

The Salem Athenæum

Winter/Spring 2008

THE SALEM ATHENÆUM

337 Essex Street, Salem MA 01970
(978) 744-2540 - Fax: (978) 744-7536
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Web Site: www.salemathenaeum.net



Founded as the Social Library in 1760

LIBRARY HOURS:

Tues. / Wed. / Fri: 1 PM to 5 PM
Thursday: 5 PM to 9 PM
Saturday: 10 AM to 2 PM

DIRECTOR: Jean Marie Procius

SAVE THESE DATES

Jan 9 – 7 PM. Start of six-week course: by Prof. Robert Allison, **The American Revolution**

Jan 26 – 8 PM. Second concert by **The Cambridge Society for Early Music**

Feb 9 – 7:30 PM. Building Centennial Concert: **Amaryllis Chamber Ensemble**

Feb. 11 – 7 PM – Special Meeting

Feb 21 – 7 PM. **William Martin**, *Cape Cod* novelist whose latest book is **The Lost Constitution**

Feb. 23 – 2:30 PM. **Dan Ariely**, author of **Predictably Irrational**

March 6 (tentative) – 7 PM. **Shakespeare Lecture** by Tina Packer

March 8 – 2-6 PM. Start of 7-week course by Prof. **Donald Ostrowski**: **World War II in History and Film**

March 17 – 7 PM. Concert of Irish music by the group **O'Carolan Etc.**

April 5 – 8 PM. Concert by **The Cambridge Society for Early Music**

April 15 – 7:30 PM at Hamilton Hall, 9 Chestnut St., Adams Lecture by **James R. Gaines**; Reception follows

April 26 – 2:30-4 PM. Read-in to Celebrate **National Poetry Month**

May 22 – 7 PM. **Eric Dolin**, author of **Leviathan: The History of Whaling in America**

Our Current Exhibit:

"Celebrating 100 Years at 337 Essex Street" (to March 2008)

What's New in 2008?

The center sheets of this Newsletter (pages 3-6) detail the rich programming schedule arranged for the Winter/Spring period by our Education Committee. Costs for attendance are noted there where applicable; and advance reservations by e-mail or telephone are recommended.

In addition to concerts and author talks, we call attention to the special meeting on February 11, and to the following:

☛ "Course on "World War II in History and Film" taught by Professor Donald Ostrowski. It starts on March 8th; details, page 5. (By reservation only)

☛ The Adams Lecture on Tuesday, April 15. This year it will be delivered by the journalist and historian James R. Gaines, whose most recent book is the highly acclaimed *For Liberty and Glory: Washington, Lafayette, and Their Revolutions*.

☛ The Shakespeare Lecture by Tina Packer, tentatively scheduled for March 6, will be another outstanding event.



The Members' Committee invites
Athenæum Proprietors and Subscribers to a

SPECIAL MEETING

on Monday, February 11, at 7 PM
at 337 Essex Street, Salem.

We will discuss (but not vote on) issues brought up at the last Annual Meeting, including the possibility of creating and selling additional shares and other related membership issues.

Celebrating our Building's Centennial

Our current exhibition, prepared for our delection by Elaine von Bruns, was opened on December 9th, 2007 and is entitled “**Celebrating 100 Years at 337 Essex Street.**” It is the capstone of our year-long celebration of this anniversary, and will run through March 2008.

It includes interesting information about the previous homes of the Athenæum and the former occupants of the plot at 337 Essex Street, with material also about the architect William G. Rantoul and the building on which it was modeled (Homewood, in Maryland.) Blueprints and construction correspondence, as well as early photographs, are on view.

Because much of the original furniture and fixtures remain in daily use today, we can see how little some aspects of the Athenæum have changed in the 100 years since its opening. Elaine has put together a self-guided treasure hunt and walking tour to highlight many of the features and attractions of Plummer Hall, pointing out aspects of its form and function which might not be apparent to the casual eye.

