



CONCORD
MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER Winter 2017

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for Members and
Friends of the Museum

A Gateway to Concord's History

concordmuseum.org



A REVOLUTIONARY YEAR FOR THE CONCORD MUSEUM!

We are proud to announce that the Museum's Board of Governors, under the leadership of President Churchill Franklin, voted unanimously on November 14, 2016, to break ground on a major building project that will transform the existing Museum to meet greatly expanded educational and cultural program needs.

The Building Project

The construction and renovation project represents the culmination of a five-year process, which included strategic planning; a fundraising feasibility study; campus master planning; and budgetary and operational planning for the construction period and beyond. Throughout the planning process, the Building Committee, co-chaired by Governors Ralph Earle and Kyle Barnard, has worked with designLAB architects, a Boston firm, and a team of consultants. Groundbreaking for the project will occur in late February 2017; construction is scheduled to conclude in 2018.

To address its burgeoning space needs, the Museum will replace the Davis Building, which dates from 1980, with a 13,000 square foot education center and an outdoor courtyard. The new building, connected to the main Museum, will double the Museum's educational capacity with three new classrooms; a multi-purpose Lyceum space; and an innovative History Learning Center for teaching directly from objects.

Within the existing Museum building, a new Gateway to Concord orientation area will welcome visitors to the Museum and to the town. The creation of additional gallery space, expanded and modernized collections storage, and new mechanical systems in the original 1930 building will enable the Museum to better care for and display its exceptional collections. Site improvements—including a significantly expanded parking lot—will improve visitor accessibility and flow to and from the Museum.

The project has received all necessary approvals from Town boards, including the Historic Districts Commission, the Natural Resources Commission, the Planning Board, and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Revolution: The Campaign for the Concord Museum

The project is being funded by a \$13 million campaign, which includes \$10 million for construction and related costs and \$3 million for endowment to secure the Museum's future.

A REVOLUTIONARY YEAR, *continued*

In just sixteen months, the Museum has raised \$10.7 million towards its goal thanks to the tremendous effort and enthusiasm of the Board of Governors (including 100% participation by its members) and the generosity of many leadership level supporters, including a number of significant foundations.

Please plan to join us on Friday, February 24, at 10:00 a.m. at *Barn Voyage*, an event that will introduce our plans and the campaign to the greater community. We will give a fond farewell to the Davis Building and break ground on the Museum's exciting new Education Center. We hope, with support from additional generous donors, to meet the \$13 million goal over the following year.

The Museum's additional transformational achievements in 2016 include the following:

- Over 12,000 students and teachers participated in the Museum's curriculum-based school programs this year—nearly double the number served in 2011.
- The donor-supported Paul Revere's Ride Fund provided free bus transportation and waived program fees for more than 3,000 students from Lowell, Lawrence, and Everett—a 35% increase over FY15.
- With support from a local donor, the Museum has obtained a three-year lease for the first floor of the Wright Tavern from First Parish in Concord. The space is being used for school and public programs, and 400 people visited the site on October 15th. It will also serve as an office space for some staff during construction.
- Thanks to a local supporter, the Museum purchased from the Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association 1.4 acres of land adjacent to the Museum to enhance environmental interpretation.
- The Museum was awarded two prestigious federal grants this year—\$159,956 from the National Endowment for the Humanities and \$133,249 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
- Development achievements have surpassed goals for the past six years. Further, the Guild of Volunteers generated net income of \$192,000 for the Museum in FY16.
- Museum attendance increased 25% this year—driven by such successful exhibitions as *Middlesex County Modern*; *N.C. Wyeth's Men of Concord*; and *The Art and Mystery of the Dollhouse*.
- To celebrate the 200th anniversary of Thoreau's birth in 2017 and to encourage its constituents to *Be Thoreau*, the Museum has planned a full year of exhibitions, programs, and events, including a major collaborative exhibition with The Morgan Library & Museum. Please see page 8 for more information.

Peggy Burke, Executive Director

The Museum is extremely grateful for the support of these first-phase donors to the Campaign for the Concord Museum, as of December 31, 2016.

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Report of Gifts

October 1, 2015–September 30, 2016

Philanthropy inspires what is possible at the Concord Museum—from our exhibits and school programming for children to our cultural offerings, our exciting plans for a new building, and so much more. We are fortunate to have the long and loyal support of friends who have shaped and advanced our Museum, and we are equally grateful for the critical annual support of a broad community of contributors—old friends and new. This year, given the particularly transformative power of philanthropy, we introduce to you a new way of thanking our donors. We extend our deepest gratitude to each of you who have helped us achieve our goals and envision our future.

