

# A MESSAGE FROM THE MEADOWS

Newsletter of the Emily Dickinson Museum

Volume 8, No. 1

Spring 2009

## Historic Hedge and Fence Restoration

Mid-February marked the start of an exciting “Hedge and Fence Restoration” project at the Emily Dickinson Museum. A carefully planned program to remove the long row of diseased, overgrown hemlocks in front of The Evergreens and the Dickinson Homestead properties, and to reset the tall picket fence and hemlock hedge of the 19th century, has been a piece of the Master Plan that was adopted by the Museum’s Board of Governors in 2006.

In response to a challenge grant of \$125,000 donated by a member of the Board of Governors, the Museum has been able to raise in private contributions most of the \$275,000 needed to undertake this goal.

“The Museum aims to bring back the Dickinson homes and grounds to their appearance during the period the poet lived and wrote here,” explains Jane Wald, the Museum’s executive director. “When it’s finished, the new hedge and fence will enhance not only the Dickinson property but Amherst’s view of Main Street.



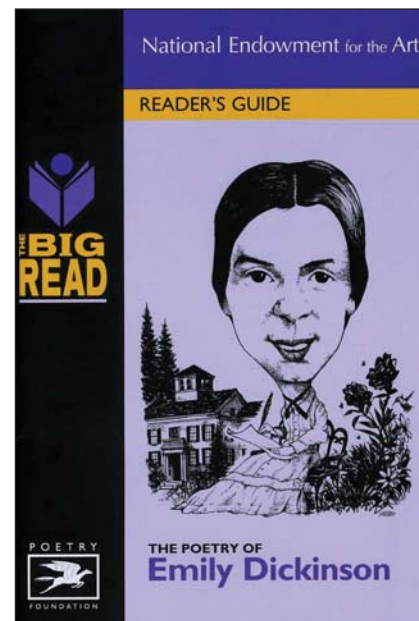
The Dickinson Homestead, 1880s – the museum’s target for hedge and fence restoration.  
Photo: Yale University Library

The nine hundred-foot hedge was originally planted in the 1860s by Edward and Austin Dickinson as a framing feature that offered privacy to the lower parts of the two handsome side-by-side Dickinson dwellings while allowing visibility of their upper stories. Over half a century of neglect resulted in the opposite effect. “You could see through the tree trunks at the grounds,” said one town resident, “but the houses themselves have been pretty well obscured.” The deteriorated cream-colored fence was taken down decades ago, although elements of it

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## The Big Read Takes Amherst By Storm

The Emily Dickinson Museum has planned an exciting mix of programs for the spring, showcasing the poet’s continuing influence and increasing relevance to new generations of writers, artists and composers. It’s all part of The Big Read, the National Endowment for the Arts’ national reading program designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and celebrate great American poets in the nation’s



historic poetry locales. The spring line-up ranges from readings to performances to picnics.

The Endowment designated the Emily Dickinson Museum an American Literary Landmark, a pilot component of the Big Read initiative, in December. In announcing the honor and a \$15,000 grant to the Museum, NEA chairman Dana Gioia remarked: “Though Emily Dickinson rarely traveled far from Amherst, her small, magnificent poems have gone everywhere the English

language is spoken. In partnership with the Poetry Foundation, I am pleased to announce this American Literary Landmarks grant to the Emily Dickinson Museum to help celebrate Dickinson’s legacy here in the place which she so loved as well as to introduce her quiet but intensely felt poems to new generations of Americans.”

The Emily Dickinson Museum’s Big Read coincides with the town’s 250th anniversary, which is no accident. “This is an ideal time to consider Emily Dickinson’s legacy as a poet in light of the significance of her ‘home ground’ at the Homestead and The Evergreens” said Jane Wald, executive director of the museum. “With partners from the Amherst community—the Jones Library, Amherst Ballet, the town’s 250th anniversary committee, and the Amherst Regional Public Schools—we’re hoping to introduce Dickinson’s poetry to new readers and to encourage a deeper appreciation of her influence. Teaming up

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## Message from the Executive Director

Jane Wald



The year 2009 heralds the 250th anniversary of the establishment of Emily Dickinson's beloved Amherst. The museum joins the Town's celebrations with programs described in this newsletter, Big Read insert, and the Town Anniversary Committee's website, [www.amherst250.org](http://www.amherst250.org). This special anniversary calls for a special Dickinson poem. The poet's musings on the nature of "Paradise" and how Amherst fares

in the equation (see the poem reprinted on page 6) seem a fitting point of departure this spring.

