



Calendar

Visit historic-deerfield.org for up-to-date information and to register for special programs.

Museum Events, Programs, and Exhibitions · Spring 2025



Body by Design: Fashionable Silhouettes from the Ideal to the Real

Envisioning America: Deerfield Academy's Collection of Paintings and Drawings

Juneteenth Concert

Woolly Wonders: Heritage Breed Sheep Weekend

Recalling the Revolution in New England



Historic Deerfield

A new season brings new inspiration!

Come get inspired at Historic Deerfield this spring,
as we roll out new exhibitions, programs, and
other opportunities to learn, play, and explore.



May 2025

3 New Exhibition opens! *Body by Design: Fashionable Silhouettes from the Ideal to the Real* • 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Wednesday–Sunday, Flynt Center of Early New England Life

3 New Exhibition opens! *Envisioning America: Deerfield Academy's Collection of Paintings and Drawings* • 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Wednesday–Sunday, Flynt Center of Early New England Life

3, 4 Woolly Wonders: Heritage Breed Sheep Weekend! • 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at the Flynt Center of Early New England Life

10 Stitch and Twist: Dressmaking with Linda Oakley, Shoemaking with Peter Oakley, and Bobbin Lace Making with Lynne White • 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at Hall Tavern

10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31 Family Program: Fake It While You Make It • 12–4:30 p.m. at the History Workshop



Unless otherwise noted, all events are included with general admission to the museum.

10, 17, 24, 31 Hearth Cooking Demonstrations: Spice It Up! • 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. at Hall Tavern

15 Natural History Walk Around Old Deerfield • 3 p.m. starting at Hall Tavern

17 Soapstone Bead Workshop • 1–5 p.m. at the Deerfield Community Center • \$100/\$95 (members)

17 Brooms and Leatherwork: Round Brooms and Cobwebbers with Jennifer Roy, Leather Buttons and Household Items with Greg Morin, and Leather Militia Gear with Jay Blair • 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at Hall Tavern

24 Smithy Saturday: Blacksmithing with Rick Martin and Friends and Gunsmithing with Rich Colton • 10 a.m.–4 p.m. on the Stebbins Lawn and at Hall Tavern

31 Pots and Chairs: Stoneware Pottery with Mark Shapiro and Chair Making with Charles Thompson • 10 a.m.–4 p.m. in the Apprentice's Workshop at Dwight House

events at a glance

June 2025

1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29

Family Program: Fake It While You Make It •

12–4:30 p.m. at the History Workshop

7, 14, 21, 28 **Hearth Cooking
Demonstrations: Cooking with Herbs •**

9:30 a.m.–4 p.m. at Hall Tavern

7 **Furniture and Woodworking with Sharon
Mehrman •** 10 a.m.–4 p.m. in the
Apprentice's Workshop at Dwight House

8 **Bark Basket Workshop with Jennifer Lee •**
1–5 p.m. in the Deerfield Community
Center • \$100/\$95 (members)



13 **Juneteenth Celebration Concert with
Jake Blount •** 7 p.m. at the Deerfield
Community Center. \$25 adult/\$15 mem-
ber/\$10 youth ages 5–17

14 **Sparkling Silver with Silversmith Steve
Smithers •** 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at the Silver Shop

15 **Father's Day Fun—Make a Colorful Clay
Tile Workshop with Rick Hamelin •** 2–3:30
p.m. in the Deerfield Community Center.
\$25 adults/\$20 members/\$15 youth ages
5–17

19 **Natural History Walk Around Old
Deerfield •** 3 p.m. starting at Hall Tavern

21 **Redware Pottery with Rick Hamelin •**
10 a.m.–4 p.m. in the Apprentice's Workshop
at Dwight House

26 **Hybrid Lecture: "The Return of William
Apess: Resurrecting the Life and Legacy of a
Nineteenth-Century Pequot Author and
Activist" with Dr. Drew Lopenzina •** 7 p.m. at
the Deerfield Community Center and on
Zoom

27–28 **Dublin Seminar for New England
Folklife: Recalling the Revolution in New
England •** At the Deerfield Community
Center and on Zoom. Visit [Historic-
Deerfield.org](https://Historic-Deerfield.org) for pricing and information.

Highlights of the Season

Opening Day for Two New Exhibitions!

May 3, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. at the Flynt Center of Early New England Life · Come and view our new exhibitions, *Body by Design: Fashionable Silhouettes from the Ideal to the Real* and *Envisioning America: Deerfield Academy's Collection of Paintings and Drawings*. Read more in the “What’s on View” section.

It's Baaa-ck!

