



# Salem Athenæum News

Incorporated in 1810

Summer 2011

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**Salem Athenæum**  
**Donors**  
**April 1, 2010-**  
**March 31, 2011**

## Letter from the President

Dear Athenæum Members and Friends,

We're thick into July now, and already complaining about the HEAT, when just yesterday we were kvetching about the COLD! This hasn't stopped progress at the Athenæum though. Despite plans to take a small breather this



summer, we seem to be busier than ever!

Next time you're in, please make a trip to our second floor and admire the gorgeous repair job on the half-moon window by Window Woman of Salem. It dresses up the room in fine style.

Coming soon will be our Bicentennial commemorative book, now at the printer. You might recall that we've been working on it for several months --assembling, designing, and selecting photos. It is lovely indeed and will be a fine tribute to 2010. I am proud of the work done on this book by our small working editorial team: Carolyn McGuire, Jean Marie Prociuous, Charlie Newhall, and myself. Shortly we will send you an announcement of our plan (and an image of the book cover) to PRE-SELL the book for \$25 per copy between now and September 1 (after that, \$30 per copy). If you're interested, let Jean Marie know and we'll make sure you're among the first to have one.

Each July, we're pleased to invite members of the community to lead a Friday Summer Salon, and this year is no exception. Our schedule for this informal, multifaceted summer series has grown, reflecting the broad range of interests and talents in our membership and community at large. They are usually held on the back porch and are open to all (no charge). The full salon schedule is on our [website](#)--do plan to partake on a Friday at 5:30 p.m.

*The Athenæum is grateful for the generous support of all our donors!*

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Matthew Whitlock and

I'm also very pleased to announce that our course schedule for 2011-12 is set, featuring three sterling new courses in the next ten months--and registration is now open. I hope you'll plan to enjoy one or more of them. Full details are on the website, but briefly they are:

*Edith Wharton: Tales of Innocence and Experience.* Instructor: Dorothy Dudley. 7 Saturday afternoons: September 10 to October 22.

*The Wit and Wisdom of Oscar Wilde.* Instructor: Theo Theoharis. 8 Saturday afternoons, February 8 to March 24, 2012.

*The War of 1812--the Second War for Independence--or, Mr. Madison's War.* Instructor: Robert Allison. 6 Thursday evenings, April 12 to May 24, 2012.

On behalf of the library, I offer heartfelt thanks to Patricia Zaido of the Salem Partnership for her recent donation of 85 books about decorative arts, fine arts, architecture, and local history, and to David Kitzmiller for donating 50 cartons (yes, CARTONS!) of books for our October book sale.

Last but hardly least, we offer hearty congratulations to the Salem Athenæum Literary Award winner for 2011, Matty Soto of Salem High School.

To those Proprietors and Subscribers who have recently renewed their annual memberships, most grateful thanks indeed. We cannot do it without you.

Now go out and enjoy the rest of your summer, and make BOOKS a big part of it!

Francie King  
President, Board of Trustees  
Salem Athenæum

## What Happened to the Front Steps

If you have driven or walked past the Athenæum since July 8, you may have noticed a mass of caution tape and tools on the front steps. When masons were hired recently to remortar the steps, they discovered a serious structural problem that required immediate attention!

Over the past 100 years, settling and water infiltration compromised the brick support structure under the stairs. This erosion accounts for some of the shifting that can be seen if you look closely where the granite of the stairs joins.

We are fortunate to have discovered this problem before an injury or further damage occurred!

Be assured that the Athenæum is open as usual. Please use the side steps or enter through the rear garden where repairs have also been



Penelope Neal  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wilkens  
Mr. and Mrs. David Williams

### Gifts up to \$99

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Amy Whelan  
Mr. and Mrs. Will Wrightson  
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### In Kind Contributions

Mature hydrangea from  
Dr. James H. Austin  
GRANTA subscription from  
Marie Heinz

### Monopoly Party Donations

Gene Arnould, Marblehead  
Summer Jazz  
David Ashton  
F. Marshall Bauer  
Stephen H. Clark  
Robert A. Erbetta,  
Management Design  
Associates  
Susan Foster  
Paula Gaull, New Leaf

made this summer. The slab at the bottom of the porch stairs has been reset at a height consistent with the wooden steps making for a smoother climb.

