

**2008 Emily Dickinson International Society Annual Meeting
20th Anniversary Celebration, August 1-3**

Friday, August 1, EDIS Discussion Institute

TOPIC: Narrative in Dickinson's Poetry

8:30-9:00 Registration and Welcome.

Attendees who wish to participate in afternoon poetry discussion workshops may sign up at this time. Signup sheets with discussion leaders and poems will be prominently posted.

9:00-11:00 FIRST SESSION

3 Plenary Speakers & a Moderator. 30 minute talks followed by 20 minutes discussion.

9:00-10:00: Michael Ryan

10:00-11:00: Elizabeth Willis

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-12:30: Benjamin Friedlander.

LUNCH 12:30-1:45 (on your own)

1:45-3:30 BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

Attendees who sent in essays in advance of the Annual Meeting and were assigned specific discussion groups will participate in critical workshops. Attendees who signed up for workshops on specific poems earlier in the day will participate in conversation workshops.

- a) Critical workshops on Narrative in Dickinson's Poetry:
Discussion Leaders: Karen Sanchez-Eppler, Cynthia Hogue, and Gary Stonum
- b) Conversation workshops on individual poems.
Discussion Leaders: Martha Ackmann is helping to coordinate these.

3:30-4:00 Coffee break

4:00-5:00 Closing discussion led by plenary speakers & workshop leaders, but open to participation by the whole group.

5:00-6:30 Book signing at the Jeffrey Amherst Bookshop. We are making arrangements to provide books by all authors who are present for the Discussion Institute.

6:30-8:00 Dinner (on your own)

8:00 Members may choose to attend an evening screening of the theatrical *Amherst Sabbath* that will take place at Cole Assembly Hall on the Amherst College campus. Cole Assembly Hall is located in Converse Hall. Parking is available close to Converse Hall.

Description of the Theatrical:

Amherst Sabbath, by Noel Tipton, is a series of dramatic Tableaux with music. Based on Polly Longworth's *Austin and Mable*, Roger Lundin's *Emily Dickinson and the Art Of Belief, This Was A Poet*, by George Frisbie Whicher, and Noel's own research: "Hymn Tunes and Emily Dickinson." Polly Longworth and Dan Lombardo will be joined by Roger Lundin at the conclusion of the performance to answer questions and discuss the production. The admission will be \$15.00 at the door.

The work's primary emphasis is Dickinson's struggle to believe. It plays against Austin and Mabel's love affair, its influence on Emily's poetry, on Susan and Gilbert Dickinson, and in particular Mabel's critical role as editor and promoter of Emily's first publications.

Of "Amherst Sabbath," Dan Lombardo, who will direct the presentation, said, "This is the freshest, most creative look at Emily's world I have seen in a very long time." William Luce, author of *Belle of Amherst* wrote, "Noel, you have found yourself a new career." Julie Harris wrote, "I read your script and I think it is beautiful. Emily's work and your music will make for a moving experience in the theater."

Saturday, August 2, Board Meeting, Members' Meeting, Celebratory Banquet

MORNING ACTIVITIES AND BOARD MEETING

9:00-1:00 Registration at Amherst College Alumni House

9:00-12:00 Board Meeting, Amherst College Alumni House (Board members only)

During the Board Meeting and registration, members are invited to take in a variety of exhibits and tours.

Tour the Emily Dickinson Museum, including a new program offering: "The Grounds of Memory" audio tour. The self-guided tour of the Homestead and Evergreens grounds is narrated by former U.S. poet laureate Richard Wilbur.

<http://www.emilydickinsonmuseum.org/hours.html>.

