THE SALEM ATHENÆUM

337 Essex Street, Salem, MA 01970 (978) 744-2540 - Fax (978) 744-7536 Email: Info@salemathenaeum.net Web Site: www.salemathenaeum.net DIRECTOR: Jean Marie Procious

LIBRARY HOURS:

Tues. / Wed. / Fri: 1 PM to 5 PM Thursday: 5 PM to 9 PM

Saturday: 10 AM to 2 PM



Newsletter

FALL 2008

FOUNDED AS THE SOCIAL LIBRARY IN 1760

IMPORTANT DATES

Courses

September 8 - The American Presidency is being taught by Dr. Maura Henry, lecturer. Course runs for six consecutive Monday evenings.

October 16 - The Sea Life of the World's Oceans is being conducted by Dr. George Buckley and runs for six consecutive Thursdays.

Lectures

September 23, 7pm:

Dr. Alison Frank, Harvard University, spoke on "The History of Oil."

Dr. Jane October 9, 7pm: Kamensky, Brandeis University, discussed her new book The Exchange Artist: A Tale of High-Flying Speculation and America's First Banking Collapse.

October 28, 7pm: James L. Nelson will discuss his book George Washington's Secret Navy: How the American Revolution Went to Sea

November 7, 7pm: John Demos will speak on witchcraft in the Western world.

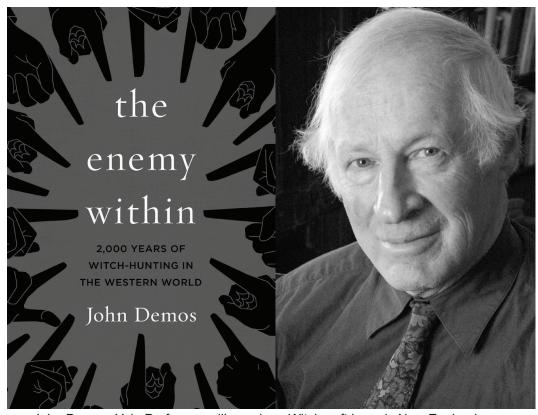
Concerts

November 22, Cambridge Society for Early Music. The group Tapestry performs music of female troubadours from the 12th century to the present.

IMPORTANT DATES continues on Page 2.

A New Season Begins

Lectures, Concerts, Courses and More...



John Demos, Yale Professor, will speak on Witchcraft in early New England

With four courses, a dozen lectures, and five musical events planned for the 2008-09 season, Athenæum members and guests will have a wealth of stimulating books, ideas, discussions, and novel listening experiences to brighten their year. The Education Committee thought long and hard about the hot-button issues of the day—such as oil, the banking industry, the Presidential election, Russia, and global warming; as well as the subjects of perpetual interest to Athenæum members and North Shore residents—such as regional history, ocean environments, and local artists and writers. We sought out authors and speakers with fresh perspectives on these subjects—and, fortuitously, some of them sought us out as well. The result is the exciting programming outlined in the following pages.

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<u>Salem Athenaeum</u> Fail 2008

Continued from Page 1

IMPORTANT DATES

Lectures

November 24, Diane Rapaport will discuss her book *The Naked Quaker: True Crimes and Controversies from the Courts of Colonial New England.*

December 4, James A. Craig will speak and give a slide presentation on his book *Fitz H. Lane: An Artist's Voyage through Nineteenth Century America.*

Concert

January 10, 2009, The Cambridge Society for Early Music presents the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra performing virtuoso Italian ensemble music of the 17th and 18th centuries.

Lecture

January 24, Linda Dini Jenkins, former Salem resident and wife of former trustee Tim Jenkins, will discuss her new book *Travels with My Husband: On the Road with Tim for Better or for Worse.*

Concert

February 7, Bill Sano and Mary Shaw will present a lively program of 22 "Songs of World War II."

Lectures:

February (Date TBA), Co-sponsored lecture with Historic Salem, Inc.. Historians Margherita Desy and Donald Friary will speak on the Great Salem Fire of 1914.

March 7, Douglas Smith will come from the West Coast to discuss his new book *The Pearl: A True Tale of Forbidden Love in Catherine the Great's Russia.*

Concert

March 17, A program of Celtic music featuring flute and whistle player David O'Docherty, Celtic singer Michael O'Leary, fiddler Jen Strom, and guitar and bouzouki player Bob Strom. Ziggy Hartfelder will exhibit some of her stunning photographs of Ireland

Adams Lecture

April 17, (at Hamilton Hall), Our annual Adams Lecture, delivered by Andrew Delbanco, professor of humanities at Columbia University. *Time* magazine has called him "America's best social critic." The title of his lecture will be "Our Melville."

