

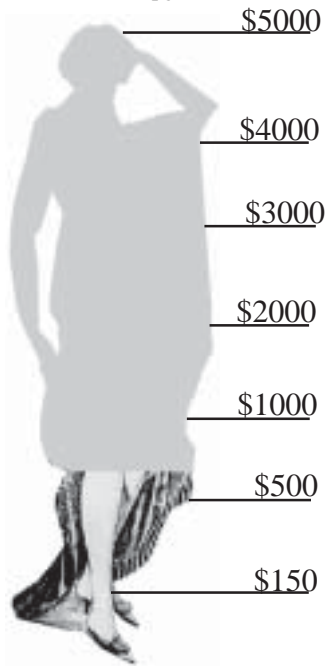
# CHEQUAQUET LOG



The Newsletter of the Centerville Historical Museum

www.centervillehistoricalmuseum.org

**Gertie's GERTHOMETER**  
contributions toward needed technology  
upgrades



## TECHNOLOGY FUND DRIVE

by Jean Desmond

To Gertie Gadfly's friends:

Kudos to those who replied to my plea for funds to completely revamp the Museum's computer and technology system. The Gerthometer is going up! But we need more help. Did you know that the museum is about to open the "The Elegant Black Dress" display, and if the museum already had the needed equipment, you could invite your daughter or son or friend in, say, Rio de Janeiro to look at the exhibit via the Internet? Wouldn't that be special!

Here we are trying to bring the museum into the 21st century, and the only way to do that is to improve our computer equipment. If we completely upgrade our

technology, we'll become more efficient in our daily operations, and we'll expand the museum's ability to reach those outside who are interested in our history, our exhibits and our programs. And we'll be able to do things like print our own beautiful publicity material, such as postcards and brochures, right here in the museum, saving us the ever-increasing expense of commercial printing.

So, let's go! Please dig deep and contribute, so we can keep improving your favorite historical museum.

Regards to all my friends and thanks,  
Gertie

## LASELL COLLEGE MAKES A RETURN VISIT



On April 17th, Lasell College's Fashion Department majors visited the museum for the second year. Accompanying the students was curator of the Lasell collection and Professor of Fashion History, Jill Casey. The students came to study the designs, construction and detailing of early and mid-19th C. garments from the museum's collection.

In preparation for their visit, volunteers Barbara Fahrenholz, Joan D'Ambrosia and Judy Carpenter set up tables and mannequins displaying twenty garments chosen for their diversity and unusual features. Another display was created focusing on accessories, including shoes, hats, purses and capes. The Elegant Black Dress and Glass, Tea and Shades of White Exhibits were also an anticipated part of their visit.

The students were delighted with the variety and elegance of the presentations and appreciated the provenance provided. Ms. Casey was impressed by the size and scope of the museum's collection. She said "it was one of the most extensive

costume collections" she has seen in her twenty years of teaching.

The students were interested in discovering the construction of each garment, the hand detailing,

*continued inside*



## Chequaquet Gallery Exhibits

by Shirley Fisher

### CAPE COD VACATIONLAND 1900-1940s

May 1 - June 27th

This exhibit will highlight the origins and evolution of early tourism on Cape Cod, and perhaps bring back your memories of this era. Did you know that the central section of Craigville Beach was purchased for \$847 in 1888? You could buy a fried clam dinner at any one of six Howard Johnson's on the Cape for \$1.25 in the 1930s. If you stayed at one of the popular Cotuit inns in 1910 you would be transported by horse-drawn carriage from the West Barnstable railroad station. This eclectic exhibit will include postcards, photos, maps, and other memorabilia of the grand hotels, early inns, Howard Johnson's restaurants, the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, Craigville Beach, images of "Old Salts" and the quaint atmosphere that attracted early vacationers to Cape Cod (and still does.) Period bathing suits and tennis attire from our collection will also be displayed.

### CRAIGVILLE CHRISTIAN CAMPGROUND

July 3 - September 12

Undoubtedly the most unique and historic community in the Centerville area, the picturesque, hidden village of Craigville dates back to 1871. At that time a prominent clergyman, Dr. J. Austin Craig, purchased 160 acres (the Perry Farm) as a conference site for the Christian Churches of New England. The first ten-day campground meeting was held in 1872. Camp Christian was renamed Craigville in 1882 in Dr. Craig's memory. No longer just a sleepy summer retreat site, Craigville has become a year-round community and gathering place for religious conferences, artists, writers, and educators. This exhibit will feature photographs, postcards, letters and other treasures from the Christian Camp Meeting Association's archives. Landmarks such as the Tabernacle, Red Lily Pond, "gingerbread" cottages, the former Chiquaquet House, and the Craigville Inn will give viewers an appreciation of Craigville's heritage.

## Seasonal Exhibits (Ongoing)



**THE ELEGANT BLACK DRESS 1850-1940**  
Absolutely elegant, a bit mysterious and fashionable, the black dress has always been in vogue. This exhibit documents the development of a fashion icon during a time when ladies wore black in two entirely different circumstances: as mourning attire and as a dressy style statement. This dual importance has undoubtedly contributed to the enduring presence of the black dress, and may also have helped to create its slightly mysterious aura. Today, often prefaced by the endearing adjective 'little', the black dress continues to be at the forefront of fashion awareness.



