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Emily Dickinson International Society Annual Meeting

Dickinson in Her Elements



August 7 - 9, 2015 Amherst, Massachusetts

In collaboration with the Emily Dickinson Museum



Welcome to Amherst!

In collaboration with the Emily Dickinson Museum, The Emily Dickinson International Society 2015 Annual Meeting presents "Dickinson in Her Elements," a variety of programs inspired by the poet's engagements with air, earth, fire, and water. In addition to the Critical Institute, in which participants will share essays in progress, we're offering workshops on poems in which Dickinson turns her acute attentions to worldly elements. Besides being treated to some wonderfully informative and engaging talks by exciting scholars, we'll also get to experience The Red Skies Music Ensemble (on Friday evening) and jazz pianist Tomoko Ozawa playing Martha Dickinson Bianchi's Steinway in the Evergreens (on Saturday afternoon). Also on the schedule are nature hikes, a visit to the Amherst College Wilder Observatory, a program on Dickinson's grounds, and more. Be prepared for a delightful variety of elemental matters—bird-watching, star-gazing, cloud musing, ruminating botanically, thinking about slow geologic change, and congregating with other Dickinson and poetry enthusiasts from all over the world.

Volcanoes be in Sicily
And South America
I judge from my Geography
Volcano nearer here
A Lava step at any time
Am I inclined to climb
A Crater I may contemplate
Vesuvius at Home
(Fr 1691)

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Annual Meeting Schedule

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

9:30 AM-3:00 PM Board Meeting Woodbury Room, Jones Library

1:00-6:00 PM Registration Alumni House Foyer, 75 Churchill St

5:00-8:00 PM Amherst Art Walk

A free cultural event held in and around downtown Amherst, MA. First Thursdays of every month, from 5-8PM, participating venues host gallery openings, concerts, lectures, and other creative events. For a map of venues, visit http://amherstartwalk.com/venues/. At the Emily Dickinson Museum, self-guided tours of the Evergreens will be offered for \$5 from 5PM-7PM. Free for EDM and EDIS members. At 7PM, enjoy a joint reading by poet and Paris Press Executive Director Jan Freeman and Ellen Louise Hart, co-editor of Open Me Carefully: Emily Dickinson's Intimate Letters to Susan Huntington Dickinson, published by Paris Press.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

9:30-10:30 AM Registration Alumni House Foyer, 75 Churchill St

10:45-11:00 AM Welcome and Meeting Overview Alumni House Main Room

Martha Nell Smith, President, Emily Dickinson International Society and

Jane Wald, Executive Director, Emily Dickinson Museum

11:00 AM-12:15 PM Plenary Session Alumni House Main Room

Marta L. Werner, "The Weather (of) Documents"

Marta L. Werner is professor of English at D'Youville College and author / editor of Emily Dickinson's Open Folios: Scenes of Reading, Surfaces of Writing; Ordinary Mysteries: The Common Journal of Nathaniel and Sophia Hawthorne (with Nicholas Lawrence); Radical Scatters: An Electronic Archive of Emily Dickinson's Late Fragments and Related Texts; "The World Will Not Come To A": Hannah Weiner's The Book Of Revelations; and The Gorgeous Nothings (with Jen Bervin). Werner is co-founder, with Martha Nell Smith, of the Dickinson Electronic Archives 2 and serves on the editorial and/or advisory boards for Textual Cultures, The Emily Dickinson Journal, the Emily Dickinson Archive, and the Melville Electronic Library. She has received both the Fredson Bowers and JoAnn Boydson prizes for her work as a textual scholar. Her current work considers the weather of manuscripts and focuses on Sabra Snell's weather records, the papers of 19th-century astronomer David Peck Todd, and the soundscape of the inhuman as it recorded in the work of Emily Dickinson.

12:15-1:30 PM **Boxed Lunch**

Pick up at Alumni House

1:30-4:30 PM

EDIS Critical Institute

Robert Frost Library

The Dickinson Institute provides an opportunity for participants to workshop critical essays and conference papers that are in some way related to the topic of the Annual Meeting, "Dickinson in her Elements." Applicants submitted proposals for papers about Dickinson's writings in relation to the physical sciences (botany, geology, astronomy, etc.), agriculture, natural and built environments, etc. Participants meet to discuss these pre-circulated papers in a small group setting with a discussion leader (leaders include: Christopher Benfey, Michelle Kohler, Mary Loeffelholz, Eliza Richards, Karen Sanchez-Eppler, and Alex Socarides).