April 19th Society

We are pleased to introduce the April 19th Society, a new lifetime giving society that honors those who have played a vital role in shaping the Museum. These generous donors have contributed gifts totaling \$500,000 or more to the Museum. The events of April 19th, 1775 demonstrate that the actions of individuals can profoundly affect the future of institutions. We are grateful to these visionary supporters whose generosity has made a tremendous impact on the Concord Museum.

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Individual Giving

The following individuals are recognized and appreciated for their cumulative gifts and pledge payments from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016 for the Annual Fund, exhibitions, the Paul Revere's Ride Fund, Revolution: The Campaign for the Concord Museum, and for other events and special projects.

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The Concord Museum is also grateful to the more than fifty members and friends who made contributions up to \$99.

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The Lantern Society recognizes special donors who contributed \$1,000 or more to the Annual Fund this year.

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The Concord Museum believes that every child deserves access to high quality history education. The Paul Revere's Ride Fund provides free bus transportation to the Museum and waives school program fees for students from underserved communities.

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Amy and Jay Livens
Massachusetts Teachers Association
Michelle McArdle
MK Design
New England Home
Prince Street Cafe & Bakery
Quality Graphics
Rapscallion
Roche Bros. Supermarkets, Inc.
Saltbox Farm
Tea Forte Inc.
Nancy Traversy of Barefoot Books, Inc.
Tuesday Spoon Baking Company
Vivian Robins Design
Winston Flowers
Zack Wussow Media

Throughout 2017, Concord is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of legendary writer, thinker, and philosopher Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862).

Two centuries after his birth, we believe that much can be learned from Thoreau and his perception of the world. Thoreau's insistence on thinking, observing, and living deliberately continues to suggest frameworks for both understanding the past and navigating the present.

Accordingly, the Museum has developed a year-long initiative for 2017, "Be Thoreau," which encourages us to explore the writer's work from a historical and contemporary perspective. We hope that you will celebrate Thoreau in 2017 and join us for many of the following Museum exhibitions and programs:

- *Walden: Four Views* by Abelardo Morell (February 10-August 20, 2017).
- *The Anatomy of a Desk: Writing with Thoreau and Emerson* (Opening February 10).
- *This Ever New Self: Thoreau and His Journal*, a major collaborative exhibition with The Morgan Library & Museum (on view in New York from June 2-September 10, 2017; at the Concord Museum from September 29, 2017-January 21, 2018).
- A variety of public programs that explore Thoreau's thinking in a contemporary context, aligned with *This Ever New Self* and presented in coordination with local organizations.
- Be Thoreau, a day-long public symposium with leading scholars exploring Thoreau's ideas and their relevance today (at the Fenn School, October 28, 2017).
- *Walden, a game*, a new first-person video game that will be available for visitors to play in the Museum.
- Funded by the NEH, teacher-training workshops on Thoreau for 72 K-12 teachers (July 2017). Visit concordmuseum.org/neh-landmarks-2017.php for more information.

Information on Concord Museum exhibitions and programs can be found on our website, concordmuseum.org. Watch for regular updates. Additional information on Thoreau bicentennial events—presented locally, nationally, and internationally—can be found at thoreaubicentennial.org.

names & faces



1



2

Opening reception for *The Art and Mystery of the Dollhouse*

1. Michele Bembenek, Curator David Wood, and Anna Winter Rasmussen
2. President Churchill Franklin, Trustee of the Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund Katherine ("Gig") L. Babson, Jr., Executive Director Peggy Burke, Jane Mendillo, and Vice-President Ralph Earle
3. Two young visitors admire the dollhouses on display in the exhibition



3



4



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6



7

Celebrating the holidays at the Concord Museum

4. Emily O'Brien, *Merrimack Valley Magazine*, photographs one of the many beautifully decorated homes on the 2016 Holiday House Tour
5. Jerry Pinkney, Caldecott-winning illustrator and Honorary Chair of this year's *Family Trees*, stands beside the *The Grasshopper and the Ants* tree
6. *Arnie the Donut* welcomes visitors to the Museum
7. Julia Denos, author of *Swatch: The Girl Who Loved Color*, and a fan at Author and Illustrator Day

CALENDAR

Winter 2017

For reservations or more information, visit

concordmuseum.org

or call 978.369.9763, ext. 216



“MEMENTOS: JEWELRY OF LIFE AND LOVE”

February 6 • Join us at the annual Mary Lesneski Memorial Lecture & Tea as Historic New England Associate Curator Laura Johnson explores sparkling treasures and their stories in this sneak peek into the upcoming exhibition at the Eustis Estate in Milton. As is tradition, an elegant Afternoon Tea organized by the Concord Museum’s Guild of Volunteers follows the lecture. Lecture begins at 1:30; Non-members \$30; Members \$25. By advance reservation.

