

Ribbons of the Year ~

2008 - 2009 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

From the Chair of the Board of Governors

The Emily Dickinson Museum came through the financial hurricane of the last year with its fiscal integrity intact and only minor adjustments to an extraordinarily robust program. This would not have been possible without a growing constituency of supportive friends, the prudent stewardship of its staff, and a small reserve.

Most of us toiling for the Museum are engaged because of a unique commitment to the permanent resources of our society. Financial booms and busts, like most writers, come and go; they are temporarily amusing or annoying, but they do not have the impact of an Emily Dickinson – each will not be around 100 years from now.

The Board of Governors is grateful to have both an extraordinary staff committed to the same cause, and an ever-expanding list of fellow-travelers who, through their own ups and downs, have been willing, year after year, to vote with their support to keep this legacy alive.

So, thanks to all those on the accompanying list who so generously helped us continue to build this exciting enterprise. This unpredictable world, so full of distracting ephemera, needs Emily Dickinson's legacy, and these friends have helped us preserve it.



Kent W. Faerber
Chair, Board of Governors

From the Executive Director

The Emily Dickinson Museum's fiscal year began with a rousing fifth anniversary celebration and marathon poetry reading and ended with a dramatic restoration of the historic hedge and fence along its Main Street frontage. Between these two massive undertakings came a multitude of guided tours and a series of lively, engaging programs under the umbrella of *The Big Read: The Poetry of Emily Dickinson*. Part of a pilot initiative created by the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Poetry Foundation, *The Big Read's* emphasis on community-based programming coincided perfectly with the sense of place vital to Dickinson's work and this year's 250th anniversary of the Amherst's establishment.

The list of our Big Read programs is dizzying: an opening address by John Barr, president of the Poetry Foundation, and poetry reading by Marilyn Nelson; a performance of Gordon Getty's "The White Election" with the composer in attendance; introductory workshops with the Jones Library for readers new to Dickinson; an original biographical ballet developed with Amherst Ballet Theatre Company; a lecture by artist Lesley Dill to mark an exhibition of her work at Smith College Museum of Art; and a poetry picnic to wrap up these special events. All this in addition to our standard roster of annual programs.

More than 12,000 visitors took part in these programs, confirming that interest in Emily Dickinson's poetry and history is alive, well, and deeply meaningful in the midst of tumultuous times. The museum's newsletters and website (www.emilydickinsonmuseum.org) describe more fully the "Ribbons" of this past year.

It is only through the support of many friends that the Emily Dickinson Museum can sustain and expand its work as a touchstone to the words of a poet who knew expressed so perfectly the sublime and pain, the confidence and doubt, the amusement and gravity of life in this world. Our world needs her legacy. We are grateful for dedicated support that helps this museum fill that need.



Jane H. Wald
Executive Director

Report of Gifts

The Emily Dickinson Museum gratefully accepted \$126,000 in gifts to the Annual Fund during the 2008-2009 fiscal year (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009). Gifts to the Annual Fund support the Museum's operations, tours, and program expenses throughout the year. During the last fiscal year, the Museum also received gifts and grants to support "Person, Poetry, and Place," an immersion workshop for K-12 teachers, "The Big Read," a celebration of Emily Dickinson's poetry in the Amherst community, and the restoration of the hedge and fence in front of the Homestead and The Evergreens. We value your contributions and thank you for giving generously to support the mission of the Emily Dickinson Museum. We apologize for unintentional omissions or misspellings.

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Statement of Resources and Expenses

For fiscal years July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009 and July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

	FY 2008-2009			FY 2007-2008		
	Unrestricted	Restricted & Capital	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted & Capital	Total
Income						
Distribution from endowment	\$ 32,714	\$ 16,161	\$ 48,875	\$ 31,472	\$ 15,548	\$ 47,020
Gifts and grants	138,359	340,653	479,012	120,970	\$ 32,477	153,447
Royalties	15,459		15,459	12,436		12,436
Admissions-related income	136,037		136,037	130,144		130,144
Other	85,484		85,484	81,614		81,614
Restricted funds availed of (net)		32,641	32,641		138,550	138,550
Subtotal Income	<u>408,053</u>	<u>389,455</u>	<u>797,508</u>	<u>392,184</u>	<u>186,575</u>	<u>563,211</u>
Expenses						
Administration and general	\$ 182,413	\$ 14,353	\$ 196,766	\$ 149,012		\$ 149,012
Tours and museum programs	149,507	47,733	197,240	155,524	\$ 20,230	175,754
Marketing and merchandising	58,797		58,797	58,019		58,019
Fund-raising	9,887		9,887	13,708		13,708
Facilities	21,809	14,359	36,168	28,050	15,548	43,598
Restoration		313,010	313,010		150,797	150,797
Subtotal Expenses	<u>422,413</u>	<u>389,455</u>	<u>811,868</u>	<u>419,861</u>	<u>186,575</u>	<u>590,888</u>
Subtotal of revenues and expenses	(14,360)		(14,360)	(27,677)		(27,677)
Transfer to/from operating contingency	<u>14,360</u>		<u>14,360</u>	<u>27,677</u>		<u>27,677</u>
Net of income and expenses	0		0	0		0