



#### Incorporated in 1810

Winter 2014 Newsletter

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Welcome!



#### Letter from the President

Dear Members and Friends:

Thanks to everyone who joined us for our fall programs and the delightful Winter Welcome party in December. We hope to see you next week at the Adriatic on January 21, for an evening of serious fun to benefit the Athenæum. Please bring your friends!

Thank you to so many of you who have given generously to our annual appeal--and throughout the year. To those of you who might not have given yet, I offer a gentle reminder. The annual appeal and all your unrestricted donations are crucial to the Athenæum's operations, programs, and services. We are deeply grateful for your gifts in any amount. The next several months hold much in store at the library. On January 29, we partner with Historic New England for an evening devoted to the Phillips Family Oceanic Collection, with a lecture by Susan Leavitt and a special exhibition that combines treasures from both the Phillips House and the Athenæum. On February 6, we present B.A. Shapiro, author of *The Art Forger*, who will read from her new book. And on February 12, Cynthia Fowler returns to the library by popular demand to explore Andy Warhol and Pop Art.

In March, we co-present a lecture with Montserrat College on the games (not gaming!) industry by Tom Dusenberry, a North Shore entrepreneur who has participated in developing more than \$3 billion in games businesses. With the Pickering House Foundation, we will co-present a lecture at the Athenæum by Dr. Ronald Angelo Johnson on Diplomacy in Black and White, with an introduction by former Ambassador Thomas Pickering. Beloved instructor Theo Theoharis returns on March 29 to give a course on the novella.

The trustees have continued working on the Athenæum's strategic plan, and will prepare a brief status report to be given during a special Proprietors meeting February 19, with further information to be presented during the Athenæum's annual meeting in May.

Finally, grateful thanks to our Director and all who volunteer to make everything we do possible. We welcome any and all volunteer help.

On behalf of the trustees, special thanks to Eric Hayes who has regretfully stepped down as trustee this fall; and a warm welcome to Brunonia Barry who has since joined the board.

See you at the library!

Meg

Meg Twohey President, Board of Trustees The Salem Athenæum

### Salem Athenæum

# **Donors**April 1, 2013 January 16, 2014

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

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#### Winter Gathering at the Adriatic

Tuesday, January 21, 6:00-8:00 p.m.



Chase away the winter blues with us at Adriatic Restaurant in Salem.

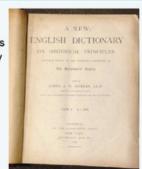
Enjoy an evening of friends and complimentary hors d'oeuvres courtesy of the Adriatic. As you soak in the warmth and comfort of one of Salem's premier eating and drinking establishments, we're hoping to raise essential operating funds to help support our programs for 2014.

All proceeds support the Athenæum. Cash bar. \$25

Reserve Now

#### Our Oxford English Dictionary

We often say that there are unknown treasures in the Athenæum's basement, and we recently discovered one! Member-volunteers Elaine Von Bruns and Marla Gearhart have spent several years in an effort to organize the historical collections in the downstairs stacks and Rare Book Room. In December, they discovered that we have a complete first edition of the New English Dictionary on Historical Principles, which we know today as the Oxford English Dictionary or OED.



#### Brief history of OED

In 1857, the Philological Society of London determined that the current English dictionaries were incomplete and called for a new English Dictionary. It took a while to get the ball rolling, and by 1879, the Society made an agreement with the Oxford University Press to begin work on the New English Dictionary. The plan was a four-volume work that would be completed in ten years. This schedule was proved inadequate, when the authors and editors took five years to reach the word "ant."

In 1884, the first fascicle was published. During the period of 1884-1928, fascicles were released periodically. As soon as the project was completed in 1928, two editors assumed the task of updating the entire 10-volume set and the first supplement was published in 1933. Supplements were released through the 1980s, when the second edition was produced. It became available on CD-ROM in 1992, and is available for subscription online at <a href="www.oed.com">www.oed.com</a>. To this day, it is still considered "the definitive record of the English language."



Part of our Oxford English Dictionary (our set takes up 52 inches of shelf.)

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#### Thank You to Our Generous Donors!



Oceania

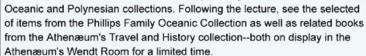
The Athenæum is grateful beyond measure to its members and friends for their generous support. Your donations make our events and programs possible and keep this institution vibrant.

