



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 13, 2006

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The Emily Dickinson Museum Reopens for the Season March 1 with New Tour

AMHERST, Mass.—The Emily Dickinson Museum: The Homestead and The Evergreens in Amherst, Mass., will open for its 2006 season on Wednesday, March 1. The Homestead, the birthplace and home of the poet for 40 years, and The Evergreens, home of Emily's brother Austin and sister-in-law Susan, are open for guided tours from March through mid-December.

For 2006, the Museum has designed a new visitor experience. "This was a Poet," an introduction to Emily Dickinson and her poetry, is perfect for families with children and for visitors whose interest in Dickinson is just beginning. As part of "This was a Poet," visitors will tour the Homestead to learn about Emily Dickinson's daily life and to experience the power of her poetry. The tour will last about a half hour and will conclude outside (in good weather) with a short poetry reading under the Homestead's oak tree. "This was a Poet" will be offered at the Museum during regular open hours beginning in mid-March.

The new tour will complement "Emily Dickinson's World," the Museum's in-depth tour of the Homestead and The Evergreens, which chronicles more completely Dickinson's biography and the lives of her family. For information about tour schedule, please call 413/542-8161.

The Homestead and The Evergreens will sponsor a number of special events in 2006. Programs this spring and summer include the third annual "A little Madness in the Spring" on Friday, April 21, through Sunday, April 23; the annual Emily Dickinson Poetry Walk on Saturday, May 13; and a very special "Amherst Day," celebrating The Evergreens, on Saturday, July 1.

"We are excited about the range of programs for the coming year, especially our 'Madness' program, which will include a poetry marathon of all of Emily Dickinson's 1,789 poems and a celebration of the 30th anniversary of the play, *The Belle of Amherst*," said Cindy Dickinson, the Museum's director of interpretation and programming. "This year The Evergreens turns 150, and we will honor the occasion with a number of events, including a circus-themed celebration on July 1."

The Emily Dickinson Museum's days and hours of operation change seasonally. In March, the Museum is open Wednesday and Saturday with tours on the hour from 1 to 5 p.m. (last tour at 4 p.m.). Beginning in April, the Museum is open Wednesday through Saturday, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Fees for the "This was a Poet" tour range from \$3 to \$6; admission for "Emily Dickinson's World" ranges from \$5 to \$8. There is no charge for children under 6. The Museum is located at 280 Main Street in Amherst and is owned by the Trustees of Amherst College. For more information about the Emily Dickinson Museum: The Homestead and The Evergreens please call 413/542-8161 or visit www.emilydickinsonmuseum.org. Accessible parking is available at the Homestead; all other vehicles are asked to park on the street or in an Amherst College lot on Spring Street. Call for more information about accessibility.

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