



# Salem Athenæum News

Incorporated in 1810

Fall 2011

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## Letter from the President

Dear Members and Friends,

I am thrilled to open this newsletter by telling you that our Bicentennial commemorative book is arriving from the printer's this month and will be available for you to look at and purchase in the library. It's been in the works for the past several months, and seeing it

to completion is a great pleasure. Those who worked hard to create it include former board president Charles Newhall, Library Director Jean Marie Prociuous, Library Assistant Carolyn McGuire, and myself. And those who made it possible were the 2010 Bicentennial Sponsors (many of you!) and the generous grant-givers at the Essex National Heritage Commission.

The book opens with a brief introduction, followed by a short history, written by Charles Newhall, of the Athenæum since its incorporation in 1810. Then comes a wonderful survey of collections highlights by Jean Marie Prociuous. And finally, we reprint the memorable address made at the Peabody Essex Museum by former Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Margaret H. Marshall at the opening of our joint exhibition of the Endecott Charter with PEM in October 2010. There is a list of the original 1810 Salem Athenæum shareholders, along with the names of those who owned the shares in 2010. We offer the names of all Athenæum librarians since 1810, and a summary of selected Athenæum programs from 2010. The book is splendidly illustrated in photographs by Trip Mason, Carolyn McGuire, Kim Mimnaugh, Charlie Newhall, Jean Marie Prociuous, and Win Wilkens.

We think the book is a fine commemoration of our 200<sup>th</sup> birthday and encourage you to purchase a copy. Call Jean Marie at the library to reserve



Masthead photo credit:  
Trip Mason © 2011

one today. *If you call before September 30, you'll have the book for \$25 per copy. After that, \$30.*

It's always nice to report the upbeat news before the downbeat. As many of you are aware, we've got problems with the library's front steps--you've seen the yellow tape! We discovered, during the remortaring of the steps, that the supporting understructure has suffered some degradation and needs to be repaired. To do it correctly, we've called in structural engineer John Wathne who has now assessed the condition of the support structure. After receiving his final report, we will solicit bids for the repairs. We'll keep you posted. Meanwhile, please take care when you visit the library. Use the stairs on either side of the center section, which are perfectly safe.

And now, Autumn! The library leaps happily into a new season of programs, concerts, and book talks, with something for almost everyone. Do come and enjoy warm afternoons in the garden--there are still plenty of them coming--and plan on joining us often.

Looking forward to seeing you!  
Francie

Francie King  
President, Board of Trustees  
Salem Athenæum

## Director's Notes

### Our New Library Layout

As you return to the Athenæum from your summer getaway, you will notice changes in the reading rooms and book stacks. Shifting the collections has been ongoing since June and will continue for several more weeks. The ultimate goal is two-fold: to make books in the upstairs reading room more relevant for current use; and to provide an improved storage environment for the historical collections that had previously been housed there. Moving the collections has been a painstaking process because the Athenæum has no extra space. In order to affect this change, shifting had to occur on two stack levels and in both reading rooms.

Now you will find circulating biography and history (Dewey 920-999) collections in the upstairs reading room with the back issues of periodicals. The early biography and history collections (pre-1940) are now shelved on Stack 2. The Main Stack level contains the entire circulating fiction collection, allowing much-needed room for growth.

Changes to the main reading room include: relocating the reference desk for better sightlines, a welcoming atmosphere, and re-claiming its former area for book shelves; moving the children's collection to the opposite side of the room; expanding the new biography and new non-fiction sections, which will now feature books related to current courses, programs, and exhibitions. Tweaking will be underway for some months, so please bear with us as we finalize placement and create proper signs for the new arrangement. I look



forward to your feedback about these changes and I encourage everyone to spend some time enjoying the upstairs reading room this fall.

### Heartfelt Thanks

My enduring gratitude goes to Sara Maloney who stayed after fulfilling her internship requirements and single-handedly moved most of the books between the upstairs reading room and Stack 2. A heartfelt thank you goes to the volunteers who substituted their gym time for lifting books: Hilary Grimes, Stephanie Buck and Wendy Biggs. Special thanks to Elaine von Bruns, Marla Gearhart, and Carolyn McGuire for assisting with odds and ends, to Gus Sousa and Phil Dwight for repairing the broken shelf anchor, and Joe McGuire for helping to move the desk.

With great regret I announce that Hilary Grimes, who many of you have come to know and has so capably assisted me as a volunteer for over 200 hours since last December, is pursuing other work in Boston. I will always be grateful for her excellent contributions and camaraderie, especially during the seemingly endless snow last winter.

