The Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum

SUMMER/FALL 2022

REFLECTING THE PAST: NEW BEDFORD GLASS

The Rotch-Jones-Duff
House & Garden Museum

396 County Street
New Bedford, Massachusetts
508-997-1401
www.rjdmuseum.org

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From the Director

Persevere or Thrive?

When resources are scarce, it can be a challenge to feel like you're thriving. Many in our community were out of work, and all of us were isolated in our homes during the months of the pandemic. At times, I felt like the museum was simply persevering. With the start of the pandemic, we faced a ban on in-person gatherings and the closure of the museum. Even as we reopened, we could hold programs only virtually. Everything felt restricted and challenging.

If you are familiar with the story of Stone Soup, I want to suggest that, in this time of scarcity, I felt much like the hungry traveler carrying nothing but a pot. I did wander into that village though, and ended up with a tasty stew when all was said and done. In the story, the hungry travelers put a stone and water in their pot and they place it over a fire. What the RJD had in its pot throughout the pandemic was our wonderful staff and board, as well as the gorgeous garden–these things were our stone and water. In the story, the villagers take an interest in what's going on; one person contributes carrots–another contributes some greens–until the soup is enough to feed the village. The comparison to the story breaks a little here since at no time was the RJD tricking people to contribute, yet they did: in the form of showing up. And the grounds hosted multiple wedding celebrations, family programs, social gatherings, garden enthusiasts, and casual picnickers. The "villagers" showed up. They shared. And they made the museum look and feel like a thriving organization again.

As we find a new normal and get back to things we might have missed these past two years, I am encouraged by the support for this organization that comes not just from your donations or membership, but from you sharing with us–your stories, your interests, your energy, and your family and friends.

Hope to see you soon.

Dawn E. Salerno
Executive Director

Cover: *Perfume bottle, white lusterless glass,* Mount Washington Glass Works, c. 1880s.

The RJD Welcomes New Staff

Claudio Pereira

Claudio Pereira joined the RJD staff in January 2022 as the Functions and Sales Coordinator. He was born and raised in New Bedford and attended Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School and Bristol Community College. His career in hospitality began at New Bedford's Airport Grille in 2009. In addition to hospitality, Claudio has over 20 years of customer service experience at various companies including Compass Bank, SOCO Magazine, and Fay's Restaurant & Knotty Pine Catering. More recently, Claudio has joined the team at South Coast Elite Real Estate Group in Fairhaven.

"In January of 2020, my partner Ryan and I started planning our wedding. We saw venue after venue. On the day we came to tour the RJD garden, we knew that this was the location we wanted to plan our day around. That planning of our own wedding inspired my return to the world of events and hospitality. I am thrilled to be working with the RJD house and museum; a place of history that has become part of my personal history as well."

Planning an event? Please give Claudio a call at the museum! Or email Functions@rjdmuseum.org.

What's New

Staff and Board have been busy implementing the four goals of *RJD's Strategic Plan, 2021-2026*. Two of those goals strive towards the vision that the RJD will represent diverse histories, voices and perspectives. We acknowledged that we could not be that museum without inviting more people into the discussion. Here are some highlights of those efforts:

NextGen and D & I Committees

A group has recently been formed to advise the RJD on ways to engage the millennial audience (those born between 1981 and 1996). This group of nine individuals represents a diversity of backgrounds and experience. The "NextGen" committee began meeting in early 2022. How does this community perceive the RJD Museum? What types of activities would they like to participate in?

A similar advisory group was formed as the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. From museum signage to

how the museum works with community groups, this committee is vital to the work of becoming a more inclusive organization.

Individuals serve on these committees as volunteers: we acknowledge and thank them for their gift of time, knowledge, and honesty. Interested in one of these committees? Contact Executive Director, Dawn Salerno (dsalerno@rjdmuseum.org).

Museum Membership

The Museum launched a new discounted membership rate just for City residents. The resident membership program engages us more with the local community and reinforces our long-standing ties to the City.

All RJD Members can enjoy the new Perks Program. Each quarter of the year features new perks, in addition to the regular annual Museum Member benefits. Perks are coordinated in partnership with local businesses so that Members can explore all the great activities New Bedford has to offer. Contact HFortin@rjdmuseum.org or visit our web site to view details about the latest perk.

July – September: On weekdays, members visiting the garden can receive a freshly clipped rose. Our local business partner perk: School of Yoga New Bedford

October – December: Members can enjoy a view of the city from the museum's cupola. Please call ahead to schedule this type of visit. Our local business partner perk: The Drawing Room.

