



# NEWS-LETTER

## DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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Library Hours: by appointment; Museum Hours: Tuesday – Friday 12 pm – 4 pm

Both are open even-dated Saturdays: 1 pm – 4 pm

### March 2017

### NEW EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS DEDHAM AS A TOURIST DESTINATION

When traveling on vacation we often take time to send post cards or purchase souvenirs for our friends and family. Little do we realize that our souvenirs will become a record of our own history. *Wish You Were Here: Souvenirs of Dedham* highlights postcards, ceramic pieces, and other collectables from the DHS collection. These objects show some of the well known tourist sites in Dedham, such as the Fairbanks House, as well as objects brought back to Dedham as souvenirs from foreign countries.

As you view this exhibit, let the objects take you back to the places you have visited, and the joy of telling others of your travels. The exhibit opened January 27 and will close on November 1, 2017. The museum hours are Tuesday – Friday 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm, and even dated Saturdays 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Admission is free for DHS members; non-members \$2.

### LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES TO TELL LOCAL HISTORY STORIES

The final two lectures of the 2016-2017 season are scheduled for March 30 and April 27.

- Thursday, March 30 at 7:30 pm, Stephen Kenney, Director of the Commonwealth Museum, on *Exploring Massachusetts History at the Commonwealth Museum*.
- Thursday, April 27 at 7:30 pm, the Ben Fisher Memorial Lecture and Annual Meeting. After the meeting and election of officers, Anthony Sammarco will discuss *Lost Boston: Landmarks That Left Their Mark on the City*.

All lectures are held in the DHS auditorium. Admission: DHS members free; \$5 per person for non-members. The 2016-2017 lecture series is sponsored by David G. Newsom in memory of his wife, Carol L. Newsom.

### THE APRIL LECTURE IS IN MEMORY OF BEN FISHER - WHO WAS HE?

Benjamin Fisher, Jr. was born on April 27, 1899 son of Benjamin and Anna Fisher of Dedham. He registered for the World War I draft in 1918 at the age of 19, while a student at M.I.T. but received a deferment due to his studies. He graduated in 1923 with an MBA from the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. We have little information about Fisher in the 1930's but the 1940 Census records show him living with his mother on Marsh Street, and working as a production manager for the Town of Walpole and later the Kendall Company. The Marsh Street house was sold in the early 50's, and Benjamin purchased a home on Van Brunt Avenue.

Benjamin married Mary Stillman Brigham in 1946. Mary was a graduate of the Winsor School and Vassar College and served as a Lieutenant in Naval Intelligence during World War II. Both Mary and Benjamin were active in many Dedham organizations, including the DHS. Lifelong residents of Dedham, they had three children: Stephen, Andrew, and Margaret. Benjamin died on February 9, 1996, followed by Mary on March 19, 2009.

The Society recently received a donation from his son, Andrew, in memory of his father. In the letter he states, "My dad was a lifelong Dedham resident and descendant of a continuous male line of Dedham residents dating back to Anthony Fisher in 1637. He loved the town, its history, and the DHS – and was a long-time DHS volunteer and contributor." Thank you Ben, and the Fisher family, for your love of Dedham and local history!

## **SATURDAY PROGRAMS FOCUS ON WHITING AND AVERY FAMILIES**

Are you interested in research on the Whiting or Avery family? If so, you're in luck. The Dedham Historical Society & Museum is dedicating Saturday, March 18 to opening up its holdings on the Whiting family and Saturday, April 22 for the Avery family.

Nathaniel Whiting arrived in Dedham in 1641, and was given a site and privileges to grind corn on Mother Brook. For one hundred and eighty-two years, the Whitings were connected to the mills and played an integral role in the growth of the town. Other family members of note include: Calvin Whiting 1762-1840, a merchant and inventor; Caroline Whiting 1810-1890, a teacher; John Eaton Whiting 1840-1926; and Cynthia Whiting 1771-1841, who kept a journal. On March 18, Whiting letters, diaries, and other manuscripts will be available for study.

Dr. William Avery arrived in Dedham in 1650 and built a house on East Street. He was a blacksmith as well as a doctor, and later owned a bookstore in Boston. The Avery Oak, which graced the land in front of the Avery homestead for over 300 years, is included in the Dedham town seal. Old age and multiple lightning strikes eventually overtook the old oak tree, but a replacement tree and plaque mark the spot. A painting of the tree and the homestead hangs in the DHS gallery, along with an oil painting of the Avery coat of arms. The Avery family papers include: genealogies; a diary of Lucy Avery from 1823; account books; letters and other manuscripts.

Due to the number of visitors we are expecting for these events, we are asking visitors to make an appointment for the Saturday programs. Please contact the society at 781-326-1385 or email our librarian, Sandra Waxman, at [library@dedhamhistorical.org](mailto:library@dedhamhistorical.org). Admission: DHS members free; \$5 per person for non-members.