Concert

April 18, The final concert of the season for the Cambridge Society of Early Music. The theme will be "Courtly Encounters —England and Spain—1554," featuring Douglas Kirk, commentator; James Nicolson, double virginals; and a quartet from Exsultemus.

Lecture

May 1, Harvard art historian Mary Crawford-Volk will give a slide-and-lecture presentation on the Boston favorite, John Singer Sargent.

See Page 3 for more details on each of the above events.

IMPORTANT DATES Courses

January 26, 2009 - "History and Culture of Tsarist Russia" by Dr. Donald Ostrowski. The course will run for eight consecutive Monday evenings.

April 9 - "The Bronte Sisters and Their Novels," taught by Dr. Sue Lonoff. The course will run on six consecutive Thursday evenings.

See Page 3 for more details on each of the above courses.

learn German

A new Athenæum group is forming for the study of beginning German! Athenæum member Zab Warren has graciously offered to lead the group.

A 30-year member of the mathematics faculty of Phillips Academy, Andover, Zab began his German studies as a Harvard undergrad. He further developed his fluency and knowledge of German culture during his German literature studies at Philipps Universitaet, Marburg, Germany, a sabbatical year studying math at the University of Salzburg, Austria, and his extensive travels in Switzerland, Austria, and Germany.

There will be a fee, the amount dependent on the number in the group, to cover the cost of purchasing materials. Bis dann!

For more information or to let us know of your interest, please contact Jean Marie Procious at 978.744.2540 or info@salemathenaeum.net

Salem Athenaeum Fall 2008

More about our most extensive event schedule ever

Courses:

September 8-October 20—

Dr. Maura Henry's "The American Presidency and Presidents through History and Film" (6 Monday evenings)

Coctober 16-November 20—George Buckley's "The Sea Life of the World's Oceans and the Effects of Climate Change" (6 Thursday evenings)

■ January 26-March 23—Dr. Donald Ostrowski, who taught "World War II in History and Film" at the Athenæum last spring, was asked by members of his seminar to offer something on Russian history next; the result is a new course entitled "History and

Culture of Tsarist Russia," which will explore the development of Russian culture from Ivan the Terrible through Nicholas II. This multidisciplinary course will also survey the major themes in Russian art.



Dr. Donald Ostrowski

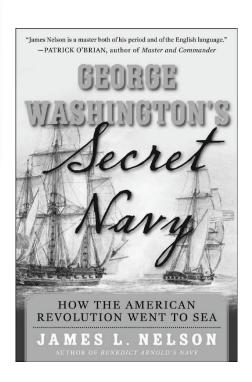
architecture, music, and literature against their historical and political backgrounds. A leading historian of Russia and the Ukraine, Ostrowski is the author of several books and over 100 scholarly articles. He lectures on history in Harvard's Divison of Continuing Education. (8 Monday evenings)

◆April 9-May 21, 2009—Dr. Sue Lonoff's "The Bronte Sisters and Their Novels" (6 Thursday evenings).

Please contact Jean Marie Procious to register for any of the above courses.

Lectures:

Coctober 28—Maine author James L. Nelson comes to the Athenæum with a very special presentation that we expect to fill the house. A former professional sailor and an award-winning maritime writer, Nelson will discuss his latest book George Washington's Secret Navy: How the American Revolution Went to Sea, described by Eric Jay Dolin as "a gripping and fascinating book about the daring and heroic mariners who helped George Washington change the course of history and create a nation." When invited to give this talk at the Athenæum, James Nelson replied, "You folks are at ground zero for Washington's navy. This will be a terrific event!" We expect to invite the Marblehead and Beverly Historical Societies to join us for the evening. (Perhaps we will finally settle the debate over which town can claim to be "the birthplace of the American navy"!)



November 7—A co-sponsored event with the Salem Award for Human Rights and Social Justice will take place on November 7, when John Demos, the Samuel Knight Professor of History at Yale, will speak on witchcraft in early New England, a subject to which he has devoted much of his long and illustrious career as one of America's preeminent social historians. Demos was educated at Harvard and then received his MA from the University of California at Berkeley in 1961; at Yale he has taught courses in early American history, family history, and historical narrative. His publications include: Entertaining Satan: Witchcraft and the Culture of Early New England, which won the Bancroft Prize; and The Unredeemed Captive: A Family Story from Early America, which won the Francis Parkman Prize, the Ray Allen Billington Prize, and was a finalist for both the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award.

