



**RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)**

**Invites you to its meeting **December 23, 2015** at  
First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT.**

## **Eric Jenkins-Sahlin**

### **“My Dear Miss Blatch”**



Eric’s Fulbright travel writing project was about a Chinese civil engineer, Hu Dongchao 胡□朝, who built some of China’s earliest railroads, including the track that was the starting point for the rebellions that toppled the Qing Empire in 1911. Eric’s discovery of the 100-year-old letters in his attic in Old Greenwich which were exchanged between his great-great grandmother Greenwich resident

Nora Stanton Blatch and her Cornell University classmate Hu Dongchao led him to China for a railroad adventure. Nora was the first woman to graduate from Cornell University with a civic engineering degree. Hu was one of the earliest Chinese men to study abroad and did so at Cornell. After graduation, Hu invited Nora to go to Chinese to lay out China’s first railroad.

He will discuss how the railroad, Mr. Hu and Nora Blatch influenced America and China today. He will also draw attention to the architectural work Nora did designing dozens of houses in the Greenwich area, some of which still stand.

He is the son of Coline Jenkins, an Old Greenwich resident and RTM member. Eric spent more than a year living in China studying Nora’s history and is now back in Old Greenwich.

Eric was a Fulbright scholar in 2013-14 and earned a B.A. in Philosophy from Boston University. Before 2013 Eric worked at the Harvard Kennedy School’s Carr Center for Human Rights Policy. Eric's photography and writing has been featured on Slate.com, RoadsAndKingdoms.com, the Harvard Kennedy School's news website, in a United Nations report on the human right to water, and in Chinese media (both print and digital).

RMA meetings are free and open to the public, both men and women; no reservations are required. Please plan to arrive around 10:40AM for our social break (coffee and cake), followed by our speaker at 11:00M. Meetings are held at the First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich, with parking on-street or at public lot two houses north of the church on Lafayette Place. For additional information, contact: [info@greenwichrma.org](mailto:info@greenwichrma.org)