

THE SALEM ATHENÆUM

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Web Site: www.salemathenaeum.net
DIRECTOR: Jean Marie Precious

LIBRARY HOURS:

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



Salem Athenæum

Newsletter

SUMMER 2008

FOUNDED AS THE SOCIAL LIBRARY IN 1760

SAVE THESE DATES

Summer Salons

July 18 - Hale Bradt discusses World War II.

August 1 - Charlie Newhall discusses historical documentaries.

August 8 - Carlton and Nancy Lutts discuss Beatrix Potter and England's Lake District.

August 15 - Janet Barnes will discuss Irish authors, Somerville and Ross.

August 22 - Richard Scott will discuss digital photography.

Courses

September 8 - Course on the American Presidency begins. Dr. Maura Henry, lecturer. Course will run on six consecutive Monday evenings.

October 16 - Course entitled The Sea Life of the World's Oceans will be conducted by Dr. George Buckley and will run for six consecutive Thursdays.

Lectures

September 23, 7 pm:

Dr. Alison Frank, Harvard University, will speak on "The History of Oil" and the political, economic, environmental, social, and cultural implications of the world's increasing demand for this commodity

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

2008 Garden Party a Success



Carlton and Nancy Lutts and friends

The annual garden party was held at the Athenæum June 8 under clear, sunny skies. Despite hot and humid conditions, everyone deemed the party a success. As usual, we owe this success to the volunteer efforts of numerous members and trustees who contributed time, food and refreshments. Events such as this don't just happen. It takes the coordinated efforts of many.

See page 6 for more Garden Party pictures

Oil, the Collapse of the Banking System, & George Washington's Secret Navy to Launch Fall Lecture Series

If you're curious about the first events in our fall lecture series, here's a teaser:

Tuesday, September 23, 7 pm: Dr. Alison Frank, Assistant Professor of History at Harvard University, will speak on "**The History of Oil**" and the political, economic, environmental, social, and cultural implications of the world's increasing demand for this commodity from the nineteenth through the twentieth centuries. Frank teaches two courses at Harvard that are focused on this topic and confronts complex questions about oil's dual role as global good and as agent of war and poverty.

Thursday, October 9, 7 pm: Dr. Jane Kamensky, Associate Professor of History at Brandeis University, will discuss her new book *The Exchange Artist: A Tale of High-Flying Speculation and America's First Banking Collapse*, described as "the epic story of a founding father of our speculation nation." Two centuries before the collapse of the sub-prime real estate market, a wily New England entrepreneur triggered a crisis of value that shook the nation's confidence in money itself. Clearly, what goes around comes around.

Tuesday, October 28, 7 pm: James L. Nelson, a former professional sailor and award-winning maritime author, 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!"

New Fidelity Grant Enables Continued Long-Range Planning

Good news to report on fundraising for the Athenæum: we have now secured a \$15,000 grant from the Fidelity Foundation, which will help support our continued pursuit of long-range strategic planning with our consultant TDC. The grant is designated to fund the second half of our planning project with TDC, and allows us to go forward without using Athenæum operating funds. Many readers are familiar with our collaboration with TDC, having responded to the firm's extensive member survey earlier this year. (The first half of the TDC project was paid for through generous private donations and through support from Athenæum board members.)

With the TDC survey now tabulated – but with results still being studied – we have gained a fascinating look at Athenæum member usage patterns and attitudes. Among its key findings were that our stronger emphasis on cultural and educational programming, and the growing wealth of that programming over the past three years, have garnered considerable attention and new visibility in Salem and beyond, bringing new members into the fold, and attracting strong audiences for nearly all programs. Other findings are contained in a preliminary report by TDC, available in the Library to members, and will guide our work over the next several months. Our expectation is that by the end of the project, we will have developed a long-range plan for managing the Library, including a set of goals for growing the membership and maintaining financial stability.

Concurrent with the long-range planning effort with TDC is our new push to secure other outside grant support, and several other grant applications are now underway for the benefit of the Library collections, building repairs, and other upgrades. We'll report back on our anticipated success with these efforts.

In the coming months, look for news of a members campaign and of program sponsorship opportunities.

As always, we encourage members interested in helping with development and fundraising efforts.

—*Francie King*, Trustee

Chair, Development Committee

PREVIEW OF FALL AND SPRING COURSES

promises exciting learning opportunities

Even though we are barely past the first day of summer, the Education Committee is busy assembling the programming for the Athenæum's 2008-09 season. And while we will save the complete line-up for the fall newsletter, we thought you might like to see the exciting courses that the Athenæum will be offering.

The courses have proven to be popular among members, attracting a core group of course-takers who return again and again, regardless of what is being offered. But the courses have also proven to be an attractive way of drawing new members from the larger North Shore and Greater Boston communities. Therefore, the Athenæum will offer four courses in the coming year, three of which have been confirmed at this writing. All will be taught by first-rate instructors, whose research and teaching have won for them numerous awards and accolades.