Reflecting the Past: New Bedford Glass

BY LAUREN PRESCOTT

History of Glassmaking

Glassmaking emerged around 2300 B.C.E. though it is not clear whether glass was first made in Ancient Egypt or Mesopotamia (present-day Iraq and northern Syria). We know more about early glassmaking in Egypt, partly because of the ancient Egyptian custom of burying the dead with objects they believed would be needed in the afterlife, and also because of that country's dry climate, which is conducive to the preservation of glass. Syrian craftsmen discovered glassblowing in the 1st century. Their technique produced glassware faster than others and as a result, glassware became attainable for more than just the wealthy classes. Syria also exported luxury and common glassware throughout the Roman empire.

Glass was a material common to everyday Roman life. It was also used for windows, mirrors, jewelry, magnifying glasses and serving ware such as cups, bottles, plates and bowls. Romans used glass for its decorative qualities as well, incorporating it into mosaics and furniture.

New Bedford

The glass industry began in New Bedford in March of 1867 when the fires were lit at New Bedford Glass Works. But due to financial difficulties, the plant closed just a few years later in 1869. Mount Washington Glass Works, established in South Boston in 1837, purchased the defunct New Bedford Glass Works factory and moved to New Bedford in 1869. Mount Washington always manufactured glass in the latest styles, including many types of art glass. Art glass refers to colorful decorative pieces intended for the parlors and dining rooms of Victorian homes. Mount Washington operated from 1870 to 1894, producing some of

Mount Washington Glass Co. advertisement, c. 1894.

the most beautiful American art glass of the Victorian Era.

In 1880, Mount Washington hired English silversmith, Thomas Pairpoint, to run the Pairpoint Manufacturing Corporation, a silver company adjacent to Mount Washington. Pairpoint manufactured all types of household goods, including silverware, tableware and jewelry. Although Pairpoint was initially run as a separate company, in 1894 the two merged and became the Pairpoint Corporation.

New Bedford Glass: An Era of Quality

Although the management and names of New Bedford's principal glass factory changed several times over a 90-year span, they all became synonymous with fine quality hand-made glass.

By 1897, when New Bedford celebrated its semi-centennial, Pairpoint had 1,200 employees. The first quarter of the 20th century was a period of great prosperity for Pairpoint. The company introduced a variety of both glass and silver products and established itself as a leader of the industry.

The End of Glassblowing in New Bedford

Several factors led to the demise of glassblowing in New Bedford. The Great Depression, manufacturing abroad, mainly in the United Kingdom and Japan, as well as the demand for high wages in industry in the U.S., made it difficult to keep up with competitors.

The company ceased operations in New Bedford in December 1956. On October 2, 1965, a fire ripped through the old Pairpoint factory, completely destroying it. The Pairpoint mill fire was one of the toughest that firefighters battled in the city's history. It required the aid of firefighters from surrounding towns, and the flames were so intense that they blew horizontally out the brick factory windows.

Glass remnants from the fire are on display at the RJD, along with New Bedford glassware from the 19th and 20th centuries. The exhibit case includes items from RJD's permanent collection, as well as pieces from retired New Bedford glassblower, Alfred J. Aubut Jr.

Perfume bottle, Pairpoint Corporation, c. early 20th century

Calendar

JUNE

BLACK IN BUSINESS: POP-UP OUTDOOR MARKET
Sunday, June 19, 10am – 3pm
BuyBlackNB hosts their second annual Juneteenth event with a hand selected diverse group of vendors. Enjoy art, food, clothing, children's entertainment and handmade goods! The popular 360 Photo Booth returns and fathers can enjoy a massage. Free admission.

JULY

MUSIC IN THE GARDEN
WITH MUSICIANS FROM NEW BEDFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Thursday, July 14, 6pm – 7pm
Enjoy live music on the tented patio. Bring your lawn chairs to listen from the garden area. Picnickers welcome. This event is part of AHA Night. Donations are accepted in lieu of a ticket fee (suggested $10).

APPRAISAL DAY
Saturday, July 16, 9am – noon
Do you have a family heirloom? Paintings passed down to you by a relative? Or a great flea market find? Discover their potential worth with the help of an expert appraiser. Appraisals will be done on a first-come, first-served basis. Appraisers: Frank McNamee, Alfred J. Walker, Paula Dean. Fee at the door: $10 per item / $25 for three items.

