



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OYSTER BAY, NEW YORK
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PLANTING FIELDS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2019 COE HALL EXHIBITION

From Pursuit to Patronage: Industries and Ambitions that Influenced the Legacy of Mai Coe

This exhibition explores the determination of Mai Coe's grandfather, Captain Peleg Gifford, in the unpredictable and perilous whaling world of the 1800s and her father, H. H. Rogers, whose ambitious pursuit of alternative oil followed the whaling industry decline. The resulting fortune of H. H. Rogers would afford him a life of leisure at sea with his yacht Kanawha. His career and fortune will also be contextualized as the influence that would eventually enable the Coe's to purchase the Great Gold Coast estate, Planting Fields, transforming Mai into a progressive patroness of art, culture and design. The influence on the nautical iconography of Coe Hall will also be discussed.

The epic lives of Mai's father and grandfather are brought to life through objects and visuals that highlight the whaling and oil industries. Designed to engage visitors to consider what life was like for Captain Peleg Gifford, H.H. Rogers and Mai Coe, guests will get to know the family a little better through this exhibition. A clip from the 1922 film *Down to the Sea in Ships*, featuring authentic documentary-style footage of a whale hunt will also be shown.

Open to the public May 16 through September 30, daily, from 11:30am – 2:45pm, the exhibition is included with the \$5 admission fee to Coe Hall. Throughout the season, the Foundation will offer a series of related programming and events for adults and children.

Opening Night and Preview Party

Celebrate the opening of our new exhibition! There will be live music by The John Lake Quartet all evening. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Thursday, May 16, 6-8pm

Tickets: Free for members | \$20 Non-members | Reservations required

Children's Workshop: Make Your Own Scrimshaw Candle

Scrimshaw is one of the oldest American folk arts and served as a pastime for sailors on long voyages. Children will make their own scrimshaw candle to take home. All supplies are provided, parent supervision required. Limited to 15 children per session.

Dates:

Sunday, May 19, 12pm

Sunday, June 23, 12pm

Sunday, September 22, 12pm

\$5 Non-members | Free for members and children under 12 | Reservations required

Workshop: Paint & Sip Night

Join us for an evening of fun and creativity at Coe Hall to celebrate our new exhibition! Enjoy wine, light snacks and create a nautical painting on wood in the beautiful Cloister Garden. Instructors from The Little Art Studio will lead the class. All supplies are included.

Dates:

Thursday, June 27, 2019, 7-9pm

Thursday, July 18, 2019, 7-9pm

\$35 Non-members | \$25 for members | Reservations required

Spotlight Talk: Sweethearts at Sea: Love, Life, and Loss in the Age of Whaling

Join Amanda Goodheart Parks, Ph.D. for a fascinating discussion about whaling, inspired by our new exhibit. Amanda has studied the history of whaling for more than a decade. With undergraduate degrees from Salve Regina University in Newport, RI and a M.A. and Ph.D. in History from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amanda has an extensive career working as a public historian, museum educator, and historical interpreter. She is currently working on a book about the history of love and marriage in New England whaling communities. Take a moment to view our exhibit and enjoy complimentary wine & cheese before the discussion.

Date:

Wednesday, August 12, 2019, 7-9pm

Tickets: \$30 Non-members | \$20 for Members

To purchase tickets or reserve your spot visit our website at <https://plantingfields.org/events/>.

About Planting Fields Foundation

Planting Fields Foundation preserves and interprets Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park as the premier public garden and Gold Coast estate for today and tomorrow while creating enriching experiences for the visiting public. Founded in 1955 by William R. Coe, the Foundation is a not for profit public educational foundation.

Located in Oyster Bay, New York and originally landscaped by the Olmsted Brothers, the grounds feature 409 acres of greenhouses, rolling lawns, formal gardens, woodland paths and outstanding plant collections. The original historic estate buildings remain intact including Coe Hall, a 65-room Tudor Revival mansion designed by Walker & Gillette. The interior of the house is a showcase of artistry and craftsmanship and features a distinctly American aesthetic through original ironwork commissions by Samuel Yellin and murals painted by artists Robert W. Chanler and Everett Shinn. To learn more about Planting Fields Foundation, please visit the website at www.plantingfields.org.

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