

Summer 2006

THE SALEM ATHENÆUM

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E-Mail: Info@salemathenaeum.net
Web Site: www.SALEMATHENAEUM.NET



FOUNDED 1760

LIBRARY HOURS:

Tues. / Wed. / Fri: 1 PM to 5 PM
Thursday: 5 PM to 9 PM
Saturday: 10 AM to 2 PM
DIRECTOR: Jean Marie Procius

THE SALEM ATHENÆUM NEWSLETTER

SAVE THESE DATES!

Scrabble Games - Thursday
evenings, 7-9 PM

Friday Social Time - 5:00 PM.
See Director's Column, page 2

June 11 - Garden Party, 4-6 PM.
(rain or Shine)

June 15 - 6:30 PM
Jane Austen Reading Group
Details, page 2

June 17 (Sat.) - Reading by poet
Jean Monahan of Salem, 2:00 PM.

August 18 - Deadline for registra-
tion, "Passage to India" Course

October 6th - Robert Scanlan on
plays of Samuel Beckett

December 21 - Deadline for registra-
tion, "Modern Irish Literature"

Other programs to be scheduled
include the 2nd Annual Fall Book
Sale; children's activities; also see
Education Committee Report and
visit www.salemathenaeum.net

∞ FROM THE PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES ∞

Here at the Athenæum, we do not like to say goodbye to our members.

Fortunately, we are not often called upon to do so. At the special meeting of our Proprietors, held in April to discuss our copy of the Charles I Charter, our full house included many octogenarians. Some of them represent an unbroken line of family involvement and support dating back to our 1810 incorporation, and all remain fiercely loyal and committed to the Athenæum's survival and continued success.

The evening was spent in thorough, thoughtful, and at times impassioned debate about the possible deaccessioning of the Charter.

More recently (May 3rd), we held our Annual Meeting. It marked the end of the six-year term of Winifred Wilkens, an extraordinary trustee. We took this opportunity to establish a new award named in honor of our renowned first president, Edward Augustus Holyoke, and she is the first recipient (See article on next page.) As was Dr. Holyoke, Winnie is passionate in her love of books and all that they repre-

sent. Over the course of its existence, the Athenæum has never had a more zealous and skilled advocate than Winnie, and it is fitting that her name be linked with that of our founder in perpetuity. A plaque will be hung in the main room to memorialize the award, with space for the names of future recipients.

We are also fortunate in having three new trustees join us last month: Francie King, Dick Jendrysik, and Trip Mason. Each brings a wealth of experience and fresh enthusiasm to the Athenæum.

As we start a new fiscal year, the issue of how best to deal with our copy of the famous Charter remains high on our list of priorities. We thank all of you who have contacted us with your ideas and opinions. In seeking to reach a full understanding and appreciation of every element of this crucial issue, your Board has expended a tremendous amount of effort. We will continue to do so until we are confident that nothing has been overlooked.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Garden Party on June 11th!

Francis Mayo

Proposed Trip to Ireland - June 2007

For the first time, the Athenæum is sponsoring a travel/study opportunity for members and friends. In conjunction with her "Masterpieces of Irish Literature" course, Sue Weaver Schopf will design and lead a 9-10 day tour of the literary landscape of Ireland - centered chiefly in Dublin and Galway. Registration limited to course participants and Athenæum members. More information and registration form available from the Athenæum office.

LEADERSHIP NEWS

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

May 24 marked the close of my first year as your Director. What a joy it is to work in this lovely building among the rich collections it houses with blooms outside every window.

I have especially enjoyed helping members discover the “perfect read” or the information they need when they need it. But in truth it is the members who volunteer their time and talents and those of you who come to participate in programs or simply to find a book who really bring this beautiful building to life. Your Athenæum thrives on the pride you feel in your membership, and your enthusiasm has made my first year a success.

I invite one and all to join me in the garden for “Fridays After 5” this summer. Drop by for light refreshments and informal discussions on books, current affairs, Athenæum issues, or anything else under the sun.

Jean Marie Procius

WILKENS RECEIVES NEW AWARD

In recognition of her six years of dedicated and tireless service as a member of the board of trustees, on May 3rd, the Salem Athenæum bestowed the Edward Augustus Holyoke Award upon Winifred Wilkens of Salem. She becomes the first recipient of this new honor, which is named for a founder of The Salem Athenæum. It recognizes those who exemplify the founding spirit and purpose of The Athenæum.