See the list of 2014 fiscal-year donors in the left sidebar. We cannot thank you enough!

#### Treasures of the Pacific: The Oceanic Collection of the Phillips Family

A lecture by Susan Leavitt Wednesday, January 29, 7:00 p.m.

Join Susan Leavitt, a graduate student with Harvard University's Museum Studies program, as she discusses the treasures found in the Phillips family's



This program is part of the annual Winter Lecture partnership with the Salem Athenæum, Historic Salem, Inc., and Historic New England which highlights a particular aspect of Salem's rich history.

Members of Historic New England, Historic Salem, Inc., and Salem Athenæum, \$10; non-members, \$15. Students with ID, free.

#### Reserve Now

Co-presented by the Salem Athenæum, Historic Salem and Historic New England.

#### **CSEM**

Chamber Music by Candlelight series Saturday, February 1, 8:00 p.m.



#### Beethoven and the Romantic Violin, 1801 to 1803





English keyboard master Ian Watson and period violin and fortepiano violinist Susanna Ogata are among the finest period-instrument specialists today, appearing together in Boston's Handel and Haydn Society and other prestigious ensembles. They will bring us three sonatas of Beethoven from his time of crisis and renewal, 1801-1803, when the young composer, just beginning his thirties, passed through a vale of profound despair at his growing, hopeless deafness. At last his vigorous spirit rebounded, unleashing a blaze of creative energy that is still astonishing.

Richard L. Lehman Mary Ann Lyons Darleen Melis and Irving Ingraham Kristin Swain Mellen and Duncan B. Cox, Jr. Kathy Miles Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mitnik Dr. Georgia Montouris Robert T. Moulton, Jr. Sam Northrup Donald Nutting Carole O'Blenes Marcia Olsson Patrick R. Padden, Jr. Holliday Pulsifer Rebecca Putnam and William Peck Denise Regan and Chris Burke Mr. and Mrs. Brian Shaughnessy Joycelyn Snell Katherine van Dyke Tracy Ware and lain Murray Amy Whelan James Yeannakopoulos

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#### Adopt a Book

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Marie Meegan

On the program are Violin Sonatas 4 and 9 (the famous "Kreuzer Sonata") and for piano alone, Sonata 12 ("Funeral March"), which stands among Beethoven's most beloved works. Join us and stay for a convivial reception.

For tickets and information, call 617-489-2062 or visit www.csem.org.

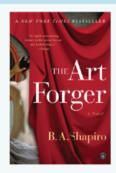
Members and seniors, \$25; non-members, \$30. Free for students 17 and under.

#### The Art Forger

Book talk with B.A. Shapiro

Thursday, February 6, 7:00 p.m.

On March 18, 1990, thirteen works of art worth over \$500 million today were stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. It remains the largest unsolved art heist in history. Despite thousands of hours of police work and a \$5 million reward, the artwork has never been recovered.



B.A. Shapiro's novel based on these events has received wide acclaim including New York Times bestseller status, 2013 New England Society Book Awards Winner for Fiction, and 2013 Finalist for the Massachusetts Book Award. Shapiro tells the story of Claire Roth, a struggling young artist with her own scandalous past, who discovers that there's more to this crime than meets the eye.



B.A. Shapiro is the author of six novels, four screenplays, and a non-fiction book. In her previous career incarnations, she directed research projects for a residential substance abuse facility, worked as a systems analyst/statistician, headed the Boston office of a software development firm, and served as an adjunct professor teaching sociology at Tufts University and creative writing at Northeastern University. She likes being a novelist best.

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

Reserve Now

#### Pop Art Speaker Series

In response to the enthusiasm for our Abstract Expressionism Series this past Spring, The Athenæum is pleased to offer additional 20th-century art lectures by Cynthia Fowler.

Pop Art, the art movement that emerged in the mid-1950s in Britain and in the

late-1950s in the United States, challenged the traditions of fine art by including imagery from popular culture such as advertising and news.

#### February 12 Andy Warhol: Pop Artist Extraordinaire

Warhol was so insistent that his work was no more meaningful than a popular television show that the complexity of his art has often been overlooked. Fortunately, the diligent scholarship of dedicated art historians has revealed the depth of Warhol's art in relation to politics, social commentary on popular culture, and his identity as a gay man. Please note: This is the lecture that was scheduled in December and cancelled twice for weather-related reasons. We are determined give Mr. Warhol his 15 minutes!

Reserve Now

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Accuracy is important to us!

If you find any errors

or omissions,

please contact us.

#### April 10 Andy Warhol's Contemporaries

Although Warhol is the best known among Pop artists, others are equally interesting. We will explore works by Warhol's contemporaries, including Roy Lichtenstein, Claes Oldenburg, and James Rosenquist.

What about women Pop artists? Art historians have recently begun to identify and research the women of Pop. This lecture will include a discussion of their work as well, including Chryssa, Rosalyn Drexler and Faith Ringgold.

Reserve Now

Cynthia Fowler, Ph.D. teaches at Emmanuel College. She is an art historian specializing in 20th-century American art. Her most recent fellowship, the James Renwick Fellowship in American Craft, was awarded to her in 2007 by the Smithsonian Institution for her research on craft production and its relationship to modernism in early 20th-century American art.



Members, \$10; non-members, \$15. Students with ID, free.

#### Scribblers Ink

Writing workshop with Bobbi Lerman

Saturday, February 22, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Do you love to write? Do you think you might like to write? Did you love to write until your inner critic took your muse hostage? No matter if you are an aspiring or a seasoned writer, one rule is the same for us all: you need to put pen to paper and make time to write.

Join us for a day of practice writing designed to awaken your lost or hibernating creative voice through a series of tools and exercises used by experts such as Natalie Goldberg, author of Writing Down The Bones and Julie Cameron author of the Writer's Way. No matter where you are in you're writing process, join us at the Athenæum for a day of guided writing guaranteed to push you to new limits.



Bobbi Lerman's love for writing began at a young age when she would spend her afternoons crafting short stories about her extended family in the three-family home she grew up in on the North Shore. She earned a Degree in Fine Arts from MassArt, and is a member of the Romance Writers of America and Grub Street. She has been running workshops for over 15 years to help writers unblock and find their voice and inspiration.

She founded Scribblers Ink, an active online community and website offering interviews with authors, writing tips, and daily prompts. Today, she and her husband make their home in Nahant.

\$75, includes catered lunch.

Register with Bobbi Lerman at http://scribblersink.com/registration-form.

Learn more about Scribblers Ink workshops.

# We are grateful to our 2013-2014 Program Sponsors





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#### We've Got Game: The Importance of the North Shore in the Games Industry

A lecture by Tom Dusenberry Thursday, March 13, 7:00 p.m.

Tom Dusenberry, a North Shore businessman who has participated in \$3B of games businesses, will speak on the importance of the North Shore in the

games industry, the evolution of games, and the areas in which they are used for business, community and social engagements today.

Dusenberry has been involved in the games industry for the past 30 years. He founded Dusenberry Entertainment and is a former CEO of Hasbro Interactive, *Games.com*, and Atari. He is closely associated with great games such as *Frogger, Star Wars, Roller Coaster Tycoon, NASCAR, Monopoly*, and *Trivial Pursuit*. His career focus in consumer electronics and media content applications includes electronic games, video console games, mobile games, internet games, wireless entertainment, FLASH animation, social networking, consumer robots, interactive toys, app toys and bio-mechanical/emotion based entertainment.

Members, \$10; non-members, \$15. Students with ID, free.

Reserve Now

Co-presented by the Salem Athenæum and Montserrat College of Art.

#### Diplomacy in Black and White

A lecture by Dr. Ronald Johnson with remarks by Ambassador Thomas Pickering

Monday, March 24, 7:00 p.m.

From 1798 to 1801, during the Haitian Revolution, President John Adams and Toussaint Louverture, leader of the Haitian revolution, forged diplomatic relations. *Diplomacy in Black and White* is the first book on the Adams-Louverture alliance. Historian and former diplomat Ronald Angelo Johnson details

the aspirations of the Americans and Dominguans--two revolutionary peoples. Leaders of both governments established multiracial relationships amid environments dominated by slavery and racial hierarchy. *Diplomacy in Black and White* reflects the capacity of leaders from disparate backgrounds to negotiate political and societal constraints to make lives better for the groups they represent.



