



NEWS RELEASE

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“Art Has a ‘Palate’” A Day of Food and Poetry for the Soul

Amherst MA - On Saturday September 25, the Emily Dickinson Museum will host sixteen hours of programming including a workshop, a marathon, and a baking contest! All the programs will take place at the Emily Dickinson Museum, 280 Main St. Amherst and are free. The day will also include an Open House at the Evergreens to view the new exhibition “Art has a ‘Palate’” The Dickinsons and Dining. The exhibition is presented in collaboration with Museums10 summer/fall events, “Table for Ten.”

The Evergreens, home of Emily Dickinson’s brother Austin, was renowned in its day as a center of fine Amherst hospitality and conversation. Drawing on family letters, inventories, and findings from recent architectural investigations, the museum will re-interpret the public and private areas of the house related to food preparation and service. The new installation will be part of the Emily Dickinson’s World tour through December. On September 25, visitors can preview the exhibit at no charge during a special Open House at The Evergreens from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Homestead will be open for guided tours (regular admission fees apply).

Emily Dickinson lovers of all ages are invited to join the annual Emily Dickinson Poetry Marathon a daylong reading of her 1,789 poems. The marathon will begin at 7 a.m. and continue until about 11 p.m. at the Dickinson Homestead. For more information about the marathon, please call 413-542-8161 or email csdickinson@emilydickinsonmuseum.org

From 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. landscape historian and gardener Marta McDowell will lead a workshop on apples and figs, two fruits that the Dickinson family grew. During “Put down the apple Adam”: The Dickinsons’ Apples and Figs. McDowell, will discuss the horticulture of apples and figs and how they were eaten and preserved. The program will begin with a talk, followed by a tasting of heirloom apples, figs, and products made from Dickinson-era recipes.

Marta McDowell, author of *The Gardens of Emily Dickinson*, teaches landscape history and preservation at the New York Botanical Garden and Drew University. She served on the Advisory Committee for the New York Botanical Garden’s “Emily Dickinson’s Garden” exhibition (May 1-June 13, 2010).

In keeping with the day’s food theme In keeping, the Emily Dickinson Museum is sponsoring its first-ever Baking Contest. Emily Dickinson was well-known among friends and family for her baked goods. She even won second place (and 50 cents) for her Rye and Indian Bread in the 1856 Amherst Cattle Show! The contest includes Dickinson’s recipes for gingerbread, black cake, and coconut cake as well as a category for “Rye and Indian” Bread. There are separate categories for young people and adults. Those interested in entering should check the museum web site or contact the museum for contest rules and recipes. Deadline for the Intention to Enter must be submitted by Tuesday, September 21. Prizes will be awarded at 4 p.m.

Table for 10: The Art, History and Science of Food infuses 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. Regular museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday 11 a.m. until 4 p.m., March 31 through December 31, 2010, with extended summer hours 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., June through August. The Emily Dickinson Museum is located at 280 Main Street in Amherst.

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