



SUBURBIA?

The American Dream

HINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2023-2024 LECTURE SERIES



hinghamhistorical.org

2023 – 2024 SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS

- 9.17** **The World's First "Suburban Nation"**
Kenneth Jackson (with Eileen McIntyre)
- 11.12** **Bulldozer: Clearing the Way for Post WWII Suburbs** Francesca Ammon
- 12.3** **Greater Boston's Suburban Development**
James O'Connell
- 1.21** **The Suburbanization of Hingham**
Gordon Carr
- 2.18** **Retrofitting Suburbia**
Ellen Dunham-Jones
- 3.10** **An Evolving American Dream**
Kris Marsh (with Ruth Gilbert-Whitner)
- 4.7** **The Suburban Swing Vote in National Elections**
Lawrence Levy

AUGUST 2023

DEAR FRIENDS,

For this, our sixth annual lecture series, we explore the concept of place and, in particular, the suburbs. Our Education Committee has assembled a world class faculty who will probe the societal and technological changes during the 19th and 20th centuries that revolutionized where and how Americans lived, and how the United States became what our lead speaker calls “the world’s first suburban nation.” Most of our speakers will be live at the Hingham Heritage Museum and all programs will be offered via ZOOM webinar as well. We look forward to welcoming you all, in person or online, when this series commences on September 17th. Thank you again for your support of the Hingham Historical Society with the purchase of a lecture series subscription.



Deirdre Anderson
Executive Director



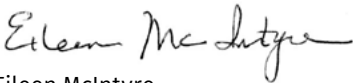
Jim Taylor
President

WELCOME TO “SUBURBIA: THE AMERICAN DREAM?”

Most Americans today live in suburbs, but why? And how did suburbs get built the way that they did? These and other questions led the Society’s volunteer Education Committee to begin exploring the history of American suburbs as a potential series late last year. We consulted early on with Dolores Hayden, Professor Emerita at Yale, and the author of “Building Suburbia: Green Fields and Urban Growth.” We discovered that there was a considerable body of academic research on the topic. Then based on a series of Zoom conversations with professors and experts across the country, we crafted the series that begins in September.

“Suburbia: The American Dream?” is a seven-program series that we expect will offer fresh understanding about the “rhyme and reason” of the America we live in today. Some programs will probe opportunities to improve on the suburban model of the past.

Thanks to Education Committee members Judith Brooks, Kathy Curley, Ruth Gilbert-Whitner, and Jane Shute for their ongoing work for the series.



Eileen McIntyre
Chair, Education Committee



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 AT 3 P.M.

Hingham Heritage Museum

3rd Floor Gillis Reading Room, and via Zoom

THE WORLD'S FIRST "SUBURBAN NATION"

*Kenneth Jackson, Professor Emeritus,
History, Columbia University, in
Conversation with Eileen McIntyre, Hingham
Historical Society Board of Directors*

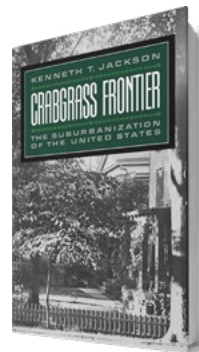


KENNETH JACKSON



EILEEN MCINTYRE

Last year, the *Atlantic Magazine* named *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States* "one of the 8 defining books of our era that explains why the U.S. has become the nation it is today." The book was honored with the 1986 Bancroft Prize. Professor Jackson joins Eileen McIntyre for a conversation, based on his landmark book, that explores the sociological, technological, and political forces that shaped America into a nation defined by its suburbs.



*Crabgrass Frontier: The
Suburbanization of the United States*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023 AT 3:00 P.M.

Hingham Heritage Museum

3rd Floor Gillis Reading Room, and via Zoom. Speaker on Zoom

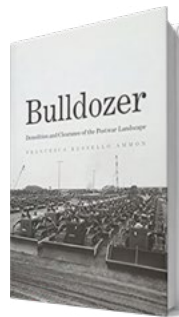
BULLDOZER: CLEARING THE WAY FOR POST WORLD WAR II SUBURBS

Francesca Ammon, Associate Professor, City & Regional Planning and Historic Preservation, Weitzman School of Design, University of Pennsylvania

In the years following World War II, the bulldozer was key to enabling rapid land clearance for new suburban subdivisions, urban renewal construction, and an ambitious highway building program that changed the landscape of America, and where and how people lived. In a program based on her pioneering history, *Bulldozer: Demolition and Clearance of the Postwar Landscape*, Professor Ammon explores the relationship between destruction and progress in this post-war period.