A VISIT WITH PRESIDENT LINCOLN

Presidents’ Day, Monday, February 20 • The Museum is pleased to again host Steve Wood and his amazing performance as Abraham Lincoln. Wood’s first-person historical interpretation, “A Visit with Abraham Lincoln,” includes stories of Lincoln’s early life, campaign debates, and the Civil War, and concludes with a stirring reading of the Gettysburg Address. 1:00-2:00; Recommended for all ages; Non-members \$16/\$8 child; Members \$10/\$5 child; ticket price includes Museum admission. Space is limited; reserve early.

CRAFTS IN THE MUSEUM

Monday-Thursday, February 20-23 • Get creative with vacation week crafts, daily in Brooke Hall from 11:30-3:00. Included free with Museum admission; **Members free.**

TEA & SWEETS

Sunday, February 12 - An Alice in Wonderland Tea

Saturday, March 4 - A Colonial Tea & Gallery Talk

Saturday, March 11 - An Authors Tea & Gallery Talk

Tea served with the jewel-like silken tea infusers crafted by Tea Forté of Concord makes the experience in elegant Brooke Hall a memorable one. Sweets are provided by a variety of area bakeries. 2:00-3:00; Non-members \$20/person; Members \$15/person; includes Museum admission. Reservation by phone required.

TEDDY BEAR TEA

Friday and Saturday, February 24 & 25, March 24 & 25 • Delight your child or grandchild with an afternoon for just the two of you! Bring a favorite teddy or stuffed animal to join you for tea or cocoa and take part in a simple craft. Seatings are from 12:00-1:00 & 2:00-3:00; Non-members \$20/person, Members \$15/person; includes Museum admission. Reservations by phone required.



Top: Courtesy Historic New England

Center: Abraham Lincoln, by Daniel Chester French; Collection of the Massachusetts Historical Society, on view at the Concord Museum

Save the Date • Le Bal Masqué • Saturday, March 4

The Guild of Volunteers cordially invites you to the Winter Ball: *Le Bal Masqué*, an annual event to benefit the Museum’s educational initiatives. The evening includes cocktails, dinner, dancing, and a lively auction event, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Lyman Estate in Waltham, Massachusetts. Look for your invitation in the mail or visit concordmuseum.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

WALDEN: FOUR VIEWS ASSOCIATED PROGRAMS

Members' Preview and Reception

February 9, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. • Join us at the opening of *Walden: Four Views*. **Free** to Concord Museum Members and invited guests. Watch for your invitation in the mail.

A Lecture by Abelardo Morell

Monday, March 27 • 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

In this illustrated lecture on *Walden: Four Views*, Abelardo Morell speaks about how he came to make his most recent series of photographs for this special exhibition. Learn how he employed his tent-camera and a technique using multiple exposures paired with cliché verre (a combination of photography and painting or drawing).

Free; by reservation only. This event will take place at the Fenn School in Concord. Priority registration for Concord Museum Members open now. General registration opens March 1.

A Gallery Talk by Abelardo Morell

Thursday, June 15 • 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

At this special gallery talk and reception for a limited audience, Morell explores his large-scale panoramic works of Walden Pond.

Members \$40; Non-members \$55. Space is extremely limited; reserve online or by phone at 978-369-9763 ext. 216. Priority registration for Concord Museum Members open now. General registration opens May 1.

A Workshop with Abelardo Morell

Saturday, June 17 • 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

For fifteen years, Morell has traveled the world, creating fantastic photographs of interior spaces flooded with vibrant exterior scenes. In this workshop, Morell demonstrates how he uses camera obscura to make his photographs.

Members \$10/\$5 child; Non-members \$15/\$7 child; includes Museum admission. Space is limited; reserve online or by phone at 978-369-9763 ext. 216.

