

Salem Athenæum



Incorporated 1810

Spring 2018 Newsletter

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President's Letter

Ahh, SPRING! The very mention of the word evokes such wonderful sensations: rebirth, renewal, reawakening, and a return of warmer, longer days of summer just ahead (we hope!).

Despite the recent immoderate weather, which reminds us that as a month, March, is still almost two thirds winter to one third Spring, we anticipate that despite coming in like a lion this month will depart like a lamb. Anxious to end our Winter hibernation, the promise of Spring reconnects us with our neighbors and friends through the many and varied activities offered by the Athenæum.

Not that we haven't been busy over the Winter—We've had two well received fundraising events: The Winter Warmer at the Adriatic Restaurant in Salem, and our Technicolor Funky Munchie Daydream Experience just a few weeks ago. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make them happen, especially our host Dame Edna, AKA Ken Harris. Equally important, we are grateful to those who attended, participated in our auctions and funded our new printer.

Your Board of Trustees has been actively soliciting the Proprietors and Members for nominees to replace outgoing members of the Board and supplement the committees that are the backbone of the Athenæum. Like many of our sister Libraries, much of the work in keeping this institution running is done by volunteers under the expert supervision of our Executive Director, Jean Marie Procius, and Carolyn McGuire our Programming and Communications Manager, and we encourage you, our members, to give a little of your time by joining one of the committees where your talents, your expertise, and your guidance can be put to good use. Our committees include Building and Grounds, Collections, Communications, Cultural Programming, Development, Finance, Membership and the Writers' Programs, all described on our website, as well as a current listing of our upcoming events.

We have also been closely monitoring the move of the Phillips Library from Salem to the PEM's new facility in Rowley. You may have seen the letter we wrote to the PEM in response to their decision, and we are actively involved with some of Salem's other institutions through the Mayor's Working Group to make sure that this valuable research library maintains its connection with the city and the Salem families that gave birth to it.

Congratulations to our Honorary Curator, Elaine von Bruns. Her extraordinary exhibition on “What Hawthorne Read,” that was shown last year, has traveled to the Portsmouth Athenaeum as an exhibition on loan.

Alas, we say a final farewell to an irreplaceable fixture at the Athenaeum, Abby Burns. Abby, who did about as much as any one person could do for the Athenaeum through leadership and volunteering, passed away in November. We will miss her dearly!

Finally, we want to thank departing Board member, Angela Williams, for all of her good work on behalf of the Athenaeum. Replacing Angela on the Board is Gus Sousa, Gus has a long association with the Athenaeum and will be a welcome addition to the Board of Trustees moving forward.

Best wishes,

David Williams, President



Tom Hardiman, Keeper of the Portsmouth Athenaeum



Hawthorne Exhibit Visits Portsmouth Athenaeum

In Summer 2017, the Salem Athenaeum’s “What Hawthorne Read” exhibit brought admirers from near and far. If you missed it, you now have an opportunity to experience it and also visit our sister Athenaeum in Portsmouth this Spring.

“What Hawthorne Read, from the Collections of the Salem Athenaeum” opened Friday, March 16 at the Portsmouth Athenaeum, 9 Market Square.

The Portsmouth Athenaeum has augmented the exhibit originally created by Salem Athenaeum’s Honorary Curator Elaine von Bruns, by including titles from its own collection that Hawthorne used in his work. Hawthorne was among the many prominent writers and artists who were summer guests at the Appledore House, the Isles of Shoals hotel presided over by poet Celia Thaxter.

The Randall Gallery is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

New Music Series Launched: If Music Could Talk

In January the Athenæum launched a new series of music programming entitled If Music Could Talk.

Trustee Josiah Fisk spearheaded the development of this new series that will focus on musical performances that include brief demonstrations, conversations about music, and audience interaction.

The first two programs, The Story of Musical Notation with Harvard professor Thomas Forest Kelly, and Confluence, with J.D. Scrimgeour and Philip Swanson, were both met with great enthusiasm, filled the Reading Room to capacity and prompted lively discussion.

The next If Music Could Talk event, a jazz concert with guitarist Howard Paul, is slated for May 18.

Writing Workshop: Jumpstart Your Novel

April 7, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Few accomplishments deliver the joy and pride of writing and publishing a novel. This workshop guarantees that this accomplishment—although not easy—is surprisingly achievable.

Jim DeFilippi is the author of 25 books, mostly novels, that have been called, “Suspenseful, often hilarious” (Newsday), “Excellent paced and imaginatively told” (Publishers Weekly), “Surprisingly fresh” (Booklist), “With a jaunty tone and unexpected twists” (Library Journal), and “Colorful and often hilarious” (Austin Chronicle).

\$10 members; \$15 non-members. Free to students with ID.

Class size is limited.



Boston Classical Trio

April 14, 8:00 p.m.

Like the Spring weather, the Boston Classical Trio returns to the Athenæum for another dynamic performance on period instruments.

The renowned early music specialists of Boston’s Handel & Haydn Society, Guy Fishman, principal cellist, Susanna Ogata, violinist and Assistant Concertmaster, and Ian Watson, Associate Conductor and principal keyboardist, offer a program of Beethoven and Haydn.

Last spring’s concert was sold out.

Don’t miss this one!

\$25 members, \$30 non-members
Free for students with ID.





Interactions between Poetry and Painting

3-Part Lectures Series

April 20, May 16 and June 6 at 7:00 pm

What can poetry express that painting cannot? What can painting express that poetry cannot? What are the artistic possibilities when painting and poetry work in tandem to convey ideas and express emotion?

