



Connecticut
Landmarks

NEWS

Connecticut Landmarks

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

Art Exhibit, Live Music, Garden Tours, and More!



Hartford, CT- On Thursday, September 2nd from 5:30-7:30 pm, Connecticut Landmarks' Butler-McCook House & Garden & Main Street History Center will feature the guitar music of Lorena Garay, a History Happy Hour and an Art Exhibition Opening of works by Edith Dale Monson. Part of the Greater Hartford Arts Council's Aetna First Thursday, the event is sponsored by Bank of America, the Greater Hartford Arts Council and the Knox Foundation. The evening will also include strolls through the historic garden, 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.

Lorena Garay is a classical, Spanish and Latin guitarist. She is an award-winning graduate of both the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico and the Hartt School of Music. Her beautiful compositions and arrangements are an irresistible blend of classical guitar and Latin rhythms.

Edith Dale Monson (1875-1977) was born in New Haven and educated at Smith College. She moved to New York to work as a free-lance illustrator and eventually entered the Art Students

League, where she studied with Robert Henri. Upon her return to Connecticut, Edith Monson settled in Hartford and established a studio on Asylum Street. She devoted the rest of her life to painting and teaching in the Hartford area. She was a founding member of Women Artists of Connecticut, and exhibited at the New Britain Museum of American Art and the Town and County Club in Hartford. The Exhibition of her works is on loan from the Holcombe family. Exhibit runs through October 31st.

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:

Butler-McCook House, photo by Rochelle Simon.

Lorena Garay, courtesy of musician.

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