Concert:

endowember 22—We will begin another happy year of hosting a trio of concerts presented by the Cambridge Society for Early Music. Athenaeum members will again enjoy a 20 percent ticket discount. Four female singers and an instrumentalist comprise the group Tapestry, which will be performing an unusual program of traditional songs, lullabies, and music of female troubadours from the 12th century to the present.

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Fall 2008 Salem Athenaeum



The American Presidency and Presidents through History and Film

Beginning with the very first feature film made in the United States (D.W. Griffith's powerful, yet controversial *The Birth of a Nation*, 1915) and continuing all the way through to the most recent movies (W, release date 23 October 2008 and Liam Neeson's *Lincoln*, coming out in 2009 to mark the bicentenary of Lincoln's birth), the American Presidency and Presidents have had starring roles on the big screen.

From Abraham Lincoln (1924) and John Adams (2008) to All the President's Men (1976) and Fahrenheit 9/11 (2004), the office of the President and its incumbents have been lionized, criticized, spoofed, and rebuked in major motion pictures and documentaries. On the small screen, television shows spotlighting the presidency (notably The West Wing, Commander in Chief, 24, and others) have brought the questions of powers, policies, and personalities into our living rooms on a weekly basis.

During this historic presidential election, you may find yourself wanting to take a break from the news, debates, and talk shows by watching some great films about the presidency. Or, perhaps you desire to dive in deeper to consider how our understanding of the American Presidency and the 43 male (thus far!) occupants of the White House have been reflected in and shaped by films. Bear in mind that more Americans will have watched films like *Dr. Strangelove: Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* (1964) or *Air Force One* (1997) than will have read the US Constitution, major administrative policy papers, court cases on the presidency, or presidential speeches. For good or for ill, our national understanding of the highest office in the land and the actions and words emanating from that office has long been created, captured, and conveyed via cinema.

Consider screening a few of these films as 4 November 2008 draws near. Among the Presidential bio-pics: Young Mr. Lincoln, JFK, Nixon, W, Wilson, Eleanor and Franklin. Epic films that explore the presidency and a president in the context of a major historic challenge include: 1776, The Birth of a Nation, The Crossing, Amistad, Thirteen Days, All the President's Men, and Recount. Fictional features offer us a range of imagined presidents who offer us keen insights into the actual workings of the presidency and the minds of some of the real presidents, consider: Absolute Power, Advise and Consent, Being There, The Contender, Dave, Dr. Strangelove, Fail-Safe, Gabriel Over the White House, the thinly veiled Primary Colors, among others. Many thought-provoking documentaries provide both enlightenment and entertainment, including: the PBS American Experience series entitled The American Presidents, The War Room, Bush's Brain, Fahrenheit 9/11, and others.

To complement your film screenings, you may wish to read Alan Brinkley & Davis Dyer (eds.), *The American Presidency* (2004) – a concise compendium of the presidents as well as Peter J. Rollins & John E. O'Connor (eds.), *Hollywood's White House* (2005) - an eclectic collection of interpretations of filmic renderings of both the office and its incumbents across time and genres. Please also visit the National Archives web site to reread both the Declaration of Independence (http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration.html) and the US Constitution (http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution.html).

No matter what your party affiliation, grab some popcorn, enjoy the films, reflect on this singular institution, and vote on 4 November 2008!

—Maura A Henry, Trustee

Development Notes

The Development Committee of the Athenaeum Board of Trustees continued its work with consultant TDC on strategic planning, looking specifically at the Library's collection, acquisition, and deaccession history. The effort to understand how the collection has grown, changed, and developed is meant to lay the ground work for new strategies for storing, conserving, and increasing access to the collection and to establish goals for fundraising for both the collection and for Athenaeum programs. The committee expects to receive TDC's recommendations, and to develop policy, on these issues later in the fall.

In other areas, the Library and the Salem Award Foundation for Human Rights and Justice have received joint funding from the Salem Five Bank to present author John Demos speaking on his book *The Enemy Within: 2000 years of Witch-hunting in the Western World*. The lecture will be held at 7 p.m. on November 7 in Hamilton Hall, Salem. The Salem Award for Human Rights and Social Justice is given annually to keep alive the lessons of the Salem Witch Trials of 1692 and to recognize individuals whose commitment to social justice and human rights has helped alleviate discrimination and promoted tolerance. This is the second year of its collaboration with the Athenaeum.

