

UNDER THE ARCHES

ANNUAL REPORT EDITION HILL-STEAD MUSEUM

hope you enjoy this vibrant newsletter, highlighting the unique programs and exhibitions found #onlyathillstead. This special place has been making great strides to engage new faces and voices through thoughtful community partnerships, enhanced outreach to underserved students, and programs like the Sunken Garden Poetry Festival, attracting an incredibly diverse line-up of nationally lauded authors to Farmington for live performances throughout the summer. Hill-Stead Museum prides itself in being an inclusive space, and our programming provides opportunities to bring people together, no matter their backgrounds, and foster an environment which involves, engages and empowers individuals by honoring what makes them different. Whenever you visit Hill-Stead, age, gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, education, and national origin will always be respected.

You will notice on these pages that the generosity of many allows the museum to remain one of Connecticut's most beloved cultural treasures. Our 2017 Annual Report begins on page six, and recognizes the members, donors and volunteers who help ensure this National Historic Landmark can remain a welcoming place for learning, reflection and enjoyment.

As always, I look forward to seeing you soon and often!



Susan Ballek, Executive Director & CEO









PROGRAMS MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU

MAY MARKET FOR GENERATIONS

It was a May Market for the record books with our most robust crowd in recorded history and scores of positive reviews from surveyed attendees. There was truly something for



everyone at this year's event including plantings and programs for gardeners, unique shopping finds for treasure hunters, gourmet tastings for foodies, and family activities for the little ones. Presented by Simsbury Bank, this year's May Market brought a whole new crop of visitors to Hill-Stead while continuing to delight the generations of families who return every year.

A WEE BIT OF IRELAND

The Sunken Garden Poetry
Festival presented celebrated
Irish poets along with a
bit of Irish weather on
its opening night in May.
Hundreds of grateful
guests gathered under the
grand tent for an exciting
program of live Irish music,
step dancing and poetry
performances. Hill-Stead
welcomed numerous new



faces to the museum who were enchanted by the historic home and its 152 acres of natural beauty. For a complete listing of upcoming Poetry events or to join the Live Poets Society, visit hillstead.org.

A DECORATIVE PAIRING

Hill-Stead's Decorative Arts Study Group recently partnered with The Decorative Arts Council of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art to present *Money*, *Beauty*,



Power: The Transformation of Taste in America's Gilded Age. This lecture was given by Ulysses Grant Dietz, who has been the Curator of Decorative Arts at the Newark Museum since 1980, Chief Curator since 2012, and is currently serving as Interim Co-Director. To join the DASG and discover intriguing events like this, visit hillstead.org/join-support-us.

DANCE AND DEGAS

For one weekend each spring, Albano Ballet transforms the Makeshift Theater into a whimsical performance space for *The Ballet* Ball on Saturday



evening and Pink Party on Sunday afternoon. *The Ballet Ball* attracted a standing-room only crowd of the fabulously-dressed who enjoyed live dance performances and ballroom lessons. Dozens of families donned their favorite pink outfits at Pink Party to view Albano Ballet performances and to partake in Degasthemed activities.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

A message from Lauren Miller

My name is Lauren Miller and I am the Director of Community Engagement—a newly-designed position at the museum. My mission is to build community ownership, relationships, participation and support for the museum. I was attracted to Hill-Stead because of its dynamic board, dozens of dedicated



volunteers and nimble staff working as a team—not to mention the exquisite art, furnishings, sweeping landscape and gardens!

I believe community engagement is the foundation for long-term sustainability in the nonprofit world. True engagement focuses on ways that Hill-Stead can fulfill needs in the community, which in turn allows our neighbors and visitors to feel that they are a part of our mission, part of our family. So how do we make people feel at home at Hill-Stead? There are three areas of focus: educational programs, community activities and organizational partnerships.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Right now, "field trip season" is in full swing! Hill-Stead fulfills the educational needs of students with specialized school tours addressing art, history, architecture, poetry and more. In the coming months, our Education Committee will examine ways to expand and enrich our programs so we can offer the very best learning experiences for all. We are actively exploring some adult-learning programs as well, hoping to build on the successes of past art and discussion sessions.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Community Activities are designed to support audience development, raise the museum's profile, identify potential donors and volunteers, and to foster goodwill in the eyes of the public. We have offered a Valentines Day Toast and Tour, April's Rooms in Bloom, and we are already planning for October's Hay Day. In addition, we are exploring new possibilities with the Town of Farmington and are working with a team from UConn Health to expand on the great programs offered at our inaugural Wellness Weekend this past March. We are always finding new ways to make Hill-Stead a vital part of our communities.

ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are the deepest form of engagement, where groups commit resources over time to serve their respective missions. Most recently, we have benefited from such relationships with Hartford Public Library, UConn Health, HGLHC, New Horizons Village and Goodspeed Musicals. We look forward to reporting on new and expanded partnerships in the coming months!



DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH

Once again, Hill-Stead's Benefit Dinner Auction was the place to be seen for one of the area's finest live and silent benefit dinner auctions. Alongside the fabulous food, wine and outstanding company were extraordinary works of art, jewelry, fine wines and unique vacations up for bid. This year's dinner auction pleased the palate while delighting the art enthusiast and adventurist in us all. Some of the auction highlights included an original painting by Emily Buchanan, a wine-tasting dinner at Hill-Stead and a foursome at Shelter Harbor. Enjoy these scenes from the May 24th event:









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VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

You love May Market, Poetry in the Sunken Garden, Hay Day, the Benefit Dinner Auction and memorable house tours. Did you know that it takes hundreds of dedicated volunteers working behind-the-scenes year-round to prepare and execute each of Hill-Stead's beloved programs? Ask Michele LaBonte (labontem@hillstead.org) how you can become a volunteer. Here are some of the ways you can get involved:

MUSEUM GUIDES

The museum's volunteer Guide Program begins with a 6-week training course combined with independent study. Museum Guides study the museum's collection, including Theodate Pope Riddle's diary, various letters and correspondence, gallery



receipts and much more. Ultimately, Museum Guides lead tours and introduce thousands of visitors annually to Hill-Stead's unique collection and story.

GARDEN GANG

The Beatrix
Farrand-designed
Sunken Garden is a
popular destination
during the warmer
months. Site of
weddings, private
events and public
programs, this



Connecticut Historic Garden requires three seasons of maintenance completed by a dedicated corps of volunteer and Master Gardeners who enjoy keeping the garden looking its best year-round.

MAY MARKET

The Hill-Steaders present May Market, which attracts over 2,000 visitors to Hill-Stead to celebrate spring and gardening, plus do some Mother's Day shopping. It is a major



benefit event for the museum that requires a full year of planning from several different committees. Inquire about joining The Hill-Steaders and learning about the many ways they support the museum.

SUNKEN GARDEN POETRY FESTIVAL

Speaking of gardens . . . the Poetry Festival fills the Sunken Garden with live music, unforgettable poetry performances and several thousand poetry lovers throughout the season. The planning and orchestration of this festival requires guidance from a dedicated Poetry Advisory Committee, comprised of writers, university professors and literary publishers. Festival volunteers are also needed throughout the summer season.

DINNER AUCTION

The Dinner Auction is the Museum's largest benefit event for which planning begins several months in advance. Generous volunteers donate their time, talents and auction items—some of which cause quite the bidding frenzy!

COLLECTIONS

DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH: GOLFING AT HILL-STEAD

When Theodate Pope designed Hill-Stead as a country estate for her parents, she included a six-hole golf course on the property. *Diamonds in the Rough: Golfing at Hill-Stead* will explore the game of golf as it was played at the turn of the 20th century and enjoyed by the Pope family. Visitors will view vintage golf equipment, clothing, art and memorabilia on loan from the United States Golf Association Museum, Connecticut Historical Society, Fairfield Museum & History Center and private collectors. They will learn about the private six-hole course that once existed at Hill-Stead, hear the "voice" of Alfred Pope present a fictionalized first-person account of golf based on primary documents from Hill-Stead's archives and take a turn on the period putting greens created for this engaging new exhibition.

In the 1980s and 1990s, Hill-Stead's archivists worked to extract direct quotes by Alfred and Theodate Pope related to the game of golf from letters and diaries and identified 25 photographs that depict golf being played at Hill-Stead and other locales. One of the exhibition volunteers, golf course archaeologist and golf historian,

Anthony Pioppi of Middletown, Connecticut, provided information and background that lead to a clearer understanding of the game as it was played on Hill-Stead's course in the early 1900s and placed the Pope's personal course in context with private courses affiliated with membership-based clubs, such as the Country Club of Farmington and Hartford Golf Club, and public courses such as that at Hartford's Goodwin Park.