If you have seen the exhibition, you may have noticed that the original shelving plans allowed for

only 34,700 books. Additional shelving has been added to the Holyoke Room and a third level to the stacks since the building first opened, but space for new books has been a challenge in recent years. Comprehensive reorganization and shifting of nearly all of our books is necessary to keep them in order and the most popular parts of the collection easily accessible.

The first phase received a giant leap forward this past summer with the assistance of one very enthusiastic volunteer, Timothy Forbes. Tim, a senior at Masconomet High, came to the Athenæum several days each week for most of the summer. He shifted the entire main level of stacks, integrating the fiction and mystery shelving as he went, and cleaning the shelves. This involved handling over 7000 books, not just once, but some of them several times due to our severe space constraints.

We are eternally grateful to Tim for his hard work and dedication. All members browsing the stacks for years to come will be assisted by this job well done.

Jean Marie Procius



Sir Walter Scott
(1771 – 1832)

New Residents at 337 Essex Street

The new exhibition on the history of our building has brought forward some interesting materials. It has also been responsible for the return of the plaster busts of three very famous authors, shown at left: **Sir Walter Scott, John Milton, and Lord Byron.**

Acquired in the late 19th century, the busts remained behind at the Essex Institute when the Athenæum moved to its new home in 1907.

They have been retrieved from storage with the help of Winifred Wilkens, Chuck and Elaine von Bruns, Jim Austin, Hawley Appleton, and the Collections staff of the Peabody Essex Museum, and now occupy places of honor in our reading room.

They are in need of conservation and cleaning by a professional conservator – estimated at \$3200 – and donations for this purpose will be gratefully accepted.

In the meantime, we will attempt to identify the original works and their artists, and find out how they originally came to us.

John Milton
(1608 – 1674)



Photos by Ellaine von Bruns

Lord Byron
(1788 – 1824)



WINTER AND SPRING PROGRAMS PROMISE MORE DELIGHTS



The Salem Athenæum—January 2008



What better way to celebrate the New Year than to pencil in on your calendars the wonderful Athenæum programs that are coming your way?



The 2008 season began on January 9 when **Professor Robert Allison**, Chairman of the Department of History at Suffolk University, started a six-week study of “The American Revolution” – which he defines as “*both* the War for Independence *and* the change in the minds of the people.” The course will cover the causes, events, and consequences of the Revolution, the major figures of the Revolution and war – Adams and Jefferson, Washington, and Franklin – as well as the impact the Revolution had, and continues to have, on our own lives and the wider world.

Professor Allison earned his PhD from Harvard University and teaches courses on American history, Constitutional history, and the history of Boston. He is the author of *The Crescent Obscured: The United States and the Muslim World* and *A Short History of Boston*. He edited *The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa, The African*, as well as several volumes in the award-winning American Eras series, including *The Revolutionary Era, 1754-1783* and *The Development of a Nation, 1783-1815*. He is an elected life member of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts and a fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society.



Co-sponsored by Historic Salem, Inc., **Emerson “Tad” Baker**, returned to the Athenæum on Tuesday, January 15, at 7:00 p.m. to speak on his newest book *The Devil of Great Island: Witchcraft and Conflict in Early New England*.

In 1682, ten years before the Salem witch trials, the town of Great Island, New Hampshire, was plagued by mysterious events: strange, demonic noises; unexplainable movement of objects; and hundreds of stones that rained upon a local tavern and appeared at random inside its walls. Town residents blamed what they called “Lithobolia” or “the stone-throwing devil.”

Baker is Professor of History at Salem State and the author of numerous books and articles on the history and archaeology of early New England. Most recently he was co-author of *The New England Knight*, an award-winning biography of Sir William Phips, governor of Massachusetts during the Salem witch trials. Baker has also discussed his research on witchcraft on such television shows as “Chronicle” and “This Week in History.” He was a consultant and on-camera expert for the Emmy nominated PBS-TV series “Colonial House.”



Music will grace the Athenæum in January and February. On January 26 at 8:00 p.m., **The Cambridge Society for Early Music** will present a special program entitled “A Rose of Such Virtue: Sacred and Secular Love in the Waning Middle Ages.”