FRANCESCA AMMON



Bulldozer: Demolition and Clearance of the Postwar Landscape



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023 AT 3 P.M.

Hingham Heritage Museum

3rd Floor Gillis Reading Room, and via Zoom

GREATER BOSTON'S SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT

James C. O'Connell, Chair, Massachusetts Zoning Reform Working Group; Professor, Boston University Metropolitan College

In his comprehensive overview of the making of Greater Boston, Professor O'Connell covers two centuries of suburban development, from country estates, streetcar suburbs, the park and parkway system, and the start of railroad suburbs in the 19th century to auto-centric exurbs of the mid to late 20th century. His program will draw on the multi-layered story in his book *The Hub's Metropolis: Greater Boston's Development from Railroad Suburbs to Smart Growth*.



JAMES C. O'CONNELL



The Hub's Metropolis: Greater Boston's Development from Railroad Suburbs to Smart Growth.



FACTS ABOUT HINGHAM'S BRADLEY WOODS COMMUNITY

AN attractive American home community is now being developed on the 95-acre property in Hingham known as "Bradley Woods." The developers have obtained the services of an experienced organization, including complete architectural and engineering staffs, in order to assure a well-planned community of individual homes. Each house will be designed to present a pleasing appearance in itself and to harmonize with others in its vicinity.

BASE PRICE \$6400

The sketch shown is typical of the type of solid, substantial home to be built in the Bradley Woods Community. Base price will be \$6400, with some homes a little more and some a little less, depending on the exact type and design.

These homes will have six rooms, with a tile bath and first floor lavatory. They will have full basements, with poured concrete walls, and will be fully insulated. Each will have an attached garage.

THREE BEDROOMS

Typical plans provide for a living room 11'6" x 16',

These homes will have hardwood floors. Interior walls may be either papered or painted, and some will have living rooms with knotty pine paneling. Recessed, convactor-type radiation will be used with a circulating hot water heating system, utilizing an oil-fired boiler. Nationally known quality products will be used throughout.

LARGE LOTS

Lots range in size from 6,500 square feet to 14,000 square feet, with frontages of from 65 feet to 110 feet or more. Streets are to be paved, with concrete curb and sidewalks also provided as part of the community development. All lots are wooded, and a firm of tree maintenance experts has been engaged to preserve as many of these trees as possible. Since this property borders on Highway 3A, a wooded strip 60 feet wide will



Typical home planned for Bradley Woods Community

MODEL HOME BEING BUILT

A model home is now being built at Bradley Woods. Upon completion of this typical home in about thirty days, it will be furnished and opened for inspection.

You are cordially invited to visit the Bradley Woods Development and note the substantial, high-grade community which is being built. You are particularly invited to visit the model home, both during construction and when it is completed.

HINGHAM HOMESTEADS,

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024 AT 3 P.M.

Hingham Heritage Museum

3rd Floor Gillis Reading Room, and via Zoom

THE SUBURBANIZATION OF HINGHAM

*Gordon Carr, Chair, Master Plan Committee and Member, Planning Board,
Town of Hingham, MA*

The town of Hingham, Massachusetts, since settlement by English colonists in the 1630s, has gone through centuries of change. For much of this time, Hingham residents worked locally, with livelihoods ranging from fishing and lumber harvesting to dairy farming, bucket-making, and later, manufacturing of various kinds. Gordon Carr will guide us through developments, beginning in the late 19th century, leading to Hingham's more recent identity as a residential suburb.



GORDON CARR



SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2024 AT 3 P.M.

This winter program is Zoom only.

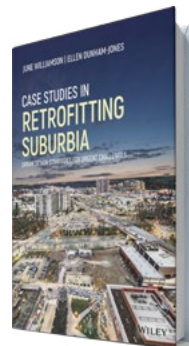
RETROFITTING SUBURBIA

*Ellen Dunham-Jones, Professor, Urban Design,
Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta*

Ellen Dunham-Jones is an award-winning architect and a Fellow of the Congress for the New Urbanism. Her teaching and professional work focus on how changes in the suburban landscape—from streetscapes to redeveloped shopping malls—can improve sustainability while improving health, and our well-being as we age. Professor Dunham-Jones is co-author, with architect June Williamson, of: *Case Studies in Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Strategies for Urgent Challenges* (2021), the second in a series.



ELLEN DUNHAM-JONES



Case Studies in Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Strategies for Urgent Challenges

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024 AT 3 P.M.

