

The Gardner Museum Spring 2023 Events

RESERVATION is required for every event, unless otherwise noted (email preferred)!!!

March
01

Spring/Summer Exhibit “Celebrating Gardner’s 100 Years as a City” no reservation needed

In connection with Gardner’s Centennial Celebrations, the museum will reopen after the winter break with an exciting exhibit showcasing long-term, still-existing businesses, and other memorable aspects of the city’s first 100 years. The exhibit will run until August 27th during regular museum opening hours.

March
16

Irish Step Dance 6:30-7:30 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6 pm

After a 3-year hiatus Anne O’Connell’s Irish Step Dancers will be performing once again at the museum! Join us for a St. Patrick’s Day celebration with a lively performance rooted in trad. Irish dance.

April
6

A Worcester County Civil War story in letters 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted recept. at 6:30 pm

Jan Drake is a retired librarian and hobby genealogist who lives in Needham. Her great grandfather’s cousin George W. Harwood from North Brookfield enlisted in the MA 36th Regiment of Volunteers which served for three years (1862-1865), travelling with the Ninth Corps primarily under General Ambrose Burnside. He wrote home almost weekly from 9 states. The program includes reading from the letters, and maps and photos of people and places mentioned. Jan has published a book which provides context for George’s letters. Signed copies of the book will be available for purchase.

April
13

The Heist 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm

Retired corporate accountant Bob Ainsworth, the author of *Duped*, a fictional account of the still unsolved 1990 art heist at Boston’s Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, will review the actual details of the theft, the suspects, and the motives behind the world’s most valued art theft. He will also tell of his own brush with the infamous crime. Signed copies of his historical fiction books *Duped*, *Conned* and *Scammed* will be available for purchase.

April
20

Medieval West Afrika 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm

The presentation “Going for the Gold: Art and Trade in Medieval West Africa” will give an overview of some of the major traditions of West African sculpture from the 10th century CE to the 16th century, with beautiful examples of art from Nigeria (Igbo-Ukwu, Ife, and Benin Kingdom) and Mali (Djenne). Dr. Jean M. Borgatti, Fulbright Scholar (2002-2003, 2014-2015), and Professor of Fine and Applied Arts at University of Benin - Nigeria (2013-2017), is a Visiting Scholar at Clark University and Boston University, and Consulting Curator for African, Oceanic, First Peoples’ Art at Fitchburg Art Museum.

April
27

Rachel Revere 6-7 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 5:30 pm

History At Play™, LLC offers living history performances which breathe life into the stories of influential and often forgotten women. Artistic director and performer Judith Kalaora will be back at the museum with a program about a strong female character in the wake of an American Revolution: Rachel Revere, Paul Revere’s young 2nd wife. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Gardner Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the MA Cultural Council, a state agency. (Due to the earlier time of the program, the **reception starts at 5:30 pm!**)

May
3

Annual Meeting - Museum Members Only – 7 pm; no reservation needed

Members, don’t miss this opportunity to elect YOUR executive board, vote on changes in the board of trustees, make important decisions regarding the museum, get informed of previous and future activities from Committee heads, review fiscal information for the past year, and ask any questions regarding the directions the museum will take in the future.

May
4

Living with Nature 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm

Join Athol Bird & Nature Club president and Millers River Environmental Center director Dave Small as he explores the transformation of his yard from a boring suburban lot dominated by lawn to a rich habitat for our native wildlife. Removing invasive species, planting native plants, and providing water, food, and

cover for a variety of wildlife and people. The result is a space that has become a wonderful place to hang out, enjoying a wide variety of wildlife.

May
11

Hervey Bowden Essay Contest Awards Night 7-8 pm (reception at 6:30 pm only for participating students and their families)

High School students explore the overarching history topic "Gardner - 100 years as a city," as part of Gardner's Centenary. The winning research paper receives a \$250 award tonight. 3 Finalists will read their essays. This year's event is dedicated to Raymond Fredette (1924-2022), the contest's founder and sponsor. The award money (sent by Ray shortly before his death) will be presented by his nephew Steve Fredette and wife Patti.

May
18

The Language of Icons: Art as Revelation 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm

Dennis Sardella, docent at the Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton, will give an illustrated lecture about Byzantine and Russian icons, their history, symbolic language, and role in the liturgical and spiritual life of the Eastern Church. Signed copies of his book *Visible Image of the Invisible God. An introduction to Russian and Byzantine Icons* will be available for purchase.

May
25

Rabbit Run Railroad 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm

Artist, co-owner of Frames/Ink in Petersham, and railroad buff Ken Levine will talk about the Swift River Valley, the 4 towns lost during the creation of the Quabbin Reservoir (North Dana, Enfield, Greenwich and Prescott), the development of railroads in New England, and the Rabbit Run Railroad. This "stoppingest railroad" (with 19 stations along the circa 50 miles) was the lifeblood of the Swift River Valley. Ken will also cover the artistry and construction of his diorama of the Swift River Valley during pre-Quabbin Reservoir times he created in New Salem at the Swift River Valley Historical Society.

June
1

Forward, Upward, Onward 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm

Westminster nature-lover Matt Landry will present 10 life changing lessons from hiking the 48-4,000 mountains of NH. He will share his surprising discoveries and the stepping stones to re-evaluate and assess his life – the gained self-respect, confidence, discipline, and healthy habits that will remain for a lifetime. We ALL have mountains to conquer!

July
20

The Crash of Delta Flight 723 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm

Winchendon-born US Army Veteran and author Paul D. Houle has spent over 25 years in the transportation industry. Tonight's program is about the worst plane crash in New England history (at Boston's Logan International Airport, in 1973): the origins of the flight, the events leading up to the crash, the subsequent investigations, and the story of the sole survivor (for 134 days). The history of aviation in Northern New England, the merger of Northeast Airlines with Delta Airlines, investigative procedures of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), and the impact of Watergate on those will also be covered. Signed copies of both books on aviation safety *The Crash of Delta Flight 723* and *The Crash of Piedmont Airlines Flight 22* will be available for purchase.

Aug
12

Craft Fair (outside; rain date Aug 13) 10 am – 4 pm

Join us for our 2nd annual Craft Fair! This fundraising event will take place outside, in our parking lot.

The Gardner Museum

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978-632-3277

All above programs are scheduled to be in-person. We urge all visitors to check our website and Facebook page for possible cancellations or postponements.