



Salem Athenæum News

Incorporated in 1810

Spring 2011

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Welcome!



Party Photos

Photos from our GO!
party on March 26 are
featured below.



Letter from the President

Dear Athenæum Members and Friends,

Welcome to spring--finally! We're awaiting the explosion of color from the back-garden rhododendrons at the library. If you've never seen this extravaganza, do yourself a favor and plan to visit us this month.



Though we happily bid winter adieu, there is much to look back on with pleasure. Our March Monopoly fundraiser was a great success, thanks to many generous donors and partygoers. The library was transformed into a splendid game parlor, complete with a 1930s-style lounge on the second floor. In fact, our guests liked the comfort and ease of that transformed second floor so much that we're going to keep some of the comfortable furnishings as they were during the party. Please plan to visit and make good use of that great space--it's excellent for quiet reading and writing.

Then in April came our annual Adams Lecture, and we welcomed Professor Sherry Turkle, director of the MIT Initiative on Technology and Self. Her topic--our relationship to technology and its effects on us--was both revealing and cautionary. Turkle is widely regarded as a preeminent authority on the connections between technology and people, and she has written a trilogy of books that focus on technology's influence on human relationships. Make sure you take a look at her newest book, now in the library, titled *Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other*.

And what better way is there to welcome spring than with the music of Frederic Chopin, Robert Schumann, and Franz Liszt? We invite you to explore the music of these signature composers in our upcoming course, "Three Romantic Composers and Their Cultural Surroundings," led by instructor Dr. Eric Chafe of Brandeis University. Registration is still open.

At our upcoming annual meeting, we'll be introducing you to three new Trustees, one of whom, Sarah Harrington, joined the board in April. We are delighted to have Sarah among us and will welcome her to the position of Clerk of the Board when our present Clerk, Susan Foster, departs the board this spring.

The next time you are in the Athenæum's main reading room, listen for the tick-tock of the recently repaired banjo clock near the main entrance. This eight-day clock, part of the bequest from the Waters estate, features the legend "Hull" on the pendulum box door. Hull commanded the U.S.S.



Constitution and the painting on the door depicts the battle that earned the ship her name "Old Ironsides."

And one more thing for your June calendar: don't forget our annual Garden Party to be held June 5. It's a special event for members and their guests and a great introduction to summertime.

We'll look forward to seeing you!

Francie King
President, Board of Trustees
Salem Athenæum



A Book to Commemorate the 2010 Bicentennial

In 1917, the Salem Athenæum published a slim little book detailing the library's origins and history over its first 100 years. In 2011, we'll honor that volume with one of our own to mark the library's second 100 years.



Now in production, this commemorative book will include highlights of our history and an exploration of our historic and contemporary collections, along with remarks made by Margaret Marshall, former Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, during the October 2010 exhibition at the Peabody Essex Museum of the Athenæum's Endecott Charter. The book will also show the programs offered at the library during 2010, along with the names of current Proprietors and Trustees; elegant black-and-white photos will capture the Athenæum as it looks today.

The book is being made possible partly through a grant from the Essex National Heritage Commission. It is slated for completion in late June and will be on sale for \$30 in the library this summer. Members can reserve advance copies for \$25 each by calling the Athenæum at 978-744-2540 before July 1.



Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 4, 7:00 p.m.



Please join us for the annual business meeting of the Salem Athenæum. All current members are welcome and encouraged to attend. The meeting will include officer and committee reports, election of new trustees and officers, and setting of the annual assessment for proprietors.

Reception to follow.



Romantic Composers Course Begins May 5

Thursdays, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.
May 5, 12, 19, and 26.

The two-hundredth birthdays of Chopin and Schumann were celebrated worldwide in 2010, and 2011 marks the two-hundredth anniversary of Liszt's birth. In honor of these brilliant and innovative composer-performers, The Salem Athenæum announces a four-week course featuring lectures and performances of the music of Chopin, Schumann, and Liszt in an intimate setting--the grand drawing room of a private home on Chestnut Street.



Instructor Dr. Eric Chafe of Brandeis University will employ an interdisciplinary method, comparing works and styles of musical Romanticism with representative writings and art by Novalis and Caspar David Friedrich. Schumann's *Carnival and Fantasie* for piano, his *Dichterliebe* for voice and piano, Liszt's *Sonata in B minor* and *Un sospiro* for piano, his *Faust Symphony*, and Chopin's *Two Nocturnes, op. 27*, will comprise the core of the musical works to be explored.

The course will be given on four consecutive Thursday evenings, May 5, 12, 19, and 26, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at 10 Chestnut Street. This is an outstanding opportunity to experience these works in an environment much like that in which they were originally performed. We cordially invite you to join us for this very special experience.

Members, \$175; non-members, \$195.
(Course seats fill fast. Make your reservation soon!)

Sponsored by The Salem Athenæum.

[Register Here](#)



Yard Clean Up Day

Saturday, May 7, 8-11 a.m.

Bring your work gloves and help prepare the Athenæum's yard for Spring! May 7 is Citywide Clean-up Day.





For more party photos,
go directly to the
Athenæum's
[Facebook album](#).