## **JOIN US FOR A TOUR OF THE METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS MUSEUM**

Bring your friends and join us for a unique and interesting tour on **Sunday, April 23**, as we explore the history of Boston's water system with a trip to the Waterworks Museum. This magnificent neo-Romanesque building stands at the edge of the Chestnut Hill Reservoir and houses three monumental steam engines that pumped water to Boston for nearly one hundred years. The displays in the Great Engines Hall weave together the different strands of the story, telling how concerns for public health and the needs of a growing population resulted in one of the country's first metropolitan water systems.

In addition to a tour of the exhibits, DHS Board President Andrea Gilmore will discuss the several-year conservation work at the Waterworks Museum led by her team at Building Conservation Associates. Gilmore will explain how her team cleaned the steam engines, a multi-step process that required removing more than twenty-five years of grime. We'll also view a new exhibit, *Thinking about Water: Artists Reflect*, which showcases the work of Boston artists who are capturing the effects of climate change on the environment and our water supply.



Join us on **Sunday, April 23 at 1 PM** at the Waterworks Museum, located in Chestnut Hill at 2450 Beacon Street, Boston. Fee is \$12.50 for members and \$15 for non-members. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are non-refundable; no ticket sales on the day of the tour. Free on-site parking is available. The museum is handicapped accessible. Transportation to the museum is on your own. Please contact us at [info@dedhamhistorical.org](mailto:info@dedhamhistorical.org) or call 781-326-1385 to reserve tickets.

## **FINAL LIST OF 2016 ANNUAL APPEAL CONTRIBUTORS**

**Our sincere thanks to all who helped us meet our financial obligations for the year 2016. Your generosity made it possible for us to finish our fiscal year with a balanced budget.** It is important to note that many other individuals and organizations have made significant contributions throughout the year to specific projects of the Society. They have been gratefully acknowledged at the time of the gift. **This listing completes all donations since our last newsletter through December 31, 2016.** Please be sure to contact us if there are any errors. (IMO = In Memory Of, IHO = In Honor Of)

### **PATRON (\$1,000-\$2499)**

Sandy and Eileen Leith

Galen & Anne Stone

Lynne Wadman-Howe

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### **FRIEND (\$10-\$99)**

Mary Lou Bell & Jane Weissman

Nancy Clement (IMO & IHO the Wendell Clement  
Family)

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Isa Schaff

## **DEDHAM RESIDENTS COMMENT ON INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP**

Throughout January, the Society asked Dedham residents to share their thoughts on the inauguration of President Donald Trump. His election, inauguration, and first months in office have been filled with anger, protests, pro-Trump rallies, and an overwhelming number of pro- and anti-social media comments. The comments submitted to the Society are now part of the permanent archives, and we wanted to share some of the excerpts with you.

"I tremble for my country as Trump takes the oath of office today. I don't despair, however. This nation has overcome great challenges before, and I trust that the Republic will endure."

"True, there is a need for new manufacturing jobs in the US but can he really create them in a time of robots and automation? Job retraining and education seem a better objective. Ripping up all trade deals to Make America Great Again? Protectionism does not work in a globalized world."

"I am deeply disappointed by the results of the 2016 presidential election. I think President-elect Donald Trump is an indecent man without principle."

The DHS did not receive any pro-Trump comments.

## **DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM BOARD SUPPORTS COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT**

At the November 14, 2016, Dedham Town Meeting, a vote was taken to place the Community Preservation Act (CPA) on the April 8, 2017 ballot. The Dedham Historical Society & Museum board of directors discussed the CPA at its September 27, 2016 meeting and voted to support this effort. Please see the enclosed special flyer regarding the CPA and remember to vote on April 8!

## 2017 WINE EVENT BREAKS UP WINTER DOLDRUMS

The cold, but clear, winter weather brought out over 100 members and friends to the DHS annual Wine Event. Wonderful wines were provided by Roche Bros. and Wegmans, while the Worthington Committee supplied the tasty hor d'oeuvres. A special part of the evening included the silent auction of two 10" Dedham Pottery dinner plates, donated by Jim Kaufman. Guests to the event were the first to view the new exhibit, *Wish You Were Here: Souvenirs of Dedham*. Our sincere thanks to everyone who supported this event, and we look forward to seeing you at the spring Soiree!



*This newsletter is a benefit of DHS membership. For membership information, call 781-326-1385 or visit [www.dedhamhistorical.org](http://www.dedhamhistorical.org).*

### WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Jean & John Brown  
Astrid & Thomas Burns  
Maria Chase  
John Flannery  
Kevin M. Gillette  
Denise & John Kelly  
Margaret & Steven Mammone  
Marie Robinson  
Ed and Esther Salmon

### PLEASE THANK OUR CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Andrea M. Gilmore, President, James D. Kaufman, Vice President; William E. Flanagan, Treasurer; Laurie Rabe, Recording Secretary. Directors: Stephen K. Brayton, Kate Cahill, Angela Cavallo, Thomas A. Gormley III, Alexander K. Leith, Joan Pagliuca, John Underhill, Mark R. Whalen. Executive Director, Vicky L. Kruckeberg