Dr. Maura Henry

The season will begin with the return of one of our most popular lecturers, **Dr. Maura Henry**, Associate Professor of History at Holyoke Community College and an Athenæum trustee. In keeping with the excitement of a pre-election autumn, her course will focus

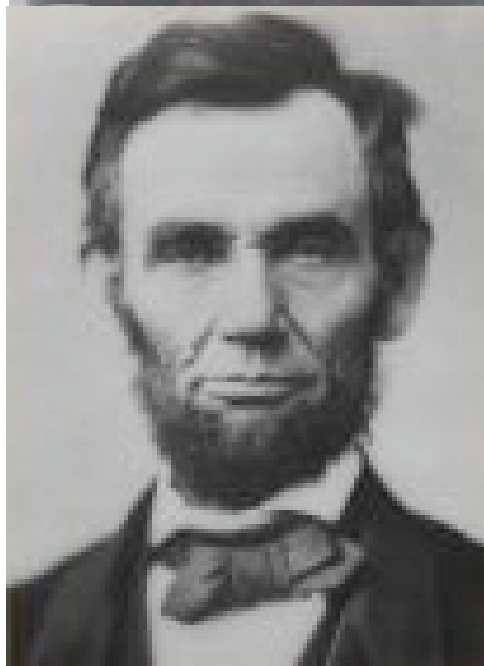
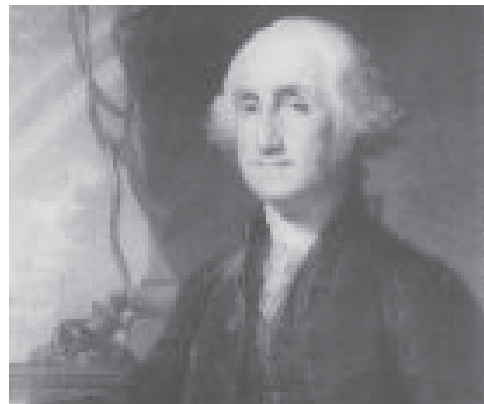
on **"The American Presidency and Presidents through History and Film."**

Beginning with the very first feature film made in the U.S. (D.W. Griffith's "Birth of a Nation," 1915), the American Presidency and Presidents have had starring roles on both the big and small screen. From "Young Mr. Lincoln" (1939) and "Dr. Strangelove" (1964) 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, documentaries, and television shows. How has our understanding of the American Presidency and the 43 Presidents who have served thus far been reflected in and shaped by films and television? What happens when politics and Hollywood collide? Aside from the entertainment value, what do films and shows about the presidency and presidents offer us? This seminar will assess presidential politics, powers, policies, and personalities by exploring key texts (notably the U.S. Constitution, central legal decisions, presidential speeches, and newspaper reports) as well as by screening clips from a variety of films and shows.

The course will run on six Monday evenings: September 8, 15, 22, 29; and October 6, 20.

The second course will begin on October 16 and run for 6 consecutive Thursdays. **George Buckley**, Associate Director of the Master of Liberal Arts Program in Environmental Management within Harvard's Division of Continuing Education, will lead a course on one of the important topics of our time: **"The Sea Life of the World's Oceans."** Join us for an undersea adventure in which participants will study the life forms within the world's oceans while George Buckley provides them with a "window

Continued on page 4





to the underwater realm." With specimens of sea life and numerous visual images, he will explore such topics as the ecology of bays, mangrove swamps, salt marshes and coral reefs; the deep ocean, seashells of the world, ocean conservation, protection and sustainability, the effects of climate change, and other topics of interest to the participants.

Buckley lectures on a variety of topics concerning environmental science; he is also Vice Chairman, Board of Directors of Earth Echo International (founded by Philippe Cousteau), and has been the chief scientist on over a dozen Earthwatch expeditions. A producer of an award-winning



Dr. George Buckley

program on PBS, he is Director of the Marine Ecology Project in Bonair, Antilles. A scuba-diver for over three decades, Buckley is famous for incorporating his own photography and marine specimens into his lectures. He is a winner of Harvard's Petra T. Shattuck Excellence in Teaching Prize.

Dates for this course are: October 16, 23, 30; November 6, 13, 20.