### Volunteer Opportunities

This fall I find that I am in great need of volunteers to assist with library work and administrative support. Ideal candidates can work at least 2-4 hours each week or twice per month and should be willing to lend a hand in the most needed area (which may be different each week). Your help makes a huge difference to the Athenæum!

See you soon!

Jean Marie Procius

## Edith Wharton Course Begins September 10

*Tales of Innocence and Experience*

Dorothy Dudley, instructor

Saturdays from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Sept. 10, 17, 24; Oct 1, 8, 15, 22

The Salem Athenæum honors the 100th anniversary of the *Ethan Frome* with a fall course on its author, Edith Wharton--America's first great female novelist.



Dorothy Dudley will lead the class through a study of five representative works: *The House of Mirth* (1905) Wharton's first important work of fiction, about the tragic disgrace of socialite Lily Bart who fails to follow the rules of polite society; *Ethan Frome* (1911), Wharton's first immediately successful novella, a moral tale; *Summer* (1917) a companion piece, called "the hot *Ethan Frome*"; *The Reef* (1912), written following the collapse of her marriage and her move to France from The Mount in Lenox, MA; and her masterwork, *The Age of Innocence*, which won her a Pulitzer Prize (1920).

Dorothy Dudley has taught English and American literature at Tufts University for the past ten years. In addition to teaching, she has also led her students on five "literary pilgrimages" to the UK and Spain, following in the footsteps of authors including: the Brontes, Jane Austen, Thomas Hardy, Hemingway, Orwell, and Shakespeare.

There is still time to register. Don't miss out on this excellent opportunity!

Members \$175; non-members, \$195.

[Register Here](#)

## Italian Language Group

Wednesday, Sept. 21, 5:00 p.m.

A group is forming for the study of Italian. An initial 10-week session will be held on Wednesday evenings from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. led by Anna Rocca, an Italian native who teaches both French and Italian at Salem State University.

The introductory meeting on September 21 will gauge interest and the level of language experience in the group. We will also discuss how the group wants to proceed. The text book *Oggi in Italia* will be used, supplemented with suggestions from the teacher and class members. Cost will depend upon the number of participants.

For more information contact [Martha Mayo](#).

If Italian is not your avocation, please consider one of the other language groups at the Athenæum! Several language study groups currently meet, including German, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish.

If you have questions about meeting times for any of these groups, please contact [Jean Marie Prociuous](#) for details.

## saalem literary festival

Friday, Sept. 23--Sunday, Sept. 25

Now in its fourth year, The Salem Literary Festival announces a line-up that exceeds the usual writing workshops and author readings. At the Athenæum and several other locations throughout the city, The SLF will entertain and inspire book lovers, wordsmiths, and readers of all ages!

Brunonia Barry (*The Lace Reader*, *The Map of True Places*) will kick off the festival on Friday evening at Colonial Hall. This opening night event will also feature a reading by another Salem author, Erin Morgenstern, whose first novel, *The Night Circus*, will be published by Doubleday in September. *The Night Circus* is fast becoming an international sensation, with rights sold in twenty-two countries and starred reviews in *Publishers Weekly* and *Kirkus*.



The ever-popular SCRABBLE® Tournament will be held at the Athenæum on Saturday the 24th at 10 a.m. Afterwards, an afternoon of writing workshops, expert panels, and an opportunity for [dinner with your favorite author](#) await!

On Sunday the 25th, meet the authors of the award-winning *The Lipstick Chronicles*, learn the secrets of book blogging, or get a preview of the upcoming book about Salem--*Death of an Empire*.

Other authors slated for the festival include: Rusty Barnes, F. Marshall Bauer, Robert Booth, Eve Brirdburg, Julia Glass, Michelle Hoover, Katherine Howe, Joshilyn Jackson, Hilary Emerson Lay, Holly LeCraw, January Gill O'Neil, Hank Phillippi Ryan, Diane Stern, Sarah Strohmeyer.

Please call ahead (978.744.2540) to register for the Scrabble Tournament.

For a full schedule of events and presenters, please visit <http://www.salemlitfest.com/schedule>.

### **Joshua Kendall discusses Noah Webster**

*The Forgotten Founding Father*

Tuesday, Sept. 27, 7:00 p.m.

