

HIGHLIGHTS *from the*

EMILY DICKINSON MUSEUM

JULY 1, 2019 *through*
JUNE 30, 2020



Happy Birthday Emily

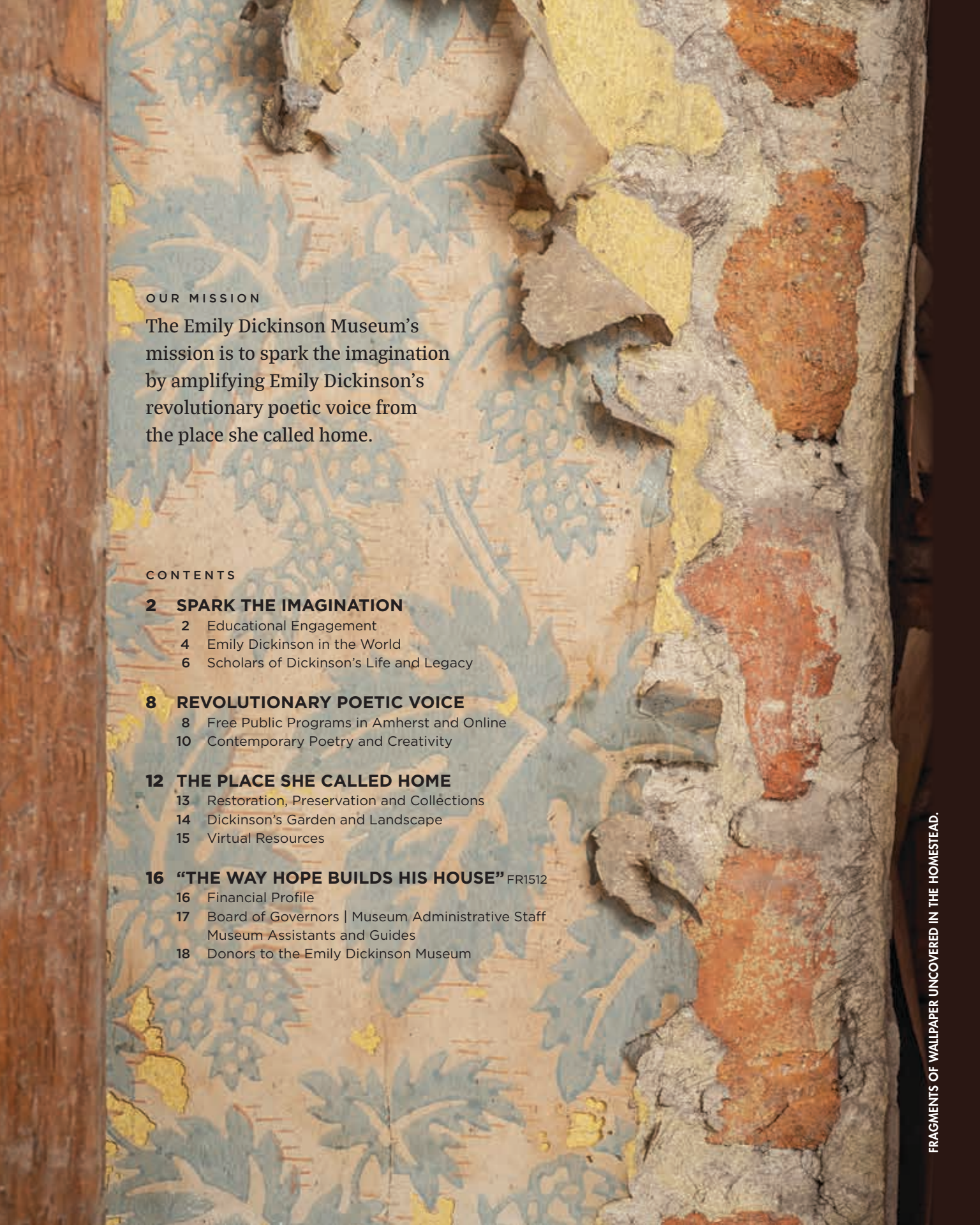
sunset

Emily Dickinson Research Center
Franklin County High School
1000 Main St., Rt. 102
Greenville, NH 03042
(603) 861-1444

Emily Dickinson
Museum

THE HOMESTEAD | THE EVERGREENS





OUR MISSION

The Emily Dickinson Museum's mission is to spark the imagination by amplifying Emily Dickinson's revolutionary poetic voice from the place she called home.