Participants include: Karen Leona Anderson, Faith Barrett, Renée Bergland, Lucy Diamond Biederman, Jillian Caddell, Paul Crumbley, Danielle Davis, Leslie Eckel, Pàraic Finnerty, Ben Gillespie, Sharon Hamilton, Eri Kubota, Hsu Li-hsin, Eleanor Linafelt, Xiaohui Liu, Karah Mitchell, Clare Mullaney, Amy Nestor, Marianne Noble, Nicole Panizza, Grant Rosson, Aiya Sakr, Jefferey Simons, Mary Traester, Renee Walker, Cheryl Weaver, Joan Wry.

4:45-5:15 PM

Reflections on Critical Institute

Alumni House Main Room

All Institute members (and non-members who are interested) will meet to discuss the kinds of knowledge and work that this year's institute has made possible.

1:30-3:00 PM

Poetry Workshop: Earth

Alumni House Library

"Earth" is a planet, a place where life is rooted; "earth" is soil, ground for growth, burial, new life. Pairing "Four Trees – upon a solitary / Acre" with "By my Window have / I for scenery" will invite discussion of historical and contemporary perspectives of the natural world, raising questions of what "nature poetry" is, and what it has come to mean to readers today facing our planetary environmental crisis. These two poems, along with "I reason - / Earth is short," which appears in one version in a fascicle and another in the correspondence to Susan Dickinson, will lead to consideration of prosodic strategies, including lineation, in addition to issues of perception, order, randomness, design and absence of design, reason and emotion, faith and doubt. Discussion Leaders: Martha Nell Smith, Ellen Louise Hart

[&]quot;Four Trees – upon a solitary / Acre" (Fr 778)

[&]quot;By my Window have / I for Scenery" (Fr 849)

[&]quot;I reason – / Earth is short" (Fr 403A)

1:30-3:00 PM

Museum Activity: Water Beneski Museum of Natural History Edward Hitchcock, Lake Hitchcock and Geologic Change

Water has shaped the Connecticut River valley from the beginning. Join Beneski Museum educator Alfred J. Venne as he helps participants explore Edward Hitchcock's understanding of the ever-changing landscape of the Connecticut River Valley. We will consider the earliest lakes that formed as the valley was created, the mile high continental glaciers and glacial lakes that sculpted the area and the meandering river of today.

3:30-5:00 PM

Poetry Workshop: Fire

Alumni House Library

As for any good child of the Romantic era, Dickinson's fires are both destructive and creative, and the poems are now an exhilarating attempt at recording the full flare of it, now a depressive report of the blasted result after everything has been burnt to the ground. Dickinson's poetic fires often burn low, hidden under the surface of an apparently calm poetic diction, but they are unstoppable—"You cannot put a Fire out," she avers, because fire is the force of life itself—fueled by air and similar to water (F 583). Whether it blazes or smoulders, pours out of volcanoes or strikes the ground like lightning, it reshapes the world according to the poet's fiery imagination.

Discussion Leaders: Elizabeth Petrino, Antoine Cazé

"A still – Volcano – life" (Fr 517)

"To pile like Thunder to it's close" (Fr 1353)

Museum Activity: Earth

Emily Dickinson Museum

Join Emily Dickinson Museum Director Jane Wald for the latest information about rehabilitation of the Dickinson grounds and results of archaeological field school excavations in June 2015.

5:30-7:30 PM

Reception and Banquet

Lewis-Sebring Dining Room Valentine Hall, Amberst College

8:00 PM

Red Skies Music Ensemble

Friedmann Room Campus Center, Amherst College

Emily Dickinson in her Elements: Accomplished Musician, Emerging Poet

Combining the music Emily played and loved, along with an illustrated narrative and theatrical presentation of her own wit and commentaries from correspondence and poetry, The Red Skies Music Ensemble delivers an entertaining and vivid portrayal of Dickinson in her elements of music, nature, Amherst and New England. George Boziwick, Curator and Musical Director; Trudy Williams, Artistic Director.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

8:00 AM Nature Hike on Amherst's Literary Trails Departs from Goff Park

Enjoy a nature hike on the Emily Dickinson Trail, one of Amherst's "Literary Trails," following the Fort River. David King, hike leader, is an associate professor of Environmental Conservation at UMASS, and a professional Conservation Biologist, specializing in Forest Wildlife Management. Sign up at

Registration table Thursday and Friday.