FAMILY STORYTIME
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NEW BEDFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Thursday, July 21, 11:30am – noon
Meet in the mansion parlors, or garden, for an engaging half hour of stories for the whole family. After the stories, take home a family fun craft kit to collaborate and create together! Family Storytime will run every third Thursday of the month, through November. Open to all ages with accompanying adult. Free.

PLAYS IN THE GARDEN
WITH YOUR THEATRE
Saturday and Sunday, July 23 & 24
For reservations and more information, call Your Theatre: 508-993-0772.

Please call the museum in advance or visit our web site to register for programs with a fee. Visit www.rjdmuseum.org or call 508-997-1401.

AUGUST

A MIDSUMMER MEMBERS RECEPTION
Wednesday, August 10, 6pm
RJD Museum Members are invited to enjoy refreshments on the porch of the mansion, overlooking the parterre rose garden.
A special members-only preview of the Reverie Theatre Group's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* follows at 7pm, on the tented patio.
RSVP to Hillary Fortin by Friday, August 5: *HFortin@rjdmuseum.org* / 508-997-1401

SHAKESPEARE IN NB PRESENTS: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM
August 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, & 20, 7:30pm
Reverie Theatre Group, formerly the Glass Horse Project, presents another summer of Shakespeare in New Bedford! Join us in a fanciful forest outside Athens where sprites and fairies laugh and frolic, where magic lies in the earth, and love is in the air. Through bog, through bush, through brake, through brier, we're here to play. Donations of any amount are accepted in lieu of a fee.

This program is supported in part by grants from the Acushnet, Dartmouth, Mattapoisett, Fairhaven, & New Bedford Cultural Councils, local agencies supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. This project received a Wicked Cool Places grant, facilitated by New Bedford Creative & the NBEDC, & funded by the City of New Bedford's Arts, Culture and Tourism Fund, with additional support from Bristol County Savings Bank, Barr Foundation, Mass Cultural Council, and MassDevelopment's "TDI Creative Cities Initiative."

FAMILY STORYTIME
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NEW BEDFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Thursday, August 18, 11:30am – noon
See July listing for details. Open to all ages with accompanying adult. Free.

OPEN HOUSE AT THE MANSIONS
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DATMA AND THE JAMES ARNOLD MANSION (JAM)
Sunday, August 21, 12pm – 3pm
In partnership with DATMA and the James Arnold Mansion (JAM)
The two mansions connected by County Street and marriage (James Arnold married Sarah Rotch, daughter of William Rotch Jr.) are co-hosting a free day of activities. RJD features tours of the house, lemonade, and lawn games. At the JAM, visitors can tour the house and grounds and enjoy fruit punch and cookies. Learn more about DATMA's Shelter 2022 programming and public art tours at the event. Free.

PLAYS IN THE GARDEN
WITH YOUR THEATRE
Saturday & Sunday, August 27 & 28
For reservations, call Your Theatre: 508-993-0772.

SEPTEMBER

THE FIVE PILLARS OF HIP HOP
A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN NEW BEDFORD WHALING NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK & 3RD EYE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT
Thursday, September 8, 5pm – 7pm
This is the last of five monthly events exploring the Pillars of Hip Hop (mcing, djing, b-people, graffiti, knowledge). Find out more about the Five Pillars, and the origin of these traditions. The event in the garden includes live music, spoken word and art. Know a young person who might be interested in participating in this event? Contact at info@3rdEyEUnlimited.org. This event is free as part of AHA Night and is open to all ages.

FAMILY STORYTIME
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NEW BEDFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Thursday, September 15, 11:30am – noon
See July listing for details. Open to all ages with accompanying adult. Free.

ANNUAL MEETING & RECEPTION
Thursday, September 15, 5pm
Join the museum's staff, board, Corporators and fellow members for a look back at the past year of museum activities. Free admission.

LOCALLY SOURCED: A NIGHT OF HOMEGROWN PERFORMANCE
THE COLLECTIVE'S SUMMER SERIES
Thursday, Friday & Saturday
September 22, 23, & 24, 7pm
Over the course of the last year, local performing group, The Collective, has been creating new poems, songs, and ten-minute plays for their infamous 1440 Projects. These projects condensed the creative process into 24 hours, culminating in a single performance. For this open-air summer series in the RJD gardens, The Collective presents the cream of the crop: each piece has been fine-tuned into a fully-produced theatrical experience. Ticketing and details can be found at thecollectivenb.org

OCTOBER

HOUSE TOUR
Saturday, October 1, 2pm
Enjoy a one-hour guided tour of the Rotch-Jones-Duff mansion. Various RJD docents and staff conduct tours. Free with the price of admission.