*Above, right: Walden: Pond / Tent Camera Image, 2016
Abelardo Morell*



WALDEN: FOUR VIEWS Abelardo Morell

**On exhibit February 10 through August 20, 2017
in the Wallace Kane Gallery**

Guided and inspired by Henry David Thoreau's journals and his seminal work *Walden*, Abelardo Morell has made panoramic photographic works that suggest a new perspective from which to look at Walden Pond. Whether by using his "tent-camera" to bring an image of Walden Pond onto the ground or creating a cliché verre picture of a body of water using ink on glass, Morell envisions the well-known landmark as a place where artistic invention opens up our consideration of the territory.

Abe was born in Havana, Cuba, immigrated to the United States in 1962, and graduated from Bowdoin College, with an MFA from Yale. His work has been collected and shown in many galleries and museums across the country and abroad, including the Museum of Modern Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. He is perhaps most famous for his camera obscura work. Abe Morell acknowledges a long-standing affinity to Thoreau that is being given expression in this exhibition, which is in part an encounter with the concept of transcendentalism.

PRESENTING SPONSOR:



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IN MEMORIAM: ANNE F. BROOKE (1932-2016)

The Concord Museum lost an inspirational leader, advocate, and great friend on October 13, 2016. Anne F. Brooke, a member, supporter, and champion of the Museum for over 40 years, and former President of the Board, died at age 84.

Anne and her husband Peter first became actively involved in the Museum in the 1970s. During the 1980s and 1990s, Anne led the Museum's revitalization and transformation into a dynamic educational and cultural resource, beginning with her service on the Board of Governors from 1981 to 1990.

As President of the Board from 1985 to 1990, Anne spearheaded the effort to modernize the Museum with a sizeable addition. With determination, fortitude, and grace, she led the Museum's Second Century Campaign to build the new wing. Designed by architect Graham Gund, the new building welcomed visitors in 1991. Brooke Hall was named for Anne in honor of her generosity and commitment to the Museum.

Anne was an inaugural member and chaired many special events of the Ladies Association (now the Guild of Volunteers), formed to support the Museum's educational activities. She believed in the "vitality and the quality of life in Concord" and was proud of the Museum's role as an important cultural institution for the town and the nation.

The Museum has been the beneficiary of a number of gifts of objects from Anne and Peter, including a Joseph Mulliken eight-day clock that former Museum Director Dennis Fiori and Curator David Wood helped Anne purchase for Peter's 60th birthday. Joseph Mulliken was a third-generation clockmaker who worked in Concord. He died young and a relatively small number of clocks survive from his shop. Of those few, none is more accomplished or in better condition than this one. In October 2016, this fine piece was given to the Museum and has been added to the collection. The clock's timelessness is a fitting legacy to Anne, who herself was one-of-a-kind. She will be deeply missed.

Eight-day clock; Joseph Mulliken (1765-1802); Concord, about 1800; Gift of Anne F. Brooke (2016) 2016.13.

MILESTONE YEAR FOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS

FY16 was a milestone year for the Concord Museum's school programs. By the end of September 2016, over 12,000 students and teachers participated in hands-on programs. This is the highest annual number the Museum has ever served and a 17% increase over FY15.

The number of underserved students reached through our Paul Revere's Ride Fund also grew 35% over FY15. In the 2015-2016 school year, the Museum expanded the partnership beyond Lowell and Everett to Lawrence, providing admission to the Museum's education programs, bus transportation, and teacher training at no cost to schools.

FY16 also saw the opening of Wright Tavern to the public, thanks to the Museum's partnership and lease agreement with First Parish in Concord, which owns the historic building that played a pivotal role in the events surrounding April 19, 1775. Museum staff opened the doors of the Tavern to 400 visitors on October 15th, 242 years almost to the day after the Provincial Congress met within its walls. Visitors interacted with living history interpreters, played colonial games, and learned about the building, its role in the town, and the efforts to preserve it. The Museum plans to open the building at least twice per year to the public; it will also use the space for school programs and temporary office space during construction at the Museum.



Students from the Whittier School in Everett on an archaeological dig at the Concord Museum; photo by Sara Lundberg.

WITH THANKS TO THE GUILD OF VOLUNTEERS



GuildVolunteers Stephanie Blunt, Michelle McArdle, and Pam Nelson

From the festive tartan-themed Fête to the colorful centerpiece tree decorated by the Museum's own Laura Hacker, the 21st annual *Family Trees: A Celebration of Children's Literature* brought rave reviews and thousands of visitors.

