

# 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 2018

### VICKY KRUCKEBERG IS RETIRING AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After eight dedicated years, Vicky Kruckeberg is retiring as Director of the Dedham Historical Society and Museum. Vicky's warm and welcoming style has represented the Society well in Dedham and the greater museum community. Her leadership of the Society has included many accomplishments, among them: cataloging the collections, promoting the transcription and publication of the Society's Civil War letters, the acquisition of several important collection pieces, increasing the number of school and public programs, and the restoration of the original paint colors on the exterior of the building. We are extremely grateful for all of Vicky's hard work on behalf of the Dedham Historical Society and Museum and wish her the best as she embarks on her retirement. As our Director, and personal friend to many of us, she will be missed!

The Society has begun a search for a new Director, and we hope to have that person hired by the early summer.

### WINTER/SPRING LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES ON MARCH 15

Coinciding with our new exhibit, *Dining In Dedham*, on Thursday, March 15 at 7 PM, author James C. O'Connell will explore the history of restaurants in Boston with his lecture, *Dining Out in Boston: A Culinary History*. Based on his book of the same title, the lecture takes a visual journey to some of Boston's great hotel dining rooms, oyster houses, and ice cream parlors. Over the years, Boston has been one of America's leading laboratories of urban culture, including restaurants, and Boston history provides valuable insights into American food ways. O'Connell will show that the city was a pioneer in elaborate hotel dining, oyster houses, French cuisine, student hangouts, ice cream parlors, the twentieth-century revival of traditional New England dishes, and contemporary foodie culture.

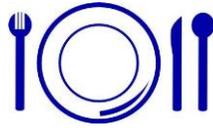
On Thursday, April 19 at 7 PM, join us for the Ben Fisher Memorial Lecture and Annual Meeting. We wrap up the spring lecture series by exploring the challenges of saving historic sites. In their talk *Medfield State Hospital: Past, Present, & Future*, Andrea Gilmore and Peter Smith will use this project as an example of preservation issues such as land use, tax credits, and zoning issues.

### RESEARCH SATURDAYS IN MARCH AND APRIL

Good news for local historians—our successful Saturday Family History program has two remaining programs. On March 24, we'll feature the Ames family, and on April 28, we'll highlight the Fisher family. Please contact us at 781-326-1385 to reserve a spot at the research table or contact Sandra at [library@dedhamhistorical.org](mailto:library@dedhamhistorical.org). There is no fee for members; we request a \$5 donation from non-members.

### SAVE THE DATE!

- **Historic Village Cemetery Walking Tour – BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!** Sunday, May 6, 1PM or 3:30 PM tours. See enclosed flyer for details.
- **DHS Annual Spring Soiree** – Saturday, June 2
- **DHS House Tour** – Sunday, June 3



## COMMUNITY COOKBOOKS: OFFERING A FLAVOR OF THE PAST

Our new exhibit, *Dining in Dedham*, features several cookbooks assembled by local organizations. For churches, schools, and other local nonprofit groups, community cookbooks serve up favorite recipes while also offering a fun way to raise money. Dedham groups have been creating their own cookbooks for many years, and perusing the recipes provides a window into Dedham kitchens of the past. We can learn about the food that people liked to eat in different eras and how tastes have changed.

There's a long history of sharing cherished dishes with friends and family. Ancient Mesopotamians left recipes on Akkadian tablets, dating to about 1700 BC. Cookbooks written in Arabic from the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries, as well as Chinese recipe books from the 1300s, offer insight into the flavors and dishes from the Middle East and Asia.

The history of our universal love of food is reflected in cookbooks for everyday domestic cooks. Community cookbooks—also known as compiled, regional, and fund-raising cookbooks—represent a unique group of culinary literature. Focusing on home cooking, they reflect regional, ethnic, and family traditions.

The Society owns a number of community cookbooks. From them, we can learn snippets of local history, such as which Dedham organizations existed at the time, who belonged to these groups, and what types of dishes were popular. Occasionally, side notes offer personal stories that provide humor and insights about the recipes. Researchers can also look for trends, such as the popularity of Jello salads in the 1950s and green bean casseroles in the 1960s, or hints for how to stretch a food budget. A cookbook from the Evening Guild of the Church of the Good Shepherd provides an invaluable church history that is not found in other records.