As member of the Board and as Clerk, Wilkens has given inspired leadership to the care, maintenance and preservation of the book collections since 2003, when she retired from Harvard University. She previously worked in the libraries of the departments of Chemistry and Botany at Harvard and her library experiences also include a corporate library focused on computer sciences in New Jersey and the Marine Sciences Consortium library in Sandy Hook, NJ.



Left to right: **Francis Mayo**, president of The Salem Athenæum; **Julie Lutts**, member of the board of trustees and a past president; and honoree **Winifred Wilkens**.

The Annual Meeting vote of the Proprietors reaffirmed key positions of leadership and welcomed three new trustees. **Fran Mayo** and **Dick Scott** will continue in their roles as President and Vice President. **Jean Dennis** is newly elected to the role of Clerk and **Blake Anderson** will serve as Treasurer. **Julie Lutts**, **Patti Roka** and **Sue Weaver Schopf** will continue their terms and committee positions. The newly elected trustees include:

Richard Jendrysik (Dick) lives around the corner on Hamilton Street with his wife Pam. Their son and daughter-in-law have settled in Salem and are Athenæum members as well. Dick is a project manager on overseas petrol chemical projects, with experience in mechanical engineering and business administration. His work has taken him to Holland, Saudi Arabia, Korea, Canada and Venezuela. He has been involved in Athenæum building and garden activities.

Frances B. King (Francie) is a published book and magazine author. She comes to us with years of writing and strategic planning experience in development and fundraising. She works for the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, lives in Marblehead, has two daughters, and devotes some of her historic passion to Glover's Regiment. Last year she was a tremendous help on the Members' Committee.

Frederick D. Mason III (Trip) has deep Salem roots. He and his wife Susan have two children. A few years ago, as the Athenæum struggled to set up a computer system, he volunteered his expertise as a computer consultant. His company provides computer / IT support for small businesses throughout eastern Massachusetts. He is an avid photographer and loves to read and travel.

The Nominating Committee looked for candidates who could enhance the Board's expertise in financial and business management, public relations, fundraising, and building management. The board increased in number by one person, to strengthen leadership and to help offset the pattern of expected attrition. The board continues to build its essential committees to add valuable knowledge, skills and involvement to its leadership.

Patricia S. Roka

Chair, Nominating Committee

JANE AUSTEN READING GROUP

The spring course on Jane Austen, led by Maura Henry these past few months, was very successful. It stressed the historical background of the novels; now some of the participants in the course want to explore setting up an informal reading group to discuss them further. We have scheduled an organizational meeting on Thursday evening, June 15, at 6:30 PM. If this interests you, please call Martha Mayo at (781) 631-5598, or send an e-mail to her at: trimble49@hotmail.com.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Judging from the increased attendance at our events, the cities and towns beyond the Salem area from which participants are coming, and the many new members gained this year, word is getting out that the programs at the Athenæum represent an exciting and informative feast of ideas. Standing-room-only events included the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Celebration with **Robert Allison**, **Emerson W. Baker II**'s talk on the Quakers in Salem and New England, **Marjorie Garber**'s inaugural Shakespeare lecture, a trio of attorneys engaged in conservation law who spoke on the endangered waters of Massachusetts, and Park Ranger **Emily Murphy**'s presentation on Richard Derby, Jr.

The inspired Adams Lecture given by **David Hackett Fischer**, with period music supplied by **Glover's Regiment**, attracted nearly 200 participants. Also well attended were talks by biographers **Megan Marshall** and **Charlotte Gordon**, and the unforgettable theologian **John Dominic Crossan** who gave the Bentley lecture. Novelist **Margot Livesey**, poets **June Beisch** and **J. D. Scrimgeour**, and historian **Timothy Kenslea** read from their latest works. And two courses were offered: "Understanding Islam" with **Ali Asani** and "Jane Austen's World Through History, Literature, and Film" with **Maura Henry**; both of these drew roughly 25 students. We celebrated National Poetry Month with a community read-in, and we sponsored an **Evening of Rare Books** at which we learned about both the care and handling of rare books and what makes them "rare" or "collectible."