Woolly Wonders—Annual Heritage Breed Sheep Weekend

May 3 & 4 from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. on the grounds outside the Flynt Center of Early New England Life · Come and visit heritage breed sheep under the big tent. Discover the history of sheep in New England and why the Merino created such a craze. Back by popular demand: “Meet and Greet the Sheep” with heritage breed expert, Peter Cook from Tare Shirt Farm in Berwick, Maine. Enjoy hands-on activities like dyeing yarn and

weaving. Make and take a sheep-inspired craft or two. Watch sheep dog trials and sheep shearing. Have fun playing lawn games and trying your hand at using a drop spindle to spin wool into yarn. Get lunch at a food truck! Included with general admission. Free for members, youth 17 and under, and residents of Deerfield/South Deerfield.

Family Program!

Fake It While You Make It

May 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31 and June 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29 · 12:00–4:30 p.m. at the History Workshop · People have long decorated objects to look like what they're not, creating beautiful textures like faux wood, marble, and tortoiseshell. Historic Deerfield has plenty of examples of these faux finishes to find! Learn about the materials and techniques used to make these finishes, and try your hand at decorating objects with some faux flair of your own.



Back by popular demand!

Afternoon Natural History Walks

May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21, September 18, October 16, November 20 at 3 p.m. ·

Experience the beauty of Old Deerfield with our popular Afternoon Natural History Walks! Join us on select Thursdays for a guided walk around Old Deerfield. Witness the vibrant Cooks' Garden in bloom, discover hidden wildflowers, and observe the lively wildlife as the seasons gracefully transition from spring to summer.

Jake Blount: Juneteenth Celebration Concert

Friday June 13, 7 p.m. at the Deerfield Community Center · Jake Blount is an award-winning interpreter of Black folk music based in Providence, R.I. Initially recognized for his skill as a string band musician, Blount has charted an unprecedented Afrofuturist course on his pilgrimage through sound archives and song collections. In his hands, the banjo, fiddle, electric guitar and synthesizer become ceremonial objects used to channel the insurgent creativity of his forebears. Tickets: \$25 adult/\$15 member/\$10 youth ages 5–17



New Workshop!

Father's Day Fun—Make a Colorful Clay Tile with Rick Hamelin

Sunday, June 15 from 2–3:30 p.m. at the Deerfield Community Center · Family-friendly hands-on workshop! Join us in exploring creativity and pottery techniques with this exciting tile project. Master Potter Rick of Pied Potter Hamelin, will guide you through the process of creating a colorful masterpiece inspired by some tiles here at Historic Deerfield! Let your imagination run wild as you choose from a variety of themes to bring your creation to life. Using non-toxic acrylic paint in vibrant colors, you will transform your tile into a true work of art. Best of all, you get to take your unique creation home at the end of the workshop—no waiting around for glazing and kiln firing!

All youth must be accompanied by a paying adult. Museum Admission included with registration. Come early and check in at the Visitor Center then visit the museum or grab lunch at Champney's Restaurant before your workshop. \$25 adult/\$15 member/\$10 youth ages 5–17

Hybrid Summer Lecture Series: Indigenous Histories and Material Cultures

Join us in person at the Deerfield Community Center or virtually on Zoom for this lecture series! The program is free, but advance registration is required.

- **Thursday, June 26, 7 p.m.** · Dr. Drew Lopenzina, “The Return of William Apess:

Resurrecting the Life and Legacy of a 19th-Century Pequot Author and Activist”

- **Thursday, July 10, 7 p.m.** · Dr. Patricia Dawson, “Carrying the Fire: Cherokee Women’s Textile Diplomacy”
- **Thursday, July 17, 7 p.m.** · Dr. Margaret Newell, on Native enslavement in early America

New!

Indigenous Artisans Workshop Series

Museum admission included with registration. Come early and check in at the Visitor Center then visit the museum or grab lunch at Champney’s Restaurant before your workshop.

Soapstone Bead Workshop with Elizabeth James Perry

Saturday May 17 from 1–5 p.m. at the Deerfield Community Center · \$100/\$95 (members) · Join 2023 NEA Heritage award recipient Elizabeth James-Perry (Aquinnah Wampanoag) for a workshop on making soapstone beads. She will teach you how to use a pump drill so that you can drill and take home your own special bead. Perry engages with Northeastern Woodlands Native cultural expressions, primarily in sculptural forms of wampum shell-carving and bead-making with its connection to identity and sovereignty, maritime traditions and restorative Native gardening.