## Summer Salon Series

Summer is here! Time to gather on the back porch, enjoy the weather and have a hearty discussion. The 2011 Summer Salon Series covers a broad range of subjects--from New England history to international politics. Please join us on Friday evenings and start your weekend on the right note. All events, except the Shakespeare plays, begin at 5:30 p.m. For more details on any of these events, please visit our [website](#).

### July

#### *Macbeth*

Performed by the Rebel Shakespeare Company in our garden. Bring your own picnic, blankets, and chairs. See [www.rebelshakespeare.org](http://www.rebelshakespeare.org) for more details.

Friday, July 22, 5:00 p.m.

#### *The Meaning of Meaning in Our Lives and Our World*

Athenæum member and professional life coach Carlotta Tyler facilitates a provocative discussion about the American Dream.

Friday, July 29, 5:30 p.m.

### August

#### *The Life and Work of Sarah Parker Remond*

Lecturer and historian Marilyn Richardson reveals the extraordinary life of the 19th-century African-American abolitionist, lecturer, and physician who was born in Salem. See [www.salemwomenshistory.com](http://www.salemwomenshistory.com) for details.

Friday, August 5, 5:30 p.m.

#### *Syria Under the Assads*

Native of Damascus and resident of the Boston area for thirty-three years, Peter Alachi shares his insights on current events in Syria.

Friday, August 12, 5:30 p.m.

#### *Mystery Radio Shows*

Honorary curator of the new Athenæum exhibition, *Elements of Murder*, Win Wilkens presents radio detective shows from the 1940s and '50s.

Friday, August 19, 5:30 p.m.

#### *The Tempest*

Performed by the Rebel Shakespeare Company in our garden. Bring your own picnic, blankets, and chairs. See [www.rebelshakespeare.org](http://www.rebelshakespeare.org) for more details.

Friday, August 26, 5:00 p.m.

## Introducing Our New Trustees

At the Annual Meeting on May 4, Salem Athenæum proprietors approved the appointment of three new members to the Board of Trustees: Sarah Harrington, Donna Seger, and Mary Simpson Sousa. All three women are Salem residents and have a broad range of talents to sustain us as a vital and thriving institution.



Redesign  
 Sarah Harrington  
 Alicia Hart  
 David Hart  
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 Juli Lederhaus, Hawthorne  
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### Memorial and Honorary Gifts

In honor of John Adams  
 from William Sano  
 In honor of Sue Weaver  
 Schopf from Mr. and Mrs.  
 Peter Merry

In memory of Joan Jordan  
 from James and Claire  
 Bailey  
 In memory of Marcie Dilger  
 from Susan Foster

In memory of  
 James Dennis Leary  
 and in honor of Leary  
 Family Scholars -- Alex,  
 Sarah, Casey, Libby,  
 Steven, Anthony from  
 Mary T. Leary

In memory of Francesca  
 and Russell O'Blenes from  
 Carole O'Blenes

In memory of Hope and  
 Mac Griffin from Marie  
 Stevenson

In memory of Bill Saltonstall  
 from Frederic Winthrop

We also bid a fond farewell to retiring trustee and Clerk, Susan Foster.

### Sarah Harrington

An active member of the Athenæum since  
 2003, Sarah has a special memory of John  
 Mahoney, a favorite Boston College  
 professor, coming to the Athenæum in 2002  
 to discuss one of his favorite poems,  
 Wordsworth's *Tintern Abbey*.



For more than 10 years, Sarah has worked  
 in real estate and is currently with William  
 Raveis, Marblehead. She was active for  
 many years as a member and volunteer at  
 the Peabody Essex Museum where she worked on a number of  
 committees planning special events. She earned a B.A. in English from  
 Boston College and an M.B.A. from Babson College.

Sarah is serving as Clerk, on the Education Committee, and is working  
 with Donna Seger and a number of past participants on next spring's  
 Athenæum party.

### Donna Seger

Donna re-joined the Board of Trustees this  
 May; she last served in the early 1990's. A  
 Professor at Salem State University with a  
 focus on Medieval and Renaissance history,  
 Donna holds a B.A. from Goucher College  
 and a Ph.D. from Brandeis University. A  
 longtime resident of Salem, she began a blog  
 in the fall of 2010 "Streets of Salem." Donna  
 is a past President of Hamilton Hall, a past  
 board member of Historic Salem Inc., and  
 currently serves on the board of the Women's Friend Society of Salem.



