1747 to the Present

Visit the Shirley-Eustis House and experience what life was like in rural Roxbury.
Volume 9, Early Summer 2019

What's new at Shirley Place?

New Executive Staff
Summer Tours
Buildings & Grounds
Events & Volunteers
A Benefactor Remembered

SEHA has appointed its new Executive Director!

Suzanne T. Buchanan will assume responsibility for managing SEHA's daily operations on July 29th.

The Executive Committee, upon the recommendation of the Search Committee and with the unanimous consent of the Board of Governors, has appointed Suzanne Therese Buchanan as Executive Director of the Shirley-Eustis House Association. Her hire comes after a national search which began on March 1st and resulted in 39 applications, many from immensely talented and highly qualified preservation and museum professionals. In the end it was determined that the breadth and depth of Ms. Buchanan's skills, along with her experience, accomplishments and strong ties to Boston's heritage and preservation communities, made her the best fit for SEHA's current needs. The Board is confident that Ms. Buchanan's passion for managing historic house museums (something she says "is in her blood") will help the organization become a major historic, cultural and greenspace resource for Boston and its dynamically evolving
Dudley Street neighborhood.

Ms. Buchanan, who since 2017 has been employed by Historic New England as a Senior Preservation Services Manager and most recently as a Senior Institutional Giving Officer, is a former long time Executive Director of the Hingham Historical Society. During her tenure at HHS she played a key role in helping revitalize that organization through innovative programming, fundraising (including a $3 million capital campaign), and the cultivation of a dedicated volunteer network and donor base. Her previous positions include Chief Curator for the Western Reserve Historical Society History Museum and Visual Resources Curator for John Carroll University. She has also worked for the Commonwealth Museum, the Peabody Essex Museum, SPNEA and the Art Institute of Chicago.

Suzanne Buchanan's academic credentials include a B.A. in Art History from the University of Chicago, a MA in Art History and American Studies from SUNY Buffalo and a Certificate in Museum Studies from the Harvard Extension School.

2019 Summer Tour Schedule

The Shirley-Eustis House began its summer season on June 1st.

During June regularly scheduled tours of the Mansion will be held each Saturday at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. Tours last approximately 45 minutes.

Dates and times for July and August will be posted on www.shirleyeustishouse.org/tours

Please note that in observance of Independence Day Weekend Shirley Place will be closed on Saturday, July 6th.

Tour fees are $8.00 for adults, $5.00 for students, seniors (65+) and local Roxbury and Dorchester residents. Free for SEHA members and active-duty military personnel and up to five members of their family. We are proud to be a Blue Star Museum.

Many people from near and far are discovering or returning to Shirley Place, Boston's "hidden gem". The Beer +Mortar Tour, organized by Matthew Dickey of the Boston Preservation Alliance, visited on June 8th. Matthew collaborated with Historic Boston, Inc. on this fun Preservation Month related event which began at Grove Hall and ended at nearby Backlash Brewery.

Buildings and Grounds Updates
The Mansion’s $100,000 facelift project, overseen by Buildings & Grounds Committee Chair William B. Finch, is nearly complete! Napco, Inc. of Gloucester, MA finished the exterior clapboard, woodwork, window trim and shutter repair on May 22nd. 2W Painting Inc. plans to complete its work in August. The Mansion, seen below on June 1st, is temporarily without its shutters. As a result its giant stately Georgian pilasters appear even more prominent.

Thanks to our new landscaping service GreenOp and Massachusetts Master Gardener Association volunteers led by Mary Lou O’Connor, our grounds and gardens are looking especially beautiful. The flower beds have been completely mulched and new perennials planted. Look for additions of dahlias and lilies to the Madam Eustis garden and pots of Canna lilies to the Parterre. Hibiscus is planned for the urn which decorates our formal forecourt. Maintenance of our historic grounds is being coordinated by our Treasurer, Stephen R. Vitello, who is a professional capital projects manager.

Recent Events

SEHA was honored to participate in National Preservation Month activities in May. As its contribution to local events organized by the Boston Landmarks Commission it offered a day of free tours on May 11th. President William S. Kuttner is seen above with visitors.

Former Executive Director and current Overseer Patti Violette made a guest appearance at the Mother-Daughter Tea on May 19th. She re-enacted Madam Eustis for young ladies from our local community and their mothers at an elegant tea party held in the Great Hall. She is pictured with Governor Patricia J. Smith of the Events Committee.

June 1st Opening Day began with a morning event for Members which featured coffee and pastry in the Breakfast Room followed by a special tour of Shirley Place led by President William S. Kuttner. Regular tours began later in the day. Seen above are Secretary Mary T. Flynn, new member Stephen Landrigan and Vice President Paula M. Merek.
Upcoming Event: Historic Landscape Lecture & Tour, Sunday July 28th 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

A unique opportunity to learn more about the colonial and federalist inspired landscape of Shirley Place. Master Gardeners Mary Lou O'Connor and Linda Woodbury will provide context for the estate's current historical interpretation. Details will be sent out soon. For more information visit: www.shirleyeustishouse.org/events

Thank you to our recent event donors & volunteers:
Daleia Boutwell, Denise Breiteneicher, Jeff Cronin, Mary Flynn, Haley House/Bing Broderick Executive Director, Alex Koblan, Bill Kuttner, Paula Merek, Jane O'Reilly, J. Archer O'Reilly III, Jeanne Richardson, Ashely Smith, Glenn Smith, Patricia Smith, Peter Stott, Patti Violette and Marion Walker.

Volunteers have been keeping busy, having fun and making a difference. Would you like to volunteer?
Contact Jeanne Richardson at governorshirley@gmail.com

Bill Kuttner was delighted to have such an enlightened audience for his Preview Tour. Pictured left to right: Overseer Bob Bellinger, Overseer and former Executive Director David A. Mittell, Jr., long time member Carol Blair, new member Carol Chirico and Bill Kuttner.

Events Committee Chair Governor Jeanne E. Richardson and Overseer J. Archer O'Reilly III, seen here as Henry Knox, greeted guests on June 1st.

Former Governor Jane O'Reilly (far right) helped host the Mother-Daughter New Overseer Robert A. Bellinger became better
Tea. Jane was also an event sponsor. Haley House generously donated pastries.

Master Gardener Mary Lou O'Connor took a moment to admire the fruits of her labor as well as those of her gardening volunteers.

**Remembering a Benefactor**

Richard William Husher 1921-2019

Dick Husher, who was responsible for making the Mansion's Great Hall Stair balusters, has passed away at age 97. In order to turn and carve the very fine Federal style birch balusters Dick had to first design a combination lathe and milling machine. The stair rail was completed c.1985. Governor Frederic C. Detwiller took this photo of him on the staircase some years later. Although sophisticated optics were the focus of much of his professional life, Dick's greatest interest was the restoration of antiques clocks.

**Become a Member of the Shirley-Eustis House Association**

Individual membership rates start at only $25 per year! Contact SEHA for more information. (617) 442-2275 or visit www.shirleyeustishouse.org/join.