9:30-10:30 AM Annual Members' Meeting Alumni House Main Room

10:45 AM-12:00 PM Plenary Session Alumni House Main Room Cody Marrs, "Dickinson in the Winds of War"

Cody Marrs is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Georgia and the author of Nineteenth-Century American Literature and the Long Civil War (Cambridge, 2015). A recipient of the Hennig Cohen Prize in Melville Studies, his work has appeared in journals such as American Literature, J19, and Arizona Quarterly. He is currently writing a book entitled The Civil War: A Literary History (JHUP), and, with Christopher Hager, editing Timelines of American Literature (JHUP), a volume of essays that seek to reperiodize American literary history.

12:15-1:15 PM Lunch on your own

1:30-3:00 PM Emily Dickinson in New Fiction Alumni House Main Room
Moderated by Jonnie Guerra
Nuala O'Connor, Miss Emily

Born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1970, Nuala O'Connor is a fiction writer and poet. Writing as Nuala Ní Chonchúir she has published two novels, four collections of short fiction, a chapbook of flash fiction and three full poetry collections—one in an anthology. Nuala's third novel, *Miss Emily*, was published by Penguin Random House in July 2015. Nuala holds a BA in Irish from Trinity College Dublin and a Masters in Translation Studies (Irish/English) from Dublin City University. She has worked as an arts administrator in theatre and in a writers' centre; as a translator, a creative writing instructor, and as a bookseller.

Susan Snively, The Heart Has Many Doors: A Novel of Emily Dickinson Susan Snively grew up in Louisville, Kentucky, and lives in New England where she is a guide, discussion leader, and film script writer for the Emily Dickinson Museum. She was the founder and first director of the Writing Center at Amherst College, where she worked from 1981 until 2008. She has published four collections of poems: From This Distance (1981), Voices in the House (1988), The Undertow (1998), and Skeptic Traveler (2005.) Snively has received numerous prizes and awards for her writing, and continues to lecture and give readings. Most recently, she published The Heart Has Many Doors, a novel about the love affair between Emily Dickinson and Judge Otis Phillips Lord. She is the screenwriter and narrator of two documentary films on Dickinson: "Seeing New Englandly" (2010) and "My Business is to Sing" (2012), co-produced with Ernest Urvater.

1:30-3:00 PM

Poetry Workshop: Air

Alumni House Library

Dickinson's figurations for "Air" are wrapped in her usual paradoxes and complexities: Air in the physical sense is almost a negative—it is invisible and neutral, but, when blown into storms, it is also wrenching, destructive, and alarming. It is "beloved," "crowded," even "autocratic"—and most important, it is necessary; some of Dickinson's most haunting poems are those of entombment and suffocation. In some poems "Air" is, continuing the physical senses, "Ether," "Wind," "Breeze," whatever is in a balloon. Matter and manner merge when her metrics, her gaps imitate the deprivations that are the focus of the poem.

Discussion Leaders: Dan Manheim, Eleanor Heginbotham "I breathed enough to take the Trick" (Fr 308) "Without this - there is nought" (Fr 464)

3:30-5:00 PM

Poetry Workshop: Water

Alumni House Main Room

Water workshop will begin with "I started early, took my dog" (F656/J520), and "Have you got a brook in your little heart" (F94/J136), to focus on several variations in water as applied by Emily Dickinson. We will explore the symbolism of water in these poems, and how differences between them, as well as the contradistinction in tone within each poem, can affect our understanding of the function of water in the poems. Participants are encouraged to toss into the discussion their choices of poems where water is a significant piece in a Dickinson riddle.