In the midst of a significant anniversary and pressed hard by the everyday implications of a troubled economy, we may find it difficult to consider what kinds of "paradise" Emily Dickinson explored in her poetic imagination, or to apply such a term either to our current habitation or to one anticipated elsewhere—whether it be the "Amherst," "Paradise," or "Eden" of her poem. Today we struggle against a surge of discouraging economic news, stand aghast at the growing reality of human hardship, and hope for "Eden" in the passing of arduous circumstances. In times such as these, as much or more than in others, poetry remains a deep well from which to draw consolation, frustration, humor, perspective—in it, we find a place to articulate our anxieties and to frame possibilities for brighter alternatives.

Like so many other organizations, the Emily Dickinson Museum is vigorously pursuing ways to make the best use of increasingly limited resources. We're making prudent choices in operating more efficiently and in providing for preservation of these Dickinson family homes and collections. This streamlined "Message from the Meadows" is one sign of adjusting to straightened circumstances. In the coming months, we'll increase our reliance on electronic communications with the launch a new robust website. Its goal is to deliver lively, timely news and to function as a more thorough, accessible information resource for a larger audience. This project has been in the works for some time and now, more than ever, will allow better use of resources.

To be sure, we remain committed to our core mission of education about Emily Dickinson's life, family, creative work, times, and enduring relevance—a mission exercised most powerfully for well over 10,000 visitors each year in evocative and intimate guided tours of the Homestead, The Evergreens and their shared landscape.

Fortunately, some of the challenges of these times are mitigated by both new and already established collaborations which draw on the strengths of a variety of partner organizations:

- The Big Read: The Poetry of Emily Dickinson, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation (see article on page 1 and insert).

- Collaborations with Amherst's Jones Library and the Smith Museum College of Art (see insert).
- Creative work with the local Amherst Ballet training school to produce an original biographical ballet based on Emily Dickinson's life in honor of the Town of Amherst's 250th anniversary (see article on page 3).
- A visit from composer Gordon Getty to an Amherst performance of "The White Election" as a new recording of this work is released.
- Expanded professional development workshops in summer 2009 for K-12 teachers thanks to funding for a second time by the National Endowment for the Humanities (see article on page 6).
- A historic structure report for The Evergreens and cultural landscape report for the three-acre Dickinson property partially funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund.
- Continuation of joint marketing and exhibition plans with Museums10, a partnership of ten museums linked to the area's five colleges, with renewed funding from the Adams economic development initiative of the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

These are positive signs and forward-looking steps for the Emily Dickinson Museum. Our ambitious goals and prudent optimism are grounded in the conviction that the power of Emily Dickinson's poetry remains a beacon drawing her admirers to the rewards of preserving her legacy.

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### EMILY DICKINSON MUSEUM: THE HOMESTEAD AND THE EVERGREENS

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#### Museum Staff

Jane Wald	Executive Director
Cindy Dickinson	Director of Interpretation and Programming
Donna M. Abelli	Development and Marketing Manager
Nan Fischlein	Coordinator of Programming

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#### Mission

The Emily Dickinson Museum is dedicated to educating diverse audiences about Emily Dickinson's life, family, creative work, times, and enduring relevance, and to preserving and interpreting the Homestead and The Evergreens as historical resources for the benefit of scholars and the general public.

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## Hedge and Fence (continued from page 1)

stored in the Evergreens will provide a model for reconstructing the pickets, gates and gateposts that once again will span the frontage.

In addition to removing the trees and disposing of their stumps, work being done by C. L. Frank, a Northampton-based tree contractor, the stone steps in front of the Homestead will be reset, and the granite coping wall along the sidewalk rebuilt. Once the fence is restored, the final step will be the planting of some 200 young hemlocks to form a new hedge behind the fence. These parts of the landscape restoration project will be handled by Wright Builders, a local general contractor, later in the spring.

The entire project has been designed by landscape architect Martha Lyon of Northampton. "The Museum is fortunate to have many historic photographs showing the design, layout and heights of the fence, gates and hedge," said Lyon. "Because of this, the contractor can reconstruct with great accuracy, thereby adhering to the National Park Service's preservation standards."