Bark Basket Workshop with Jennifer Lee

Sunday June 8, 1–5 p.m. at the Deerfield Community Center · \$100/\$95 (members) · Join Jennifer Lee for a workshop on making bark baskets. She will teach you how to make a basket that you can take home. Jennifer Lee (Northern Narragansett) has been making bark baskets for 40 years. Her interest began with the study of her Native American ancestors of the Northeast Woodlands. The bark, roots, and branches are wild-harvested by her family in the northern Berkshire mountains of Massachusetts. She has received awards from the Mohegan Wigwam Festival, Saratoga Native American Festival, and the Kearsarge Indian Museum.





Open Hearth Cooking Demonstrations

Spice it Up! Cooking with Flavors of the Past

May 10, 17, 24, and 31, 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. · Visitor Center at Hall Tavern · Today we take for granted the availability of any herb, spice, salt, or vinegar we desire to flavor our favorite dishes. Our hearth cooks this month will be taking a deeper look at the ingredients used to flavor some period recipes from Amelia Simmons's 1796 cookbook, *American Cookery*.

Cooking with Herbs · June 7, 14, 21, and 28, 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m. · Visitor Center at Hall Tavern · During the month of June, the herb garden will be bursting with color, fresh herbs, and edible flowers. Come and learn about the use of herbs in cooking that were used add flavor and freshness to seasonal dishes. Visit the Cooks' Garden dedicated to the memory of Margaret Quinn Orloske and see what's growing.

Hybrid Event!

Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife: Recalling the Revolution in New England

June 27–28 · Deerfield Community Center and on Zoom

Learn about the broad range of ways the people of New England have looked back on the nation's founding—and what they forgot, or chose to forget, in the process. We will explore how the peoples of the region have commemorated, memorialized, documented, invoked, fictionalized, and even forgotten the American Revolution through the Bicentennial period. Visit Historic-Deerfield.org for pricing and information.



Historic Trades Demonstrations

10 a.m.–4 p.m. Come marvel at the “art and mystery” of making things by hand. Meet our talented guest artisans as they create objects inspired by the skill and talent of tradespeople and artisans of the past. Included with general admission.

May 10 • Stitch and Twist: Dressmaking with Linda Oakley, Shoemaking with Peter Oakley, and Bobbin Lace Making with Lynne White • 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at Hall Tavern

May 17 • Brooms and Leatherwork: Round Brooms and Cobwebbers with Jennifer Roy, Leather Buttons and Household Items with Greg Morin, and Leather Militia Gear with Jay Blain • Hall Tavern

May 24 • Smithy Saturday: Blacksmithing with Rick Martin and Friends and Gunsmithing with Rich Colton • Stebbins Lawn and Hall Tavern



May 31 • Pots and Chairs: Stoneware Pottery with Mark Shapiro and Chair Making with Charles Thompson • Apprentice's Workshop at Dwight House

June 7 • Furniture and Woodworking with Sharon Mehrman • Apprentice's Workshop at Dwight House

June 14 • Sparkling Silver with Silversmith Steve Smithers • Silver Shop

June 21 • Redware pottery with Rick Hamelin • Apprentice's Workshop at Dwight House



Things to Do

When You're
in Deerfield

At the History Workshop • Young visitors can explore colonial life at the History Workshop through period games, dress-up clothes, a family-friendly garden, handicrafts and more. This spring, the History Workshop gives families and visitors of all ages the opportunity to learn about a variety of topics, including faux finishes and the materials and techniques used to create them.



The Henry Needham Flynt Silver and Metalware Collection is recognized as one of the top ten collections of American silver nationwide. The building features a silver-smith's workshop with many traditional tools, and a room devoted to pewter and other metalwares made and used in early

America, including pieces made by Paul Revere. Guided and self-guided tours of the Silver and Metalware Collection are available by appointment during the regular season. Check at the Visitor Center at Hall Tavern desk for more information.



In the Apprentice's Workshop · This interactive learning space provides visitors with a hands-on experience to show how woven linen textiles, architectural woodworking, and English factory-made ceramics were produced in the late 18th and early 19th century. Please check at the Visitor Center at Hall Tavern desk for more information about tour times.

Wilson Printing Office · Printer-in-residence Martin Antonetti and friends will demonstrate the printing process. This shop was in operation for only a short time, but it tells a remarkable story. From 1816 to 1820 two brothers-in-law printed almanacs and other “improving” books and literature, providing rural New England with new ideas and information at a key stage of its transformation. But the shop was economically precarious, and its short life speaks “volumes” to the fragility of new, rural business ventures in the Early Republic. It is one of the few surviving 19th-century printing offices in the U.S.

