



The *Rufus Porter Museum™* and
Cultural Heritage Center
67 North High Street - PO Box 544
Bridgton, Maine 04009
207-647-2828



NEWSLETTER - FALL, 2009

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings to all members and friends of the Rufus Porter Museum!

We have had an excellent season with record numbers of visitors, outstanding exhibits, terrific gift shop sales, and an increase in our numbers of volunteers. Our paid staff, student interns and docents have all worked cooperatively to maintain a friendly, courteous and professional environment where every visitor matters.

We are grateful to the Lindbergs for their strong financial support and the loan of their Tasha Tudor exhibit throughout the summer. Each year there is a new exhibit which continues to attract new visitors to the museum.

Special thanks are also extended to all members of the Board of Directors who work tirelessly to provide the best possible leadership for the museum. The Rufus Porter Museum is a gift to the community, a little gem of local history providing a cultural presence within Bridgton and the surrounding area. We welcome new board member Nelle Ely and look forward to the keen oversight of our new treasurer, Deb Fitts.

The continued hard work of all our supporters is certainly appreciated. Your time, money and talents have been, and continue to be, gratefully received.

Carolyn L. Stanhope,
President

2010 2nd ANNUAL HISTORIC HOME TOUR

Completely different homes have been planned for the 2010 Historic Home and Garden Tour scheduled for Sunday, July 11th. Full of architectural detail and so lovingly cared for, next summer's tour houses promise to be fun, exciting and educational. Houses on the tour include an 1882 High Victorian and an 1870 Greek Revival Four Square.



CULTURAL HERITAGE SERIES

Our ever growing week of classes expanded again in 2009 with 30 class offerings and over 200 registrations. For 2010 we have a six-day schedule (July 5 - 10) with 35 classes and workshops to tickle your fancy. Many of your favorite instructors will be returning and new folks have been discovered. Some of the new offerings include Beginning Woodcarving, Folk Fiddle, Beginning Stained Glass, Tatting, Weaving, Spinning, Storytelling and Scrimshaw. Of particular interest to all the gardeners would be Betsey-Ann Golon's offering of a class on Heirloom Gardens and a tour of the gardens at both Sabbathday Shaker Village and the Tate House. The complete schedule is on the back page of the newsletter.



And you will be excited to learn that our prices are going **DOWN** by about one third. The complete schedule is on the back page and our website.

NEW BOOK ON RUFUS PORTER

Linda Carter Lefko and Jane E. Radcliffe, both advisors to the Rufus Porter Museum, are currently working on a publication that will present recent examination and documentation of the Rufus Porter School of Landscape Painted Walls from 1820-1840. Their research includes exciting findings in the 40 years since Jean Lipman first conducted and published her research on Rufus Porter in her landmark 1968 book, *Rufus Porter Yankee Pioneer*.

The new publication will include information on Rufus Porter, Jonathan D. Poor and other known and unknown practitioners of the style. The illustrations of the publication will include outstanding examples of walls that have been documented over the past several years.

If you know of previously undocumented examples of such murals in New England homes, have seen some in your travels or have heard that there are some in a town, please contact either Linda Lefko at lclefko@live.com or Jane Radcliffe at janarad@juno.com.

OUR DOCENT COMMUNITY IS GROWING

This past summer we welcomed several new docents including Florence Tripp, Pat McHatton, Judy Alderman and Carol Davidson.

We rely completely on our wonderful, dedicated docents to guide our visitors during their visit. As we are expanding our hours this coming summer, we could not exist without this group of volunteers, and continue to welcome newcomers to the group. The docents are treated to several educational sessions each year related to the current exhibit, and enjoy a thank you luncheon to close the season. If you are local and want to take part as a volunteer, please contact the museum.



Midge Curry, Docent

2009 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Our fifth season exhibit on Tasha Tudor, a 20th century New England watercolor artist who lived and painted the world of 1830, was well received with high attendance and great interest from her fans. We will continue to have her artwork and books available in the gift shop in the coming 2010 season. Holly Ihloff gave several talks to our docents and friends on Tasha's 19th century costume collection, the dress styles depicted in her artwork and her crafts. As always, we appreciate Holly's willingness to share her extensive knowledge of costumes with us.



Sept 10 Tea Party

Holly was joined in September by Jeanette Knazek, a Tudor collector and exhibitor, who shared her vast knowledge of Tasha's artwork. Nelle Ely furthered Tasha's known abilities as a cook by creating a tea in the afternoon made of receipts from the Tudor Cookbook.

The Cultural Heritage Week had the town of Bridgton filled for a week with 200 students in classes, attending the outstanding lecture by Deborah Childs on Rufus Porter miniature portraits and staying for the Historic House and Garden Tour.

As most museums are inflicted with decreased attendance and income due to the economic recession, we were pleased to have equaled attendance from past years. Though our donor contributions are down a little, we are equally pleased to have offset that with increased sales in our gift shop and fundraisers. Our staff, Board, donors and volunteers have seen us through a difficult year in the arts world, and we are fortunate to have such dedication.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMINGS & GOINGS

Nelle Ely has rejoined the Board of Directors. She was one of the original organizers of the Museum, is a docent and has been a teacher for the Cultural Heritage Series every year. She has also been active with the Bridgton Community Center as a Board member and the Bridgton Economic Development Committee.



We extend our thanks to Steve Munger who has ably served on the Board for three years, two as Treasurer, and Greg Marston for his five years of service on the Board and for his many contributions. Both will be missed and we hope will return to the Board in the future.