The Homestead in mid-February 2009 after removal of the 50-foot hemlocks.  
Photo: Steve Fratoni.

Asked what prompted his generous gift, the donor, explained. "There are so many wonderful ideas in our Master Plan that the Board of the Museum hopes to accomplish, but the economic slow-down was deferring them. I wanted this one, especially, to move forward. Luckily, so did some local supporters (I call them the chain saw gang) who thought that fifty-foot hedge was an eyesore for the Museum and the town." The landscape portion of the Museum's 2006 Master Plan was funded by a Town of Amherst Community Preservation Act grant of \$15,000 in 2005.

At present, both The Evergreens and the Homestead are newly exposed to street view. At The Evergreens, where other handsome trees on the property are now visible, the dwelling appears to have taken a step forward. The Homestead, newly bathed in sunshine, may seem a bit barren for a time, until the hedge and fence protect it once more. "But it's completely changed the light inside the house," exclaimed one Museum staff person. "Now you can appreciate how sunlight must have poured in on Emily Dickinson's conservatory."

*by Polly Longworth*

## The Big Read (continued from page 1)

with local writers, poets, and other organizations gives the community an opportunity to use different artistic lenses in looking at Dickinson's work and her power as a poet."

The opening event for The Big Read falls, appropriately enough, at the beginning of National Poetry Month on April 4, and features Poetry Foundation President John Barr speaking on "The Future of Poetry" and a reading by former Connecticut Poet Laureate Marilyn Nelson. Composer and philanthropist Gordon Getty visits Amherst on April 18 for a performance of "The White Election," his song cycle based on 32 Dickinson poems. Also on the schedule are "Emily of Amherst", an original biographical ballet (see following article), Emily Dickinson's Poetry 101, a class for beginners, the traditional Poetry Walk, and even a poetry picnic, guaranteeing that there is a program to inform and delight everyone.

Details of all Big Read programs at the Emily Dickinson Museum can be found in the insert accompanying the newsletter. More information about The Big Read can be found at [www.neabigread.org](http://www.neabigread.org).

## "I cannot dance upon my toes" --or can I? Biographical Ballet Breaks New Ground

Creative juices are flowing, ambitions are great, and many people are hard at work on what may be Amherst Ballet's most exciting, and most complex ballet to date. *Emily of Amherst*, an original four-act ballet about the life and work of Amherst's own Emily Dickinson, is scheduled to premiere at the Kirby Theater on the campus of Amherst College on May 15, 16 and 17, 2009.

The ballet follows Emily Dickinson from her early years as a student at Amherst Academy through young adulthood and years as a working poet, and closes with a grand finale that demonstrates the impact that Dickinson has had upon people around the world. With narration taken from Emily's letters and poems, woven into an original musical score, the ballet strives to recapture a sense of the poet's youth and familiarize audiences with her daily life in Amherst. Original sets depicting the Homestead (Emily's famous home), the West Cemetery, and Amherst Academy (which was located where the Amherst Cinema parking lot now sits) will give audiences a peek at the town as it was during Emily's time. It is exciting to bring this project to the stage as part of the town of Amherst's celebration of its 250th anniversary.

Developed as a collaboration between Amherst Ballet and the Emily Dickinson Museum, the artistic staff of Amherst Ballet have gained a new "Emily education" through immersion in biographies about the poet, her letters, poems, and historic photographs of people and places. Students from the ballet school have taken guided tours of the Homestead and The Evergreens as a means of learning more about the poet and "getting into character"; several dancers have even pursued their own research about the historical figure they portray in dance. The result is a true educational experience and collaboration for all involved, performers and audiences.

(continued on page 6)

## 2009 Programs

All programs are free unless otherwise noted. For more information about programs, please visit [emilydickinsonmuseum.org](http://emilydickinsonmuseum.org), or call 413-542-2034.