Featured performers of the group “Asteria” will be **Sylvia Rhyne**, soprano, and **Eric Redlinger**, tenor and lutanist. Works by Dufay, Binchois, Morton, and other English and Burgundian composers from the 15th century will be performed.

Six Wednesdays
starting January 9, 337
Essex Street, 7–9 PM.

Course on “**The American Revolution**” taught by
Prof. Robert Allison.

Tuesday January 15,
7 PM, 337 Essex St.

**Author Talk by Prof.
Emerson Baker** on his
new book, *The Devil of
Great Island.*

Saturday, January 26,
8 PM, 337 Essex St.
**The Cambridge Society
for Early Music.**

Cost: \$30 general;
\$24 Members.

Saturday, February
9, 7:30 PM at 337 Essex
Street.

**Building Centennial
Concert:
Amaryllis Chamber
Ensemble**, with formal
reception.

Cost: \$60, \$50 Members.

Thursday, February 21,
7 PM at 337 Essex
Street.

Author Talk by **William
Martin** on *The Lost
Constitution*.

Cost: \$10, \$5 Members

Saturday, February
23 at 337 Essex Street

Dan Ariely, author of
Predictably Irrational.

Cost: free

Thursday, March 6 (ten-
tative) at 7 PM at 337
Essex Street.

Tina Packer to deliver the
3rd annual Shakespeare
Lecture

Cost: \$15, \$10 Members.

On February 9, in honor of our Building Centennial Celebration, the **Amaryllis Chamber Ensemble** will perform. A romantic candlelight setting will provide the backdrop for an elegant champagne-and-dessert reception and a highly original musical program featuring flute, harp, violin, and cello. The program will include: Johann Joachim Quantz (1697 – 1773): Flute Quartet in G Minor, QV 4:11; Philippe Gaubert (1879 – 1941): Divertissement Grec; William Grant Still (1895 – 1978): Summerland ; and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791): Flute Quartet in D Major.

As graduates of The Boston Conservatory, Eastman School of Music, Oberlin Conservatory and Boston University, each member of the Amaryllis Chamber Ensemble brings a high level of musical artistry to the group. Their programs are designed to inspire and challenge the audience, including music from the standard repertoire as well as high quality works from lesser-known composers of the past and emerging contemporary composers.

Mystery lovers and historical fiction fans will welcome the appearance of novelist **William Martin** to the Athenæum on February 21 for yet another special evening. Martin is the author of eight novels, an award-winning PBS documentary, and a horror movie that is now considered a cult classic; but he is noted principally for his skillful merging of the mystery and history genres into smart, well-researched thrillers.

The author of *Back Bay*, *Cape Cod*, *Harvard Yard*, and *Annapolis*, Martin has just published another riveting work entitled *The Lost Constitution*. According to **Publishers Weekly**, “A rare, annotated draft of the U.S. Constitution is at the heart of Martin’s entertaining third novel to feature antiquarian book dealer Peter Fallon. As in *Harvard Yard* (2003), Martin tells two stories. The first chronicles the loss and recovery of the document at the time of the constitutional convention... and its passing through generations of the Pike family to the present. The second traces Fallon’s search against deadly competition to find the draft. Throughout, Martin makes clear that people have always tried to use the Constitution for their own purposes, including right-wing Christian fanatics, survivalist gun nuts, liberal gun-banners, and greedy entrepreneurs now seeking the lost draft.”

On Saturday February 23, Cornerstone Books sponsors an author talk by **Dan Ariely**, author of ***Predictably Irrational: The Forces that Shape our Decisions*** (2008). Ariely is a Professor at MIT and Director of the Center for Advanced Hindsight and of the eRationality Research Group; he is at present serving as Visiting Professor at Duke University’s Fuqua School of Business.

He is interested in issues of rationality, decision-making, behavioral economics, consumer welfare, and development of systems to overcome day-to-day irrationality.

Tentatively set for March 6, the third annual **Shakespeare Lecture** will be given by the incomparable **Tina Packer**. This event is a highlight of the Athenæum’s yearly calendar. A dynamo of a human being and a captivating speaker, Packer will lecture on the challenges facing directors and actors who wish to bring Shakespeare productions to the stage.