Concurrently, thanks to a recent photo digitization project unrelated to the exhibition, but fortuitously timed—new information came to light through high-resolution imagery. The best finds were the definitive location of an additional tee and green, Alfred's use of the ubiquitous heart-shaped tee marker, and identification of Theodate swinging a golf club! The previouslyunidentified location of Theodate's play was confirmed as the famed Poland Spring golf resort, in Poland Spring, Maine, due to the iconic Poland Spring House in the background. A detailed chronology of the Pope family's doings shows them vacationing at Poland Spring in August 1900, as Hill-Stead was in the construction phase. Some information is still lacking such as how long was Alfred's course in use and who designed it. Arthur Fenn of Waterbury, Connecticut, is known to have designed an early course layout at the Country Club of Farmington and served as golf pro at Poland Spring. One of the recently digitized photos, taken by Theodate, shows Arthur Fenn with a member of the Pope's party. Records in the Poland Spring Museum corroborate that the Popes met and conversed with Fenn while they were both in-residence. It is a tantalizing possibility to wonder if perhaps Fenn made contributions to Alfred's course. So far, no documentation has surfaced one way or the other.





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HILL-STEAD ALSO WISHES TO THANK THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR SUPPORT:

Institute of Museum and Library Services National Endowment for the Arts State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Arts Endowment Funding





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IN KIND GIFTS

4 Eat + Drink

A.C. Petersen Farms Restaurant

Mrs. Margaret and Dr. Arnold Amstutz

Anchor Inn

The Artful Framer

Arthur Murray Dance Studios

a'vert Brasserie

Avery Beverages

Avon Old Farms Hotel

Avon Prime Meats

Avon Valley Show Stables

Susan Ballek and Imanol Echeverria

Barcelona

The Bee's Knees Catering

Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Berkshire Mountain Distillers Besito Mexican Restaurant

bin 228

Bob DeGemmis' Connecticut Custom

Clothing Company Boston Red Sox Bradford Portraits

BrickTops

Brooks Brothers

Butchers & Bakers

Bunny Williams Inc

Cake Gypsy Cape Cod Fence

Carolann Dvorak Art and Design Studios

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Hall's Market William G. Hanson Harbor Candy Shop Hartford Stage

Hartford Symphony Orchestra

Hartford Yard Goats Nina Mayhall Hayes Heather and Michael Hazel Barbara and Gerald Hess Hickory Ledges Farm Home Restaurant Hopmeadow Country Club

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Le Petit Studio
Lime Rock Park
Litchfield Distillery
Lobster Pot Restaurant
Long Wharf Theatre
Tamara and John Lundgren

Lux Bond & Green

Rebecca and Stephen Madsen Mainstream Canoe & Kayak Marketplace Kitchen & Bar

The Mark Twain House and Museum

McKinnon's Irish Pub Millwrights

Mitchell Auto Group Monarch Jewelers

The Mount, Edith Wharton's Home

Munson's Chocolates Peter W. Murphy Muse Paint Bar

New Britain Museum of American Art New Haven Symphony Orchestra

Newport Art Museum

Norfolk Chamber Music Festival Elizabeth J. Normen and Paul H. Eddy Mary Anne* and David Odegard

Ogunquit Playhouse

Lynne M. O'Hara and Michael Cefole O'Live a Little Specialty Gourmet Shoppes at

Farmington Valley Omni New Haven Hotel Susan and Greg Orred

Orvis Avon Panera Bread Peel Liqueur The Perfect Toy Permatex Chris Perry

Plan B Burger Bar (Simsbury)

Playhouse on Park Peri and John Pogson

The Preservation Society of Newport

Provincetown Theater

Brie P. Quinby and Evan R. Cowles Raffaelle Ruberto Skincare Remember When Restaurant

RJ Julia Booksellers

Roosters Men's Grooming Center Russell Speeder's Car Wash Russell's Creative Global Cuisine Mrs. Patricia and Dr. Andrew L. Salner

Salute

Saybrook Point Inn & Spa Sea Mist Thimble Islands Cruise

Serenity Skin Care Shady Glen, Inc.