Visit the Amherst History Museum where there is a special exhibition exploring the town of Amherst during Dickinson's lifespan. The exhibition, "Emily Dickinson's Amherst," features the poet's only surviving piece of clothing, a white robe "dress." The exhibition will run May -

October in 2008. Amherst Historical Society & Museum, 67 Amity Street, Amherst, MA 01002, Tel. 413-256-0678 <http://www.amhersthistory.org>

From 11:00 to 1:00 Local painter Victoria Dickson invites EDIS members to the opening of “Emily Dickinson’s Brighter Garden,” her exhibit of approximately twenty-five water color paintings inspired by Dickinson’s poems and letters. The opening will take place in the Burnett Gallery of the Jones Library, located at 43 Amity Street. Joni Denn will give readings of the poems linked to the paintings. Light refreshments will be provided.

12:00-1:00 Lunch

ANNUAL MEMBERS’ MEETING

1:00-1:45 Annual Business Meeting

1:45-2:30 Reflections of past Presidents: Margaret Freeman, Vivian Pollak, Cristanne Miller, Jonnie Guerra, Gudrun Grabher.

2:30-3:00 Coffee break

3:00-4:00 General Discussion of future directions and upcoming events

MANCINI EXHIBIT OPENING

4:30-6:30 Gala opening of artist Alberto Mancini's exhibition of 29 paintings inspired by Dickinson poems: “Emily Dickinson Suite: ‘I’ll tell you how the Sun rose –.’” The exhibit, a reception and brief remarks by Mancini will take place in the Marsh Gallery at Amherst College.

20TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

6:30-8:00 The banquet with celebratory birthday cake will take place at Lewis Sebring Hall on the Amherst College campus and will be followed by an open mic poetry reading on the theme of celebration. Members are invited to read poems of their own or favorite poems by others.

Sunday, August 3rd, Research Circle and Musical Performance

RESEARCH CIRCLE

Activities will continue with EDIS's popular Research Circle. Held every year at the EDIS Annual Meeting and led by EDIS Board Member Ellen Louise Hart, the Research Circle is an informal gathering that highlights the imaginative range of our collective contributions to the appreciation and enjoyment of Dickinson’s poetry. All members are invited to participate in the opportunity to talk; share ideas, questions, and resources; and exchange information on current research in process.

8:30 to 11:00 Research Circle

8:30 to 9:40 Circle Discussion

9:40-9:50 Coffee Break

9:50 to 10:45 Two featured members discuss their works: Susan Hess: weaver of tapestries; Jane Chang: visual artist.

CHORAL CELEBRATION

11:00 Alice Parker will lead a choral performance by the Da Camera Singers of a choral composition on the theme of “Celebration” that she created for this occasion. The location of this performance has not yet been determined.

12:00 The Annual Meeting concludes.

Registration Form:

*Return with payment by June 20, 2008 to:
James Fraser
159 Prospect Street, Unit 7
Acton, MA 01720
Email: jcfraser@att.net*

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Registration confirmation will be by email unless another method is specifically requested.

Registration Fee

Participants may choose to attend the Saturday banquet.

[] **Fri.-Sun. Meeting—Current EDIS member -- \$75.....** \$ _____

[] **Fri.-Sun. Meeting—Non-member or late registration -- \$85.....** \$ _____

[] **Saturday Banquet—Current EDIS member -- \$25** \$ _____

[] **Saturday Banquet— Non-member or guest -- \$30.....** \$ _____

TOTAL enclosed.....\$ _____

Please make checks payable(in \$U.S) to Emily Dickinson International Society. We regret that credit cards cannot be accepted. For information about becoming a member or renewing a membership, see the EDIS Website: <http://www.emilydickinsoninternationalsociety.org> For information About registration contact jcfraser@att.net.

The town of Amherst offers a variety of accommodations. Partipants may check out the Amherst area Chamber of Commerce for lodging information. <http://www.amherstarea.com/business/index.cfm/fa/showcategory/CategoryID/200.cfm>. A new Marriott Courtyard Inn also has just opened in the nearby town of Hadley, MA (Rt 9) <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/bdlhd-courtyard-amherst-hadley/>. All annual meeting events will take place at the Emily Dickinson Museum and Amherst College.

For more information, contact Paul Crumbley at paul.crumbley@usu.edu.