Discussion Leaders: James Guthrie, Lois Kackley "Water, is taught by thirst" (Fr 93) "I started early – Took my Dog" (Fr 656)

Museum Activity: Air

Beneski Museum of Natural History "She sights a Bird – she chuckles": Birds in 19th-century Amherst

Dickinson made numerous mentions of bird species in her work, and the poet herself lived during the height of natural history study and collecting in the United States. Beneski Museum Curator Kate Wellspring will present bird specimens collected during Dickinson's lifetime, with a focus on species that are mentioned by the poet, as well as species that she would have been likely to have seen in her own gardens and fields.

5:00 PM

Tomoko Ozawa, jazz pianist

The Evergreens

Ozawa began studying classical piano at the age of six and spent three years in England studying under Belinda Mikhail and Vanessa Latarche. While studying political science and international law at International Christian University in Tokyo, she became fascinated with Jazz and motivated to find her own voice in music. In 2011, Ozawa relocated to Boston, Massachusetts, to study at Berklee College of Music under Vadim Neselovskyi and Alain Mallet. Studying classical composition under Apostolos Paraskevas inspired her to set the poetry of Emily Dickinson to music, which is now a main theme in her work. She formed the Tomoko Ozawa group with fellow musicians from Berklee, and began performing in Boston. Ozawa is currently a piano accompanist at Boston Conservatory, Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre and Dance Complex, band leader of "Tomoko Ozawa Quintet" and a pianist in "Collective Septet."

6:00 PM Happy Hour with Board Members

Begin at Lord Jeffery Inn

7:00 PM

Dinner on own at Amherst restaurants

List on page 10

9:30-10:30 PM

"The Night keeps fetching stars": an evening at Wilder Observatory
See the moon, planets, satellites, star clusters, galaxies, nebulae and more
through the six-ton, 25-foot long, world class Clark refractor telescope. Tom
Whitney, with the Amherst Area Amateur Astronomers Association, operates
the telescope. The Association promotes the study, enjoyment, education, and
advancement of astronomy, science, and nature. Wilder Observatory is
approximately one mile southwest of the Alumni House.

9:30-10:30 PM

Emily Dickinson Tarot Card Readings

The Homestead

Tarot readings on an Emily Dickinson-themed deck designed by poet Dara Wier, illustrator Halie Theoharides, and several local artists. Enjoy readings from this unique deck in the parlors, library, and bedrooms of the Homestead. Readings are first come, first served and space is limited. Dara Wier is the author of nine collections of poetry. She teaches at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and directs its MFA program for poets and writers. Her poetry has been supported by fellowships and awards from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the American Poetry Review. Her most recent book is Reverse Rapture (2005), published by Verse Press.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

8:00 AM

Nature Hike on Amherst's Literary Trails

Departs from Goff Park

Enjoy a nature hike on the Emily Dickinson Trail, one of Amherst's "Literary Trails," following the Fort River. David King, hike leader, is an associate professor of Environmental Conservation at UMASS, and a professional Conservation Biologist, specializing in Forest Wildlife Management. Sign up at Registration table Thursday and Friday.

9:00 AM-10:00 AM

Research Circle

Alumni House Main Room

10:15 AM-11:30 AM

Plenary Session

Alumni House Main Room

Michelle Kohler, "Prompter than a Star': Dickinson's Clockwork"

Michelle Kohler is Associate Professor of English at Tulane University. She has published widely on Emily Dickinson and other nineteenth-century American writers, including her recent book *Miles of Stare: Transcendentalism and the Problem of Literary Vision in Nineteenth-Century America* (U of Alabama P, 2014). She is currently working on a new book about Dickinson and mid-nineteenth-century American constructions of time and timekeeping.

11:30 AM-12:00 PM Closing Plenary Session Alumni House Main Room

Assembly of the Whole. Reflections on Meeting and Looking Ahead to 2016

12:00 PM "Dickinsons in Love" Emily Dickinson Museum

Telling of selected Dickinson family relationships—courtship, marriage, extra-

marital—in their own words. (Minimum 8; Capacity 30)

Fee: \$15.00. Sign up at Registration table Thursday and Friday.