Shakespeare & Company

Mark Shaw Pat and Jeff* Shaw Shredneck LLC Shubert Theater Katherine Simmons The Simsbury Inn
Sit Stay Forever
Smathers & Branson
Garrett G. Snider
Martha M. Snider
SOMA Movement Studio
Spoiled Rotten Boutique
Stanley Black & Decker

David Strong and Frank McLane Sub-Edge Farm Tanglewood Taste of New Haven Ted's Montana Grill TheaterWorks Lavell Thompson

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William Benton Museum of Art Yale Center for British Art Yale Repertory Theatre Zinc New Haven

Nancy and David K. Zwiener

*deceased

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HSM Museum Guides tour Avon Old Farms School.

SCHOOLS SERVED

PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Granby

Groton

Hartford

Litchfield

Manchester

New Britain

South Windsor

Putnam Simsbury

Tolland

Vernon

Torrington

Washington

West Hartford

Westport Wethersfield Avon Wolcott Woodbridge

Berlin Bristol Burlington PRIVATE, MAGNET & HOME SCHOOLS Canton

ACT Arts Magnet High School Colchester Ana Grace Academy Deep River Avon Old Farms School Durham

Breakthrough Magnet High School East Hartford

Cheshire Academy East Windsor The Ethel Walker School Farmington

Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts

Home School Groups Loomis Chaffee Miss Porter's School Mooreland School

Northwest Catholic High School

Renzulli Academy

COLLEGES/HIGHER EDUCATION

Central Connecticut State University

Post University

Tunxis Community College

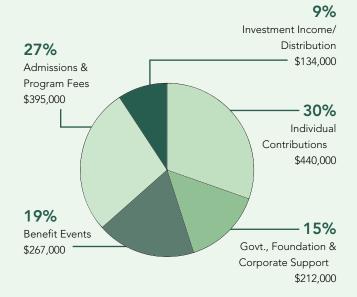
UConn UConn Health



2017 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

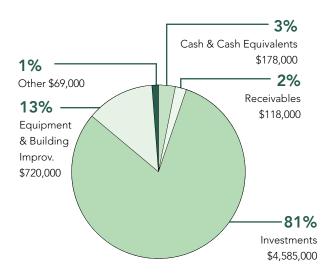
OPERATING REVENUES

\$1,448,000

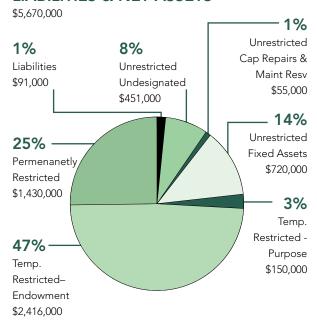


ASSETS

\$5,670,000

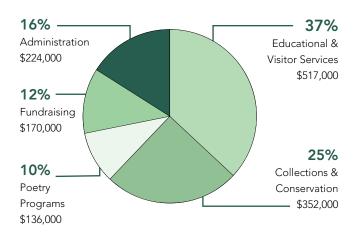


LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS



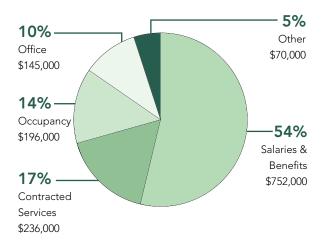
OPERATING EXPENSES BY FUNCTION

\$1,399,000



OPERATING EXPENSES BY TYPE

\$1,399,000



REQUESTS FROM COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

NUMEROUS REQUESTS FOR COLLECTION AND ARCHIVE IMAGES WERE RECEIVED:

The Absinthe Drinker Édouard Manet, ca. 1875 Juliet Wilson-Bareau & Susan Tallman Manet's Absinthe Drinker Art in Print and artinprint.org Published January 2018

Portrait of Mary Cassatt
Theodate Pope, ca. 1903-05
Monet to Matisse: A Century of French Moderns
Exhibition catalogue
McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, TX
Published March 1, 2017 to June 4, 2017

Portrait of Mary Cassatt
Theodate Pope, ca. 1903-05
Her Paris: Women Artists in the Age of Impressionism
Exhibition catalogue
Denver Arty Museum
Published October 22, 2017 through January 14, 2018

Portrait of Mary Cassatt
Theodate Pope, ca. 1903-05
Mary Cassatt, an American Impressionist in Paris
Mercatorfonds, Publisher of Art Books
Published January 2018

The Tub

Edgar Degas, 1886

Dr. Patricia Rubin (Institute of Fine Arts, New York University)

Seen from Behind: Perspectives on the Male Body and Renaissance Art

Published Yale University Press, 2018

GIFTS TO ARCHIVES/AND THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS COLLECTION:

