Dedham Historical Society & Museum
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Library Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9 am – 4 pm; Museum Hours: Tuesday – Friday 12 – 4 pm
Both are open even-dated Saturdays: 1 – 4 pm

May 2014

SPRING SOIREE ON SATURDAY, MAY 31ST

Join us for an evening of cocktails at the annual spring Soirée on May 31st at the historic Francis Marsh, Jr. House, 36 Marsh Street. We are grateful to homeowners John and Elizabeth Loder for hosting the Soirée this year.

Built in 1875 by Marsh, who was general agent of the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company, the house is a classic example of a late Tuscan Italianate villa. Marsh’s father, prosperous local merchant Francis Marsh, lived across the street in a late 18th century Federal-style farmhouse.

Invitations were mailed to DHS members in early May. Soirée tickets are $100 per person, $125 for patrons, and $200 for benefactors. For more information or to purchase tickets please see the enclosed flyer or contact the Society offices 781-326-1385; society@dedhamhistorical.org.

DHS ANNOUNCES 2014 DEDHAM POTTERY COLLECTOR’S PLATE, “THE LOBSTER”

The 2014 Dedham Pottery collector’s plate brings back the lobster design from more than a century ago.

This New England-themed design, with its asymmetrical placement of the lobster, reflects the influence of Japanese art which swept the Western art world at the turn of the 20th century. Note the embellishment of the standard lobster design with a delicate flourish of adding a couple seaweed sprigs around the perimeter. This particular example copies a rare original from the Society’s museum collection that was painted by Maude Davenport, widely acclaimed as the pottery’s finest decorator.
Enclosed you will find a flyer with additional information and the order form for this plate.

**LOOKING BACK IN TIME—AND INTO THE FUTURE**

As collectors of history, historical society staffs face the difficult question of what to collect for the future. It is easy to look into the past and collect items that reflect the lives of Dedham residents in previous centuries, but what should we be collecting that will tell the story of today? What will our visitors in 25, 50, or 100 years from now look for to understand life in Dedham in 2014? With the use of e-mail and social media, how do we collect what was traditionally written with paper and pen? Newspapers have historically been a major resource for news and obituary information; do we need to continue collecting local papers that are now on-line? If we preserve everything on computers, what equipment will we need to collect in order to retrieve this information?

These questions are being asked today in museums across the nation. We use our training and experience (and best guess) to collect what we hope will tell stories about local events and residents. Here are several contemporary examples we feel are worth preserving:

Society staff members reached out to candidates in the recent town election for brochures and other items that provide insight as to why they are seeking office. These items will be added to our archival collection of 19th and 20th century election information.

Stopping at a local knitting shop, our executive director met a young Dedham high school graduate who is preparing for a summer internship in Anchorage, Alaska. After discussing the intern’s plans, she has agreed to keep a written diary of her adventures in the 49th state. Her memories will be added to our collection of travel records from 19th and 20th century Dedham residents.

Finally, one of our Worthington Committee members, Christine Tuttle, president of Christine Tuttle Interior Design, was part of the cast and crew for the 2014 season of the award-winning PBS program “This Old House®”. For six months, Tuttle worked with general contractor Tom Silva, host Kevin O’Connor and the team of “This Old House®” to update and expand an 1872 Italianate home in Arlington, MA. Producers tapped Tuttle to join the team from the start of the project, allowing her to help the homeowners choose interior colors, wallpaper, materials, cabinetry, decorative lighting and furniture layouts. It is the first time an interior designer is featured so prominently on the show. We are discussing with Tuttle what notes, photographs, and other items might be donated to the Society as a record of her role.

**NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH NEEDHAM BANK**

The Dedham Historical Society & Museum is proud to announce a new partnership with Needham Bank. Through this partnership, in 2014 Needham Bank will offer all new mortgage customers who reside in Dedham, a complimentary one year membership to the historical society.

According to Mark Whalen, President and COO of Needham Bank, Dedham Historical Society Board Member, and Dedham resident “By offering this partnership, Needham Bank is happy to give new mortgage customers and their families the opportunity to learn more about the history of their new town and home.”
NORFOLK & DEDHAM GROUP SPONSORS DHS AND FAIRBANKS HOUSE IN 2014 FLAG DAY PARADE

Once again, thanks to support from the Norfolk and Dedham Group, the two historical organizations will walk together in the Dedham Flag Day parade. Staff and volunteers will be dressed in historic costumes ranging from pilgrims to hippies to vintage baseball players; the group will carry signs promoting Dedham’s history. Be sure to watch for us on Saturday, June 14th. Information on the Flag Day parade can be found on the town website http://www.dedham-ma.gov/index.cfm?pid=14206

MEMBERSHIP ELECTS NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS AT ANNUAL MEETING

At the April 24th annual meeting, the membership elected the following to serve on the Dedham Historical Society & Museum board:

- Andrea Gilmore, President, to 2017
- Jim Kaufman, Vice-President, to 2017
- Clara Potash, Recording Secretary, to 2017
- Directors: Steve Brayton, Mark Whalen, and Tom Gormley, all to 2016

Officers and board members continuing their service are: William Flanagan, Treasurer, 2015; Alexander Leith, Board, 2015; John Underhill, Board, 2015; Mary Anne Osborn, Board, 2016; Stanton A. Lyman, Board, 2016; Laurie Rabe, Board, 2016.

Outgoing board president Steve Brayton was thanked by the membership for his six years of leadership. All of the officers and board members volunteer many hours to support and oversee the operations of the DHS. Their time and expertise is greatly appreciated.

LEAVE A LEGACY TO THE DHS AND HELP PROTECT OUR FUTURE

Have you considered leaving a legacy to the Dedham Historical Society & Museum? Your generosity would benefit the Society for years to come. Your will could designate a specific amount or a percentage of your estate for the Society and you might also suggest that memorial donations benefiting the DHS would be greatly appreciated. For over 150 years the Society has collected items that tell the story of our community and we have presented programs to share this history. Your legacy will help ensure that the DHS continues this important mission.

DO YOU SPEND THE SUMMER AT A SECOND HOME? WE NEED YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Many of our members spend their summer months at a second home on Cape Cod, Maine, or other delightful places. If you will be away for an extended period of time (June, July, August), please send us your summer address so we can continue to mail your newsletters and invitations to special events. The post office doesn’t always forward bulk mail and each piece of mail that is returned to the Society costs us additional postage. Help us keep our postage costs down – even better, sign up to have the newsletter sent to your email address. For more information contact the office 781-326-1385 or society@dedhamhistorical.org. Thank you and enjoy the summer.

SUMMERTIME ON THE CHARLES

Sometimes we discover wonderful images in the archives such as this 1898 photo showing a group of young people enjoying an outing on the Charles River. We can’t identify any of the individuals or the
exact location but the flag in front of the woman on the far left may indicate a holiday such as the 4th of July. What do you suppose is in the half-empty bottle on the right? The scene is timeless.

Put this photo in a contemporary setting and this is exactly what we need for future generations. If you have a group photo please consider sending the Society a hard copy of your image. Each person needs to be identified, along with the date and location of the photo, and any notes you want to include. For more information please contact Sandra Waxman, 781-326-1385 or library@dedhamhistorical.org.

**OPEN SATURDAYS:** The DHS Museum, Gift Shop, and Library/Archives are open on the following Saturdays: May 10th, May 24th, June 14th, and June 28th.  
*This newsletter is a benefit of DHS membership. For membership information call 781-326-1385 or visit www.societ@dedhamhistorical.org*