



REHOBOTH ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is an interesting time for educational organizations like ours. We value our work preserving Rehoboth's history and providing information access to everyone. Recent Federal funding cuts to museum and library services threaten to affect the ways in which we are able to serve the public. Although the Institute of Museum and Library Services has had a budget of only 0.0046% of the overall federal budget, it has provided invaluable support for the regional services on which we rely; these services are now threatened.

The Rehoboth Antiquarian Society is proud to operate the Blanding Public Library and the Carpenter Museum and to welcome both townspeople and visitors who come for pleasure and research. Along with access to our own collections, we offer a wide variety of educational programming for all ages throughout the year, museum passes, e-books, newspapers, scholarships, summer reading materials for local schools, field trips, and cultural events, as well as wifi connections and computer access for those who may not have them at home. Through the SAILS network, Rehoboth residents have access to books and other materials from the entire Commonwealth and beyond, research databases, language learning programs, and more.

Much of this is supported by regional library and museum networks which are supported by the IMLS. Please let your legislators know what libraries and museums mean to you.

Sincerely,
Rebecca H. Smith
President, Rehoboth Antiquarian Society



CARPENTER MUSEUM

BLANDING LIBRARY

UPCOMING CARPENTER MUSEUM EVENTS

Palmer River Elementary School 3rd Grade Field Trips May - June

Every year PRES 3rd graders join us at the Carpenter Museum for a day of learning fun. They learn about the medicinal use of herbs, cooking on a hearth fire, how to use traditional farm tools, and even make their own take home tin punch lantern. We look forward to the students' visit every year.

Thanks to our volunteers for helping continue this tradition!

Annual Strawberry Festival Sunday, June 1st 1-5PM

This family friendly event features activities related to early American History. New this year is flax processing, Paul Revere copper plate printing, Revolutionary War era music and coffee tasting, as well as 17th century men's clothes tailoring! All the old favorite activities will be available as well. As always, strawberry shortcakes, lemonade, and baked goods will be for sale.

FREE TO ENTER / FREE TO PARK

First Saturday of the Month Carpenter Museum and Dyer Research Center Open 1-4PM

June 7th

July 5th

August 2nd

Storytelling with Tracy Dancing Star of the Pokanoket Peoples Tuesday June 24th, 2PM

Join Tracy Dancing Star, Sachem of the Pokanoket tribe, for storytelling about life in the East Bay. Rehoboth and surrounding towns are the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket tribe. These lands are known as Sowams to their First People with a history of over 10,000 years.

ARTS IN THE VILLAGE



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: LAURA CLERX

We continue our seasonal board member spotlight with our newest member, Laura Clerx!

How long have you been a RAS board member and what drew you to become one?

My appointment as an RAS board member was just recently made official at the annual membership meeting on May 7th! Two summers ago, I had the opportunity to work as the Carpenter Museum's "community programs and education" intern. I'm currently completing my PhD in early American history, so the opportunity to bring some of this history to life in the context of my own community was very exciting to me. RAS members are doing great work to uncover our local pasts, and I'm thrilled to further and deepen my connection to this community as a member of the board of trustees.

How long have you lived in the area?

I have lived in Seekonk (Old Rehoboth) nearly my entire life! My family moved here from East Providence shortly after I was born. Apart from a few years in Cambridge, MA, for school, I have lived here for most of my adult life as well.

What do you like most about living in this community?

When I was growing up, my mom would often point out to me some of the things that make our Seekonk/Rehoboth community special: the stone walls running through woods and neighborhoods - reminders of an agricultural past (including land that was once farmed by my grandfather's Azorean immigrant family in nearby Rhode Island!); the Native American history that continues to surround us; the one-room Hornbine school house where I was able to visit and speak with Frances Magan Jones about my history research; and the active slate of contra dances, concerts, and more taking place at the Blanding Library.

In addition to spending a great deal of time in a 4-H club on a friend's Rehoboth dairy goat farm as a child, I found that the RAS offered the surrounding community many wonderful opportunities to learn, meet others, and have fun.

What is something you wish more people knew about living in Seekonk and being involved in the RAS?

I wish that people living in the towns and cities surrounding Rehoboth (including Seekonk, East Providence, Attleboro, and more!) knew that these areas were once part of "Old Rehoboth" and therefore have a shared history. This shared history makes the RAS relevant to those living in a fairly broad geographic area of southeastern Massachusetts. I wish more people knew about the resource that the RAS can be to them as they learn about the history of their local surroundings!

