

Bidwell House Museum Begins 2022 Season with a Concert and Reception!

Monterey, Mass – May 12, 2022. The Bidwell House Museum is thrilled to announce that they will open for their 31st season on Memorial Day weekend. Tours by appointment will begin on Monday, May 30th and on Sunday, May 29th, at 2 p.m there will be an opening concert and reception with singer-songwriter Diane Taraz, who will perform her new show *“No Such Thing as Idle Hands: The History of Women’s Work.”*

Through music and folk songs Taraz will explore the amazing number of things women used to have to know to keep their families alive. Diane Taraz has been a mainstay of the Museum’s opening weekend for many years and this will be her first in-person concert at the Bidwell House Museum since 2019.

A Pittsfield native, Diane has long made her home in the Boston area, performing extensively throughout New England. She is the director of the Lexington Historical Society Colonial Singers and a longtime member of the Gloucester Hornpipe & Clog Society. Her recordings are available through her website at www.dianetaraz.com.

Following the show there will be a small reception to usher in the new season. Tickets can be purchased on the Museum website, <https://www.bidwellhousemuseum.org/event/no-such-thing-as-idle-hands-opening-concert-and-reception/>

Admission to the show and reception is free for Members and \$15 for non-members.

Then, on Monday May 30, the Museum will begin guided tours of the house. These personal, small-group tours last about an hour and include a look at the architecture of the house, a history of the Bidwell Family and their connection to Monterey, information about housewares and decor in 18th century New England, and a walk through the first and second floors of the house. The Museum is accessible and there is a video tour of the 2nd floor for those visitors who are unable to climb stairs. As in 2021, all tours will be by appointment only, must be booked 24 hours in advance and will be available on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday between 10 am and 3 pm. Tours can be reserved by either calling 413-528-6888 or emailing bidwellhm2@gmail.com. Tickets for adults are \$15, seniors are \$10, student tickets are \$5 and children 12 and under are free.

The Bidwell House Museum is a New England heritage site providing a personal encounter with history, early American home life, and the Berkshire landscape through its land, house and collection. The Museum is a non-profit educational institution for the benefit of the community and today’s audiences of all ages, dedicated to preservation, scholarship and enjoyment of the landmark site.

The museum grounds – 192 acres of woods, fields, historic stonewalls, trails and picnic sites – are open all year free of charge. Trail maps can be found on the front porch of the Museum and on the Museum website here: <https://www.bidwellhousemuseum.org/trails/>

The Bidwell House Museum is located at 100 Art School Road. For more information and to learn more about upcoming programs, please call [413-528-6888](tel:413-528-6888) or go to www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.