Meanwhile, we've published a fresh new marketing brochure on the Library. Be sure to see it on your next visit.

- Francie King, Trustee

Building and Grounds Committee Activities

During the past few months, the building and grounds committee have been active in developing improvements and maintaining the building and grounds.

Grounds: The second phase of the grounds work on the Essex Street side has been implemented. Last spring the area east of the front stairs was cleared of overgrown plantings, and grass planted. The west side is now being developed to provide a balanced façade for the front yard of the Athenæum Building. New plantings have been added along the fence, shade seed has been planted in a small area, and the sprinkler system reconfigured to serve tha area. Further plantings are planned in the space next spring. The plan calls for filling in the area with hosta, and we will be looking for donations from our members gardens.

A dedicated group of volunteers has prepared the grounds for winter. Thank you all.

Lighting: The Athenæum Building Committee is working to improve the lighting in the main reading rooms. As of this writing, the overhead fixtures have been selected for the main reading rooms, and selection is in progress for the side fixtures.

We will continue our study and work on our long-term goal of air conditioning the Athenæum.

-Richard Jendrysik, Trustee

YOU CAN HELP THE ATHENÆUM

The Athenæum needs your generosity. Donations of the following items will be greatly appreciated:

- One or more laptop computers
- ·50 new comfortable folding chairs
- •Gift certificates to Staples and other office supply stores.
- •Energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs for the stacks.

Adopt a Book

Along with our wonderful educational programs and lovely social gatherings, the Athenæum is, at its heart, a rich treasure trove of books. We strive to both maintain the health of our existing collections and acquire new books that will appeal to our members' reading pleasures now and will enrich the collection for posterity.

We are delighted to launch a new program in which members can adopt a valuable and atrisk book in our collection (for repairs and conservation) or a new book (to buy for the collection). Please consider adopting either an at-risk book we own or a new book that is near and dear to your heart, or one that you think everyone should read! For more information, please contact Jean Marie Procious or Maura Henry.

REGISTRATION FORM FOR 2009 ATHENÆUM COURSES

(Please return with payment to The Salem Athenæum, 337 Essex Street, Salem, MA 01970)

NAME	
MAILING ADDRESS	
PHONE(S)	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
ATHENÆUM MEMBER? YES NO	
I wish to register for:	
"History and Culture of Tsarist Russia"	
"The Bronte Sisters and Their Novels"	
Tuition per course:	
History and Culture of Tsarist Russia: Members, \$270 Non-members, \$295 The Bronte Sisters and Their Novels: Members, \$195 Non-members, \$220	
Total amount included: \$	

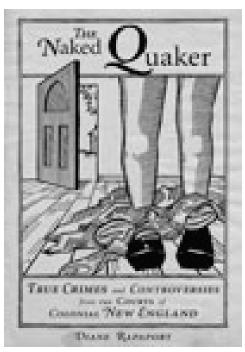
Salem Athenaeum Fall 2008

New Season continued from Page 3

Lectures:

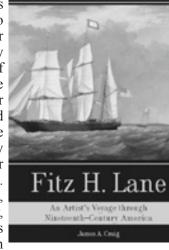
November 24—Diane Rapaport, a Boston trial lawyer and Colonial historian will appear at the Athenæum on Monday, November 24 to discuss one of the most unusual books to be published on early America history: The Naked Quaker: True Crimes and Controversies from the Courts of Colonial New England. The book grew out of her award-winning "Tales from the Courthouse" column in New England Ancestors magazine, a publication of The New England Genealogical Society. The title story in the book involves a 17th-century Quaker woman who showed her contempt for Massachusetts Puritan authorities by taking her clothes off during church services. All of the legal cases in her book are factual accounts of the horrors and humorous misadventures recorded in early court histories. Laurie Beckelman, President of the Women's National Book Association, states, "The Naked Quaker lays bare Colonial justice through the colorful tales of a woman accused of witchcraft because chickens died after she passed by, a man named Bacon charged with stealing pigs, a semi-literate sailor whose sentence for illegally selling wine included serving as a constable . . . Court TV is no match!"

