



Connecticut
Landmarks

NEWS

Connecticut Landmarks

Main Office

255 Main Street 4th Floor

Hartford, CT 06106

(860) 247-8996

www.ctlandmarks.org

Date: July 8, 2010

Contact: Cindy Riccio, Site Administrator, Butler-McCook House & Garden,
(860) 522-1806, butler.mccook@ctlandmarks.org
Jamie-Lynn Fontaine, Marketing & Development Associate
(860) 247-8996 x.23, jamie.fontaine@ctlandmarks.org

August First Thursday at the Butler-McCook House & Garden in Hartford

Summer Concert Series continues with *Cool Cat Jazz*



Hartford, CT- On Thursday, August 5th from 5:30-7:30 pm, the Free Summer Concert Series will continue at Connecticut Landmarks' Butler-McCook House & Garden, as part of the Greater Hartford Art Council's Aetna First Thursday with *Cool Cat Jazz*. Sponsored by Bank of America, the Greater Hartford Arts Council, and the Knox Foundation the evening will feature the continuation of Hartford resident Sandy Parisky's *Vibrant Works* exhibition, wine from Sharpe Hill Vineyard, the official wine of Connecticut Landmarks, and light refreshments. The event is free with a suggested food and per drink donation of \$5.

Cool Cat Jazz has been performing New Orleans Jazz, Big Band Swing and Gospel throughout the region since 1980. The "Cats" present more than 150 youth celebrations and educational concerts annually. Outside of the school circuit, *Cool Cat Jazz* members have appeared together

at jazz festivals from California to Washington, DC, to Scotland and numerous places in between.

The History Happy Hour will feature the continuation of Sandy Parisky's *Vibrant Works* exhibit, which features landscapes and still-life compositions that reflect his interest in the play of light, color and shadows. With a graduate degree in architecture and urban design, Parisky currently resides in downtown Hartford. For more information, visit www.sanfordparisky.com. The exhibit runs through August 15th.

At 7 pm, join staff for a sneak peak of August's special themed tour, *McCook Travels*, which will answer the question "Which countries did Rev. McCook and Frances visit during their world tour?" The *McCook Travels* tour draws upon journal entries, sketches, copies of paintings and objects made and collected by the McCooks. Visitors will hear about the family's exciting travels and view rarely seen archival material, including travel diaries and trip photographs.

The Butler-McCook House & Garden and Main Street History Center is located at 396 Main Street, in Hartford. Hours for May through September: Thursday – Sunday, 11 am – 4pm. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for students, teachers and seniors, \$4 for children age 6-18, and free for members and children under 6. Families with two adults and children receive a special family price of \$15. Groups of 10 or more are \$5 each. For school groups and special curriculum-based programming, or to book a group tour, please contact the Butler-McCook House & Garden at (860) 522-1806.

For 189 years the Butler-McCook House & Garden was home to four generations of a family who participated in, witnessed, and recorded the evolution of Main Street between the American Revolution and the mid-twentieth century. The house's exterior looks much as it did when it was built in 1782. Behind it is a restored Victorian ornamental garden, originally laid out in 1865. Inside are the original furnishings ranging from Connecticut-crafted colonial furniture to Victorian-era toys and paintings to samurai armor acquired during a trip to Japan. The objects were accumulated over the course of more than 125 years by members of this extraordinary clan, which included physicians, industrialists, missionaries, artists, globe trotters, pioneering educators and social reformers.

The Main Street History Center's keystone exhibition, "Witnesses on Main Street," uses the Butler and McCook families' words and experiences to chronicle their neighborhood's transformation from a clutch of clapboard dwellings, taverns, and artisan shops into a modern urban enclave of multi-story steel, brick, and stone structures housing major financial, industrial, governmental, and cultural institutions.

About Connecticut Landmarks

Founded in 1936, Connecticut Landmarks, formerly known as the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society, is the largest state-wide heritage museum organization in Connecticut. The historic landmark properties include: the Amasa Day House, Moodus; the Amos Bull House, Hartford; the Bellamy-Ferriday House & Garden, Bethlehem; the Butler-McCook House & Garden and Main Street History Center, Hartford; the Buttolph-Williams House, Wethersfield; the Hempsted Houses, New London; the Isham-Terry House, Hartford; the Nathan Hale Homestead, Coventry; and the Phelps-Hatheway House & Garden, Suffield. Connecticut Landmarks' mission is to

inspire interest and encourage learning about the American past by preserving selected historic properties, collections and stories and presenting programs that meaningfully engage the public and our communities. For more information, please visit www.ctlandmarks.org.

Photos:

Garden Party. Painting by Sandy Parisky, pastel; 2010.

Butler-McCook House, photo by Rochelle Simon.

Cool Cat Jazz, courtesy of group.

###