

Press Release: WOLLASTON GARDEN CLUB, Quincy
Re: Re-Dedication of ANNE HUTCHINSON SQUARE
Contact Persons: Jo Costello (617-471-3669) & Anneli Johnson (617-479-1601)
Date: April 1, 2008

On Saturday, April 19, 2008 at 10:00 a.m., the City of Quincy will join with the Wollaston Garden Club and the public for a brief ceremony to rededicate the Hillside at Grandview and Beale Street to honor Anne Hutchinson. City officials, invited guests and garden club members will give recognition to this extraordinary woman who was exiled as a 17th Century heretic by the Puritans of Boston. Speakers will include the Mayor of Quincy, Tom Koch and Eve LaPlante, Hutchinson descendant and author of *American Jezebel*. (A raindate of Saturday, April 26 has been set).

Anne Hutchinson came to Boston from England with her husband and her thirteen children in 1633, and by 1636 was lecturing weekly to large groups of women and men in her home in downtown Boston. Her beliefs and thoughts brought her into conflict with the reigning theological dogmas of 17th century Boston. In 1638 the Massachusetts Bay legislature banished her to Rhode Island and she was excommunicated by her Boston church. The Massachusetts State Legislature, finally, in the bicentennial year of 1976, at the urging of Louise Meservey, past president of Wollaston Garden Club, and others, officially revoked the action its legislative predecessors had taken 338 years ago.

Hutchinson is remembered in Quincy with two obscure signs in Wollaston that acknowledge that in 1638 she tarried at this site en route to Rhode Island on the 17th of April. According to the historic Roxbury Puddingstone marker this site is located on a parcel of land that was part of the original grant of 600 acres made by the Town of Boston to Anne's husband, William Hutchinson.

The Wollaston Garden Club and the Quincy Park Department first started clearing and working at the hillside in June 2001. A birch tree was planted in memory of garden club past president, Margaret Dougherty on June 27, 2002 and evergreen shrubs were installed in the summer of 2004. Yellow 'Mary Todd' tulips were transplanted from the club's Beale/ Newport Ave civic beautification site and spring bulbs planted in the fall of 2004. With the historic marker soon to be back in its original place, the club intends to finally finish planting this site.

Wollaston Garden Club members admire Anne Hutchinson today as a remarkable, outspoken, courageous woman, and also as a gardener; as a midwife she kept an extensive garden of herbs and medicinal plants. It has been the goal of the garden club, through beautification and maintenance of this site along with this Re-Dedication ceremony, to bring Anne Hutchinson the honor and recognition she deserves.