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THE EMILY DICKINSON MUSEUM'S LAST FISCAL YEAR BEGAN NATURALLY ENOUGH, in July 2019, with multitudes of eager visitors enjoying the "Sacrament of summer days" at the Homestead and The Evergreens. We turned the corner into September to hear "the Autumn poets sing" at our annual Amherst Poetry Festival, invigorated by some of the most talented voices in contemporary poetry. Numerous poetry programs, musical events, internship projects, and educational outreach dotted the Museum's fall calendar and are recorded in these pages.



Autumn programs culminated in lively celebrations of Emily Dickinson's birthday anniversary at the Homestead in Amherst and at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC, where artist Lesley Dill received the Museum's "Tell it Slant" Award. A special appeal to Dickinson's worldwide following resulted in a flood of more than a thousand postcards carrying personal testaments to her poetic power and its influence on individual lives. "The World Writes Back" is now an online exhibit on our website.

In ordinary circumstances, winter at the Emily Dickinson Museum is a time of promise, envisioning, and planning our next season of new programs for public participants and students. We carried on with this work until the coronavirus changed our plans and we understood that the Museum should remain closed as long as Amherst College restricts access to its campus by the public. In the midst of fresh examples of social injustice this year, the Museum committed itself addressing its responsibilities as a cultural institution in promoting diversity, inclusion, equity, and access in its own policies and practices.

Over these last months, many have seen a reflection of our own isolation and social distancing in Emily Dickinson's instructive example as the "Queen of Quarantine." She described her seclusion as "freedom," but also lamented the imposition of distance from loved ones.

Dickinson's words capture and offer perspective on today's collective experience. For now, I prefer to think about the joy, energy, and inspiration she found in the necessity of withdrawal into personal space.

In such an unpredictable and volatile year, the Emily Dickinson

Museum turned decisively toward providing online programs to connect and inspire Emily Dickinson's far-flung following. Through the spring and summer, Museum staff moved our traditional in-person programs to remote platforms, including a virtual Poetry Walk, monthly open mic and poetry readings, and monthly opportunities to discuss Dickinson's poetry with like-minded participants.

Confident in the Museum's bright future, during the shutdown we've continued to develop a long range plan that will propel our growth over the next two decades and a new interpretive plan that will guide development of programs relevant to contemporary audiences. As a sign of the future's promise, we've moved forward with initiatives to document the Museum's 8,000 object collection, design restoration of the Homestead, and reinstallation of the iconic path between the two Dickinson homes. Encouraged by your steadfast support, we so look forward to sharing next steps and outcomes with you in the coming year.

In possibility,

JANE H. WALD | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SO WE MUST MEET APART —
YOU THERE — I — HERE —
WITH JUST THE DOOR AJAR

SPARK *the* IMAGINATION

EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT: Helping learners connect to Dickinson's poetry and story is a vital part of the Museum's work.

THE MUSEUM HOSTED 1000 LEARNERS FOR PRIVATE TOURS.

Each year, the Museum partners with area schools to provide **innovative experiential learning opportunities.**

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:



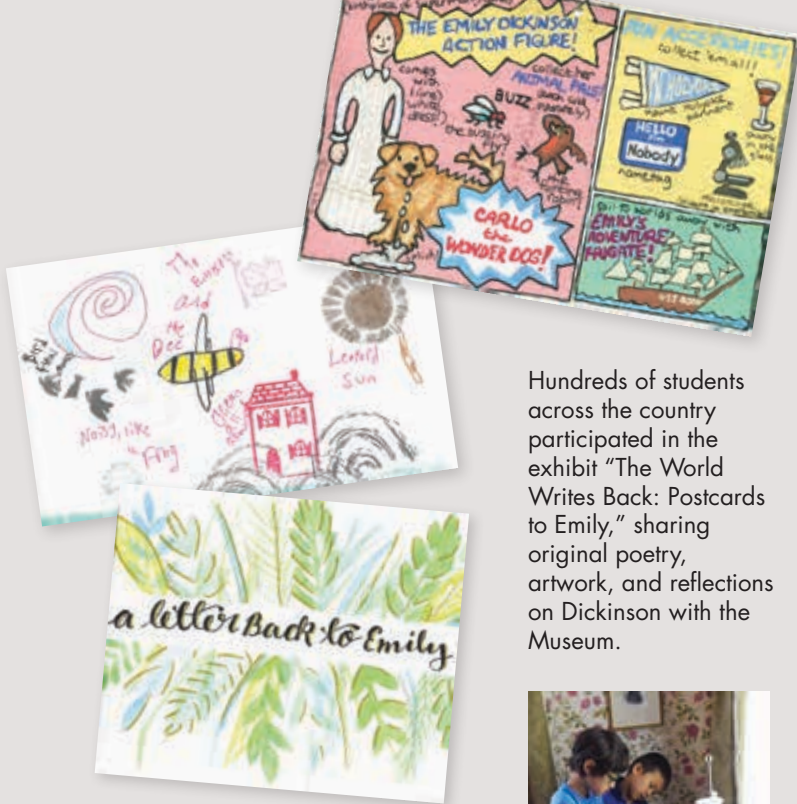
REPLENISHING THE SHELVES WITH UMASS-AMHERST PUBLIC HISTORY

Undergraduate students in the Intro to Public History course spent a semester creating object guides for books in Dickinson's library. Students considered how the collection related to wider issues of preservation and access.

ENCOURAGING YOUNG POETS AT SPRINGFIELD RENAISSANCE HIGH SCHOOL

Over forty high school students eagerly participated in a poetry workshop led by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Adrian Matejka.





Hundreds of students across the country participated in the exhibit "The World Writes Back: Postcards to Emily," sharing original poetry, artwork, and reflections on Dickinson with the Museum.



Connecting to classrooms near and far



In FY2021, the Museum looks forward to developing its first interactive virtual learning experiences for students. These programs will connect students in real time with Museum educators, and can be offered as a pre-visit experience or serve students unable to visit the Museum in person.

Masterclasses for Students

The Museum offered free Masterclasses to local students:



COMPOSITION WITH ERIC NATHAN



POETRY WITH AIMEE NEZHUKUMATATHIL



WRITING WITH JENNIFER EGAN

INTERNSHIP HIGHLIGHT

Amherst Summer Museum Cohort

Amherst College Student Sebastian Son '21 worked over 250 hours as the Museum's Summer Public Programs & Podcasting Intern, alongside a cohort of students at the Mead Art Museum and the Beneski Museum of Natural History. In addition to assisting with public programs, Sebastian benchmarked and developed a content outline for a Museum podcast. The cohort participated in field trips, networking, and professional development events.



A skilled pianist, Sebastian performed for visitors in The Evergreens.

Emily Dickinson in the World

Dickinson's revolutionary voice continues to inspire writers, artists, filmmakers, and devoted fans around the world.



Photo Courtesy of the Folger Shakespeare Library

LESLEY DILL THE 2019 "TELL IT SLANT" AWARDEE
 Lesley Dill, a prominent American artist working at the intersection of language and fine art, received the "Tell it Slant" Award in 2019. Dill's work has been exhibited around the world, and her art is in collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art New York, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Her opera based on Dickinson's poems, *Divide Light*, was performed by New York's New Camerata Opera Company in 2018. By using paper, wire, horsehair, photography, foil, bronze, and music to convey the complexity of communication, much of Dill's work draws directly from the poetry of Emily Dickinson. Like the poet, Dill uses her provocative and intricate art to challenge the viewer to confront their linguistic relationships and perceptions of language.