Restaurants in Amherst Center

30Boltwood

Hours: Breakfast daily 6am-10am, Lunch 11am-2pm, Dinner 5:30pm-10pm

Address: 30 Boltwood Ave Phone: 413-256-8200

Amherst Chinese Foods

Hours: Every day 11:30am-10pm

Address: 62 Main St Phone: 413-992-6181

Arise Pub & Pizzeria

Hours: Sunday-Thursday 5pm-10pm, Friday & Saturday 5pm-11pm

Address: 28 Amity St Phone: 413-253-0220

Baku's African Restaurant

Hours: Monday-Thursday noon-8pm, Friday & Saturday noon-9pm

Address: 197 North Pleasant St Phone: 413-253-7202

Gluten and lactose free. Authentic African Cuisine. Takeout. Eat-in. Delivery available.

Bertucci's

Hours: Sunday-Thursday 11am-10pm, Friday & Saturday 11am-11pm

Address: 51 East Pleasant St Phone: 413-549-1900

Chez Albert

Hours: Monday-Thursday 5pm-9pm, Friday-Sunday 5pm-10pm

Address: 27 South Pleasant St Phone: 413-253-3811

Crazy Noodles

Hours: Monday 4:00pm-10:00pm, Tuesday-Thursday 11:00am-10:00pm Friday-Saturday

11:00am-10:30pm, Sunday 12:00pm-9:30pm

Address: 36 Main St Phone: 413-253-3287

Fresh Side

Hours: Monday-Thursday 11am-9:30pm, Friday & Saturday 11am-10:15pm, Sunday 11am-

9:30pm

Address: 61 Main St Phone: 413-256-0296

High Horse Pub and Brewery

Hours: Every day 11am-1am

Address: 24 North Pleasant St Phone: 413-230-3034

Judie's Restaurant

Hours: Sunday-Thursday 11:30am-10pm, Friday & Saturday 11:30am-11pm

Address: 51 North Pleasant St Phone: 413-253-3491

La Veracruzana

Hours: Monday-Saturday 11am-10pm, Sunday 11:30am-10pm

Address: 63 South Pleasant St Phone: 413-253-6900

Lumber Yard Restaurant

Hours: Tuesday-Sunday 4:30pm-midnight

Address: 383 Main St Phone: 413-253-4200

Miss Saigon

Hours: Tuesday-Sunday 11am-10pm

Address: 96 North Pleasant St # 5 Phone: 413-253-9988

Panda East

Hours: Sunday-Thursday 10am-11pm, Friday & Saturday 11am-11:30pm

Address: 103 North Pleasant St Phone: 413-256-8923

Paradise of India

Hours: Monday-Saturday 11:30am-10pm, Sunday noon-10pm

Address: 87 Main St Phone: 413-256-1067

Pasta E Basta

Hours: Monday-Thursday 11am-9pm, Friday-Sunday 11am-10pm

Address: 26 Main St Phone: 413-256-3550

SOUPerBOWL

Hours: Monday-Saturday 11am-11pm

Address: 96 North Pleasant St Phone: 413-253-1855

The Black Sheep Deli

Hours: Sunday-Thursday 7am-6pm, Friday & Saturday 7am-7pm

Address: 79 Main St **Phone:** 413-253-3442

The Pub

Hours: Every day 11am-1am

Address: 15 East Pleasant St Phone: 413-549-1200

Literary Sites in Amherst Center

- 1. Start: Alumni House
- 2. Noah Webster Statue
- 3. Amherst College Quad, Robert Frost statue
- 4. Fisher House, 227 South Pleasant Street
- 5. Helen Hunt Jackson childhood home, 249 South Pleasant Street
- 6. Edward Hitchcock House, 271 South Pleasant Street
- 7. Lord Jeffery Inn, Spring Street & Boltwood Avenue
- 8. Mabel and David Todd House, 90 Spring Street
- 9. Garis House, 97 Spring Street
- 10. Dickinson Homestead
- 11. The Evergreens
- 12. Noah Webster House site, 30/46 Main Street
- 13. Jones Library, 43 Amity Street, Amherst Academy site across the street
- 14. Strong House, 67 Amity Street
- 15. Eugene Field House, 219 Amity Street
- 16. Robert Frost House, 43 Sunset Avenue
- 17. Ray Stannard Baker House, 118 Sunset Avenue
- 18. West Cemetery

