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## **Historic New England celebrates the *Year of the Kitchen***



Boston — Historic New England announces the Year of the Kitchen, a year long celebration of the role of the kitchen in times past and present.

The kitchen – at times a harried work space and at others the sentimental heart of the home – has always played an important role in our lives. Through special programs, house tours, exhibitions and more, discover the technological and social changes that have taken place in the kitchen and why, for so many of us, this room still symbolizes warmth and comfort.

- Experience the history of the American kitchen from the Colonial period to the present with a tour of Historic New England’s *America’s Kitchens* exhibition, opening at the New Hampshire Historical Society on June 11, then traveling to venues in Long Island and Massachusetts.
- Take part in kitchen-themed programs and events throughout the region. Learn about the social history of dining in America, food traditions in the late nineteenth century, the use of herbs and herb gardens, servants’ stories, kitchen technology, food preservation, hearth cooking, wine tastings, teas, and more.
- Explore kitchens in Historic New England’s house museums, and travel from the seventeenth to the twentieth century. With kitchens ranging from the cooking fireplace in the paneled kitchen at the 1678 Coffin House in Newbury, Massachusetts, to the latest in 1808 cooking technology at the Rundlet-May House in Portsmouth,

New Hampshire, to the narrow galley-like kitchen at the 1938 Gropius House, in Lincoln, Massachusetts, Historic New England lets you discover some of the region's best-preserved kitchens.

- Learn more about kitchens in this region and beyond in the book *America's Kitchens*, which features New England kitchens, detached kitchens on southern plantations, Spanish colonial kitchens of the Southwest, elaborate nineteenth-century kitchens in the Midwest, and middle-class open-plan homes of 1950s suburbia.
- Test your own skill in the kitchen with a recipe of the month. Each month recipes from home kitchens and historic archives, are posted on the America's Kitchens website. Let these recipes become part of your kitchen traditions.
- Share your kitchen photos that tell stories - stories about food preparation, new equipment vs. favorite family gadgets, kitchen memories, and recipe disasters. Tell us how you use the kitchen to entertain, work, celebrate, and dine. Select photographs will become part of the media slide show of the *America's Kitchens* exhibition.

Visit [www.AmericasKitchens.org](http://www.AmericasKitchens.org) for detailed information on how to participate in Historic New England's Year of the Kitchen.

Historic New England is the oldest, largest, and most comprehensive regional heritage organization in the nation. It offers unique opportunities to experience the stories of New Englanders through their homes and possessions. For more information visit [www.HistoricNewEngland.org](http://www.HistoricNewEngland.org).

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