



Emily
DICKINSON
Museum
THE HOMESTEAD &
THE EVERGREENS

NEWS RELEASE

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EMILY DICKINSON MUSEUM OPENS FOR SEASON MARCH 3

AMHERST, Mass. – The Emily Dickinson Museum: The Homestead and The Evergreens will open for its 2007 season on Saturday, March 3. The Museum, which is made up of two homes, the Homestead where the poet was born and lived for 40 years, and The Evergreens where Emily Dickinson's brother Austin lived with his family, is open March through mid-December.

"Since the two houses merged in 2003, the Museum has continued to grow each year," said Jane Wald, executive director of the Emily Dickinson Museum. "This year, we are offering visitors extended hours and an outdoor landscape audio tour to complement the two guided tours we offer indoors."

The Museum's Tour Center will extend its hours. In past years, the Tour Center has been open from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Now, the Tour Center will be open from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. on days the Museum is open. In March, the Museum is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays, but from April through October, the Museum is also extending its former Wednesday through Saturday schedule to Wednesday through Sunday. For a complete schedule, call 413/542-8161 or visit www.emilydickinsonmuseum.org.

For the first time, visitors to the Emily Dickinson Museum will be able to learn about the 3-acre property and the gardens that inspired some of Dickinson's finest poems. During the "A little Madness in the Spring" weekend on April 28-29, the Museum will launch its new landscape audio tour *Grounds of Memory*. The tour was funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and created by landscape consultant Marta McDowell.

Grounds of Memory includes eighteen stops that can be visited in any order, including the Homestead's flower garden, the white oak tree on the Homestead lawn, the site of the poet's conservatory, the path between the two homes, the Evergreens' piazza and the family barn. The tour is narrated by former Poet Laureate of the United States Richard Wilbur, poet Mary Jo Salter, landscape historian John Martin, Walter Carroll of WFCR 88.5 (which generously contributed studio and staff time to the project), the Museum's executive director Jane Wald and Marta McDowell.

2007 brings other exciting developments at the Emily Dickinson Museum. In addition to the continuation of popular programs like the Museum's Dickinson-inspired book club "Kinsmen of the Shelf," a poetry discussion group, a mid-summer children's circus and the Museum's annual "Madness in the Spring" celebration of National Poetry Month, the Emily Dickinson Museum is also launching a fall exhibit *My Verse is Alive* in conjunction with Museums10's fall collaborative, *Bookmarks*. The exhibit explores the early years of Dickinson's posthumous publishing history.

For a complete list of the Emily Dickinson Museum's 2007 programming and special events, visit www.emilydickinsonmuseum.org. Admission fees range from \$3 to \$8. Discounts may apply and there is no charge for children under 6. The Museum is located at 280 Main Street in Amherst, Mass. For more information, call 413/542-8161.

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