The twenty-two dresses, chosen from the museum's collection, include day wear, evening gowns, tea and afternoon dresses of elegant fabrics—satin, silk and velvet—decorated with embroidery, appliques and jet beading, a material introduced from England which became hugely popular during the Victorian period. The post-1920s styles reflect modern design, emphasizing verticle lines and a tubular shape of the body. With these mostly waistsless one-piece designs, the fashion industry catered to a younger generation and reflected the political and social forces at work, allowing women greater freedom and ease of movement.



### TOYS FROM THE ATTIC 1850-1940

On the second floor, an exhibit for children of all ages brings together a fascinating array of toys, games and dolls which provide, along with some nostalgia, quite an insight into what the computer age has supplanted. From an early wooden Mickey Mouse (without his ears) to painted lead soldiers, a magic lantern complete with glass slides and lithographed tintypes, the artistry and sophistication of early toy production is an impressive reminder that simpler times provided their own pleasures.

**GLASS, TEA AND SHADES OF WHITE**  
 In the side parlor, a tea party vignette combines Sandwich glass with an exhibit of lacy tea dresses and costumes in various shades of white (1760-1800). The setting is beautifully appointed with antiques, recreating a classic afternoon gathering. Information on the glass production processes is provided, patterns identified and items are dated, throughout the display.



LASELL, continued

the use of fabrics, texture and various cuts. As student designers, they felt it was particularly valuable to learn how past styles continue to influence current design trends.

The 1910 wedding gown of Florence Woodman Bearse (photo above right), worn for her marriage to Walter Whyte Winship, attracted their attention because of its historic significance and Centerville connections. This beautiful garment was given to the museum by Florence Winship's twin daughters, Mrs. Charles Ungerman, Jr. and Mrs. Robert Orr, both of Centerville.

Professor Casey (photo above left) explained the construction of different types of corsets and bustles, representing a span of 150 years, and how they influenced the varying shapes of fashion in their times.



### MUSEUM WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

**Jim Lane** – Jim is currently President of the Christian Camp Meeting Association in Craigville. He also serves on the Centerville Library Board of Advisors. Jim has been an active supporter of ongoing efforts to protect the Craigville Beach area and Red Lily Pond.

**Ed Sullivan** – Already well known as a popular lecturer for CHM, Ed has considerable museum expertise. A Professor Emeritus at the University of Hartford, Dr. Sullivan is a member of Connecticut's Museum Advisory Board. Previously, he was the Curator and Director of the Museum of American Political Life.

**Andrea Pendergast** – The Pendergast family has long supported Centerville civic activities. Andrea is a member of the Centerville Library Board of Advisors. She is currently the operations manager for the Cape Cod Package Store and will bring her business acumen to the museum.



### YARD SALE August 8th

Our 4th annual Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, August 8th, during Centerville's Old Home Week. The Yard Sale, a successful fund raiser, gives the museum great visibility and volunteer camaraderie. Please save any items you no longer need/want in that cluttered basement, attic, or when you redecorate this spring -- bric-a-brac, antiques, small furniture, collectibles, artwork, old jewelry, kitchenware, etc. (Please - No clothing, electronics, broken or damaged items!) Items will be accepted at the Museum August 1st, 4th, 5th, and 6th.

### BUS TRIP TO RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN MUSEUM

Join us for a bus trip to the Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art in Providence, RI, on Thursday, **May 14th**. This prominent art museum, founded in 1877 and incorporating the historic Pendleton House, is the 20th largest art museum in the United States.

The bus will leave at 9:00 AM from the Our Lady of Assumption parking lot in Osterville. Lunch is on your own at one of the many quaint restaurants in the historic district of Providence. After lunch, enjoy a leisurely stroll down beautiful and historic Benefit Street, with more time to explore the museum on your own.

We had a great time on our last trip to Boston's Gardner Museum and hope you can join us on the 14th. Space is limited. Call the museum at 508 775-0331 to make your reservation.

**\$45, includes the bus, entry fee to the museum, and small group tours.**



The Centerville Historical Museum  
513 Main Street  
Centerville, MA 02632  
(508) 775-0331  
www.centervillehistoricalmuseum.org

**HOURS:**

Tuesday through Saturdays,  
May 1 through December 12,  
from 12:00 p.m. - 4 p.m.



**Spring 2009**

**Coming Events**

**Reception new exhibits  
Captain David Kelley House  
May 8th 5:30PM**

**BUS TRIP  
Rhode Island School of  
Design Museum  
May 14th**

**HOUSE TOUR  
June 24th 10AM - 3PM**

**Reception  
Craigville Christian  
Campground exhibit  
Chequaquet Gallery  
July 3rd 5PM**

**OUR MUSEUM'S WISH LIST**

*Please consider donating these items or a contribution for the following:*

- \$125. Display pedestals, (materials only, labor for construction donated)
- ~~\$275. Outside kiosk (materials only, labor for construction donated)~~
- \$695. Museum environmental monitoring system data loggers
- ~~\$5000~~ / \$4400. New museum technology systems (laser printer; computers, network and wireless capable; laptop; monitors; software programs)

*We wish to thank the following people for providing these Wish List items:*

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Outside kiosk . . <b>thank you</b>           | Ellen Ingram                |
| Gifts toward technology . . <b>thank you</b> | Peter Buffington            |
| upgrade                                      | Joanne B. Chope Corsiglia   |
|  | Roy & Jacqueline Richardson |
|  | Ralph and Iris Tolbert      |