For 30 years, the British-born Packer has been the artistic director of Shakespeare & Company, which she founded, in Lenox, Massachusetts, and she has just completed a controversial starring role in the company’s summer production of ***Antony and Cleopatra***.

One of the country’s foremost experts on Shakespeare and theatre arts, she has been the recipient of more than 18 awards, honors, and fellowships, including the Eliot Norton Award for Continued Excellence in Theatre. She has also received Guggenheim and Bunting Fellowships for her own performance piece exploring Shakespeare’s women, entitled ***Women of Will: Parts, I, II, and III***.

Packer is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and was an Associate Artist with the Royal Shakespeare Company, appearing in more than 20 productions for the BBC and ITV television. Since founding Shakespeare & Company, she has directed over 50 plays and performed in several of them.



Another course will begin on March 8 – and history buffs will be gratified to learn that **Dr. Donald Ostrowski** will lead a seven-week study of “World War II in History and Film: The Human Front.” The course will be a thematic exploration of the human experience during World War II through feature films, primary sources, and critical readings. It will place in the forefront the impact of war on the ordinary person, both soldier and civilian, both at the battle front and on the home front.

Taking a completely different tack from Ken Burns’ recent documentary, Ostrowski will provide historical and military context for the topics covered by the films, while considering their faithfulness to the historical record. The course will run on seven consecutive Saturday afternoons, from March 8 until April 19, 2:00-6:00 p.m. (each class will be followed by the viewing of a film).

Dr. Ostrowski is Research Advisor in the Social Sciences and Lecturer on World History and Russian History in the Division of Continuing Education at Harvard University. He is the author of *Muscovy and the Mongols: Cross-cultural Influences on the Steppe Frontier, 1304-1589*; A TEI-Compatible Edition of the *Rus’ Primary Chronicle*; and nearly 100 journal articles on various topics in the field of history. He is also a winner of the Petra T. Shattuck Excellence in Teaching Prize.



Last year’s **St. Patrick’s Day concert** was a sell-out, so we will again present an evening of Irish music on Monday, March 17, at 7 p.m. The North Shore ensemble **O’Carolan Etcetera** will bring to life the legacy of Turlough O’Carolan, the blind 18th-century harper whose instrumental compositions are among the most enduring and spirited in the Celtic tradition (e.g., “Blind Mary,” “Sheebeg & Sheemore,” “Captain O’Kane”). They will also perform other great pieces selected from three centuries of traditional music from Ireland, Scotland, Canada, and New England. The group was founded in 2006 by fiddler/concertina player Herb Smooth and includes Trish DeCaprio (fiddle), Cindy McIntire (flute and tin whistle), and Richard Luecke (acoustic and classical guitar.)



On the evening of April 5 **The Cambridge Society for Early Music** will conclude its season and will feature “An Evening of Bach” with Amsterdam musicians **Marten Root** playing baroque flute and **Menno Van Delft** on the harpsichord.



Since this is the 250th anniversary of the birth of Lafayette – an event being celebrated across the United States and France – and since Salem and Marblehead have many ties with Lafayette and Washington, **James R. Gaines** is the perfect choice to deliver this year’s **Adams Lecture**. It will be held in historic Hamilton Hall, the building in which Lafayette himself was once fêted.

A long-time journalist, Gaines was the chief editor of *Time*, *Life*, and *People* magazines between 1987 and 1996 and subsequently the corporate editor of Time Inc. He was both managing editor and publisher of *Life*, the first time that one person held both the chief editorial and publishing jobs at a Time-Life magazine. His reinvention of *Life* as a weekly news magazine for the first Persian Gulf War won widespread acclaim and led to his appointment to the editorship of *Time*, making him the first person ever to run three Time-Life magazines. Each of the three won important journalistic awards during his tenure.