Guided Outdoor Walking Tours (45–60 minutes) · Enjoy an outdoor walking tour of Deerfield. Tours include Deerfield Archi-

tecture and Deerfield History. On the day of your visit, inquire at the Visitor Center to find out which tours are happening for the day. All tours are weather-permitting.

Visit the Witness Stones · Walk the Street and see the 35 Witness Stones memorials (at multiple Historic Deerfield, town, and Deerfield Academy properties) where enslaved men, women, and children lived and worked. These plaques allow visitors to learn more about the individuals whose presence they commemorate. Witness Stones are an essential element in the Museum’s ongoing initiative to share this history.

“Encountering Pocumtuck” walking tour with Historic Deerfield’s mobile app (available for Apple and Android devices). This guided experience features 16 stops in Old Deerfield where you can explore Pocumtuck life, culture, and history.



historic-deerfield.org

Champney's Restaurant & Tavern

Start your Spring with great music, beverages, food, and atmosphere at Historic Deerfield's beautiful New England Inn. Visit ChampeysRestaurant.com or call 413-774-5587 for reservations.

Week Nights at Champney's • Pizza Night Mondays, Burger Night Tuesdays, Oyster Wednesdays, and Prime Rib Fridays.

Mother's Day • May 11, 7 a.m.–6 p.m.
Invite Mom out for a special meal, celebrating all her seasonal favorites!

Summer Concert Series on the Terrace • June 5–August 28 • Thursdays from 6–9 p.m. Come enjoy live music featuring a different local musician each week. Rain or shine!

Father's Day • June 15, 11:30 a.m.–8 p.m.
Take Dad out for his favorite burger: Black Angus, Veggie, Faroe Island Salmon, or Special Burger of the Night!

Pride on the Patio! • June 11, 6–9 p.m.
Live Music by TJ & The Peepers and Drag Performance featuring Henna C. Johnson

The Deerfield Inn

Come for a stay in our historic inn, located across the street from the Historic Deerfield Visitor Center on Old Main Street. Choose from one of 24 guest-rooms, each one uniquely appointed with New England charm and modern amenities. Visit DeerfieldInn.com or call 413-774-5587 to reserve your room.



What's On View?

New Exhibition! Body by Design: Fashionable Silhouettes from the Ideal to the Real

May 3–January 4, 2026 · This exhibition will explore the enduring interest in clothing our bodies to achieve fashionable shapes. It will feature twenty-five ensembles from the 18th to 21st centuries drawn predominantly from Historic Deerfield's renowned clothing collection. Displayed along with the historical garments will be the understructures—stays, corsets, hoops skirts, and bustles—that helped shape, exaggerate, or reduce bodies to fit fashionable ideals.

The show will follow a loose chronological organization starting with two garments from the 1760's—a woman's formal dress with exaggerated wide skirt supported by

hooped petticoats and a man's pink and gold brocaded suit. Fashions from the 19th century will highlight huge sleeves, corseted torsos, and skirts that were supported by crinolines and bustles. Fashion plates from the museum's collection will help contextualize styles within their time while select modern fashions, juxtaposed with historical garments, will offer interesting connections between the past and today. *Body by Design* is presented with generous support from the Coby Foundation and the Decorative Arts Trust.

New Exhibition!

Envisioning America: Deerfield Academy's Collection of Paintings and Drawings

May 3–January 4, 2026 · This new exhibition highlights significant works of art from the Academy's collection, many of which have not been on public view for decades. Deerfield Academy, a private boarding school, possesses a rich collection of American art, ranging from colonial American portraiture to early 20th-century modernism. A majority of the works belonged to Rowena Russell Potter (Mrs. Lucius D. Potter, 1880–1960) of the neighboring town of Greenfield. They were given to the Academy in 1960 in honor of her father, Charles P. Russell. Potter collected a chronological overview of American art and provided the Academy with a lasting resource for art education. Her acquisitions coincided with the emerging study of American art around World War II and a



taste for 18th- and 19th-century artists that would come to define the field. She also formed a significant collection of American decorative arts, which she gave to Historic Deerfield at the same time.

The Academy collection includes a “who’s who” of American art across the centuries, and the exhibition explores a range of artistic styles and themes. Eighteenth-century



Top: Childe Hassam (American, 1859–1935), *Rainy Day, Arlington Street, Boston*, 1886, Deerfield Academy.

Above: John Singleton Copley (American, 1738–1815), *Griselda Oliver (Mrs. Samuel Waldo)*, ca. 1758, Deerfield Academy.

works by British colonial painters John Singleton Copley and Benjamin West captured the likenesses of early colonists and landscapes as they maintained transatlantic ties to England. After the American Revolution, artists such as Charles Willson Peale represented the emerging republic and considered how best to visualize a new nation. With the onset of the Civil War, painter Eastman Johnson focused upon realistic genre scenes and portrayals of American life as a response to social change in the country. William H. Beard and John F. Peto explored similar themes in their fields of animal and still-life painting.

