

# “Would You Like Summer? Taste of Ours —”



The Dickinson Garden

Come explore  
Emily Dickinson's passions  
as poet, gardener, and cook  
Amherst, Massachusetts  
July 17-19, 2015

Beginning Friday in late afternoon and concluding Sunday morning, a new educational program devoted to the life and works of one of America's greatest poets will feature:

- ◆ Presentations by Dickinson scholars and authors **Marta McDowell, Aife Murray, and Jane Wald**
- ◆ Hands-on activities to help guests delve more deeply into Dickinson's love of botany and baking

The program, offered for \$400 per person by the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst, also includes private tours of The Homestead (at right) and The Evergreens (home of Austin and Susan Dickinson); visits to the poet's gardens and grave; a trolley tour of Dickinson landmarks; poetry discussions and readings; musical performances; and optional visits to the Dickinson collections at Amherst College, The Jones Library and the Amherst History Museum.



*Would you like summer? Taste of ours —  
Spices? Buy — here!*

*Ill! We have berries, for the parching!*

*Weary! Furloughs of Down!*

*Perplexed! Estates of Violet — Trouble ne'er looked on!*

*Captive! We bring Reprieve of Roses!*

*Fainting! Flasks of Air!*

*Even for Death — a Fairy medicine.*

*But, which is it — sir?*

1862 (Franklin 272)

## Introducing our summer weekend's three presenters

**Marta McDowell** is a landscape historian, garden writer and author of *Emily Dickinson's Gardens*. Friday evening she will present “**Would You Like Summer?**” She will discuss the fruits and vegetables that graced the poet's garden and table. Learn which heirloom produce you can grow in celebration of Emily Dickinson.

On Saturday, she will lead “**Have you made an herbarium yet?**” In a “make-and-take” activity inspired by the poet's extensive album of pressed flowers, participants will learn the basic techniques for mounting herbarium specimens. There will also be materials for creating a set of three flower-decorated cards for special correspondence.

Marta McDowell teaches landscape history and horticulture at the New York Botanical Garden and consults for private and public gardens and the Emily Dickinson Museum.

**Aife Murray** is the author of *Maid as Muse: how servants changed Emily Dickinson's life and language*, and *Art of Service*, a limited edition hand-printed artist book written in collaboration with the men and women who maintain the house and grounds of the Emily Dickinson Museum.

In “**Taste Of Ours!**” — her Saturday hands-on activity at the Unitarian Universalist meetinghouse — participants will make Dickinson family recipes while hearing about some of the baking challenges of the poet's 19<sup>th</sup> century kitchen, the role played by household chores in her literary process, and how baking served as literary inspiration.

The morning's culinary will be tasted at a Victorian tea that afternoon, when Aife Murray will lead our 21<sup>st</sup> century event's bakers in a discussion of Dickinson's poetry.

**Jane Wald** has worked with The Emily Dickinson Museum for 14 years, and has been its Executive Director for the past nine. On Sunday, she will present “**I am glad there are Books. They are better than Heaven**”: **What did the Dickinsons Really Read?**

Dickinson refused to become a full member of her family's church and called herself a “pagan,” but she knew the Bible backwards and forwards and often spoke of faith in her poetry.

Dickinson's poems and letters chronicle a lifelong struggle with issues of faith and doubt, suffering and salvation, nature and deity, mortality and the eternal. An examination of her family's libraries can cast more light on Dickinson's personal theological explorations in the context of 19<sup>th</sup> century religious movements.

Were they better, to her, than Heaven?

### *The program fee of \$400 per person*

includes all admissions and activities, one dinner, one lunch, two breakfasts, afternoon tea, and refreshments following the Sunday morning presentation. Transportation to Amherst and lodging are not included. **Optional lodging is available for \$75 per person per night** in the homes of members of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst.

For more information, please visit [www.uusocietyamherst.org](http://www.uusocietyamherst.org), email [office@uusocietyamherst.org](mailto:office@uusocietyamherst.org), phone 413-253-2848 or write to Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst, P.O. Box 502, Amherst MA 01004-0502.

*This event is a fundraiser for the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst. Program subject to change.*