



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Historic Highfield Offers New Membership Program

The Board of Trustees of Historic Highfield, Inc., has voted to offer a membership program to supporters of Highfield Hall for the first time in a decade. Membership is designed as a way to provide individuals, families, and businesses a more formal connection to the organization while offering program discounts and special opportunities in return. Historic Highfield, Inc. is the nonprofit organization that was founded in 1994 to save and restore Highfield Hall. Now charged with its continued maintenance and preservation, Historic Highfield operates the mansion, built in 1878, as an historic site and cultural center and offers a variety of programs including music, nature, culinary, art exhibitions and classes for children. Restoration of the Highfield Hall landscape, now in progress, connects the house to the larger property and Beebe Woods, creating an inspirational environment for learning and community engagement. In the six years since the Hall was opened to the public, it has quickly become a focal attraction for residents and visitors alike, and now welcomes nearly 20,000 people each year.

“In the late 1990s, at the very beginning of the push to save the building, formal membership was a means to get the community excited and help finance the project,” explained Board chair Joe Valle. “But the building was only open occasionally and there were few activities or other benefits to warrant membership, so the program eventually lapsed.” Mr. Valle added that bringing the membership program back has been in discussion for years, and that the board felt the time was right for several reasons, including the variety of programs and the fact that an adequate staff structure and membership tracking system are now in place.

The Board weighed its decision to re-introduce the formal program carefully, soliciting the opinions of Historic Highfield volunteers and supporters and studying the membership structures of similar organizations throughout Cape Cod. Among local peer

organizations, including Falmouth Historical Society, Heritage Museums and Gardens, Falmouth Artists Guild and others, Highfield was alone in not offering its supporters the opportunity to formally join the organization.

Benefits of membership in Historic Highfield include Member pricing on selected classes and programs, advance notice of events and programs, unlimited complimentary admission to Highfield Hall and invitations to Member-only events. Thanks to an agreement with Falmouth Historical Society, Historic Highfield members will also receive complimentary admission to Falmouth Museums on the Green. But the most important benefit, according to Historic Highfield's executive director Barbara Milligan, is "the knowledge that Members are helping to preserve an historic Cape Cod treasure for future generations."

Membership enrollment is available for individuals for \$40 per year and for families for \$60. "Family Membership" is defined as two adults and up to four children or grandchildren under the age of 18. Student membership is \$20 per year and Business Membership is \$100. More information is available online at www.highfieldhall.org or by calling 508-495-1878.

Highfield Hall is an engaging historic property that has been restored and revitalized to serve as a center of cultural and community life in Falmouth. With its unique combination of resources -- including the mansion, the Highfield estate, and neighboring Beebe Woods, Highfield provides an interactive learning environment for adults, children and families. Highfield Hall is operated by Historic Highfield, Inc., a nonprofit organization founded in 1994 to save, restore, and operate the 1878 mansion, located at 56 Highfield Drive, off Depot Avenue. Directions and information about programs and private rentals can be found at www.highfieldhall.org or by calling (508) 495-1878.

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