LESLEY DILL (ON LEFT) RECEIVING THE "TELL IT SLANT" AWARD FROM EMILY DICKINSON MUSEUM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JANE WALD.

**TELL ALL THE TRUTH BUT TELL IT SLANT —
 SUCCESS IN CIRCUIT LIES
 TOO BRIGHT FOR OUR INFIRM DELIGHT
 THE TRUTH'S SUPERB SURPRISE
 AS LIGHTNING TO THE CHILDREN EASED
 WITH EXPLANATION KIND
 THE TRUTH MUST DAZZLE GRADUALLY
 OR EVERY MAN BE BLIND —**

FR1263

Creators, producers, designers, and select cast members from AppleTV+'s Peabody Award-winning *Dickinson* series made site visits to the Museum before production began on Season 1 as a means to inform set design and get a feel for the iconic and influential place the poet called home. Season 2 launches January 8, 2021.

VISIT [APPLE.COM/TV](https://apple.com/tv) TO LEARN MORE AND TUNE IN.



Photo Courtesy of Apple TV+'s Dickinson

“ I visited the Emily Dickinson Museum [for the first time in 2015,] when I was still in the process of writing the pilot script for the show that would eventually become “Dickinson”. It was that visit to the Museum that really unlocked the tone of the show for me – I feel like I connected to Emily’s spirit there, and have stayed connected to her ever since!”

ALENA SMITH (ON RIGHT), DICKINSON CREATOR AND EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, PICTURED ON SET WITH CAST MEMBER HAILEE STEINFELD (AS EMILY) AND A MEMBER OF THE PRODUCTION TEAM.



The World Writes Back: Postcards to Emily

The Museum invited the public to contribute to a crowd-sourced project with a simple prompt: to purchase or create an original postcard with greetings to Emily Dickinson from their corner of the world.

NEARLY

1,000 Postcards

ARRIVED FROM

31 states AND 21 countries

AND WERE WRITTEN IN

English, Spanish, Italian, Greek, Hungarian, French, Irish, AND Portuguese.

Scholars of Dickinson's life and legacy share new work in collaboration with the Museum.

**"To another Sea"
Dickinson,
Environment,
and the West**

ASILOMAR,
CALIFORNIA

August
8-11, 2019

EMILY DICKINSON
INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY
CONFERENCE

The 2019 international conference, "To another Sea" Dickinson, Environment, and the West, featured panels by international scholars on a variety of topics, including critical interpretations of Dickinson's poetry and letters in light of water, environmental criticism, non-human studies, plant studies, creativity and imagination, ecology, geography, landscape, and the like.

**IF MY BARK SINK
'TIS TO ANOTHER
SEA -
MORTALITY'S GROUND FLOOR
IS IMMORTALITY -** FR1250A



The Emily Dickinson Museum's Poetry Discussion Group

met for lively discussion, facilitated by expert leaders, about Dickinson's poetry. In addition to their knowledge of the poet, 2020 leaders brought diverse professional experiences and knowledge—from beekeeping to law to nineteenth century "mental philosophy"—to the conversation.

Dickinson's Bees
with Susan Goldwitz

Who's Who in the Dickinson Lexicon
with Bruce Penniman

Dickinson & Her British Contemporaries
with Páraic Finnerty

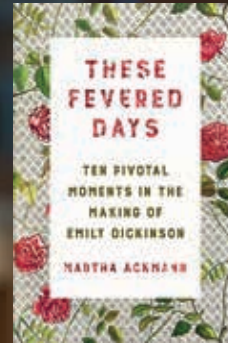
Dickinson & the Law
with Jill Franks

*Nineteenth Century Intellectual Women:
Seeking the Sovereign Self*
with Polly Peterson

Emily Dickinson & the Mind
with Mousumi Banerjee



In *These Fevered Days: Ten Pivotal Moments in the Making of Emily Dickinson*, **MARTHA ACKMANN** unravels the mysteries of Dickinson's life through ten days that distill her evolution as a poet. Kirkus Reviews said of the book "Radiant prose, palpable descriptions, and deep empathy for the poet's sensibility make this biography extraordinary." Ackmann discussed her new book at a virtual reading sponsored by the Museum.



