

For Immediate Release

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Photographs available

“Fans of Sisters” : The New England Regional Conference of the
Fan Association of North America to Meet in Fitchburg

Fitchburg Historical Society to Host Collectors of Ladies’ Fashion Accessories on October 3

(Fitchburg, MA) On **Saturday, October 3, 2015**, the Fitchburg Historical Society will host the regional conference of the Fan Association of North America (FANA). Tina Nordstrand, a resident of Fitchburg and a long-time collector of antique handheld fans, has organized the annual convocation of the FANA’s Northeast Connection in Fitchburg, and the general public is invited to attend, if they would like to learn more about fans and their place in the history of fashion.

The convocation, called “*Fans of Sisters*”, will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 3 at the Fitchburg Historical Society’s headquarters in the Phoenix Building, 781 Main Street on Fitchburg’s Upper Common. There will be networking and viewing of fans from around the country from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00; a talk on Fitchburg’s fashion history in the Victorian era at 11:00 a.m., and a discussion of the celluloid industry at 12:00 p.m. Visitors are invited to drop in for all or part of the program; there is no charge, except for those who would like to eat lunch with the group. Lunches (from local restaurants) must be reserved and paid for in advance.

“Fitchburg and Leominster have traditions of manufacturing and shopping that influenced the fans,” according to Nordstrand. “Our members always bring fans to show and discuss with the group, as part of the convocation. In addition, we will be discussing Leominster’s celluloid industry and Fitchburg’s fashion leaders in the 1800’s, when such women as Eleanor Norcross influenced Fitchburg fashion and industry.”

“I am pleased that we are able to provide fans, antique purses, and other ladies’ accessories from our collection for the “*Fans of Sisters*” participants, says Susan Navarre, Fitchburg Historical Society Executive Director. “Luckily, we also own photos and other records about these women that were preserved by the Historical Society.”

The Phoenix Building is located at 781 Main Street, Fitchburg, with free parking behind the building. The building is fully handicapped accessible. For more information, call 978-345-1157; or visit <http://fitchburghhistoricalsociety.org>. The FANA website is <http://fanassociation.org/>.

“Fans of Sisters”, Regional conference of Fan Association of North America

Saturday, October 3, 10:30 – 3:30 p.m.

10:30 a.m.: Networking and fan display

11:00 a.m.: Discussion: Fitchburg’s Fashions in the 1800’s

12:00 p.m.: Leominster and Celluloid

George R. Wallace Jr. and Alice G. Wallace Exhibit Hall, Fitchburg Historical Society

Free and open to the public, donations accepted. No RSVP needed, except for those who will be purchasing a lunch. RSVP’s: 978-345-1157