Dr. Sue Weaver Schopf will explore these interesting dynamics in a three-part lecture series:

- April 20 William Blake
- May 16 Dante Gabriel Rossetti
- June 6 Alfred, Lord Tennyson

A list of poems to be considered will be available before each lecture.

Sue Weaver Schopf is Distinguished Service Lecturer and retired Associate Dean at the Harvard Extension School. She has served on the board of the Salem Athenaeum and is a member of the Athenaeum's Cultural Program Committee.

Price per lecture: \$10, \$15 non-members
Free for students with ID.

Stories of Substance

Staged Reading

April 25, 7:00 p.m.

Stories of Substance is an original play about young adults and their experiences with substance use and abuse. It is inspired by true stories of local young adults and developed in collaboration with Brunonia Barry, Lisa Jendrysik, Anne Lucas, Matthew Phillion and director Damon Krometis. The play originally premiered with local student actors at the Salem YMCA in 2017 and has been performed in North Shore schools.

Free.

208th Annual Meeting

May 2, 7:00 p.m.

208th Annual Meeting of the Proprietors of the Salem Athenaeum and election of officers and new trustees. All members in good standing are welcome and encouraged to attend.



Laura Ingalls Wilder



Laura "Half-Pint" Wilder

May 12, 2:00 p.m.

Generations of Americans have experienced frontier life through Laura Ingalls Wilder's beloved Little House on the Prairie books and the television series based on them. Storyteller and actress Sheryl Faye will bring the real Laura and her pioneering adventures to life at the Salem Athenaeum in a family friendly program.

Join us for everyone's favorite prairie girl! See how this little girl grew up to be a famous writer and share her stories with the world!

The program is geared for ages 5 to adult. All are welcome to attend. All ages welcome.

Free.

Re-appraisal Reading Circle: Hugh Walpole



May 14, 7:00 p.m.

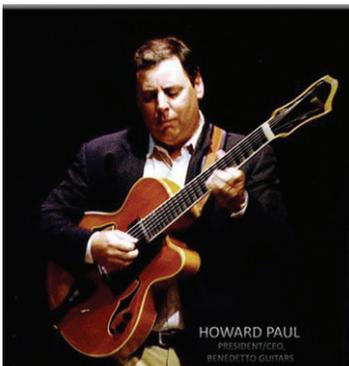
Open meeting to discuss the works of a prolific, popular author of the past whose works are held in quantity by the Athenaeum.

May's author, Hugh Walpole, was one of the most prolific and popular authors of the first half of the 20th century, and close friends with Henry James and Virginia Woolf.

The Reading Circle highly recommends the author Dorothy Canfield Fisher, who was read and appraised at the March meeting.

Free.

If Music Could Talk: Howard Paul



May 18, 7:00 p.m.

Howard Paul is a highly accomplished professional jazz guitarist and living encyclopedia of jazz history.

He also happens to be CEO of Benedetto Guitars — the premier hand-made archtop guitar company in America. [Read more.](#)

\$20 members; \$25 non-members.

\$12 students with ID.

Children under 17 free.

Groups at the Athenæum

Monday Evening Conversations

Second Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

Meetings: April 9, May 14, June 11

Topics for discussion are wide open, but must be amenable to good conversation.

Athenæum Book Group

Second Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.

Meeting dates and books:

April 14: *Pride & Prejudice* by Jane Austen

May 12: *Symphony for the City of the Dead* by M.T. Anderson

June 9: *The Leftovers* by Tom Perotta

Dickens Fellowship

First Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Meetings: March 31, May 5, June 2

Salem Writers' Group

First and Third Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Meetings: April 3 and 17, May 1 and 15, June 5 and 19

La Tertulia Spanish Language Discussion Group

Second and Fourth Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Meetings: April 10 and 24, May 8 and 22, June 12 and 26

Incessant Pipe Contentions

Second Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Meetings: April 11, May 9, June

Incessant Pipe Poetry Salon

Fourth Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Meetings: April 24, May 22, June 26



In Memoriam

Abby Burns

Abby (Moffat) Burns passed peacefully in her sleep at home on Nov. 13, 2017, with her beloved dog Daisy by her side. A cherished fixture at the Athenæum, she was predeceased in 2010 by her husband of 59 years, Jeremiah "Jere" Burns. Abby is survived by her 3 children, 4 grandchildren, several nieces and nephews and countless friends.

Welcome New Members



Adele Audet
Erica Ayotte
Laurie Weisman Bellin
Hayden Brown
Susan Butterworth
Greg and Alexis Dwyer
Otis Edwards
Kirsten Fischler
Ruth Greenberg
Danielle Hanrahan
Jessica Herbert
Adam Keach & Jennifer Stevenson
Patricia Kennedy
JD Lavalley
Susan Leavitt
Marilyn Levine
Marie R. Leyre & Steve Rogers
Maria May-Mardikis
Wayne & Gail McSwiggin

Virginia O'Brien
Claudia Paraschiv & Michael Jaros
Erika Phillips
Ann M. Picariello
Victoria Pulos
Nathan Ritsko & Ashley Poage
Paul Robertson
Jack and Susan Russell
Adam and Lea Rutledge
Kimberly Santo
Ann Shaw
Anthony & JoAnn Silva
Jennifer Simmerer
Douglas Steely & Palma Bickford
Jane B. Strong
Caroline Sweeney
Diane Waldo
Jonathan Webb
Katherine & William Wisser

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