Donna will be working on issues concerning the Collections; she is also  
 working with Sarah Harrington and a number of past participants on next  
 spring's Athenæum party.

### Mary Simpson Sousa

Also a longtime resident of Salem, Mary has been involved with several of  
 the city's cultural organizations. She served for three years as President of  
 the Hamilton Ladies Committee, which is responsible for the Hamilton Hall  
 lecture series. Also, she has been involved with Christmas in Salem and  
 served on the board of the Salem Award Foundation.

Mary's focus will be on strategic planning and as a member of the  
 Education Committee.



### Bicentennial Sponsors

Dana P. Jordan, Esq.  
Nick Nowak and  
Mary Whitney  
Soucy Insurance  
Agency, Inc.

### Restricted Gifts

*For repair of the antique  
clocks:*

Anonymous  
Richard G. Boardman  
Eric Hayes  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard  
Jendrysik  
Winifred Wilkens

*For care and conservation of  
historical collections:*

Morris and Sue Weaver  
Schopf

### Grants

Essex National Heritage  
Commission  
Salem Cultural Council  
Salem Five Charitable  
Corporation  
Salem Wine Imports

## Thank You To All Our Generous Donors!

The Athenæum is grateful beyond measure to its members and friends for their generous support. Your donations make our events and programs possible and keep this institution vital. Please read the list of 2010 fiscal-year donors located in the left sidebar. We cannot thank you enough!



## Summer Exhibition: The Elements of Murder

Honorary curator Win Wilkens has collected some of the best and darkest of the Athenæum's collection for this summer's exhibition: *The Elements of Murder*. A continuum from Edgar Allen Poe to Dennis Lehane is presented in this rogues gallery of novelists.

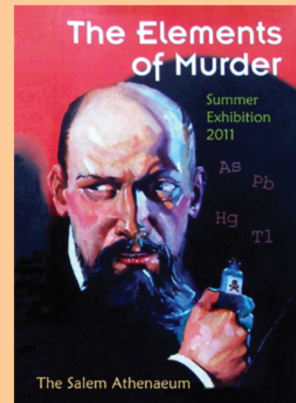
As an avid murder-mystery reader, Wilkens investigates every aspect of the genre one could possibly imagine: unique murder methods and tools, early novels, British cozies, screwball comedies, geriatric sleuths, religious mysteries, vintage noir, and last but not least-- Sherlock Holmes.

The Athenæum has a near-complete collection of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *Sherlock Holmes* novels, as well as some of Conan Doyle's shorter works that originally appeared in *Cosmopolitan Magazine*. Some of these will be displayed in the exhibit. Also, Wilkens has assembled an impressive collection of Sherlock Holmes memorabilia from a variety of sources, including her brother-in-law who is a member of the Baker Street Irregulars (an invitation-only organization for *Sherlock Holmes* enthusiasts founded in 1934).

In addition to the exhibit cases, the shelf to the right of the door as you leave the Wendt Room contains reading recommendations by Wilkens that members may check out of the library.

In conjunction with the *The Elements of Murder*, Wilkens will present a Summer Salon on mystery radio shows from the 1940s-1950s on Friday, August 19, 5:30 p.m.

The exhibit opens for viewing July 15.



## What's Upstairs: Fan Window Repaired!

The next time you are upstairs at the Athenæum, take note whether the center fan window is open or closed. Window Woman of New England repaired the hinge and replaced the screen. After long disrepair, the window can resume its function as a much-needed vent for the building--just in time for the summer months. (Note the "new window" photo at the top of this issue.)

## Edith Wharton Course Begins September 10

### *Tales of Innocence and Experience*

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 novel *Ethan Frome* with a fall course on its author, Edith Wharton. Led by Dorothy Dudley of Tufts University, this course will examine the life and work of America's first great female novelist.



Five representative works will be covered: *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 award-winning masterwork, *The Age of Innocence* (1920).

*The Age of Innocence* won her a Pulitzer Prize (1920) and contributed to her prominence as a literary figure so much that she became the first woman to receive an honorary degree from Yale University (1923).

