



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

JULY 2018

Welcome Our New Executive Director, Johanna McBrien



On June 18, Johanna McBrien became the Dedham Historical Society & Museum's new Executive Director. She succeeds Vicky Kruckeberg, who retired after eight years at the helm of the DHSM.

McBrien joins the DHSM from *Antiques & Fine Art* magazine, where she was founding editor-in-chief and associate publisher, building the magazine into the leading publication in its field. An expert in early American culture, furniture, and decorative arts, McBrien has a long career in historic preservation, management of cultural non-profits, education, research, and online initiatives and marketing.

"We are delighted to welcome Johanna to the Dedham Historical Society & Museum," said President Andrea Gilmore. "With her broad experience, she is an ideal fit for the DHSM." A search committee chose McBrien from a field of candidates for the Executive Director post.

"I am excited about the opportunity to lead the Dedham Historical Society & Museum," said McBrien, a Norwood resident. "Vicky did an outstanding job in making the organization more visitor friendly and I am looking forward to collaborating with the board, volunteers, and staff to further increase awareness of the DHSM and Dedham's history and its relevance to audiences of today."

McBrien's thirty-year career spans museums, including Historic New England, and auction houses, such as Christie's in New York. She has lectured and published on the history of furniture and taught courses on the topic at Rhode Island School of Design and Boston Architectural College. Her non-profit board service includes Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth and Gore Place in Waltham, where she was a member of the Strategic Marketing Task Force.

A graduate of Boston University, she earned an M.A. from the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture at the University of Delaware.

Spring Soirée Draws a Crowd to Historic Home

On June 2 more than 140 DHSM members and friends enjoyed food, wine and friendship at the Society's annual Spring Soirée held at the historic home of Astrid and Thomas Burns. A big thank you to our hosts for welcoming us to their beautiful home and gardens for this special evening.

We also thank Stanton Lyman for his architectural notes as well as *Chiara* of Westwood for the delectable food. And, lest we forget, the event would not have happened without the Worthington Committee, a talented group of volunteers who organize all of our social fundraising events. Worthington Committee members include: Laurie Rabe (Chair), Denise Beaudoin, Mary Ellen Browne, Kate Cahill, Angela Cavallo, Patty Cochran, Karen Durham, Sandra Einsel, Robyn Garth, Andrea Gilmore, Patty Hornblower, Mary Anne Osborne, Clara Potash, Elizabeth Roberts, and Esther Salmon.



Spring House Tour a Success

On the beautiful afternoon of June 3, more than 160 guests toured the wonderful homes on this year's Spring House tour. The owners of seven architecturally diverse private homes on Church Street, Court Street, and Village Avenue opened their doors in support of the DHSM. An additional treat included a tour of the 1637 Fairbanks House. A special thank you goes to our homeowners: Sam and Soo Barnard, Maureen Joyce, Juanita and Victor Kingsley, Eileen and Sandy Leith, Fordie Madeira, Judy Neiswander and Chris Kelly, Mary Jane Parnell, and the Fairbanks Family in America. We also want to thank Stanton Lyman for his architectural notes on the houses, Molly Jackson for her house sketches in the brochure, and Clara Potash and Laurie Rabe who served as co-chairs for the House Tour. A heartfelt thank you also to the volunteers who staffed each house. Francis M. Walley Insurance Agency, Inc. deserves a special acknowledgment as sponsor of our 2018 House Tour.



Dedham Storytellers Wraps Up Volume 2

Dedham Storytellers, Volume 2, recently wrapped up another successful season. The program launched in 2017 as an outgrowth of the Dedham 375th anniversary and continued in 2018 as a way to keep the conversation going between high school students and senior citizens. There were 16 senior citizens and 27 students involved this year. Over the course of the spring, participants met three times at Dedham High School, made a visit to the Dedham Historical Society & Museum, and celebrated with a final luncheon at the Dedham Community House.

The students are in an Honors U.S. History class with high school teacher Michael Medeiros. His commitment to the program stems from his belief in the value of teaching students to become historians. Through conversations with their senior partners, the students acquire oral history skills and gain an increased appreciation for past times.

Students wrote three essays: a biography of their senior partner, an autobiography, and a comparative essay examining the similarities and differences of their high school experiences with those of their partners. At the final luncheon, the essays were given to the Dedham Historical Society & Museum. The Society is archiving the essays so that future generations can enjoy these stories.



Looking Back at DHSM Directors

The executive director position was established in 1982 with the appointment of Electa Kane Tritsch, who served until 1987. Electa played a key role in planning the town's 350th anniversary in 1986 and spearheading a publication on the town's architectural history, *Building Dedham*. Greer Hardwicke followed Electa from 1987-89. She curated the exhibit "Organizing Dedham," which explored the history of the town's social organizations from the Dedham Boat Club to the American Legion.

Next to hold the post was Bob Hanson, 1989-92. Considered the foremost historian of Dedham, Bob has authored numerous books including *Dedham Massachusetts 1630-1890*. Bob was succeeded in 1993 by Ron Frazier, who served until 2009. Ron's many accomplishments included expanding membership, launching the annual House Tour and Spring Soirée, and publishing the photo history *Images of Dedham*. Following Ron's retirement, Vicky Kruckeberg took over on January 1, 2010. During her tenure, Vicky focused on broadening community outreach, computerizing the Society's collection catalogue, expanding public programming, building restoration projects, and enhancing landscaping.

On June 18, Johanna McBrien succeeded Vicky Kruckeberg as the Society's sixth Executive Director.



Farewell and Thank You from Vicky Kruckeberg

By the time you receive this newsletter, the Society will have a new Executive Director sitting in the front office. However, before I leave you, I want to say thank you to our members and supporters for 8 1/2 wonderful years. Your encouragement and support of the Society, and me personally, have made the years pass quickly. I loved it when you stopped in and chatted about your family history or asked questions that had us searching the archives for the answers.

Our challenges during my tenure have been many, including outdated computer systems, keeping-up with the world of social media, disruptions from the street renovations in Dedham Square, a roller-coaster stock market that influenced our budget, preparing for potential hurricanes, and multiple nor'easters, just to name a few. But together we overcame these obstacles and broadened our efforts to tell Dedham's story. Over 900 individuals have viewed our website video, we have catalogued several thousand objects in our museum database, created new on- and off-site programs, taken care of our historical building, and remained on budget!

Over the years, many of you have become my friends, as well as strong supporters of the DHSM. I hope you will continue your involvement and help the Society continue to grow. The DHSM is unique, with its outstanding historical collection and archival materials, and I look forward to hearing about future programs and projects to increase accessibility to these treasures.

On a final note, I want to thank all of the past and current staff and members of the Board of Directors. All of you, in your own way, have contributed to the long-standing success of this organization. Operating the DHSM has always taken a team effort: staff, Board of Directors, Worthington Committee members, and other volunteers. I am looking forward to retirement (and giving up my Route 128 commute), but I will be keeping an eye on Dedham. Thanks to you, a part of my heart will always be here.

Sincerely, *Vicky*

This newsletter is a benefit of DHSM membership. For membership information, call 781-326-1385 or visit www.dedhamhistorical.org.

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Rebecca Clower
Tara Ikenouye
Ellen and David Johnson
Maureen Joyce
Jessica Porter
Rose Marie Salah
Joan I. Sullivan

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