By the late 19th century, American landscape painters George Inness and Ralph Albert Blakelock portrayed atmospheric scenes tied to a more personal response to nature. Blakelock created haunting landscapes that captured the stillness and mystery of night, experimenting with painting techniques to portray moonlit scenes. As a cosmopolitan group studying abroad, other artists increasingly shifted toward impressionistic styles and modernist subjects, as seen with works by Childe Hassam, Homer Dodge Martin, and Robert Henri. This exhibition brings together a rich assemblage of Deerfield Academy’s American paintings and drawings to explore the artists and narratives that underpin American art history before the first World War.

Vermont Furniture from the Alley Collection

Through November 30, 2025 · Visit our “Into the Woods” gallery to see an impressive array of 18th- and 19th-century Vermont furniture recently donated to Historic Deerfield by collectors William and Patricia Passmore Alley. The exhibition highlights both published and unpublished material from the Alleys’ collection, showing how these objects reveal varied techniques and ornament as well as the characteristics of

the environment in which they were made. Many examples in the exhibit retain their vibrant, original surfaces and are organized according to their decoration: solid and highly figured native wood, painted wood, ornamental painting on metal and glass, and veneer and inlay. Though quite different in appearance, these decorative schemes reveal the Alleys'—and 18th- and 19th-century Vermonters'—fondness for furniture with bold, contrasting surfaces.

Bill and Trish Alley, both adoptive residents of Vermont, grew up in families that fostered a life-long love of wood, hand-craftsmanship, and history. Over time, the couple amassed a significant collection of Vermont furniture that expanded the corpus of documented Vermont furniture through its inclusion in several landmark publications, including *The Best the Country Affords: Vermont Furniture, 1765–1850* (1995) and *Rich and Tasty: Vermont Furniture to 1850* (2015).



Museum Collections Study Gallery • Visit the visible storage area on the second floor of the Flynt Center to see other fine decorative arts, featuring our world-famous collections of New England furniture and clocks, American powder horns, Samuel Pierce pewter tools, Chinese export porcelain, English pottery, and American ceramics. The collections are arranged in more than 80 glass cases, according to media.

Join the Friends of Historic Deerfield!

Friends of Historic Deerfield, supporting all aspects of museum operations with their unrestricted gifts, receive attractive member benefits, including:

- ★ Free admission to museum houses, the Flynt Center of Early New England Life, and exhibitions for one full year
- ★ A subscription to our magazine, *Historic Deerfield*
- ★ Discounted admission to all programs
- ★ A 10% discount at the Museum Gift Shop and Bookstore

- ★ A 10% discount at the Deerfield Inn
- ★ A 10% discount at Champney's Restaurant
- ★ Invitations to special Friends events and exhibition openings
- ★ Guest Pass(es)
- ★ Access to exclusive digital content through the Members' Portal

Visit historic-deerfield.org/join to join online or call (413) 775-7176.

Visitor Information

Hours: Historic Deerfield is open to the public Wednesday–Sundays, and Monday holidays, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., through November 30. Closed Thanksgiving Day. The Henry N. Flynt Library is open Tuesday–Friday and on the first Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. and 1–5 p.m.

Admission: \$20 for adults (18+), \$5 for youth ages 13–17, and FREE for children ages 12 and under (sponsored by Greenfield Savings Bank), members, and residents of Deerfield/South Deerfield. Admission includes walking tours, historic house tours, the History Workshop, the Apprentice’s Workshop and the Flynt Center of Early New England Life. For specific event information or to purchase tickets in advance, visit historic-deerfield.org.

Accessibility: Wheelchairs (26”) and assistive listening devices are available at the Visitor Center at Hall Tavern. The first floors of several Historic Deerfield museum houses, the Memorial Libraries, the Flynt Center of Early New England Life, the Deerfield Community Center, the Deerfield Inn, and the Museum Gift Shop and Bookstore are accessible to those using standard-size 26-inch wheelchairs.

Food: Champney’s Restaurant & Tavern at the Deerfield Inn is open Wednesday–Sunday for breakfast (7–10 a.m.), and every day for lunch (11:30 a.m.–4 p.m.), and dinner (4–9 p.m.).

Museum Gift Shop and Bookstore: Stop in for gifts, books, cards, housewares, locally made goods and artwork, and more! See hours or shop online at www.historicdeerfieldstore.com.

www.historic-deerfield.org

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