



2021 Main Season

Berkshire County Historical Society at Herman Melville's Arrowhead

May

Saturday, May 15 – Opening Day for Tours

Tours of the historic home start today and continue through the end of October. Tours available Thursday through Monday from 10am with the last tour departing at 3pm.

June

Monday, June 7 – Launch Party for *Moby-Dick* Audio Book, 7pm

"During the pandemic I spent my time bringing as much great literature out on audio as possible" says award-winning audiobook producer Alison Larkin whose company Alison Larkin Presents is based in West Stockbridge. "I had a hunch it was time for a truly accessible recording of *Moby-Dick*, so we hired the popular Berkshire actor Jonathan Epstein whose narration is truly mesmerizing." Join us for a special reading and Q&A with Jonathan Epstein and the producers of this epic new recording of *Moby-Dick*. Ticket sales to benefit the Berkshire County Historical Society. To download and listen to the audiobook, visit alisonlarkinpresents.com.

Tickets \$20 BCHS members, \$25 not-yet members

Thursday, June 17 - *Melville Biographical Research Lecture*: Warren Broderick, 6:30

-Melville scholar and NY State Archives emeritus Warren Broderick will present newly discovered original source documents that will shed light on Melville's life and work. Learn about previously unknown records that bear Herman's signature as well as the first published reference to a missing novel.

FREE for members, \$10 not-yet members

Sunday, June 27 – Victorian Quadrille Orchestra, 7pm

- The Victorian Quadrille Orchestra presents dance music from the Civil War and Victorian era. The orchestra invites you back to a time before electronics and recorded music as they perform the original notes written in the 1800s with the authentic instrumentation. Hear Quadrilles, Lancers, Polkas, Waltzes, Reels and more.

FREE event

Program sponsored by the Pittsfield Cooperative Bank

July

July 1-15 – Mastheads Writers’ Residency

-The Mastheads is a writers’ residency program that creates a dialogue about place through literature and architecture. Five original architectural spaces serve as studios for selected writers-in-residence to produce new work each summer. Each space is inspired by an American author who produced work in and around Pittsfield – Melville, Hawthorne, Thoreau, Longfellow, and Holmes Sr. The studios remind us of the past while providing a platform for new creativity.

Saturday, July 10 – Exhibit Opening – *Lifting the Veil: Mourning in the Berkshires*

This exhibition will examine rituals and objects related to death and dying in the Berkshires and beyond focusing on the mid-19th century. The show will take a close look at the historic practices of surrounding death, burial, and those left behind. BCHS collections will be featured in this exhibit, including objects not regularly on view to the public.

FREE all season

July 10 – Mastheads Final Readings, 6pm

-The fifth-annual reading of new work by Mastheads authors in the historic Arrowhead barn, FREE event

Sunday, July 11 – Book reading: Caroline Hellman: *Children of the Raven and the Whale: Visions and Revisions in American Literature*, 3 pm

Children of the Raven and the Whale: Visions and Revisions in American Literature (University of Virginia Press, 2019) looks at how contemporary United States writers have responded to texts that were historically central to the American literary canon - including Melville's *Moby-Dick*. In their rewritings and layerings of new stories over older ones, contemporary writers chronicle a spectrum of American experience, and appraise the project of the United States. This talk will explore Melville's influence on the work of Ta-Nehisi Coates, in addition to discussing the larger landscape of American literature today.

\$10 BCHS members, \$15 not-yet members

July 24 & 25 – Guild of Berkshire Artists Art Show

July 29 to August 2 – August 4: *Moby-Dick* Fifth Annual Read-A-Thon, 10am-5pm

“Call me Ishmael” and sign up to read part of Melville’s masterpiece on the site where it was written. Come on your own or bring a group to read with us until we finish the book.

\$5 recommended donation

August

Sunday, August 1 – Herman Melville’s Birthday and Monument Mountain Hike, 9am

-Celebrate the day (August 4, 1850) when Melville met Hawthorne on a hike up Monument Mountain. Read the poem they read together at the summit and share sparkling wine (they had champagne). Meet in the parking lot at Monument Mountain, off Route 7 in Great Barrington.

FREE

-Exhibit opening at Berkshire Museum: *Muh-he-con-ne-ok: People of the Waters that are Never Still*

We once called this land home. We walked the Earth, built homes and lived our lives. While forced removal may have physically moved us, our hearts remain. *Muh-he-con-ne-ok: People of the Waters that are Never Still* showcases the history of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, past, present and future. We hope you enjoy learning about this great Nation.

August 13-15 – *ReWritten*, 7pm

ReWritten is an immersive performance that explores the often-silenced intimate relationship between authors Nathaniel Hawthorne and Herman Melville. Moving between their lives, work, and remaining letters, *ReWritten* reimagines an intergenerational queer love story that helped shape American literature. Through dance, live music, visual art, projection, and text this performance questions what happens when we say no to dreams when we want to say yes.

\$10 for BCHS members

\$15 for not-yet members

Use your EBT card and get 50% off

Kids 12 and under free

September

Sunday, September 5: Lecture and Film Screening: Prof. Michael Hoberman and the film "Call Us Ishmael," directed by Dr. David Shaerf, 3-6pm

-Michael Hoberman, an American literature professor at Fitchburg State University, will be making his case that Melville is an ideal writer for people who describe themselves as *skeptical romantics*. His talk highlights his own path to Melville's writing, and it will also offer a brief discussion of how he teaches two lesser-known texts ("Benito Cereno" and "The Encantadas"). "Call Us Ishmael" chronicles filmmaker David Shaerf's journey into the world of Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick*. Throughout his quest he encounters artists, musicians, professors and performers, all of whom are singularly seeking the White Whale. "Call Us Ishmael" gives viewers an insight into a community devoted to this timeless text.

\$15 BCHS members, \$20 not-yet members