His fascinating books are works of cultural history which focus on the political, social, and artistic consequences that can occur when great minds are brought together. They include *Wit’s End: Days and Nights of the Algonquin Round Table*; *Evening in the Palace of Reason* (which explored the conflict between faith and reason through a fateful meeting between Johann Sebastian Bach and Frederick the Great); and now *For Liberty and Glory: Washington, Lafayette, and Their Revolutions*.

Publishers Weekly states, “In this absorbing and learned study, Gaines chronicles the friendship of two great generals along with the American and French Revolutions, bringing great insight to both. He...argues that the two men were the founding fathers of the centuries-long political alliance between France and America. This book is distinguished as much by the writing as the argument.”

Gaines is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the American Historical Association, the Society of Eighteenth Century Historians, the Overseas Press Club,

Seven Saturdays
starting March 8, 2 PM to
6 PM., 337 Essex Street,

Course on “**World War II in
History and Film: the
Human Front.**”

Cost: \$175 general, \$155
Members.

Monday, March 17,
8 PM, 337 Essex Street.

**St. Patrick’s Day Concert:
O’Carolan Etcetera** – traditional
Irish music.

Cost: \$10.

Saturday April 5, 8 PM,
337 Essex Street.

**Cambridge Society for Early
Music**

Cost: \$30 general, \$24
Members.

Tuesday April 15 at
7:30 PM, at Hamilton Hall,
9 Chestnut Street;
Reception follows.

James R. Gaines,
author of ***For Liberty
and Glory: Washington,
Lafayette, and Their
Revolutions.***

Cost: At the door, \$30;
in advance, \$25 general and
\$20 for Members;
Lecture & reception,
\$45 general, \$40 for members.

and the International Federation of the Periodical Press. He now resides in Paris.



On the afternoon of Saturday, April 26, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m., **National Poetry Month** will again be celebrated at the Athenæum with a read-in. Members and their guests are invited to bring along favorite poems to share with the group as we revel in the beauty, wit, and soulfulness of poetic language.



Our season will conclude on Thursday, May 22, when **Eric Jay Dolin**, author of the celebrated *Leviathan: The History of Whaling in America* will give a fascinating lecture and slide presentation. Bruce Barcott of *The New York Times* states, “*Leviathan* is an exhaustive, richly detailed history of industrial American whaling. . . Dolin succeeds admirably at what he sets out to do: tell the story of one of the strangest industries in American history.” And Nathaniel Philbrick (last year’s Adams Lecturer) praises the book as “The best history of American whaling to come along in a generation.”

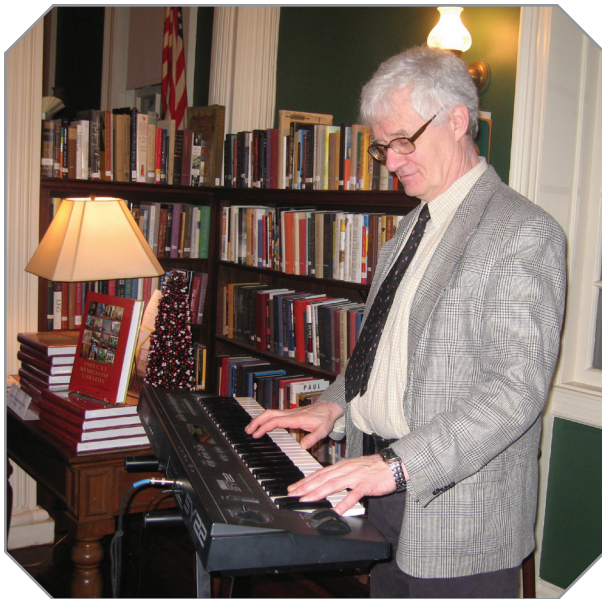
Leviathan has been selected as one of the best non-fiction books published in 2007. It received the 23rd annual L. Byrne Waterman Award by the New Bedford Whaling Museum in 2007 for outstanding contributions to whaling research.

Eric Jay Dolin studied environmental policy at Yale University and MIT, where he received his Ph.D. He has written extensively on the marine world. Employed by the National Marine Fisheries Service, he lives in Marblehead.