The Salem Athenæum kicks off its 2011 Lecture Series with author, journalist, and biographer Joshua C. Kendall and his new biography of Noah Webster, *The Forgotten Founding Father: Noah Webster's Obsession and the Creation of an American Culture*.

Noah Webster published our nation's first uniquely American dictionary at the age of 70, the *American Dictionary of the English Language*.

A dedicated public servant, Webster spent most of his career in politics: he formulated several key principles that appear in the *United States Constitution*, and served as a personal policy advisor to General George Washington. He also held the office of state rep in both Connecticut and Massachusetts, edited New York City's first daily newspaper and was a founder of Amherst College.

Joshua C. Kendall, an award-winning freelance journalist, has published in *The Boston Globe*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Psychology Today*, *BusinessWeek*, and numerous other publications. He has received national journalism awards for his excellence in psychiatry reporting. He lives in Boston and currently serves as an Associate Fellow of Yale's Trumbull College.



Members \$10; non-members, \$15.  
Free for students with ID.

## Annual Book Sale

Members' Preview Sept. 30, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
Book Sale October 1, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The Athenæum's annual book sale will be on Oct. 1, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This year we will also feature a special Members' Preview Night on Sept. 30 from 6 to 9 p.m. Each member may bring one non-member guest to the Preview. The sale on Saturday is open to the public.

Please help us spread the word. Funds raised at the book sale are essential support for the library. Books will be accepted now through September 29. Volunteers are needed for the event all day on Friday and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. [Contact Jean Marie](#) if you can help move books, sort books, or work at the cashier's table.

## Mark O'Donald

*Photographs of the Afghan War*

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 7:00 p.m.

U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Mark O'Donald will exhibit his award-winning photographs and share his experiences as private photographer to General Stanley McChrystal during the Afghan War. O'Donald's photographs were featured in the history-changing *Rolling Stone* magazine profile of McChrystal.

Members \$10; non-members, \$15.  
Free for students with ID.



## The Adventure at the Athenæum

### *The Elements of Murder* Exhibit Party

Friday, Oct. 14, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

The Athenæum presents a small party in honor of its *Elements of Murder* exhibit. Come dressed as your favorite literary detective, criminal mastermind, or mystery author. Use your powers of deduction to identify the characters!



## Eric Reeves Speaks on Sudan

Friday, Nov. 4, 7:00 p.m.

Eric Reeves, winner of the Salem Award for 2007, will speak on the continuing trials in Sudan. As news coverage of the human suffering and destruction in Darfur diminishes, the world seems to have lost sight of the



continued threats to human survival. Humanitarians on the ground in Sudan see no real progress--certainly none that can withstand badly timed rains or a poor harvest.

Dr. Reeves has written and published extensively on Sudan. He has served as a researcher and consultant to numerous human rights and humanitarian organizations in Sudan, and has testified formally on Sudan in a variety of governmental forums, including Congressional hearings. His publications have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The International Herald Tribune*, major international newspapers, and such publications as *The Nation*, *Human Rights Review* and *African Studies Review*.

Dr. Reeves serves on the Advisory Board of the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants; the Board of Advisors for Genocide Watch and The International Campaign to End Genocide; and the Board of Advisors to the Darfur Peace and Development Association. He is a director of the "Schools for Sudan" initiative.



Members \$10; non-members, \$15.  
Free for students with ID.

*This lecture is co-presented by the Athenæum and the Salem Award.*

## **Grand Wine Tasting**

Wednesday, Nov. 11, 6:00-9:00 p.m.  
Old Town Hall, Derby Square, Salem

Enjoy a fine selection of wines and light refreshments.  
Proceeds benefit The Salem Athenæum, Historic New England, and Historic Salem, Inc.

Tickets are available at Salem Wine Imports, 32 Church Street, Salem or by calling 978-741-9463.

\$35, \$25 for members of the above-mentioned organizations.

*This event is sponsored by Salem Wine Imports.*

## **Welcome Winter! Members Party**

Saturday, Dec. 10, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Join your member friends (and make new) in the cozy Athenæum to mark the end of another busy year and the beginning of the holiday season. Refreshments, seasonal music, children's craft activity and plenty of good cheer included!

## Songs of the Greatest Generation

Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012, 3:00 p.m.

Soprano Mary Shaw and pianist Bill Sano return for an afternoon of musical memories from the 1940s and early 1950s. (You may remember their previous concert at the Athenæum, "Songs of World War II.")



Travel down memory lane with the songs made famous by Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and more!

