

REHOBOTH ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

CARPENTER MUSEUM
BLANDING LIBRARY
GOFF MEMORIAL HALL
ARTS IN THE VILLAGE

FALL 2021

RAS NEWSLETTER

RAS GEARS UP FOR THE RETURN OF THE CRAFTER'S MARKETPLACE!

Mark your calendars for Saturday October 23rd for our annual craft show, previously known as the Folk Art & Artisans Show, now named the Crafter's Marketplace. The event will feature dozens of artisans selling their unique hand-made goods.

This year's show will return to its roots as it is held in 3 locations of the Rehoboth Village, the Carpenter Museum, Goff Hall, and the Rehoboth Congregational Church. Doors open at 9:00AM at all locations and shopping will continue to 4:00PM.

All vendors are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and shoppers are asked to wear a mask while shopping indoors.

Parking will be available at Goff Memorial Hall and behind the Carpenter Museum, entrance on Bay State Road. All three venues are within walking distance of each other.

The Crafter's Marketplace is organized by long-time volunteers serving on the craft event committee in cooperation with museum and library staff.

CRAFTERS'  MARKETPLACE

Carpenter Museum Artisan Events . Rehoboth, Massachusetts

UPCOMING MUSEUM EVENTS

Thursday, October 7th, 7PM
In person AND via Zoom

Kelly Wheaton Lecture
The Rehoboth DNA Project: The Y-DNA
of the Rehoboth Progenitors.
FREE EVENT

Saturday October 9TH, 9AM-2PM

Friends of the Blanding Library Book
Sale. Masks are required.

Sunday October 10th, 1-4PM

Rehoboth Minutemen Camp Event
The 13th Continental Regiment will set
up a full camp of tents with
demonstrations - FREE EVENT

Saturday October 23rd, 9AM-4PM

The Crafter's Marketplace returns!
Hosted at the Carpenter Museum,
Blanding Library and Rehoboth
Congregation Church. FREE ENTRY

rehobothantiquarian.org



Letter from the President

As I write this, we are busy planning for the annual craft show after a year's pandemic hiatus. The show began over thirty years ago and was held in the Carpenter Museum for years and then at school gyms and Francis Farm, and now it is back in our own buildings and in the church hall next door. The name has shifted a bit as well, with "Folk Art, Antiques and Artisans" giving way to "Crafters' Marketplace." Throughout the years, the show has been a place to find hand-made items that are often, although not always, inspired by the past. This leads me to reflect on how crafts connect us to the past and to one another.

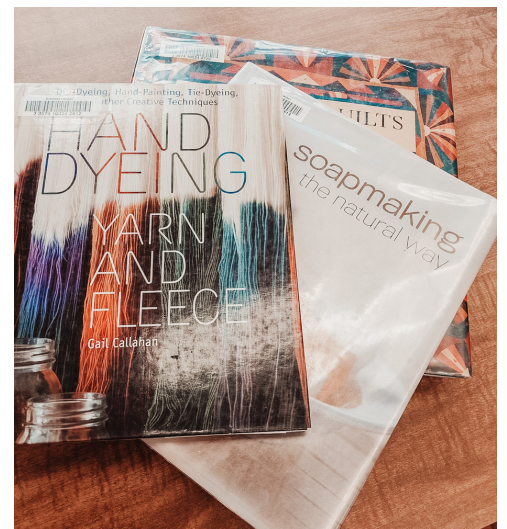
Until quite recently in human history, everything was made "by hand," often by the person who was going to use it, or at least by someone the user was likely to meet. In the Carpenter Museum collection, the oldest items we have are made of stone, and we know that the people who made them also used clay, wood, leather, shells, and plant fibers to make what they needed. Immigrants from Europe brought iron and new fabric fibers, and new tools for working them. The loom on display in the barn was important technology in the 18th century. In the colonial kitchen, a sausage filler (we think that is what it is) is an interesting example of a home-made device that incorporates a mass-produced metal part.

Our possessions have gradually shifted from being made locally by hand to being mass-produced in distant locations. Now hand-made items stand out and often feel more satisfying. At the Blanding

Library, we can find historical and how-to books that let us rediscover a variety of traditional and modern skills. We may value hand-crafted items as functional or as decorative objects, or both. We also value the human connection between maker and object, and a feeling of our own place in a web of existence.

This autumn, let's look forward to exploring the past.

I hope to see you soon,
Rebecca H. Smith, RAS President



BOOK REVIEW: THURSDAY MURDER CLUB

BY VANESSA CALOURO, A NEWISH LIBRARY EMPLOYEE

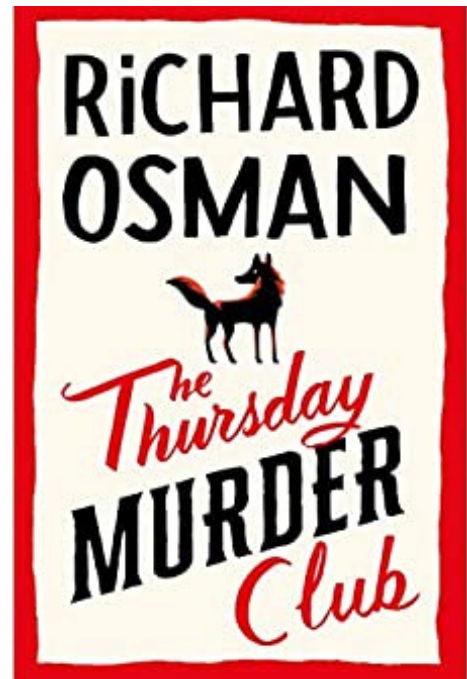
Sleuthing takes on a whole new twist with Richard Osman's debut novel Thursday Murder Club because here, the sleuthing is done by a band of retired individuals brought together by their living arrangements and a dislike for knitters. In possession of all their mobility and wits, they graduate from examining and discussing cold cases together to actually solving a series of murders, decades apart.