Today, the increasing popularity of Pinterest and other social media makes it easy to exchange cooking tips and recipes. Despite the availability of online recipes, there's something special about sharing favorite recipes with friends and family in a cookbook. The Society is seeking cookbooks prepared by local organizations to include in our collection. Please contact archivist/librarian Sandra Waxman at [library@dedhamhistorical.org](mailto:library@dedhamhistorical.org) if you have a cookbook that you would like to donate to the collection.

When you visit our exhibit, *Dining In Dedham*, be sure to stop by our Gift Shop and purchase one of the following food related books. The Museum is open Tuesday-Friday 9 AM-4 PM and even dated Saturdays 1PM-4 PM.

- *Massachusetts Cranberry Culture: A History From Bog to Table*
- *A History of Howard Johnson's*
- *A New England Cook Book (reprint of classic 1905 edition)*
- *New England Pie: History Under a Crust*

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE *DINING IN DEDHAM* EXHIBIT

These are just two of the interesting items in the *Dining In Dedham* exhibit. The mid-to late 18<sup>th</sup> century Mother-of-Pearl tea chest (left) was a gift from Mrs. Henry P. Quincy, and the wooden Shaker style spice box with individual containers for various spices (right) was a gift from Henry R. Keene.



## FINAL LIST OF 2017 ANNUAL APPEAL CONTRIBUTORS

This listing includes all donations after **December 12, 2017 through December 31, 2017**. Our sincere thanks to all who helped us meet our financial obligations for the year 2017. 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. Please be sure to contact us if there are any errors.

(IMO = In Memory Of; IHO = In Honor Of)

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YourCause (Matching Gift from M. L. Bell)

## ***DEDHAM VIEWS: CAPTURING LOCAL BEAUTY***

*Dedham Views: Capturing Local Beauty* is a new collaborative exhibit between the DHS and the Dedham Art Association that opened on March 1. The exhibit showcases the work of seven artists whose work is inspired by historic buildings, landscapes, and the Charles River. All of the artists are members of the Dedham Art Association, a nonprofit that provides education and support for area artists.

Like Dedham-based artists from the past, such as Charles Mills, these artists find ample inspiration in the streetscapes and open spaces of their home town. Their paintings depict St. Paul's Church, Pearl Street, the Endicott Barn, the Endicott Estate, and the Charles River. If you're interested in comparing these contemporary works with the paintings of Charles Mills, we are keeping Mills's paintings of the four seasons on view for the duration of *Dedham Views: Capturing Local Beauty*. The new exhibit will close on Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The seven artists whose works are featured include Keith McClelland, Beverly McNeill, Barbara Reynolds, Nan Richmond, Chris Roberts, Robin Western, and Naomi Wilsey. While several of their works capture the quiet serenity of winter, embodying the beauty inherent in the stillness of a snowy scene, others depict the brilliant colors of autumn and the fiery radiance of a sunset.

On Saturday, March 10, from 1-4 PM, the DHS hosts a Sketch-In, a program for local artists interested in finding inspiration in our collection. Bring your pencils, pastels, and charcoal, peruse the objects on display, and draw the things that spark your creativity! For more information regarding the Sketch-In, contact Lauren Kaufmann at [info@dedhamhistorical.org](mailto:info@dedhamhistorical.org).

## MEMBERS AND GUESTS ENJOY WINTER WINE EVENT

DHS members and guests braved the winter temperatures and enjoyed an evening of wine, tasty hors d'oeuvres, and lively conversation at the January Wine Event. Guests also had fun viewing the new exhibit *Dining In Dedham*. Wines were generously donated by Jorge and Kathy Ordonez/Fine Estates from Spain; hors d'oeuvres were made by the members of the Worthington Committee, and the conversation was provided by our enthusiastic guests. Sue and Stuart Christie were the winners of a drawing for a gift certificate to Oscar's restaurant, located in Dedham Square.

The annual DHS Spring Soiree is scheduled for June 2, followed by the House Tour on June 3. Watch the next newsletter for additional details on these two exciting events.



*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

Beth & Brian Ahern  
William Burns  
Timothy Castellanos  
Marie Naughton  
Jackie Schlosser

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