What is a wish you have for the future of Seekonk / Rehoboth?

We learn to love things (people, but also places!) by coming to know more about them. My wish for the future of Seekonk/Rehoboth is that more people are made aware of and come to see organizations like the RAS as an accessible and enriching community resource. I hope that Greater Rehoboth residents and their families will find the RAS to be a means of connection to their local community, as well as a place to turn to for education and learning. I think people will envision the future of our towns more creatively, if they are able to experience, as I did, the many ways they are connected to it, past and present.



Laura volunteering at the Museum's annual Strawberry Festival

UPCOMING BLANDING PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

Songs and Stories from the Singer-Songwriters, 1960-1975 with Andrew Lewis and Margaret Ferri
Sunday, May 18th, 2-3PM

Lewis and Ferri's performance will focus on the songwriters from the '60s and '70s who moved the nation. This is so much more than singing as there is always a story behind each song.
All ages welcome.

Yoga and Stories for Littles
Monday May 19th, 10:30-11:15AM

Miss Jocelyn from CFCE and yoga instructor Rebecca Mele from Little Yoga present a program teaching children to build social awareness and flexibility through fun poses and mindfulness exercises. A session of yoga for little ones and their caregivers. Bring a water bottle and mat. Some mats provided.

LEGOS at the Library!
Saturdays June 14th, July 12th, and August 9th / 11AM-2PM

We supply the LEGOs.... You supply the imagination! What will you make? The possibilities are endless. Drop in any time between 11AM and 2PM.

Tot Time with Miss Joyce
Tuesdays 10:30-11:15AM

Children & caregivers are invited to join us in our hall for a fun interactive program of movement, books, music, games & more.
Geared for ages 0-4 (siblings welcome)
No Registration Required

Story with Miss Kathy
Thursdays 10:30-11:15AM

Join us for a story or two! A simple craft will be available to make or take home.
Geared for ages 3+ (siblings welcome)
No Registration Required



JOIN US FOR THE
CARPENTER MUSEUM'S ANNUAL

Strawberry Festival!

SUNDAY JUNE 1ST
1-5PM

Paul Revere Copperplate Printing
17th Century Tailoring | Hearth Cooking
Butter Making | Candle Dipping | Flax Processing
Revolution Era Music | Strawberry Shortcake
Strawberry Lemonade and so much more!

FREE ADMISSION!

4 LOCUST AVE. REHOBOTH
PARKING IN FIELD BEHIND MUSEUM

 Carpenter Museum

 Mass Cultural Council



SCHOLARSHIP

The Rehoboth Antiquarian Society is now accepting applications to our annual scholarship! It is awarded to one or more students accepted by or enrolled in a post-high school program related to museum or library studies. The award of up to \$1,000 is a one-time commitment by the RAS.

Interested students may obtain the application on our website,
www.rehobothantiquarian.org/ras-scholarship

Applications must be received by Friday, June 20, 2025. The Scholarship Committee will be scheduling in-person interviews during the final week of June. All applicants will be informed of the Committee's decision by August 31st.

Email applications to info@rehobothantiquarian.org

OR mail applications to:

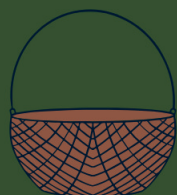
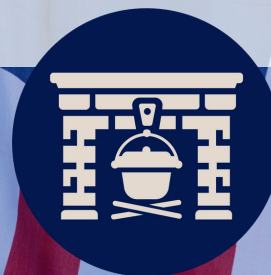
Rehoboth Antiquarian Society
Attn: Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 2
Rehoboth, Massachusetts 02769

FUNDRAISER QUILT RAFFLE

At RAS events through the spring and summer the quilt "Proudly Waving" will be on display and \$10 raffle tickets to win the quilt will be for sale!

In celebration of the 250th Anniversary of Our Nation's Independence this beautiful quilt was created by RAS member and Revolutionary War 250th Anniversary Committee Chair, Paula Muggleton. All proceeds from the raffle will benefit the Carpenter Museum's educational programing.

The raffle drawing will take place Saturday, October 18th in conjunction with our annual Crafters' Marketplace. Cash, check, or Pay-Pal accepted.



CRAFTERS' MARKETPLACE



NOW ACCEPTING VENDOR APPLICATIONS!

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 18TH
9AM-3PM**

DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION FROM OUR WEBSITE
SUBMIT VIA EMAIL OR MAIL

www.rehobothantiquarian.org/crafters-marketplace

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CARPENTER MUSEUM



Carpenter
Museum