



Rehoboth
Antiquarian
Society

SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to summer! The last few months have brought unseasonable cold, unseasonable heat, long dry spells, and occasional heavy rain, presently giving way to a “heat dome.” For the people of Rehoboth two or three centuries ago, most of whom relied on their own produce for subsistence, the prospect of famine would have been real. We are unlikely to starve this year, but I do hope for an improvement in the weather and send extra thanks to the Rehoboth Garden Club and volunteer Deb Craft who tend our gardens in all weather.

In May, the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society held its 142nd Annual Meeting, enjoying some time together and reports on the activities of the previous twelve months. We continue to be active and solvent due to our dedicated paid staff (who have kept things running smoothly even while some personnel were on extended medical leave), our active committees, and many excellent volunteers. We noted that the past year included an impressive Arts in the Village concert series, many special programs (Revolution-themed and otherwise) at the Museum and Library, the annual Crafter’s Marketplace, and an on-going exhibit of Rehoboth’s Revolutionary soldiers, in addition to the everyday activities at the Blanding Library and Carpenter Museum. The buildings and property saw a

fair amount of work, including dead tree removal, heating and plumbing repairs, working with the Rehoboth Highway Department to address run-off into the museum driveway, and new roofs for the museum barn and the long shed behind Goff Hall; it’s now time to make some long-term plans for that shed. At the annual election of officers, we welcomed Marilyn Martel as our new Treasurer; Wayne Taylor is taking on the role of her assistant for the year.

A nearby part of Rehoboth Village is looking better, thanks to our friends at the Rehoboth Historical Commission who are making great progress turning the old Shady Bend Tearoom building next to the waterfall from an eyesore into the simple and attractive building it once was. Arthur Pierce spoke at the Annual Meeting about the building’s history and gave us a report on progress. The Commission hopes to install some historical displays and to have the building open to the public in conjunction with other activities in the Village. We are glad to see this bit of Rehoboth’s history being preserved.

Keep in touch — we always like to hear from you.

Sincerely,
Rebecca H. Smith, president



Summer at the Blanding Library!

We're preparing for another fun and educational summer at Blanding Free Public Library. Once again, we have Summer Reading Programs for both children and adults featuring challenges, author visits, music, entertaining programs, crafts, games, prizes, and bubbles!

The Adult Summer Reading Challenge started on June 15 and runs until August 15. You can pick up a special bookmark at the Library on which you keep track of all the books you read between June 15 and August 15. For each book you read, you earn a chance at our end of summer prizes.

The Library will be taking part in this summer's statewide reading program for kids supported by the MA Library System and the MA Board of Library Commissioners. This year's theme is "Plant a Seed...Read!" We'll have reading logs, bookmarks, Read & Bead fun, and Brag Tags will be offered to readers from preschool to high school ages. We will still feature our popular Tot Times with Ms. Joyce and Story Hours with Ms. Cathy, along with special guests including local children's author/illustrators Carla Marrero, Emely Varosky, and Sarah Martin (local author and Nashville recording artist).

We have a great slate of special events for kids and their families this summer! Our End of Summer Bash on August 29 will have fun for the whole family, including Mr. Vinny's Bubbles, music from The Catnip Junkies, games of all kinds, face painting, crafts, an ice cream truck, and Happy 250th Birthday, America cupcakes.

Support for our summer programming comes from the Rehoboth Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, The Friends of the Blanding Library, and Oakhill Engineering, LLC.



JULY EVENTS

at the Blanding Library

Wednesday July 8 11:00-12:00

SUMMER GARDEN SCIENCE

K - Grade 4 Registration required

Thursday July 9 10:30-11:30

CHILDREN'S AUTHOR CARLA MARRERO

All Ages

Saturday July 11 10:30-12:30

CHILDREN'S FELTING WORKSHOP

Ages 8+ Registration encouraged

Monday July 13 11:00-12:00

MINI BIG TOP CIRCUS

All ages

Monday July 20 10:30-11:45

SCIENCE HEROES: DIGGING IT!

All ages

Tuesday July 21 10:30-11:30

KIDS MUSIC WITH SARAH MARTIN

Ages birth through 5, siblings welcome

Thursday July 23 11:00 - 12:00

EDIBLE SCIENCE

Ages 4+

Thursday July 30 10:30-11:30

SKOSHIE & FRIENDS

Ages 4+



August Events

Wednesday August 5 / 11:00

Japanese Folktales and Origami for Families

Motoko, a Parent's Choice Award-winning storyteller brings fables, songs and instructs origami techniques to the audience.

Monday August 10 / 4:00

Digital Art for Beginners

Kevin from KevTech will instruct kids to create with Procreate using an iPad and Apple Pencil for this unique art and skill.

