem, call the museum and we will lend a hand. ALSO, don't forget to come to the sale and find new goodies for yourself.

TWO CAVEATS: One, please, item in good condition only. Two, if you are donating a Steinway concert piano, do let us know sufficiently in advance so we can make the proper arrangements for moving it. Our museum can use the items you no longer need. Thank you so very much!

**2008
Annual Golf Tournament
Fundraiser**

**Oyster Harbors Club
October 1, 2008**

**18 holes of golf
Tournament Prizes & Awards
Gala Dinner, Raffle & Auction**

**COME SUPPORT THE
MUSEUM
Play in our tournament
and/or
come enjoy a delicious dinner.
Either way you help!**

*Golf: 12:30, shot-gun start
Dinner: 5:30, informal attire*

**(508) 775-0331 for information
or registration forms**