

By 1999, his private collection had been consolidated at the Natick facility, but was open just to friends, scholars, war veterans and their families, and military personnel. (Longtime trustees include retired four-star general George W. Casey Jr., his-

torian Doris Kearns Goodwin, Ph.D. '68, and the director of the Churchill Museum and Cabinet War Rooms in London, Phil Reed.) The nonprofit museum was incorporated in 2011, when it started admitting members of the public by appointment.

Last fall, Rendell and his wife and business partner, Shirley McNerney Rendell, once a local television news reporter, hired professional senior staff: Carter, formerly the K-8 principal of Milton Academy, and Samantha Heywood, who left the Imperial

War Museums to become the founding director and director of exhibits. The museum is expected to stay open throughout construction, which could begin as early as next spring; visit [museumofworldwarii.org/visit.html](http://museumofworldwarii.org/visit.html) or e-mail [museumofworldwarii@yahoo.com](mailto:museumofworldwarii@yahoo.com) to make an appointment.

Just what shape the new museum's content, design, and

narrative structures will take is still a matter for curatorial interpretation. Right now, items are displayed chronologically in some two dozen areas—from "Germany in the 1920s" to "War Trials."

The white walls are largely covered by ingenious and often vitriolic propaganda posters produced by all the combatants; the rooms are simply lit. The dearth of dramatic display staging and what curators call "didactics" (explanatory texts that guide experience) allows visitors freedom to think about and absorb the staggering volume of materials at their own pace and psychological capacity. Three hours is recommended for a first-time visit.

How to retain "the intimacy of the objects and documents," given a much bigger space and crowds, "is one of the challenges," notes Heywood. The greater creative and intellectual puzzle, though, is figuring out how the complex scope of World War II will be conceptualized and tangibly portrayed. What could, or should, be taught? What is most relevant to a wide-ranging contemporary audience, especially to young people, and what might the war mean to them in the future?

For Carter, the museum's educational power lies precisely in that personal contact and potential for connection with

## ALL IN A DAY: Woolapalooza

**The 206-acre** Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary in Lincoln is Mass Audubon's only working farm-cum-educational center. Staff members tend livestock and bountiful vegetable and flower crops while safeguarding meadow, woodland, and pond habitats, and providing refuge for injured or orphaned wildlife—turkey vultures, red-tailed hawks, barred owls, a great horned owl, pheasants, and a fisher. "Ms. G," the Commonwealth's official state groundhog, also resides on site, but is generally not on public view.

The farm's annual Woolapalooza festival on March 26 supports these efforts to highlight the interconnection among animals, people, and the natural world. Twenty-six ewes will be freed from their winter coats, some just weeks after giving birth. (Seventeen appeared to be expecting at press time.) The rest of the celebratory day is filled with herding-dog demonstrations and farm-life and arts activities. Artisans also demonstrate how raw wool is washed, carded, spun, and eventually turned into sweaters.

"Many people think of farms as being active only when everything is green and growing," sanctuary director Renata Pomponi says, "but there are exciting things going on all year round in nature. One of the important ways New

England farmers use the winter is for other 'crops' like maple syrup and products like wool." At Woolapalooza, visitors can buy farm-tapped syrup, along with a lunch of farm produce and meat. All the barns will be open, as well as the four

miles of walking trails (weather permitting), because by late March, as Pomponi notes, "People are really ready to get outside again after a cold, long winter."

For those who shun crowds (and Woolapalooza has drawn thousands of visitors in the past), Drumlin Farm is also open daily. Classes and events include workshops on fermenting foods, making cheese, and running a chicken coop; night walks in search of owls; exploring the biological life of small ponds, and the fundamentals of Northeastern birding. ~N.P.B.



**Scenes from an early spring festival at Drumlin Farm in Lincoln, Massachusetts. See new lambs, try out the arts of spinning and weaving, and witness the annual rite of sheep-shearing.**

Mass Audubon's Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary [www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/drumlin-farm](http://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/drumlin-farm) March 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.



COURTESY OF DRUMLIN FARM WILDLIFE SANCTUARY