Dickinson scholar **DR. PARAIC FINNERTY** travelled from the UK for a series of programs including a lecture, "Dickinson and her British Contemporaries," based on his forthcoming book.

"Some Favored Nook"

ERIC NATHAN presented "Some Favored Nook," a song cycle inspired by the significant correspondence between Emily Dickinson and Thomas Wentworth Higginson. Nathan's original composition places Dickinson and Higginson's writings at the center of the music, using these pivotal texts as a lens through which to view the social, political, and cultural issues of this chapter in American history.

REVOLUTIONARY *Poetic Voice*

THE MUSEUM OFFERED A RANGE OF FREE PROGRAMMING.

2,736 visitors and 451 remote attendees of all ages attended free programs and tours, including Arts Nights, workshops, lectures, readings, and open houses.

FREE PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

EMILY DICKINSON'S 189TH BIRTHDAY

CELEBRATION featured live music in both the Homestead and The Evergreens, holiday crafts, coconut cake, and the exhibition, "The World Writes Back: Postcards to Emily Dickinson".



FREE FUN FRIDAY, SPONSORED BY THE HIGHLAND STREET FOUNDATION brought 460 people to experience an open house, scavenger hunts, crafts, and a story hour with author Krystyna Poray Goddu, author of the middle-grade biography "Becoming Emily: The Life of Emily Dickinson".

During the **"BUCCANEERS OF BUZZ" CHILDREN'S CIRCUS**, families learned about the importance of pollinators to Dickinson and to our world with music, crafts, and a live demonstration hive.





“As, at this time, we Shelter in Place, a grateful toast to Emily Dickinson, who teaches us that place—is Possibility.”

—JEAN, NY

“Thank you very much for letting me be here, despite the distance. As a writer, Emily has been a great inspiration to me in this quarantine.”

—PAULA, ARGENTINA

“In undergrad some friends and I would meet at Emily’s grave to lament on our daily struggles. Years later as a law librarian I still find her simple but dark-blue poems a perfect expression of anguish in times where I need it.”

—KATELYN, NM

THE ANNUAL POETRY WALK

The tradition of the Emily Dickinson Poetry Walk, an annual commemoration of her death on May 15, proceeded virtually in 2020 with over 300 people tuning in to participate from 19 countries. The “walk” highlighted through photographs and poetry Amherst sites of importance to the poet and was punctuated with postcard poems from contributors to “The World Writes Back: Postcards to Emily Dickinson”.

**I SHALL KEEP SINGING!
BIRDS WILL PASS ME
ON THEIR WAY TO YELLOWER CLIMES -
EACH - WITH A ROBIN’S EXPECTATION -
I - WITH MY REDBREAST -
AND MY RHYMES -** FR270

“I can’t express how much it meant to me to fulfill a dream of 50 years to spend time alone in the room where Emily Dickinson lived and wrote. Her poetry and letters have inspired me and guided me through some rough terrain from the time I discovered her work during my high school years to now in my retirement years when I’m finally realizing my dream of being a published writer. I definitely felt her presence in the room as I was writing.”

—STUDIO SESSION PARTICIPANT

Contemporary Poetry and Creativity



Monthly **ARTS NIGHT PLUS** at the Emily Dickinson Museum celebrates contemporary art and poetry in our historic setting. Attendees can view the pop-up, contemporary art exhibition in the Homestead by the monthly featured artist. Poets, writers, and performers of any kind are welcomed to share their work.

FY20 **ARTS NIGHT**

2019

July

Conservatory Art Installation with Tereza Swanda and Kelly Silliman

August

Chris O’Carroll and Madge Evers

October

Cameron Awkward Rich and Chrissy Howland

December

The Literacy Project and Postcards to Emily



September

Libby Maxey and Lorna Ritz

November

The Umass Translation Center and Barbara Zecchi

2020

March

Karen Skolfield and Mary Ellen Kelly

May

Florence Poets Society

June

Haoran Tong and Poetry in the Pandemic



Amherst POETRY FESTIVAL

The 2019 Amherst Poetry Festival was an incredible community event, bringing together more than 1,000 participants in celebration of literary history and contemporary creativity. In addition to nationally recognized headliners, the Festival featured a range of programs including a publishing workshop, a panel on poetry and science, a performance of Dickinson musical settings, the Emily Dickinson Poetry Marathon, family programs, and more.