ROTCHTOBERFEST
Wednesday, October 12, 5pm – 7pm
Carve or paint and contribute a pumpkin for the Great Pumpkin Parade (please bring your own pumpkin). The Museum provides carving tools, paint and inspiration. Not carving? Enjoy lawn games, and donuts and cider. All ages are welcome to this free autumnal event. See our web site for more details.

THE GREAT PUMPKIN PARADE
Thursday, October 13, 4pm – 8pm
Visit the grounds to see a display of Jack-O-Lanterns, carved with care by community members. Inside the mansion, children can participate in a scavenger hunt with prizes. At 6pm, Cool Banana Wig performs, bringing kids up to play a variety of unique homemade instruments built by the band! Refreshments served. Suggested donation: $5 Individuals / $10 Family. This event is also part of AHA night.

FAMILY STORYTIME
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NEW BEDFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Thursday, October 20, 11:30am – noon
See July listing for details. Open to all ages with accompanying adult. Free.

MYSTERY AT THE MANSION: GALA
Friday & Saturday, October 21, 22, 6pm
Save the date for the fourth annual event! The Collective returns with an all new mystery to solve in this participatory theatrical event. The setting this year is a fictional museum gala where guests can expect a red carpet, paparazzi, and plenty of suspects. Details coming to our web site in September.

NOVEMBER

HOUSE TOUR
Saturday, November 5, 2pm
Enjoy a one-hour guided tour of the Rotch-Jones-Duff mansion. RJD docents and staff conduct tours. Free with the price of admission

GAME NIGHT
Thursday, November 10
4pm – 6pm, Family Games
6pm – 8pm, 21+ Games
Assemble some teammates and head to the RJD Mansion. The early hours feature family-oriented games. The later hours are for 21+ games. Bring your favorite board game, Magic Deck and beverages (no red wine or Twister in the mansion please!) The Museum provides classic board games and teammates as needed, plus low-priced snacks for the evening. This event is free as part of AHA Night.

FAMILY STORYTIME
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NEW BEDFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Thursday, November 17, 11:30am – noon
See July listing for details. Open to all ages with accompanying adult. Free.

FRIDAY NIGHT BRIGHTS
Friday, November 25, 4pm – 7pm
Visit the RJD family-friendly fun, music and refreshment. Wear your ugliest holiday sweater and seasonal accessories. The Cookie Challenge is in its third year where weekend-warrior bakers bring batches of their favorite cookie recipes for you to sample and judge. Activities will be outside, weather permitting. The decorated mansion will also be open as space allows for touring. Suggested donation: $5 individual / $10 family.

CHILDREN'S TEA
Sunday, November 27, 1pm
Bring your favorite doll or plushy animal friend for tea in the decorated parlors of the mansion. Dress-up is encouraged, but not at all required. Fee includes tea, desserts, and admission to the Museum. Recommended for ages 5 and up, with adult companion. $25 Member adult / $30 Public adult /$10 per child; advance reservations required.

AFTERNOON TEA IN THE PARLORS
Tuesday, November 29
Seatings available at 2pm & 4pm
Enjoy tea and scones in the festively decorated double parlors of the mansion. Festive dress is encouraged. Fee includes tea, desserts, and admission to the Museum. $25 Members / $30 Public; advance reservations required.

DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS ON COUNTY
Thursday, December 8, 4pm – 6pm
Drop in to see the decked halls of the mansion and hear from docents about some of the holiday customs held by residents of the house. This event is part of AHA night. Donations are accepted in lieu of a fee.

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House & Garden Museum

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GARDENS LOCATED AT THE RJD MUSEUM
IN THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN NEW BEDFORD.

The city's only 19th century wooden lattice pergola
anchors an acre of ornamental gardens,
numerous rose varieties, hydrangeas and seasonal fruit trees.
Meandering stone pathways converge on the paved patio,
covered by a canopy from May through October.
Planning a different kind of event?
The RJD garden and mansion make a unique
and beautiful backdrop for all types of social gatherings,
from retirement parties to baby showers.

Contact our Functions Coordinator
to assist with the planning of your special event.

tel | 508.997.1401

email | functions@rjdmuseum.org

website | www.rjdmuseum.org/weddings