In addition to discussing Wharton's works, participants will have the opportunity to watch some fine film productions of them. A field trip to Wharton's home, The Mount, in Lenox, MA is slated for October 29, given sufficient interest.

Dorothy Dudley has taught English and American literature at Tufts University for the past ten years. In addition, she has led students on five "literary pilgrimages" to the UK and Spain, following in the footsteps of such authors as the Brontës, Austen, Hardy, Hemingway, Orwell, and Shakespeare. Dorothy is an avid Dickens scholar and a member of the International Dickens Fellowship.

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

[Register Here](#)

## Annual Book Sale Scheduled for October 1

The Athenæum is accepting donations for its annual book sale/fundraiser, scheduled for Saturday, October 1. Take a break from the summer heat and check your book shelves for potential donations. It may not be Spring, but it is always time to clean!

Please deliver donations to the Athenæum during normal open hours.

## Recent Events

*The following listings highlight recent noteworthy events at the Athenæum.*

### Building Update: Spring Clean-Up

The Annual Spring Clean-Up took place on May 7. The photo at the right shows a

cross-section of the volunteers: Ted Jendrysik and sons Sam and Nate head back for more mulch, new member Tracy Ware is on the left, and President Francie King is on the right.

Dorothy Bradt brought her dandelion puller, Paul Redmond cleared the east border, Joe Pyrfrin tended the front-west side, and Deb Benvie worked the south-west corner. Pamela Jendrysik and John Owen cleared the front-east side. Dick Jendrysik and Bill Goldberg bagged the clippings that Bob Erbetta hauled away that afternoon.

David Ashton replaced the storm windows with screens to prepare the Reading Room for the coming warm weather. In all, a good morning's work!

### Patricia Smith Leads Poetry Workshop

As a participant in the Massachusetts Poetry Festival, May 13-14, the Athenæum had the honor of hosting a workshop presented by one of the festival's keynote poets, Patricia Smith. Ms. Smith is an award-winning poet and writing professor at CUNY. The Reading Room was filled to capacity as Ms. Smith offered encouragement, life lessons, and writing exercises to her eager audience.





## 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.*

### Dickens Fellowship

Victorian Garden Party  
Part 3 of "Reaching Across the Pond"

Thursday, August 11, 7:00 p.m.

England was considered the land of garden parties with its velvet turf, splendid oaks, and sculptured gardens. There were some locations in America, however, with green lawns and trees that also served as the perfect place for such events. These parties were held at the grandest of the Newport mansions,

suburban "summer cottages," and city outdoor parks. Join us as we honor this summer tradition in Victorian style.



Barbara Pugliese, historian, and performer will delight and entertain guests with 19th-century games.

\$10, Registration required. Contact Deb Benvie 978-979-0574 or <http://dickensnorthofboston.com> for details.

*About the "Reaching Across the Pond" Series*

*As the Dickens Bicentennial approaches, we present a series to showcase the connections Dickens had to Salem, Boston, and the United States.*

### Music at Eden's Edge

Really Open Rehearsal

Sunday, August 21, 4:00 pm



Join MEE artists in a rehearsal of Beethoven's *Serenade Op. 25* with Maria Benotti, Violin; Mark Berger, Viola; and Orlando Cela, Flute. Learn about this sparkling piece and the challenges it presents to the musicians as they prepare for their August concerts.

Free.

### Board of Trustees

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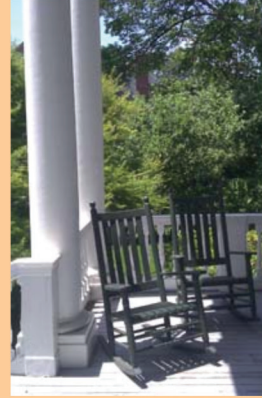
### Welcome!

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

Wendy Biggs  
Aaron and Abigail Butt  
Eleanor and Jacob Mire  
Marilyn Showers  
Ann M. and Arthur C. Sullivan

Congratulations to new shareholders:

Alan R.B. Collachicco and William C. Towne  
Daniel Randall and Phil Gillespie



### 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 Precious**

978-744-2540

[info@salemathenaeum.net](mailto:info@salemathenaeum.net)

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

**Carolyn McGuire**

[Contact me!](#)

[cbmcguire6@gmail.com](mailto:cbmcguire6@gmail.com)