Nearly all of these events have been further enhanced by exhibitions of relevant works drawn from the Athenæum's extraordinary rare books collection, mounted by Winnie Wilkens and her hard-working volunteers on the **Collections Committee**. In this way, the dual focus of the Education Committee, providing intellectually enriching programming and highlighting the special collection of books, have been happily united.

It has been an outstanding year, and we are committed to making the next one even better. The Education Committee would welcome your suggestions for lecture or course topics that you would like to see offered.

PREVIEWS:

Emily Murphy will return to give a second lecture on the Derby family. In honor of the centennial of the birth of playwright **Samuel Beckett**, the noted scholar and director **Robert Scanlan** will speak October 6th on Beckett's contributions to modern theatre and the perils of directing his plays. **Lawrence Buell**, winner of the Christian Gauss Award of Phi Beta Kappa, will lecture on **Ralph Waldo Emerson**, America's first public intellectual. **Stephen Greenblatt**, whose book *Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare* was a finalist for the National Book Award and one of the most widely read works of scholarship in 2004, will give the second annual Shakespeare lecture. In honor of Mozart's 250th birthday, we are planning an evening of chamber music at the Athenæum. And to celebrate the

100th anniversary of our building, a special series of events is being planned.

~ NEW COURSES IN 2006-07 ~

"**A Passage to India: An Exploration into the British Empire in India Through History, Literature, and Film**" will be taught by **Dr. Maura Henry**. This six-week course will explore the issues of race, gender, sexuality, class, cultural exchange, and mythologies of "the other" as they emerge from Britain's colonization of India. In addition to historical accounts of the British in India, various works of literature (such as the novels of E. M. Forster) and films that depict this vexed relationship will be studied.

Dr. Henry offered the delightful Athenæum course on "Jane Austen's World in History, Literature, and Film" this spring. Formerly a lecturer in Harvard's History Department and the Harvard Extension School, she is now Assistant Professor of History at Holyoke Community College, and a faculty member with the Teachers as Scholars program in Boston. She received rave reviews from her Jane Austen students, so we are very pleased that she has agreed to return to us this fall.

6 consecutive Monday nights, 7 to 9 p.m.

September 18, 25; October 2, 16, 23, 30

Tuition: \$145 Athenæum members; \$175 for non-members. Advance registration required by August 28.



The second course is "**Masterpieces of Modern Irish Literature**," which will be offered by **Dr. Sue Weaver Schopf**. This 10-week course will examine selected works of poetry, prose, and drama by some of Ireland's greatest writers, primarily from the 20th century. Despite eight centuries of British rule, acute poverty, and violent struggles between Catholics and Protestants, "Orangemen" and "Free Staters," Ireland has produced four Nobel Prize winners. We will consider how writers have dealt with this history; how the country has been depicted by both insiders and outsiders; and how Irish identity has been represented and stereotyped. Readings will include poems by **Thomas Moore**, **James Clarence Mangan**, **William Butler Yeats**, and **Seamus Heaney**; fiction by **Edith Somerville**, **Martin Ross**, and **James Joyce**; and plays by **J. M. Synge**, **Lady Gregory**, **Samuel Beckett**, **Brendan Behan**, **Sean O'Casey**, and **Brian Friel**.

Sue is Assistant Dean, Director of the Master of Liberal Arts Program, and Senior Research Advisor in the Humanities in Harvard's Division of Continuing Education, where she also lectures on English and American literature. She previously offered two very popular courses at the Salem Athenæum: "Masterworks of Western Drama" and "Understanding Poetry."

10 consecutive Thursday nights, 7 to 9 p.m.

January 11, 18, 23; February 1, 8, 15, 22; March 1, 8, 15

Tuition: \$240 Athenæum members; \$275 for non-members. Advance registration required by Dec. 21.

Sue Weaver Schopf

HAWTHORNE CIRCLE MEMBERS, FY 2005-6

(Recognizing donations above the annual contribution)

Laureates ∞ \$1000 and above

Mr. W. Russell MacAusland
Mr. & Mrs. Francis T. Mayo

Mr. and Mrs. Edward R. Tufts
Ms. Katherine van Dyke
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Wilkens

Patrons ∞ \$500-\$999

Mrs. Joan C. Jordan
Mr. Eden Milroy
Ms. Octavia Randolph
Mr. & Mrs. Morris Schopf
Mr. & Mrs. Willis Stinson, III

