

## Spring 2025 Events: RESERVATION is required for every event, unless otherwise noted (email preferred)

Please note that not all of our upcoming programs follow our customary Thursday night schedule. Be sure to check the specific dates and times so you don't miss out! We look forward to seeing you at the museum soon!

- March 5** | **Spring Exhibit opens: Gardner Fire Department** 1-4 pm; no reservation needed  
We start our museum year with a display of photos and items pertaining to the Gardner Fire Department through the years, with an emphasis on the 1940's through the 1960's. Never before exhibited images from the collection of Richard Ares are complemented by items from our own collection. The exhibit will run until May 25 during regular museum opening hours.
- March 15** | **Trustees Meeting – Museum Trustees Only!** 1 pm; no reservation needed  
All trustees' presence and input are valued and integral to the success and growth of the museum.
- March 17** | **Irish Step Dance** 5 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 4:30  
Let's celebrate today's St. Patrick's Day with a lively performance of the Irish-American Step Dancers!
- March 27** | **Chair City Oral History Book Series** 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm  
The Chair City Oral History Book Series explores the first-hand stories of Nichols & Stone factory workers. Community volunteers made those stories into small editions of letterpress-printed, hand-bound books in the Chair City Community Workshop in downtown Gardner between 2015 and 2021. Former Workshop director and artist Tracie Pouliot will discuss some of the furniture worker's stories, the collaborative work done to craft the books by hand in the old-fashioned way, reflections on the completed project, and what was lost as one of Gardner's main furniture factories closed down. Audience members who worked in the furniture industry are welcome to share their own story.
- April 11** | **Challenger: Soaring with Christa McAuliffe** 6 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 5:30 pm  
This program will pay homage to the President Reagan's administration's Teacher in Space Program and the crew of the NASA space shuttle. In an exciting multi-media immersive living history performance, Living Historian, Playwright, Producer, and Actress Judith Kalaora of History at Play™, LLC will portray the incredible NH high school teacher, American pioneer, and internationally recognized heroine CHRISTA MCAULIFFE, who is the first woman to be memorialized at the NH State Capitol with a statue (on 9/2/2024 which would have been her 76<sup>th</sup> birthday). 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.
- April 24** | **Singer/Songwriter Festival Day 1-** 7-9 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm  
For all music fans! This cultural event brings a variety of artists to the museum to celebrate the art of songwriting. Watch for announcements of musician line-ups. Made possible in part by a grant from the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts.
- May 2** | **Boston Library/Digitization Project** 1 pm  
Boston Public Library's Statewide Digitization Assistant & Project Archivist Joel DeMelo will give a presentation explaining the ins and outs of the Statewide Digitization Program, a free service available to institutions around the Commonwealth. The talk is designed to make the digitization process transparent and accessible to anyone involved in a cultural heritage institution, regardless of their experience with archives. The goal is to leave attendees with an understanding of the steps necessary to get their materials online, and with a sense for the importance of making materials widely available on DigitalCommonwealth.org and Archive.org.
- May 4** | **Free admission for educators** during regular opening hours 1-4 pm
- May 6** | **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.

- May 8** **Local and regional history through the eyes of students-** free event - 7 pm  
Hervey Bowden Essay Contest project: 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 15** **Wachusett Mountain – History & Hiking** 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm  
Nearby Wachusett Mountain is full of rich history and has been a popular hiking destination for centuries. Westminster nature lover and published author Matt Landry will be back at the museum with his latest book, a hiking and history guide. (It comes right after his Feb 2024 book *One Mountain - One Hundred Summits*, a collection of 100 essays.). Signed copies of his books will be available for purchase.
- May 22** **Framing History** 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm  
Join us for a special slideshow featuring decades of work by Gardner native Jocelyn Augustino, a professional photographer based in Washington, D.C. She has captured historic moments from the campaign trail to the White House and beyond, documenting presidents, political movements, and natural disasters. Her compelling images of disaster response, recognized for their historical significance, are preserved in the National Archives, serving as a testament to resilience and leadership in times of crisis. Jocelyn's work has been featured in *Time Magazine*, *The Guardian*, *Newsweek*, and more. Don't miss this unique opportunity to see history through her lens!
- May 29** **Singer/Songwriter Festival Day 2-** 7-9 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm
- June 4** **Summer Exhibit opens** 1-4 pm; no reservation needed  
Our Summer Exhibit "Picture Perfect" features photographs taken by our members. The entries by talented hobby and professional photographers include original photos and images transferred to other mediums. It will run until August 24<sup>th</sup> during regular museum opening hours.
- June 5** **1908 Tea** 2 pm  
Enjoy sipping a variety of teas this afternoon while listening to Rita Parisi of Waterfalls Productions as she portrays fictional Mrs. Gordon chat about all things 1908 including moving picture shows, shopping in Boston, motor cars, the first Mother's Day celebration, corsetry, fashion, and more. Audience participation is encouraged and all questions will be answered in character. 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 12** **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?
- June 26** **Singer/Songwriter Festival Day 3-** 7-9 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm