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Salem Literary Festival Nov. 7-8

Letter from the President



Dear Members and Friends:

Thank you to everyone who attended the Athenæum's annual meeting and to each of you who contribute in so many ways to our library. Nothing we do at the Athenæum could be done without the dedicated service of our Director Jean Marie Procious, so many committed and talented volunteers, and our truly hard-working Board of Trustees. The continued vibrant life of the Athenæum would not be possible without the financial support of so many of you. We are deeply grateful.

We welcome three new trustees: Marla Gearhart, who will co-chair Collections; Dick Jendrysik, who returns to the board as co-chair of Building & Grounds, bringing much-needed institutional memory; and Angela Williams, who will serve on the new Governance Committee. We thank Donna Seger, departing Trustee, who led the Collections Committee and Adopt-a-Book program, following Stephen Clark, founder of Adopt-a-Book. And we thank all the Trustees who continue to serve on the Board. We also thank Dave Williams for volunteering to help us with a survey of Proprietors and Subscribers. We thank you in advance for participating in this survey.

We were pleased to announce at the annual meeting that the Athenæum had been awarded a grant from the Essex County Community Foundation's (ECCF's) Center for Board Excellence. The grant, one of just 15 awarded in Essex County, was the only one awarded in Salem. This \$5,000 grant will support board development and the continuing discussion of the Athenæum's healthy future.

You will soon be receiving your annual assessment letter from the Athenæum. Assessments are an important part of the Athenæum's operating budget, contributing approximately 30%. Under our historic bylaws, the Proprietors set the assessment for themselves; the Trustees then set the dues for Subscribers. The Proprietors' assessment was last changed in 2008; the Subscribers' dues were last changed in 2002. We discussed both at the annual meeting.

The Proprietors voted to increase their annual assessment from \$195 to \$210 (an increase of \$1.25 a month). Following thoughtful discussion at the annual meeting, the Trustees created an Individual Subscriber level of membership at an annual rate of \$85. Household Subscribers will be increased from \$90 to \$105 (also an increase of \$1.25/month). These new rates take effect July 1, 2014. Household Subscribers who renew before July 1 may do so at the \$90 rate.

And now, with business aside, let us revel in the beauty of the Athenæum's garden at this time of year! We hope you will join us for the annual Garden Party on Sunday, June 1, 3-5 p.m. and for Conservation Night Wednesday, June 4, at 7 p.m.

Enjoy the summer!
With best wishes and thanks,

Meg Twohey
President, Board of Trustees
The Salem Athenæum

March Party Mar. 14, 2015



Salem
Athenæum

We are
grateful
to our
2013-2014
Program
Sponsors

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New Trustees

At the Annual Meeting on May 7, Salem Athenæum Proprietors approved the appointment of three new members to the Board of Trustees: Marla Gearhart, Dick Jendrysik, and Angela Williams. We also offer a heartfelt thank you to our departing trustee, Donna Seger.



Marla Gearhart

Marla is our first Subscriber to be nominated to the board of trustees. She worked at the PEM's Phillips Library, focused on reference and genealogical work. Nine years ago, Elaine von Bruns introduced Marla to the Athenæum and to Win Wilkens. As Win was retiring, she encouraged Marla to apply for her position at Harvard's Botany Libraries. Marla has been at the Athenæum and Harvard's Botany Libraries ever since. She will co-chair the

Collections Committee with Sarah Harrington.

A native of Detroit, Marla earned a B.A. in English Literature from Oberlin College and an M.A. in English Literature from the University of Michigan. Earlier in her career, Marla taught Language Arts to grades 7-10.

Marla and her husband George live in Marblehead. They have two daughters -- a classical singer and an art history teacher at Assumption College.

Richard Jendrysik

Dick served as President of the Athenæum from 2012 to 2013. He was a member of the Board of Directors and Co-Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee for six years prior to serving as President.

Dick has served as a Cub Scout leader, Little League coach, and member of the Democratic City Committee in Melrose, MA. Dick was the President of the Melrose Scholarship Fund for ten years.

He is a Registered Engineer and holds an M.B.A. from Temple University and a B.S.M.E. from University Massachusetts-Lowell. Now retired, Dick spent his career in engineering and construction in the petrochemical industry, which involved frequent overseas travel.

Pamela Jendrysik, Dick's wife, has headed the Grounds Committee for many years, transforming the look of the Athenæum garden. They have two children: Ted, a creative director who developed the Athenæum's distinctive new logo; Meghan, a publisher of medical journals and who helps support our Adopt-A-Book Campaign. Ted's wife, Lisa, is currently working on the Athenæum writing program.



Angela Williams

Angela is an investment analyst at Prime, Buchholz & Associates, an independent investment consulting firm. Angela has 17 years of experience in the investment industry, including two years as a consultant for the CFA Institute. She holds a B.A. from Smith College, an M.B.A. from NYU Stern, and she is a CFA charterholder.



An active volunteer with the Junior League of Boston, she serves as a member of the Nominating Council. Angela joined the League in 2007 and has served as an Events Committee co-chair and technology manager. She is also active in Smith's alumnae association and served as the Boston Smith College Club Treasurer from 2003 - 2010. She lives in Salem, MA, with her boyfriend Charles Swift, two cats and a dog.



**Boston Private
Bank**

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Summer Exhibition: Transformation!

Through September 6.

"Transformation!" showcases the first graduates of the Athenæum's Adopt-a-Book Conservation Program. We celebrate the conservation of these valuable books and the generosity of the donors who made the program possible!

In June 2012, the Athenæum held its first Conservation Night in an effort to raise funds to repair some of the older volumes in our Collection.

Book conservation involves slow, painstaking, and costly work. "Before" and "Process" photos illustrate the transformation of these remarkable books from weak and worn to healthy and renewed, with covers reattached, pages smoothed and spines intact and straight.

The exhibit includes conservator's tools and photographs of the restoration process—learn about book anatomy and visit a book "spa" to see how aging pages are rejuvenated.

The exhibition is open during library hours and special events through September 6.



2014 Student Literary Award

Congratulations to Rebecca Beaulieu, winner of the 2014 Salem Athenæum Literary Award!



This award is given each year to a student graduating from Salem High School who is most distinguished by his or her abiding curiosity, intellectual engagement, and passion for literature.



Garden Party

Sunday, June 1, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Bask in the warmth and color of our spring garden at the Athenæum's annual kick-off to the summer season.

Come join us for an afternoon of live music, food, and drinks. New this year will be a Fund-A-Need auction of unique items from our wish list.

Feel free to invite guests to share in the many charms of the Athenæum.

[Reserve Now](#)

Conservation Night 2014

Wednesday June 4, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Join us for our third annual Conservation Night. Following a reception and brief presentation by Peter Geraty of Praxis Bindery, we will unveil the conserved volumes -- books sponsored by generous participants of the 2013 Conservation Night -- and present the carefully chosen candidates for conservation in 2014.



After seeing the books, learning the significance of each item, and how they will be preserved, you may wish to adopt an Athenæum treasure. Sponsors for this year's books may contribute the full price of restoration work or one or more shares as outlined below. Contributions in any amount will gratefully be accepted and will go toward the books most in need.

All donations are tax deductible.

[Reserve Now](#)

[Download the list of 2014 Conservation Candidates.](#)

Night Owls

First Fridays, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Next gatherings: June 7 and August 1

Held on the first Friday of each month, attendees are invited to bring a game to share, a topic to discuss, or just to show up and join in the fun!

[Reserve Now](#)

Spotlight: Salem Fire of 1914

Thursday, June 12, 7:00 p.m.

In honor of the centennial of this catastrophic event, Donna Seger, Professor of History at Salem State University, presents a slideshow of images from the Great Salem Fire of 1914 and offers us an opportunity to discuss the events surrounding this city-changing disaster.

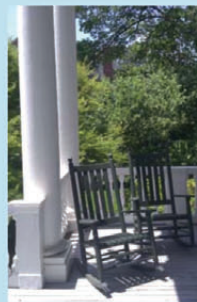


Free.

[Reserve Now](#)

Member Orientation

Thursday, June 19, 7:00 p.m.



Get to know your Athenæum! Come and see what's hidden away in our library while exploring it top-to-bottom. Learn the stories and fascinating facts about our collections and 100-year-old building.

Familiarize yourself with the collection and meet your fellow members while enjoying wine and cheese.

All members--new or not--are encouraged to attend these semi-annual orientation nights. Our next one will be in October.

Questions? [Contact Jean Marie.](#)

[Reserve Now](#)

Book Launch Event *Conversion* by Katherine Howe

Wednesday, July 2, 7:00 p.m.

Fellow member and *New York Times* bestselling author Kate Howe celebrates her latest book's launch at the Salem Athenæum!



Inspired by true events--from seventeenth-century colonial life to the halls of a modern-day high school-- Howe's latest YA book, *Conversion* casts a spell on readers of all ages.



Summer Salons

7 Fridays, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
July 11 - Aug 22

Our summer tradition of Friday evenings on the back porch continues! All events begin at 5:30 p.m. and meet in back garden, weather permitting. Stay tuned for more details on [our web site](#).

- Jul. 11: Trip Mason, *Never Trust a Printed Image*
- Jul. 18: Hale Bradt, *Jungle Warfare in the Solomon Islands: Another View*
- Jul. 25: Hannah Diozzi, *Tales of the Trails: Adventures of a Walking Tour Guide*
- Aug. 1: Peter Alachi, *Germes: the Good, Bad and the Ugly*
- Aug. 8: Charlie Allen, *Growing up in the Chestnut Street Area: The people who influenced my development as an artist.*
- Aug. 15: Lynn Murray, *My Travels in Africa*
- Aug. 22: Hannah Tinti, Author of *The Good Thief*--Salem's Community Book Read selection

Save the Date!

Grass

A theatrical adaptation of Walt Whitman's Song of Myself

Aug 29, 30, 31

Peter Sampieri and fellow actor-musicians perform an hour-long adaptation of the famous poem. The show features a celebration of all aspects of American life, leisure, and work using Whitman's pulsing, epic free-verse style.

Come experience this timeless classic in a fun and joyous outdoor re-telling, while burying your toes in warm "leaves of grass," just like old Walt intended.

Details to come.



Student Workshop

College Admissions Essay Coaching

Presented by Peter Franklin

July 14th and 16th
August 11th and 13th

To set oneself apart in the sea of college applications, an inspiring essay can make a difference. Peter Franklin, a teacher at Swampscott High School who has run a successful summer program locally, will lead two-day seminars at the Athenæum this summer to help students create well-written essays that will catch the attention of college admissions boards. For more details about the course, please [contact Peter Franklin](#).

Tuition, \$199.

[Registration and Information](#)

10% of all proceeds go to a scholarship fund for students in need

Annual Book Sale

Member's Preview: Friday, September 12, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Book Sale: Saturday, September 13, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 14, 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for the best book sale of the Fall! Check your shelves for potential donations. We need your help (i.e. books) to exceed last year's success!

Members, plus one guest, have the opportunity to attend the Member's Preview Book Sale on Friday night, before it opens to the public on Saturday morning.

Proceeds benefit the Athenæum collections and educational programs.

Donations to the book sale may be delivered to the Athenæum during normal open hours now through September 11.



[Reserve for Member's Preview](#)

1st Bi-annual Dickens North American Conference

**Pickwickian Endeavors:
A weekend of scholarly, serendipitous &
witty Dickens...with local Characters**

September 26, 27, 28

Dickens scholars from around the world, along with local and international performers, historians, and artists will present for this premiere North American bi-annual conference weekend.

Morning sessions will be held at the Athenæum each day--afternoon and evening sessions will be at various venues in Salem and the Boston area.

Join us for the drama, the history, the music, connections to the North Shore, and meet Dickens' unforgettable characters.

Discount rates available for Athenæum Members.

[Contact Deb Benvie for more information.](#)

Coordinated by Dickens Fellowship--North of Boston Branch, SSU Faculty and Drama students, the Salem Athenæum, Hawthorne Hotel, House of Seven Gables.



Recent Events

The following highlights recent noteworthy events at the Athenæum.

The Rebel Pirate Book Launch

On April 6, member Donna Thorland launched her second novel, *The Rebel Pirate*, at the Athenæum. Thorland engaged her audience with tales from her writing career in television and print as well as her passion for history. We eagerly await the next book in the *Renegades of the Revolution* series!



Groups at the Athenæum

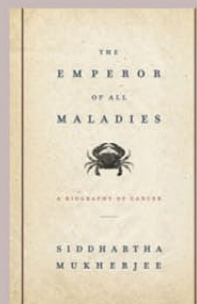
The following groups meet regularly at the Salem Athenæum. If you are interested in participating in any of them, please follow the links provided in their listings (or [contact Jean Marie](#) if no link is included).

Athenæum Book Group

Second Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

Next meetings: June 14 and July 12

The Athenæum book group meets monthly. Group members take turns selecting a book for discussion. Whoever chooses the book also serves as discussion leader and provides background materials (if needed). Join us for this opportunity to discuss, debate, and grow together as book lovers!



June

The Emperor of All Maladies

by Siddhartha Mukherjee



July

The Best American Short Stories, 2013

Edited by Elizabeth Strout

Read them all or pick and choose. It's summer!

[Contact Jean Marie](#) if you are interested in joining or leading a discussion!

Dickens Fellowship

Literary discussion meetings on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.
Please note our new meeting time!

Jun. 7 *Dickens' Inferno*
Jul. 5 No meeting--July 4th holiday
Aug. 2 Dickens earliest poems found in *Juvenilia and Early Writings of Dickens, 1820-1833*
Sep. 6 *Bleak House* Chs. 1 - 22

For details on all events, visit [Dickens North of Boston](#).

Salem Writers' Group

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

Writers' Open Studio Hours

Tuesdays from 8:45-11:30 a.m.
For details visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/salemwriters/>

La Tertulia Spanish Language Discussion Group

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

If you are interested in participating in or starting a French language discussion group, [contact Jean Marie](#).

Mandarin Chinese for Children

Every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. and Saturday at 10:00 a.m.
[Contact Judy Wang Bedell](#) for more information or visit <http://www.pandalandchinese.com/>

Board of Trustees

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Judy Kearney
Pat Padden, *Treasurer*
Meg Twohey, *President*
Angela Williams

Welcome!

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

Christine and Charlie Allen
Gillian Andrews
JoAnne Brasil
Laurence and Kim Brengle
Melissa, Kevin and Benjamin Hanskens
Christian Haselgrove
Sarah, James and Eloise Koch
Laura Korn
Peter Sampieri
Sarah Staats
Alan Yuspeh



Salem Athenæum

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Contact Info

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

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

Carolyn McGuire
[Contact me!](#)