**Sunday, March 22, 2 p.m.**

***A Voice of Her Own: Becoming Emily Dickinson***

**A Reading and Booksigning by author Barbara Dana**

Trustees Room, Jones Library

Co-sponsored with the Jones Library

Author and actor Barbara Dana reads from her new historical novel for young people, *A Voice of Her Own: Becoming Emily Dickinson*, published by HarperCollins. She talks about the process of writing the book, what inspired her to write it, and what she hopes the book will inspire in its readers. Ms. Dana is an award-winning author of books for children and young adults, plays, and screenplays. Ms. Dana made her New York stage debut as an actor at age 17 in Arthur Laurents' "A Clearing in the Woods" and has appeared in many Broadway plays, films and television programs.

**Friday, March 27, noon to 2 p.m.**

**Poetry Discussion Group monthly meeting**

Converse Hall, Amherst College

Registration fee

In this Charles Darwin anniversary year, the Poetry Discussion Group explores Emily Dickinson's knowledge of and poetic interest in science. For information about the Poetry Discussion Group, contact Nan Fischlein ([nfischlein@emilydickinsonmuseum.org](mailto:nfischlein@emilydickinsonmuseum.org)) or 413-542-2034).

**Saturday, April 4, 4 p.m.**

**An Afternoon of Poetry: Past, Present, and Future**

The opening event for **The Big Read:**

**The Poetry of Emily Dickinson**

Cole Assembly Room, Converse Hall,

Amherst College

*The Future of Poetry* keynote address by John Barr, president of the Poetry Foundation.

*Poetry Reading* by former Connecticut State Poet Laureate Marilyn Nelson. Reception with speakers follows program. RSVP suggested to 413-542-5311.

*A Big Read program—see insert for details*

**Saturday, April 18, 3 p.m.**

**"The White Election"**

First Congregational Church

165 Main Street, Amherst

Suggested contribution: \$15 adults, \$5 students

*A Big Read program—see insert for details*

**Tuesdays, April 21 & 28, May 5 & 12, 7 to 9 p.m.**

**Emily Dickinson's Poetry 101**

Jones Library, 43 Amity Street, Amherst

Co-sponsored with the Jones Library

*A Big Read program—see insert for details*

**Friday, April 24, noon to 2 p.m.**

**Poetry Discussion Group monthly meeting**

Converse Hall, Amherst College

Registration fee

Central Connecticut State University Associate Professor of English Melissa Mentzer leads the group in a discussion of a selection of Dickinson's poems. For information about the Poetry Discussion Group, contact Nan Fischlein ([nfischlein@emilydickinsonmuseum.org](mailto:nfischlein@emilydickinsonmuseum.org)) or 413-542-2034).

**Wednesdays, April 29, May 6, May 13**

**3 to 4:30 p.m.**

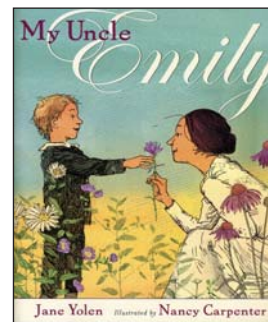
**Emily Out Loud:**

**Oral Interpretation with Emily Dickinson's Poetry**

Large Meeting Room, Jones Library, 43 Amity Street, Amherst

Co-sponsored with the Jones Library

*A Big Read program—see insert for details*



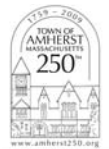
**Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m.**

***My Uncle Emily***

**A Reading and Booksigning with Jane Yolen**

At the Emily Dickinson Museum

*A Big Read program—see insert for details*



**Sunday, May 3, 2 to 4 p.m.**

***Adam Bede*: "Kinsmen of the Shelf" Book Discussion Group**

Alumni House, Amherst College

Registration fee. Pre-registration recommended.

Margaret Freeman, Professor Emeritus, Los Angeles Valley College, and a co-founder of Myrfield Institute for Cognition and the Arts, Heath, MA, leads a discussion on George Eliot's attitudes toward spiritual progress in a scientific age as revealed in her first full length novel, *Adam Bede*. Recommended for additional reading is Eliot's *Scenes of Clerical Life*. Both books were in the Dickinson family library. To register, contact Nan Fischlein ([nfischlein@emilydickinsonmuseum.org](mailto:nfischlein@emilydickinsonmuseum.org)) or 413-542-2034).

**May 15-17**

**Emily of Amherst**

Friday, May 15, 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 16, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

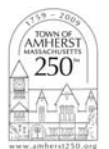
Sunday, May 17, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

(Matinee performances include class repertoire by young students prior to ballet.)

