

The Gardner Museum Fall 2025 Events

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

Sep
03

Fall/Winter Sports Exhibit 1-4 pm - no reservation needed

The exhibit features displays of area high school sports (GHS, Murdock, Narragansett, Oakmont), the Dubzinski Family, and Greater Gardner Area professional athletes & Olympians. It will run until Dec 19, during regular museum hours Wednesday – Sunday, 1-4 pm. Check out the impressive sports raffle benefitting our nonprofit museum (drawing Nov 1)!

Sep
04

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

You asked—and we got him back! After his popular presentation in Sept 2024, author Bob Ainsworth returns with *Sports Cheats, Frauds, and Con Artists*, coinciding with the museum's Fall/Winter Sports Exhibit. From Bill Belichick and Spygate to Tom Brady and Deflategate, Nancy Kerrigan's attack by Tonya Harding, and Alex Cora's sign-stealing scandal, Bob explores infamous moments when athletes and coaches broke the rules to win. Cheating, he reveals, isn't limited to major sports—it happens everywhere people compete, from fencing and chess to the Olympics and even the Special Olympics. Tracing cheats and scandals from ancient times to today, Bob shares stories both familiar and surprising—entertaining, amazing, and shocking audiences with tales of winning at any cost.

Sep
11

Faith, Family & Heritage: A Writers Journey 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm

Join us for an evening with author Tim Crellin, Episcopal priest and Rector of St. Paul's Church since 2022. Raised in the Boston area and educated at Brown and Harvard Divinity School, Tim drew on his Sicilian heritage and deep study of 20th-century wars to craft his historical novel *The Land of the Living*. The book follows Angela and Tommaso Amorelli from Ellis Island to a New England fishing town, exploring immigration, identity, war, and family resilience. Tim will share how his family history and study of war inspired the story, offering a personal look at the experiences behind the novel. Signed copies of the book will be available for purchase.

Sep
13

Sports Exhibit Grand Opening Event Free Admission 1-4 pm - no reservation needed

Join the Saturday celebration with Mascots on site: WooSox "Smiley" (2-2:45 pm), and "Monty" from MWCC – bring your cameras! Free giveaways! Local sports authors Mark Bodanza, Chris Daly, Jay Gearan, and Mike Richard will be presenting/selling and signing their books.

Sep
18

History & Legends Through Song 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm

Musician, songwriter, and history enthusiast Jon Waterman returns to the museum for another engaging live performance, this time together with Li Waterman, as a duo called Sultana. Blending original and traditional songs with stories and historical narratives, they bring the past to life through music. The carefully researched songs are inspired by fascinating historical characters and events. Join us for an evening where music and history meet, sparking curiosity and a deeper appreciation for the stories that shaped our world. 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.

Sep
25

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

Join us for this year's meaningful panel discussion with local veterans and providers of veteran services, moderated by Alan Dernalowicz. Hear firsthand stories of service, learn about resources for veterans, and take part in a conversation honoring those who have served our country.

Sep
28

Unveiling Harrison Cady 3 pm - no reservation needed

The Gardner Museum invites the community to the official Sunday celebration of the new permanent exhibit honoring Harrison Cady (1877–1970), Gardner's most famous native son and a leading illustrator of the Golden Age of Illustration. Best known for his *Peter Rabbit* drawings in Thornton Burgess's children's books, Cady also created satirical magazine illustrations and later became a skilled landscape painter. The exhibit showcases 21 works, including the newly conserved watercolor *Cady's Store at*

Gardner Center, Mass. Anno Domini, 1885. The event will include a ribbon cutting, remarks, and a special raffle as we honor the remarkable legacy that began right here in our city.

Oct
2

Madness in Crowds 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm

Harrison Cady, born in Gardner in 1877, was a prominent cartoonist, illustrator, and author from the late 1890's into the 1960's. (Did you know he designed our city seal?) Though once famous for *Peter Rabbit* and his collaborations with Thornton Burgess, Cady was largely forgotten until the 2020 publication of *Madness in Crowds: The Teeming Mind of Harrison Cady*. Co-written by Denis and Violet Kitchen, the book won a national design award and was nominated for two Eisner Awards. The father-daughter duo gave a wonderful presentation about the book here at the museum in October 2019. Now Denis, himself a longtime cartoonist, author, and publisher, returns with a visual lecture on Cady's remarkable career. Copies of the book, and special 3-D prints of selected Cady images will be available for purchase.

Oct
11

Kids' Art Session: Draw Like Harrison Cady! Free Admission 2 pm

Our new permanent exhibit celebration isn't just for adults: kids can join the fun too! Calling all elementary-age Van Goghs in our community for a special hands-on art session inspired by Cady's whimsical style, including his beloved character Peter Rabbit. Led by Alyssa Doolin, the Levi Heywood Memorial Library children's librarian, this Saturday session will be fun, creative, and perfect for young artists of all skill levels. Registration required (email preferred)—please include your child's age when registering!

Oct
23

Averill House Uncorked -Wine Wisdom, Dry Edition! 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception at 6:30 pm

Winemaker Matt Denette Sr. will give a presentation about family-owned Averill House Vineyard, the first full production grape-to-glass winery located inside the Historic Ice District of Brookline, NH. He will also delve into the topic of wine-glass pairing, exploring the key factors to consider and providing guidance on which wines pair best with which glass types: Glass shape, size, and material can impact the overall drinking experience: it can enhance or detract from the flavors, aromas, and textures. Due to the city's licensing requirements, no wine will be sampled tonight.

Nov
12

20th anniversary Festival of Trees - no reservation needed

Celebrate 20 years of holiday magic at the Festival of Trees! This beloved community tradition returns for its milestone anniversary, filling the museum with sparkling Christmas trees and festive raffle items—each lovingly donated by local individuals, families, and businesses. The event is open to the public starting today through Saturday, December 7. Come experience the joy, creativity, and community spirit that have made this event a seasonal favorite for two decades. Opening Hours: Wednesdays & Thursdays: 1–4 pm; Fridays: 1–7 pm; Saturdays & Sundays: 10 am–4 pm. Tickets: Cash only. Don't miss this special anniversary celebration—where memories are made, traditions are honored, and the holiday season begins!

Dec
06

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
07

Festival of Trees pick up day

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

The Gardner Museum

info@gardnermuseuminc.com

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.