



Winter 2018

Utopian

The Museum's Year in Numbers

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2017 was quite a year for the Museum! Following a flood at the Museum house in the fall of 2016, we were able to reopen on June 4, 2017. The Museum also experienced several staff changes. Despite our challenges, however, we continued to offer lectures, programs, walking tours and were also able to assist researchers, welcome camp kids, and much more. On this page, we would like to share some of our accomplishments!



Museum Reopening 6/24/17



BBC RADIO 4
2 Reporters visited from BBC4 Radio

TOURS
380 Sunday Visitors
595 Walking Tour participants including 252 camp kids
2000+ Exhibit Visitors

Groups came from: University of Maryland, Penn State, the Fairfax Rec Dept., homeschoolers, Pioneer families, Anne Arundel Community College, honeymooners, & more. Individuals included: Valerie Tripp (American Girl Dolls) and Jennifer Miner, a professor from Cornell Univ.



In theory, spring is nearly here! Stop by the Museum house to see our new display of seasonal artifacts, which celebrate Easter and Passover! The Museum has many examples of Depression glass, as pictured in the photo above. Did you grow up in Greenbelt in the '40s or '50s? What do you remember about celebrating spring holidays? Have any photographs? Send memories to director@greenbeltmuseum.org.

The Museum is staffed by one full time Director (a city employee), one part time Education/Volunteer Coordinator, and one part time Office Manager, both FOGM employees. An all-volunteer Board of Directors and a dedicated corps of approximately 25-30 volunteers round out the team.

SOCIAL MEDIA
 Facebook: 972 followers
 Twitter: 304 followers
 Instagram: 129 followers

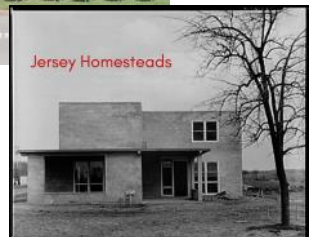
4800 Volunteer Hours



We could NOT do what we do without our amazing volunteers. Nor could we do what we do without YOU, our members, friends and visitors. So thank you for attending programs, supporting us with your membership donations, and interacting with

us on social media! We are very proud to be able to share Greenbelt's history and are so grateful that you are willing to be a part of it! We have great things planned for 2018, hope to see you soon!

LECTURE SERIES



News Review Film Screened Again



Cooperator Staff working on an issue. From the left: Ben Rosenzweig, Lyman Woodman, Lillian Schwartz, Clair Still, and Elsie Yuretich. Greenbelt Museum Collection.

The encore screening of Susan Gervasi's film, *Defending Utopia: The Greenbelt News Review at 80*, drew another crowd when it was shown on January 14 at the Old Greenbelt Theatre. Though not quite as large as the initial crowd who came to see it in November, the audience was enthusiastic and many remained after the film for a discussion with the filmmaker. FOGM members were given free popcorn and it was great to see so many of you there.

The News Review commissioned the film to celebrate their 80th year. The documentary reveals how closely linked the history of Greenbelt's local newspaper is with the community itself. It covers the First Amendment libel suit that led the paper to the U.S. Supreme Court and the many times Greenbelt residents have fought to preserve Greenbelt's physical spaces, as well as its values. The Museum plans to sell copies of the film in our gift shop, once they are available.

New Museum Admission Prices for 2018

In early 2018, the FOGM Board of Directors voted to increase Museum admission prices. This increase, based on recommendations from staff, is the first time prices have been altered in about 10 years. Lawana Holland-Moore, FOGM office manager, compiled the fees of area museums. The new pricing structure will bring the Museum into line with many of our peer sites. Income from tours is also an important source of revenue for FOGM, as it is the

nonprofit that supports our programs, lectures, tours, and its two PT employees. The new prices began in March. Sunday House Tours are \$5/person for general admission, \$3/students and seniors, free for FOGM members and under 6. Walking Tours and Tours by appointment are \$10/person, \$8/students and seniors, and free for under 6. The Museum will also continue to offer many free admission days throughout the year.



Visitors from the German Embassy, March 2018. Photo by Education Coordinator Sheila Maffay-Tuthill

10A Update: FOGM Chooses Design Firm



In 2017, FOGM shared a request for proposals from area design and architecture firms to help with planning the new Greenbelt Museum Education and Visitor Center. The new center will be established at 10A Crescent, the unit next door to the Museum's historic house.

deliberation, the FOGM Board decided to enlist the help of the Neighborhood Design Center. Long established in Baltimore, the nonprofit now has an office in Prince George's County in nearby Hyattsville. Board and staff were impressed with their willingness to engage the surrounding community in the design process and to be open-minded and creative as the process progresses,

especially given the challenges of the 10A project. Trying to fit a visitor center, exhibit space, archives, offices and a gift shop in a typically-sized Greenbelt Homes Incorporated-house, will not be easy!

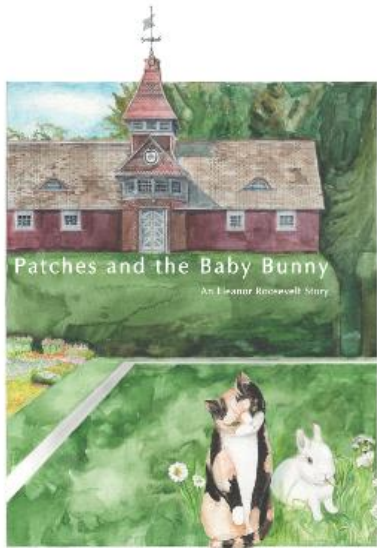
A small initial meeting took place on February 8 and additional meetings which will invite

feedback from the community will be planned. Stay tuned for more details! This part of the 10A project is supported by an operating assistance grant from the Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development one of several grants we have received.

Founded in 1968, the Neighborhood Design Center is a nonprofit organization that facilitates the development of healthy, equitable neighborhoods through community-engaged design and planning services. By providing the tools, expertise, and partnerships necessary to realize neighborhood visions, we support broad participation in the evolution of the built environment.

From NDC website

Greenbelt Museum 2018 Lecture Series



Cathy D. Knepper • Lucy Foronda Dirksen

Patches and the Baby Bunny ***An Eleanor Roosevelt Story***

Cathy D. Knepper and Lucy Foronda Dirksen

Thursday April 19, 6:30pm, Greenbelt Community Center

Join us as we welcome historian and author, Cathy Knepper, and Greenbelt artist and teacher, Lucy Foronda Dirksen, to share their newly published book, *Patches and the Baby Bunny*. Knepper set the story on the grounds of one of her favorite places, the Franklin Roosevelt Presidential Library, and it features Eleanor Roosevelt, someone about whom Knepper has written extensively. The story was inspired by the author's own cat's interactions with a baby rabbit, and Dirksen illustrated it with watercolors that capture the look and feel of the real life setting. Knepper and Dirksen will discuss how the book came together and Dirksen will display some of the original works of art that she created to illustrate the book. This lecture will begin at 6:30pm, an earlier start time than normal, so that families with school-aged children will be able to attend. The book will also be for sale at the event. This event is free and open to the public.

The cover of the new book by Cathy Knepper, illus-

New Book Radical Suburbs

On February 9, Museum Director, Megan Searing Young, was interviewed by journalist Amanda Kolson Hurley, whose upcoming book, *Radical Suburbs*, will feature a chapter on Greenbelt. The book, to be published by Belt Publishing in Spring 2019 examines her idea that in contrast to traditional suburbs, "shadow suburbias" have existed since the early 19th century. These radical suburbs were communities where, she theorizes, people sought to live according to their own unorthodox values. Hurley will interview Museum staffer Sheila Maffay-Tuthill as well, to get the perspective of someone from a multi-generation Greenbelt pioneer family. Hurley is based in the Washington, D.C., area and specializes in architecture and urban issues. Currently, she is a senior editor at CityLab, the city-focused publication of *The Atlantic*. Her writing has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, CNN, and many other outlets. We look forward to welcoming her for a book signing once the book is published!

Museum Welcomes New Intern

Isobel Taylorch began her internship with the Museum in January. Taylorch is student at the University of Maryland majoring in Art History. She is interested in studying visual propaganda and, as part of her internship, is working on an online exhibit that will explore the topic as it relates to Greenbelt. She's becoming very familiar with Greenbelt photographs as one of her first tasks was to rehouse and organize some of our photo collection. She is also doing research on and developing a script based on oral histories in our collection which she will use to identify various aspects of an early Greenbelt woman's life. She'll then don vintage clothing and bring her character to life at the Museum's historic house on specific dates. Stay tuned for schedule updates!

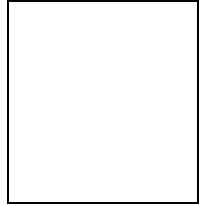
New intern, Isobel Taylorch, rehousing and reorganizing some of our photograph collection.

New Deal Utopias

Jason Reblando's book which includes images of Greenbelt is back in stock at the Museum gift shop! Come by to get a copy, shop is open Sun. 1-5pm



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Greenbelt, Maryland 20768



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Museum Office & Exhibits
15 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
Phone: 301-507-6582
museum@greenbeltmd.gov

Historic Home
10B Crescent Road
Greenbelt Maryland, 20770
Phone: 240-542-2066

Greenbelt Museum Calendar of Events

April

19 Lecture, Patches and the Baby Bunny, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, 6:30pm (please note earlier start time!)

May

13 Mother's Day, Bring your mother or mother figure to the house for a tour and/or to do an oral history! 10B Crescent Rd., 1-5pm

Ongoing Exhibition: *The Knowing Hands That Carve This Stone: The New Deal Art of Lenore Thomas Straus*, Greenbelt Community Center

Group or Walking Tours: Book a group or walking tour! Tours are \$10/person for groups of 4 or more & we kindly request that you book advance. To schedule a tour please call 240-542-2064 or send an email to education@greenbeltmuseum.com.

Would you like to receive our email newsletter? Sign up at www.greenbeltmuseum.org

Join the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum



Membership Benefits: unlimited admission to the Museum's historic house, 10% discount in our gift shop, mailed newsletter *The Utopian*, invitations to lectures and events, members-only programs, and the knowledge that you are helping to preserve Greenbelt's history.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Yes, I'd like to make a gift in addition to my membership \$_____

Please make check payable to Friends of the Greenbelt Museum, mail to PO Box 1025, Greenbelt MD 20768 or **join securely on-line at GreenbeltMuseum.org**. FOGM is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Thank you!

Standard Membership

- \$25.00** Student/Senior, all benefits above
- \$35.00** Adult, all benefits above
- \$75.00** Family, all benefits above

Supporting Membership

- Resettler \$250.00** All standard membership benefits plus recognition on an annual donor roster, print of WPA
- Cooperator \$500.00** All standard membership benefits plus private walking tour for 5
- Tugwell \$1000.00** All standard membership benefits plus behind the scenes tour or curator case opportunity
- Roosevelt \$5000.00** All standard membership benefits plus dinner for two in the historic house