

Spring Blooms with Special Events and New Exhibits

AT THE ATWOOD

By Lynn Van Dine

As the crocuses peep from their winter slumber, The Atwood House & Museum prepares to open a new season with special events, new, and revitalized exhibits.

Now that our winter-long renovation to the foundation of the Old House is complete, we look forward to a number of events, beginning with a Volunteer Open House on Thursday, May 3, from 4 – 5:30 p.m. For those who would like to volunteer at the Atwood House & Museum and learn more about the work of our docents, gift shop clerks, archivists, and guides, you are welcome to enjoy some appetizers and libations while we outline the many opportunities to help through both the season and the off-season.

We often wonder what motivates our volunteers to dedicate their precious free time to the Atwood House & Museum/Chatham Historical Society. So we asked some of our volunteers recently for their candid feedback: “What I love about volunteering here is that you never know what you're going to be doing from one day to another,” says Ruth Norman – Docent and Costume & Textiles volunteer

“What makes this place so special is that you use your creativity. As a volunteer, you can run your own project or even your own department if you wish,” says Bob Ralls, Technology Chair. Bob started inventorying and fixing our computers and improving the IT data security, things that he really enjoys. Now he realizes that he is becoming an expert at “anything that plugs into the wall” as he focuses on upgrading our projection system in the Stallknecht Gallery.

Later in May, on Saturday, the 19th, the Atwood joins the Atlantic White Shark Center and the Marconi Maritime Center to host Free Locals Day, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. With one local driver’s license per group, you will have an opportunity to sample all three locations without an admission fee on that day. The three sites are located within three miles of one another. With so much to see and experience in these popular museums, you can always come back and visit us again to enjoy the many docent lead tours and other activities we offer.

Rosamond Vaule, author of *As We Were: American Photographic Postcards, 1905-1930*, will discuss “Picturing Chatham: Photographic Postcards” at our Sunday Lecture Series on May 20, beginning at 4 p.m. Admission is free for members; \$10 for non-members.

When the Atwood House & Museum opens for the season on Friday – Saturday, May 24-25, 1-4 p.m., visitors will be able to see a number of new and enhanced exhibits, beginning with “Double-Take: Historical & Current Panoramic Photographs of Chatham,” which was previewed last fall. The exhibit now fills its own gallery with early 1900s panoramic views of Chatham, positioned with the very same views today.

Visitors will also be able to explore our newly renovated exhibits, such as the Joseph C. Lincoln room, arranged and decorated to reflect his study in Chatham; the Pendleton exhibit,

which now includes a special focus on the U.S. Life-Saving Service; and the Tool Room, which now has a deeper look at the Atwood Store, including our recent acquisition of the store's sleigh.

So please stop by the Atwood House & Museum! We're just down the road from the Chatham Rotary at 347 Stage Harbor Road. For details, visit www.chathamhistoricalsociety.org.