What made me love this novel was the humor that is mixed in with the not-so-funny realities of the aging process. Narrated by Joyce, the newest member of the Thursday Murder Club, the novel flows brilliantly, keeping you gripped to every page as you wonder what shenanigans a retired nurse, spy, psychiatrist, and professional protestor might get themselves into when befriending the new constable and calling in a few favors.

With the sequel soon to be released, this is a must-read novel for anyone looking for something as

lighthearted as it is sobering. Joyce, the resident flirt, will definitely provoke some chuckles, but there will also be times where the book settles on the harsh truths of growing old – losing your wife in a hospital bed even though her body's still there, her heart still beating; desperately holding onto your mental stamina with brain games; having to say that final goodbye.

Don't turn down the opportunity to read an excellently written mystery made better by a cast of charming characters I want to see on the big screen (or at least on Netflix).



REHOBOTH MINUTEMEN CAMP EVENT

Sunday, October 10th 1-4PM at the Carpenter Museum / Free Admission

The 13th Continental Regiment will set up a full camp of tents with cooking demonstration, and display of items used in colonial times. We will present talks on weapons, camp items, medical equipment, occupations, clothing, farming, toys, food and more. Learn about Massachusetts history, the American Revolution and the soldiers who served. This event is open to the public, and we welcome everyone of all ages.



The Rehoboth Camp Event is sponsored by the Rehoboth Minutemen Company through a grant by the Rehoboth Cultural Council, a local council of the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

CARPENTER MUSEUM WELCOMES NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR CHELSE JOHNSTON

Hello! I am so excited to join the Carpenter Museum as the new assistant director!

I come to Rehoboth from nearby Barrington, Rhode Island. While not from Rehoboth I have been stomping my feet and swirling my skirts in Geoff Hall since middle school and am so happy for the opportunity to work in such a vibrant and richly historical area.

I have spent much of my life in and out of museums from early summer camps spent in full historic costume to interning at the Harvard Natural History Museum in undergrad. I have a BA in English Literature from Lesley University a Master's Degree in Museum Studies from Harvard. I have always been interested in how areas shift and change over time, especially how local history intersects with larger national trends. This has led me to spend my later career working in historic spaces, including the beautiful Newport Mansions. Within these spaces I have also spent my time exploring ways in which narrative can bring history to life and how to make museum spaces comfortable and inclusive.



When not at the Carpenter Museum I am the lead guide at a federal house in Boston exploring the ways in which Boston neighborhoods have shifted over time and how this has impacted, and been impacted by the community. While I adore museums, when I have free time, I can be found devouring a book or learning a new craft.

I enjoy museums because they involve the intersection of education and community and I am happy to bring this passion to the Carpenter Museum. I have already felt so welcomed here and I cannot wait to get to know all of you. If I haven't gotten a chance to meet you, please swing by the museum, I would love to chat!



SPEAKER SERIES WRAP-UP AND FINAL LECTURE

While not a normal year in some ways this has still been a busy year for the Carpenter Museum. A part of this was the Carpenter Museum's wonderful Speaker Series. The 2021 Speaker Series brought familiar and new faces into the museum, and onto our screens through a series of lectures. Local historians and informative educators were able to bring to light a range of relevant topics to Rehoboth's residents. The talks ranged from the importance of early school houses to a lecture on how to find Rehoboth grave sites. There was also a virtual tour of historic grave sites and a personal account of the Tobey Site archaeological exploration, both of which brought elements of Rehoboth to life. Not only did these lectures provide many engaging conversations, but they gave us new ways to understand our historically rich town.

Rounding out our speaker series will be a lecture about the origins of the Rehoboth DNA project and why the DNA of our town's Progenitors matters. It will be at the Carpenter Museum on Thursday, October 7th at 7:00pm. You can also join us via Zoom. For more information and to register visit our website: rehobothantiquarian.org/carpenter-museum/2021-speaker-series

As many things went virtual, we appreciate the continued support as we find new ways to bring you into the museum. Thank you for joining us, either virtually or in person for these lovely talks and we cannot wait to see you all again soon.

Chelsea Johnston

IS THE BLANDING LIBRARY HAUNTED BY THE GHOST OF ... A FAX MACHINE?

It is not unheard of for visitors to ask whether Goff Hall has any ghosts. We aren't aware of any, but events this year sometimes made us wonder. We began getting police responding to the library for 911 calls we hadn't made. Neither the phone service, the library network, nor our alarm company could account for this. Adding to the puzzle, the number that was supposedly making these calls was not 252-4236, but one we didn't recognize.

Someone at Rehoboth Police Department took the trouble to research the number and found an old listing for it as "Blanding Library Fax." It's true that we had a fax machine years ago, as a service for library patrons, and we must have had a line for it. We don't have it anymore since most people use e-mail attachments instead. Asking the phone company to shut down the number got us

nowhere because they say it is no longer in service. And yet it kept making calls.....

Fortunately, the police were able to flag that number as invalid. If our non-existent fax machine is still calling them on a number that isn't ours, they are able to ignore it. But how was it making the calls? The mystery remains.

Rebecca Smith



Crafters' Marketplace

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

9AM TO 4PM

REHOBOTH VILLAGE

CARPENTER MUSEUM - GOFF MEMORIAL HALL

REHOBOTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



BLANDING LIBRARY HOURS:

Mon - Thurs 10 AM - 8 PM / Fri - Sat 10 AM - 4 PM

CARPENTER MUSEUM HOURS:

Tues & Thurs 1 - 4 PM / 1st Sat of the month 1 - 4 PM