



PRIMITIVE PIECES

The Newsletter of The Peace Dale Museum of Art and Culture

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Fall 2020

The “Beautiful Companion” of Ramesses the Great

Of all the tombs in Egypt’s Valley of the Queens, the tomb of Queen Nefertari, wife of Ramesses II, is considered to be the most beautiful.

The vibrantly-colored paintings that cover almost every available surface are considered the best preserved in any ancient Egyptian burial site and the most eloquent and detailed description of an Egyptian’s journey to the afterlife.

Ramesses II, also known as Ramesses the Great, reigned from 1279 to 1213 B.C. The third pharaoh of the Nineteenth Dynasty of Egypt, he is widely considered to have been the most powerful and most celebrated pharaoh of the New Kingdom.

Nefertari, whose origins are unknown, was the most important of Ramesses II’s eight known wives. They married when she was 13 and he was 15. Her full name was Nefertari Merytmot, “Beautiful Companion, Beloved of Mut.”

Ernesto Schiaparelli, director of the Egyptian Museum in Turin, discovered Nefertari’s tomb in

1904. By that time, the tomb had been looted of its contents, including the queen’s mummified body and the burial objects. About 5,200 square feet of wall paintings were all that remained.

**THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 19**



Seeping water, bacteria, salt, and the humidity of visitors’ breath caused the wall paintings to deteriorate. In 1950, the tomb

was closed to the public. After four years of restoration work completed in 1992, public access was severely restricted. Now, visitors can see the tomb only as members of small private tours.

On Thursday, November 19 at 7:00 p.m., Ruth Shilling will take us on a virtual tour of this breathtaking and deeply moving site.

Ruth, a Wakefield resident, has led more than fifty tours of Egypt during the past two decades and has presented a number of programs at the Museum.

During this Zoom presentation, Ruth will show us the exquisite artwork on the walls, talk about the gods and goddesses represented there, and tell us a bit about where Nefertari fits into the history of Ancient Egypt.

Participants will have a chance to ask questions and share their impressions of the tomb.

Registration is required for this on-line program. Please send an e-mail to the museum office (pdmoc@aol.com) and include the date of the program in the subject line. We will send you a link to the Zoom program.

Digging up the past on Manisses

Recent archaeological discoveries on Block Island

Block Island, Rhode Island's largest offshore island, has been a particular focus of archaeological study during the past decade.

Recent archaeological investigations have provided evidence for 7,000 years of Native American occupation.

On Thursday, November 5 at 7:00 p.m., Jay Waller, senior archaeologist at The Public Archaeology Laboratory (PAL), a private not-for-profit cultural resource management firm based in Pawtucket, will share some of the highlights of recent archaeological projects on Block Island that contribute to our understanding of Manissean Indian life.

Construction of the Block Island wind farm provided one of those opportunities to explore early Native American life. One of the elements of the wind farm

**THURSDAY
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project was a bi-directional electric cable connecting Block Island to the mainland. Deepwater Wind, the offshore wind farm developer, hired PAL to conduct an archaeological

survey before excavation took place for installation of the cable.

Tropical Storm Sandy in October of 2012 provided another opportunity for PAL to dig on Block Island. The storm exposed a portion of a previously unknown Native American archaeological site and damaged the adjacent state highway. The R.I. D.O.T. hired PAL to recover artifacts exposed by the storm before the highway was repaired.

This program will take place remotely on Zoom. To virtually attend the program, you will need to make a reservation by sending an e-mail to the museum office (pdmoac@aol.com). Please include the date of the program in the subject line of your e-mail to us. We will send an e-mail back to you containing the link to the Zoom program.

Here's how to "virtually" attend our Fall programs

Our Fall Lecture Series will take place remotely. We will conduct the programs on-line on Zoom.

To virtually attend a live program, you will need to make a reservation by sending an e-mail to the museum office (pdmoac@aol.com). Please include the date of the program in the subject line of your e-mail to us. We will send an e-mail back to you containing the link to the Zoom program. Please send us a separate reservation request for each program.

Each program will be recorded so that you will be able to view it later by using a link on our website.

The Peace Dale Museum of Art and Culture

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Julie Wardwell, Museum Administrator • Louise Weaver, Administrative Assistant

Mary Brown, Educator



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Meet Julie Wardwell, Our New Office Administrator

Julie Wardwell, our new office administrator, is a familiar face to many South Kingstown residents.

Julie retired in January 2020 after working for the Town of South Kingstown for 31 years. For the past 20 years, she was the secretary for Police Chiefs Chief Vincent Vesipa and Joseph P. Geaber, Jr. Before that, she worked in the Finance Department, the Tax Collector's Office, and the School Department.

Fortunately for us, Julie was looking for a part-time job and learned about the museum administrator's position through word of mouth.

Julie is a native Rhode Islander. A widow, she lives at the Village at Worden's Pond, within minutes of her

two children and five grandchildren.



Julie Wardwell

All of Julie's children and grandchildren visited the museum as students in the South Kingstown school system, and they were delighted to learn about her new job.

Julie is also a musician. She began piano lessons at the age of six and has been playing piano and organ ever since. She has served as a church organist for 48 years, currently at the Wakefield Baptist Church. She considers her musical talent to be a gift, and feels gratified to be able to share it with others.

The temporary closure of the museum because of the pandemic has given Julie a chance to learn her way around the gallery and office and familiarize herself with the various tasks she is responsible for carrying out.

Now, she is looking forward to the museum's reopening.

We're fortunate to have found Julie, and we know she will do a fantastic job.

Please let us know where you are!

We are updating our mailing lists— our old-fashioned snail mail mailing list and our e-mail list. If we don't have your correct addresses, please send corrections to our office at pdmoac@aol.com

Peace Dale Museum of Art and Culture
1058 Kingstown Road, Room 5
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

It will be worth the wait . . .



This year's Trash or Treasure fundraiser is cancelled because of the COVID pandemic, but we're already planning for next year's event. It will be at the Dunes Club on Sunday, September 26, 2021. Save the date!