Saturday August 29 / 11:00

Mr. Vinny brings Bubbles, Bubbles!

Performing outdoors, Mr. Vinny kicks off our End of Summer Bash with his fantastic bubble program for all ages!





SUMMER INTERN SPOTLIGHT:

FIONA LACAMERA

The Carpenter Museum is happy to once again host a collections intern for the summer. Fiona LaCamera is a rising senior at Wesleyan University double majoring in Classics and Art History. She aspires to work in the field of museum collections and registration at a historic house museum, academic institution, or an art museum. Anywhere she can make an impact on collections care, accessibility, and organization!

Fiona is most interested in Native American history, ancient Mediterranean history, and medieval East Asian history. She is especially intrigued by religious art in ancient and medieval cultures. She loves Native American petroglyphs, Ancient Greek geometric period vases, and medieval Japanese pilgrimage mandalas. She says she hopes “to gain more independence in managing and organizing large historic collections in every stage of their stewardship, from creating an accession number in the database to rehousing it in storage.”

When asked about her experience at the Carpenter Museum so far Fiona said:

“It has been very rewarding and interesting! The ability to make a tangible impact on collections organization is very satisfying and I’ve encountered some really cool objects during my work, such as a 500-year-old wheat grinding stone.”

I was able to attend a board meeting, which educated me about the decision making processes and collaborative efforts that go into operating a museum. I worked at the museum’s annual Strawberry Festival, where I interacted with patrons and visitors of the museum. It was awesome being able to experience the impact the Carpenter Museum has on the local community!

My favorite artifact that I’ve seen so far during my internship is a Native American painted ceramic! It’s red and black painted earthenware,



has two separate bodies instead of one, and a handle with a hole at the top. Painted ceramics from all cultures are deeply interesting to me because of their combination of artistic value and utility in daily life.”

This summer you can find Fiona squirreled away in collections storage, cataloging our many new artifacts. She has three thousand liked songs on Spotify so she’s always listening to something new. “Some of my favorites lately have been Cocteau Twins, New Order, Bob Seger, Donna Summer, The Cure, Eagles, Hall and Oates, and The Sundays.”

We hope Fiona has a good experience with us this summer. We are happy to have her here to help us!



EDIBLE SCIENCE

COMING TO YOUR LIBRARY!

Explore. Experiment. **EAT!**

Discover the delicious side of science with fun, hands-on activities you can **taste!**

FUN! TASTY! EDUCATIONAL!

FREE ADMISSION

JULY 13TH, 2026, 11:00AM

"MINI BIG TOP"

A CIRCUS SHOW AND WORKSHOP WITH SMALL BUT MIGHTY

FEATURING

CIRCUS CELIA

LITTLE L

BLANDING FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
124 BAY STATE RD. REHOBOTH, MA 02769
(508) 282-4236

This program is funded by a grant from the Rehoboth Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

CARPENTER MUSEUM SUMMER EVENTS

Children's Hands-on Felting
Saturday, July 11th, 10:30AM
Join us at the Blanding Library for a hands on felting workshop using 100% real wool from our friends at Coggeshall Farm.
Ages 8+ / Registration Encouraged

First Saturday of the Month
Carpenter Museum and Dyer Research Center Open 1-4PM
August 1st
September 5th
October 3rd

The Web They Wove:
Women & Their Wardrobes During New England's Revolution
Saturday August 1st, 2PM
Historical clothing duo, *The Dirty Blue Shirts*, will demonstrate how the women of the Revolution dressed.
Free and open to the public

Declaration of Independence
Lunch and Learn
Thursday August 13th, 11:30AM
Join long time RAS member and historian Lee Ashcraft for a crash course in the Declaration of Independence. Bring a sack lunch to learn while you eat! Drinks will be provided.
Free / Registration Encouraged

Reading of The
Declaration of Independence
Saturday September 5th, 2PM
In 1776 every town was required by law to read the newly ratified Declaration of Independence. Join us as we do a historical re-enactment of that reading at our own version of a meeting house at the Rehoboth Congregational Church. Historical inspired refreshments will be served at the Carpenter Museum afterwards.
Free and Open to the Public



CARPENTER MUSEUM & BLANDING LIBRARY

2026 CHILDREN'S FELTING WORKSHOP

JULY 11TH 2026
10:30 AM
GOFF HALL - BLANDING LIBRARY

REGISTER HERE!

THE WEB THEY WOVE

WOMEN & THEIR WARDROBES DURING NEW ENGLAND'S REVOLUTION



Saturday,
August 1st
2:00 PM
Free and
Open to the Public!