Other Contributions ∞

Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Barz-Snell
Mrs. Janet C. Bayley
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Beckett
Mr. John Bedell
Mrs. Harriet Binney
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Busted
Mr. Edward R. Carroll, Jr.
Miss Margherita M. Desy
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Mr. Louis Stella
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Mr. Chris Tsioropoulos
Mr. Richard Wyke

Benefactors ∞ \$100-\$499

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Mr. Robert N. Shapiro



IN-KIND DONATIONS —FY 2005-6

In addition to many generous donations of supplies and services by our Trustees and their spouses – as well as donations of books from too many members, friends, and strangers to list here – we especially want to thank the following:

American Steeple and Tower (Roof repair)
Anonymous: new window blinds for reading room
Anonymous: antique mirror for public rest room
Professor Emerson Baker
Barnett Group Multimedia
Bowditch Institute
Ms. Mary Costello
First Church in Salem
Glover's Marblehead Regiment
Historic Salem, Inc.
Mrs. Joan C. Jordan (Garden bench)
Mr. & Mrs. Carlton Lutts (Live music)
Miss Emily A. Murphy (Web site images)
Nana's Kitchen (Refreshments)

National Parks Foundation
Mr. John M. Owen (Web site construction)
Peabody Essex Museum
Mr. Serge Sachurak
Salem Maritime National Historic Site
Shubie's Marketplace (Refreshments)
Spirit of '76 Bookstore
Sticky Rice of Marblehead (Refreshments)
TenBroeck Consulting Company
Mrs. Elaine von Bruns

Memorial Gifts:

In Memory of Thomas Reynolds:
Reynolds Family (Garden Bench)

New Memberships – since April 2005

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW PROPRIETORS:

Mr. David Ashton
Mr. James Austin
Mrs. Dorothy Bradt
Mr. William H. Darling & Elizabeth A. Breuhaus
Mr. Charles Dimino
Ms. Susan Foster & Ms. Camilla Lockwood
Ms. Norma James
Ms. Frances B. King
Mr. W. Russell MacAusland
Mr. Frederick D. Mason, III
Mr. Eden Milroy
Ms. Octavia Randolph
Mr. William L. Saltonstall

WELCOME TO NEW SUBSCRIBERS:

Mr. Wasim Altaf
Mr. Fred M. Bauer
Mr. Paul Brawley & Ms. Bonnie Smith

Mr. & Mrs. David Bromer
Mr. & Mrs. Neil Chayet
Mr. Robert Ciociola, Ms. Janice Martin, and Gabriel Ciociola
Mr. Stephen H. Clark
Ms. Lynda Coffill
Ms. Gloria Coolidge
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Mr. Henry DuLaurence
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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Strauss
Ms. Kathy Streacker
Ms. Phyllis Townley
Ms. Mary Lou Tuttle
Ms. Lorraine Van Tis
Mr. & Mrs. Zab Warren
Mr. & Mrs. William Wrightson



New Summer Reading

FICTION

Carey, Peter. *Theft: A Love Story*
* Glass, Julia. *The Whole World Over*
Grenville, Kate. *The Secret River*
Grushin, Olga. *The Dream Life of Sukhanov*
Khadra, Yasmina. *The Attack*
McGuane, Thomas. *Gallatin Canyon* (Stories)
Muir, Kate. *Left Bank*
Némirovsky, Irène. *Suite Française*
Pearl, Matthew. *The Poe Shadow*
Preston, Caroline. *Gatsby's Girl*
Sittenfeld, Curtis. *The Man of My Dreams*

MYSTERIES & THRILLERS

Furst, Alan. *The Foreign Correspondent*
Haddam, Jane. *Hardscrabble Road*
Hart, John. *The King of Lies*
Hill, Reginald. *The Stranger House*
Knopf, Chris. *Two Time*
Kozak, Harley Jane. *Dating is Murder*
Patterson, James. *Judge and Jury*
Rendell, Ruth. *End in Tears*
Yancy, Richard. *The Highly Effective Detective*