Family Trees was organized by the Museum's Guild of Volunteers under co-presidents Kelly Benkert and Aura Bruce. Many thanks to Jenny Jones, Pam Nelson, Stephanie Blunt, Anne Lehmann, Amy Livens, Michelle McArdle, Sara Kosicki, Patty Flint, Joanne Roser, Carol Wipper, the many creative tree decorators, and all the enthusiastic and committed volunteers. We also thank Barefoot Books for its

continued support as Lead Sponsor of the event and Boston Parents Paper for its support as a media sponsor.

The 6th annual Holiday House Tour was a record-breaking success thanks to the talents and hard work of chairs Kim Piculell Coughlin, Colleen Van Houten, and Sarah Walton. Almost 1,000 tour-goers enjoyed seven beautifully-decorated and festive Concord homes. The Museum is grateful to the gifted designers, generous homeowners and sponsors, and dedicated volunteers who have made this event a true Concord tradition.

MUSEUM RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS FEDERAL GRANT

The Museum has received \$133,249 in a highly competitive grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to develop a new Visitor Experience Plan (VEP). The VEP will guide the Museum's future efforts to reimagine how visitors interact with artifacts and Concord's history. "The Concord Museum has long been at the forefront of object-based learning," said Executive Director Peggy Burke. "This grant will help us think about how to best use our extraordinary collections to more deeply engage diverse 21st-century audiences and convey Concord's national significance in ways that connect past to present."

During the one-year grant period, the Museum is working with a variety of stakeholders, target audiences, and consultants to revitalize the visitor experience and to plan for the future reinstallation of the collections. New permanent exhibitions and teaching galleries will increase object-based learning designed to develop students' critical thinking and problem-solving skills. More objects will be put on view to tell stories, such as those of Native Americans, African Americans, and women. Input from Concord historical and cultural organizations is guiding development of a new "Gateway to Concord" experience to promote exploration of the town's rich historic resources.

The new visitor experience will build on the Museum's long history of success through enhanced interpretive strategies that foster engagement and interaction with broad audiences, resulting in a renewed national awareness of the Museum's world-class collections and the lively stories they reveal.

STAFFING NEWS

Carol Lee Thistle joined the staff as Marketing and Public Relations Director in November 2016. Throughout her career she has specialized in destination marketing for numerous organizations including The Museum of Science, The Boston Harbor Islands National Park, Zoo New England, and Destination Salem, Office of Tourism. An award-winning professional, Carol has been successful in increasing both visibility and visitation in her various posts.

Judy Flam was hired in 2012 as a consultant to the Concord Museum Shop, and later that year she became Museum Shop Manager. Since then, Judy has turned the Shop into a welcoming destination boutique frequented by both Concord residents and Museum visitors. While we must reluctantly close the Shop temporarily in spring 2017 due to spatial constraints (please see story below), we are very grateful for her leadership and creativity over the past five years. We wish Judy the best in her future endeavors.

MUSEUM SHOP UPDATE

During the upcoming construction period that begins in spring 2017, the Museum must temporarily close the existing Museum Shop. The doubling of school program attendance over the past five years has resulted in severe spatial constraints, even with the addition of leased program space in Wright Tavern. To enable us to continue to serve school groups during construction, the Shop will be reconfigured and used as an education classroom in 2017. The Museum hopes to install a small, temporary "pop up" shop in the Museum lobby in spring 2017. A new Museum Shop will be installed in 2018 as part of the entrance renovation.

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Walden: Four Views

February 10-August 20, 2017

The Anatomy of a Desk

February 10-August 20, 2017

WINTER HOURS

Monday-Saturday 11:00-4:00

Sunday 1:00-4:00

ADMISSION

\$10 adult, \$8 senior/student,
\$5 youth, child under 6 free &
Museum Members free.

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BE THOREAU.

Celebrating the Bicentennial of Henry David Thoreau's Birth



Ambrotype, 1862, Concord Museum, Th33b

Walden: Four Views | Abelardo Morell

On exhibit February 10, 2017 through August 20, 2017

The Anatomy of a Desk: Writing with Thoreau and Emerson

On exhibit February 10, 2017 through August 20, 2017

This Ever New Self: Thoreau and His Journal

A Joint Exhibition of The Morgan Library & Museum, New York, and the Concord Museum, Massachusetts

On exhibit in Concord September 29, 2017 through January 21, 2018