

The Gardner Museum Fall 2024 Events

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

**Aug
07**

Pop-up Concert at the Museum 7 pm doors open; 7:30 pm - no reservation needed

New England artsy underground music by Jeffrey Gallagher and colleagues. Established singer/guitarist/poet/visual artist “Jeff Unfortunately” has released albums on some prestigious small labels all over the US and some abroad. He and his friends will be jamming this summer at the Gardner Museum! Cover charge \$5

**Sep
01**

Fall/Winter solo photography exhibit “Northeast Wildlife Through My Eyes” 1-4 pm - no reservation needed

The exhibit will feature stunning photos taken by hobby photographer Jeff Sargent. It will be open until the end of the year, during regular hours Wednesday – Sunday, 1-4 pm.

**Sep
05**

Cybersecurity, Fake News, and You: How to Navigate a World of Scammers, Fraudsters, Tricksters, and Fakers 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm

Whether it's our cellphones or our computers, these devices help us to find information quickly and easily. But unfortunately, not all of that information is reliable: there are many fraudsters and scammers trying to mislead us and manipulate the information we receive. So, how can you tell the difference between accurate information and "fake news"? How can you tell if what you are seeing is a reliable link, or just a scammer trying to get your personal details? Media historian and former broadcaster Donna Halper will give you some helpful hints and important facts about how to keep your devices safe from scammers, and how to avoid being fooled by "fake news."

**Sep
12**

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

Writer Bob Ainsworth, author of the Harry Bartlett mystery series, will be back at the museum for another engaging talk, this time about Charles Ponzi who, in 1920 Boston, became a millionaire by promoting a nonexistent investing opportunity and with that coined the term Ponzi Scheme. (Bob had presented “The Heist” here at the museum in April 2023). Signed copies of the book *Ponzi'd* and some of his other his historical fiction books will be available for purchase.

**Sep
19**

Survival & Knife Safety 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm

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. (This program has been rescheduled after its cancelation in the spring)

**Sep
26**

Railroad in Song 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm

Remember Jon Waterman's entertaining program about Roots of Popular Music last October? You asked to have him back at the museum, and we did it! Tonight's program celebrates and explores the railroad in America with songs - and the stories of songs - about trains, railroad workers, the building of the railroad, train wrecks, heroes and hobos, and songs where the train appears as a symbol for freedom or a passage through life. Some of the stops include the Transcontinental Railroad, the stories of Casey Jones and John Henry, the Ashtabula and 97 wrecks, the Great migration and more. The show consists of songs, history, and an accompanying slide presentation. 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.

**Oct
3**

Annual Veterans Roundtable 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm

This year's panel discussion with veterans, and providers of veteran services will focus on the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, NH (a non-denominational sanctuary founded at the end of WWII in memory of Sanderson Sloane and to honor veterans), and other local veteran services. Moderator Alan Dernalowicz.

Oct
10

Challenges to the International Order 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm

Join us for a discussion with Ryan McNutt, a U.S. Army veteran (served in Iraq from 2003-2004) who holds a master's degree in history from Fitchburg State University, about the rules-based system of order put in place largely by the US, how it has provided stability to the world since the end of WWII, and how this system is being challenged today by revanchism and neo-imperialism. After the Second World War, Washington drove the establishment of new international institutions. This system of international organizations, rules, and norms commonly referred to as the "rules-based order" is widely credited with having improved international peace and security in subsequent decades. This system is under the greatest challenges since its establishment. If it does not survive, what will that mean for us?

Oct
17

Chair Caning 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm

Elaine Blake, who learned to cane from a lady at her church, in Chelmsford, while she was still in High School, will talk about the ancient craft of seat weaving, and demonstrate caning examples in her own chairs and in chairs of the Museum collection. She will share some anecdotes about this global craft, the harvesting & growing of the rattan vine used to make most cane and wicker furniture, and her own development from hobby weaver to establishing her own business in 2014.

Nov
7

The Professor Was a Spy: Gardner's Norman Holmes Pearson

At the Levi Heywood Memorial Library at 55 W Lynde St, Gardner MA! At 6:30 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6 pm

The son of the founder of Goodnow Pearson's, Norman Pearson might have looked like the tweedy Yale professor he was, but he was one of the most consequential figures in twentieth-century American literature, an architect of the Cold War collaboration between academia and cultural diplomacy, and one of the highest-ranking spies in the OSS and one of the shapers of the CIA. In this program Greg Barnhisel of Duquesne University will read from and discuss his new biography of Pearson, *CODE NAME PURITAN: NORMAN HOLMES PEARSON AT THE NEXUS OF POETRY, ESPIONAGE, AND AMERICAN POWER*. His hot-off-the-press book will be available for purchase. This is a joint event in collaboration with the Levi Heywood Memorial.

Nov
13

19th annual Festival of Trees - no reservation needed

The popular event is open to the public starting today, until Saturday, 12/7. Opening hours: Wednesdays, Thursdays 1-4 pm; Fridays 1-7 pm; Saturdays, Sundays 10 am – 4 pm. Ticket sales are cash only.

Dec
07

Festival of Trees – Drawing Day

Last day to purchase tickets: 10 am – 2 pm. Museum closes at 2 pm to the public for winner drawing at 3 pm. Winners will be notified following the drawing.

Dec
08

Festival of Trees pick up day

Winners can pick up their trees or other items 10 am – 2 pm.

The Gardner Museum

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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.