Kirby Theater, Amherst College

Adults \$18, seniors \$16, children \$12

*A Big Read program—see article on page 3 and insert for details*



**Saturday, May 16, 1 p.m.**

**Emily Dickinson Poetry Walk and Open House**

Begins at the Emily Dickinson Museum  
In case of rain, the readings will be held indoors at  
First Congregational Church, 165 Main Street  
*A Big Read program—see insert for details*



**Sunday, May 17, 4:30 p.m.**

**Afternoon Tea on the Grounds of the Dickinson Homestead  
A special fund-raising event for “Emily of Amherst”**

Adults \$30; Students (10-18) \$20  
Rain location: Amherst College Alumni House  
*A Big Read program—see insert for details*

**Friday, May 22, noon to 2 p.m.**

**Poetry Discussion Group monthly meeting**

Registration fee  
The Poetry Discussion Group’s potluck luncheon  
and poetry sharing. For information about the Po-  
etry Discussion Group, contact program coordinator  
Nan Fischlein (nfischlein@emilydickinson-  
museum.org or 413-542-2034).

**Friday, June 12, 4 to 8 p.m.**

**I Heard a Voice: The Art of Lesley Dill**

4 p.m. Second Fridays Fun  
6 p.m. The Artist on Art: a Talk by Lesley Dill  
Smith College Museum of Art, Elm Street,  
Northampton  
*A Big Read program—see insert for details*

**Saturday, June 13, noon to 2 p.m.**

**A Poetry Picnic: Wrapping Up the Big Read**

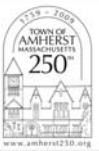
Rain date Sunday, June 14  
At the Emily Dickinson Museum  
*A Big Read program—see insert for details*



**Saturday, July 11, 1 to 4 p.m.**

**“Creatures of Bliss and Mystery”:  
A 19th Century Children’s Circus  
And Amherst Day**

Rain date: Sunday, July 12  
At the Emily Dickinson Museum  
Our annual re-creation of the Dickinson children’s backyard  
circus with craft activities, games and refreshments. Folk-  
singer/storyteller Tim Van Egmond enchants and delights young  
circus-goers with music, stories and songs at two afternoon per-  
formances, 1:30 and 3:00 p.m. Tours of the Homestead and The  
Evergreens are available throughout the day (last tour at 4 p.m.),  
and are half-price for Amherst residents.



**Sundays, July 19 & 26, August 2, 2 p.m.**

**Poetry in the Garden**

At the Emily Dickinson Museum  
Dickinson loved her garden. And on a summer’s day there’s no  
better place to hear her poetry come alive. Bring a lawn chair or a  
blanket and relax as poets and Dickinson lovers read her poetry.

**Fridays, Sept. 18, Oct. 23, Nov. 20, noon to 2 p.m.**

Poetry Discussion Group fall 2009 monthly meetings  
Registration Fee  
For information about the Poetry Discussion Group, contact  
program coordinator Nan Fischlein (nfischlein@emilydickinson-  
museum.org or 413-542-2034).

**Saturday, September 26, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.**

**Emily Dickinson Poetry Marathon**

At the Emily Dickinson Museum  
The Museum will host its annual  
marathon reading of all 1,789 poems  
by Emily Dickinson. Stay for all 16  
(or more) hours of reading or drop in to listen for  
some of your favorites. The marathon takes place  
rain or shine. For information on how you can par-  
ticipate as a reader in the marathon, please e-mail  
csdickinson@emilydickinsonmuseum.org. Walk-in  
readers welcome.



**Thursday, December 10, 4 p.m.**

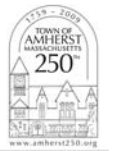
**Annual Emily Dickinson Birthday Lecture**

Save the date, this year on the exact anniversary of  
Emily Dickinson’s birth (December 10, 1830), for more intrigu-  
ing insights into the life and mind of one of our greatest poets.

**Thursday, December 10, 6 p.m.**

**Annual Emily Dickinson Birthday Dinner**

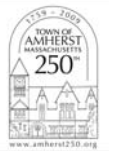
Join in a delightful evening of entertainment and  
cuisine inspired by the Dickinsons and their crowd at  
our third annual fundraising dinner for the museum.  
Details to be announced.



