



Emily
DICKINSON
Museum
THE HOMESTEAD &
THE EVERGREENS

NEWS RELEASE

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TWO KINSMEN OF THE SHELF MEETINGS FOCUS ON CHARLES DICKENS Emily Dickinson Museum Book Club Reads Dickinson's Favorite Literature

Amherst, MASS – The Emily Dickinson Museum and its supporters have long been fans of the poet's work but it is only in recent years that the Museum has created a book club with a reading list full of literature Dickinson read, rather than wrote.

"It's difficult to understand Emily Dickinson as a product of her culture by reading her writing alone," said Jane Wald, executive director of the Emily Dickinson Museum. "Kinsmen of the Shelf" is a popular program here at the Museum because it takes a closer look at the readings that inspired Dickinson. Participants know the poet a little better at the end of every meeting."

In February and April, Kinsmen of the Shelf will focus on work by Charles Dickens. Three generations of Dickinsons read the work by this prolific and popular British writer, who first toured the United States in 1842 when the future poet was just 12 years old.

On February 11 at 2 p.m. Dr. Suzanne Daly, a Victorian scholar at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, will lead a discussion on *The Old Curiosity Shop*. And on April 15 at 2 p.m. the second installment of the two-part series will focus on two of Dickens' works, *Bleak House* and his first novel, *The Pickwick Papers*. Both meetings will be held at the Emily Dickinson Museum.

'Kinsmen of the Shelf' refers to a poem Dickinson wrote in the early 1860s, dedicated to her books.

The group meets September through April on alternating months. Following the April 15 discussion, the group will resume meetings in September. For information on upcoming readings or to register, call (413) 542-2034 or e-mail nfischlein@emilydickinsonmuseum.org.

The Emily Dickinson Museum: The Homestead and The Evergreens is dedicated to educating diverse audiences about the poet'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. The Museum is owned by the Trustees of Amherst College and has its own Board of Governors, which is charged with responsibility for raising its operating and capital funds. The Emily Dickinson Museum is a member of Museums10, a partnership of ten museums in the Pioneer Valley. The Museum opens for its 2007 season on March 3. For more information, visit www.emilydickinsonmuseum.org.

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