Ronald Angelo Johnson is an assistant professor of history at Texas State University and specializes in early U.S. history, with particular interest in diplomacy, religion, and cross-cultural relations. He has served as a U.S. diplomat at embassies in Gabon and Luxembourg, he has worked as an analyst at the Central Intelligence Agency, and is an alumnus of the Thomas R. Pickering International Studies Fellowship.

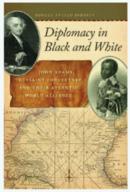
Ambassador Thomas Pickering, a descendant of Secretary of State Timothy Pickering, has served more than four decades as a U.S. diplomat. He last served as Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, the third highest post in the U.S. State Department. Pickering also served as ambassador to the United Nations, the Russian Federation, India, Israel, and Jordan, and holds the personal rank of Career Ambassador.



Athenæum and Pickering House Members, \$20; non-members, \$25. Students with ID, free.

#### Reserve Now

Co-presented by the Salem Athenæum and the Pickering House.



## Spring Course The Great Novellas

Theo Theoharis, Instructor

6 Saturdays, March 29 - May 3 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The novella is a challenging form, combining the scope of the novel and the concision of the short story. We will read



and discuss six of the masterpieces of the form from the 19th and 20th centuries: Benito Cerino by Herman Melville, The Death of Ivan Ilyich by Leo Tolstoy, A Diamond as Big as the Ritz by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Miss Lonelyhearts by Nathanael West, Moon Lake by Eudora Welty, and The Ballad of the Sad Cafe by Carson McCullers.



Theoharis has lectured widely on American and European literature both in the United States and abroad. He is author of James Joyce's Ulysses: An Anatomy of the Soul and Ibsen's Drama: Right Action and Tragic Joy, as well as the translator of Before They Could Change Them: The Complete Poems of Constantine P. Cavafy. He has received teaching awards from UC Berkeley, MIT and Harvard. He has taught courses on the epic, tragedy,

and modern fiction at Harvard for the last 25 years, his most recent course being "Satire and Resistance in the American Novel: *Huckleberry Finn* and *Catch-22*."

Members \$155, non-members \$175 Reserve Now

#### Recent Events

The following highlights recent noteworthy events at the Athenæum.



#### The Scientist and the Monster Course

Professor Sue Schopf led a five-week course from Sept. 30-Oct. 26, exploring four 19th-century horror classics in an effort to answer the perennial question: Can science go too far? On the final evening of the series, an appreciative class presented Dr. Schopf with vampire cape, so that she could finish the course (the final lecture was *Dracula*) in proper fashion.

#### New Members Night

Over 20 new Athenæum members attended the Fall 2013 New Members Night. Thank you everyone, new and not-so-new, who came out to make the evening such a success! Jean Marie, Elaine, and Carolyn guided small tour groups through all floors of the reading rooms and stacks for a night of discovery,



friendship, and lots of stairs. All members are welcome to attend these orientation evenings. Stayed tuned for a posting about the next one!

#### Groups at the Athenæum

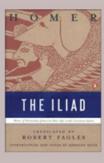
The following groups meet regularly at the Salem Athenæum. If you are interested in participating in any of them, please follow the links provided in their listings (or contact Jean Marie if no link is included).

#### Athenæum Book Group

Second Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

Next meetings: February 8 and March 8

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!



February
The Iliad
by Homer
(Rouse or Fagles translation)



March Songbook by Nick Hornby

Contact Jean Marie if you are interested in joining or leading a discussion!

#### Dickens Fellowship

Literary discussion meetings on the following Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.:

- Feb. 6 Nicholas Nickelby Chs. 15 27.
- Mar. 6 Nicholas Nickelby Chs. 28 40.
- Apr. 3 Nicholas Nickelby Chs. 41 53.
- May 1 Nicholas Nickelby Chs. 54 end.

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

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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#### Welcome!

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

Erik Bauer and Genevieve Gilson Andrew Cardinale Ronald Harrison Kelly and Kathy Homan Joshua Jarvis and Erin Young Kelly and Marina Jenkins Mary McCarthy Robert Mulligan K.K. and Lane Nielsen



#### **New Shareholders**

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#### Salem Athenæum

337 Essex Street Salem, Massachusetts 01970 salemathenaeum.net

#### **Contact Info**

For general information about the Athenæum or its events, please contact the Director: **Jean Marie Procious** 978-744-2540

info@salemathenaeum.net

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

Carolyn McGuire

Contact me!