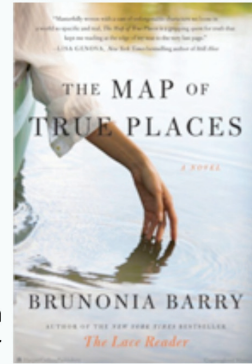
(You will need to log into
your Facebook account
after clicking the link.)

Brunonia Barry Reading

Saturday, May 21, 2:00 p.m.

Salem Athenæum member Brunonia Barry will read from her latest book, *The Map of True Places*, in honor of its paperback release.

Barry's latest novel, reviewed in *Publishers Weekly* and *Booklist*, traces the journey of a psychotherapist whose life takes a dramatic turn when she encounters a patient who reminds her of her mother--a bipolar woman who committed suicide. Part of the book is set here in Salem, and the Athenæum is mentioned as well! Come to the reading and learn more about *The Map of True Places*.



Free.

Sponsored by The Salem Athenæum.

Annual Members Garden Party

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

Join us for an Athenæum tradition!

Members and their guests are invited to enjoy the lovely garden at the Athenæum in its full bloom. This annual event will feature live music and a reception in the garden.

Sponsored by The Salem Athenæum.

What's Upstairs?

If you have not visited the Athenæum since before the Monopoly party, you are overdue! Paula Gaull of New Leaf Redesign made some interior design changes upstairs for the party in March. They were so well

received that some of these elements are remaining as part of the Trustees Room décor. A couch, reading chairs, and additional lighting have been added to the room. A rug discovered in one of the upstairs crawlspaces has been professionally cleaned and incorporated into the setting as well.



In addition, the fan window in the Trustee's Room is scheduled for repairs this spring. So bring a book or laptop to our new reading lounge and enjoy the fresh air and warm atmosphere.

Egg Hunt!

A few drops of rain didn't cancel one of the Athenæum's most popular traditions! It may have been one of our quickest egg hunts, but it was also a fitting celebration of New England Spring.



Edith Wharton Course Planned for September

Saturdays 2:30-4:30 p.m., September 10-October 22

This fall, Dorothy Dudley will teach a seven-week course on the works of Edith Wharton. Participants will read *Ethan Frome*, *Summer*, *The Reef*, *House of Mirth*, and *Age of Innocence*. After discussions, the group will watch the films based on these novels. We will also arrange a field trip to The Mount in Lenox, tentatively slated for October 29.

More details to come.

Also at the Athenæum

The following events are not sponsored by the Salem Athenæum. Due to their literary focus, they are occurring at the Athenæum and may be of interest to members.

Dickens Fellowship

The Spirit that Kindles

Jan Turnquist portrays Louisa May Alcott

Thursday, May 5, 7:00 p.m.

Dickens was Louisa May Alcott's favorite contemporary author and she met him twice. Over time, the two authors, from two continents, found two distinct literary voices that kindled and echoed their concern for social injustice, the poor, family ties, love, and life.

Jan Turnquist, Executive Director of Orchard House (the Alcott family house and museum, in Concord, Mass.), has portrayed Louisa May Alcott in Public Service Announcements currently running nationally on FOX, for PBS, in several BBC productions, and for First Lady, Laura Bush.

The performance is a blend of stage drama and living history. After a minor carriage accident, Miss Alcott will enter the building and wait for repairs to be completed. Prepare to travel back in time to meet her. She may even have a basket filled with apple slump, an Alcott family recipe.

Contact Deb Benvie 978-979-0574 or <http://dickensnorthhofboston.com> for details.

\$5 donation; free for Fellowship and Athenæum members.



Salem Hosts 2011 Mass Poetry Festival

Friday-Sunday, May 12-14

The Massachusetts Poetry Festival has moved from Lowell to Salem this year!

Salem Athenæum will host several events

as part of this two-day festival--which will include over 60 events citywide--poetry readings, lectures, writing workshops, and a poetry slam.

Admission to all festival events requires a button, which is available for a donation of \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors/students. Workshops require online pre-registration. As you register on the Massachusetts Poetry Foundation web site, you can create your own events schedule and print it as your personal festival guide.

You may order a buttons online in advance. All who order online will be placed on a list and handed a button upon check-in at the festival. Please see the Mass Poetry web site for locations in Salem where buttons may be purchased.

For details and registration, please visit <http://masspoetry.crowdvine.com/>.

Adults, \$10; Seniors/students, \$5.



Board of Trustees

David Ashton
Stephen H. Clark
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Richard Jendrysik
Sarah Harrington
Francie King, *President*
David Hart
Sandra Heaphy, *Vice-President*
Meg Twohey, *Treasurer*
Mary Whitney

Welcome!

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

Jannette Crespo
Dean Ellis and Kathleen Halecki
Debra Glabeau and Ken Harris
Marc Levy and Erin McManus
Laura Luckey
Andrea Mones
Robert Thibeault
Christine Weis

Congratulations to new shareholders:

Gary and Jenn Santo
Louis and Vicky Sirianni



Salem Athenæum

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Contact Info

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

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

Carolyn McGuire

[Contact me!](#)