THE EMILY DICKINSON POETRY MARATHON, AN EPIC ONE-DAY READING OF ALL 1,789 OF EMILY DICKINSON'S POEMS!

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS INCLUDE:

“Aimee is simply a joy to learn from. I am regularly using the prompts and exercises she shared in the workshops.”

“The poetry festival helped me to see poetry in a new light. What I used to consider a hobby has become an important part of my life and work.”

“I went home and wrote poems of my own! It’s inspiring that there are so many people who truly care about writing.”



Festival headliners **ADRIAN MATEJKA** and **PAISLEY REKDAL** read under the stars in Emily Dickinson’s garden! The second evening of poetry readings featured **PAIGE LEWIS** and **AIMEE NEZHUKUMATATHIL** as well as a late night garden party with the band Look Park.

The place she

CALLED HOME

RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION

The Emily Dickinson Museum is dedicated to protecting and restoring the Dickinson family homes and gardens.

FINDINGS FROM THE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL

On October 13, 2019, faculty and students of the University of Massachusetts Amherst Archaeological Field School shared findings from their work at the Museum:

- After three years of investigation, archaeologists located the corner of the nineteenth-century Homestead barn. This discovery provides important detail for an eventual reconstruction of the barn.
- Excavations recovered broken objects suggesting a trash midden near the barn.
- Eighteenth-century china, predating known residential use, indicates there is more to discover about the site's history.



ORIGINAL DICKINSON FAMILY UTENSILS IN THE EVERGREENS KITCHEN



Collections Documentation

A \$245,000 grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services funds the documentation of the Museum's 8,000-object collection. The outcome of the three-year project will be to enhance interpretive, educational, and research use of the collection. Over the summer the Museum hired its first collections manager to begin this important work.



“just wide enough for two who love”

After completing the renovation of the neighboring house on Triangle Street for use as administrative offices, the Museum is moving forward with its plan to reinstate the historic path between the Homestead and The Evergreens “just wide enough for two who love” and to light the two houses.



Vine or hops pattern discovered the Homestead's northwest chamber, to be reproduced for restoration. A grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund supported this research in preparation of restoration of spaces in the Homestead's original main block.



NEW FEET WITHIN MY GARDEN GO -
NEW FINGERS STIR THE SOD -
A TROUBADOUR OPON THE ELM
BETRAYS THE SOLITUDE. FR79A



Dickinson's garden and landscape

enhanced the sense of
place for Museum visitors.

Thanks to the Museum's wonderful volunteers who worked in the Museum gardens and helped with programs.

- Alison Aune
- Tulip Chowdhury
- Laura Cohen
- Victoria Dickson
- Susan Goldwitz
- Clare Green
- Catherine Linberg
- Marta McDowell
- Michael Medeiros
- Michael Mercurio
- Aditi Nayak
- Janet Ryan
- Linda F. Smith
- Ann Steinhauser
- Ella Stocker
- Ann Tweedy



Master gardener and author **MARTA MCDOWELL** transported participants back to the poet's blooming garden in the middle of December with an illustrated lecture from her new book "Emily Dickinson's Gardening Life," published in 2019.



VISITORS BY THE NUMBERS

9,884

TOTAL AUDIENCE PARTICIPANTS

2,915

ATTENDED IN-PERSON PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

451

VIRTUAL PROGRAM ATTENDEES

6,402

TOUR PARTICIPANTS

WE HAD VISITORS FROM

50 states, and 29 countries

WE HAD ONLINE PARTICIPANTS FROM

34 states, and 22 countries

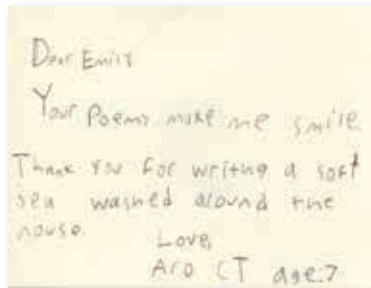
VIRTUAL RESOURCES

When public life shut down in March, the Museum turned its attention towards creating asynchronous remote resources including virtual Dickinson syllabi, a remote audio tour of the garden and grounds, Dickinson-inspired playlists and coloring sheets, virtual exhibitions and activities, and recordings of past programs.



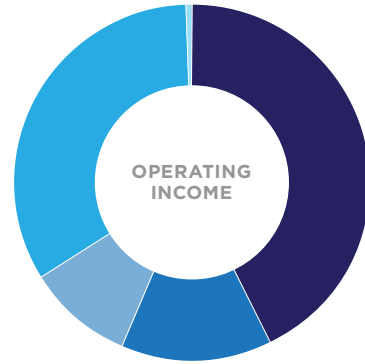
Postcard Virtual Exhibit

Inspired by the poem *This is my letter to the World / That never wrote to Me*, this exhibition showcases the powerful, global impact of Emily Dickinson's poetry. The collection is adorned with original artwork, poetry, and keepsakes. The works explore themes as diverse as art, nature, grief, politics, home, poetry, and love. Explore the high definition images of a selection of the postcards the Museum received, and discover how Dickinson's revolutionary poetic voice resonates in contemporary lives. We will be continuing to digitize and add postcards from the collection on the Museum's website.



“THE WAY HOPE BUILDS HIS HOUSE”

In a volatile fiscal year that led to the suspension of public tours in March, the Emily Dickinson Museum’s financial position remained strong, thanks to the generosity of more than 540 donors. Gift support and growth in investment income mitigated losses in program-related earned income. Operating expenses were kept in check as the fiscal year came to an end, resulting in a transfer to the Museum’s small operating reserve of \$57,347.



OPERATING INCOME

CONTRIBUTED INCOME	\$401,194	42.8%	●
EARNED INCOME	128,292	13.7%	●
AMHERST COLLEGE	91,938	9.8%	●
INVESTMENT INCOME	312,444	33.3%	●
RESTRICTED FUND	3,000	0.3%	●
TOTAL OPERATING FUNDS	\$936,868		

RESTRICTED FUNDS

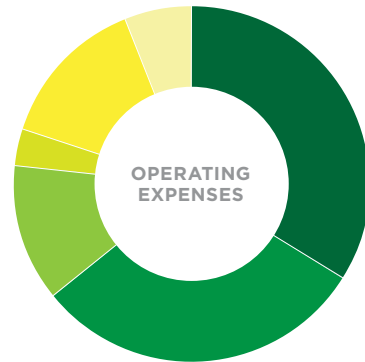
RESTRICTED PROJECT AND PLANT FUNDS	\$145,020
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	\$145,020

RESERVE FUNDS

VICKERY RESERVE FUND	\$550,000
OTHER RESERVE FUNDS	295,261
TOTAL RESERVE FUNDS	\$845,261

ENDOWED FUNDS

MARTHA DICKINSON BIANCHI FUND	\$1,086,955
WILLIAM C. MCVICKERY '57 EMILY DICKINSON FUNDS (IRA + '57)	21,099,634
GILBERT H. MONTAGUE FUND	536,978
DAVID T. PORTER FUND	35,098
TOTAL ENDOWED FUNDS	\$21,071,494



OPERATING EXPENSES

MUSEUM PROGRAM	\$319,036	34.1%	●
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE	282,628	30.2%	●
FUNDRAISING	116,139	12.4%	●
COST OF SHOP SALES	33,217	3.5%	●
PHYSICAL PLANT	128,501	13.7%	●
RESERVE FUNDS	57,347	6.1%	●
TOTAL OPERATING FUNDS	\$936,868		

Emily Dickinson Museum

THE HOMESTEAD | THE EVERGREENS



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