Carolyn Stanhope is continuing as President, Beth Cossey, Vice President, Deb Fitts, Treasurer and Laurel Cebra, Secretary.

Other members include Herb Moulton and Julie Lindberg (ex-officio).

2010 SEASON EXHIBIT

Interest in schoolgirl decorative arts has been on the upswing in recent years, and an important aspect of this is the creation of theorems, which began in the early 1800s and continued through 1840s in school curriculums. Theorems are artistic works created through the use of overlaying stencils, and mostly are laid on paper or velvet using watercolors.



RPM Advisor Linda Lefko, and Julie Lindberg, Acting Director and Curator, will co-curate an exhibit on Theorems and related freehand watercolors. Linda is the co-author of "The Art of Theorem Painting" and is considered one of the country's foremost authorities on theorem painting. Typically, the technique of theorem painting was used to paint motifs such as baskets of fruit and flowers, but the process was used to create many other designs—valentines, mourning pictures, tokens of love, and even scenic landscapes.

When young ladies were no longer taught to sew samplers after the 1830s, classes in theorems became the rage as they were simpler to make, and much admired as wall decorations in their homes. The Museum will offer classes in this art to accompany the exhibit.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____

Membership Level: _____ Individual (\$25) _____ Samuel Farnsworth Circle (\$250)
 _____ Family (\$40) _____ Enoch Perley Circle (\$500)
 _____ James Lombard Circle (\$100) _____ Richard Kitson Circle (\$1000)
 _____ Rufus Porter Circle (+\$1,000)

Make checks payable to THE RUFUS PORTER MUSEUM, PO Box 544, Bridgton, ME 04009

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The Rufus Porter Museum is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Our membership year is July 1 - June 30.

MEMBERSHIPS & DONATIONS: Our new membership year begins on July 1. Your invitations will soon be in the mail. As the Rufus Porter Museum is facing the same loss of revenue this year as all cultural institutions, we are counting on as much support from our members as possible. Every dollar we receive goes directly to our programs. We are trying to increase our other revenues through fundraisers, store sales and grants, but our members provide us with a major portion of our income.

Our heartfelt thanks to our 2009-10 Contributors.

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 Judy Wylie

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Thank you for your past support!

New categories have been named to honor the many founders and folk artists of Rufus Porter's era. The museum depends on your membership and greatly appreciates your contribution. Your dollars keep us open! Our new membership year begins on July 1, but all memberships sent now will apply to the 2010 season.

TRADEMARK AWARDED

The Museum was granted Trademark status this year by the US Patents and Trademarks Office.

Although all work by Rufus Porter is in the public domain, this status will allow us to license images authenticated by the Museum. Several images on cards and postcards were available in our gift shop in 2009.

BLACK CHIPPY

If you haven't been one of the lucky folks to see our pure black chipmunk, Nancy Smoak finally was able to snap a picture. These rare chipmunks have been spotted on our property ever since we first opened in 2005.





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	Mon, July 5	Tue, July 6	Wed, July 7	Thu, July 8	Fri, July 9	Sat, July 10
Teacher Room 8:30-12n			RP Mural Painting	RP Mural Painting	RP Mural Painting	
Teacher Room 1-5p			RP Mural Painting	RP Mural Painting	RP Mural Painting	
Room #1 8:30-12n	Beginners Tatting 10-12pm	Beginners Tatting 10-12pm		Spinning	Beginning Woodcarving	Beginning Woodcarving
Room #1 1p-5p	Beginners Tatting, 12:30-2pm	Weaving	Quilling	Weaving	Beginning Woodcarving	Beginning Woodcarving
Room #2 8:30 - 12n	Storytelling	Spinning	Traditional Stroke Designs	Traditional Stroke Designs	Rug Hooking - Proddy Method	Rug Hooking - Proddy Method
Room #2 1-5p			Traditional Stroke Designs	Traditional Stroke Designs	Rug Hooking - Proddy Method	Rug Hooking - Proddy Method
Room #3 8:30-12n	Bronze Powder Stenciling	Grain Painting		Chair Caning	Early American Brush Stroke Wall Painting	Steamboat Era on Long Lake
Room #3 1-5p	Bronze Powder Stenciling	Grain Painting		Chair Caning	Early American Brush Stroke Wall Painting	
Room #4 8:30-12n	Beginning Stained Glass	Beginning Stained Glass	Genealogy		Floorcloths	Intermediate Theorem Painting
Room #4 1-5p	Beginning Stained Glass		Genealogy	Floorcloths	Floorcloths	Intermediate Theorem Painting
Room #5 8:30-12n		Scrimshaw		Penny Rugs	Historic Home Preservation	Tin Punch
Room #5 1-5p		Scrimshaw		Penny Rugs	Historic Home Preservation	Tin Punch
RPM 8:30-12n	Heirloom Gardens Part 1		Folk Fiddle 10-12	Folk Fiddle 10-12	Folk Fiddle 10-12	The Art of Oral History
RPM 1-5p		Rufus Porter Mural Lecture & Demonstration				
Kitchen 8:30- 12n	Redware	Redware	Redware	Cheese Making	Soap Making	
Kitchen 1-5p	Redware	Redware	Redware	Gourd Art	Papermaking	
Field Trip 8:30- 5			Heirloom Garden, Part 2			
Off site 8:30-5			Dry Stack Stone Walls			