**Saturday, December 12, 1 to 4 p.m.**

**Open House in honor of Emily Dickinson’s  
179th Birthday**

At the Emily Dickinson Museum



The Museum’s 14th annual  
“At Home” celebration of Emily  
Dickinson’s birthday features self-  
guided tours of the Homestead  
and The Evergreens, Dickinson-  
ian refreshments, family activi-  
ties, nineteenth-century music,  
and poetry readings.

## Emily of Amherst (continued from page 3)

While Emily of Amherst is not a traditional story ballet because it is not based on a series of fictional events, its narrative -- the poet's life -- has taken shape with many of the elements that make story ballets so engaging and entertaining. Scenes range from dramatic and intense to light-hearted and filled with gaiety. With a cast of well-developed characters, lively variations depicting themes and people in the poet's life, group dances at parties and social scenes, evocative pas de deux and solo variations and endearing dances for children, the ballet promises to deliver an evening that is inspirational and educational.

Joining Director Catherine Fair in creating the choreography for the ballet are former Amherst Ballet faculty member Sam Kenney and current faculty member Sueann Townsend. Amherst composer Ted Trobaugh has created an original score based upon music from Emily Dickinson's own portfolio of piano music now housed at Harvard University.

Amherst Ballet and the Emily Dickinson Museum are conducting outreach efforts that include school performances, distribution of reading materials and visits to local schools. A shortened daytime performance of Emily of Amherst will be offered to Western Massachusetts school districts on Friday, May 15. Upper elementary grades in the Amherst schools have an opportunity to learn about the poet in advance of the ballet and to receive free tickets to a performance.

Emily of Amherst ventures to go where no dance company has gone before by creating a biographical depiction of Emily's life as a means of opening the doors to understanding her work. The project is ambitious, daring, and provocative. We hope audiences will come away with a new understanding and love for Emily and the 19th century New England town that shaped and inspired her.

*by Catherine Fair  
Director, Amherst Ballet*

## A poem by Emily Dickinson reprinted in honor of Amherst's 250th anniversary

What is -- "Paradise" --  
Who live there --  
Are they "Farmers" --  
Do they "hoe" --  
Do they know that this is "Amherst" --  
And that I -- am coming -- too --

Do they wear "new shoes" -- in "Eden" --  
Is it always pleasant -- there --  
Wont they scold us -- when we're hungry --  
Or tell God -- how cross we are --

You are sure there's such a person  
As "a Father" -- in the sky --  
So if I get lost -- there -- ever --  
Or do what the Nurse calls "die" --

I shant walk the "Jasper" -- barefoot --  
Ransomed folks -- wont laugh at me --  
Maybe -- "Eden" a'nt so lonesome  
As New England used to be!

(Fr241)

### Nominate Your Favorite Dickinson Poem!

Votes will be taken for favorite Emily Dickinson poems from April 4 through June 4. The top 25 poems will be read at The Big Read closing event on June 13 (see calendar entry). There are three ways to nominate your favorite poem: e-mail [info@emilydickinson-museum.org](mailto:info@emilydickinson-museum.org) with "Favorite Poem" in the subject line; stop by the Museum during open hours; or mail to 280 Main Street, Amherst MA 01002.

## Museum Expands NEH Professional Development Workshops

The Emily Dickinson Museum has received a grant of \$137,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to host a Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshop for Schoolteachers in July 2009. The one-week workshop, "Emily Dickinson: Person, Poetry, and Place," will be offered twice, July 5-10, 2009, and July 12-17, 2009, and is open to K-12 educators from across the United States.

"As the site where Dickinson conceived and wrote her poetry, the Emily Dickinson Museum is uniquely positioned to offer a stimulating and inspiring workshop that examines, literally and contextually, Emily Dickinson's world," says project director Cindy Dickinson. As part of "Emily Dickinson: Person, Poetry, and Place," participants will attend lectures, participate in hands-on activities, tour the Museum and other local sites related to Emily Dickinson, and develop curriculum ideas for their classrooms back home.

