

THE FRIENDS OF FORT TRUMBULL

TO WELCOME DAVID RAU

AS THEIR JUNE SPEAKER



For its June meeting, the Friends of Fort Trumbull are pleased to welcome David D.J. Rau, Director of Education & Outreach at the Florence Griswold Museum. David's presentation will be: *Florence Griswold: From Sea Captain's Daughter to Mother of the Lyme Art Colony*

Florence Griswold, a remarkable woman, was inducted in 2002 into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame. Born in 1850 to a prosperous sea captain, she demonstrated great ingenuity and determination when the family came upon economic difficulties, no longer enjoying its cultivated and privileged place in society. In the late 1890's, she decided to cope with these financial difficulties by opening a boarding house. In 1899, Henry Ward Ranger saw in Old Lyme an ideal setting for establishing a new American school of landscape painting. However, it was more than the beauty of Old Lyme that brought these artists to Miss Florence's home. Her hospitality, generosity and optimism welcomed a generation of America's finest painters. In her obituary in 1937, the *New York Times* stated, "This generous spirit survives; and not in the Griswold house alone, but as part of no inconsiderable chapter in the history of our native art." Today, the Museum welcomes more than 40,000 visitors a year from around the world.

David Rau has been the Director of Education & Outreach at the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme since 1998. Rau played a key role in the reinterpretation of the Griswold House as a boardinghouse for the Lyme Art Colony. Since his arrival at the Florence Griswold Museum, Rau has initiated a broad array of new educational programming at the Museum, designed to promote active, experiential and life-long learning opportunities for a diverse audience including the series of remarkably popular *Wee Faerie Villages*.

Rau holds a Master's degree in the History of Art and a Certificate in Museum Practice from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Rau has held positions at Cranbrook Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan; The Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Michigan; and The Currier Gallery of Art, Manchester, New Hampshire. He also currently teaches in the Museum Studies program at Connecticut College.

The meeting will take place on Thursday, June 30, 2016, at the Fort Trumbull Conference Center, 90 Walbach Street, New London, CT at 7 p.m. The public is welcome to attend this free presentation. New members are always welcome. Come early as seating is limited.