



# NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Jane Wald

Executive Director of the Emily Dickinson Museum

t. 413/542-5084

f. 413/542-2152

[jhwald@emilydickinsonmuseum.org](mailto:jhwald@emilydickinsonmuseum.org)

## **The Emily Dickinson Museum presents “A Prickly Art:” Homemaking in the Nineteenth Century**

Amherst, Mass - On Sunday, November 7, 2010, at 2:00 p.m, the Emily Dickinson Museum will present “A Prickly Art:” Homemaking in the Nineteenth Century. Debra Friedman, Head of Interpretation at Old Sturbridge Village and co-editor of Old Sturbridge Village Cookbook will lecture on food preparation, household cleanliness, and other needs of a well-run nineteenth-century household. The program is free and takes place at the Alumni House, Amherst College (off of Spring Street) . A book-signing and refreshments will follow. For more information contact the Emily Dickinson Museum at (413) 542-8429 or [info@emilydickinsonmuseum.org](mailto:info@emilydickinsonmuseum.org).

Although Emily Norcross Dickinson, the poet’s mother, was known for her well-kept home, the poet herself claimed to prefer “pestilence” to housekeeping. Friedman’s lecture will discuss the necessities (whether enjoyed or not) of housekeeping and will refer to advice books owned and read by the Dickinson family, especially *The American Frugal Housewife* (1828) by Lydia Maria Child. Copies of both the Old Sturbridge Village Cookbook and *The American Frugal Housewife* will be available for purchase at the book-signing.

Historic Deerfield in Deerfield, Mass., will offer a corresponding program on Saturday, November 6, when Barbara Hoadley, Historic Deerfield Master Guide and Open Hearth Cook, will prepare dishes from “receipts” (or recipes) from *The American Frugal Housewife*. “Cooking with the American Frugal Housewife: An Open Hearth Cooking Demonstration” will run from 9:30 - 4:30 at the Hall Tavern Kitchen. The program is included with the general admission of \$12 for adults and \$5 for youth ages 6-17. For further information, contact 413-775-7217 or visit [www.historic-deerfield.org](http://www.historic-deerfield.org).

Both “A Prickly Art” and “Cooking with the American Frugal Housewife” are presented in collaboration with Table for 10: The Art, History and Science of Food. A Museums10 initiative, Table for 10 has infused the Pioneer Valley of Western Massachusetts with a flavorful menu of museum exhibitions, public programs, and special events in Summer/Fall 2010. This region-wide promotion organized by Museums10, a partnership of ten outstanding museums and galleries, brings together diverse offerings from exhibitions and cooking demonstrations to lectures and tastings.

The Emily Dickinson Museum, comprising the Dickinson Homestead and The Evergreens, is devoted to the story and legacy of poet Emily Dickinson and her family. Both properties are owned by the Trustees of Amherst College. The museum is overseen by a separate Board of Governors charged with raising its operating and capital funds. The Homestead was the birthplace and residence of the poet (1830-1886). The Evergreens was the home of the poet’s brother and sister-in-law, Austin and Susan Dickinson. The official museum website is [www.EmilyDickinsonMuseum.org](http://www.EmilyDickinsonMuseum.org). Regular museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday 11 a.m. until 4 p.m., March 31 through December 31, 2010. The Emily Dickinson Museum is located at 280 Main Street in Amherst.

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