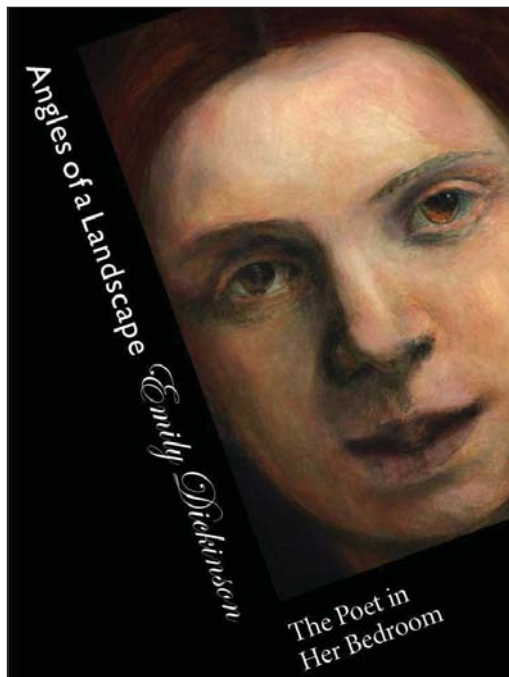
Each session of "Emily Dickinson: Person, Poetry, and Place" will accommodate 40 participants, selected through a competitive application process. Participants receive a \$750 stipend to help cover living expenses, books, and travel. More information about the workshop, eligibility requirements, and application procedures is available at the workshop's website: <http://www.nehworkshopemilydickinson.org>. Interested applicants should contact project director Cindy Dickinson at 413-542-8429 or [csdickinson@emilydickinsonmuseum.org](mailto:csdickinson@emilydickinsonmuseum.org).

The award is the second professional development grant the Emily Dickinson Museum has received from NEH. In the summer of 2007, the museum hosted 24 teachers for week-long workshops designed to deepen educators' knowledge of Dickinson and to enhance their classroom curriculum. The new grant marks an expansion of the previous successful summer program.

# Highlights of Fall 2008

## “Such a Hurrah!”

The Emily Dickinson Museum celebrated its fifth anniversary in September with the fourth annual Poetry Marathon, celebratory festivities, showings of “The Poet in Her Bedroom,” and special tours.



Top: Dickinson admirers from far and wide gathered to read all 1,789 poems in just under 16 hours. Photo: Steve Fratoni. Right: “Home Talk” offered visitors a chance to take on the roles of members of the Austin and Susan Dickinson family in a special tour of The Evergreens. Museum guide Joan Langley (second from right) sets the scene in The Evergreens’ front hall. Photo: Steve Fratoni. Left: The anniversary celebrations were the occasion for the premiere of “Angles of a Landscape: The Poet in Her Bedroom,” a new 30-minute DVD about Emily Dickinson’s life and poetry. (The DVD is available at the museum Gift Shop: \$29.95 & \$3.00 S/H. Call 413-542-8161 to order.)



In December, the museum marked the 178th anniversary of Emily Dickinson’s birth, on December 10, 1830, with a lecture, fundraising dinner, and open house.



Top: Birthday celebrations began with announcements by the National Endowment for the Arts and Mass. Cultural Council of grant awards to the Museum and other area organizations. From left: Erika Koss, NEA literature specialist; Jane Wald, EDM; Eileen Mason, NEA senior deputy chair; Anita Walker, MCC executive director; Kent Faerber, chair, EDM Board of Governors; Cindy Dickinson, EDM. Left: Tufts University professor Virginia Jackson, author of Dickinson’s Misery, gave this year’s birthday lecture. Right: “Amherst is Alive with Fun this Winter!” heralded the second annual birthday dinner. Soprano Anita Cooper and accompanist Grant Moss presented selections from Emily Dickinson’s own music portfolio. Photos: Steve Fratoni.



The Emily Dickinson Museum gratefully acknowledges the generous support of these underwriters of the birthday celebration.





# Emily DICKINSON Museum

THE HOMESTEAD &  
THE EVERGREENS

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## IN THIS ISSUE

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The Big Read! (cover)

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and more...

## MUSEUM HOURS

**March - December**

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Extended summer hours

June - August

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



### THE EMILY DICKINSON MUSEUM

#### THE HOMESTEAD AND THE EVERGREENS

consists of two historic houses in the center of Amherst, Massachusetts, closely associated with the poet Emily Dickinson. The Homestead was the birthplace and home of the poet. The Evergreens, next door, was home to her brother Austin, his wife Susan, and their three children.