Hingham Heritage Museum

3rd Floor Gillis Reading Room, and via Zoom

AN EVOLVING AMERICAN DREAM

*Ruth Gilbert-Whitner, Member, Education
Committee, Hingham Historical Society
with Kris Marsh, Associate Professor,
Sociology, University of Maryland*



RUTH
GILBERT-WHITNER



KRIS MARSH

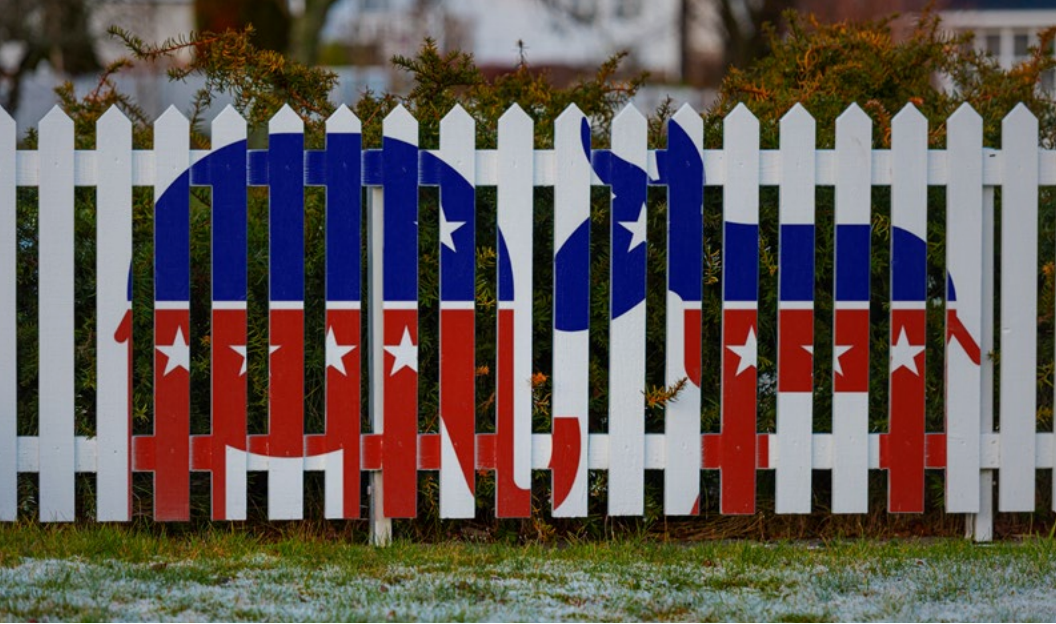
Ruth Gilbert-Whitner will guide us through demographic data and analysis from the Brookings Institution report “The Great Real Estate Reset” (2020) and other sources, pointing to a disconnect between today’s American household structures and the prevailing housing inventory.

Research by Professor Kris Marsh reflects the impact of historic marginalization on residential choices today of the black middle class in America. From her studies, Professor Marsh will provide insights on topics including marriage, wealth building and where and how to live. Professor Marsh is the author of *The Love Jones Cohort: Single & Living Alone in the Black Middle Class* (2023.)



*The Love Jones Cohort:
Single & Living Alone in
the Black Middle Class*





SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024 AT 3 P.M.

Hingham Heritage Museum

3rd Floor Gillis Reading Room, and via Zoom

THE SUBURBAN SWING VOTE IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS

*Lawrence Levy, Executive Dean, National Center for
Suburban Studies, Hofstra University*



LAWRENCE LEVY

In his decades as a reporter, editorial writer, and political commentator, Lawrence Levy was known for blending national trends and local perspectives as he covered seven presidential campaigns and 17 national nominating conventions. He was a 1999 Pulitzer Prize finalist in editorial writing. Today, as Executive Dean at Hofstra's National Center for Suburban Studies, Levy works with the university's academic and local communities to shape the Center's innovative, interdisciplinary agenda for suburban study. Dean Levy will discuss the role of suburban voters in national elections.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICING

Prices are for all seven lectures whether you attend in person or virtually. Subscription holders will have one seat at the museum for the lecture. All lectures in the series will be available on Zoom.

SERIES SUBSCRIPTION

Member Subscription: **\$175**

Non-member Subscription: **\$200**

SERIES SUBSCRIPTION PLUS MEMBERSHIP PACKAGES

The Hingham Historical Society is a member supported non-profit. Add a membership to the Hingham Historical Society with your subscription.

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Subscription plus Individual Membership: **\$275**

Subscription plus Family Membership: **\$300**

Subscription plus Supporter Membership: **\$425**

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*Join us online or in person at the
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