Members and Seniors, \$10; non-members, \$15.

## Spring Courses

Registration is now open for our Winter and Spring courses. For additional details, visit our [website](#).



### The Wit and Wisdom of Oscar Wilde

Saturdays from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25; March 3, 10, 17, 24

A course taught by Theo Theoharis.

Members \$185; non-members \$205

[Register Here](#).

### The War of 1812--the Second War for Independence--or, Mr. Madison's War

Thursdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Apr. 12, 19; May 3, 10, 17, 24

The War of 1812 was a three-year conflict between the United States and the British Empire, including Upper and Lower Canada. The causes and outcome of the War are still fiercely debated by historians. Join Dr. Robert Allison of Suffolk University as he peels back the layers of this complex situation that nearly caused the secession of New England from the Union.

Members \$175; non-members \$195

[Register Here](#).





## Adams Lecture: John Stilgoe

Tuesday, Apr. 24, 2012

Save the date for our Adams Lecture with award-winning historian and photographer John R. Stilgoe. A fellow of the Society of American Historians, Stilgoe is the Robert and Lois Orchard Professor in the History of Landscape at the Visual and Environmental Studies Department at Harvard University, where he has been teaching since 1977.

To learn more about Professor Stilgoe and his work, visit his [home page](#).

## Recent Events

*The following highlights recent noteworthy events at the Athenæum.*

### Summer Salons

Summer of 2011 was marked by eight diverse and well-attended Friday evening salons. Topics ranged from volunteer vacations, to the Syrian political climate, to local historic figures, and Shakespeare.

Thank you to all the speakers and performers who helped us end our summer weeks on a bright note!



As this season winds down, there is always next summer on the horizon. If you have suggestions for the 2012 salons, contact [Jean Marie Prociuous](#).

## Also at the Athenæum

*The following events are not sponsored by the Salem Athenæum. Due to their cultural focus, they are occurring at the Athenæum and may be of interest to members.*

### CSEM presents French Baroque Theater Music, Tailored for the Salon



Saturday, Sept. 10, 8:00 p.m.

Visit a French salon before the Revolution and hear the music composed for just such occasions by Louis XIV's finest virtuosos: Jean-Baptiste Lully, D'Anglebert, Rebel, François Couperin, Marais, and Hotteterre.

Baroque violins, oboes, and recorders, with viola da gamba and harpsichord will captivate your imagination. Highlights include Jean-Féry Rebel's novel

pastiche *Caractères de la Danse* (1715)--written for a famous Paris Opéra ballerina who could change roles in a flash, and the *Passacaille* from *Armide* (1686)--Lully's last opera and one of his finest.

Old City Music is Leon Schelhase and Geoffrey Burgess. Boston's own Laura Jeppesen will be a special guest performer on viola da gamba.

Members and Seniors, \$25; non-members, \$30.  
Free for students 17 and under.

Tickets in advance paid by credit card include a fee of \$3 per ticket through [www.csem.org](http://www.csem.org).

### Dickens Fellowship

Literary discussion meetings will be held this Fall on the following Thursdays: Sept. 22, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, and Dec. 15.

Also, a friendly reminder that Gerald Dickens, a great-great grandson of the author Charles Dickens, will be coming to Salem for a series of events on December 2-3 co-sponsored by the Dickens Fellowship and Make-A-Wish Foundation. For details, visit [Dickens North of Boston](http://DickensNorthofBoston.org).

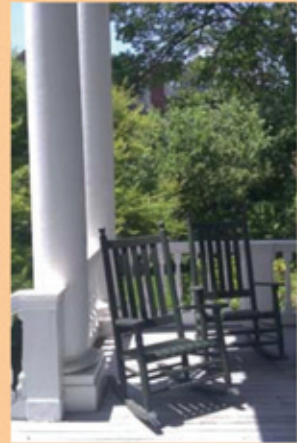
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### Welcome!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Lisa Cheney  
Virginia and Larry Field  
Richard Hannah  
Kristin Mellen and Duncan B. Cox, Jr.  
Carl and Sandy Riggs  
Dove and William Simmons



### Salem Athenæum

337 Essex Street  
Salem, Massachusetts 01970

### Contact Info

For general information about the Athenæum or its events, please contact the Director:

**Jean Marie Prociuous**  
978-744-2540  
[info@salemathenaeum.net](mailto:info@salemathenaeum.net)

For comments or suggestions about the newsletter, please contact the editor:

**Carolyn McGuire**