

## The Gardner Museum Spring 2024 Events

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

March  
10

### **Artist Reception for Spring Solo-Art Exhibit 1-4 pm; no reservation needed**

Local contemporary landscape painter and retired fine arts educator Mark Lore will present his exhibit "Expressionist Landscapes-The First 50 Years." Today, meet the award-winning artist, who works in both oils and acrylics, and has participated in many local and regional exhibits all over New England. His work is also in many private and public collections across the country from Florida, Ohio, California, Texas, to Canada. The exhibit will run until May 26<sup>th</sup> during regular museum opening hours.

March  
14

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

Experience the magic of Anne O'Connell's Irish Step Dancers! Join us for a St. Patrick's Day celebration with a lively performance rooted in traditional Irish dance.

April  
4

### **Survival & Knife Safety 10 am after a museum-hosted morning coffee at 9:30 am**

Tim Swanson, founder of *Owl Eyes Wilderness Survival*, seeks to empower, inspire, and connect people of all backgrounds to nature. He will talk about safety and teach a fire-starting project (attendants will make their own feather sticks). Tim's knives, knife sharpeners, fire starters, patches, T-Shirts, and hats will be available for purchase.

April  
11

### **Finding Inner Peace and Health 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm**

Certified Life/Wellness/Stress Management Coach and Independent Clinical Social Worker Kelly Knowler has worked in the human services field for over 20 years. She will be offering a guided meditation to address the chakras in the body, allowing for relaxation, healing and mindfulness. She will also bring a variety of essential oils and give a brief presentation on how to use them.

May  
2

### **Local and regional history through the eyes of students- free event - 7 pm**

After a Covid-related hiatus, the popular Hervey Bowden Essay Contest project is back! Enjoy tonight's reading of 3 winning research essays by area High School students; and presentation of awards to Finalists by family members of late Ray Fredette, GHS graduate of 1942, who founded and sponsored the contest since 2006. It honors Hervey Bowden, a history teacher at Gardner High School for over 40 years, beginning in 1927.

May  
9

### **Just Policing 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm**

Edward Cronin will give a presentation about his experiences as Gardner Chief of Police (1995-1998), and on his book "*Just Policing – My Journey to Police Reform*" which will also be available for purchase. He is an award-winning, innovative and progressive leader for police reform in both America, and internationally.

May  
11,12

### **Free admission for educators during regular opening hours 1-4 pm**

Every year, the first full week of May is set aside as Teacher Appreciation Week. It is a time to recognize the teachers who have made a difference in our lives and to thank them for all that they do. Teachers work tirelessly to provide their students with the best possible education, and we owe it to them to take a moment to show our gratitude. We celebrate the wonderful work of our educators who help shape the future of the world by granting them free admission, and a chance to win a door prize.

May  
16

### **Annie Fields 6-7 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 5:30 pm**

Living Historian, Playwright, Producer, and Actress Judith Kalaora of History at Play™, LLC, will portray poet, philanthropist and social reformer Annie Adams Fields (1834-1915). Learn about an influential, strong female who, at the same time, was a perfect hostess, genteel lady, and carefully polished public persona of the late 19th-Century. 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.

May  
23

**Foraging Edibles at your Doorstep 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm**

Local “Modern Pioneer” Lauren Roy will empower, and educate the audience on living more naturally and in the art of foraging as a way of saving money. More importantly, they will learn that they are capable of providing for their own and their family’s most basic need: food. No matter what is going on in the world. Signed copies of her book *Modern Pioneer – An Almanac of Natural Living* will be available for purchase.

May  
30

**Arabian Night at the Museum 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm**

Rita Parisi of Waterfalls Productions will portray “an Arabian Princess from Zanzibar.” Emily Ruete, born as Princess Salamah bint Said, in 1844, grew up in a harem as the youngest child of the Sultan of Oman and Zanzibar. Hear her story (the theatrical presentation is based on her 1886 autobiography), and about women’s rights in Eastern and Western Culture. 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.

June  
6

**Summer Art Exhibit Reception 6-7 pm; no reservation needed**

Our Summer Exhibit “Gardner’s Open Spaces” is a juried exhibition organized by the Gardner Area League of Artists. It will run from June 7 until August 25<sup>th</sup> during regular museum opening hours.

June  
13

**Stone Walls 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm**

Kevin Gardner, a stone wall builder in a family business for more than 45 years, who also worked as a performance critic, radio writer & producer, actor, director, and teacher of theatre, will talk about a landscape feature everyone comes across frequently. He will explain why New England came to acquire its thousands of miles of stone walls, how they were built, how their styles changed over time, and why they are significant to New England history and its famous landscape. His books “The Granite Kiss: Traditions and Techniques of Building New England Stone Walls” and “Stone Building: How to Make New England Style Walls and Other Structures” will be available for purchase. 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.

July  
11

**Monarch Butterflies 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm**

Over the past two decades, monarch numbers in North America have declined because of changes in breeding, migratory, and overwintering habitat (due to conversion of grasslands to agriculture, urban development, widespread use of herbicides, unsuitable management & logging/thinning at overwintering sites, and drought), continued exposure to insecticides, and effects of climate change. Local butterfly enthusiast Anne Gilmartin is dedicated to saving butterflies by having raised monarchs for about ten years, by monitoring populations, life cycles, and habitat, and by educating the community. Tonight, you will see and hold caterpillars at different stages, and chrysalises.

**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.