

For Immediate Release

American Carousel Art

Dover residents are in for a treat on Wednesday, April 26. That's when Dover Historical Society member and Dover resident Barbara H. Palmer will present her program on the *Carousel in America*. The program will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Dover Library, Lower Level. Refreshments will be served and all are welcome to attend free of charge.



Barbara Palmer came by her love of horses and carousels honestly, she says. When her father was a boy, he had a part-time job caring for a carousel in Canadarago Park, near Cooperstown, N.Y. and at 14, determined to be a cowboy, he somehow found his way to Amarillo, Texas to fulfill his dream. It is easy enough to imagine his influence on his daughter inspiring her lifelong love of both horses and carousels.

She attended Elmira College, Syracuse University, and Boston College from which she earned her Ph.D. in the history of higher education. Those who have seen the exhibits she has done for the Historical Society at the Benjamin Caryl House, where she was curator for a number of years, already know that this will be both an informative and entertaining evening.

She will introduce us to the heyday of the carousel in America, roughly the mid-1870s through the 1920s and then document its equally dramatic decline. She will make a strong case for recognizing as true artists the men who carved these wonderful wooden horses. Immigrants played a major role in the development of the American carousel. She herself played a part in the 1970s and '80s in successful efforts to preserve these precious creations and their history.

Finally, she says, "We are lucky to live in this neck of the woods which continues to support a collection of historic machines within a drive-able distance." Come find out where they are and how extraordinary is their story.

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For confirmation or questions, contact:
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