Among the spring offerings is **Dr. Sue Lonoff's** literature course on **"The Brontë Sisters and Their Novels."** Perhaps the most famous sister-act among fiction-writing families, the Brontës are major nineteenth-century writers whose novels continue to fascinate readers, fans, film-makers, and scholars. Among the novelists of this era, only Jane Austen has rivaled their popularity. How did these sisters from a little English village in Yorkshire become a cultural phenomenon? What makes their work so enduringly appealing? This course will investigate these



Dr. Sue Lonoff

questions as participants read and discuss four Brontë novels: *Jane Eyre* and *Villette* by Charlotte Brontë, *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* by Anne Brontë, and *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë. Dr. Lonoff will also consider the lives of the Brontës, the myths that have grown up around them, and the dissemination of their work in film, art, and popular culture.

Sue Lonoff is Senior Associate of the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning at Harvard University and lecturer on Expository Writing and Victorian Fiction. She is the translator of *The Belgian Essays of Charlotte*

and *Emily Brontë*, editor of *Approaches to Teaching Emily Brontë's Wuthering Heights*, and author of *Wilkie Collins and His Victorian Readers*. She is also a founding trustee of The Center for the Humanities at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, and is likewise a winner of Harvard's Petra T. Shattuck Excellence in Teaching Prize.

The course will run on six Thursday evenings: April 9, 16, 23, 30; May 7, 21.

Course Registration Form on Page 5

Award Granted

The Salem Athenæum makes an annual award to a senior at Salem High School who is most distinguished by his or her abiding curiosity, intellectual engagement, and passion for literature. This year the 10th such award was granted to Anne Brooke Grasberger, the first member of the Athenæum to receive the award.

**CONGRATULATIONS,
Brooke!
KEEP READING!**

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 at-risk 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 2008-09 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:

_____ "The American Presidency and Presidents Through History and Film"

_____ "The Sea Life of the World's Oceans"

_____ "The Bronte Sisters and Their Novels"

Tuition per course: Members, \$195 Non-members, \$220

Total amount included: \$ _____

See Garden Party page 1



DONORS FY 2007-2008

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of our members and Hawthorne Circle Donors who contribute above their annual dues.

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Ms. Jessica Barnett of Barnett Group, public relations and design
Chestnut Street Association, loan of costume for building centennial exhibition
Cornerstone Books
Historic New England/SPNEA, co-sponsor of Pilgrims, Patriots, and Products exhibition
Historic Salem, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Lutts, live music at the Garden Party
Peabody Essex Museum, loan of paintings and exhibition cases
Ms. Elaine von Bruns, exhibition materials
Wenham Museum, loan of period dress for building centennial exhibition

Memorials and Honorary Gifts

Ms. Cynthia Glott in honor of the marriage of Francie King and Bob Erbetta, June 30, 2007

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Did You Know

that the following ten titles are just a small sampling of the rich and diverse collection to be found in the Salem Athenæum's collection of rare books? You'd be hard pressed to come up with a topic or category not covered in the Athenæum's collection. There's physical sciences, natural sciences, religion, economics, history, cartography and much, much more.

1. John Calvin's *Operum omnium* 1617
2. Carey's *General Atlas*, 1796
3. Denis Diderot's *Encyclopedie* 1751-1772
4. John Endecott: 1652 document signed as Governor of Massachusetts
5. Thomas Jefferson's *Notes on the State of Virginia*, 1787
6. Andrew Marvell's *The Rehearsal Transposed* 1672
7. Cotton Mather's *Magnalia Christi American* 1702
8. Isaac Newton's *Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica* 1739
9. Edgar A. Poe's *The Raven* 1845
10. Joseph Priestley's *History of the present state of discoveries relating to visions, light and colours* 1772

Three New Trustees

At the annual meeting, the Board of Trustees elected officers for 2008-09. Trip Mason will continue his role as President and Francie King was elected Vice President. Dana Jordan will serve as the Treasurer.

The following three trustees were elected to the Board:

Charles Dimino is a retired Salem resident. Charles has a background in teaching and research. Most recently, he has been a board member of a major non-governmental human rights organization and is involved in strategy, policy, and development matters. He was also elected Clerk of the Board.

Sandra Heaphy is a life long-resident of Salem and the CEO of MHP Enterprises Inc. which is based in Beverly. She also manages the Kensington-Stobart Galleries in Salem and in Charleston, South Carolina. Active in the community, she is also a member of the board of directors of the Salem Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Salem Arts Association.

Matthew Whitlock is a VP of MMA Realty Capital which specializes in the financing of multifamily real estate throughout the U.S., and he serves as the Director of Senior Housing for the company. He is a Salem resident and presently serves on the board of the Salem Sound Coast Watch and the Mt. Adnah Cemetery where he concentrates efforts on strategic long-term planning and financial management.

Trustees:

Frederick D. Mason III - President
 Francie B. King - Vice President
 Dana Jordan - Treasurer
 Charles Dimino - Clerk
 Susan Foster
 Sandra Heaphy
 Maura Henry
 Richard Jendrysik
 Sue Weaver Schopf
 Richard Scott
 Matthew Whitlock

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



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