Whatever the economic outlook, the political landscape, or the state of the world, I hope you will agree that this outstanding menu of programs will help to brighten 2008. We look forward to seeing you at all of these events and solicit your volunteer efforts, which will help us to sustain this level of programming.

Sue Weaver Schopf
Chairman, Education Committee



Prof. Eric Chafe of Brandeis University,
one of the instructors for the
Modernism Course (2007)



Photos by Sue Weaver Schopf

“Picasso” cake
commissioned by Ziggy Hartfelder for
2007 Modernism course



New members 2007-2008 (as of 1/12/2008)

Congratulations to New Proprietor — Ms. Maura Henry

Welcome to New Subscribers:

Ms. Donna Albino
Ms. Janet Atkinson
Mr. Joshua Basseches
Mr. Richard G. Boardman
Mr. Peter & Mrs. Dale Coxe
Ms. Dorothy Dudley
Mr. Mark & Ms. Meg DuFour
Mr. R. Charles Enos &
 Ms. Maureen R. Denning
Mr. Richard & Mrs. Fern Gordon
Ms. Siri Hanner
Ms. Janice Hansen
Mr. David & Mrs. Laurie Hark
Dr. Ronald & Ms. Mary "Ziggy" Hartfelder
Mr. Chris Hinchey & Ms. Marie Keavenley

Ms. Holly J. Jannell
Mr. Kevin King
Mr. David E. & Ms. Deborah J. Kitzmiller
Mr. George G. Lail
Mr. Peter Mason and Ms. Susan Tully
Ms. Jane Mosakowsky
Mr. David O'Docherty
Mr. William & Mrs. Susan O'Neill
Ms. Marion S. Peralta
Ms. Jacquelyn Rae
Mr. Connor Ryan
Mr. Jonathon Simcosky
Ms. Joycelyn Snell
Mr. Gary Ward & Ms. Brunonia Barry Ward
Mr. Anthony Witwicki



Photo by Richard Scott
Linus Owen, 14 weeks
[Dec. 9, 2007]

(son of John Owen and Jean
Marie Procius)



Photo by Sue Weaver Schopf
Win Wilkens with period costume from Centennial
Exhibition

New Chinese Language Course Proposal

Most of the students in Mr. Wang's Chinese language class of last spring have signed up for a review and continuation of the beginning curriculum.

Additional participants who have some familiarity with spoken and written Mandarin (at the advanced beginner level) will be wel-

come. We are organizing classes to start in late February.

Call Nancy TenBroeck at (978) 741-2742 for information about cost and schedule. We expect to meet either on Thursday evenings or Saturday mornings, depending on schedules.

Trustees:



Frederick D. Mason III – President
Richard Scott – Vice President; Newsletter
Blake Anderson – Treasurer; Finance & Investment
Jean Dennis – Clerk; Finance Committee
Susan Foster – Development Committee
Maura Henry – Collections Committee
Richard Jendrysik – Buildings & Grounds
Committee
Dana Jordan – Members' Committee
Frances B. King – Development Committee
Patricia Roka – Nominating Committee; Members'
Committee
Sue Weaver Schopf – Education Committee



Some of our Many Volunteers:



Collections Committee Members: Jim Austin, Marla Gearhart, Elaine von Bruns, Win Wilkens



Program Assistants: Janet Barnes, Abby Burns, Mary Costello, Hannah Diozzi, Sarah Harrington, Edith Luray, Fran & Martha Mayo; Emily Murphy, Vicki Sirianni, Jody Smith, Gus Sousa, Meg Twohey, Amy Whelan



Pamela Jendrysik – Garden Coordinator
Nancy TenBroeck – Editor of Newsletter (Acting)
Elaine von Bruns — Curator, Centennial Exhibit



NEW SELF-GUIDED SALEM TOUR

The brochure of a new walking tour, “**Architecture in Salem; a Guide to Four Centuries of Design**,” is now available in the lobby of the Athenæum. It was a joint production of a number of Salem cultural institutions and features many of Salem’s most beloved buildings – including the old and the new Plummer Halls.

The Salem Athenæum

337 Essex Street
Salem, MA 01970



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