NON-FICTION

Allgor, Catherine. *A Perfect Union: Dolley Madison and the Creation of the American Nation*
Bryant, Nick. *The Bystander: JFK and the Struggle for Black Equality*
Carroll, James. *House of War: The Pentagon and the Disastrous Rise of American Power*
Cohen, Rich. *Sweet and Low: A Family Story*
Cooke, Alistair. *The American Home Front: 1941-1942*
Dunn, John. *Democracy: A History*
Graham, Lawrence Otis. *The Senator and the Socialite: The True Story of America's First Black Dynasty*
Grunwald, Michael. *The Swamp: The Everglades, Florida, and the Politics of Paradise*
Meacham, Jon. *American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation*
Philbrick, Nathaniel. *Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War*
Schama, Simon. *Rough Crossings: Britain, The Slaves, and the American Revolution*
* Tyler-Lewis, Kelly. *The Lost Men: The Harrowing Saga of Shackleton's Ross Sea Party*



* These are local authors



New Trustee **Francie King** as a camp follower

GLOVER'S REGIMENT

Entertaining at the Peabody Essex Museum before the Adams Lecture.



Scrabble Players at the regular Thursday evening games: Dale Gephart, Price Grisham, Stash Usovicz.

The Salem Athenaeum makes an annual award to a student graduating from Salem High School who is most distinguished by his or her abiding curiosity, intellectual engagement, and pas-

sion for literature. This year the 8th such award was granted to Ivan Rosa, who received a copy of the *Oxford Companion to American Literature* and two short works of fiction.

**CONGRATULATIONS,
Ivan!
KEEP READING!**

GARDEN CLEANUP DAY



TRANSPLANTING: Left to right - Dick Jendrysik, Vicki Sirianni, Francie King, Fran Mayo, and John Owen.



THE FINAL TOUCH: Jim Austin.

Despite the date delay due to rain, twenty volunteers showed up on Saturday May 20th to spruce up the gardens in front and back of the Athaeneum.

By the end of the day, four mature plantings had been moved; minor plants had been relocated; one Norfolk pine added; and many new hosta plants trim the edges of the garden. Leaves were raked, gutters cleared, lawn furniture cleaned, sidewalk swept and edged, the light fixture was repaired. All the chores of the spring clean-up were accomplished in the one very busy day.

Members should note the changes to the streetscape of the grounds, especially in the glade to the right side of the entrance stairway. Several shrubs were moved from the area to allow a view into the back garden.

Part of the landscaping repairs included an attempt to fill a sink-hole on the south-east corner of the building. It turned out to be caused by an abandoned stone well, possibly dating from the late 17th century. Prof. Emerson Baker of Salem State College has volunteered to help us with research.

The crew included Winnie Wilkens, Pam & Dick Jendrysik, Jim Austin, Nancy TenBroeck, John Owen, Francie King, Martha & Fran Mayo, Pete Nugent, Blake Anderson, Phil Dwight, Lisa Spence, Bob Erbetta, Chuck von Bruns, David Ashton, Vicki Sirianni, Mary Whitney, Nick Nowak, and Ellen Lomasney.

Special thanks to Jean Marie Prociuous for co-ordinating the event and keeping the crew supplied with water, snacks and pizza.

Dick Jendrysik



HAULING: Blake Anderson.

Trustees:

Francis Mayo – President, Board of Trustees
Blake Anderson – Treasurer
Jean Dennis – Clerk
Richard Jendrysik
Frances B. King
Julie Lutts – Children’s Programs
Frederick D. Mason III
Patricia Roka – Members’ Committee
Sue Weaver Schopf – Education Committee
Richard Scott – Vice President; Newsletter

Some of our Volunteers:

Jim Austin – Collections Committee
Jessica Barnett – Publicity
Joanne Black – Collections Committee
Mary Costello – Assistant Editor, Newsletter
Marla Gearhart – Collections Committee
Pamela Jendrysik – Garden Coordinator
Nancy TenBroeck – Editor, Publisher of Newsletter
Elaine von Bruns – Collections Committee
Winifred Wilkens - Chair, Collections Committee



New Exhibit:
**“Once Upon a Time:
ABCs to Cinderella”**
officially opens on June 11th

Photo credits:

Pages 1, 2, 6 (top) - Richard Scott
Pages 6 (bottom), 7 - Dick Jendrysik and Winifred Wilkens

WANT TO STUDY BASIC CHINESE (MANDARIN)?

We have a native teacher and a few students, but need more. It’s the next language that Americans will need to know; difficult, but rewarding. For more information call Jean Marie, or Nancy TenBroeck (at 978-741-2742).

“If you love life, don't waste time, because time is what life is made of.”
Benjamin Franklin

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