December 4—James A. Craig, former associate curator for collections at the Cape Ann Historical Museum and now resident



overseer at Beauport, will give a slide presentation and lecture on Thursday, December 4 on his recent book, *Fitz H. Lane: An Artist's Voyage through Nineteenth-Century America.* Craig's book is the first definitive biography of the Gloucester artist in over 30 years. Fitz H. Lane's life was enshrouded in mystery—few records exist to clarify a myriad of details about his comings and goings. But through painstaking research,

Craig has managed to uncover m a n y aspects of Lane's life and career that had g o n e unnoted by other scholars. Craig states, "Ultimately, his paintings are a n



incredible window into a bygone era. . . . They show a completely honest, accurate vision of the coast of Massachusetts and New England from 150 years ago. . . . "

Concert:

■ January 10—The New Year begins with the second concert of the Cambridge Society for Early Music on Saturday, this time presenting the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra, directed by Phoebe Carrai. The musicians will perform a program of virtuoso Italian ensemble music of the 17th and 18th centuries.

Lectures:

■ January 24—A real treat is in store for us on Saturday afternoon, January 24, when Linda Dini Jenkins, former Salem resident, much beloved Athenæum member, and wife of former trustee Tim Jenkins, returns from Virginia to discuss her new book *Travels with My Husband: On the Road with Tim, for Better and Worse*, a delightful combination of personal reminiscence and sensible advice on the joys and perils of foreign travel.

Concert:

February 7—Bill Sano and Mary Shaw will present a lively program of 22 "Songs of World War II." At a time when the whole population of the United States was involved in supporting the war, the music of the day told evocative stories and reflected a nation in which the war permeated every aspect of daily life. The program will include some of the best-loved songs of the era, and Bill hopes that any Athenæum members or their friends who participated in the war or who have special memories of that time will get in touch with him (wcsano@verizon.net) before the program so they can be recognized at the performance and perhaps contribute song suggestions to it. Soprano Mary Shaw sings classical and popular music and is regularly heard at First Church of Christ Scientist in Andover and First Parish Church in Weston. She has also been a featured soloist with the Paul Madore Chorale and the Wellesley Choral Society. Bill Sano is an acclaimed pianist and music conductor, as well as a teacher and music historian. He was music director of the Choral Art Society of the South Shore and has conducted the Concert Singers of Lynn, MA for the past 20 years. He currently teaches at Marian Court College and at Salem State.

Lecture:

February (Date TBA)—Our annual cosponsored lecture with Historic Salem, Inc. Historians **Margherita Desy** and **Donald Friary**, who have developed a series of walking tours that trace the origins and consequences of The Great Salem Fire of 1914, have been invited to take us through that dramatic and tragic series of events. Details will be forthcoming.

▶ March 7—On a Saturday afternoon, historian Douglas Smith will come from the West Coast to discuss his new book *The Pearl:* A True Tale of Forbidden Love in Catherine the Great's Russia, one of the most original stories yet told about this fascinating period. Filled with a remarkable cast of characters and set against the backdrop of Imperial Russia. Douglas Smith is an award-winning historian and translator and a Resident Scholar at the University of Washington's School of International Studies. He studied German and Russian at the

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Salem Athenaeum Fall 2008

New Season continued from Page 6

President Ronald Reagan. television channels.

Concert:

■ March 17—On St. Patrick's Day, we National Endowment for the Humanities. will again feature a wonderful program of Celtic music. Returning to the Athenæum will be Irish virtuoso flute and tin whistle player, singer, and storyteller extraordinaire David O'Docherty (now an Athenæum member); joining him will be Celtic singer Michael O'Leary, fiddler Jen Strom, and guitar/ bouzouki player Bob Strom. Photographer Ziggy Hartfelder (also an Athenæum member) will also be on hand to exhibit some of her beautiful photographs of Ireland. As with the 2 previous St. Patrick's Day concerts, we expect this to be a joyous celebration of all things Irish.

Adams Lecture:

April 17 brings our signature event, the Adams Lecture, which will be delivered by the distinguished scholar of American literature Andrew Delbanco, the Julian Clarence Levi Professor of the Humanities at Columbia University. whom Time magazine has called "America's best social critic." frequent essayist in The New York Review of Books, The New Republic, Raritan, and other journals, he writes on issues ranging from American literary and religious history to contemporary issues in higher education. His literary scholarship includes Melville: His World and Work, which won the Lionel Trilling Award and was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Award in April 18—The final concert of the Biography; The Death of Satan: How season for the Cambridge Society of