Materials related to Allen B. Cook, former farm manager at Hill-Stead, 1902-14: glass plate negatives and mounted photographs showing exterior views of Hill-Stead; two copies of Cook's 1899-1906 Records of the Tree Moving at Hill-Stead, Farmington, Conn. Details include variety of tree, height, diameter, canopy spread, original location and where it was moved to,



nature of the soil at new location, cost of tree (if purchased). Cook frequently updated his notes with condition of trees at subsequent dates. Hand-written note cards update the records for 1907-1910; typescripts of talks on farm management-related topics, postcards and memorabilia; and the 500 pound Vulcan Safe & Lock Co. safe, personalized with "Allen B. Cook" stenciled on the front, presumably located inside the farmhouse, where he kept farm workers payroll. The safe is part of the Board of Governors Collection and all other items are catalogued as HSM Archives Collection.

RESEARCH REQUESTS:

Collections:

Ellen Emmett Rand and Leslie Emmett

James A. McNeill Whistler

William Nicholson

Degas-designed painting frames

General collections management practices (Two local nonprofits, a church and Heublein Tower)

Archives:

Brass door hardware (ER Butler, Co., NYC)
Cass Gilbert, Architect
TPR poetry: Avon Old Farms
Local Farmington history/people/genealogy
Beatrix Farrand and Theodate
TPR's worker housing (Garden St.) in Farmington
Founder of CT Humane Society (charter members
were Friends of HSM)
Autochrome photography
The Fortnightly Club, NYC (TPR was a member ca. 1914-15)



n celebration of Hill-Stead's 70th year, furnishings in the Drawing Room and Ell were reupholstered for the first time since Theodate was in residence. The newly refreshed rooms, due for completion in summer 2018, sport

the mix of patterns and textures favored by the Pope's, as evidenced by archival photographs and written description in household inventories. The varied fabric scheme was utilized over several family-reupholstering jobs for the majority of decades that Hill-Stead was the Pope's home, until the vogue of the 1940s for a unified look utilizing one single fabric was adopted by Theodate in her last re-do of the spaces. Stock fabrics, rather than cost-prohibitive custom weaves, in warm rosy-pink tones similar to those first selected by Mrs. Pope, and matched as closely as possible to patterns and scale visible in photographs from the archives, now

"It is very good of you to leave the selection to me, but it is a great responsibility. I have thought it over for two days and have come to the conclusion that we could not possibly regret the choice of the velvet with the square, and we might easily regret using this other material, because . . . it feels just like the covering of the seats on a railway train."

— January 5, 1918, Theodate Pope Riddle in a letter to her mother, Ada Brooks Pope

impart a new vibrancy to the rooms and enhance the Impressionist paintings. Recent and ongoing improvements to light control should give this project a lifespan that will last well into the middle of the 21st century.











UPCOMING EVENTS

HILLSTEAD.ORG FOR DETAILS AND REGISTRATION

JUNE

- 12 Casual Croquet with the Impressionists Council
- 14 Hill-Stead Museum's Annual Meeting
- 14 Special Exhibition Opening Reception-Diamonds in the Rough: Golfing at Hill-Stead
- 20 Poetry Writing Workshop with Molly Brown
- 20 Sunken Garden Poetry Festival: Margaret Gibson & Molly Brown
- 22 New Member Tour
- 27 Storytime @Theo's
- 29 Arts & Leisure VIP Tour: The Art Education of Alfred Pope

JULY

- 1 First Sunday Estate Walk
- 2 Lunch, Listen & Learn
- 11 Poetry Writing Workshop with U.S. Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith
- 11 Sunken Garden Poetry Festival: U.S. Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith
- 17 Casual Croquet with the Impressionists Council
- 19 Sip and Swing: Period Cocktails on the Putting Greens
- 22 Storytime @Theo's
- 25 Poetry Writing Workshop with Javier Zamora
- 25 Sunken Garden Poetry Festival: Solmaz Sharif & Javier Zamora

AUGUST

- 5 First Sunday Estate Tour
- 5 Sunken Garden Poetry Festival: Andrea Gibson & Fresh Voices Student Winners
- 6 Lunch, Listen & Learn
- 14 Casual Croquet with the Impressionists Council
- 28 Casual Croquet Championship
- 29 Storytime @Theo's

DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH GOLFING AT HILL-STEAD

June 14 - October 7 • TICKETS at hillstead.org