Required Reading: Why Our American following evening. In one of its most Classics Matter Now; and The Real unusual programs, the theme will be University of Vermont and has a American Dream, all of which were "Courtly Encounters—England and Spain doctorate in history from UCLA. Over named as notable books by the editors of 1554," featuring Douglas Kirk, the past 25 years, Smith has made many The *New York Times Book Review*; and commentator; James Nicolson, double trips to Russia; in the 1980s he was a *The Puritan Idea*l, which also won the virginals; and a quartet from Exsultemus. Russian-speaking guide on the US State Lionel Trilling Award. Among his edited Department's traveling exhibition books are Writing New England, The Lecture: "Information USA." He has worked as a Portable Abraham Lincoln, Volume 2 of Soviet affairs analyst at Radio Free The Sermons of Ralph Waldo Emerson Europe and Radio Liberty in Munich, (with Teresa Toulouse), and with Alan and served as an interpreter for the late Heimert, The Puritans in America. In Smith has 2001, he was elected a member of the also appeared in documentaries for the American Academy of Arts and A&E and National Geographic Sciences; in 2003 he was named New York State Scholar of the Year. He has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the



Andrew Delbanco

He is a trustee of the National Humanities Center and the Library of America and has served as vicepresident of PEN America. focused his attention on Herman Melville in recent years, and having come to see him as perhaps the central figure in American literature, Professor Delbanco will devote the Adams Lecture to exploring "Our Melville." The lecture will occur on Friday at Hamilton Hall.

Concert:

Americans Have Lost the Sense of Evil; Early Music will take place the

►May 1—The season will draw to a close when noted art historian Mary Crawford-Volk will give a slide and lecture presentation on that Boston favorite, John Singer Sargent. Crawford-Volk is widely known as an expert on Velasquez and other Spanish painters; among the courses that she teaches at Harvard is the popular "From El Greco to Picasso." But the American expatriate painters John Singer Sargent and James MacNeill Whistler have been the focus of her recent teaching and writing. Her published books include John Singer Sargent and El Jaleo, Rubenism, Vicencio Carducho and 17th Century Castilian **Painting**; and she has contributed to exhibition catalogues produced by the National Gallery of Art in Washington and The Tate Gallery in London, and to art journals such as The Burlington Magazine. A superb lecturer, she was awarded the Petra T. Shattuck Excellence in Teaching Prize in Harvard's Division of Continuing Education in 2002. In fact, we are encouraging her to offer a full-length course on Sargent and Whistler in the 2009-10 season at the Athenæum. But for now, members and guests will be treated to one tantalizing lecture on the John Singer Sargent we never quite knew. This Friday evening event will be preceded by a wine-and-cheese reception; so come and unwind after work with a nice glass of wine and then prepare to gaze upon some of the most beautiful paintings that Sargent created.

We hope to see you at all of these events or as many as you can manage. No other Salem institution—and perhaps no other North Shore institution—offers as broad a range of speakers, covering so many interesting topics both current and historical, as the Athenæum. Tell your friends, neighbors, and relations about us-invite them to one of our talks or suggest they enroll with you in one of the courses. The discussions only grow richer as we have more and more people participating in them.

> —Sue Weaver Schopf, Chairman, Education Committee

Salem Athenaeum Fall 2008

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Susan Foster
Sandra Heaphy
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Sue Weaver Schopf
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Some of our volunteers:

Jim Austin - Collections Committee
Maria Gearhart - Collections Committee
Robert Moulton - Collections Committee
Pamela Jendrysik - Garden Coordinator
Meg Twohey - Education Committee
Jody Smith - Education Committee
Elaine von Bruns - Collections Committee

Winifred Wilkens - Collections Committee



Welcome to new members who have joined since April 1st

Mr. Elias Andrinopoulos

Mr. Frank J. Cutietta

Ms. Susan DameGreene

Dr. Paul Falconer and Mr. Mark Verkennis

Ms. Mary-Ann Fraser

Mr. Matthew J. Fraser

Mr. Gerard Johnston

Mr. Fred and Mrs. Linda Lipton & Family

Mr. Geoffrey and Mrs. Fiona Lubbock & Family

Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Carolyn McGuire

Mr. Jeremy Taylor Melvin

Mr. Wesley and Mrs. Linda Merrill

Mr. Michael Miller and Ms. Cynthia Platt

Ms. Carole O'Blenes and Ms. Francesca

O'Blenes

Mr. Neil and Mrs. Betty Parisi

Ms. Anne M. Rumpf

Ms. Sarah Sheldon



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